

Unwilling 81

Chapter 81

This must be the worst Saturday ever having met Ayla. Or well after she accepted me as her mate. She was so close to me, and

yet we didn't see each other, we had texted a little bit throughout the day. But that was nothing compared to spending the day

together.

I was done with the day and had taken a quick shower looking forward to going out and doing something fun with Ayla. She had

told me to dress casually and I always preferred walking around in a t-shirt and jeans over dress shirts and slacks. Still, if this

was a date I wanted to show my beautiful mate how much I appreciated her. And of course, I would pale in her comparison with

everything I wore so making an effort would help me a bit. So I wore a tight-fitting white polo because I knew how good it looked

on my caramel skin. With my new white sneakers and a pair of jeans shorts since it was a pretty warm day.

I had expected Ayla to be home by now, she left home in an oversized shirt and biker shorts. I remember because the shorts did

wonders for her b*dy. And B I was happy to see she felt so comfortable around Mom that she didn't dress up anymore. Knowing

her she would want to wear something a little more special to our date. I rolled my eyes at the knock at the door, I was antsy to

see Ayla again and to hug her. Whoever this was would only be a distraction from that. I wanted to be alone and waiting for her

when she came home.

The servant was startled when I pulled open the door, making me instantly regret my foul mood. I just needed her here, I was

never on edge when she was close to me.

"I am sorry Prince Griffin, but I have a message from Princess Ayla she asked you not to worry and read it right away," He told

me giving me a sealed envelope before hurrying away.

I noticed the hallways seemed very quiet normally people would be milling about during this time. Finishing shifts and going

home, either to a room in the castle or leaving the castle to go to their home somewhere in the background. But I was more

occupied by the envelope in my hand. She had instructed the servant to tell me not to worry so it must be a good

surprise. And I was excited to see what she had planned for us.

“Grill, My mate,

You must be wondering what is going on. But I wanted to surprise you as you probably guessed by now. I remember how guilty

you felt to tell me I would need to be a Queen so soon after completing the mating process. I understand I gave you a reason to

worry about me.

So I wanted to show you that you can trust me. That I can be the Queen and the Luna this pack and our country deserves.

Tonight your mother and I planned an event, a BBQ to be exact because something casual fits you and me better than a royal

ball or something. Tonight you get to introduce me as your mate, your Luna, and your Queen.

I am waiting for you in the rose garden, so you can have a moment with me before we go to the party. Because I have one last

surprise but I want to tell you in person. n

I love you,

Ayla”

Suddenly everything makes sense, Dad burying me under a pile of work. Gerald and Dillion being so sketchy this entire week.

Somehow my wonderful mate had managed to get everyone in on this but me. This must be why people had started calling her

Princess, I found it weird that they only needed one weekend to change their minds. But this girl had been planning an event and

talking to my pack. No our

pack for two weeks showing them the kind of leader she would be to them. And clearly, they liked what they saw.

I don't think I have ever felt prouder than I do now. I couldn't help but rush to the rose garden, I needed to see her. To k*ss her, to

touch her and most of all to thank her for what she has done for me. Because it was never about not trusting her, it was about

not knowing if she felt like I was worth the trouble. Knowing she managed to surprise me, without ever seeming stressed was

more reassuring than words would ever be.

When I reached the rose garden, her beauty took my breath away. She was always stunning I thought so the first second I saw

her. Even before the smell of lilac told me she was my mate. But she had changed clothes somewhere, she wore a beautiful lilae

dress, that somehow was elegant and casual, modest and sexy and playful at the same time. I loved how the floral pattern on

her dress and her shoes. were white so we still kind of matched. It used to be her thing. But the more we had some matching

accents the more I loved knowing that everyone could see she was mine.

"Darling, you look out of this world beautiful. I seriously cannot believe how lucky I got. I must have some amazing karma since

the Moon Goddess blessed me with you as my mate" I told her as I pulled her closer to k*ss her.

Only then did I notice that she seemed a little nervous, which makes sense being introduced as the new Queen must be a bit

nerve-racking. Instead of pulling her in for a passionate k*ss to show her just how much I like her new dress. I tenderly pulled

her closer and tucked a lock of hair behind her ear. Before lifting her chin up to face me and planting an almost delicate k*ss on

her lips.

"Don't worry about being introduced, Darling the pack will love you I

know they do," I reassured her, or at least that was what I hoped to do.

She took a deep breath like she was stealing herself for something.

"Well I hope so but that is not what I am so nervous about, if you want me to Griff I would like to move in with you last weekend. I

have already quit my job and started packing up. But this must come as a surprise for you so if you don't feel ready for it there is

no pre..." Before she finished speaking I heard enough.

I lifted her from the ground and spun her around.

"Yes, yes, yes I want nothing more than for you to move in with me," I

told her.

Which was mostly true, I wanted to complete the mating process, I wanted to propose to her. I wanted to marry her and start a

family with her. But those were future plans. Three months ago this girl was about to reject me. I felt like I had to wear her down

to give me a chance when she told me she would give me six months to prove to her that I was the perfect mate for her I took it

and I never regretted it. Still so many days the idea of having to wait half a year just to be accepted by her felt daunting. And now

three months in I am on the verge of waking up next to her every day for the rest of my life and I could not be happier.

Reluctantly I let my giggling mate stand on her own feet again so we could make our way to the party hand in hand.

The party was in the clearing where we hosted most of the pack events, a row of grills was set up on the left side. Tables with

every beverage and side dish you could think of next to them. A huge podium that could double as a dance floor later on, was

placed on the right side. Enough seats and tables for the entire pack and the few guests we had were placed in the middle.

Ayla's relatives were here, and I loved to see she had some familiar faces in the crowd, and the fact that this was a show of

support for our relationship. Lastly, there seemed to be a play area for the younger wolves. She truly did an amazing job and she

thought about everything. Now it was up to me as I guided her to the podium to formally introduce her as my mate. I promised

myself I would make my speech worthy of Ayla and our love.

Chapter 82

I could sense Griff walking up to me before I could see him. Suddenly I felt myself getting nervous, what if he didn't like the fact

that I sprung this on him? What if he thought it would be soon to move in together next weekend? After all, I had been the one

who said we needed six months to do anything. Was it even fair to want more now? But as soon as I saw his smiling face I knew

enough. The fact that he was here meant he got my letter so the huge smile on his face must mean he loved the surprise. It did

help but I still was a bit nervous about what he would think about me moving in with him. Especially since I had taken all the

steps to do so.

Meaning that if he would say no, I would have to start all over in the White Oak pack until he was ready. Like always I had no

reason to worry about this amazing man. He spun me around like I was the main character from one of my romance books,

before walking to the clearing where the BBQ would take place.

