

A Pack of Their Own

I watched as we were driving away to go park 201

[1,037 words]

Chapter 201

BARRETT: I get up and tell Trent and the girls to follow me into the kitchen. When we get there, I see that Trever has Keska wrapped up in his arms and her face is buried in his chest. I see Mackie standing gripping the counter, I look at Trever, "You could have spared Mackie." I say to him. "I am sorry Mackinzie." He says to her in earnest. "I understand Trever. No foul." She say to him. I then turn to Amanda. "I see that you seem to have a problem with authority, and just who you are dealing with. I am heir to the Lycan throne, royal Prince Barrett, these are my brothers prince Trent, and prince Trever, these are our mates, Alpha born, princess Alisha, from Dark Moon, Alpha born princess Rachel, from Burning Ember and Alpha born princess Keska, from Blue Crescent, and even though Keska is still underage, Trever is not. Take a good long look at us, because you do not get to put your hands on the royal family, without paying consequences for doing so." "Your earlier indiscretion was allowed to be handled by your grandson as there was no direct contact between us, but now you have assaulted a princess, I will let your current punishment stand, but if you so much as speak disrespectfully to any princess or my brothers or myself, you will be turned over to miss Lilly's cousin in the royal pack, and trust me **he** won't care that you are a former Luna, the minute he hears that you disrespected his family he will tear you apart, starting with putting you in pure silver bracelets, and no I do not mean chain cuffs, I mean bracelets, just like your bangles, only just a bit tighter, closer to the wrist, and you won't be able to take them off." I tell her, and see her face pale.

SARAH: I was in the front pantry when I got hit with an alpha aura so powerful it put me on my knees, I linked the Alpha. "Alpha *kitchen now* please." That was all I was able to get out, it was so hard to even breathe.

DRAKE: James and I were in my office summarizing all the different information we received from all the different packs, on the war that was fought with Stone Claw in the past, the communication markings, how long they last, how far they reach, Stone Claw's tactics of recruiting rogues, and conquering smaller packs and absorbing them into their own, for major wars, or bigger battels. All that kinds of pertinent information, so it could all be in one place, if there ever is a next time, goddess forbid. When I got the link from Sarah. I basically run out of the office and practically fly down the stairs and head

straight for the kitchen, if Sarah is linking me then my mother is causing trouble. As soon as I hit the kitchen door, I feel an Alpha aura stronger than any I have ever felt before even from fellow Alpha's, that can only mean one thing, one of the princes' is pissed, and if it has anything to do with my mother I swear I am going to let them take her to the castle to let them handle her punishment. When I step into the kitchen I see all three of the princes there with their mates, including Kes. (when did she come back?) I think to myself. I feel the aura subside, and the staff start to stand, I catch the tail end of Barrett's introduction, of who he, his brothers are and all their mates, that's when it really hits home, Kes is a princess, she is mated to Trever. I shake my head at the realization of that fact. "What is going on in here?" I asked. "Your mother assaulted princess Keska as she was getting refreshments for Cousin Kina and ourselves." Trever states his voice harsh as he is staring at my mother. "And then she wouldn't let her go, and she claims not to know who we are." Again, his voice is harsh. I see Kes reach up and turn his head, so he is just looking at her instead of at my mother, both of their eyes are glazed over **so** I know that they are linking each other. I hear my mother's voice. "Drake is this true?" "Which part? The fact that they are the princes' or the fact that Kes is mated to him, (I nod my head in the direction of Trever.) it's all true, I thought that you kept up with thing in the royal family, how is it that you wouldn't know the princes when you see them, you can't tell a Lycan from a wolf?" I spit out at her. "And this is the second time that you have shown disrespect in their presents, if they wanted to send you to the palace for punishment, there is nothing I, father, nor Adrian would be able to do about it." I state. "and I would make sure that Jessie got the message loud and clear that you were in the palace cells for the disrespect that you have shown, so that she can understand that she too has made bad choices because of following in your footsteps." I turn to the princes' "My apologizes, again for my mother's behavior, if there is any added punishment, or if you would like to transfer her please feel free." I say to the princes'. "It is not your place to apologize for her misdeeds." Barrett says, "and we are not the ones **she** need to apologize to, she attacked princess Keska, it is to her she need to apologize to." I turn and look at my mother. "It's up to you if you are going to make things worse for yourself, or if you are going to apologize to Kes. That choice is yours to make, but just know I am not going to plead on your behalf if you make the wrong choice here." I tell her. I watch her and we all wait to see what she chooses.

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[707 words]

Chapter **202**

DRAKE: I can see that she absolutely does not want to apologize to Kes, but I don't care,

have the right to order her to the royal dungeons, either way her ego is going to take a hit, and I for one could care less, she needed this to happen a long it is either she swallows her pride and apologizes, or the princes' time ago. "Today mother." I state. "Fine." She huffs. "I apologize Keska, for pulling your hair. It won't happen again." She states in her haughty tone. I see Trever start forward, but Kes puts a hand on his chest, and he stops. "I accept your apology Mrs. Sutter, even though we both know you don't mean a word of it, I can see that you can at least swallow your pride, and that is what makes it all worth it in the end." I look to prince Barrett, is there any added punishment?" "She will serve the Royal table, and the alpha table at tonight's festivities, with minimal help, and when the meal service is done she will help with the cleanup, and then her night in the cells will start." Barrett says, "and if she so much as gives anyone an attitude, she will be immediately taken and sent to the palace dungeon." "Very good your highness." I state, I then turn to my mother, you heard him, that will be your punishment, and I will not deviate from it. Understood?" I say to her. She nods her head. "Good. Sarah" I call to her. "Yes Alpha?" "I assume you heard?" "Yes Alpha." "She has to do the work just as if she were one of the omegas, understand?" Yes Alpha." "Pick two people to help her so I and the princes know who to expect to serve the royal and alpha tables." "Christa and Mya. Alpha." I have both of them step forward, so that the princes' can see who they are. I then turn and leave the kitchen and go back to my office.

