

Unwilling 171

Chapter 171

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He should have known it only made me more curious. As a result, I swung open the door entirely to be faced with Cynthia. Maybe I should have covered up more because I did not like the lustful gaze she swept over my naked body.

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Dillion growled as he pulled Cynthia from the door. The man was jokes ninety percent of the time. But he was loyal to a fault, and the anger coming off of him in waves as the insult to his future Queen clearly left him on edge.

"Thank you, Dillion, bring her to her father please we will decide what to do when the heat is over" I

ordered him.

Not because I like ordering around my friend, but because I didn't know what he was capable of with how mad Cynthia made him. I was right too because the disappointment that he could not punish her was written all over his face. All I wanted was to go back to Ayla though and see what she was doing. Never did I expect to see her teasing me like that, playing with me like that and in that moment I got lost in the heat too.

I woke up to Ayla rubbing up to me still sleeping. Hours ago she had passed out during her org asm. It wasn't even uncommon for she- wolves still it scared me for a few seconds. Until I noticed she had drifted off into a peaceful sleep. I was tired too and I must fallen asleep. not long after. Ayla wasn't up yet but she was getting there that much was clear. I slipped out of bed to make us our coffee.

Determined to not even let the heat come between me making her a coffee.

By the time I got back, Ayla was still asleep, which made sense as the heat was tiring. However, she had gotten restless without me. After

placing both coffee mugs on my nightstand. I crawled big into bed. with her as the big spoon she

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She woke up moaning riding my hand, as soon as she opened her eyes looking over her shoulder. I thrust into her, she throws her head back. instantly matching my rhythm again. Her face was no longer, soft and sleepy. Now her eyes are opened wide, darkened with lust. She pulls her knee up making me go deeper again. I love how loud she is now, usually, she is a little more reserved. Not wanting to have the entire pack here with us. Now she didn't care anymore. It was raw and desperate and I loved every second of it Even if like this it never took longer, than twenty minutes. I feel her clench around my cock as she becomes undone. And I followed her soon.

As soon as I pull out she turns to me, face calm and soft again. She mumbles a sweet good morning into my chest. For a few moments, we do not speak, just lying here snuggled up together. Until her stomach rumbles, Ayla sits up, so I sit up with her, handing her, her mug of coffee. Eaming me a bright smile, I think back to yesterday evening, Maybe I should tell her about Cynthia but there is no telling

how she is going to respond when she is hormonal like this. I want to believe that she still is the same

kind and sweet girl as I know her to be. But with the heat, you can never be sure. And honestly, I

wanted to stay in this peaceful, bubble with her. I am sure she will understand if I will tell her later.

Because no matter what, we need to deal with Cynthia because at this rate she is never going to stop.

Nothing that she does is severe enough to inflict real punishments on her. No matter how much I want

it. Honestly, I don't even think Ayla wants to because she is a lot kinder

than I am. So for now I am going to leave it be. Instead, I went out of the room, to see if any of the pack

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about lust it makes everything more intense. Including how much we love each other and how much we

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"Did you feel anything, you shouldn't be able to already right?" I hadn't noticed Griffin walk in with our coffees just as I was cradling my stomach.

Another sign that the heat was dwindling, seeing I was not hyper- focused on Griffin anymore.

“No I am not, just thinking about the fact that I might very well be pregnant now” I smiled at Griffin.
The

heat may have come much sooner than either of us expected.

We both have always wanted a big family, I wanted at least three pups. Probably because of how

happy I was growing up with a younger brother and sister. We all had our own friends, but still, we had

an inseparable bond. Even now that we had grown up we still did. Sure we didn't live in the same

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I needed them too. As I would for them.

“It seems like you are feeling more like yourself today?” Griffin asked as he settled in the bed next to
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I nodded taking a sip of my coffee just being content with sitting so close to him this time. Not feel the
need to practically crawl in his Ja p to get as much physical contact as I could.

am I think we can spend today getting our bearings, looking at all the gifts we have gotten. And let the

pack know we will be back to our usual work starting tomorrow?" I suggested being met with his bright smile as he agreed with me

We both know that if push came to shove we would have been able to get back to the grind today if it was needed Luckily we were in the calm before the storm, as it was good to have a day together

Where we could just enjoy each other's company Let the effect of the heat slowly wane Not to mention that I had seen the ridiculous amount of offerings we had The list of meals Grillin had kept that were brought to us. I wanted to write to each and every pack member who left us a gift Either as a welcome to the pack gift or as a blessing for our heat a handwritten thank you note

A sincere thank you, both because my pack deserved so. And secondly to show them the kind of leader I was going to be to them. I had seen firsthand the damage an arrogant leader who values themselves above their pack could do. It left me determined to show my pack, our pack, that I was their equal We all had a role to play in this pack and this country's dynamic While mine was a heavy burden to carry, it was not the only role of importance The strength in a pack, in a country, liest with its weakest link. There was only one Luna, One Queen, but there were dozens of warriors and pack doctors and

even more omegas Their voice could grow louder than just my voice

“Let’s enjoy one last meal made for us by Milo, and then maybe we can have breakfast in the pack kitchen tomorrow?” Grillin suggested showing me we were both on the same level.

