

Wait! Werewolves Exist? Chapter 81 -

ADAM.

Joe was singing along to some old school rock song on the radio. He didn't have a great voice, but what he lacked in talent he more than made up for in enthusiasm. I couldn't help smiling. There was a soundproof division between the front and back seats in the car that Alpha Rivers had offered us to use for the journey. I thought that it was definitely a good thing. Alpha and Luna Andrews were asleep in the back seats. They had asked to come with us. They didn't want to wait any longer to see their granddaughter.

I had popped in to see Chris once more before leaving. I couldn't help liking him, even though I hadn't wanted to. I knew that he'd hurt Amber. Although if he hadn't then she may never have moved to Lakeside, and I wouldn't be heading home to claim my mate. Everything that had happened was worth it if it meant that I would soon have my mate in my arms, and I would never let her go. I smiled and settled back into the seat. I looked out of the window into the darkness of the night. I should probably try to get a little rest.

When I opened my eyes, it was daytime. Joe turned to me cheerily "Morning sleeping beauty. I was afraid I was going to have to k~s you to wake you up." He laughed. I grinned at him. "Is that your way of saying that you love me?" I asked, wiggling my eyebrows at him. He began to laugh loudly. The partition began to lower, and Alpha Andrews asked if we could stop at some point for a toilet break. We pulled in at the next service station and stretched our legs, used the facilities, and grabbed some snacks and drinks. Before long, we were back on the road. I felt better the closer we got. The closer I was to her.

CHRIS.

I had told dad that I wouldn't be going straight home. I needed to visit Amber one last time first. I didn't want her to hear the whole truth from anyone else. It needed to come from me. He smiled at me "Son, I think that's a great idea." He said. I breathed a sigh of relief. I had been worried that he would see it as a sign of weakness, so it was a happy surprise that he was being so supportive. I was considering asking the Alpha here if it would be possible to borrow a car. Dad picked up his bag "Come along then, Chris. Your mother is already waiting at the car." He said. I stopped confused "Dad, I just told you that I wasn't coming straight home with you yet." I reminded him. He laughed "I'm old, not senile. I remember. However, if you think that me and your mum

are going to let you go off on your own after nearly losing you, then you are sorely mistaken, my boy.” He chuckled, walking out of the door. I followed along behind him in shock. My dad had never been cruel or abusive towards me, but he had also never been the warmest man. He wasn’t the type to be so touchy-feely. I wasn’t sure what to say to that, so I just followed him silently.

When we reached the car, mum was stood there saying her goodbyes to the Alpha and Luna of this pack. I extended my own gratitude for their help. Before long, we were on the road. It was a two day drive to Lakeside, so I got comfortable in the back seat. About twenty or so minutes later, we pulled to a stop at an airfield. I looked at my dad, confused. “You didn’t think that we were going to drive all that way, did you?” He said. It made sense, I guess. He was a rich man. Moon River was one of the wealthiest packs in the country. “Besides how do you think we reached you so quickly?” He asked. I hadn’t even thought about it. I had been so delirious at that point that I had no idea how long it took them. We got into the helicopter that dad had waiting for us, and he gave the pilot the OK to take off. We would be at Lakeside in no time.

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ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

I smiled to myself as we took off. Chris had no idea that his suggestion to go and visit Amber was exactly what I wanted . I planned to demand recompense from Lakeside. I would demand that Amber as the rightful Luna of the pack marry my son, therefore creating a bond between our packs and forging an alliance. If she refused, then I would demand that a challenge be answered. Chris could easily defeat their so-called Alpha. Once he won, Lakeside would belong to Moon River, and if she still refused Chris’s hand, then I would happily take the pack apart. She could live as a Luna at his side or as a rogue. I knew that there was a chance that she could go to Night Forest, who were the only pack with the power to defeat Moon River in the country, but they

would be unable to do anything. I'd an official challenge had been issued, and then the results would be legal and binding.

My Luna had no clue about my plans she would most likely have tried to stop me. All she wanted was for Chris to be happy, find love, and have a family. A typical mother. She would understand one day. I wanted more for my son. I wanted him to have lifelong security, I wanted him to have power. He should have the best mate possible, and Amber was the best. I would ensure that she would be his. Besides, he had feelings for her anyway, so this would make him happy. They would see that I was only doing what was best.

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BETA DEAN STONE.

I didn't really know what I was supposed to do now. My brother was downstairs in the dungeon being interrogated. Everything seemed to be going wrong. I wasn't sure that I could handle anything else. I was about to say screw it and head home. I didn't see what good me sitting here was doing when the phone rang. I sighed deeply before answer "Beta Stone. Lakeside pack." I said heavy heartedly. I sat up straight. I hadn't been expecting the answer that came. "Beta Stone, This is Alpha Baxter of Moon River. I am just calling out of courtesy, not that it is deserved. Me, my Luna, and my son will be arriving at Lakeside within the next half an hour. My son would like to visit with a friend, and I require a meeting with your Alpha and the council member that is currently staying with you. If you could, please also inform my beta of my arrival as I require his presence, too. In fact I want him at the gate when we arrive." He boomed down the phone, hanging up before I had a chance to respond. Well f**k!! He couldn't have a meeting with Jason. Unless he was willing to have it in the dungeon of course. I guess that I would have to do.

I sent a member of the house staff to fetch Beta Edwards. I headed down to the dungeon to inform council member Perry of the call I had received. As I descended the steps I heard my brothers voice. I stopped for a moment to listen. I was horrified by the things that he was admitting to. What the f**k had he been thinking. I interrupted before I heard anymore. I was disappointed and disgusted enough with my big brother.

DAVID STONE.

I had just arrived home from the hospital, finally healed. I headed straight to the office to speak to Jason, only to find it empty. I had been there a few

moments when Dean walked in. "Dad, I thought that you were still in the hospital. How are you feeling?" He asked. I told him that I was fine and asked where his brother was. I couldn't believe it when he told me. The f*****g nerve!! How dare these up themselves little pricks walk into my pack and put my son in the dungeon. This would not f*****g stand. I raged at Dean "How the f**k could you let this happen?" He stepped back in shock. Then his face darkened and his eyes flashed navy. "Are you f*****g serious?" He shouted "Jason caused this s**t. Yet you are seriously standing there f*****g blaming me." I had never seen Dean lose it like this before, he had always been the quiet, patient one. I was shocked yet kind of proud. "I'm f*****g done. You f*****g deal with the shitstorm your golden boy had brought down on us. Just so you know Alpha Baxter will be here any minute and he wants a meeting. Oh and Jason is currently bawling like a f*****g baby as he confesses to a whole load of messed up shit." He finished, he then stormed out of the office, slamming the door behind him. I didn't think that he had that in him.

