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COUNCIL MEMBER PERRY.

I had enjoyed winding that arrogant little s**t up. The council had always suspected that there was more to the deaths of the Rivers family than met the eye. For one thing, it was highly unusual for Rogues to shoot people with silver bullets. That was how hunters took care of our kind. The council had a good relationship with hunters in our area, though. They didn't bother us, and we didn't bother them. They were only interested in supernatural beings that hurt normal humans. In fact, at times, the werewolf council and the supernatural court had both employed hunters to take care of beings that had broken certain laws. There was, however, no reason that a hunter would have been sent to kill the Rivers. The hunter community had also denied all involvement.

We had long suspected that David Stone had been behind it, but with no proof, we were unable to intervene. None of us had been happy about officially naming him Alpha of Lakeside either, but there was no other viable choice. We had been hoping that Alpha Andrews and his wife would take back over until a suitable Alpha blooded wolf was found to become his heir. However, they decided to leave instead. We had been informed by Stone that they had felt that being in Lakeside after their families' death was too painful and that they had left for a fresh start. We had reluctantly named him Alpha as he was now the highest ranking member of the pack, and we had been unable to find anyone willing to takeover Lakeside. Jack and Daisy Rivers had been well loved and respected throughout our entire community, and no one wanted to he the one to try and follow them.

Of course, by the time that we found out the truth about the Andrew's departure from Lakeside, it was too late. Stone was already Alpha. The only way to remove him would be if someone were to issue him a challenge or if we had proof of a big enough crime to sentence him to imprisonment or death, or to warrant stripping him of rank. Unfortunately, making someone leave the pack, even using violence wasn't actually a crime. If Alpha Andrews had been the official reigning Alpha rather than the former Alpha of Lakeside at the time, then it would have been. And we could have stepped in. Stone was clever, though. He did it while he could still walk away without punishment.

I entered his hotel room and smiled at the sight of him asleep in the hospital bed. Bandaged and bruised. His wolf should have healed him by now, but for

some reason, he hadn't. I could sense that his wolf was weak for some reason. I reached out to him mentally. You see, the council is made up of werewolves who have certain abilities. It is rare, but every so often, the Moon Goddess grants these abilities to us. Once a werewolf becomes of age and shifts, any special gifts will reveal themselves. These rare wolves are then declared to the council, and once they reach the age of twenty-five, they are given the opportunity to join the council. There are many members, each with their own gifts. We all answer to the council elder. A werewolf is so old that we simply call him council leader as no one can remember his name. He has multiple abilities. Then there is the council board. Made up of twelve werewolf elders, of which I am a member. Then there are all the other council members who are called juniors. When one of the elders passes away or retires, they are succeeded by one of the council juniors. My gift is that even in human form, I can communicate with the wolves of any werewolf that I want. The only wolf that I have been unable to reach without his allowing me is the council leader himself.

I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and focused. Reaching out mentally to his wolf. "We need to talk" I told him. "Come forward and speak with me. That is an order." I saw a black and grey wolf looking worse for the wear limp into view in the darkness of my mind. He sat down. "What is it you need from me?" He asked bowing his head in respect. "Simply the truth." I told him "Why have you not healed your human?" I asked. He sighed "I am trying, but I am weak. I'm not the strong wolf that I once was." He replied. I paused.... there wasn't much that could cause a wolf to be weakened. There was, of course, wolfs bane, but that will only weaken a wolf temporarily and will weaken the human counterpart too. There was rejection, the death of a true mate, or worst of all, the betrayal of your pack Alpha or Luna. "Why are you weak?" I asked. He lay down, his head on his paws. "He has done so much harm." He sighed. It was his fault our first mate died. Then he caused our second chance to reject us." Tears were falling from his dark blue eyes, getting lost in his fur. "Then the Alpha and Luna. It was all just too much for me." He cried. I felt sympathy for the wolf. "He never let's me take full control any more, even when we are in wolf form, he regains control of my body." He continued "I am too weak to fight him. He made me attack that poor family. I didn't want to. I was happy being a beta. I loved my Alpha and my Luna. I didn't want to do it. I didn't want any of this." I reached out mentally and patted his head. "It's OK. I will take care of everything." I told him. I withdrew from the darkness and opened my eyes. I got all the information that I needed right now.

I pulled out my phone and was about to call my fellow members of the council board when I saw a shadow lurking at the door. Someone was saying on me. Luckily, none of my conversation with the wolf had been out loud, so they would have nothing to report. I put my phone away. I would wait until I was alone to make that call. I stood and pulled the door open, finding a young, blonde nurse stood outside. She looked shocked and nervous at being caught there. I simply smiled at her and walked away, taking note of the name on her badge. Sally Briers.

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ADAM.

I had slept well last night and woken this morning feeling refreshed and ready for whatever the day might bring. I took a shower and changed into the clean clothes that Alpha Rivers had kindly had brought up to my room. Looking in the mirror, I saw that all my cuts and bruises had completely healed. I found Joe last night, and he had informed me that he hadn't managed to reach my parents last night, but I would try again this morning. I would be on edge until I knew that they were OK. I headed downstairs and bumped into Joe halfway. "I was just coming to see you." He said cheerfully "I was going to ask if you wanted to join me for breakfast? Plus, I wanted to inform you that I have spoken to your mother. Your family knows that you are safe." I breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank you. I would love some breakfast." I told him. Knowing that my family was OK and that they knew that I was OK, I relaxed.