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Like me, he wanted to show our pack, our people that we were one of them. And joining the pack

breakfast after having been cooped up for four days was a great sign of showing them that we missed

pack life. And we’re happy to be able to be included in it once again. Now though I was going to take a

long hot bath before enjoying another, breakfast that Milo made us. He had been the one to make us

wonderful meals during these three days. Even on his days off. Other pack members had just left us

snacks. I had no doubt Milo made it clear that he was the one cooking for us. I would not only have to

write him a thank you note but thank him in person too. Before I could though we would need to sort

through all the other gifts we were given.

our union and the fact that Ayla now officially is a member of the Silver Moon Pack. With the timing of

all of this the two moments where new couples especially ones that are leaders of a pack get gifts.

Were happened back to back, meaning that we got an insane amount of gifts. Some we can not be

sure of to which even they relate. Luckily most have cards or notes attached to them. Making it easier to see what it was for and more so who to thank for the gifts.

That is why we know some of the other packs, mostly the Alpha's and Luna's have sent gifts to bless our mating too. The fact that news traveled so fast did not come as a surprise to me anymore. But it seems to have taken Ayla a little aback. And I cannot help but worry this will still one day prove to be too much for her.

Not because I doubt her ability to handle it because, I know she will make the best Luna and Queen there is. And I am sure I will be a better Alpha and King because of her. She truly is my perfect mate.

The one that makes me feel whole. Where I hate social function and have a hard time hiding it. She loves the more casual one and is sociable enough to make it seem like she is enjoying the grand royal events too. Just watching her thrive like that makes being at a royal party so much more entertaining for me. Nothing beats watching her laugh and dance.

The thing is she still does not see herself the way that I do. She still thinks it is incredibly kind of my parents, my friends, and our pack to welcome her with open arms and to show her so much kindness.

She still does not get that it is because they can all see how amazing she is to me. How happy she

makes me and what I kind and fair ruler she can. be. Well everyone aside from Cynthia can see that.

Suddenly I realize that with the heat almost out of her system, Ayla is not ruled by her hormones anymore. That means I need to tell her about the fact that Cynthia came to my door, our door, to offer me a last chance to be with her. I hate that means I have to interrupt this happy atmosphere. Today should be all about enjoying the milestone

we just reached as a couple. It should be spent having quality time. together. Bask in the blessings the others have given us for this last milestone. And it should be about dreaming about a future together and not about the one person who doesn't seem to accept our happiness.

Cynthia has always seemed interested in me. Or more so my title I never got the feeling she genuinely liked me for me. Why wouldn't she, we have nothing in common. She was attracted to the idea of being the Queen. Objectively she would fit the bill and she knows it. She is conveniently beautiful, and strong, even with her father not being a high-ranked wolf. She comes from a strong pure lineage. She loves sticking her nose into other people's business. The only thing she likes more is hosting and attending opulent parties.

Surface-level perfection to be a queen, but worlds apart from what I need in a mate, everyone else saw

it. Even with being aware of how much she seemed to like me. Or more so the idea of me being with

her. I never considered her to become my chosen mate. Sure I needed to find a Luna for my pack. A

Queen for my country, but that was just part of it. I needed to find a partner for the rest of my life.

Someone who could make me as happy as I can make her. I was looking for a mother for my pups.

Someone that I could just be happy with living in a small cabin away from the castle, having our

children and grandchildren over after we retired. Something I was sure Cynthia could have never

offered me, but I never made it clear enough. I ignored her blatant flirting hoping that one day she

would find her mate and get over this silly little crush for the status that she had.

Thinking it might be rude or dismissive to outright tell her I had no interest in her. Not wanting to hurt

her feelings I just kind of ignored. it. Even when Gerald told me her behavior was getting worse.

Advised. me to put a stop to it before things would escalate: I never did, all I did was talk to Sam her

father, and tell him there was no chance I would. choose his daughter as my chosen mate. Offering him

a trip around all

packs to find her fated mate. While Sam had taken me up on my offer excitedly. Cynthia hadn't and had

denied that the man who claimed to be her fated mate was so. Something that might be worse than

outright rejecting him. And even when Sam told me I did not explicitly tell Cynthia that she should give

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“Darling, there is something I need to tell you, please now I only kept it from you because of the circumstances” Griffin started after being quiet and thoughtful for a few moments. I understood why he had not told me.