I was on my way to the dungeon to find out for myself what was going on when I met the council member coming the other way. He stopped me and told me that he would need to speak with me after the meeting with Alpha Baxter. I told him that I demanded to see Jason. He chuckled almost sinisterly "You will see him soon enough." He said. I barged past him "I will see him right now." I said, trying my best to sound authoritative. He simply smiled. I reached the entry to the dungeon and stopped suddenly. Peter f*****g Morris was guarding the door.

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I had only survived my last fight with him because I'd run away. I didn't fancy my chances at round two. He grinned at me and waved. My anger was boiling inside of me. I considered a sudden attack. I could shift mid-air and come down on him. I could rip his stupid head off his body. He wouldn't be f*****g smiling then. I reached for Clyde, but felt him pull back. "Clyde you f*****g coward, get out here and handle this clown." I demanded. He shook his head retreating further into my mind. "I will not." Was all he said. Frustrated I turned and barged back past the council member and back to the office.

ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

We had arrived at the barrier. A big guy came out of the hut. Before he reached the car, my Beta approached him. I didn't bother listening to what was said, but the big guy went and lifted the barrier for us. I motioned for beta Edwards to get in the car. Once he was inside, I began driving forward. I greeted him and told him to fill me in on everything. He explained everything that he knew, and I heard Chris gasp. I told him that he should go and check on Amber, make sure that she was OK. He agreed, but just before exiting the car, he stopped "Dad, why do you want a meeting?" He asked "What are you after?" I gave a look of hurt. "Son, I just want to know that justice will be served. That man can not be allowed to get away with the things that he has done." Chris didn't look totally convinced. "Remember son, it's not just you that I am looking to get justice for. He also hurt Adam, and the Goddess only knows what horrors he had planned for poor Amber." His face softened. I knew that would do it. He got out of the car and headed off towards a group of nice-looking houses. I turned to my Luna. "Now my dear, what would you like to do while I am at the meeting?" I asked softly. "I would like to come with you. I want to know how that monster is going to be punished." She replied. I gave her a look that told her I was serious "I will not allow that. The things that need to be discussed are not for your perfect and delicate ears." I told her. She smiled at me. I had always been able to wrap her around my finger. She agreed to get some food while she waited, so I dropped her off on what appeared to be the main road. It was full of businesses. She was bound to find a way to keep herself busy here for a few hours. I handed her my credit card and blew her a k~~s. I watched shrinking into the distance as I drove away.

I filled my beta in on my plans. He seemed a little unsure. "Alpha, if she has a mate, then maybe we should just let her be. Jason is going to be punished, and from what I heard, his dad may well be next on the councils list." He said. I gave him my best Alpha stare. "The silver wolf should not be mated to some random f*****g omega mutt. Even if he is a good man. She will be with Chris. Her powers will be at our disposal." I told him. He nodded sheepishly. "Yes Alpha."

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ELLIE.

Me and the girls had decided to go over to the restaurant and assess the damage. Peter was still up at the Alpha house with council member Perry. I had been pleased to see that it wasn't too bad. There were fragments of broken plates cups and glasses all over the floor, and there were a few tipped over tables and chairs, but nothing that couldn't be easily fixed or replaced. "Alright then, ladies, let's get to work." I said, rolling up my sleeves and grabbing the sweeping brush. Becky and Amber started straightening up the tables and chairs while I swept. "Mum, why are we even bothering? Dad said we would be leaving Lakeside." Becky said. I stopped sweeping and turned to look at my daughter. She looked miserable. "We won't need to leave. Not now that Jason has been arrested." I told her. Her face brightened instantly.

We were almost done. I would need to get some new plates, etc, but that was easy enough. This place had been Peter's dream. I would have hated to see it destroyed. To be honest, I loved our little restaurant too. I emptied the last pan of broken glass into the garbage and jumped when I heard a voice behind me. "Oh dear. Has something happened?" I turned to find a well-dressed woman standing looking at the broken door. "We had a break in." I explained, wondering who she is. The woman looked surprised "Really? I'm surprised. Break ins aren't something that typically happens in packs." She said. Becky stepped in "It was rogues." She said flatly. The woman nodded in understanding "Ahh I see. I guess that means that you're not open for business?" she asked.

I told her that our chef wasn't here, but that I was sure that we rustle her up something to eat. She thanked me and took a seat at one of the tables. I went to take a quick look at what we had in and came back to give her the options. "The pasta sounds wonderful." She said happily. "I'm Luna Baxter, from Moon River. It's a pleasure to meet you." She introduced herself. I shook her hand "Ellie Morris, this is my daughter Becky and a close friend of the family Amber." I said. Her face changed slightly at the mention of Amber's name.

AMBER.

There was something about the way Luna Baxter kept looking at me that I found unsettling. Then it clicked. Light a switch had been turned on in my brain. "Luna Baxter? Are you Chris's mother?" I asked. She smiled and nodded. "I am. He's actually looking for you as we speak. That's why we ate here." She said her tone, warm and friendly. I felt a rush of happiness at knowing that Chris was really OK. He had looked so bad when I'd seen in that dungeon. My heart jumped as a thought crossed my mind. If Chris is here, does that mean Adam is, too? I was dying to see him. I had snuck out to the

back to sniff his apron a few times today already. His scent was barely there anymore, but it was just enough to take the edge of my longing for him.

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Luna Baxter placed her phone on the table. "There, I have texted Chris to let him know that you are here." She told me. I thanked her and went to grab her a drink. It didn't take long for Chris to arrive. He swept me up into his arms and gave Mr. the biggest hug I'd ever received in my life. "It's so good to see you." He said "I honestly thought that I'd never see you again." He hugged me again. I told him that I was happy to see him too and that I was relieved that he was OK. He took me by the hand and led me to the other side of the restaurant. His face was serious now. "We need to talk." He said. I sat with him and listened as he got some things off his chest. He told me that his father knew about what I was. That he'd always known. That was the real reason that he'd sent Chris to be with me. He continued talking, telling me how he knew that Adam was my mate, and he was glad that if it couldn't be him, then it was a decent man. He said that he would like it if we could remain friends at least and that he would always love me. I sat quietly, letting it all sink in. I stood and walked around the table, giving him a hug of my own. "Thank you." I whispered in his ear. His eyes suddenly glazed over, and when they returned to normal, he told me that we had both been summoned to the Alpha house. He didn't know why, but said it sounded serious. He told us that his dad was up there for a meeting about Jason. Ellie told him that Jason was placed under arrest earlier.