KESKA: I just take a deep breath after father leaves the kitchen, I step over to Mackie, "Hey, you ok?" I asked her. "Yeah, that was a bit intense, but I am ok." I hear Sarah start to give orders to the rest of the kitchen staff, "We are behind for the lunch service thanks to this little display of pride and ego. So, Amanda, you will finish what Keska started and take that tray out to the pool, your punishment starts now as far as I'm concerned." I have never heard Sarah be so angry about something, but I also know she runs a tight kitchen, and she hates it when things are running late in her kitchen. I am not going to argue with her, I take Mackie's arm and turn to Trever, and I lead the way back out of the kitchen. "What happened, what took so long?" Adrian asked. "Your Grandmother happened." Barrett said as we all sat back down by the pool. "Oh, goddess what now?" "No need to worry, everything is under control, I believe that by this time tomorrow she will either have learned her lesson or she will be in the royal dungeon." Trent says. Just then Amanda comes out carrying the tray that Mackie and I had started in the first place. And sets it down in front of Kina. "Thank you Mrs. Sutter." I say politely to her. She grits her teeth and nods her head, but does not reply. "Is there anything else that I may get for you?" She asked the group as a whole. She still has that underlying haughty attitude, but at least she is being polite about it. "Thank I think this will do." Barrett says. She bows her head in his direction and turns and heads back to the kitchen. "What is her punishment exactly?" Adrian asked. "She will be serving the royal table and the Alpha table for the dinner service tonight, and then she will help with cleanup, and then her night in the cells will start. She will not be present for the dance." "Oh wow, that is going to eat at her." Adrian says.

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[740 words]

Chapter 203

LISSA: “But what did Mimi do?” I asked. I still don’t like the fact they seem to be picking on Mimi. “She assaulted your sister, as she was fixing the tray of fruits and snacks for us, she came into the kitchen seen Keska, she used her wolf speed and came up behind her and grabbed her by the back of her hair and pulled her head straight back.” Trever says. “There was no provocation no words, or motions on your sister’s part whatsoever, and your grandmother just attacked her.” “Mimi always did hate Kes.” Liam says. “and now you know where Jessie gets it from.” He tells me. I am having a hard time thinking that Mimi would do it, but I am not going to call Trever a liar. “Lissa, come here.” Keska called me over to her. So, I go to her. She pulls up the short sleeve of her tee shirt, and takes my hand and puts it over the mark on her shoulder, “Do you feel the scars that are there?” she asked me. I can feel the raised and thick flesh under the marking. I nod to her. “Those are from Amanda Sutter; she dug her wolf claw’s into my arm twice. The first time was at Adrian’s swearing in, and Kina’s Luna ceremony, the second was here at James and Jessie’s graduation, remember Nana almost shifted into cinder?” Again, I nod at her, I do remember that. “I did nothing to provoke her in either instance, she just assaulted me for no other reason than the fact that she doesn’t like me, or she is jealous of me, or who knows what. I will carry these scars for the rest of my life, because I don’t have my wolf, so they won’t just heal, and she knew that, but did she care, or think about that when she did it? Make no mistake, Mimi Sutter is a bully, and one of the worst kind. She gets others to do her miss deeds, or gets them to believe that she is the victim, and what she is doing is justified. Again, those are her choices, nobody makes her choose them, she does it on her own, but now it has all caught up to her, just like it will catch up to Jessie.” “I am not saying this to make you hate your grandmother, I am saying this so that you understand that she is not always right in her choices, or her actions.” She says. I just hug her; I think I am starting to understand things better now. “What is this marking?” I asked her. “Trever and I volunteered to help father with an experiment.” “What kind of experiment?” “Trever can link with me.” She says. “No way! That is so cool, but it’s not the mating mark.” I say She nods her head. “Can I do it to?” “No, it’s not, and that’s why it’s an experiment, and you will have to ask father about that.” Kes tells me. “But it will be kind of hard because you don’t have your wolf yet.” She says. “Oh yeah. Thats right.” “But you don’t have your wolf yet either.” I say. “Trever has his Lycan, he marked me, so he and I can link each other.” She says. “Oh, yeah I guess that would work, if that is a thing.” “It is, that is why we volunteered to

try it, and to help father and the rest of the Alpha's know if it actually works, and it does.”
“That is Cool.” I say. She nods her head. 3

KESKA: We hear the bell for the start of the lunch service. I look to Kina. “How are you feeling?” I asked her. “I am feeling better, I think I can even manage having lunch in the marquee today.” I just smile and nod. We all head for the marquee to get lunch. I see Father, James, Janica, Wyatt and Lexi all in line just ahead of us, I sneak up behind James, no I am not butting in line, I am just going to get him and go back to my place with Trever. “HAPPY BIRTHDAY!” I say loudly right behind James and chuckle as he jumps. “Ohhh! Don't do that. And thank you.” I reach out to hug him, and he hugs me back. I then go back to my spot,

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 204

[669 words]

