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AMBER.

Star had been restless since we arrived at the Alpha house. I could feel her pacing around in my mind. I needed a way to get some time to myself, away from Jason. He was looking at me expectantly. s**t!! He must have asked me something. "I'm sorry I missed that last bit." I said, trying my best to sound tired. I rubbed my temples "I've got a bit of a headache." I added the last part as both an explanation for me not having been fully listening and an escape plan to be alone. He took my hand and gave it a gentle pat. "I was just asking if you'd like some lunch, but if you'd prefer, I could have something sent up to your room, and you could have a rest." I nodded, looking grateful. "That would be perfect, thank you. A lie down sounds wonderful." He smiled and escorted me back up to the room I would be sleeping in, telling me that he would have lunch brought up shortly. I thanked him again and closed the door.

I leaned against the back of the closed door and let out a sigh of relief. It was hard to believe that the man who was being so kind and gentle to me was the same man who had kidnapped and probably tortured Chris and Adam. The thought that they were likely imprisoned beneath me right now strengthened my wavering resolve. I pushed away from the door and looked around the room. I gasped in surprise. This was the same room from my dream about Jason. I looked at the big, beautiful four-poster bed and felt my cheeks flush slightly as the details of the dream ran through my mind. Star growled. I noticed that my bag was already in the room and removed my phone, powering it on to see if Becky had been in touch. She had, and she sounded worried. I messaged her with a short update. I told her that i might have found where the guys were being held and would text again once I knew for sure. I turned my phone back off and put it back in my bag. I had just finished when there was a knock on the bedroom door.

I opened the door and was surprised to see Jason stood there with a tray. "I decided to bring your lunch up myself." He said sweetly. I let him in, and he placed the tray down on the small table by the window. "I have some work to get done. I will be in my office if you need anything." He said. I nodded and gave him a smile, thanking him for the food. He pulled out a chair for me, sat in, and kissed me on the cheek before leaving. I touched my cheek it was still tingling lightly from his lips. I wish that I understood how his touch was doing this to me. "Star, are you sure that he's not our mate?" I asked. She growled at me "Definitely not. His wolf is a loyal Beta, but the human counterpart is not

to be trusted." She sounded sure. I looked at the tray he had brought. The food looked delicious, and my stomach grumbled at the sight of it. I decided to eat before snooping. After all, I had to be sure that he would be safely in his office.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I sat in my office, letting my mind wander. I was feeling pretty pleased with myself right now. Amber had chosen to come to me and picked the room next to mine. I had hoped that she would want to stay in my room, but next door was good too. I had called Tanya and asked if giving her another dose of the love potion would give me longer to sleep with her and she had confirmed that it would, but warned that a maximum of two doses could be given to the same person. I still had enough of it to dose her again, so I'd added it to her lunch. I'd also added something to help her relax. It would take a few hours to fully kick in, but then finally, she would be mine.

BECKY.

I didn't know what she was planning, but I was worried. What if something went wrong? I should have told her about Adam. She might not have gone off on her own if I hadn't been acting so f*****g weird with her. I was just trying to keep my promise to my brother ad best I could. I had already told mum, who had no doubt told dad. I hoped Adam would understand why I did that. "Please let us get him home safely" I pleaded with the Goddess. "And don't let Amber get hurt." I added. Should I tell my parents what she was up to? Not that I really knew.

AMBER.

I had finished eating and felt that I'd waited long enough. I poked my head around the door and saw that it was all clear. I was about to head out when I had a brainwave. I grabbed the tray of empty dishes and took them with me. That way, if I got caught, I could say that I was just returning them. I walked quietly and quickly along the landing and had just reached the top of the stairs when a voice behind me almost made me drop the tray. "Hello my dear, it's lovely to see you again." I felt the anger bubbling in my stomach as I turned to see David Stone.

I tightened my grip on the tray. The metal digging into my hands. "Hello." I managed to sound civil somehow. The image of him standing over my parents' dead bodies with a gun in his hand flashes in my mind. I needed to

stay calm. I didn't want to lose my temper and blow everything now. I thought of how that scent had calmed me before, and just remembering the way the lilac mixed with the smell of gentle rain on a warm summers day made the bubbling subside a little. I needed to find out who that scent belonged to, too.

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DAVID STONE.