After breakfast, I decided to go and visit Chris in the pack hospital. I was shocked at the size of it. Everything was bigger here. Night Forest made Lakeside look tiny in comparison. Yet I wouldn't want to swap. As nice as it was here, I missed my little town. A nurse showed me to Chris's room, and I was pleased to see that he looked a lot better than he had yesterday. He was still weak, and his wounds still hadn't healed, but he was alert and eating. There was a drip attached to his arm to flush out his system from the wolfs bane. He greeted me with a tired smile. "Adam, I was hoping that you'd stop by. I wanted to thank you for everything that you did. You saved my life." He gushed. I told him that it was no big deal, that I only did what any decent person would do. We sat and chatted for a while until the nurse returned and stated that Chris needed to rest. I asked for two more minutes, and she nodded and left. There was something I needed to say to Chris, but I had been dreading it. He seemed like a decent guy, and he was in enough pain. "Chris, there's something that I think you should know." I began. He looked at

me a little apprehensive. "It's just that, well, Amber is my mate." I finally managed to say. He was silent for a few seconds before saying "I'm glad that her mate is a decent man. Just make her happy." I smiled at him and thanked him, giving him my word that I would always do my best to do just that. I left so that he could rest and heal.

I headed back to the pack house and noticed two big black cars parked outside that hadn't been there earlier. On entering the pack house, I was stopped by a well-built man in jeans and a black shirt. He asked my name and when I told him he asked me to come with him. I followed him up to the Alphas office, and inside, I saw Alpha Rivers sat behind his desk. I then realised that there were other people here. Turning to look at the sofa, I saw a man and woman sat there. There was another man who stood off to the side. I recognised Alpha and Luna Baxter.

I had stopped in Moon River while I was visiting other packs looking for my mate. I hadn't made it as far as Night Forest before giving up. I bowed my respectfully at both of the Alphas in the room and then at the Luna. Alpha Baxter jumped up from the sofa and grabbed my hand, shaking it. "I wanted to thank you personally for what you did for my boy." He said. "I'm told that you carried him here on your back when he was unable to walk anymore." I nodded and responded "It was nothing, I'd like to think that if the roles were reversed, he would have done the same for me." The Luna stood and pulled me into a huge hug. "It may seem like nothing to you, but it is everything to us " she said softly. I smiled at her. Her long reddish hair was streaked with grey, and her light brown eyes looked tired. Yet she was still beautiful. Alpha Baxter looked like an older version of Chris. They both thanked me again and then asked to be taken to their son.

Alpha Rivers told me that someone would be coming to speak with me shortly, so he asked if I would please remain in the pack house so that I could be located easily when they arrived. I nodded. Not being a member of this pack, he couldn't mind link me, and I didn't have a phone, so it made sense. I decided to explore the pack house a little and found myself surprised by everything that this place had to offer. There was a cinema type movie room, a games room. There was even a spa.

I spoke to one of the werewolves who I met in the well equipped gym. He told me that all the facilities were for the use of all pack members. I was blown away by this. There's no way that Alpha Stone would share this stuff with the pack. It would be for his person use only. Maybe at a push his officers, too. I couldn't help noticing how happy everyone seemed. Clearly, Alpha Rivers knew how to run a pack well. Alpha Stone could learn a few things from him, I chuckled at the thought. Once, whoever it was had spoken to me, I was planning on heading for home. I know Joe had said he'd spoken to my mum, and I had no reason not to trust him, but I needed to check on them myself.

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CHRIS.

I lay in the hospital bed, feeling sorry for myself. I had meant what I'd said to Adam earlier. If Amber had to have a mate that wasn't me, them I was honestly glad that it was him. Adam was a good man. Yet, at the same time, It was hurting me that I had to let her go. I had fallen for her during our time together. It was hard not to. I hadn't fully realised just how much until i lost her. Now I had to come to terms with the fact that I had lost her for good. I also wasn't looking forward to telling my dad that it was over. She has a mate. No sooner had I thought that the door opened and my parents came rushing in.

My mum was at my side in seconds. She took my hand and told me how happy she was to see me. My dad stayed at the end of the bed. "How are you feeling, son?" He asked. I smiled weakly. "Healing slowly. The wolfs bane has almost all been flushed out of my system." I told him "to be honest, my pride is the thing that's hurt the most." He began to laugh, and my mum shushed him playfully. It was wonderful to laugh and joke with them. For a while there, I had genuinely believed that I would never see them again.

I told dad that we needed to talk seriously. Mum excused herself to go and get coffee, leaving us to it. I cleared my throat nervously. "Dad, the thing is... Well..... you see it's about Amber. She's got a mate. It turns out that Adam, the man who saved me, is her true mate." I said slightly sheepishly. I hated to let him down. He reached out and touched my hand "None of that matters right now. I don't want you to worry about anything other than getting stronger." He told me. I let out a breath that I hadn't realised that I'd been holding. What a relief. I thanked him and relaxed back into the pillow.

ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

I watched as Chris drifted off to sleep. I had meant it when I said that I didn't want him to worry about the whole Amber situation. Not that I was giving up on it, mind you. I had a plan to get what I wanted. That was Amber as Chris's Luna. I knew what she was. I had always known since she was a little girl. I

also knew what that meant. I knew what it could provide my pack and my son. I wasn't about to give up on all that just because s he had found her mate. Adam had seemed like a good man, and I was truly grateful for what he had done for Chris, but he was just an omega wolf. The powers that were granted to the mate of a silver wolf would be wasted on him. It was for the best.

ADAM.