After all the heat would have made me a little unstable. That didn't mean I hated the fact that we never seemed to be able to catch a break. I did not regret anything that happened to me or to us. I believe my life. and experiences so far shaped me up to the person I was today. And I had no doubt it had led met to Griffin. With that it lead me to the best thing that ever happened to me. All I wanted now is a break, just enjoy getting to know this pack, learning how to rule it. And settle into the life I was creating with

Griffin without threats from the outside. Without people trying to mess with our relationship.

“How bad it is” I asked Griff trying hard and failing harder to keep the exhaustion out of my voice.

“Well compared to all the shit we went through together I would say it’s more of an annoyance than a serious matter” His answer was humorless.

He wasn’t making a joke to downplay what had happened he seriously. thought what happened wasn’t all that bad. It was just something he needed to share with me. It comforted me a little. So I settled down into the cushions of the new comfortable couch to listen to what he was about to tell me. He started by reminding me of that first night when I had gotten into the heat. The time when he left me alone on the bed to check out what all the commotion at our door was. I remember not wanting to get up and check it because I was way too preoccupied by what we were doing.

“It was Cynthia offering me a last chance to be with her and not you. And Dillion was about to kill her for disrespecting his friend, future Luna, and future Queen like that. I commanded him to take her home to her father and he was upset he could not execute any real punishment” Despite the situation, or maybe because of the absurdity of it, I laughed.

I could see Dillion steaming with anger, wanting to lash out at Cynthia. I also remember how Griffin had walked out to open the door completely naked, still turned on by what we had been doing moments before. Griffin was right it was not a serious situation. Cynthia was a nuisance but she seemed relatively harmless. To the point where imagining Griffin having to give Dillion commands as his Crown Prince butt-naked made me laugh.

“So you’re not upset, with her or me?” Griff asked me.

“I am not liking her trying to make the moves on my mate. But I actually pity her. Because I fully trust you, I know I have nothing to worry about. As for you, you’ve done nothing wrong.” I kiss his cheek to reassure him even more.

And it seems to work, I see the tension leave his body as he settles back into the cushions of the couch. He starts to explain that he hates what Cynthia is doing but that nothing she does is severe enough to warrant a real punishment. The most we can hope for is a bit of social exclusion. Everyone knows why she had been locked up during my kidnapping. What I did not know is that most if not every pack member had found my lack of punishment. A sign of my forgiving nature and empathy.

I honestly wanted Cynthia to be reunited with her dad, and not have someone excluded on a day that

was all about celebrating old and new bonds. I ended up portraying myself in a far better light than she had been doing.

“Maybe we can talk to her, and have her father join the conversation. Just to let her know that we do not condone this behavior. And warn her of the consequences. We might not punish her but it’s going to damage her standing in the pack” I suggest, because while I cannot punish her I don’t want to just let it happen either. Luckily Griffin. agrees with me.

“This is why I know you will be the best Luna and the best Queen I could ever wish for. Even if you still doubt yourself some time” He beams at me.

We decided we had to wait until after Hannah’s trial though because among all the gifts left at our door, there was one single envelope. At first, we figured it had a card or a drawing but it was nothing like that.

It was a letter from the council of Elder wolves, requesting we let them know when the heat was over.

So they could be here the next day, to start with the preparation for the trial. Both of us want to wait until tomorrow to let them know. However, changes are they will find out that we were able to go back to normal today. And it would hurt not just our standing with the council of elders. It would also be a

sign of great disrespect and with that, it could prove detrimental to the trial.

Not wanting to risk it, Griffin decides to contact the council right away. Hoping that the fact it is already past noon means they are unable to make it here by tomorrow. It would be the ideal situation where we still have some time to settle back into our normal life. Without having to prepare for a trial and without having to lie to the Council of Elders.

“And now we wait” Griff breathes out as he closes the laptop he used to contact the elders.

He seemed a little down and I had how the last day of what should be a happy occasion. The day when we should bond even more. Bask in how much stronger our connection has gotten during this period of heat. Now that we are both back to our senses, is getting overshadowed by the things we still have to deal with.

“Baby, I took a bath this morning you’re still in your pajamas. Go have a shower or bath so we can decide on what to have for lunch after.” I prompt Griffin, elated to see that the use of the nickname still makes him smile like that.

Little does he know that the reason I never used a nickname before was because it made it feel too real. The lack of inhibitions because of the heat made me use the nickname the first time. That didn’t

mean it was some lust-induced thing. Something I would never say again now that I was back to my senses again. It was a nickname I had swallowed down. dozens of times to protect my heart. But the past few days had shown me that there was nothing I could do to protect my heart from breaking if Griffin would ever betray me. It had also reinforced the knowledge that he never would. I regret how we started out, and I know I still wasn't fully healed from the betrayals in my past. But as I started chopping vegetables to surprise Griffin with a homemade lunch. I realized how much I had grown as a person and how much being with my wonderful mate still let me grow and heal.