On my return to Lakeside, my son had asked me to join him in his office. I had stepped down from the Alpha position as soon as Jason had come of age to take it. I was disheartened with it. I had lost my love, the woman I'd imagined ruling beside me as my Luna. Mary had left me a note when she disappeared. It had said that she needed time and space to deal with the loss of our friends. It told me not to look for her. I did anyway, of course. I never found her, though. Now I know why she stayed so well hidden. She was keeping her from me.

I had left the night of the Moon Goddess ceremony, i had to get away for a few days to clear my head. I had seen Amber up at the Alpha cemetery. She had been scattering Mary's ashes over her parents' graves, and it took every ounce of self-control not to kill her there and then. I blamed her for Mary leaving. I had gone to the city to visit the house that they had lived in there. I had rented it after Amber had arrived in Lakeside. It was easy to find once I knew where to look. I had still been able to pick up Mary's scent in the house and just wanted to feel close to her again.

Jason cleared his throat to get my attention. "Sorry son, I was lost in my own thoughts. What were you saying?" I asked. He tapped his fingers impatiently on the desk. He told me that Amber was staying with us and filled me in on everything. I smiled at him. "Well done, son, you've clearly got everything under control." I praised him. At least it won't have all been for nothing. The whole reason that I'd had to do what I did was so that my son could become a powerful Alpha with Amber at his side. If they'd just agreed to betroth her to Jason like I wanted, then everything would have been different. They refused, saying that they wanted her to find her true mate. They didn't want to choose her future for her. Why couldn't they just agree? I hadn't wanted to do it, but they left me no choice. After they'd caught me trying to give her a potion to make her grow up believing that Jason was her mate, they were going to report me to the council. I would have been stripped of my beta rank. My sons lives would have been ruined. They left me no choice.

I had left Jason's office and headed up to my room. I stopped outside her door for a second, I could hear her moving around inside. She was approaching the door, so I ducked around the corner. I saw her stick her head out and look around before going back in. That was odd, I thought. The door opened again, and she emerged holding a tray. She reached the top of the stairs before I managed to swallow my hatred of her enough to speak. I enjoyed the way she jumped. It crossed my mind that no one would know if I gave her a little push. It would look like a terrible accident. I smiled at the thought but didn't give in to it. I had to what was best for my son.

AMBER.

There was something really creepy about the way he was looking at me. I wanted to get away from him before I did something that would ruin my whole plan. I made my excuses and walked away. I was annoyed to realise that he seemed to be following me. I reached the kitchen and set down the tray. I set about washing up the dishes I had used. Hopefully, he would go away.

By the time I had finished washing up, he had finally gone. The only issue was that I didn't know where. It didn't matter, I needed to find out if they were down there. I made my way to the door that led to the dungeon quietly. I hadn't seen any sign of anyone. Getting there, I hoped that it wasn't locked. I pushed gently on the wood and breathed a sigh of relief when it moved. I slipped inside quickly and stopped to let my eyes adjust to my dim, murky surroundings. I shivered as a chill ran through me. I hated the idea that Chris and Adam might be trapped down here.

I made my way slowly and carefully down the damp concrete steps. The air smelt damp and musty. As I got further in, I could smell the metallic tang of blood in the air. My heart began beating harder and faster. What if I was too late? I almost turned back afraid of what I might find, but I forced myself to keep going. I could hear my heart it was beating so loudly. Suddenly, in the dark, I heard a cough and almost jumped out of my skin. I rounded a corner and passed a couple of empty cells before finding Chris.

He was chained up with a collar around his neck like a dog. He looked weak. I gasped in horror at the sight of him. A tear rolled down my face. I know he had hurt me, but I couldn't stand seeing him like this. I had been in love with him, those kinds of feelings don't just disappear. He looked up at me, wincing as the collar cut into his neck. I reached for the cell door, and it swung open. He was so weak that they hadn't even bothered to lock it, knowing that he couldn't escape. I knelt on the hard floor and took his hand. "Chris, I will get

you out of here." I told him. The collar needed a key, and I hadn't seen one. He squeezed my hand "Stone has the key. It's no use. Get a message to my dad. Alpha Baxter. Moon River pack." He struggled to speak. His voice was cracked and hoarse, and his speech was broken. I didn't want to leave him here and I didn't want to make him speak again but I had no choice in either. "Chris, was there another man here? We think a friend was taken as well." I asked gently. "Adam" he confirmed, pointing at the wall between his cell and the one next to it. "Gone, taken away." He said. I told him that I would get help and kissed his forehead before leaving.