I had spoken to Joe earlier about leaving Night Forest and heading home. He had told me that he would talk to the Alpha and come to speak with me later. I was in my room waiting to hear back. I so desperately wanted to go home. I didn't know why, but something in me needed to be there. I could feel Rusty pacing around in my mind. He was unsettled, too. I rushed over to open the door when it knocked. Joe greeted me cheerily and came in. We sat down in the big, comfortable, royal blue, velvet armchairs to talk. He told me that Alpha Rivers was OK with me leaving, but that he had some conditions.

First the Alpha wanted to have dinner with me this evening. He said that he wanted to get to know his nieces mate as we would soon be family. His second condition was that I waited until after the council member had arrived to take my account of things tomorrow. Thirdly, and according to Joe, this was the condition that the Alpha was most adamant about. That Joe accompanied me back to Lakeside. He said that it was for protection. incase the blonde witch was lurking, or Jason had anyone waiting for a chance to finish the job. I graciously accepted all his conditions and his invitation to dinner. Joe told me that he was looking forward to coming to Lakeside with me. We chatted for a bit, I warned him that Lakeside was very different from Night Forest. He chuckled and told me that different wasn't always a bad thing. I couldn't help thinking that if we had grown up in the same pack, Joe and I would more than likely have been good friends.

KIM.

I had been slowly working my way around the outside of the border to the Night Forest pack. I was trying to find any weakness that I could use. I needed to find a way in. I wanted to get Tanya out of there, not only because she's my sister, but also because it would be nice just once to be the sister that saved the day, instead of the screw up. Tanya had had to get me out of so many situations over the years and had never hid her disappointment that I wasn't as powerful as her or as smart. This was my turn to save her arse. To show her what I was capable of. First though I had to find a way into this f****g place.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PERRY.

I had spoken to the rest of the board and filled them in on what I had found out. They informed me of the developments in the Night Forest pack. I had ended the call feeling optimistic. It would appear that both of the Stones were on borrowed time. I had my orders to remain in Lakeside and keep gathering as much evidence as I could. We wanted there to be no possible way for either of them to wriggle out of this.

As a courtesy, I informed Jason that I would be visiting the Morris family today. I needed to get their version of the events that had transpired. I sighed in frustration when he insisted on coming with me. I felt that his presence would hamper my investigation, as surely they wouldn't feel that they could talk openly and honestly in front of him. Mo matter, though, if need be, I would just ask their wolves.

On arrival at the Morris family home, we noticed that it had clearly been broken into. There was no sign that anyone was here, though. I asked Jason where else they might be, and he suggested their sons house or their restaurant. The sons house was closer, so I decided to try looking there first. I couldn't put my finger on it, but there was definitely something odd about the way he was acting. I would have to have a little chat with his wolf later as well, I think.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I couldn't believe my luck when Perry had said he wanted to go and see the Morris family. I had insisted on joining him, saying that I wanted to be there to ensure that my pack members were treated fairly. Even pack members who had committed terrible crimes, such as the assault on my father. I told him how out of character it had been and that I wanted to get to the bottom of it. Really, I just wanted to be there when he discovered their bodies. That way, he would be a witness to my shock and horror at finding them. I had been practising my reaction.

I was a little worried that I still hadn't been able to get hold of the rogue family. I figured that they were just laying low, though. I had tried calling Tanya earlier as well, but she hadn't answered either. We neared Kingfisher's cottage, and I could feel my excitement building. This was almost perfect. Some of the only people who could stand against me in a trial would be lying dead on the other side of the door. The others would surely be meeting their end soon enough at Tanya's beautiful hands. T top it all off the grief, and sadness would drive Amber into my arms. Securing that she would be mine. After all, what woman wouldn't fall for the man who helped and comforted her in her time of need.

I was trying not to look as pleased with myself as I felt. Everything was going my way, and I was loving it. I heard Brutus chuckle. He had barely spoken to me lately. Other than to make it clear that he disagreed with my actions. "Why are you chuckling? Finally coming around to my way of thinking?" I asked him. He laughed louder "Call yourself an Alpha. Even the lowest ranking omega would have smelt that by now. Yet you are happily walking into your own doom blindly." He sounded happy. What was that stupid wolf on about. This was my victory, not my doom. I took a subtle sniff of the air, though, just in case. I could smell blood and death. There was definitely something dead in that house. I had expected that, though. I could also smell the aroma of rotting garbage. It was the scent of rogues. Nothing unexpected there either. Unless of course the f*****g idiots were still here. That wasn't part of the plan. They were supposed to kill them and flee. I had told them that once the council had agreed that I couldn't be held responsible. I would reach out and they could ioin the pack. I had even offered them Nightingale cottage as a sweetner. It wasn't like the Morris family would need it anymore. Although obviously I had no intention of keeping my end of the deal. I planned to have the warriors hunt them down and kill them. If they are caught here, then it would prove without any doubt that it was a roque attack, but it would also give them a chance to betray me. I couldn't allow that to happen. I had to be ready tor anything.

BECKY.

We could hear someone outside the cottage. I wasn't sure what would happen if who it was came in. I looked nervously at the bodies that were lying on the floor. Mum and I had dragged them out to the back porch. We had planned on burying them, but my dad had stopped us. Saying that they were our proof that we had been attacked. Mum was on her knees trying to scrub the blood out of Adam's carpet. She needed to keep herself busy. She had been happy to hear from the Delta of Night Forest that Adam was safe and well, but she was still worried about us.

Amber had popped home to get a few things. she hadn't been gone long. She had been shocked when I'd told her about last night. I think that she just needed some time alone to process things. It had been Star, not her, but it was the first time that she had killed anyone. It was bound to be difficult. Star

had done it to protect us, and I know that Amber appreciated that, but at the same time, it was still hard for her.