Chapter 175

Hours passed after our lunch without, a word from the Council of Elders. As more time passed by we were getting convinced that they would not make it to tomorrow. With not being ready to face the rest of the pack yet. Who all no doubt would be brimming with questions. We had decided to go out and finally met up with some of Griffin's humari gamer friends. With not all of them living close by enough it would not be a full meet-up.

To us, it still was a fun reason to get out of the castle, dress up, and socialize. Without the pressure of

being surrounded by the pack. Who with all their good intentions would more than likely be overwhelming. It is not like the heat is something that is switched off and on again. Just like the heat would gradually get worse. It would slowly go down too, humans would not sense my arousal like that. So they would not respond to me in a way that could trigger Griffin either. All in all this was one of the few times when hanging out with humans would be the better option.

The fact that we planned to meet at an all-you-can-eat buffet helped too. That way it wouldn't be so suspicious for us to eat a meal a normal human wouldn't manage to eat. They would most likely just think we wanted to take full advantage of the relatively cheap food. It felt good just to dress up in a simple dress with booties. Not needing to go all out to appear as the elegant Princess. Griffin seemed excited too he had known these guys for years but had never actually seen them.

"Wow Griffin, you look way too fit to be a gamer, but I guys you have to with a stunning girlfriend like that" Hank one of the guys from the game group greeted us.

I felt Griffin stiffen a bit when I was complimented like that. And I was relieved to find out Griffin realized

compliments like that were far more common amongst humans. Instead of going into an overprotective,

overbearing Alpha mode. He smiled greeted Hank and complimented his wife. Joking that Hank had some upkeep to do and then he took my hand to show the guys my engagement ring. It was heartwarming to see these guys we never met before. And who I had only spoken to a handful of times be so excited for us.

Tom, another one of the guys started playfully asking what the dress code was for the wedding. And if he could bring a plus one. This brought a problem we hadn't thought of before. Of course, Griffin's gaming friends wanted to be present at his wedding. The men had become close and had been there for Griffin after I woke up from a coma. But we would just get married on the pack ground close to the castle. There was no way we would be able to hide being wolves for them if we invited them too. It's the reason why most wolves do not really form connections with humans. Both Griffin and I did, so we needed to find out if we could trust these men with our identities.

"We are just at the very beginning of planning everything since I am still recovering" I smiled at Tom.

Who not knowing as a werewolf I had already healed for ninety percent at least physically. Seemed to feel guilty for not realizing I was far from ready to marry. With that all remarks and questions about the wedding were put to rest. Leaving us to enjoy the rest of the evening just getting to know each other a

little better.

All of us had decided to go to a bar for some drinks after having dinner. Of course with the chance of me being pregnant, I didn't want to drink alcohol. Blaming it on the medication I told the others I was taking I could avoid drinking alcohol. It was not like I needed it to have a fun night. Griffin drank a little but with him being a wolf he didn't even get tipsy from just keeping up with the others. It made me feel safe this was the first time since I was kidnapped I had gone out without a lot of people or rather wolves around me that I didn't know.

"I am sorry guys, I think I drank a little too much I am not feeling well so I am just going to go home and get into bed okay?" Griffin's statement shocked me.

He could not be drunk our metabolism is faster and all he had done was keep up with the others. He had gone to the bathroom I did notice. he was grayish when he walked back to us. like all the color had drained from his face.

"I received an email, the Council of Elders will be here at 10 AM tomorrow" Griffin reassured me by

mind-linking me as he was looking at his feet.

Acting like he was unable to stand straight or look them in the eyes. Now knowing what it was that made Griffin want to rush home. I had to hold back fits of laughter as Tom and Hank guided Griffin back to the car, claiming that an average-sized girl like me would never be able to get that giant of a man in the car. Little did they know he was an average-sized wolf. And that I even with my petite frame was a lot stronger than two human men who had admitted not to work on their condition too much.

Still, I let them to not raise any suspicion and was grateful because, to them, they were doing a kind thing both for their new friend and for me. It also meant I was finally able to drive Griffin's car. He loved it when I was his passenger Princess. He would always joke that I was the only passenger Princess who was an actual Princess. But in reality, I liked driving more, I just always let him because it seemed to bring him so much joy. Now as he was mind-linking everyone who needed to know about the Council of Elders coming to the Silver Moon pack. I could distract myself by focusing on the road ahead of me. Not thinking about what my night would look like now.

I had hoped to be able to read some more and to fall asleep snuggled up to Griffin, as I was still a little exhausted from the past few days. Now I would have to spend my night informing the others. Asking

my family if they were still able to come over to support me. And most of all to prepare for the trial that would force me to talk all about the experiences I had when I was kidnapped.

And to think of a punishment I would request to be given to Hannah. For me her being pregnant or not would be a big part of the reasoning behind coming up with a punishment. If she lied about it, that would only mean she deserved a worse punishment. Where as her pregnancy being a truth would make me reconsider things. As that would mean I would be punishing both her and her unborn pup.