I had seen the staff build the stage, and place the decorations, still seeing it all together. Packmembers milling about I felt a

sense of pride from what I accomplished. Sure Isabella and I had done it together and I wasn't ready to undertake something like

this on my own. But was just as much my effort as it had been hers. What I took pride in the most was the mixture of amazement

and pride on Griff's face as he guided me toward the makeshift podium. Just before we stepped up he bit his lower lip and

nodded to myself. Something he always does when he is determined, Knowing him he was telling himself to deliver a good

speech.

"Members of the Silver Moon pack and my esteemed guests, what I am about to do now is going to be a little bit different than

how this usually goes. But that's fitting because everything about us is different

than how it usually goes." Griffin started his speech, and immediately all eyes were on him, were on us.

Even I was wondering how this was going to go.

"You all know that I was just a pup when the mark that my fated mate died before I got to know them appeared on my chest.

Growing up I was sad I could not find the same love my grandparents and parents had. Until the day I learned about second

chance mates, from that day on out I would pray to the Moon Goddess every day that I would find my second chance mate." He

continued and most of the pack murmured or nodded, I knew he was devout to the Moon Goddess but I never knew just how

much he prayed.

"Dreaming of the moment I would lock eyes with my mate from across the room, we would run towards each other and live

happily ever after. But the moment I made eye contact with this gorgeous she-wolf next to me she ran away from me and not

towards me." Some packmembers laughed as Griffin reminisced about our first meeting others scowled. u are

"I know most of you had some apprehensions about Ayla being my mate, and your future queen. Telling me I should just go with

a chosen. mate instead. But it is easy to judge without knowing who judging. You see my beautiful mate's first mate did not die,

he just made sure he broke her heart, broke her kind and fierce spirit. And she accepted it all to keep the pack that abused her

from having to go to war. When I prayed to the Moon Goddess Selene I told her I would do. everything I needed to do to show

my second chance mate that I would. make her happy.

So she blessed me with a perfect mate who just needed her heart mended, from the bottom of my heart Ayla I am elated you

gave me the chance to mend it and make me the luckiest wolf on earth. To all of you, I would like you to officially welcome Ayla

Hemmings from the White Oak pack as my mate, your future Luna, and the future Queen"

Griff's speech nearly had me in tears but I never expected the rest of the pack to burst into applause.

The rest of the night I spent dancing with Griff, being congratulated by pack members. Most of them didn't know about my story.

What Griffin told them was the least he could tell them but still made them understand what had happened to me. Now most of

them seemed to be deadset on letting me know they truly welcomed me into the pack. I was still connected to the White Oak

pack my parents would travel along with me to sever the packbound next week. Still, I could feel the first sparks of the pack

bond between me and the Silver Moon pack and it made me even more excited about the future than I already was. .

This night had been wonderful up until the moment two of the pack members walked up to us. From the look on their faces, I

could tell they were not about to offer me their well wishes and congratulate us. Both she-wolves were around our age, eyes

trained on Griffin, in a way that would have made me insecure weeks ago. Now all it did was make me jealous, the same

possessive jealousy I hated in Griff. But now I myself had a hard time ignoring my urges to at the very least snap at them.

Griffin either noticed their stares giving away they were up to no good or my anxiousness. Or maybe even both. Whatever it was

he wrapped an arm around my waist pulling me closer to his muscular b*dy. His overwhelming scent calmed me down enough to

wait and listen to what these two had to say. Not that they addressed me, as far as they were concerned I was nothing but thin

air.

“Prince Griffin, we know you just as your parents have always valued the opinion of the rest of the pack” The ginger was the first

to speak up

Griffin gave her a tight nod never letting go of me. Everyone knew what they were going to tell him. We needed to wait and give

our

packmembers the chance to express themselves though. So I

understood Griffin couldn't just come out and tell them he wasn't interested in their opinions on this matter. I don't know if the girl

was just stupid, or brave but Griffin's tight nod, changed eye color, and tense b*dy did nothing to deter her from telling him her

opinion.

“And I believe as our Crown Prince you deserve someone who is all in right from the start. She should have forgotten all about

her first mate the second she laid eyes on you” She was not practically purring.

She was an unmated wolf and her intentions were crystal clear, so much so that I could not hold back anymore.

“Let me guess Gingersnaps, you would be the one MY mate deserves. You are going to be the Queen. A vapid little girl like you

will ruin everything MY family-in-law has built for our kind. You want to be his chosen mate but are either unable to read his b*dy

language or just unwilling to take his discomfort into account.” I struggled to keep my tone even, I just wanted to claw her eyes

out.

“Everything my Queen just told you is the truth Cynthia, not to mention you bear any empathy towards another wolf who has

gone through hell and back. On top of seemingly being devoid of any loyalty. You are a good pack member and I would love for

you to stay one and not try and overstep, that goes for both of you” He told the she-wolves glancing at both of them with the

most disdain I had ever seen from him apart from the time he saw David,

The she-wolves turned on their heels to walk back to their table, cheeks flushed red and clearly embarrassed. Griffin turned to

me wrapping his arms around me like he wanted to comfort me. And I did not like feeling like I was about to lose control. But he

did nothing wrong and if anything the way he defended me made me realize something he should not have to apologize for. But

for now, I just hug him back, I will tell him what I realized later, tonight when we are

together and the party is over.

Chapter 83

When I saw Ayla get teary-eyed from my speech I knew I did a good job. Just like I thought they would most of the pack

welcomed her with open arms. I think it was good I told them a little bit about Ayla’s backstory. She should be the one to decide if

she ever wants to tell the full story. And who she wants to tell it to. Now at least everyone knew she wasn’t just being flakey or

distant for no reason. My pack, or our pack now was kind enough not to question her further.

I wanted her to have friends outside of Jessa, Collin, and my best friends. As much as I love spending every second together I

know it is good to both have friends. People we can do stuff with the other doesn't want to do. Always being together sounds

romantic but in the end, I think it doesn't do your relationship any good. I love having dinner with her on Friday nights and

hearing her tell stories of co-workers or family. Or just tell me things she has done, she will get so excited. She will wiggle in her

seat, and pick up a fork to take a bite ten times in a row before realizing she keeps forgetting to because she is so engrossed in

telling me more about her life. I want to never lose those moments.

Then there are the times something happens to me, and whether it is something good or something bad she is always the one I

want to tell first. I want to still have that excitement from time to time. Only to know that she is waiting for me at home, so I can

tell her face to face and not over a text or on Facetime. As the night progresses she seems to hit it off with Tanya. She works at

the bookstore so they must have something in common already. Not wanting to hover over her like the overprotective mate I go

and find Gerald and Dillion to have a beer with them. But before I can I see Cynthia and Anna making their way over to her. Both

of them look pissed about something. They have been two of the most outspoken packmembers about the fact that I deserve

better.

Not that surprising when I think back on the fact that they would always tell anyone who wanted to hear that they felt I needed to

pick someone from the Silver Moon pack as my chosen mate. Neither of them traveled out of the pack to go find their mate even

though they were nineteen and twenty and should want to meet their fated mate.