Dad was completely healed this morning. It was as if the fight with Mr Stone had never happened. I still needed to ask him a few questions. Like, why was his wolf so big? And how had he healed so fast? All werewolves have supernatural healing abilities, but omegas take slightly longer to heal than higher ranking wolves. Simply because their wolves aren't as strong. However, this wasn't the time for that. Right now, we needed to deal with whatever problem was currently knocking on the front door.

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AMBER.

I was putting a few things into a bag. Some clothes, food etc. I grabbed the legend of the silver wolf from the shelf. I should probably read this again. I wanted to know everything possible about what was inside of me. I hadn't really considered the fact that Star wasn't just some supernatural being. She was also a wild animal. She had killed people last night. Even though I was glad that she had protected the people that I loved. The people that we loved, it still bothered me that we'd had to kill to do it. I may have been unconscious during it and had no memories of the attack, but I could still taste their blood. I had brushed my teeth multiple times this morning, but nothing was taking the taste away.

Star had been happily sleeping in my mind. I had heard her gentle snores. Se didn't seem at all bothered by killing people, and that worried me more. Suddenly, she jumped up, awake and alert. I asked what was wrong, and she told me that I needed to work on using the powers that I possess. She told me to sit down, close my eyes, take deep, slow breaths, and focus on a person. She told me to think of Becky and really focus on the details of her face. I did as I was told and suddenly felt a whoosh of air, and the ground beneath me seemed to move, as if I was on a fairground ride.

I felt a little queasy, but Star encouraged me to stick with it. I saw Becky appear in the darkness of my mind. Then it was as if i was in Adam's front room with her. Though of course I wasn't. I could hear and see everything that was happening. Jason was there along with a stranger in an expensive looking black suit and red shirt. They were questioning Peter about the bodies. Jason was accusing him of having lost his mind. Saying that he had clearly become a danger to the pack. He was trying to blame Peter for the dead rogues. Oh no! I had to get back there. I don't know how, but I needed to help them.

Star suggested that we shift as we could run much faster in her form than I could drive. I agreed, and she talked me through it. "Just breathe, relax, and surrender control." She told me. I asked if I should strip first as Becky had done that night at the lake. Star giggled "No you don't need to do that. A silver wolf can shift while not losing or damaging their clothes. When we shift back into your form, you will be fully dressed." She said. I liked the sound of that. "Here we go" I thought out loud. I let my body relax and felt Star pushing forward in my mind. I didn't fight her. I heard the buzz and crackle of electricity in the air, and when I opened my eyes, I was on all fours. Sparkling silver fur covered me. This felt so strange, yet so right. Luckily, I had opened the patio doors earlier as there's no way Star would have fitted out of the front door, and even if she could have, she couldn't have opened it. I chuckled "Next time, maybe we should go outside before shifting." She agreed.

She told me to brace myself as this would probably feel odd at first. Then she took off running. She was so fast. The trees were a complete blur as we raced by. We arrived at the back of Kingfisher cottage in no time. I felt a little motion sickness, but at the same time, it had felt amazing. I had been able to feel the wind in her fur as if it were my own. Star laughed at that thought "That's because it is your own. We are one." She said. I was about to ask her something when I heard the front door of the cottage knock. The smell of apple and cinnamon drifted in the wind. "What you saw was a vision of what's to come." Star explained when I was clearly confused. "Wait a f*****g minute! Are you saying that I can see the future?" I almost shouted in her head. "When there's something that my mother feels that you need to see. Yes." She replied. "Your mother?" I asked "The Moon Goddess." She stated matter of factly. I nodded. I guess that made sense.

Star suggested that we shift before entering the house. I agreed and she told me to picture myself. My human form. I did and I felt her relaxing, giving control back to me. I opened my eyes and saw my reflection in the kitchen window. I was me again. I opened the back door and sidestepped the bodies. Making my way silently towards the front of the house.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I knocked on the door, not really expecting an answer. After all, they should all be dead. I couldn't believe my eyes when the door opened, revealing Peter

standing there. Not only was he alive, but he seemed to be fully healed. How the f**k was that possible? A f****g omega was stood here larger than life, looking absolutely f****g fine, while my father, a beta blooded, former f****g Alpha, was lying in a f****g hospital bed. How does that make any f****g sense?

I hoped that Perry hadn't noticed my surprise. That could be difficult to explain. s**t!!! Council member Perry was here to question Peter. He was supposed to be dead, so I hadn't thought about what could happen if he told Perry the truth. Would I be able to convince the council that Peter was just trying to save his own arse by blaming my dad? How much did they know about Chris. Could I use Adam to keep them quiet? Maybe I could mind link them. If they said anything against me, then Adam would die. I smirked that could work.

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ALPHA JASON STONE.

I made sure that I kept my back to council member Perry while I issued my warning to Peter, Ellie, and Becky over mind link. I didn't want him to see my eyes glaze over and get suspicious. He would be able to see their eyes, but that would just look like they were speaking among themselves. Which could only help me. "If any of you say anything against me, a single word to try and get me into trouble. Adam will pay for your loose lips with his life. I have him locked up, somewhere he will only be found if I want him found. I have a very loyal subordinate waiting to hear what I want done with him. Your next words will determine his fate. So choose them wisely." Even over mind link, I knew that my tone had been menacing. I highly doubt that they would be any trouble to me now.

PETER.

The arrogant little prick! He had waltzed into my sons home, the son who he had f****g kidnapped, and threatened his life to save his own skin. I longed to take him down a peg or two, just like his father. I held myself back. It would be sweeter in the long run. I was going to enjoy the look on his face when he discovered that his threats were empty. Adam was already free and in no danger from him. I was so glad that I had kept my true blood rank quiet. Otherwise they may never have underestimated my son. They thought that he was a pure omega, but he had my beta blood running through his veins. Not

as much as me, a pure beta blood, as Ellie actually was an omega, but enough.