Luna Baxter finished her food and stood up. "Ellie dear, if I could please settle up, and then I will accompany you both if you don't mind. I've got a horrible feeling that my husband is up to something." She said. Ellie told her that it was on the house and suggested that we all go. "Amber feels like a daughter to me. So if it concerns her, then I will be right there by her side." She said,

reaching out and squeezing my hand lovingly. I gave her a big smile. It warmed my heart to hear her say that. I assured her that I felt the same. we turned everything off and began to make our way to the Alpha house as a group. I wondered why they could possibly need me there. the only reason that I could come up with that made any sense was that I was a witness. I had seen Chris in the dungeons, after all. Star disagreed she told me that she had a sinking feeling. She warned me that things might be about to get a whole lot worse.

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ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

I had settled myself on the sofa in the Alphas office, my Beta beside me. David Stone walked in and sat in the Alphas chair behind the desk. What was the meaning of this? I had expected the younger of his sons. No matter, it would actually give me more pleasure to make my demands of him. As I've heard it, the younger Stone is actually a pretty decent guy. Clearly, he didn't follow his father and brother. The council member walked in next and took a seat in one of the chairs on the other side of the desk. He spoke first "I am council member Perry. Alpha Baxter, you requested this meeting, so perhaps you would like to explain the reason behind it?" He didn't sound impressed.

I took a deep breath in and out, and I wanted to savour this moment. "I am here to demand justice. Moon River will be compensated by Lakeside for the crime committed by Alpha Stone." I said confidently. I hated calling that man Alpha, but it was necessary. David jumped to his feet, his face red with anger. "How dare you show up here uninvited and demand money." He said. I laughed "Who said I wanted money? I've got plenty of that already." I enjoyed the look of confusion on his face.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERRY.

"Excuse me, Alpha Baxter, but you said that you wanted to be compensated. If you weren't talking about money, then what exactly is it that you want?" I asked. I hated it when people didn't get to the point. Why all the beating around the Bush? He looked me straight in the eye. "I am looking for a more personal form of compensation." He smirked. I felt my annoyance rising. Why couldn't he spit it out already and stop dragging this out. It was as if he was getting some type of pleasure from this somehow.

“Such as?” I asked, hoping that my annoyance was evident in my tone. He leaned back, looking pleased with himself as he said “I want the hand of Amber Rivers. Not for myself, of course, but for my son. She is the daughter of Jack and Daisy Rivers. As such, she is the true and legal Luna of this pack. She will marry my son Chris and accept him as her chosen mate. This will unite our two packs and heal the rift caused by the actions of Jason Stone.” He said it so matter of factly.

“We do not force marriages under any circumstances.” I informed him. “Well then, bring her here and let her decide. However, should she refuse my son, let it be known that I mean to issue a challenge upon Lakeside. If I can not have my compensation in unity, then I will take it in blood.” He said. His voice was calm as if he were ordering dinner, not making threats. I told him that we would need both Chris and Amber to agree willingly to a union. He grinned. Clearly, he felt like he’d already won. David sat there seething. Alpha Baxter informed us that he would mind link Chris to have him come to us and bring Amber with him. I nipped out to make a quick call to the council. I didn’t see a way that this could end well.

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ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

We sat silently waiting for my Chris and Amber’s arrival. The council member had stepped out, and David looked like he was about to explode. I felt victorious. This wasn’t the way that I’d wanted to bring Amber into my family, but I would rake her anyway that I could get her. I’m sure thst both she and Chris will be annoyed at me at first, but eventually they will understand. I am doing what’s best. Besides I am a f*****g Alpha a powerful one at that, they will obey me or they will face the consequences.

The door opened and council member Perry entered, but he wasn’t alone. He had Chris and Amber with him. I was taken aback to realise that my wife had

accompanied them along with two other women. This wasn't part of the plan. Never mind, I had no intention of turning back now, not when I was so close to getting everything that I wanted.

AMBER.

I sat down in the chair next to council member Perry. He looked at me strangely. "Hello my dear, We haven't been properly introduced yet. I'm council member Perry. I have heard a lot about you." He said. I realised that I knew his name because I'd heard him introduce himself at Adam's earlier while I was hiding. I shook his hand and felt a strange pushing sensation in my head. He gave me a puzzled look before letting my hand go. I asked why I was here, and He sighed deeply. "Maybe Alpha Baxter should explain." He suggested.

We all turned to look at Alpha Baxter, who told us what it was that he wanted. I gasped in shock, looking up at Chris, who stood next to me. He began to swear to me that he had no idea that his dad was going to do this. I believed him. I turned back to Alpha Baxter "I can't do that. I have a mate." I explained. He laughed. "Mates can be rejected, but blood can never be unshed." Chris looked at his dad in shock "Dad I told you about Amber being Adam's mate. You said that you understood. I don't want this. Please stop." He begged his father. Alpha Baxter looked at him as if he was a possession, not his son "You will do as you are told. You are a future Alpha. What you WANT doesn't matter. Only what I best for your pack. One day, you will understand that. Until then, you will obey your Alpha." Chris looked on the verge of tears. "And if I refuse?" I asked. His sick smile turned my stomach. He told us about his plan to issue a challenge upon Lakeside.

Luna Baxter had a look of pure horror on her face. There were tears streaming down her cheeks as she asked quietly "Gareth, what have you done?" He looked at her "I've done what needed to be done. I have insured our sons' future and the future of our pack." He told her. She shook her head "You have single handedly destroyed everything." She told him "I will not stand by you, should you choose to continue down this path." I was on awe of her strength. It must be hurting her so much to say that to him, yet she didn't waver.

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LUNA BAXTER.

I sat silently, letting my words hang in the air. I meant them. This man sitting across from us on the sofa was not the man that I fell in love with. I didn't recognise this person. He was cold and calculated. His words were completely void of all emotion. I saw a flicker of doubt cross his face as he took in what I'd just said. "Babe, I'm doing this for us." He said, sounding a little hurt by my threat. "There will be no us to do anything for. If you do not stop and apologise for being such an a~s right now, then I swear to the Goddess Gareth, I will reject you. I will not be bound to a man who could go through with this." I told him. I wanted to make sure it sank in.

CHRIS.

I squeezed my mum's shoulder supportively. I had never been as proud of her as I was at this moment. "Besides your plan can't possibly work because no matter what threats you make, I will not go along with your madness. It's true that I love Amber and would happily spend my life next to her, but not like this. Adam is a damn good man. He saved my life. Do you really think so little of me that you believe that I would betray him in return?" I said to my father. "Beta Edwards, where do you stand on this?" I asked the man next to my dad, who had been silent the whole time.

He shifted nervously in his seat. "I don't agree with Alphas' decision, but he is my Alpha, and my place is at his side." He said, sounding a little unsure. My dad smiled "See at least one person understands his place." He said, staring at me and mum. "It's time that you two learnt yours." He finished. The council member began speaking before anything else could be said. "Alpha Baxter, I made it clear to you that this union could only happen if both Chris and Amber were willing. That is clearly not the case." He stated. "In fact, it would seem that you are the only person who wants it." He concluded.