One look at Ayla tells me she knows the two are up to no good. Now I need to be the protective mate, not that I think they will try

and hurt her. I trust everyone in my pack enough not to. I just want, no need Ayla to feel like I always have her back because I

will. Taking one big step I get next to her pulling me flush against my b*dy with the arm I wrapped around her waist.

Tanya who has spotted Cynthia and Anna too mumbles a quick goodbye before rushing off. I

involved in the s hit show the set it, she most likely doesn't want to get

is about to go down. Because I won't let anyone especially not my packmember walk all over her, or talk cr ap about my amazing

mate.

When Cynthia addresses me pretending like Ayla doesn't exist I see the bright circles of grey around her eyes. Letting me know

that Willow is dying to take over. Ayla is jealous of the fact that two she- wolves are trying to flirt with me and honestly, it is a turn-

on. So much so that for a second I am so distracted I can't really comprehend what Cynthia is saying. Something about me

wanting my pack to do something.

She then tells me she feels like I still deserve better, the puzzle pieces are falling into place now Cynthia is using the fact that my

family and I love to give the pack the chance to come to us with every concern as a reason to talk badly about her future Queen.

All I can do is nod at her because she has a point and I can hardly tell her to shut the hell up. Especially not now that most of the

pack is looking at us to see how this is all going to play out. The more she speaks the more Conan

wants to swoop in and take over. He likes Cynthia talking to us like our mate isn't even here less than me. I can at least keep my

head cool enough to not snap at her. Even when my entire b*dy is tensed up because she is just talking s hit now. I need to put

her in her place but in a way that doesn't come off as frantic or aggressive. Whether I like it or not I always need to keep my

reputation and status in mind.

Ayla finds the right words before I do, there is venom in her normally soft and gentle voice as she addresses Cynthia. I can

barely suppress the chuckle when Ayla calls Cynthia Gingersnaps, the media does not portray our people kindly. But

Gingersnaps must be one of the worst

movies of all time. Ayla growls the last words but he

is to be

expected when someone openly and blatantly tells your mate they are better suited for them in front of you. Other than that she

delivers her sharp words with a poised elegance that is befitting a Queen. I want all of this to be over soon because her behaving

so poised and calm all while teeming with jealousy is driving me crazy with a need for her.

Without any hesitation, I finish off what Ayla started, not that she needs me to. Cynthia and Anna do however because I wanted

to make it abundantly clear that for me no one can even hold a candle to my perfect mate, to my fated mate. Neither of them

seems to be pleased when I'm done talking but they both scurry off.

"Darling, you were amazing what do you say..." I start but I get cut off by Cynthia's father rushing up to us.

Unlike his daughter, Sam is a kind man, and soft-spoken, his mate, Cynthia's mother died while giving birth he never got a

second chance. mate. Not that I think he wanted to. So now I wonder why he is rushing up to us. Where his daughter ignored

Ayla, Sam's attention seems to fully be on her. Even with someone as kind as Sam, I feel a pit stir in my stomach. Ready to

defend my mate and protect her from everything,

"Please, Princess and Crown Prince accept my apologies for my daughter's behavior. This makes me think I should have been

stricter with her. It has just been hard raising her without her mother you know." He tells us earnestly.

"It's fine I cannot exactly blame her for thinking my mate is a catch because he is. And I know the way it started between me and

Griff raised some eyebrows. I am sure in time she will see how happy we both are and be happy for us too. And I hope she finds

her own mate soon, so she gets to feel what we feel” I am not entirely sure that Ayla doesn’t blame Cynthia but she is intuitive

enough to know Sam can’t help it and is feeling bad enough about it.

“As always I am with my mate Sam. Well I do not intend to ever leave Ayla for anyone, I am not mad at her lapse in judgment I

am sure it won’t happen again” I smile at him hoping he still hears the treat in my words.

Because I will not allow anyone to talk badly about Ayla. I just hope Cynthia and Anna won’t bother her when Ayla moves into the

castle. She has had enough bad experiences with members of her pack looking down on her without needing it from her new

pack too. It is no longer about me being scared she will run for the hills when my pack doesn’t accept her. I just know it would

hurt her and I want to do everything in my power and beyond to make sure Ayla never gets hurt again.

“I love you, Darling, I am going to make sure nob*dy will ever hurt you again you know that right?” I ask her the moment Sam is

out of earshot.

“I know, handsome and I won’t let anyone hurt you either we are a team now remember” She says and the joy of her giving me a

sweet nickname is like nothing else.

Chapter 84

I’ve been watching her, and she has been packing up stuff. I bet Prince Boy just got scared, he wants to keep her away from me.

So he must be forcing her to live with him. I would have done so too. He must know a second chance mate does not stand a

chance against a true mate. Why would she want a second pick from the left-over bin when I’ve been so clear about wanting her

back?

She is stubborn but she will fall back in love with me. She will be my chosen mate but the second I mark her I am sure the

matebond will recover. He can have Hannah then, she is a good lay and I don’t even want him to have that. But if that’s what it

takes so be it. I needed. someone to help me out. And his status was just enough of a bait to get Hannah on board. And until

Ayla is willing to give herself to me I can still fuck Hannah.

I wonder if she knows I think about Ayla when I fuck her, that's the reason I always want her on all fours. I rather not look at her

face it ruins the fantasy for me. Soon I will have the real deal I cannot wait to be with Ayla. She and that pussy haven't mated

yet, I would have felt it if she did. It has been too long since I had a good release. I am still recovering and if it hadn't been for

Ayla moving in so soon I would have rested a little longer. Right now my parents are on their last-ever ever road trip. The poor

human I forced into ramming them off the cliff knows exactly what will happen if he doesn't do as he promised. And I will not kill

to hesitate his precious little human pup if he fails to deliver.

Thinking about being relieved from my parents soon, so that I can rule this pack with Ayla. Combined with the thought of how

tight she must still be. How I will punish her by just taking her when I want to the first time. How her screams of pain will turn into

screams of pleasure

as I keep pounding into her. Only for me to hurt her again when I will. finally mark because I won't be gentle about it either. And

she will like it another pair of pained screams will turn into moans of pleasure. I find myself hard, aching with need. I don't want

Hannah now, she will want to talk about the plan and I just need Ayla.

Grabbing the silky nightgown I stole from her bed the other day I rip it into. Using one hand I press the fabric against my face

breathing in her scent. It still smells like rain on a hot summer night. I hold the other bit of fabric against my straining cock. I

squeeze my eyes closed thinking about Ayla wearing some silk lingerie rubbing up against me. Desperate to feel me inside her.

Desperate to have me spill my seed in her so she can bear my pups. But it is not enough I need something warm something

alive. I need my fucking mate. Frustration and lust. rage inside of me. I keep stroking myself until there is a knock on the door

and a voice calling out to me.

“Alpha David, I need to talk to you” It’s Natasja mother’s Gemma.