Chapter 204

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KESKA: with a grin on my face ha, I got him, for once. We get our plates and went and found tables in the marquee. In the middle of the lunch service father made the announcement about the dance tonight and that we didn't have a lot planned for the day because of the dance. “I would like to go run the obstacle course after lunch.” I say to our table. And then if anyone is interested maybe hit the archery range after that.” “You were only gone for what 2 maybe 3 days? And you can't stay off the thing?” Trent says with a chuckle “Have you tried it?” I asked him. “Just that one time when we were at Lilly's” He says. “Did you like it?” “It was kind of fun, I will admit.” “I have been on it since she put it up, I miss running it, it's a great form of teaching coordination, balance, and stamina.” I say to him. “And archery has been my go-to for stress relief, you guys have your training, I have my archery.” I say. “Most of you haven't seen Kes on the range, I can tell you I would not want to be a rogue caught in her sights.” Liam brags. “Liam, stop.” I reprimand him “It's not nice to brag.” I say. “plus, I told you before, Mitchell is the best shot we have, not me.” “I bet you could give him a run for his money, though.” Liam says, “I have never seen you shoot; I would like to.” Alpha Caron says. “I would like to see her shoot as well.” Trever says. “Maybe we can have a mini tourney!” Liam says getting excited “Liam how on earth are you going to do that, you have to be fair, for the contestants, how you pick them, how, and when they would shoot, I don't know that there would be enough time, between now and the dance, and somehow I get the

feeling that a lot of them will be leaving tomorrow either after breakfast, or lunch.” I say to him, I hate to take the wind out of his sails like that, but I just don’t know that there truly would be enough time left. “I’m sorry buddy.”

2

LIAM: I understand what Kes **is** saying I do, but I still think I can pull it off. I link Kent. “Hey Kent, are you busy?” “Not at the moment, but who am I speaking with here?” “Oh yeah, sorry this is Liam, I was wondering how many bows you have there?” “I have 10 bows. Why?” “Do you have enough arrows for all 10?” “I have a quiver of arrows for **each** bow I have, and each quiver holds about 15-20 arrows apiece. Why?” “I want to hold a mini archery tourney, and I want it to be as fair as possible, so I am checking on the equipment, I know that Kes wouldn’t be able to use her bow, or Mackie her bow, but if all your bows are the same, I could pull this off.” “I think we can accommodate that.” “great, see you in a bit.” I get up and go to the mic. “YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE! WE WILL BE REGERISTING PEOPLE FOR AN ARCHERY COMPATITION, SPACE IS LIMITED, ONLY 24 SPACES AVALIBLE ENTERY FEE IS \$10 DOLLARS WINNER TAKES ALL. Please see me AFTER LUNCH. I turn the mic off and go finish my lunch, ignoring Kes’s looks of irritation at me. After lunch I run and grab a pad of paper and a pen and go set up a sign in station at the back of the marquee so I’m not disturbing too many people that are still eating. I cap it at 24 people, because we only have just so many targets, and we need to put one target between each shooter. We can have 3 people shoot at once. And then check their shots for accuracy. 2

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[650 words]

Chapter 205

JANICA: I hear Liam’s announcement, I like archery so I think I will give it a go, why not. “I think I will join that tourney.” I say to our table. “Good luck.” Alpha Drake say to me. “Thank you, but why do you sound so skeptical?” I asked him.: “If Kes is joining or if Mitch is joining they are the best we got, and I don’t know if Mitch can beat Kes anymore either.” Alpha Drake says. (So maybe he has been paying attention to Kes, but just not in the way he should have.) “That’s ok, that is what competition is for, to put our skill up against others, and see where you rank, to insure that you work harder to get better.” I say. I go stand in the line to sign up.

MITCHELL: I hear Liam's announcement, now what is that little shyster up to, I wonder. But I have to join the competition, I heard what Kes did, with that rogue attack we had, and I want to see just how good she and Mackie really are. So, I go get in line to sign up.

KESKA: I look at Mackie, "Do we do this? And make him happy?" "It won't be like usual though; we will have to use the shop's bows and arrows." "I know, it's the only way to keep thing fair though." "Yeah let's do this, it will be good to find out where we actually rank, with everybody that will be signing up, especially if Mitch is one of them." She says. I nod and we go get in line to put our names in the running.

TRENT: I go get in the line to sign up for the archery competition, I'm not too shabby with a bow, and it will be good to see how well the packs stack up, especially with an impending war coming if everything we have read, and heard is true, then Stone Claw won't let it slide, of losing one of their own, even if she did find her mate. I know that Barrett will be doing a full investigation into them when we get home, to see if there are any other similar infractions against them, although I don't know that he will find them, but if there is a pattern of suspicious deaths, or missing persons, then we can overtly act, and maybe not have a war at all, but it all remains to be seen.

LIAM: Lissa comes to join me at the table and like before, she took a piece of paper and cut it into 24 pieces, and she number them. I had the contestants print their names on my list after drawing their number from Lissa, that way we had our order of how they were going to shoot, and I could just make up the brackets from that. Oh, this was going to be so much fun. We fill the slots pretty quickly, and had to turn a few away. I went to the mic and made the announcement that the sign up was now closed, so people would stop coming up to the table. I went over the list/bracket set up just to verify it.