David Stone suddenly joined the conversation "Besides if she is to be joined to anyone, it should be my son. She is, as you said, Lakeside's true Luna and he is It's Alpha. Their marriage makes sense." He said. We all just looked at him. "Your son is under arrest. He will face trial for his crimes. He will neither be Alpha of Lakeside nor free to marry anyone." The council member reminded him. David just stared daggers at him "I have two sons. Dean, being the current Beta, is the obvious successor to the Alpha position." He said. Ellie suddenly stepped in "Dean is already married. I don't see him having agreed to this." She said. David snarled at her, and Chris stepped towards him with a warning growl.

ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

“ENOUGH!!” I shouted, making a few of them jump. “Stone is an i***t his words should not be taken seriously. He’s not even a f*****g blood Alpha. My son is a better match for the silver wolf. Chris is a pure blood Alpha with a lineage that goes back centuries. Dean is a beta with dubious ancestry and as for Adam, no offence Mrs Morris your son is a good man, but you can’t honestly believe that an Omega belongs by her side. Being her mate will raise him to Alpha and that is just f*****g laughable.” I ranted.

The younger female in the room, I hadn’t bothered to remember her name, began laughing. “My brother isn’t an Omega as it turns out.” She said. I looked at her “What are you talking about child. Of course is.” I said impatiently. She stepped towards me “Our father is a beta, so Adam has beta blood.” She said proudly. I looked at her mother for confirmation, who nodded. “That changes nothing, Chris is still the better match.” I said stubbornly.

AMBER.

I had stayed quiet, listening to everything. I couldn’t let him destroy Lakeside and I couldn’t let him hurt the people here. I looked up at Chris. He had shown me today that even though he had made some mistakes, he was a good man. I loved him, but I wasn’t in love either him. I had been once, maybe I could be again. I thought. Star begged me not to agree to this. “We can’t do this to Adam. Or to Chris.” She pleaded “Chris doesn’t want this. Let him issue a challenge we can beat whoever we need to. Even a pure blood Alpha is no match for us.” She said. I could hear the desperation in her voice.

I set a steely gaze upon Alpha Baxter. “I have a few questions.” I say to him. He smiles at me as if he has just won an award. “Ask away, my dear.” He almost purred. “If I was to refuse and you challenge Lakeside, then who would be fighting for Moon River? Who gets to decide who fights for Lakeside? And what happens if we win?” I asked him. He chuckled lightly. “All good questions.” He answered “My son will fight for Moon River. I don’t care who chooses your fighter, although it would usually be up to the Alpha. That’s not something you have to worry your pretty little head about as you won’t win.” He sounded confident “Chris is the best fighter in the country. Whoever is chosen won’t stand a chance.” He said happily. I looked around at the others who confirmed that what he’d said was true.

Chris stepped between me and his dad. “I won’t fight for this. You can fight your own needless battle.” He told him. His dad stood suddenly stepping up to

Chris. "As your Alpha, I command you to obey my orders. You will marry her, or you will fight to the best of your ability." He boomed, his voice had taken on a strange quality, and his eyes changed. Luna Baxter gasped. "Gareth no!!" I turned to her and asked what had happened. "He used an Alpha command on him. He won't be able to refuse." She said tearfully. The horror of what she'd just said sank in quickly. If I refused to marry Chris, then there would be a fight. For Lakeside to win, Chris would have to die.

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CHRIS.

I felt the Alpha command coarsed through my body. Leo howled inside me. I turned to Amber, tears flowing freely as I fell to my knees in front of her. "I'm so sorry." I told her through sobs. She cradled my head in her arms. "You have nothing to be sorry for. You didn't do this." She told me gently. My mum stood and walked up to my dad. She stared up into his eyes defiantly. She looked absolutely furious. He smirked at her, then spoke confidently "I command you to stop defying me. You will stand by me until death do us part." He just f*****g Alpha commanded his own wife, just so that she wouldn't leave him. How was he this pathetic? I had always respected my father and looked up to him. Now i felt kotjing but disgust for him. Yet I was still bound to do his bidding by his f*****g Alpha command. I knew that I wouldn't be able to defy it. I was still sitting on the floor with my head in Amber's lap. There must be a way out of this. I couldn't let her marry me, and yet I knew that no member of Lakeside could defeat me.

LUNA BAXTER.

I began to laugh. I couldn't fully believe that this stupid man had just done that. Was he serious? "Your Alpha command doesn't work on me. You stupid prick. I am your Luna, your mate, and your wife. Not one of your pack, but your equal." I told him. His face fell, the arrogant arse hadn't even considered that. "My love.." He began. I stopped him "Save it. I am clearly not your love. I don't even know you anymore. I don't see the man that I love when i look at you, just some pathetic power-hungry arsehole. I no longer wish to be your wife if this is how you act. If this is truly who you have become.

I took a deep breath, readying myself for the pain that I knew I was about to feel. "I Luna Delilah Baxter of the Moon River pack, born Delilah Michaels of the Crescent Moon pack, Alpha female. Reject you Alpha Gareth Baxter of the

Moon River pack, as my Alpha and as my mate.” I said. The pain hit, causing me to double over. Chris was at my side instantly. He helped me back to my chair. I sat trying to catch my breath. Gareth was on his knees, holding his chest. He was gasping for air. I knew I had done the right thing. What he’d done to Chris was the final straw. How could he do that to our son?

ALPHA GARETH BAXTER.

The pain was almost unbearable. I think if I hadn’t been so angry, I might have passed out. How dare she do this to me, and in front of all these people. I would not let her get away with this. “You will pay for that you f*****g b~~~h.” I spat at her. Chris looked like he wanted to tear me apart, but couldn’t. Leo would not allow it, because I was still his Alpha. “Enjoy being a f*****g rogue. If I am no longer you’re Alpha or mate, then you are no longer welcome in MY pack.” I told her. “She will not be a rogue. She can stay here with us.” Amber spoke. Chris gave her a look of thanks, still holding his mother. I didn’t want her to start a new life here. I wanted her either by my side, miserable and alone or dead.

BECKY.

I was in shock as the events of the last few minutes really sank in. Something was niggling at me though. Something that Luna Baxter had just said. Crescent Moon, that was it. She had said that she was born into the Crescent Moon pack. Where had I heard that before? I didn’t time to dwell on that right now though. Alpha Baxter moved quickly. He shoved Chris flying and grabbed Luna Baxter by the throat “I said until death.” He snarled at her. Before anyone had a chance to react, the door crashed open, and a huge man walked in. Suddenly, Alpha Baxter was in the air. No one was touching him, yet he was just floating there. I looked at Amber, but she looked just as shocked as the rest of us.