Hearing her call me Alpha sends a surge of power through my entire b*dy. Her voice warps into Ayla’s voice.

Natasja’s desperate “Alpha, we need you, you are you awake” Warps to Ayla’s needy “Alpha, I need you, are you coming inside

of me” And the words push me over the edge.

I keep stroking myself feeling the silken fabric get wet with my release. Until my arm is so tired it falls away from my b*dy. Just as

there is another knock. Now that I no longer need the release the knock annoys

mec.

“For f ucks sake I am coming give me a moment” I snap at the door.

I know what she is about to tell me, but I will need to act like I am sad and surprised so I need a moment to collect myself after

this bliss. I clean myself up a bit and get dressed in some pajamas. Then I walk out

of my room but not before aggressively rubbing my eyes to make them. look red. I pull open the door with so much force that

Natasja startles.

I make a show of rubbing the sleep out of my eyes before I turn to her.

“Why did you wake me up Natasja, you know I am still healing and you know I am not the Alpha” I sternly tell her proud of myself

for staying in character.

But when Natasja starts sobbing I can barely contain myself. Remembering what I am doing this for I take a deep breath.

“Don’t cry, sorry if I snapped I am just tired and confused.” My stomach churns listening to myself attempting to comfort Natasja.

Not everything my father told me was stupid, he was right in saying that we needed to treat the rest of the pack as Children

because they needed us to take care of them. Because they would never compare to

us.

“No, it is not you that made me cry, please follow me into your father’s office and I will tell you.” Natasja so bs, so I play along

trying to look confused as I follow her.

Father's Beta and Gemma Jim and Kade are there as is mother's beta Linda. They let poor Natasja get me the lowest ranking

and therefore the weakest one out of the four of them. It makes me wonder if the others forced her into being the one to wake

me. And if so are they going to pressure her into telling me? Or will one of the men do because we are far better suited to have

an emotional conversation without crying than women?

"Sit down, Son we have some bad news," Jim tells me, so he is the one who gets to tell me the tragic news.

He has called me son for as long as I remember but now that he knew I

was his Alpha it rubbed me the wrong way. I swallow down my growl over his insubordination because I am not supposed to

know yet.

"I am afraid to tell you that you are our Alpha now David, unfortunately..." Jim begins but my mind starts to wander.

Did my parents know it wasn't an accident, did they see the human's truck speeding up towards them realizing it was on

purpose? If so did they know it was me, sadly enough that is very unlikely. Like every Alpha father made enough enemies, his

loyal son wouldn't be the first one to cross his mind. Then again maybe they were completely oblivious of it being on purpose. I

just hoped they knew they were going to die. I just hoped they suffered like I had suffered when I saw Ayla move on where I

couldn't all because of them. If only for a few minutes.

"Alpha David, did you hear me?" There is an edge to Jim's tone and I hope I didn't sit there smiling like an idiot when they told

me my parents died.

"Sorry, yes I heard it's" I fall quiet for a second trying to figure out an excuse for not paying attention.

"You looked like you were miles away, I get this is a lot to process but we need to take action now Alpha" Kade tells me

Oh good it just seemed like I was in shock.

“You are right, it is a lot to process what about my sister?” I asked, because Mother had talked about bringing her along, she

didn’t need to die as far as I was concerned.

But if she did my life would get so much better. Sadly enough I am not that lucky, since Mom decided not to bring her along last

minute. Still for now it would fit into my plans perfectly.

“I don’t want her to be in an Alpha-less pack, we should all try and get some sleep if that is even possible. Make sure the entire

pack is in the meeting hall at seven AM. I will accept my role as Alpha before breakfast” I tell the others

Luckily they all agreed with me, without me having to use my Alpha voice it will be fun to play with but now I can use a few hours

of shut-eye, and knowing I was this close to getting the life I deserved would surely make me sleep like a baby

Chapter 86

As I scrambled up, Roderick’s Alpha’s voice booms through the pack kitchen.

“Cynthia Wilson and Anna Black, you are dismissed from pack breakfast. You will meet me in the meeting room in an hour”

He doesn’t address any other wolf, everyone including Griffin freezes to the spot. The girls scramble away from the pack kitchen,

and Sam and what I can only guess are Anna’s parents and brother. All looking regretful and a little scared.

“Griffin, and Ayla I request both of your presence too” He sounds casual and unbothered.

Still, I feel a little on edge, judging from Griff’s face and the tic in his jaw. He is just as happy about it as I am. For now, I try to just

enjoy my favorite breakfast talking to my family.

Exactly an hour, after Roderick requested us to meet him in the meeting room. Cynthia and Anna, are already there. They remind

me of schoolgirls in the principal’s office. Staring at their feet with a mixture of fear and guilt written all over their faces.

“Thank you for joining us, Prince Griffin, Princess Ayla please have a seat?” Roderick smiles at us.

I’m a little unsure about if the fact, that he uses our titles is a good or bad sign. Griffin doesn’t seem to know either he hasn’t let

go of my hand since we entered this meeting room. Not even when we took a
s cat.

“Princess Ayla, I saw some tension between you and the ladies to your left last night. At the time it
seemed to be resolved fairly

quickly so I let it go. I am sorry it seems that my faith in my pack members was unjustified. Can you tell
me what happened?”

Rodrck asked me making me feel more and more that it was not us he was upset with.

Still, it felt a bit awkward and he would probably not be so pleased with my reaction yesterday. Maybe
he would believe me over

them because Griffin would have my back no matter what happened. But I respected and liked him far
too much to lie to him. So.

after stealing myself, I looked him straight in the eyes as I recounted what happened. How the two of
them had sauntered up to

us, ignoring me how Cynthia had flirted how I staked my claim on Griffin, how he in term had scolded
both Cynthia and Anna.

“So what you’re telling me is these two she-wolves committed treason. And instead of putting them to
trial you told them you

were secure in your mateship with my son. Albeit it somewhat rough around the edges?” He asked one
eyebrow quirked up.

To me, it sounded like an oversimplification of what had happened, done to paint me in a better light.
But I was not about to

argue with him over this. Cynthia and Anna had both turned white as I sheet. All I could get out while
awkwardly shrugging was:

“Yes, I guess so if you want to see it like that”

“Please, King Roderick, we didn’t know she was part of the royal family yet. She isn’t even marked by
him” Cynthia pleaded,

Griffin closed his eyes in what I could only describe as pity for her foolishness.

Confirmed by the fact that Rodrick rose from his chair as he growled.

“Do you mean to tell me you get to have a say in who I consider my family and when? Because let me
be very clear Cynthia the

woman to your right is my daughter-in-law, your future Luna, and your future Queen, and from now on out you will respect her as

such. Or I will put you to trial, and believe me when I tell you no one not even your father will speak on your behalf if I do so”

When I saw her after Rodrick had first mentioned treason I suspected the two couldn’t get more pale. But I just found out that I

was very wrong about that.