Link from Wolf Lake vs. Marcus from Dark Moon Trent from Golden Sun vs Carl from Harvest Moon

Vance from Black Crescent vs Simone from Black Waters Daren from Black Crescent vs Mike from Wolf Lake

Janica from Dutch Wood vs Richard from Ranier Lake John from Midnight Sky vs Steve from Ranier Lake

Mitchell from Blue Crescent vs Rick from Burning Ember Larry from Cold Moon vs Darrell from Black Crescent

Star from Blue Crescent vs Mackinzie from Blue Crescent

Simon from Midnight Sky vs Blane from Cold Moon

Josh **from** High Crest vs Keska from Blue Crescent

Rex From Harvest Moon vs Colton from Dutch Wood

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[1,323 words]

Chapter 206

LIAM: I happen to look up and I see my pool instructor Thorne, "I hope that you didn't want to get in on the archery tournament, because it's full." I say to him "No, no archery for me, I'm just here to watch, I enjoy watching competition in most all of its forms." "Do you know when you are leaving?" "We will be heading out after lunch tomorrow." "Think I could get one more lesson in before you go?" "We should be able to manage that for you." Thanks." He just nods his head and starts walking to the archery range. Then I link dad. "I have some more money that needs to go into the safe." "Meet me at my office." I close the link. And head up to his office with the cash so he could put it in the safe, I fore got to have someone verify the amount, oh well. We all know that 10 x 24 is \$240.00 and as long as that is what gets paid out, I think we should be good. I head to the archery range after getting the money in the safe and set up a space so that I can watch the shooting. I asked Alpha Camron to be an impartial guest judge. I would like to say it could be me but there are too many people from my own pack involved in this, so it's got to be someone else. He agreed to do it. I am rechecking the list, and I notice my mistake, it's three people shooting, oh well I will have to adjust on the fly.

KESKA: I am looking around at the crowd, there are so many people here, my nerves are on edge. I'm not used to so many people watching me. I see Nana, Uncle Carson, and Beta Calen standing together, and I wave at them. They wave back "Good luck sweetie. Nana links me. I smile and give her the thumbs up. "You got this Keska, kick their butts." Uncle Carson sends to me. I just look at him, he has never used that kind of language before. He just gives me the thumbs up. I look at Mackie "I'm not going to lie, I'm nervous." "Me to, it's one thing when it's just us shooting, but not in front of all these people." I nod. Just then both Dutch and Trever appear out of nowhere and wrap us both up. "Don't worry love, you got this, you will be just fine, and you will do great." I relax in his arms, and I can feel the tension leave my shoulders. I nod my head at him. I can feel Mackie relax too, thanks to Dutch.

LIAM: I didn't realize that Kent had a speaker system for the range, this is going to make calling the contestants up to shoot and announcing the winners of each round a breeze. Yes! I call up Link, Marcus, and Vance to take their places, "we are shooting for

accuracy, the target distance is 30' each contestant will get two practice shots, and then you will shoot three arrows best 2 out of 3 bullseyes." I tell them. They each pick the bow they want to use, and take their places, they take their practice shots, once those have been retrieved, they shoot their three arrows Link hits three of three, Marcus hits close to the bullseye, but nothing in the center, and Vance hits the bullseye once. So, we lose Marcus and Vance in one round, Link moves forward. Next up is Simone, Janica, and Richard, both Simone and Janica advance, next up is Mitchell, Rick, Star. Mitchell hits all three bullseyes, Star only hits one, so we lose both Rick and Star. Next up is Mackie, Simon, Blane, Mackie hits all three bullseyes, Blane hits two, Mackie and Blane advance. Next up is Josh, Keska, Rex, Kes hits all three bullseyes, Rex hits two so we lose Josh on that round. Next up is Colton, Prince Trent, Carl, Trent hits all three bullseyes, Colton hits One. Prince Trent advances and we lose Colton and Carl. Next up is Daren, Mike, and John, Daren hits two bullseyes, John hits one, Daren advances we lose Mike and John. Next up is Steve, Larry, Darrell, both Steve and Darrell hit two bullseyes, so they both advance. This round it gets harder, the targets get moved back 10', so now the distance is 40' but it's still best 2 out of 3 arrows advance. Once the targets get set, I call the line up, Link, Janica, Mitchell, we lose Janica on this one. Next is Mackie, Keska, Trent, both Mackie and Kes land all three, and Tren lands two so they all advance. Then it's Darrell and Steve. Darrell lands two and we lose Steve. Again, the targets **get** moved back another 10' so now they are shooting at 50', first up is Link, Mitchell and Mackie, Mitchell land all three, and so does Mackie, Link lands one. Next up is Keska Trent and Darrell, Keska lands all three, Trent lands one Keska moves on. It's down to Mitchell, Mackie, and Kes, this is going to be a battle. Targets get moved back another 10', the three of them shake hands and take their places. Mackie lands two, Mitchell and Kes land three. Targets get moved, and the three of them take their places, this time we lose Mackie, **we** are now at 80' and down to Mitchell and Kes. I can hear some of the others around me making and taking bets on who's going to win this competition, If I could, I would put my money on Kes, even though she keeps saying Mitchell is the **best**, I haven't seen him on the range in a long time, and Kes and Mackie are here at least 2 if not 3 times a week. I see Mitch go over and he is talking to Kes. I wonder what that is about.

3

KESKA: This competition has been fun to watch, to see where everyone's skill set is. But I am not going to lie, I am nervous as all get out, it's down to Mitch and myself, I use to watch him, he was the one to inspire me to take up archery. It was something that was mine, that the twins couldn't take away from me, or ruin, with their snide comments, because they never came out here. Mitch comes up to me. "Hey Kes, Good luck, and don't you dare throw this competition, I want to see just where you are at. So, shoot your best. You understand me." I nod my head at him. "Can I give you a hug?" "Yes, kiddo you can **give** me a hug." I wrap my arms around him and just hold him for a bit, he hugs me back, but we both hear a growl from behind us. I turn and see Trever, "Stop, he isn't hurting me, and it's just a thank you hug." I tell Trever "No worries, prince, I am mated." Mitchell tell him as well, as he lets go of me, and **Trever** takes his place, and wraps his arms around me. Then Liam calls us to our places to take what is hopefully

our last round of shots, because I for one, am getting tired. And it's got to be getting close to dinner.