The man with Jason held out a hand to me. "Hello, my name is Council member Perry, and I am here to conduct an investigation." He began. I shook his hand and nodded my understanding. "I would like to hear your version of the events that have transpired recently." He continued. Jason was sniffing the air and looking confused. I knew why. He could smell the dead rogues. The rogues that he had sent here to kill my family. He interrupted the council member "Before you begin, could you please explain why it is that this place reeks of death?" He asked. The council member looked annoyed at his interruption but nodded at me to explain.

I knew that Jason was expecting me to struggle to explain, therefore incriminating myself. He didn't expect me to tell the truth. That was exactly what I did. "Certainly. What you can smell is the remains of the family of rogues who attacked us last night." His face was a picture. I could tell he was confused as to how they were dead instead of us. The council member nodded "I would like to see the bodies please, to confirm things. Also, why would they attack you? We called at your cottage first, and it had been broken into. It would seem that you were clearly being targeted." He said. Jason looked like he was about to s**t himself. He hadn't considered that.

I smiled. "The bodies are in the back porch. We didn't want to leave them in the living room. They weren't acting under their own volition. They were sent to kill us. We were not meant to survive the night." I spoke clearly. I could see the panic and anger rising in Jason. He couldn't wrack his brains around the thought that I was disobeying him. He had actually believed that I would blindly do as I was told. "Do you have any idea who sent them" the council member asked. Jason was turning an interesting shade of red. "I know exactly who sent them. It was him." I said, pointing at Jason. "He also sent his father to attack us on the road." I added.

Jason exploded in anger. "HOW DARE YOU MAKE THESE BASELESS ACCUSATIONS TOWARDS YOUR ALPHA!!" He yelled in my face. I couldn't contain my own anger any longer. Max was dying to rip his head off. Instead, I stood tall, face to face with him, and stated loudly and clearly "You are not MY ALPHA! I Peter Morris originally of the Night Forest pack, now the Lakeside pack. BETA WOLF. Reject you Jason Stone of the Lakeside pack. BETA WOLF. As my Alpha. I answer to you no more." I emphasised the word Beta both times. I felt a slight twang of pain as my bond to him as pack Alpha broke. A look of realisation spread across his face seconds before he fell to the floor, clutching his chest in pain. It was supposedly horrendous for an Alpha to be rejected by a pack member. I had never seen it happen before. An Alpha could severe a werewolf ties to a pack painlessly should they decide to leave. So there wasn't a lot of occasion for a pack member to need to reject them.

I told Ellie and Becky to follow my lead and reject him as Alpha. I told them that we would leave Lakeside and go to Night Forest. My brother was the current BETA there, so I'm fairly sure that we would be accepted. Becky hadn't met any of my family. Neither had Adam as I wanted to keep the fact that I was a beta quiet. I knew people would treat me differently if they knew. I just wanted to be known as Peter, not as the son of one of the most respected BETA wolves in the country. Besides Jack's big brother was the Alpha. I had always got on with Henry. He was a good and fair man. I was kept up to date on the current state of affairs in Night Forest by Gamma Lewis. He knew who I was as we had both grown up in the same pack, although he is a few years younger than me. They quickly recited the rejection. Causing Jason to squirm on the ground in pain. I turned to Council member Perry "I apologise for making you wait. That needed to be done. As long as he is the Alpha of Lakeside, I can no longer live here. Me and my family are not safe." Council member Perry shook his head gently "No apology necessary. However, if you have any proof to back up your accusations, then now would be a good time to share it." He said.

I pulled out the phone that I had taken from the father of the rogues body. "This belongs to our attackers. I think you will find it helpful. Jason has called this number multiple times since the attack." I told him. Jason spike breathlessly. Still on the floor "That proves nothing. There was a family of rogues that I had been in touch with recently. They were looking for a pack to join. I was considering offering them a place here." He struggled to get his words out through the pain. The council member looked exasperated "Do you have any other proof?" He asked. I smiled and nodded. "One of them survived. The daughter. She will tell you why they were here." I said. Council member Perry looked pleased. "Very well, I will question her shortly." He said.

Jason tried to argue that we had had plenty of time to threaten her, convinced her to say whatever we wanted. I had honestly had enough of him "Oh, and of course there's the fact that my son, Adam, was kidnapped under his orders, along with another man. They escaped from the witches Jason had holding them and are now safe. I'm sure that their accounts will be trusted." Council member Perry smiled "Yes, I am aware of what happened to your son." He said. I realised that he wasn't here to condemn me for defending my family.

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ADAM.

I had spent the day with Joe. We were getting on really well. I learnt that he had no family. His father had died years ago, and his mother hadn't survived the loss. He had a great sense of humour and made me feel at ease. I was heading up to the top floor now to have dinner with Alpha Rivers and his family. I felt slightly nervous as I knocked. The door opened, and Alpha Rivers greeted me warmly, inviting me in. After closing the door, he led me over to a big round table and gestured for me to sit.

Once seated, he began to make introductions. "Adam, I'd like you to meet my family, hopefully soon to be your family too." He chuckled "My wife and Luna Violet My Son Jack, named after my dear brother and my daughter Emma." He introduced them one by one. "This is my Beta Robert." He said, pointing in the direction of the man sitting next to me. I turned to say hello. Something made me pause. He looked like my dad. There were definite similarities. He had the same brown eyes and hair, although his was slightly greyer than dad's.