“Enough with this nonsense, I have tried to give the two of you a fair chance to explain your side of the story but I have heard

enough. I hereby rule that you both will be punished for your misdoings against a member of the royal family and for not showing

pack spirit. Princess Ayla is the one to determine the punishment, as she is the one you have wronged the most” He had sat

down but he still had a light snarl to his words, and he was still almost frighteningly intimidating.

Even to me his daughter-in-law whose side he was on. I cannot imagine how scared Cynthia and Anna were now. To me, that

was punishment enough. I knew Rodrick would not agree with me so I quickly came up with a plan.

“I would like an honest apology, and I think they should not have meals at the pack house until I move in next week. And let me

be clear it is not because I do not trust Griffin, because I do. But I do think neither of us deserves the disrespect they have been

giving us and there is no way for me to be certain they will actually stop” I said trying to sound calm and confident.

“Permission to speak father?” Griffin spoke up much more formally than I ever heard him talk to his father.

Who just nodded at him to continue.

Griffin did not face Rodrick though he faced Cynthia and Anna.

“I would like for the two of you to think of the punishment you would have no doubt eagerly administered. What you have done

would have warranted for your Princess to put you on trial twice. Yet all she asks for is an apology and a guarantee that you will

not have a chance to disrespect us in her absence” He told them

While his words seemed to have struck a chord with Anna who was now silent crying. I could tell Cynthia still was more annoyed

than anything else. She feared King Rodrick and Griffin but she would only apologize to get them off their backs. And it showed

her half-hearted apology was nothing compared to Anna's heartfelt apology even if it was hard to hear between her so bs. I could

make out her thanking me for being so gracious. At Rodrick's command, they scurried off, knowing that he would alert the rest of

the pack of their punishment and the reason behind it.

"Can the two of you stay behind for a bit?" Rodrick asked us.

And there was nothing we could do but sit back down to see what he was going to tell us.

"First of all, thank you for proving me right Ayla, even if it is grand to put them to trial I would not have wanted that for two young

wolves for something relatively minor. As leaders of the pack you are like parents to them, parents raise their pups with, patience

love, and understanding. And good rulers lead the pack like that. You have shown me that you are the Luna and Queen I

expected you to be. And just saying it also shows you will be a great mother, just like how I will be an amazing, gramps" He told

us.

With that last remark, all the tension left the room. I could finally breathe without being scared of what the consequences would

be for me and Griffin. There were no consequences for us because we handled it as well as we could all things considered.

Turns out the reason he asked us to stay behind was that we had to officially ask packmembers to be our Beta and Gemma and

let them know. Everyone including Rodrick knew who Griffin was going to pick. But I didn't even know who I was going to pick

myself. Which could be a bit of a problem in the future. Now I had even more to think about when I went home in a few hours.

The obvious choice would be Jessa, she is my best friend and I have known her for years so I was sure I could trust her. She

would never refuse me, but I knew what she really wanted was to be a stay-at-home mom to her pups. And there was no way I

was thanking that dream away from her.

My second choice would be Krystel and it was very likely that she and Dan would stay here, but I had no idea if she would want

to be my Beta, and if so how pack members would feel about me choosing my sister and cousin-in-law as my beta. I needed a

bit of fresh air, maybe Griff and I can go on a hike and talk about it, he knows his pack members better than I do, and I trust him

enough to let him help me make a decision.

Chapter 87

Finally, after that whole ordeal with Cynthia, Anna, and Father reminding us of needing to find a Beta and Gemma, I am alone

with my mate. She asked me if we could just go for a hike, we wanted to spend some time alone. With how much our pack likes

her and how much they still want to get to know her. There isn't a place in the castle or the center of the pack where we would be

left alone. We could go into the human world, and leave pack ground behind but then we are facing another loss of privacy. It's

not like we can fully be ourselves when we are surrounded by humans. So going on a hike truly is the best thing we could do.

I figured that her leaving and going back to the White Oak pack to get her last belongings and settle her last affairs would be

easier. That I would somehow miss her less knowing it was the last time. But for some reason knowing this is the last time has

the opposite effect. All I can think about is how I wish she didn't have to leave behind. I had to stop myself from suggesting

getting some movers so she didn't have to leave to get her stuff. I don't because I know it is more than just moving her stuff. She

is going to have to say goodbye to the pack she finally got to live with. I can hardly believe how far she has come from when I

met her three months ago. I never stopped loving her but there had been moments I didn't have faith that we could ever

overcome our baggage.

"Did you hear me handsome?" Ayla's voice interrupts my thoughts

And I am glad she did, it would be a waste of time to spend the last few hours with her, thinking about our past. Besides, maybe

it is for the best she leaves for one last week. I have far too much work to join her for the entire week sadly enough. But this way

I can try and have her office at the castle ready.

“Sorry, Darling I was zoned out, what did you say,” I ask her focusing my energy back on her again.

“Maybe we can go for a run, shifted?” She asks shyly.

I know she feels like her petite frame stands out even more in wolf form. To some extent it does, she has the b*dy of an adult

wolf but in a flash, you would mistake her for a young wolf. All I see though is just that, a flash of Willow because there is no wolf

as fast or as agile as she is. Even in her human form, she outruns everyone and I am just in awe of her. Plus she is just as

playful in her wolf form as I am. Something I not only enjoy but also shows just how good we are together. That we are made for

each other.

“Yes, I would love to run behind you never catching up to you for an hour or so” I chuckle

At my teasing, she turns around and strips, and shifting is the last thing on my mind right now. Her b*dy is perfection and her

n*ked b*dy will always turn me on. But there is something about the way how freely she undresses now. No longer hiding her

b*dy, not just from me but from everyb*dy. We are deep enough in the forest to obscure us from most of the people in the pack

ground. But being in a forest on a thriving pack’s ground means the chance of running into another wolf is very high.

“Hmm, I like what I do to you but that won’t help you catching up with me” She teases, staring at my crotch and noticing the

effect she has on

me.

Before I can say anything she shifts into her beautiful wolf and starts running away from me. We have not completed the mating

process because this week apart would likely be unbearable if we had. It was her suggestion and it was a smart one. One I was

happy to agree to but now as I rush out of my clothes watching her run further and further away from me I wish we could mindlink.

I wish I could hear the joy and

laughter in her voice as she teased me about not being fast enough.

For now, I just shift, and hide both of our clothes so we can easily find them when we go back. And then I set off running after

her.

It feels like we have run for more than an hour, and in all that time I never caught up with Ayla. Not until she decided to lie down

we somehow managed to make it to the clearing where we held the BBQ yesterday. The air is still filled with the scents of the

entire pack, smoke from the charcoal, and the savory smell of grilled meat. I wonder if she chose this place on purpose or if it

was on accident.

Suddenly unlike she normally would when we are in our wolf forms she shifts back the moment she sees me.