I realised that the council member didn’t seem particularly surprised by what was happening. It was almost as if this was expected or something he had seen before. I looked over at the newcomer. His face was like thunder. Why did he look familiar? “You dare to put your hands on her?” He said his voice steady and yet somehow full of rage. He sounded dangerous. “I should k~~l you right now.” He said “However it is her decision to make.” He turned to Luna Baxter, and his face softened “Delilah my sweet, what would you have me do with this.....man?” He asked. She told him that she didn’t want Gareth dead. He nodded “Fine. Though he will be punished.” He told her. He let Alpha Baxter drop to the ground. He quickly got back to his feet, his face red

with anger. "Who the f**k are you to make that decision?" He shouted. I couldn't help thinking that wasn't the smartest choice given that this guy clearly had powers. That's when it hit me. I knew where I had seen his face before. My eyes dropped to his wrist. There it was, a silver moon charm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PERRY.

I stood up and cleared my throat. I felt I needed to interject before Alpha Baxter ended up a bloody mess on the floor. I could feel his wolfs rage. "This is Council leader Michaels." I informed everyone. There was an excited squeal behind me. "I KNEW IT!!" Becky suddenly exclaimed. "You are Joseph Michaels." She said. I looked at her, surprised. Leader Michaels nodded at her. "I am." He said. Amber inhaled deeply, a look of excitement coming over her face. Everyone else looked a bit confused.

LEADER JOSEPH MICHAELS.

I turned back to Delilah, kneeling in front of her. "Are you OK?" I asked, inspecting her throat. She told me that she would be fine and thanked me for my help. I asked her if she knew who I was? I had noticed that she had looked as confused as the rest of them. She gave me a small smile "Joseph Michaels is the name of my great, great, great, great grandfather. However, you can't possibly be him. He would have died many years ago." She said. I laughed a little. "That would be true, were I not immortal." I told her. Her mouth fell open in shock. I told her that I would explain everything soon. I then stood and went to check on my great, great, great, great, great grandson. "Chris are you OK?" I asked him. He nodded. He was strong, I was proud of him.

Suddenly, I heard Alpha Baxter and what he said, my blood boil. "I Alpha Baxter of the Moon River pack issue a challenge against the Lakeside pack. A challenge that will be decided by death. I make this challenge with council member Perry and council leader Michaels as a witness." He said smugly. I turned to look at him. "Not even you can deny a challenge issued by an Alpha. Especially one that is issued as a call for justice. My son was kidnapped by Jason Stone Alpha of Lakeside. They will answer for that. I offered a peaceful resolution, remember that." He said. "The challenge is valid and binding" I said through gritted teeth. He was right. He had the right to challenge, and I had to accept that. I turned to Amber. "As the highest ranking member of the

Lakeside pack and its true Luna I'm afraid it falls to you to pick a fighter for the pack." I told her.

AMBER.

How was I supposed to make this decision. If I chose one of the warriors, then they would be killed, and Lakeside would be lost. I knew that I was the only hope that Lakeside had, but I would have to kill Chris in order to save the pack. I wasn't sure if I could bring myself to do that. Chris approached me, kneeling before me once again. "It's OK. I know what has to happen. I want you to know that I'm OK with it. I will die happily knowing that you will have Adam at your side. Lakeside can't fall to him." He told me. My heart broke as I remembered the life that I had felt for him. I thought back on the years we spent together. We had been happy, why couldn't I have just said yes to Alpha Baxter's demand. I reached out and touched his cheek as I felt my tears begin to fall. "I can't." I say, not able to get any other words out. "Please." I turn to council member Perry, who looked like his own heart was breaking. "I'm so sorry, my dear." He said quietly "There's nothing that I can do."

I swallowed hard as Chris wiped away my tears. "I would kill anyone else who you chose, We both know that you couldn't live with choosing someone to die. I can't kill you. So it has to be you. It has to be this way." He said. I felt my anger rising "So I have to choose for you to die? You honestly think that I can live with that?" I asked him. He sighed and looked at the ground. "Maybe it would help if you thought about how I hurt you. How it felt seeing me with Kim in our bed." He said. I could hear the pain and shame in his voice as he said it. I lifted his chin so that our eyes met. "You hurt me, yes, but you don't deserve to die for it." I told him.

CHRIS.

We gathered outside to carry out the challenge. The only one who could stop this now was my dad. As the issuer of the challenge, he could call it off, but he wouldn't. Leader Michaels stepped into the middle. "Before we begin, I would like to say a few things. Firstly...Alpha Baxter I want you to be aware that once we are done here, I will be issuing a challenge of my own against you personally. For causing the death of my descendent, by making him fight against his will in a match that you know he can not win. Secondly..... the rules are that this will be a one on one fight to the death. No outside interference is permitted. You are free to use any skills or abilities that you possess."

My dad looked worried at his words. He knew that he would lose to council leader Michaels. After all he had said earlier that he was somehow immortal. Still, he didn't try to stop the fight. He was too stubborn to back down. He had lost his wife, was about to lose his son, and finally would lose his life, and for what? His f*****g pride? I shook my head at him. How had I never realised what kind of man he was.

DELILAH.

My heart was breaking. I had just had to reject my mate, and now my son was about to die. I wasn't sure that I could survive this. My wolf Lacey was already weak from rejecting Gareth. I reached out to her. "Lacey, there must be something we can do?" I begged her. "We could throw ourselves into the middle and attack Amber. It would mean our deaths, but it would cause the fight to be stopped as it would be a break of the rules." She answered me weakly. I agreed with her plan, better our death than that of our son. I poised myself at the edge of the fight border, ready to shift and pounce. Leader Michaels caught my eye and shook his head. He mouthed that he was sorry, and I felt a wave of energy. It was paralysing me. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't shift or even move. There was nothing that I could do to save my son.

JOSEPH MICHAELS.

I had hated doing that to her. The pain and panic on her face almost broke me, but I couldn't let Delilah sacrifice herself. I knew what she was planning. I had already seen it happen. I had mastered my powers over the years and knew how to see multiple versions of the same future. To change things and see what would happen. In every version of this that I had seen on my journey here. it didn't end well. I knew that I had to officially start the fight, but I was struggling with finding the strength.