LIAM: I call Mitch and Kes forward to take their places. I announce the distance to the audience. Then I have them shoot. Kes lands all three, and Mitch lands **2** and that ends the competition with Kes winning the whole thing. I can hear a few grumbles coming from the crowd, but I am ecstatic. I run up to her and just wrap my arms around her, "See I knew you could do it." I tell her.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 207

[1,212 words]

Chapter 207

KESKA: "Congratulations" I hear from a few different directions, " Thank you" I answer, not actually seeing who was talking, as I had Liam in front of me and Trever behind me I really couldn't move. "Ok, guys, come on, let's head back to the Pack house, I'm tired and it's got to be close to dinner time. I want to get cleaned up." I tell them. They both finally let me go and we head back.

DRAKE: I was being kept abreast of the archery competition, so I knew Keska won, no I was not there to watch, even though I would have liked to be, there was still much to get done with making sure that everybody had their own copies of the compiled reports and information on Stone Claw, I was in the middle of a phone call to one of the smaller packs that we have a contract with when I got the message that Kes won. "I just needed you to be aware of how Stone Claw operates Alpha Tarence, and as your pack is a smaller one, please just be diligent." "We will Alpha Drake and thank you for the heads up on this." "Your welcome. Bye." I hang up as Liam knocks on my office door. "Come." I call out to them, as I know that Kes, Mackie, and Trever are with him. "Dad, dad, Kes won! Kes won!" "That's Great. Congratulations sweetheart." I say to her "Thank you." She says in a calmer voice than Liam. I get the money out of the safe and hand it to her, then close and lock it back up. "Go get cleaned up and rest a bit, they will be serving diner in a half hour." I tell them. And we all leave my office.

1

CARSON: I watch the archery competition with Lilly and Calen, I know that Calen's granddaughter is mated to Mitchell, "Sorry, he lost Calen." "Hey no problem. I am glad

that Kes won. She worked hard to get to where she is, and it shows, all the time she has spent on the range has paid off.” He says. “You have no idea.” Lilly says. “What do you mean?” I asked her. “A month or two back, she and Mackie were here shooting and because of them, very few people even knew that there was a rogue attack.” “The were able to take out 6-7 of them before they could breach the pack out right, and our guys were quick to respond to take out the rest.” She tells us, as we start to head back to the Pack house. On the way we meet up with my brother, Charles. “Did you catch the tournament?” I asked him. “Yes, I am glad Keska won, just don’t tell Amanda I said that though.” “Don’t worry I have no intention of saying anything to your mate.” I say to him. “If you are here to try to plead her case Charles, you’ve come to the wrong wolves.” Lilly says a bit harshly. “No Lilly, I am not here to plead her case, I know that she has to do her punishment. I have tried to get her to leave Kes alone, but she won’t listen to me either, so whatever happens is on her.” “You know, that if she dose try anything thing again, they have the right to execute her on the spot, are you ready to handle that possibility?” “I honestly don’t know, I know that it could kill me, after all she is my mate, but even I and Leo are getting tired of her constantly picking on our grand pup like that.” “Well let’s just hope it doesn’t come down to that.” I say as we are making our way back.

LILLY: I break off from Carson Charles, and Calen, and head to my home to take a quick shower and get ready for dinner. “Stephen we will be joining the rest of the family in the marquee for dinner tonight, so please wear something suitable, not to formal but a little dressier than casual.” I tell him. “Yes, miss Lilly.” I know I shouldn’t, but I just can’t wait to see Amanda in the staff uniform, hopefully she will learn from this, but I feel that like Jessie, it won’t phase her one bit. Oh well it will still be fun to see her in that uniform. [Don’t care what she wears, don’t trust her, around grand pup.] Cinder says in my head. [I know Cinder, I know, I don’t trust her either, that is why we are going to **be** eating in the marquee tonight, that and it is James’s birthday.] I say to her. She just sighs. Once Stephen and I were ready we head over to the marquee.

STAR: Once the Twins and I are cleaned up we head down to the marquee, I hope I can have a couple of minutes with Kes, I want to show her that footage from earlier this morning, I know she will get a laugh out of it. I catch sight of them coming in the door, and I hurry over to them, “Hey, do you think I can barrow you for a couple of minutes?” I ask **her**. “Sure.” I lead the way into the family dining area and over to a corner where we can be a little more private. “You need to see this.” I hand her my phone so she could watch what happened to Jessie. “Oh, my goddess! Are you kidding me.” “No, that is what happened.” “I would be so mortified; I am mortified for her.” “Well don’t be, she deserves everything she gets from here on out, He seems like a very dominate wolf, so if she doesn’t pay attention and toe the **line**, she could find herself on the receiving end of some harsh punishment.” I say to her. She nods. “Can you send me **a** copy of that, Mackie would get a laugh out of it. I know I definitely would not want to be in her shoes *if* that were to happen.” She says. This time I nod. “But we should get back in there.” Kes says. We both leave the family dining room, head back into the marquee and take our seats.