“Griffin, before I decide to do anything I need to see Hannah and speak to her” I told him, and one look at his face showed me he didn’t like what I was asking him.

Chapter 176

As expected Griffin did not like me going to see Hannah. I was scared it would bring back unwanted memories. He didn’t trust her either, he had no reason to. The fact that I was adamant about going tonight did not help either, he wanted to prepare me before meeting her. I hadn’t seen her ever since I was kidnapped, I knew she was carrying David’s pup but I had no idea how far along she was. She might even show already. The thing is there was no time left, if the Elder Council would be here tomorrow morning there was no telling how late they would start the trial. I would need to get some

rest, write my statement, come up with a punishment, and have breakfast with the pack all before 10

AM tomorrow.

Griffin knowing I was right agreed, and mind-linked one of the guards to bring Hannah to one of the

interrogation rooms. By the time we got there, Hannah was already waiting for us. Without her

expensive clothes and make-up, she looked different. The fact that she was indeed showing, even if it

was just a little bump did not help either. Her eyes were not filled with equal parts fear and defeat. It

had replaced the hate and arrogance her eyes had always held when she looked at me.

“You’re lucky you know” Were the first words that fell from her lips before I had truly sat down.

I was lucky, there was no use in denying that. Still, I was unsure why Hannah mentioned how lucky I

was. Especially with all that I went through because of her

“I know I am but why tell me that now?” I asked as I settled in my

chair.

“Because I did it all for him, I hated you for being his mate. But he has proven he isn’t worthy of either

of us. Yet you found your second chance mate, and it’s clear how much he loves you. Yet I rejected my

true mate, in the hopes of him eventually loving me. Now all I have is our pup as he left me behind.

Now you are here to decide what kind of punishment you are about to give me aren't you?" She sighed clearly defeated.

Again I had no reason to deny what she was telling me. I am not one to lie not even to her. So I agreed explaining more of why I was here.

"Well, the Council of Elders will have the final say. Since I am your victim though they want me to suggest a punishment. I know what you did to me, I know the moments when David had me kidnapped when you helped me. And I want to know why you did what you did. I want to know what you were hoping to get out of this. Of course, I have some ideas as to what drove you. But unlike you, I am not one, to ruin someone's lives based on what I think of them." I couldn't help adding in the last part.

I was not planning on screaming and shouting at her. Likewise, I was not going to be violent to her.

That didn't mean I was not angry with her, that I did not hate her for what she had done to me and my family.

"You know why I did it, I love David, even after everything that he did to everyone I still love him. All I wanted to do was to make him see I was a better fit for him than you are. Even when you didn't want

him anymore. I was never the one who wanted to mate with Griffin.” She started explaining.

Causing Griffin, to wrap his arm around me. Like he was staking his claim showing her that he had no intention of mating with her either. I smiled up at him, I was not worried about him being attracted to

Hannah at all. I didn’t even believe her when she tried to convince me

Griffin was about to pick her as her chosen mate. Let alone now that we marked each other, were trying to conceive and engaged to be married. Still, his reassurance was sweet.

Hannah just glared at us, angry and sad, but it didn’t bother me. She tried to ruin my life she could deal with seeing how happy I was despite her.

“Even if you loved him, which I sorta understand. You didn’t have to go that far. Like did you never realize he did not love you back? Was there never a moment, where you realized he wasn’t that into you? What made him the better option than your fated mate, you know the man who died because you rejected him” I couldn’t keep the cold judgmental tone out of my voice.

It was mind–blowing to me that she never stopped trying to win over the man who ruined everyone and everything in his path. Even in the face of true love, with the man the Moon Goddess had created

especially for her. My question was the first time that I saw a real emotion on her face. Other than missing David, or what I read as her emotion on her face. missing David.

“Maybe it was not just love. My parents told me that a she-wolf of my stature. My lineage should try to

grow. Get higher up, of course, they realized I was in love with David. And they supported me. They told me that I was a better match for David. His parents did too, my Alpha and Luna. So what was I

about to do, everyone convinced me David and I would be together in the end. That pack leaders

sometimes make hard decisions because their happiness is what keeps the pack thriving. And we all

need a thriving pack.” She sighed and I was unsure if it was because she realized that what she said

was absolute bullshit.

supposed to keep her safe. Show her right from wrong filled her head with the idea that her teenage

dreams were viable and that she was entitled to see them come through.

“Baby I know enough, let’s go to bed okay?” I turned away from Hannah, and she told me enough.

Chapter 177

I told Griffin we were going to bed to make a statement to Hannah We both knew we wouldn’t be

getting sleep anytime soon. Next up was talking to his parents, we needed to discuss how to welcome

the Council of Elders. And of course, they wanted to know how I was feeling. If I had decided on the punishment I wanted to ask for.