“I can’t wait to be able to mindlink you, because I brought you here because I wanted to tell you something. So that is why I had

to shift, and it might be easier if you shift too?” She doesn’t have to ask me twice, if she wants to talk we will talk.

From now on out, even more than I had before I will always do anything she wants. My purpose in life will be to make every new

day together her best day yet. Ayla has shifted back and her human b*dy isn’t flushed or sweaty. I can see that even with how

fast she ran she still didn’t push herself. Unlike me, so when I shift back I look like I have been working out. Which seems to work

in my favor, if I go by the way she eyes me up.

“I thought you said it would be smarter not to have S**, so that we both do not lose control and mark each other in the heat of the

moment” I tease her again, partially because it was a smart idea.

A smart idea that I will forget all about if she keeps looking at me like that. My teasing was successful as she chuckled and shook

her head.

“You’re right and what I am about to tell you is much more important than having S** with you” She starts.

It’s the kind of thing that would normally make me anxious. Make me feel like there was something I had done to make her mad

or sad. Even the times when I couldn’t help it, and her being upset was a trauma response it had always hurt me. Now we

moved past that we have grown so much as a couple. I no longer feared to have serious conversations with Ayla. Because A I

stopped assuming the worst, as she had started to open up to me more. And B even if it was something I had done we were now

strong enough to just handle that as a couple.

“I want to thank you for last night, and everything you said. I love you Griffin and I am sorry for the person I was when we first

met. Everything that happened hurt me so much. So I convinced myself I would never get a second chance mate. That I was not

worth one. Let alone the Crown Prince, it’s not just about your title though you know that. Because with everything you did, you

seemed to be more and more perfect. So I was so sure you would one day see how unworthy I am that I tried to push you away

on my own accord. Hoping it wouldn’t hurt that much when you eventually left me. Scared that a second rejection would mean I

lost my life because it would be too much heartbreak. But you did the opposite of breaking my heart again. That is why I am

choosing to move in with you so much sooner than we agreed to. Because you healed me and I don’t want to waste any more

time without you.” She told me with a raw and honest vulnerability that made it hard for me to speak.

I mean what could I say that would do justice to her beautiful words? All I could do now was pull her close to me and k*ss her.

Hoping she would not mind it I was going to break a promise.

Chapter 88

Being home when your home isn’t really your home anymore feels weird. Of course, I will always have a home in the White Oak

pack. But after last weekend I want to be at the Silver Moon pack. I want to redecorate our chambers with Griff. Not that there is

a lot left to do in the living room. Not with the comfortable couch and the wall of bookshelves. Maybe some of my knick-knacks,

some framed pictures of my family that's about it.

I miss, Griffin more than ever, the closer I get to him the more I miss him. I'm just glad that we managed to not mark each other

when we made love in the clearing the other day. But it's not just, not anymore, the pack bond will only truly form when I cut off

my bond with the White Oak pack. Still with Rodrick and Isabella treating me and seeing me as their daughter. With how kind

some of the packmembers have been. I have felt sparks of the pack bond forming, so no I miss being at my pack too. It is as if

Willow knows, as if my soul knows I belong at the Silver Moon pack.

Daniël and Krystel have decided that they are going to take Griffin up on his offer to move into the Silver Moon pack too. I am

elated to have my brother close to me. And in an hour I will meet up with Krystel and ask her to be my Beta. I still have my

lessons with Isabella. So yesterday I asked her if it would be frowned upon to ask my mate's cousin and sister-in-law to be my

Beta. She reassured me it wouldn't and how most likely the pack members would love for another member of the royal family to

still be involved in leading the pack and the country. So she thinks we are going out for a coffee, and we are but she doesn't

know I invited her to ask her to be my Beta.

Just as I got out of the shower my phone buzzes. It is a member of the Silver Moon pack and I wonder how they got my phone

number. But I

guess since I will be her Luna and Queen soon it makes sense she got it when she asked around

"Good morning Princess Ayla, Queen Isabella gave me your number I hope you don't mind but I wanted to show you this"

Jeanette texted me attaching a photo.

During all royal events, there are photographers present to take

pictures for the website. We used to keep other packs in the loop about what was happening. Of course, my being formally

introduced to the pack and moving in on Friday was newsworthy. I have seen the pictures she made, the pictures that made it.

The King and Queen congratulated us. Griffin and me on the stage, sharing a dance. But this one was different.

Griff and I were sitting at a table I was wiping a drop of sauce out of the corner of his mouth. Giggling as he stares into my eyes

almost starstruck.

“Thank you for this picture Jeannette, I love it feel free to text me whenever you need me for anything” I send a quick reply back.

She answers right away “You are so welcome Princess, this picture is too candid for the royal website. But I think it shows just

how much you love each other. So I couldn’t help send it over”

We text back and forth for a few more minutes but soon we both have to go our separate ways. She was right about both

accounts I don’t think I would want that picture on the royal website. I honestly still struggle with coming to terms with the fact

that the entire country, can see what I am up to. So something so intimate would be too much for me. This would be amazing as

a printed picture in our living room, however. I am about to text Griffin to tell him about it. But I think the better of it and instead, I

text Jeannette one last time.

“If you haven’t sent this to Griffin yet, please don’t so I can surprise

him,” I ask her, hoping she sees it in time.

Within a second she let me know he hadn’t opened the text so she deleted the picture and sent another one. One she sent me

too, it’s a cute picture but not nearly as cute as the first one. I can’t wait to see the smile on his face when I give him this framed

picture.

Krystal and I were going to go for a coffee outside of the pack ground. I know there is a one-hour photo service close to the

Starbucks we are going to. So I will go there and ask them to print this picture three times one for in our living room and two

smaller ones to go into our wallets.

"I'm so happy you wanted to hang out with me. I saw you as my friend but I was a little nervous you would think it was all just

about Dan. Because it isn't" Krystel ever being the ball of energy was practically jumping up and down.

"I know it's not about Griffin for me either, how lucky was it though that the first time you two met was right after his birthday? He

didn't even get to celebrate with everything going on." I mention not wanting to ask her something so big in the car ride here.

I successfully distracted her from asking more questions about us hanging out. Instead, she is telling me she booked a weekend

away just for her and Daniël so they can celebrate his birthday. I love that idea, so of course I agree to not tell anything to Daniël.

And I reassure Krystel that I don't mind them not being at my farewell party. After all, they are not the ones that have to say

goodbye to me.

"I love I get to stay in my pack, but it does mean I need to find my role in the pack" Krystel sighs just as I park the car in front of

the photo

service.

"Maybe we can come up with something together over coffee I just need to pop in here first," I tell her.

After I placed my orders for the three prints we walked the five minutes it took to get to Starbucks. Place our orders and then we

sit down. I snap a picture of my coffee and cake and send it to Griffin with the caption.

"Only a few more coffees without you, asking Krystel to be Love you to the Moon and back your mate"

my

Beta.