KESKA: This is **the** only meal of the whole ball that isn't buffet style, it's served because it's James's birthday, well Jessie's too but she and her mate left already. The marquee was changed up for this service, there are, two long tables set on either side of the marquee, one for the Alpha family on the other side is the Royal family, and their mates, I am sitting with the Royal family as I am Trever's mate, guess they don't care if everyone knows now, after what happened in the kitchen earlier, word travels fast. Everyone was celebrating James's birthday with wine, champagne, or something stronger, I would only be allowed one, so I opted for a Moscato. I would only get to have it for the formal toast. But if I were to be able to have the beverage of my choice, it would be mead, until then I have flavored water.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

I watched as we were driving away to go park 208

[1,187 words]

Chapter 208

KESKA:I don't know whether it's because she doesn't usually wait on others, and she is not used to it or if she is already drunk, but Amanda kept spilling the drinks when she poured them. Diner stared with a side salad and pureed squash bisk soup. Usually I am not a fan, but Sarah transformed the soup, and it was delicious. The main course was medallions of beef tenderloin, but again Sarah knows me, so she gave me the filet, air roasted vegetables, carrots, asparagus, whole green beans, and fully loaded **twice** baked potatoes. I don't really care much for potatoes, so I cut mine in half and gave it to Trever. Then it was time for the toast and the dessert, Amanda came around and refilled everyone's glasses and again splashing and spilling it all over the table, I just shake my head. Father gets up and makes the formal birthday toast, and at the end of it dessert was brought out to the tables, Cherries Jubilee, each table had their own, and it was flambe at the table, and just as ours was being lit, Amanda stumbled into our other server making her splash the rum and fire onto the table. Before anyone could say or do anything I put my hand into the flame and closed my fist, I put out the fire, before it had a chance to spread anywhere else. And as I looked up, Amanda was already falling to the ground dead, both Trever and Nana were covered in her blood, as her head was severed from her body, and her heart was ripped out from behind. We all hear a gut-wrenching howl, coming from the Alpha table, I turn to look, and poor papa Charles was on his knees clutching at his chest. I feel so bad for him, and for James, I look in his direction and see he is in shock, I head over to him. "James, are you going to be ok?" "Yeah I will be fine." "I am so sorry this happened on your birthday." I say with tears in my eyes, why does it seem that the people that hate me

have to ruin everything for others. I wrap my arms around him, and just hold him. He puts his arms around me, and holds me too. "Kes, it's not your fault." James says. Janica steps closer to us and rubs circles on James back to help ease his pain. I hear Adrian. "Well, I guess this will be the last event Amanda spoils." I see him going to help Papa Sutter up, and take him to his suite to rest, and be monitored by the doctor, because when a wolf loses their mate it could kill them as well.

DRAKE: I call for the cleaners to come and take my mother's body to the morgue, I will see if my father survives this crisis, if he does than he will decide what we do with mother, if not, than my brother and I will discuss burial or cremation for both of them, I don't know why she just couldn't leave well enough alone, I can truly see where Jessie gets it from. I walk over to the mic. "Please everyone continue to finish your diner, we will have this mess cleared away and then before the dance commences I will announce those that have found their mates, I will say that we had a very successful mating ball." I hear some applause coming from the rest of the marquee. I turn the mic off and head back to my table.

TREVER: Before I could react to anything, Havoc threw me to the back of my mind so fast I have a headache, and extended his claws and sliced through Amanda's neck. After he severed Amanda's head, he looks up and is looking into the eyes of Cinder. Then he returns control back to me. I turn to see Keska, she is putting out the fire, just by closing her fist in it, wait, what? But before I could check on her she had moved over to her brother James. I linked Barrett. "Did you just see what Keska did?" "Yeah, must be part of the hybrid aspect of her, that Lilly told us about, she did say she thought Kes might be both fire and water." "True." I closed the link and go over to Kes and James. I link Kes. "Love, come, I need to change, and I want you with me." I whisper to her through the link. She turns her head to look at me and nods. She disentangles herself from her brother's arms and comes over to me, I won't let her touch me as I am full of Amanda's blood, but I usher her out of the marquee and upstairs to the suite that my brothers and I share, I go jump in the shower and change into the first outfit I wore for the meet and greet, as I only brought the two suits with me. When I am cleaned up and dressed I come out and take her in my arms. "Trevor, why would she do that, why ruin James's birthday, she was told she would be in trouble." "We will never know love, everything that I saw of Amanda Sutter she felt that she was entitled, and even though my brothers and I are royalty, we all know that we serve the people, not the other way around. I don't know why she would do the things she did." I tell her. "But it's not your fault that Amanda did those things, they were all on her, not you." She nods. "This is the second time that she ruined something for someone else. She ruined Adrian and Kina's swearing in, and luna ceremony and now James's birthday." "It's unfortunate that she did that, but like Adrian said she won't be doing it again ever." "I just feel so bad for James, and Papa." "I know babe, but you can't blame yourself, for hers, or Jessie's actions, I know that we can't or don't like everybody, but you do have to show respect to a certain degree, and you don't pull the stunts that they did, and not expect to have to pay the consequences in some form or other. It may seem like Jessie got away with everything, but I have a feeling that she is going to have a hard time in her new pack, he doesn't seem the type to allow the types of things that she has gotten away with in the

past to happen in his pack, and I think he will come down hard on her.” I tell her. She nods. I walk over to her and take her hand. I want to see if she is burned, she looks at me questioningly. “I want to make sure you are unharmed, from the fire.” I say. “I’m good.” She says with a smile. My heart flutters in my chest at that smile. We head back down to the marquee.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

I watched as we were driving away to go park 209

[1,340 words]

Chapter 209

LILLY: I knew Amanda was up to no good, acting like she was drunk, we wolves don’t get drunk on human alcohol, unless we add a drop of wolves bane into the mix to subdue our wolves. I just kept an eye on her every time she was near Kes. I didn’t trust her in the slightest and I was right not to, thank the goddess that my instincts were right about Kes being both fire and water. I was watching Kes put out the fire through Cinder’s eyes as she had taken over my body before I could fully assess the situation and extended her claws, she broke through Amanda’s rib cage with one punch and ripped her heart out from her back before I could blink. When I looked up, I met the eyes of Trever’s Lycan. Both he and Cinder acknowledge each other before retuning control back to us. I link Stephen “Are you done?” “Yes Miss Lilly.” “Lets go home, I need to change.” “Yes miss Lilly.” We head out of the marquee and go home so I can shower and change clothes.