Robert grinned at me. "It's so very nice to meet you, Adam." He said. I couldn't help it. I had to say something. After all, i must have been giving him an odd look "I'm sorry, it's just that you remind me of my dad." Alpha and Robert both started laughing. Deep belly laughs. Had I missed something? Robert looked at me "My name is Robert Morris. Peter is my younger brother." He told me. I sat there shocked. "That means that you're my uncle?" I asked, and he nodded "It does." How could I not have known about him? I realised that I didn't really know anything about dad's childhood. A thought suddenly struck me "Hold on, I don't understand. How can you be my dad's brother? You are a beta, and he's an omega?" They began laughing again. "I think we need to have a conversation." Robert said. "Dinner first." Luna Rivers said firmly. After dinner, Robert walked me back to my room. I invited him in, and we sat and talked for a while. Once he left, I took a quick shower and went to bed.

The next morning, I headed down for breakfast and met up with Joe. I filled him in on last night's revelations. I didn't know why, but even though I had

only just met him, I trusted him completely. We had just finished when his eyes glazed over. Once they cleared, he told me that I was needed in the Alpha's office. When I arrived I saw a tall, thin, grey haired man in an expensive looking black suit and a blood red shirt, sitting on the sofa. Alpha Rivers welcomed me and told me that the man was Werewolf Council Member White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.

I shook the hand of the young man that Alpha Rivers had introduced as Adam Morris. He sat down, and I smiled at him. "I am here to get the truth about the events surrounding your being held prisoner and also your escape. However, before we begin, we are just waiting on one more person to join us." I explained. He nodded "Of course. I will gladly give you an honest account." He said. I smiled, and my wolf Killian laughed in my head. We found it amusing when anyone said this to us. As if they had a choice. Our special gift is truth. I can command the truth from anyone that I want. Except the council leader. None of our gifts work on him.

ADAM.

I found his smile a little unsettling. An awkward silence hung in the air until a knock on the door broke it. Alpha Rivers called for whoever it was to enter, and the door swung open, revealing a beautiful woman. She wore a long black dress that clung to her curvy figure just right. Her fiery red hair fell just below her waist. Her skin was like porcelain, and her eyes looked like they were on fire. She walked over and sat next to council member White on the sofa. "This is Ruby. She is here on behalf of the supernatural court. She will be joining the investigation due to the involvement of witches. The werewolf council has no jurisdiction over witches." He explained. I nodded my understanding and greeted her. She gave a polite nod but said nothing.

I was told to begin my account. Just start at the beginning and leave nothing out. No matter how trivial or unrelated, I believed it to be. I nodded but decided that there were a few things that I would definitely leave out. Like Amber being a silver wolf, or the fact that I hadn't instantly reported Chris's abduction to the council rather than just telling my sister for example. However, once i opened my mouth, i didn't seem to be able to control what came out of it. I looked at Ruby. Was she somehow doing this with magic? It didn't seem like she was doing anything. I looked at council member White, and he looked focused. It was him! I had heard that the council had abilities but had never actually met a member before. I couldn't help myself, I told them everything. All three of the people in the room gasped when I told them what Amber was.

When I was done and had told them everything that I knew, they thanked me. I stood up, feeling a little unsteady. This was the second time that someone had used their abilities to force me to betray Amber's secret. I was mad at myself for it, even though I knew that it was out of my control. Council member White dismissed me, but before I left, I turned to Alpha Rivers. He looked uncomfortable with what had happened. I was glad to see that he wasn't unbothered by it. "Now that I've given my statement. May I leave for Lakeside, please?" I asked. "Of course you can. Adam, you are our guest, not our prisoner." He told me. I felt myself relax. "Let Joe know that you are ready, and he will accompany you on the journey. Please have him stop by my office before you leave. I would very much like to send a letter with him for my niece." I told him that I would and thanked him for the kindness and hospitality that he had shown.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.

I had got everything that I needed from the boy. Plus, a whole lot more. So Amber was the daughter of the late Alpha and Luna Rivers of Lakeside and a silver wolf. The council leader would definitely want to know about that. I turned to Ruby "Well my dear, that was quite informative. Who would you like to question next? The witch in the cells or the boy in the hospital?" I asked. She thought for a moment. "The other boy will likely have a similar story, so let's get that over with. We will leave the witch until last." She stated. I nodded my agreement, and we made our way over to the pack hospital.

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CHRIS.

I was feeling much better today. The wolfs bane was completely gone, and now my wolf Leo was finally able to heal us both. I had managed to take a shower this morning and felt fresh. As great as the people here had been, I was dying to go home. I also wanted to go and see Amber. I knew that Adam was her mate, and that meant that there was no chance for us to be together anymore, but I needed to tell her that my love for her had been real. That I would always be there for her. I needed her to know that. Dad had gone to speak with Alpha Rivers about taking me back to Moon River now that I was strong enough to travel. Mum was off talking with the doctor. The door opened, and a well-dressed man entered, followed by a gorgeous woman. They introduced themselves and explained why they were here. Before I knew it, I was telling them everything. Once I had finished talking, they thanked me and left, just as mum came in. s**t!! Why had I told them that dad had sent me to seduce Amber in the city? Why had I told them in detail about what had happened with Kim? And why had I told them about my feelings for Amber? I hadn't meant to tell them any of that. I also told them about Jason and his witch girlfriend. I didn't feel bad about telling them that, though.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.