I made it all the way back to my room without being seen. I caught sight of myself in the mirror and realised that was definitely a good thing. My face was streaked with dusty tears, and my knees were damp and dirty from kneeling on the dungeon floor. I washed my face and hands and changed my jeans quickly in case anyone came in. I rushed over to my bag and pulled out my phone. I didn't think that Chris would last much longer, and I needed to get him some help

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BECKY.

Amber ended the call abruptly, causing me to worry that something had happened. Her instructions had been clear. I needed to contact the Moon River pack. Except I didn't have a phone number for anyone in that pack. I was also worried about my brother. She said that he'd been in the dungeon but was moved today. Why would they have moved him? I needed my parents' help. They would know how to contact Moon River.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I had nearly finished with my work for today and was looking forward to spending some time with Amber. She should be feeling pretty relaxed soon. I wanted to look in on my guest in the dungeon first. Let him know my plans for the evening and watch him suffer. I smiled to myself. I was feeling pretty victorious at the moment. Baxter was my prisoner, Amber would soon be mine, and she had chosen to come to me willingly, and on top of all that Tanya had called in earlier and taken Adam off my hands. She had told me that he was definitely hiding something and that she had a spell to find the truth. I had told her to take him and let me know what she learned. I wanted to know if he'd told anyone about Chris. Although I'm fairly sure he didn't, he would have cracked by now.

I was just about to leave my office when my phone rang. "Alpha Jason Stone." I answered. It was Tanya calling with news. "He told his sister. She was supposed to tell Amber, but he doesn't know if she did or not." She told me triumphantly. I congratulated her on a job well done and told her that she could do what she wanted with Adam. At least he wasn't my problem now, and it gave me the perfect way out of it. It would look like the witch kidnapped him.

So Adam had told his sister, I guess that's another person I have to deal with.I did feel kind of bad for Ellie and Peter, they were good people and loyal pack members and they were losing both their children. I couldn't risk it, though. Maybe I should just get rid of the whole family. That way, they don't have to go through that grief. It would probably be kinder in the long run. The only question now was had she told Amber? I highly doubted it though ad if she had its unlikely that Amber would have turned to me for comfort, yet here she was. No, I don't think Becky got around to telling her.

I called my dad and Delta into my office. I didn't call my Beta as my little brother wouldn't agree with what needed to happen. He just didn't understand that sometimes hard choices have to be made. I told them what Tanya had found out and what I felt had to be done. My dad agreed completely and praised me for being strong enough to make that choice. Dan however wasn't so sure. He was loyal to me, but even he had his limits. He told me that he didn't feel totally comfortable with killing pack members. Especially ones who hadn't actually broken any laws.

I was about to yell at him that he would obey his Alphas orders or else when my dad stepped in. "I would be glad to handle this personally for you, Son." He said, calming the situation like a professional. "It's fair enough that Dan doesn't feel comfortable with taking care of it, I am perfectly capable of doing what needs to be done." He finished. I nodded my permission and growled a warning in Dan's direction that this conversation wasn't to leave this room or that he and his family might go kissing too. He gulped and nodded his understanding. I dismissed them and calmed myself before heading up to find Amber.

ELLIE.

I couldn't quite get my head around what Becky was telling us. Amber had gone up to the Alpha house to try and find out where the boys were being held. What was she thinking? If she got caught, they wouldn't think twice about hurting her, maybe even killing her. The Stones were ruthless men. Except Dean, he was always the odd one out in that family. David hadn't always been like that either, we had been friends once, but something changed in the months before the Alpha and Lunas deaths he became colder, cruel even. Jason had taken after his father. He ruled more with fear than respect.

I was still sitting silently, still trying to figure out what to do when Peter pulled out his phone. He dialled a number and waited for the answer. We had a contact in the Moon River pack. Jack Walsh had been a member of Lakeside but left and joined Moon River after David became Alpha. He had never liked David and refused to acknowledge him as his Alpha. Peter told Jack that we had found out that Jason was holding Chris in his dungeon, and that he was in a bad way. Jack promised to get the message to his alpha. I hoped that would be enough to help Chris, but at the same time couldn't help but feel worried about my boy. Where the f**k was Adam?

ADAM.

I sat crying quietly to myself. That f*****g witch had used magic to make me tell her everything. She not only knew about me telling Becky about the kidnapping, but she also now knew about who Amber is. I even f*****g told her about thinking that Amber may be my mate. I hated myself right now. She walked back into the room that I was being held in and chuckled at the sight of my tears. If it wasn't for the silver chain holding me back I would rip her f****g head off. She smugly told me that Jason knew about my sister. I lunged towards her, the silver biting into my skin. She blew me a kiss and walked out. Leaving me a crying mess in a heap on the floor.