Where he hadn't opened Jeanette's text for a few hours he read mine within seconds. He told me he had given me a unique text

and ringtone so he would always know when I needed him.

"Good luck, Darling, can't wait to make your coffee in bed again. X X X the luckiest wolf on this earth" I don't even try to hide the

smile anymore.

Krystal teases me about the fact that Griff and I seemed to have made something romantic out of coffee. She awws and oohs

over Griffin's promise to make me coffee in bed every morning.

"You know my days will be busy and there is so much I need to learn about the pack," I tell her gauging her reaction.

And when she tells me she will always be there to help me with whatever I need with a bright smile on her face. I am fairly sure I

know who my Beta is going to be. Still, I prepared a bit of speech so that she knows it is not just about her being the only wolf I

know from the Silver Moon pack.

"Funny you should say that Krystal, because Rodrick told me I needed to find a Beta and Gemma soon. If I have two wolves at

my side,

helping me be the best Queen there is I need wolves I can trust with my life. You are one of those wolves, and of course, it helps

that you are a member of the royal family, who knows so much about the Silver- Moon pack. But I want to make it very clear that

is not the only reason you were the first friend I made at the Silver Moon pack and if I need a Beta and Gemma I want them to be

my friends. So what do you say do you want to be my Beta?" I ask her still talking quietly so that humans at the coffee shop

would not overhear us.

Which all is useless when Krystal jumps up to hug me shouting she would love nothing more than to be my Beta. I just chuckle,

hugging her back they did not overhear the "pack" talk so they won't get what all the fuzz is about

When our drinks are finished we get the printed pictures and then I go home happy knowing that I have one of my tasks fulfilled,

there is a lot to do still but it feels like I can handle it all. Especially with my Beta here with me for most of the week

Chapter 89

“I don’t care how sorry you are, I need that desk today” I shout at the furniture store employee who just called me with the bad

news.

Gerald walks in raising an eyebrow, I know why this isn’t like me. I’m not someone who easily gets mad over little things. I can

have a bit of temper when it’s about Ayla. But nothing like this.

“Listen, I’m sorry my fiancée is moving in with me tomorrow, and having the desk here makes the difference between a

completed surprise or a half-empty office.” I sigh rubbing my temple with my free hand.

Obviously happy he is not dealing with a screaming lunatic anymore. The salesperson offers to send me pictures of desks they

can deliver today that look similar enough. It’s not what I wanted but getting something delivered to a castle in the middle of a

pack of werewolves is hard enough as it is. I need to ask the entire pack not to shift. Luckily enough Gerald said he would help

me get the desk inside. I could honestly do it on my own but that would raise suspicion with the delivery guys. As it would be too

heavy for a human to carry.

“What’s up with you lately are you this stressed about Ayla moving in? I thought things between you were going great?” Gerald

asks the second I hang up the phone.

He is right I have been anxious all week since the moment Ayla and her family drove off to the White Oak pack. I am not nervous

about Ayla moving in with me it is a dream come true. I love her with all that I have and I can’t imagine nothing better than to

wake up to her every morning only to fall asleep to her every night. Still, something is setting me on edge. The only conclusion I

can draw on what that might

be are the chances of Ayla living here with me.

It makes me feel guilty because just like Gerald said, I should be over the moon with her moving in with me. And things between

us have been great, we've been texting non-stop. She has sent me every cup of coffee she had like a countdown. Letting me

know she looked forward to our morning coffees in bed. Today was the first day we had been texting a bit less. Me with wanting

to have my work settled and her office in order before she moved in. Her because she was busy packing the last things. And

getting ready for her farewell party tonight.

So that was nothing to worry about either, and after he had seen how stressed out I was Dad had spilled the surprise. Telling me

he gave me so much extra work over the past 2 weeks because he needed to keep me distracted from the party prep. And how I

would have the first weeks off to take Ayla on a mate-moon.

Maybe that was what was causing me to stress out so much. We still hadn't talked about completing the mating process. A

mate-moon would make much more sense if we had actually completed the process but I still didn't want to rush her. On the

other hand, I had a ring custom-made for her. And if we would complete the mating process before or during the mate-moon. I

would propose to her, I was sure I wanted to marry her. Still, it would be weird to propose before I finally wore her name on my

collarbone.

"I don't know I guess I am just a little anxious about not having a timeline for everything between us" I shrug.

It's not like I can explain I have the feeling something bad is going to happen. Since Ayla and I haven't completed the mating

process yet it is very unlikely I can sense her anxiety. Even if I could, that couldn't be the reason. The only time where I had

really felt calm were the times I was speaking with her. No matter if it was just over the phone or if we

were FaceTiming

Not wanting to dwell on the fact that I have been feeling miserable all week, I agree with Gerald's suggestion that it might just be

because I am missing her. And I asked him to help me look at the available desks. He mindlinks Jessa to come over so she can

take a look at the desks her best friend would like the most. Honestly, I suspected Ayla to ask Jessa as her Beta, or Gemma at

the very least.

So I was surprised to hear she needed to find a Gemma since Krystal had agreed to become her Beta. Until she told me Jessa

wanted to be a housewife. And a stay-at-home mom for future pups. Now she came in because her mate asked her to with a

packed lunch for all three of us. I smiled because at that moment I realized Ayla was right, Jessa would not have refused to be

her Beta of Gemma. She would never refuse Ayla anything but it wouldn't have made her happy.

That's just who Ayla is though, she would never ask someone to give something up for her. And she is very intuitive. Suddenly

it's like there is a voice in the back of my head telling me everything will be okay because she is that intuitive. It's not Conan

telling me, I know his voice it's more like my subconscious is telling me she will be okay.

"I keep feeling like something bad is going to happen, I fear it has something to do with Ayla," I tell Gerald.

"It's probably the Alpha in you wanting your mate to be closer. Not to blame Ayla but it took way longer than normal for you guys

to take the steps mates make. And now that you are so close to the finish line..." He tells me in response and it does make

sense.

After all a lot of behaviors and feelings I never had before got triggered after being mated to Ayla. More so because it took so

long just like Gerald said. It reassures me to a certain degree.

"Besides Ayla is doing fine, she is a bit nervous too the other day we

were on the phone she felt like she was being followed. She wasn't but she normally isn't spooked like that" Jessa chimes in

and she is right

With that settled even if my nerves still aren't I call the furniture shop to order the desk Ayla would like the best. I spend the time

waiting on the delivery guy to get some more work done and texting with Ayla. Who just like Jessa said seems to be happy and

carefree. She is getting tired from all the packing though. It makes me feel guilty I couldn't join her but she has some friends and

family members helping her.

That is another thing I have to keep in mind, it's not like when she was with the Blood Moon pack anymore. She lives with her

family now in a pack that loves her. A pack that wants her to be with me because I am her mate, and they see how happy I make

her. How happy we make each other. But a pack that will miss her when she does leave the pack. They are planning a party to

give her a proper goodbye. I might not be able to protect her right now, but not only is she smart and strong enough to help

herself. She is also surrounded by wolves who would always have her back.