This tale just got juicier with every person I spoke to. So we could add unlawful s****I practices to Jason Stones' list of offences. Technically, I guess Chris Baxter should be charged with that, too. After all, he had just admitted to us that he'd had s*x with this Kim. Although he hadn't known that she was a witch at the time, I may be able to let that slide. The boy had already been tortured now and had to deal with the heartache of losing the girl he loved. I honestly felt that he had been punished enough. "Would you like to question the witch before I force the truth from her?" I asked Ruby. She gave a smile that would make a lesser man swoon. "No that's fine. Why waste our time listening to the lies that I'm sure she would try to feed us." I nodded. "Well then, let's get this over with shall we." I offered her my arm, and she took it with a smile.

KIM.

I had found a way in. I had seen a car approaching this morning. It had stopped at the gate. While they were waiting for the guard to open the gate and allow them inside, I had crawled underneath and clung on for dear life. I would have just used magic to transport myself inside, but the whole pack was surrounded by some kind of warding. Once the car came to a stop inside, I had waited until whoever was inside to get out and walk into the pack house. I had only seen his fancy, black leather shoes.

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After I had crawled out from underneath the car, I hid in some nearby bushes while I came up with a plan. I tried my magic and found to my delight that it worked inside the pack grounds. I needed to figure out where exactly the prisoners would be held here. How to get Tanya out, and lastly, how to get out of the pack. I had to assume that the wards would stop us using magic to leave as well as enter. I wasn't even close to being the witch that my sister is, but I knew enough to do a simple magic map spell. I closed my eyes and summoned the power that was inside me. I recited the spell, holding out my hands, and opened my eyes. I smiled when I saw the glowing orb of power in my hands flatten and become a map. I pricked my finger on a thorn in the bush. I squeezed a drop of blood onto the map. It turned red for a moment and then returned to its original colour. Red footprints appeared on the map, showing me how to get to Tanya. Blood magic was the simplest way to find my sister. The map was showing me to my nearest blood relative.

I followed the footprints. Hiding whenever possible to make sure that the coast was clear. The last thing that we needed was for me to be captured, too. There would be no one left to rescue us. It wasn't long before I reached a big, grey, cold looking building. It was set away from the pack house, and it didn't really fit in with its surroundings. I tried the door, but it was locked. I doubted magic would be any good here, but I gave it a go anyway. To my surprise, it worked. The lock opened, and I pushed the door. A damp, disgusting smell hit me almost instantly. Like rotting leaves and stagnant water. I scrunched up my nose and entered. I could hear water dripping in the distance and a faint whimper. I made my way quietly through the maze of cells until I found the one I was looking for.

Tanya was curled up on a small, hard bed at the back of the cell. There was a bucket in the corner. I almost threw up in my mouth when I realised what it was for. I whispered her name, trying to get her attention. She didn't even move. I tried again. Still no response. She just lay there with her back to me, crying. I reached out and leaned on the cell bars and almost fell when they opened. What the f**k? It wasn't even locked! Why was she still here then? She could have easily unlocked the outer door. I entered the cell and touched her shoulder, saying her name a little louder this time. She jumped, turning to face me. That's when I saw the chains. She was wearing shackles covered in

strange symbols. I knew that they were magical runes, but had no idea what they meant.

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TANYA.

I had ignored the whispers, I had been hearing them the whole time that I had been here. Voices echoing in the empty space. I nearly jumped out of my skin when I felt the fingers touch my arm. My heart dropped when I saw that it was Kim. Why was she here? The only thing that had made my fate worthwhile was that my sister was still free. Yet here the i***t was walking herself into their prison. "I'm here to rescue you." She told me sounding soo f****g pleased with herself. I didn't want to sound ungrateful, I know that she was trying to help but I was too tired to fight the look of exasperation that was on my face. "really? I suppose you have a plan then?" I asked, already knowing the answer. "Well.... not exactly. I figured that we would just figure it out as we go." She said. "First we need to get these cuffs off you." She announced confidently. She began trying to get them off using magic. Did she really think that I hadn't already tried that. She looked confused when it didn't work. I was about to say something sarcastic when we heard voices approaching. I whispered for her to go and hide further into the prison block.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.

As Ruby and I approached the cell we saw the witch sitting up on the bed. I made the introductions and Ruby read off a list of offences that Tanya was being accused of. Tanya began to cry, knowing that she wasn't going to get out of this. Her actions had caught up with her and now she would have to pay the price. I took a deep breath, trying to ignore the foul stench of damp and urine that hung in the air. I focused my thoughts and energy. "Tell us everything." I told her. I could see that she had no intention of telling us anything. The look of shock and horror on her face when the words began tumbling from her mouth was priceless. I never grew tired of that.

TANYA.

What the f**k was happening? I couldn't stop talking. I told these pricks everything. I told them about killing Mary because her birth led to the death of my mother. I told them about giving Kim the magic that had made Chris give in to her advances. I told them about my relationship with Jason. I told them everything. I couldn't help it. I tried so desperately to stop but it was as if the truth was being compelled from me in some way. I thought that I was done when I got to the part where I'd been caught and thrown into this stinking cell. Then the words continued. My eyes were wide with horror oh no!! I was telling them about Kim coming to attempt to rescue me. I f****g told them that she was still here. I wanted to bite my tongue off just to shut myself up.

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RUBY.

I had listened intently to Tanya's story. I had heard of this witch and knew that she was talented. It seemed a shame to waste her abilities, but unfortunately she hadn't exactly left a lot of wiggle room for doubt. When she said that her sister was hiding somewhere in the building my interest was peaked. I should be able to sense her power. Either she was an exceptionally gifted witch, so powerful that she was able to hide her power even from me. Or she was an inept one with such a small energy that it hadn't registered with me.