I was about to order them to begin when Council member Perry called for me to wait. He approached me and asked for a word. I nodded and relaxed my mind, allowing him to enter and talk with my wolf. Unlike other werewolves, I was completely aware of the conversation they had. I could even join in. "Council member Perry, this had better be important." I told him. "Dir, I think I have a way to end this without bloodshed. I was trying to think of a way out of this and realised that if we could prove that Alpha Baxter was guilty of a crime, we could arrest him and strip him of his title. Nullifying his challenge and breaking his Alpha command on his son." He said. I agreed but told him that we didn't have time to do that, and as far as the council is aware, Alpha Baxter wasn't guilty of anything other than being a d**k. He had done some

shady s**t, but unfortunately, none of it had actually broken any laws. He sounded excited as he said “While all of this was going on. I spoke with the wolf of his beta. He had some interesting things to tell me. He hates Alpha Baxter. Doesn’t like the decisions that he’s making and wants to protect his pack. He told me that he recently discovered proof that Alpha Baxter was the one who originally sent the witch to k~~l Mary James. He wanted her dead so that Amber would be vulnerable and easier to manipulate. He knew that the witch wanted Mary dead for some kind of twisted revenge. That surely makes him at the very least accomplice to her murder.” He told me. I smiled at him “Perry, that makes him more than an accomplice. He instigated the murder. Good work.” I praised him. We left my mind and found everyone just staring at us waiting. I had maintained my hold on Delilah so she hadn’t done anything stupid while I was distracted.

“This challenge will be cancelled.” I announced. “On what grounds?” Alpha Baxter demanded. I walked up to him, releasing Delilah as I did. She ran to Chris’s side. “On the grounds that you are being placed under arrest for the instigation of a murder. You will be held here until you are taken to the citadel for trial. Given that your victim was a hybrid, this is a case for the supernatural court. Of which I am also a member.” I informed him. He looked like he was about to s**t his p~~s. “Given the serious nature of the charges against you I Joseph Michaels Leader of the werewolf council, Member of the supernatural court, Alpha wolf. Officially s~~p you of your title. You are no longer Alpha of the Moon River pack. That title now belongs to your son Alpha Christopher Baxter.” I watched as he crumpled to the floor, a blubbering mess.

CHRIS

I felt my dad’s Alpha command melt away as leader Michaels spoke. As he announced me, Alpha, I felt a surge of energy that almost winded me. It was the transfer of Alpha title. I was the Alpha of Moon River now, and I vowed to do better than my dad. I would not repeat his mistakes. I asked my mum to swear her alliance to me as her Alpha and come home with me. She did so at once. I gave her a big hug. I then offered to escort my father to the dungeon personally. Leader Michaels nodded, and council member Perry accompanied me.

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CHRIS.

I picked my father up off the floor and began to lead him away. Leader Michaels stopped me. "Before you go, we have one more arrest to make. Both prisoners can be taken at the same time." He announced. Everyone began to whisper and look around. He turned to look at the group of people still there. "Beta Edwards" he called out. The beta looked shocked. "There must be some mistake. I have broken no laws." He said nervously. "I'm aware of that. I was simply going to request that you escort the second prisoner to the dungeon." Leader Michaels chortled. I couldn't help thinking that he'd done that on purpose for fun.

"David Stone, I am placing you under arrest for the murder of Jack and Daisy Rivers and the attempted murder of Amber Rivers." He said loud and clear. Amber cheered at his words. "I was never trying to k~l her." He said. "I want that charge removed." Leader Michaels stepped up to him. "I'd find that you weren't in fact, trying to k~l her, then the attempted murder will be struck from the charges." He told him calmly. Beta Edwards took hold of him and joined me and council member Perry. I gave Amber one last smile before we left for the dungeon.

JASON STONE.

I was pacing angrily around the cell. I was stuck in my own f*****g dungeon. When I got out of here I would make them all f*****g pay. I was sure that it was just a matter of time until my dad found a way to get me out. I heard the dungeon door open and footsteps on the stairs. I smiled as my dad came in to view. Thank the Goddess. I was confused as I saw beta Edwards behind him. What was he doing down here with my dad? Then Alpha Baxter came in to view followed by Chris. I began to shift nervously. How the f**k was he here? He should still be being held by Tanya, or dead at her hand. What the f**k is going on?

Chris shoved his dad into a cell and slammed the door shut. Beta Edwards did the same with my dad. Chris then walked up to my cell and gave me a huge grin. Then without saying a single word he turned and walked away. I called out to my dad asking what had happened. "It's all over son." He answered sounding broken. "It's all over." His answer and the defeated tone of his voice caused my stomach to lurch. How had everything gone so very wrong?

COUNCIL LEADER MICHAELS.

Once Council member Perry and the others returned from the dungeon, bringing Peter with them per my instructions I had one more announcement to

make. "There will be a meeting in half an hour in the living room of the Alpha house. I would like you all to be present, except for the members of the Moon River pack I also require the presence of the Beta, Delta and Gamma of Lakeside." I gave them a nod to signal that I was done and dismissed them. Council member Perry followed me into the Alpha house.

ADAM.

We stopped at the barrier to Lakeside and Sam emerged from his hut. He didn't seem his usual cheery self. I asked him what was wrong. "Something is going on in the pack, but I have no idea what. There has been a council member here for a couple of days, plus today we've had a visiting Alpha family show up and then a huge guy who is apparently the council leader. That can't mean good news. Then about ten minutes ago the Delta left, he seemed to be in a hurry." He told me. "Then there was the weirdness with your family the other day." He said. I asked what he was talking about and he filled me in. I took everything I had not to let Rusty take over when we heard that my dad had been injured. I thanked Sam and promised to fill him in once I knew more. He waved us through the barrier and we continued up the road.

I had always liked Sam, he was a decent man. He was also a loyal and fierce warrior. It was a total injustice that he had been stuck on guard duty all these years. He was being wasted in my opinion. Joe gave me a friendly punch in the arm "Not long now and you'll be with your girl." He said. I grinned at him. I couldn't wait to see her. I tried to mind link my Dad but couldn't feel him. I started to panic, Sam had said dad was injured, what if it was worse than I thought. I reached out to mum and Becky, but I couldn't feel them either. I felt the panic rising as I turned to Joe and told him to floor it. I quickly explained the reason for my Concern.

Joe slammed on the brakes. "You will be quicker on paw." He said. I nodded he was right. I jumped out of the car and shifted. I reached the restaurant and saw the broken door. There was no-one there. I headed for my parents home and found that it had been broken into. Yet still I found no-one. I went to my house next and the stench of death hit me before I even got inside. Rusty was just as scared of what we might find as I was. We made our way to the back porch where the smell was coming from and breathed a sigh of relief. It wasn't them, in fact I had no idea who these people were or why their bodies were in my porch. Where the f**k was my family? I was starting to lose it when I heard a beautiful, melodic voice in my head. She told me to relax and concentrate on the person that I was looking for. She said that I should let Rusty lead me, but first we needed to calm down. I had no idea who she was,

but I completely trusted her. I felt my anger and panic melt away listening to the musical tone of her voice.

JOE.