“I don’t want her to be killed, especially since she really is pregnant. I don’t want her pup to die because of their parents. She thinks she knows what a good leader is, as far as I am concerned she can manage on her own let her be rogue. I know it affects her pup but her being too pregnant doesn’t mean she does not have to face the consequences” Not even Griffin knew what I had decided.

Because I wasn’t sure when we walked out of the interrogation room, Isabella’s question forced me to think about what I wanted to do. The words just came out, and it felt like the right decision.

“Aren’t you afraid she is going out to find David when she is a rogue? Not to mention the fact that she might very well still be a part of his pack?” Rodrick asked.

It wasn’t something that crossed my mind, but he was right. Still, the chances of her finding David were slim. Even if she did, she could find him and leave the country behind like he did as far as I was concerned. The chances of David coming back just to get his chosen mate and his pup out were even

smaller. Again if he did it wouldn't be the worst thing either, he was the country's number one enemy

now. There was no way he would get in and out of the country sight unseen. So that is what I told

Griffin and his parents.

I could tell Griffin was worried but they all agreed with me. I knew

Griffin would not want me to go out with bodyguards for a few more months. Sometimes it was

annoying to never be able to be alone anymore. But it was a small price to pay. Both for my safety and

his peace of mind. We talked about the technicalities for a bit. We decided to have the kitchen staff on

standby to prepare a welcoming lunch. Tomorrow we would let the Council of Elders just decide if they

wanted a few hours or even a day to settle in. Or if they would want to start the trial right away. If the

latter was the case we would have the kitchen staff make a quick lunch for everyone at the trial.

I was getting tired and I still needed to prepare my statement and write the letter to officially request a

punishment. We also needed to let my parents know and ask if they still wanted to come to the trial to

support me. With the amount of work I still had to do we said goodbye to Isabella and Roderick and

then made our way to our chambers.

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“Darling, I texted your parents they are coming over tomorrow and will be here around 10 AM too. I’ll arrange for the plane to pick them up” Griffin was done with his shower and I hadn’t even noticed him walk up behind me until he kissed the top of my head.

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Nonetheless, I was super grateful he had managed to let my parents know. And had started on transport to get them here. I would never take the jet for granted. But in moments like this the fact that we had the jet made the distance between me and my family feel not as big.

“I love you baby” I said stroking his cheek but without taking my eyes off the letter I had written. It was done I just wanted to read it again, to make sure it was right. That it said everything I wanted to tell the council.

“I love you too Darling, with all that I have and all that I am. Do you want me to help you prepare for tomorrow?” He says still hugging me from behind.

I stood up and turned around to face him: “No, but thank you, Griff, as long as you are going to be there

with me, I will be fine. Right now I am tired and I just want to fall asleep in your arms”

It was all I needed to say for Griffin to swoop me up in bridal style and carry me to the bed. Where we did exactly what I wanted. We fell asleep all cuddled up.

The next morning we woke up early and even with Griffin still at my side I felt the nerves fluttering around in my stomach. Reading me like an open book Griffin takes his hand in mine and kisses the back of it.

“It will be alright Darling, I am here for you” He tells me.

Chapter 178

What was supposed to be a wonderful day, our last hurrah before needing to go back to business as usual was cut short. Deep down I knew it was just a minor inconvenience that both of us were aware might happen. Still, it annoyed me, I was having such a good time meeting my gamer friends. Or well some of them with Ayla. I loved how she was able to charm every important wolf at royal events. And now she was just as charming with my human friends. So to leave early, just because we still needed to deal with all the sh it David and Hannah caused for us.

I understand why Ayla wants to see her now before, the trial. The Council of Elders already was a little

agitated that Ayla went into heat before the trial. They realized it was not something we could control.

And they understood the emotional toll and risks in, proceeding with the trial when Ayla was in heat. So

they begrudgingly told us to contact them when the heat was over. We did, so that all worked in our

favor, Ayla being prepared, and having her statement ready. Having a clear idea about her punishment,

and even having it written

out.

Still, most of Hannah's statements and explanations anger me. Especially the one about pack leaders

needing to be happy first in order to lead the pack. I was biting my tongue because I was afraid I would

not be able to control myself. Luckily I didn't need to because my wonderful, witty, poised mate handled

it. Holding my hand in silent support.

Last night Ayla seemed so on top of it, telling me she wouldn't be nervous if I was there with her. But

when she woke up she was a ball

of nerves, so I did everything I could do to make her feel less nervous. Luckily pack breakfast helped too and I loved discussing the future and talking about our pups with our pack members. To the extent that we almost forgot to pick up Ayla's parents and the Council of Elders would be arriving. The timing of them both arriving at the exact same time wasn't ideal either. But we found a solution and I wasn't about to give Ayla more stress by freaking out over little things like that.