I suggested to council member White that we find this sister. Tanya fought against the chains attaching her to the back wall. She screamed at us, tears rolling down her face. I shook my head. What a waste. We began to make our way further back into the depths of the prison building . There she was, just standing in the corner of a cell. She had her eyes closed, almost silently chanting. Her hands stretched out in front of her. We stood there watching her bemused. She clearly hadn't realised that magic doesn't work in these cells. That's why I had wanted council member White to take the lead in the interrogation. My magic wouldn't have worked on her inside the cell, but his ability went beyond magic. At least this answered my question, I thought to myself. Clearly, it was that she is inept.

KIM.

Tanya had told me to hide. I was waiting a few cells back, waiting for them to leave so that I could resume trying to get my sister out of this horrible place. I heard everything. I couldn't believe it when I heard Tanya admitting to all that. My heart stopped when she told them I was there. Why would she do that to me? I didn't,

understand. I moved further back into the darkest part of the building. I heard them getting closer. They would find me at any minute.

I crammed myself into a corner, closed my eyes, and focused with everything that I had. I began to quietly chant an illusion spell so that when they reached the cell I was hiding in, it would appear empty. I stayed that way for what seemed like a long time. Surely, they had given up and left by now. I hadn't heard anything except Tanya's screams and tears for a while. It must be safe by now. I slowly opened my eyes, still chanting, and gasped in shock.

They were stood right in front of me. They looked amused. I didn't understand how they had seen me. That spell should have worked. It was an easy spell that I had used many times before. The woman seemed to take pity on me, reading my confusion all over my face. "The cells are warded against magic. So that prisoners of a magical nature can be contained safely." She informed me. I felt my cheeks flush with red. They had just stood there watching. Letting me make a fool of myself, all the while knowing that. The absolute f*****g arseholes!

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KIM.

The man pulled out a phone. "We have an issue in the cells.... An intruder..... The witches sister attempting a poorly planned jailbreak ." He told whoever was on the other end. I considered trying to fight them, but somehow, I didn't think that would end well for me. Before long, someone else turned up with another set of engraved cuffs. As they put them on me, it felt as though the air had been sucked from my body. I realised that it was actually just my magic being blocked. I had come here to rescue my sister, and now I was being imprisoned, too. This was not supposed to happen.

GAMMA LEWIS

I arrived back in Lakeside with instructions to keep my cover in place for now. I headed straight up to the Alpha house to let Alpha Stone know that I was back. I was surprised to find that neither he nor his dad were there. Dean was in Jason's office on the phone. I waited patiently for him to finish his call. I noticed the worried look on his face. "Everything OK?" I asked. He shook his head "I'm glad that you're back. Dad's in the hospital. Apparently, he was attacked by Peter Morris . There has to be something more going on there, though, as that doesn't seem like Peter. There is a council member in the pack. They had a report that Jason had been involved in the kidnapping of two men. I'm honestly not sure if he was. Beta Edwards from Moon River is still here for some f*****g reason and on top of all of that, I can't get hold of Jason." He put his head in his hands, the frustration getting too much for him. Dean was a good guy, he couldn't help who he was related to.

I told him that we would get things straightened out. He looked up at me from his seat "Thanks. I don't see how we can though." He said sighing. Dean hated having to take charge. He didn't even want to be the pack beta. All Dean had wanted was a quite life with his mate, and to be a father. Jason was so useless though that Dean hadn't had time to start a family yet. He was always running around sorting out his brothers messes. I knew that it was putting a strain on his relationship. He had considered stepping down, but Jason and David had made it clear that they wouldn't allow it.

I was about to say something else, to try and reassure him, when there was a huge commotion coming from the front hall. We rushed to find out what the hell was going on. We saw Jason being led to the dungeon. Peter Morris was holding his arms behind his back and pushing him forward to keep him moving. There was a man I didn't recognise walking beside them. Jason was shouting obscenities and struggling, but Peter was holding him firmly. I looked up and saw another man watching everything from the first floor bannister. He was clearly enjoying it.

Dean called our "What exactly is the meaning of this? Why do you have my brother?" He demanded. The man held up a hand to silence him. "Please head up to the office and wait for me there. I will join you and fill you in shortly." He stated calmly. Dean looked angry at being hushed and ordered around, but turned and headed back to the office as asked. I watched as they took Jason into the dungeon and then joined Dean. "Who was that?" I asked. "The council member that I told you about." He said slumping down in the Alpha's chair. "s**t!!!!!!" he yelled. I didn't say anything. "f****g Jason!!! What the f**k has that i***t done now?" He let out his annoyance. I knew that it was partly because he was worried that with Jason in the dungeon, he would have to step into the Alpha role. Something he really didn't want to do.

AMBER.

I had listened to everything that had happened in Adam's living room from where I stood in the kitchen. I had hidden in the pantry when they had gone through to the porch to show the council member the bodies. I wasn't really sure why I was hiding, I just felt like I needed to. I heard Jason's cry of pain as Peter rejected him as his Alpha. I had to admit that part of me was glad it hurt. The council member had told Jason that he was being put under arrest. He would be held on his own dungeons until he could be moved for trial and sentencing. It felt sort of poetic knowing that he would soon be held in the same cold, damp cells that he had happily locked Adam and Chris up in.

Once Peter had taken hold of a still weakened Jason and left with the council member, I came out and joined Ellie and Becky in the living room. Becky was sitting on the sofa with a strange look on her face. I asked if she was OK. This would be a lot for anyone to deal with. She suddenly broke into a huge grin. "My dad is a beta!," she laughed. I smiled at her. Trust Becky to find a positive in this mess.