After Adam had vacated the car I continued on with Alpha and Luna Andrews. We reached the Alpha house and got out. I had tried to phone ahead, but there had been no answer. I had also called Alpha Rivers to give him an update. There was definitely something strange going on in Lakeside. He had told me about what had happened in Night Forest after I'd left. He also told me that a council transport vehicle had now taken the witches to the citadel ready for trial.

We approached the door and found it wide open. Alpha Andrews looked misty eyed as he entered. I realised that this was where he'd grown up and raised his family. I heard voices coming from a room and knocked on the door. Everything fell silent and then it opened. I did a double take when I saw the man who had opened it. He looked like Beta Morris. I realised that this must be his brother, Adam's father. I introduced myself. He looked at the couple stood behind me and broke into a huge grin Alpha, Luna!! He exclaimed. A booming voice from within the room told us to enter.

We had barely been there a few minutes when a big, red wolf came crashing into the room. He shifted, and Adam suddenly stood in front of us, completely n~~~d. I took a throw from the sofa and handed it to him to cover himself up. He thanked me and wrapped it around his w~~~t before rushing over and hugging a woman that I assumed was his mother. His dad wrapped his arms around them both. Adam pulled back and looked at them "I couldn't feel you, I thought....." He didn't finish that sentence. "We will explain everything a bit later." His dad told him. He Adam looked around the room "Where is Becky and Amber?" He asked, sounding worried again. "They will be here soon. They are fine." His mum reassured him.

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AMBER.

I entered the Alpha house, wondering what the purpose of this meeting was. Honestly I'd had enough of meetings today. I took a deep breath, and something caught my attention. It was mouthwatering. The scent of fresh lilacs mixed with summer rain. I knew that scent!! Star began excitedly jumping around in my mind. "MATE!!" she was almost squealing. Adam

suddenly b~t through a door. He was wearing nothing but a navy throw around his w~t. His chest was exposed, and I felt Stars' appreciation of the amount of skin on show. Our eyes locked, and it felt like there was some invisible force drawing us closer. Before I knew it, I was in his arms. The small electrical tingles that I'd felt before with Jason and Chris were nothing compared to the explosion of electricity that I felt now, with Adam's arms wrapped around me. I breathed him in, and in an instant, the world felt right.

Council member Perry cleared his throat, reminding us that we weren't alone. I blushed a little. It had felt so intimate. We entered the room, still holding each other. Ellie's face lit up at the sight. Suddenly, there was a growl from within the room. "Mate" came the declaration. We all looked up in surprise. I didn't recognise the man who was on his feet staring in our direction. "Joe??" Adam said enquiringly. Becky suddenly flew past us and into his arms "Mate?" she asked softly. He nodded and lifted her into his arms. I was so happy, not only had Adam returned but Becky had found her mate.

COUNCIL LEADER MICHAELS.

As pleased as I was for the couples who had found each other, I was impatient to get started. I stood and asked everyone to take a seat so that we could begin the meeting. I welcomed Alpha and Luna Andrews back to Lakeside. Amber turned and stared at the couple. Clearly, she knew who they were. I was glad that she had the good sense to wait to approach them. I didn't want any more distractions. "The purpose of this meeting is to sort out the leadership of the Lakeside pack going forward. As you by now know, Lakeside doesn't currently have an Alpha. I have also been made aware that the Delta has also fled. There is no doubt to try and escape punishment for his part in the former Alpha's crimes. However, this does leave us with some gaps to fill." Beta Stone asked for permission to speak, which I gave. "I'm sorry to make things worse, but I want to make it clear that I have no interest in being Alpha. I don't even really want to be Beta, if I'm honest. I never did, I wanted to start a family with my mate." He said. I nodded. "Here are my thoughts. Obviously, Amber Rivers, being the daughter of Alpha Jack and Luna Daisy Rivers, is the true and obvious choice for Luna. Her mate Adam Morris is destined to be Alpha alongside her. This is the will of the Moon Goddess. I do not go against her wishes. Dean, would you feel more comfortable taking the position of Delta? You are a good man and will not be tarnished by your father and brothers actions." I said. Dean nodded and thanked me. "Gamma Lewis, will you be staying in Lakeside or returning to Night Forest?" I asked. He said that he would like to stay and work alongside Dean if we were happy with that. Besides, Lakeside finally had a Luna. He

could now fulfil his purpose as Gamna. I nodded my approval. "That just leaves an empty Beta spot. Adam, as Alpha, it is your duty to choose your beta. He doesn't necessarily have to have beta blood, though that would be a bonus. However, it needs to be someone that you have a bond with. Someone you trust with your life." I made it as clear as possible for him.

"Alpha and Luna Andrews, Mr and Mrs Morris, I trust that I can leave it to you to guide our new Alpha and Luna?" I asked. They agreed instantly. I smiled, and then all that remains to be done is for me to announce you officially to the pack. Council member Perry, could you please see that the arrangements are made for it to be done this evening. We need to leave once it is complete to accompany the prisoners to the citadel." Once I had ended the meeting, I went to find Delilah and Chris. I would like to see them before they leave. Now that we have connected, I don't want to lose touch.

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ELLIE.

I couldn't stop smiling as I helped Amber pick out a dress for tonight. Lakeside was abuzz with the news, and everything was underway. We looked through the racks of beautiful evening gowns, searching for the perfect one. Becky suddenly exclaimed "I've found it" from a rail further back. She emerged from the rows with a full-length, silver, satin dress. It had sparkly spaghetti straps and a cowl neck. Amber took it into the fitting room and emerged wearing it. She looked mesmerising. Jane, who owned the dress shop and made all the dresses, clapped her hands together "That is perfect for you. It doesn't even need any adjustments made." She was right. It looked as if the dress had been made for Amber. It flowed effortlessly over her curves. "Well maybe just one embellishment, if I may?" Jane said. Amber nodded, and Jane wrapped a stunning diamanté belt around Amber's midsection. Now it was perfect.

ADAM.

Everyone was rushing around, getting everything ready for the ceremony to officially name us Alpha and Luna. I had snuck away to catch my breath. I had grown up thinking that I was an omega wolf, I just found out that I'm more than that, my father's beta blood running through my veins. Now I'm about to become Alpha. I didn't know how to be Alpha. What if I messed up and Lakeside was ruined because of me? I couldn't get my nerves under control. I heard footsteps behind me and looked up to see Joe approaching me.