Not long after I walked the council to the meeting room, Ayla joined us. It made sense that her parents wouldn't keep her occupied for too long. They knew the importance of impressing the Council of Elders.

Ayla taking too long to come out to meet the Council of Elders would be seen as a sign of disrespect.

The Council of Elders is fair and just but they just hold a lot of importance to traditions and being respected. Especially by members of the royal family, because while we rule the country. Their job is equally as important, they are the ones who execute punishments that transcend more than one pack.

If we as members of the royal family do not show the Council enough respect it could very well affect their standing with all the other packs.

Ayla did not have a lot of interaction with them yet. With everything that happened my parents and I did most of the communication with them. A lot of the contact started in the moment when she was still

kidnapped and was unable to contact them at that time. When she walks in I see she has slipped on a

blazer over her outfit. She told me she would if the Council would want to go to trial right away.

Something made her reconsider, knowing my beautiful mate it must have been her nerves and wanting

to make a good impression.

She does not show it to, her back is straight when she walks in with a soft smile on her face. She keeps

her eyes trained on me, I know it is because it helps her feel less nervous so I shoot her a quick wink. It

is all I can do now to make sure she knows I am here to support her.

“Please, excuse me for not being able to greet you upon arrival. I had other guests I needed to

welcome. My parents to be exact so I hope for your understanding of the importance of greeting my

parents” Ayla explains her short absence without being asked curtsying to the Council members as she

does.

Mom looks like she is as proud and as amazed by how poised she is, by how much she knows with the

little training she has as I am. Dad almost looks smug, like he wants to tell the Elders, see that is my

daughter-in-law.

“Your absence is excused Princess Ayla, now let’s proceed with this meeting so we can set things into motion” One of the Elders acknowledges Ayla.

Now we all sit down, I take her hand in mine. The good thing about being in a meeting with only other wolves is that they understand the importance of mates. And the comfort physical touch brings us. I have been in meetings with the human rulers where they would raise an eyebrow every time my parents would share a small touch.

Chapter 179

The council not having enough time to prepare the trial today suits me. I was sure of my letters and statements. Still, it felt a bit rushed, and I would have loved some more time to just relax. Talk to Griffin about this all. And now we had the chance too. I just needed to follow Isabella and see what she wanted to talk to me about.

I no longer felt panicked when she wanted to speak to me. I know she would either want to tell me something special in private. Something personal or she, had something to discuss with regard to business. Either she wanted to run something by me because she thought it considered me. Or she wanted to go over my education.

“I hate to burden you with this Sweetheart, but I scheduled the rest of your education. It’s a tight schedule, and a heavy one. I just think your

education needs to be finished in eight months. Because if you are pregnant I think you need to be able to go on leave knowing you are fully educated. Ready to take over for me as the Queen and Luna”

Isabella told me sliding over a piece of paper that had a detailed outline of my education.

That seemed to go on even during the days of the trial. She had some reading I needed to get done

this week. So that meant I would have to read every night after the trials. I agreed with her though it

would be nice being able to go on maternity leave ready for everything. Griffin and I had talked about it

and with Isabella still being the Queen and Luna I could have a longer maternity leave. Spend more

time with our pup after it was born.

“The schedule seems fine Isabella, and I agree I hope we can find out I am pregnant soon. And I know

I will rest easier knowing I am ready to face whatever comes our way” She shot me a smile like she

was proud

of me.

She truly had become like a second mother to me, I was about to get up to hug her goodbye when she

took something out of her desk drawer.

“Wait, Ayla, I have an engagement gift here I hope you will wear this on your wedding day” The velvet box she gave me wasn’t new.

You could see it had history and it dawned on me that this might very well be a family heirloom again.

The box was big so I was thinking it might be a necklace. Only one way to find out so I sat back in my

seat and I slowly opened the box. Inside of it was a beautiful tiara. The sunlight in the room reflected of silver white and blue diamond studded tiara.

“I hope this can be your something old and something blue. Every time the Crown Prince or Crown

Princess marks their mate. They will get a custom crown or Tiara, this was mine. Griffin is okay with me telling you this but he has contacted a jeweler to come discuss your design.

However, for your wedding I hope you would do me the great honor to wear this. I tried the tiara on it

was beautiful. I planned on wearing a white dress. Griffin told me he wanted to be involved with

wedding planning. Ensuring me that I could do most of the planning, he wanted it to be the day I always

dreamed off. But he wanted it to be his wedding to a day he had been involved with too. I loved that, I

would never want our wedding day to feel like my day. Like it was all around me, I wanted it to be OUR day. Still, I was sure that he wouldn't mind incorporating blue into our wedding. Just so I could highlight the tiara.

"Of course I will wear this as my something old something new for my wedding day Isabella. It is so kind of you to gift this to me. And I love the tiara it is wonderful. In fact I love it so much that I wonder if it is unheard of if I just wear this tiara until I will be crowned Queen." I would have never asked her if she had just been lending me the tiara to wear at my hiding.