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AMBER .

I was on the phone with Becky when the bedroom door knocked. I quickly hung up and threw my phone into my bag. Who was on the other side of the door, and how much had they heard? I opened it, trying not to show how nervous I was. An older woman who I didn't recognise stood there looking worried. She ran her hand through her grey hair and asked to come in, and I moved aside to let her enter. I don't know why, but something in me trusted her.

She told me that her name was Molly and she was a maid here. Her wolf Iris had figured out who I was. She had worked at the Alpha house for many years, since she was a teenager, in fact. Although it wasn't the Alpha house back then, it was a pack house used for all sorts of things. David had claimed it for himself when he took over as Alpha. Molly remembered my parents. She had loved them. She had realised who i was because having Star back with me now meant that my scent was noticeable to others again now.

"I would recognise that scent anywhere." She told me. "I'm so glad that you are alive. We all thought that you died in that attack with your parents." She threw her arms around me. "I'm so sorry" she apologised, pulling away. I told her that she had nothing to apologise for. She went on to tell me the reason she had come to the room. She had overheard a conversation in the Alphas office. She told me what they planned to do to Becky, Ellie, and Peter. Rage and fear began to build and burn inside of me. If they touched a single hair on any of their heads, I swear to the Goddess I will find a way to make them pay.

BECKY.

My phone was ringing. I glanced down at the screen and saw Amber's name. I couldn't answer as one of the pack warriors was standing in front of me delivering a message. He said that the Alpha had heard that Adam was at another pack, and he was hurt. Apparently, he had been found on the side of a road by a member of the dark water pack and was being treated there. He had arranged for our whole family to go there tonight and be with him. Mum sent her thanks to the Alpha, relieved at hearing that Adam was safe, but I was apprehensive about it. My dad looked like he felt the same way I did. The warrior left, and mum started running around, throwing things into a bag.

I called Amber back, and she told me what Molly had said. I put my hand on my mums arm and stopped her. "You need to hear this." I said, putting the phone on loudspeaker. Amber repeated it, and mum just slumped down onto the sofa. Dad wrapped his arms around her, telling her that it would be OK. They wouldn't be taken by surprise now. I thanked Amber for warning us, and she said Molly deserved the thanks. Molly said she wished she could do more. My mum finally spoke, her voice sounding strained "So, Adam isn't safe then?" she looked at my dad. He just shook his head sadly. "None of us are."

AMBER.

Hearing the pain in Ellie's voice made me even angrier. I wanted to rip through this house, taking g down anyone who would hurt the people I loved. Molly gave me another hug before leaving. I was about to leave myself, I may not be much use to them, but I wanted to be with Ellie, Peter, and Becky right now. I had only just got my wolf back and hadn't even shifted yet. I didn't even know if Star was strong enough. I didn't know much about fighting werewolves. Mary had insisted that I take self-defense and martial arts classes growing up so that at least I could hold my own against a human. Either way, I would rather die beside them than lose them.

The door knocked again, and I could smell apple and cinnamon. Jason. I didn't want to see him right now, I was afraid that I would give something away because I was too emotional. Star spoke suddenly "Use the window." We were three floors up. "We can make that jump easily, even in human form." She told me. I trusted her completely, so I opened the window and stepped onto the ledge. The door knocked again, a little impatiently this time. I looked back at the door, and the handle was starting to turn, so I jumped.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I was getting irritated. Why wasn't she answering? Fed up of waiting, I tried the handle and was pleased to find that the door wasn't locked. Maybe she was napping, I thought as I pushed the door open. The room was empty. I stood there confused for a moment. Maybe she had gone downstairs for a snack or a drink. The room still smelt of her. I stood there just breathing in her scent it was amazing like nothing I'd ever smelt before. I wandered the house looking for her but couldn't find her anywhere. I even checked the dungeon. It still pleased me to see him chained up like the mutt he is. Still no Amber, though. I began to worry. Maybe Tanya would have a spell to help me find her. I called her, and she sounded annoyed but agreed to come and help me.

Dad was heading out to take care of our little problem as I hung up. He gave me a wave and said he'd call me when it was done. I had arranged for it to happen outside of Lakeside. That way, I couldn't be held responsible. There's no possible way this could go wrong. I had thought of everything. I was honestly a little unhappy to be losing the Morris family. Ellie and Peter were good people, and Becky was beautiful and one of the only she wolves of age in the pack that I hadn't bedded yet. It had to be done, though.