CHASE: I link Alpha Camron. “Oh, my goddess! *Did you see that, in one fluid motion, she broke that bitches ribs and tore out her heart!*” “Yes Chase I did see, *but you need to calm yourself, or go take a run.*”

“*I don’t know that I can calm down, I really got to see her in action boss, that was so amazing.*” “Yes Chase it was, *but you still need to calm yourself.*” “*I will try boss.*” I close the link, but I can’t sit still so I head outside just to get some air, hopefully that will help calm me

down some.

3

CAMRON: “Problems?” Courtney my mate asked me. “No, just Chase being his crazy enamored self, he is a total fan of Lilly Brookes, so anything she does, he goes nuts

over, and that was the one thing he has been wanting to see, is Lilly in action, and he got his wish." I tell her, and she just chuckles. "I will have to tell her just how crazy Chase got to see her in action tonight." Again, my mate chuckles.

DRAKE: I hear the murmuring, they were talking about mother, and Lilly, some even mentioned Trever, nobody mentioned Kes, but I saw what she did. I guess Lilly was right. Kes is both fire and water, I **just** never had the chance to test the fire aspect, before now. Even in death mother was the topic of conversation, but it will probably be the last time that she is. I checked in with James. "Are you ok son?" "Yeah, I'm fine, this will be a birthday for the record books though." He chuckles a little. "Sorry dad." He says to me. "No need to apologize to me son, it was your grandmother that caused this mess, and again she isn't here any longer to apologize for her misdeeds." "True, but she also won't be causing any more either, like Adrian said." "Mmm, and Jessie wasn't here to witness any of it. I just hope she doesn't try to pull any stunts where she's going, because I don't think he will tolerate it the way your mother and I did." "Well, if she does, then it's all on her, and she will finally pay the price, I at least am trying to be better, to do better for the pack's sake." I nod my head at him. "It's time I go and announce our mates." I tell him and go over to the mic. "Your attention please, I am going to announce the mated alpha pairs from the ball. I am going to start with Dark Forest, as they have already left, then I will go in alphabetical order by packs. Alpha Apollo mated to Alpha born Jessie Sutter, Blue Crescent. BLACK CRESCENT: Alpha Vance mated to Alpha born Roxy, Ranier Lake. BLACK WATERS: Alpha Simone mated to Alpha Marcus Dark Moon, Alpha born Courtney mated to Alpha Camron Harvest Moon, Alpha born Lex mated to Alpha born Renae Burning Ember. BLUE CRESCENT: Alpha James mated to Alpha born Janica Dutch Wood. BURNING EMBER: Alpha Rachel mated to Royal prince Trent Golden Sun, Alpha born Rick mated to Alpha born Elane, Black Crescent. COLD MOON: Alphas' Blake and Blane mated to Beta born Star, Blue Crescent. DARK MOON: Alpha Alisha mated to Royal prince Barrett, Golden Sun, Alpha born Mia mated to Alpha Link Wolf Lake. DUTCH WOOD: Alpha Colton mated to Alpha born Krystal Dark forest. GOLDEN SUN: Prince Barrett and prince Trent are fore mentioned, Prince Trever mated to Alpha born Keska Blue Crescent. HARVEST MOON: Alpha Camron fore mentioned. HIGH CREST: Alpha Josh mated to Alpha born Jasmine Wolf Lake. MIDNIGHT SKY: Alpha Simon mated to Alpha born Leasha High Crest. RANIER LAKE: Alpha Richard mated to Alpha born Sharon Midnight Sky. WOLF LAKE: Both alpha and alpha born have been fore mentioned. Some of the other ranked have found their mates. Many of the unranked have found their mates at this ball. Congratulations to all of our new mates. Let the dance begin." I turn the mic off and go to find my mate. "I will be happy to see them all leave." I tell Carla. "Yes, it's been an eventful few days, and we had planed for the full week." "Mmm, but with all the hullabaloo around Stone Claw, which was not expected, things will probably end tomorrow between breakfast and lunch, and I for one will be happy to get the house back." "I know what you mean."

LIAM: I look over at Lissa to see how she is doing after what happened to Mimi. "Hey, you ok?" "I don't know, why would she do that, I mean everyone seen that she did it on purpose. Does she, did she hate Kes that much?" "Apparently. I am sorry that you had to witness just how bad Mimi really was though." "It's not for you to apologize for." "I

know, but still I am sorry for you, I know how much you admired her.” “I was blind. I need to apologize to you and Kes.” “Thanks,; but I don’t think Kes would want you to apologize, she would just want you to recognize that Mimi was wrong and to not follow in her footsteps.” I tell her. “Do you want to go hang out by the pool? And let these guys have their dance?” “Do you think we could get some of the other kids to come?” “We can link them and see if they want to come have a pool party with us, I was even thinking of maybe having some of the orphans come, the ones around our age, wouldn’t hurt to get to know them.” I tell her. And she nods. We leave the marquee and go change into our swimsuits, and head to the pool. On the way down I link the head of the orphanage. “Mrs. Foster, this is Liam, I am wondering if it would be ok with you if some of the orphans from 12 to 14 come to the Pack house for a pool party, since the adults are having their party I figured we could have one too.” “Did you ask the Alpha Liqm?” “Not yet.” “Well don’t you think you should clear it with him first?” “I will.” I close that link and open one to dad. “Can Lissa and I have a pool party, with Demi and some of the orphans?” “Why with the orphans?” “Because they *get* left out of everything, so for once I just thought it would *be* nice to include them, they are still part **of** the pack, and some of them lost their parents in defense of the pack so they should be included.” “Yes go ahead.” “Thanks.” “Welcome.” I link Mrs. Foster back and let her know it was ok, and went to the pool.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 210

[1,296 words]

Chapter 210

Liam: There were about 8-9 kids from the orphanage that came, and the 3 of us, Lissa Demi and myself, we had a dozen at our pool party.