"There you are." He said "I've been looking for you." I gestured for him to join me. He asked what was wrong, and I told him. I sat there and told him all my worries. About becoming Alpha, about messing up, about not having a beta, everything. The only thing that I wasn't worried about was Amber. I confessed that I was even upset about him and Becky being mates. He looked a little bothered by this, so I clarified. "It's not that I am against you. I'm glad her mate is someone decent. It's just that you're part of the Night Forest pack, so she will be moving there with you. I'm just sad to be losing my little sister. Don't tell her this, but I will actually miss her." I said. He chuckled. "That's actually why I was looking for you. I need to make a request from the Alpha of Lakeside. If it's OK with you then I would like to stay. I don't have any family in Night Forest, and I don't want to tear my mate away from hers. So if it is alright with you, then I would prefer to move to Lakeside and be with Becky here." I hugged him. "Of course I'm good with that. You will have to clear it with Alpha Rivers, too, though." I said. He told me that he already had. Alpha Rivers had understood and was flying to Lakeside as we spoke. He wanted to meet his niece and watch her become Luna. While he was here, he would sever Joe's ties to Night Forest, leaving him free to officially join Lakeside.

AMBER.

I couldn't believe this was happening. A few weeks ago, I had even known that werewolves existed. I had been a normal girl, living a normal life. I was working as a waitress in a relationship with a man that I thought I was in love with. Now I was about to become the Luna of a werewolf pack. I had found my mate and had also found justice for my parents. The only thing that could make this moment any better would be if Mary was here with me. I touched the necklace that I still wore every day and thought of her. The room was suddenly filled with bright light, and then there was a woman standing next to me.

I jumped, and she giggled. It almost sounded like music. She was the most beautiful woman that I had ever seen. Her long white hair shimmered, and her skin was like fine porcelain. She held out a hand to me, even that looked flawless, elegant, and perfectly manicured. I took her hand instinctively. She smoothed her flowing, silvery-white robes with her other hand and led me over to a small pink sofa in the dress shop. I looked over at Ellie to see her reaction to this woman, but she appeared to be frozen. Becky and Jane were, too. I looked back at the woman who simply smiled.

"Do you know who I am?" she asked. I thought for a second and heard Star in my mind. My mouth dropped open, and I said "Star is telling me that you are

the Moon Goddess.” She nodded. “I can hear her. I can hear all of my children. I am here to speak with you. You do not need to be worried about being Luna. You were born for this. You will be a great Luna. I have seen it. I bless only the most worthy of the gift of a silver wolf. However, understand that it is a gift to be used for the good of werewolf kind. I also have no doubt that Adam will thrive as Alpha at your side. I must go now” she said. Then paused “Before I do, I just want to say that your parents and Mary are watching over you. They are so very proud of the strong, loving woman that you have become.” With that, she vanished as suddenly as she had appeared.

ALPHA RIVERS.

I had arrived in Lakeside just in time. Joe had met me at the barrier, and I had removed his bond to Night Forest. I was sad to see him go. He was a good man and a fine Delta, but I understood. To be honest, he was wasted in my pack anyway. He wasn’t a delta by blood. He was a beta. He had arrived in Night Forest as a teenager . His parents had been cast out of their pack for some underhanded behaviour. Joe hadn’t been a part of it but was cast out alongside them. I wasn’t willing to take a chance on his parents, who had already proved the sort of people that they were, but Joe was innocent, so I offered him a place in my pack. He had proven himself many times over. I already had a beta and a damn fine one at that, but my Delta had recently chosen to retire, giving no son to take his place. Joe had been the obvious choice.

I would wait until after the ceremony to introduce myself to Amber. We made our way to the Alpha house and a lovely woman there, Molly. I believe her name was shown to some rooms. Apparently Joe had informed Adam that we were coming and he had arranged for rooms to be prepared for us. I couldn’t help thinking how thoughtful that had been. This man has the potential to be a great alpha.

COUNCIL LEADER MICHAELS.

I was glad to see that everything was ready. I stepped onto the stage in the ballroom of the Alpha house and took my place in the centre. I looked out at the crowd that had gathered. I saw Alpha and Luna Rivers and gave them a polite nod. Stepping up to the mic, I got things started. “Werewolves of the Lakeside pack. As you are no doubt aware by now, there have been some changes to your leadership. Jason Stone is no longer your Alpha. He is under arrest for multiple heinous crimes. Some put you all in danger.” I paused for a

second while the room filled with gasps and mummers. "I would like to introduce you to your rightful Luna. The daughter of Alpha Jack Rivers and Luna Daisy Rivers, Luna Amber Rivers." I gestured for her to join me on stage. The crowd was cheering for her. "Ruling at her side will be her mate. He may be a beta by blood. Yes, I said beta, and I know that is news to most of you, but still, as I was saying. He may be a beta by blood, but there is not a shadow of doubt in my mind that he will be a great leader. I give you your new Alpha Adam Morris." I paused again to allow the crowd to greet him with cheers.

Turning my attention to the couple on the stage with me, I took their hands and joined them in mine. "I Council Leader and Member of the Supernatural Court officially name you Alpha and Luna Morris of the Lakeside pack. Rule justly and wisely." I felt the power surge as the titles became part of them. I gave them a reassuring smile and turned back to the crowd who were howling in joy. I will soon leave you in their capable hands, but first, a few more items. Beta Dean Stone has decided to step down and become Delta Dean Stone, This is in no way a punishment. He had nothing to do with his families actions. He has chosen this for himself and for his mate." I quickly performed the naming ceremony on him. Your former Delta had fled and is wanted in connection with his part in Jason Stones' crimes. "Gamma Neil Lewis will remain in place as your Gamma. All that remains is for Alpha Morris to choose his beta." I turned to him.

Adam stepped up to the mic and said "Thank you all for your warm reception and your acceptance of me, I swear to always do my best for Lakeside. That will be made easier by having the right man at my side as my Beta. If he agrees, I would like that to be Joe Morgan." The crowd whispered among themselves as most had no idea who he was. Joe stepped up onto the stage. Becky was cheering like crazy. Adam continued "Joe is the former Delta of Night Forest. He chose to give up that title and leave everhe knows to join us here in Lakeside after discovering his mate, my little sister Becky. He sacrificed his entire world so that she wouldn't have to leave her family. That sort of loyalty and heart is what will make him a perfect beta. Plus, I have felt a bond with him since we met, and Rusty has informed me that it is because he is meant to be my beta. So if he's willing, he shall be." The crowd waited for Joe's answer. "It would be an honour." He said proudly. I announced him as Beta and the crowd cheered. A ripple of energy spread through the pack as they felt their connection to their new leaders. We quickly swore the Morris family back into the pack, and then I told them to enjoy the rest of the evening.

I made my way to the dungeon, accompanied by council member Perry. There were more council members waiting there to transport our prisoners. Jason was in a bit of a state as we entered. His connection to Lakeside had been severed when Adam became Alpha. The other two were quiet. We cuffed them in silver and led them out of the dungeon to the vehicles we had waiting for them. I took one last look at Delilah and Chris, who had come outside to watch. Gave them a smile and a nod and climbed into the vehicle. I'm happy that Lakeside was being left in good hands, as was Moon River.