I remember the day David tried to hurt her, they were cautious about not starting a war. But they all stayed close, by the time

arrived they were all ready to attack the second they needed to. Half of them were ready to shift. Come to think of it the fact we

still not had heard from David about his parent's death made me more anxious too. By now everyone was certain he was about

to plan something. We were all facing the reality that we could very well soon be going to war. I need my mate, my Luna, and my

Queen here. To help me lead the pack through this war, I need her here for my own sanity.

Three hours later, the desk finally arrived and Gerald had helped me put it together. I had to admit even if it wasn't my first choice

I did well. We did well and I was sure Ayla would love it. So I closed the door and put one of those door bows on it feeling proud

of myself.

“Are you sure that’s going to last for two whole days?” Gerald doubted me.

“Yes, because I made it very clear no one but Ayla is allowed to touch it, and you know the pack will listen to me. Most of them love Ayla already.” I answered.

And to my joy, the only thing Gerald said before going home with Jessa was “That they do”

Chapter 90

Today was the day, my goodbye party would be tonight. After that, I would sleep one more night in my now-empty room.

Tomorrow morning, Mom, Dad, and the rest of the family will help me load all the boxes in our trucks. Then we would drive to the

Silver Moon pack where my new life would start. I was a little bummed Griffin and the others could not help me out like they said

they would. That was the one big downside of surprising Griff with all of this.

Of course, the fact that nob*dy heard anything from the Blood Moon pack anymore didn’t help. At this rate, there was no telling if

we would be able to make it to our mate-moon. Or if we need to stay behind to help our pack in a war. Mom had texted one of

her friends from the Blood Moon pack. Just a casual text, inquiring how her friend had been. How things at the pack were with all

the changes. Casual enough for that friend to answer. But it had been three days and she still hadn’t heard back from her friend.

Even if she could see, said friend had been online several times.

There was a slight chance the friend was angry and felt betrayed by my parents leaving the pack. But she didn’t seem like the

type, she would at the very least told my mother to never text her again. So it seemed more likely that David had told the pack

not to contact either us or just wolves outside the pack in general. Either way that all proved to the fact that David was planning

something as revenge to what Griffin had done. Something I tried to prevent for a year something I couldn’t have prevented if

David wanted to go to war. That much was clear now, so all I did was suffer and be miserable for an entire year. Knowing all of

that I could no longer blame Griffin for what he has done.

It was the only thing I would change about the past. Not being rejected by him, not even being bullied that gradually turned into

abuse.

Because it all led me to Griffin. But I would want to change how much I tried to keep a peace that wasn't real in the first place.

Because that was the hurt that made me close myself off, that was the hurt that almost stopped me from giving Griffin a chance

just because he seemed too good to be true. Sometimes I still feel he is, but he loves me and he proves it to me every day.

As an answer to me sending a picture of every coffee I drank to tell him we were one coffee closer to living together. He had

started to take pictures of the empty bed, the empty nightstand, and one night even a clean and empty cup. Counting down the

days we would have coffee together. He was good at these big gestures, even if I failed to see them in the beginning. But he was

even better at these small gestures or maybe that was just because I loved them so much more.

"I'll never get why you and your mother cannot just read e-books. That would have been so much easier you know. All of this" he

gestured towards his truck which was about halfway full with boxes and boxes of my books. "In one small device that would fit in

your bag" He huffed, he always muttered or complained about our hobby.

But at the same time, he would always get us books on our birthdays or special days or just to surprise us. Back when I still was

a pup he would take me to the bookstores on the days the bullying was really bad. Those would be the days he would bicker with

Mom about moving back to the White Oak pack and the day after he would always get her a book to apologize for being mean.

"Well if I would do that, what would I use to fill up the custom bookshelves my mate had installed for me? Since he you know

actually supports my hobbies" I teased him back.

Maybe it was wrong of me, especially with the ramifications that were about to happen. But I was just happy that my parents

could give me

away to the Silver Moon pack on my special day. I knew that was only possible because my former Alpha and Luna had died. To

most that probably would be really hard. Then again most Alpha's and Luna's cared for their pack, so most of the time packs

were heartbroken if they were to lose both their leaders like that in a tragic accident.

Uncle Nic, asking me where I should put the framed picture I had wrapped pulled me from my thoughts. This was a day of

celebrating, a day of saying goodbye to the old and hello to the new. Not a day to think about people who let me get hurt under

their watch. Not a day to think about what my ex-mate would do next. All I needed to focus on was a proper goodbye. I hadn't

lived in the White Oak pack that long, but ever since I was a kid I had been coming here. I spent endless summers here when

Mom and Dad were still working. So I had grown very close to the pack, not to mention the fact that a lot of them were my family.

Or friends I had grown up considering them a part of my family.

When I arrived at the pack house where my farewell party was hosted I put the phone bag in my purse. I needed it to send Griff

and Dan a voice message. Telling Griffin I wouldn't be able to text much tonight, but that I would let him know when I got home.

Just so he would feel better, and I sent Dan a text to wish him and Krystel an awesome weekend trip, telling him I would see him

on Monday when they got home. I was still almost giddy about the fact that Daniël would live with me at the Silver Moon pack.

Now after putting my phone away I made my way into the ballroom in the pack house.

Or that's what it was called but all of our parties were usually way more laidback and casual. I don't think we ever hosted a ball

ever since I was born. Tonight tables were put on the sides, all of them overflowing with the food and drinks to feed the entire

pack. In the middle tables and chairs were set up. And finally, about half of the ballroom floor was reserved for dancing but nob*dy was slowdancing. The rest of the night I had a ton of fun. I chatted with

everyone, danced with my friends and family, had delicious food and last but not least so many people gave me gifts.

The party was still going strong but without the guest of honor. I had let everyone know I was tired and needed to go home.

Everyone knew but none of them seemed to have issues about partying without me. And neither did I, there was no reason to

just break up the party because I was tired. So I hugged everyone as I said my goodbyes. Not farewells because I would be back

here often, so I would see all of them from time to time.

Then I made my way outside grabbing my phone to send Griffin a short text I was heading home. He had been a bit on edge

lately, but knowing when I was walking home and when I arrived home would help him feel less worried. But when I grabbed my

phone I noticed I had never sent the voice message to Griff it had been recording for hours as I was at the party and as a result,

the battery was drained. Just as I was about to delete the voice message and shoot him a quick text my phone died. Poor Griffin,

by now he would be getting worried for a moment I contemplated going back to the packhouse and asking a relative to text him.

But I was so tired I decided against it I would be home in ten more minutes and I would just ask if he was up for FaceTiming me

for a bit. Maybe it would be kind of cute to FaceTime when in bed, wishing each other a good night over the phone for one last

time. Because from tomorrow on out I would always get to say goodnight lying in the same bed as Griff, and I couldn't be

happier.