If there was any indication that this tiara still held too much value for her. So when I saw tears form in her eyes I got scared I misinterpreted her. Maybe she did not mean to give it to me.

"Sweetheart, you don't know what you just asked of me" She practically sobbed as she hugged me so tight breathing was a little hard.

"The Crown Prince who is born Crown Prince will inherit his father's

"Now that I know that it means, I have one more reason to wear your tiara

This my own. Isabella you have truly become my second mother"

We chatted a little more about family, the wedding plans and the upcoming trial” We both hoped it was over soon. So that we could focus on the more important matters at hand.

“Sorry it took me forever, Baby but I am on my way back are you still with my parents” I mindlinked Griffin as soon as I finally walked out off Isabella’s office.

“I am Darling just come to our chambers we are waiting on you” I smiled at how quick his replies always were.

Now something about the why he said they were waiting on me had me excited. It made me feel like they wanted to do something. Or maybe he had already planned something, what ever it was it made me excited to go back to them. I wanted to just spend some time with my

Chapter 180

“Don’t be scared Princess Ayla. I am not here to harm you, I am not on Hannah’s side. I was friends with her younger sister.” She cast her eyes down to the floor before continuing “Well, more than friends but her parents wouldn’t let us. I promise you I helped Prince Griffin to find you. And I come here to ask for a favor in return.” She seemed very genuine.

The way she said she was more than friends with Suzanne made me think she might have loved her.

Alpha Philip was traditional and in his mind mateships always consisted between a wolf and a she-wolf. There was no way he would let his very own daughter be with another She-wolf. Griffin had visited the BloodMoon pack with Dillion and Collin. Neither are shy about how much they love each other. And they would not hide not being straight no matter how judgemental others were about them.

Meaning that if Lizzy was indeed non-straight she has seen that the future King and the future Silver Moon Alpha was very accepting of queer relationships.

Trusting my gut, like I should as the Luna to be, I made an impulsive decision on what to do.

“I am about to head to Prince Griffin now, you can come along so we can discuss your favor and when we can properly discuss it if needed. Because as you know I have a very busy day” I told her before

walking

her to our chambers.

“Hey, darling I missed you” Griffin pulls me into a big bear hug

burying his nose in my neck.

He didn't seem to notice I had Lizzy with me or he didn't care that much. Just like he didn't care, my parents were in the living room with an excellent view of what we were doing. They seemed elated with it, they always were when their children were happy with their mates.

"Oh, Hey Lizzy, didn't see you there. When did you arrive at the pack?" Griffin's kind response confirmed that I was right in trusting her.

"My parents and siblings are waiting in the nearest human hotel. I know you said we needed to find local packs to move into. Or packs that we had a family connection too. But my mom's former Alpha has the same views towards queer people as Alpha Philip had. And..." Lizzy hadn't walked into the living room yet, her lip trembling as she started to explain what brought her here.

"Bossman, I made the reservaa... Oh., shit..." Dillion who walked up towards us talking happily about making a reservation. One look at Lizzy and he started stuttering.

Realizing he had interrupted us, with something important. Seeing Lizzy on the verge of tears made him realize he had messed up. He didn't know that him being here would probably prove valuable. Both

Griffin and I had realized just what Lizzy was about to say. She wasn't straight and she wanted to ask if she could be a part of the Silver Moon pack with her entire family. Because it was the only pack she could be sure of accepted who she was. And since her family had been my pack members before there was a bit of connection however small it was.

"You don't need to come out to us now or anytime. Today I have something planned with my mate and family in law. Tomorrow the trials starts so we need to spend some time on that. After it is done we can discuss you and your family becoming a part of the Silver Moon pack. Until then you can move into rooms in the guest house. You will be our personal guests." Griffin states without ever consulting me.

He looks at me and it's not because he feels bad for jumping the gun. It is not to see if I agree with him.

It is because he knew I would agree with him before he even said it. It was a look to confirm how in sync we are, a look to agree to helping this girl.

"So you must be wondering what we are doing right?" Griffin chuckles as he leads me into the living room where my parents are waiting on

Yes, I am, I wanted to ask if we could do something the four of us. It seems as though you have

planned something so of course I am excited to know what it is.” I answer Griffin not bothering to hide

how giddy I

ow excited I am about the fact that Griffin planned something for us. He smiles and leads me back to

the couch. He smiles knowingly as I

settle down between my mother and him.

“We cannot miss out on the lunch, not with every Council member attending. After we can get changed

I made reservation for a nice restaurant the four of us. First though I planned a boat ride for all of us.

Don’t worry I hired a boat with staff. So we will all be safe“. Griffin laughs and I love how despite

everything we always find a reason to laugh about. That we are still able to enjoy the little things in life.

That we make sure we spend time to enjoy ourselves.