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PETER.

With a heavy heart, I shut the car door. We knew the real reason that we were being lured out of town, but if we didn't go, then it would put Amber in danger, maybe Molly too. I hated that Ellie and Becky were at risk. Whether we survived the day would all depend on how many wolves were sent to deal with us. I hoped that the Stones underestimated us. People usually did as they all thought that I was a blood omega. Only Ellie and the Rivers knew the truth about my blood rank. Not even my kids knew. I had always run by myself or with Ellie so that no one would see my wolf and question his size.

I came to Lakeside with Jack Rivers. He was my best friend growing up. He had been a second born Alpha, and I was a second born beta. When we moved here and he became Alpha, he offered me the beta position beside him. I had turned it down. Lakeside already had a beta, and besides I'd never really been interested in that side of things. All I'd ever wanted was to cook and have a family. Jack had helped me get the restaurant started and been so happy for me when I'd met Ellie. We celebrated the births of our children together. I still missed my friend even now.

I looked at my wife and sat in the passenger seat. I had gotten so lucky with her. I still didn't know what I'd done to deserve this woman. She could have had a cushy life as the beta female instead of running herself ragged in the restaurant with me. Yet not once did she complain about me turning the position down. Maybe if I hadn't Jack and Daisy would still be alive, Amber wouldn't have gone through everything that she has, my son wouldn't be missing and I wouldn't be about to drive my wife and daughter into almost certain death.

Ellie reached across and squeezed my hand, giving me a small smile. "I love you." She said quietly, and a tear escaped my eye. She wiped it from my cheek and said that we should go. "Can't we find a way to leave Becky here?" I asked desperately. "We can say that she stayed to be there for Amber." I pleaded. Before Ellie could even answer, Becky began objecting from the back seat "I'm not staying behind. Why would I want to live if it meant losing both of you and Adam? Besides, three of us will be better in a fight than two, and I plan to go down fighting." She said stubbornly. I knew there was no changing her mind. I was so proud of my brave little girl.

I looked at Ellie and said "Make the call." She nodded, picked up her phone, and began dialling. I started the car, and we headed to our fate. Ellie spoke on the phone for several minutes and hung up just before we reached the guard barrier. She gave me a nod, and I smirked a little. At least if today was our last day, we had made sure that we wouldn't be the only ones to suffer. Sam came out and raised the barrier. He leant down and stuck his head in the passenger side window, giving Ellie a hug. "I'm so glad that Adam has been found. Bring him home safe to us." He said sincerely. Sam and Adam had been good friends since they were pups. It was Sam that had got Adam to join warrior training . Ellie couldn't speak. She was trying to hold back tears. "That's the plan." I managed to force my voice to sound mostly steady. He waved us off as we drove away. Ellie's tears were flowing now. There was no need to pretend any longer.

DAVID STONE.

I was waiting on the stretch of empty road outside of town. I was far enough away that not even Sam would hear or see anything, but not so far that there would be a risk of an outsider witnessing anything or passing by. I was actually starting to feel a touch of excitement at letting Clyde, my wolf loose. He hadn't got to have this kind of fun in so long. I was glad that Peter was just an Omega, though. Clyde had never quite been the same since I shot Jack and Daisy. Betraying his Alpha and Luna weakened him. I still felt pretty confident that he could handle some pathetic omega, though. He was just a chef, after all. I chuckled. As for the other two, they were just a couple of bitches, nothing to worry about. Jason had still sent one of the warriors with me though just in case.

I saw the dark grey family car slowly coming down the road and gave Bradley, who was in the trees across the road the nod. He shifted and stepped out into the road. I was waiting for Peter to stop and find out what was going on, and then I would approach from behind and attack. He had no reason to suspect anything, so I didn't even for a second expect what happened next.

Bradley's mottled brown wolf stood confidently in the centre of the road. Instead of stopping, however, Peter sped up and ploughed straight into him. There was a blood curdling howl as he went under the wheels, and I heard the crunch of his bones. At some point, it had caused him to shift into human form, and Bradley lay naked, bloody, and broken in the road. He was whimpering like a wounded animal. Peter screeched to a halt, got out, and snapped his neck with his bare hands. I was frozen in shock. What the f**k!!! That wasn't supposed to f*****g happen!!!!