CHASE: I am still hyped, but I hear splashing coming from the pool area, so I walk back to that area to see what was going on back there. I see Liam and his twin enjoying themselves with some of the Pack kids. “Hey Chase!” “Hi Liam.” “Want to come join us?” “I didn’t bring any swimming trunks with me on this trip, or I would, I need a distraction right now.” “We have extra trunks in the changing area, go find a pair that fits and come join us.” “Are you sure your friends want an adult hanging around?” “It’s ok, besides your fun.” “Thanks, I think?” “You like Nana you have to be fun.” I laugh. Goddess this kid. I go into the changing area and find a pair of trunks that fit and go join the kid’s pool party.

LILLY: After I get cleaned up, I find Stephen in the front room waiting for me. “Let’s head back to the marquee, I want to see Keska, and Mackenzie to make sure that they are both ok, and that the trauma of seeing Amanda die like that didn’t do too much psychological damage.” I said. “Yes, miss Lilly. Umm, I think that your admirer was very enamored with your performance this evening, I saw his face as we were leaving, he looked like a kid in a candy store, all bright eyes, and smiles.” “Who was that?” “Alpha Camron’s man.” “Ahh yes Chase.” “Yes. I thought he was going to through himself at you as we were leaving.” I chuckle at that. “Cinder likes playing with him.”

1

KESKA: It was amazing, it was almost as if someone hadn’t just died in such a violent way, the place was so clean. Unfortunately, the linen tablecloth, didn’t survive the encounter, but I guess all things considered, losing the tablecloth was better than losing the whole marquee. The DJ booth was set up where normally the buffet tables would have been, and the marquee was transformed with a dance floor put down in the middle and the tables had been moved to surround it with like a foot of space between where the floor starts, and the tables were. The DJ announces the first song. “Let’s start off with one for all the new mates.” and he plays a slow one. Trever takes my hand and pulls me onto the dance floor. “Trever, I don’t know how to dance.” I tell him. “Don’t worry love, with this one you don’t have to, just let me hold you, and follow me.” He says. He pulls me in close to him and just starts to sway to the music. I sway with him. “Mmm, see.” He says. I nod. I look over and see that Dutch has Mackie on the dance floor too. I can’t help but think what my new normal is going to be like, with Jessie gone, and more than likely the ball will be over tomorrow, and everybody will leave, well except those that have mated in, that is. I don’t know what Trever and Dutch will do. I got use to sleeping, snuggled up to him, I am not sure if I will be able to sleep without him next to me now. I do know that Mackie and I will be starting our jobs at the restaurant. I will have to check with father and find out if we can get our license. I am a little scared, I’m not going to lie. “Hey beautiful, what’s wrong?” Trever whispers in my ear, it sends a shiver through me. “Are you going to leave tomorrow?” “No sweet stuff, Dutch and I are not going anywhere, I promise.” I just wrap my arms around him tighter and relax into his arms. The song ends and then the DJ kicks it up a notch and starts to play more up-tempo stuff, stuff that I don’t really know, I’m old school, I like more of the 80’s stuff, I like Prince, Morris Day and the Time, 80’s rock, Sugarhill Gang’s Rappers Delight. I have no clue about what is popular now. I just stop and shake my head at him. He nods and we get off the dance floor.

LILLY: We get back to the marquee in the middle of the first dance, and I see my grand pup on the dance floor with the prince, and I see Mackie with Dutch. When the song changes, I watch as Kes shakes her head and starts to leave the floor. I link her. “How are you?” “I’m good Nana. She didn’t physically hurt me, but if it weren’t for the fact that I have Corla the whole marquee could have burned down, how could she justify that.” “We will never know dear, but she will never do anything like that again, let alone hurt you again.” “Thank you, Nana, I love you.” “Love you to pup, and how about Mackie how is she doing?” “I don’t really know, I haven’t really had the chance to talk to her

yet.” “Don’t worry, I will check in with her, you enjoy yourself.” I see her nodding her head. I link Mackie “Mackie dear, how are you doing?” “I am good Nana, why?” “I just wanted to check in with you, to make sure you were ok, after what happened with Amanda.” “All good Nana, all good.” “Good to hear, enjoy yourself dear.” “Thank you, Nana.” “Welcome.” I close the link. And go find a table to sit at and watch the dance,

CAMRON: I see Lilly sitting at a table with Stephen, so I head in that direction with my mate in tow behind me. “Hello Miss Lilly, may we join you?” “Of course, Alpha Camron.” “Do you remember my mate, Courtney?” “Indeed, Luna Cortney, pleasure to meet you again.” “The pleasure is all mine, Miss Lilly.” “Where is your man, Chase?” “I don’t rightly know at the moment, but I do have to tell you, you made his night. He was so wanting to see you in action and tonight you delivered in spades, he was so ecstatic, he could hardly contain himself.” I tell her. She just laughs, “If he thought that was action, I would hate to see what he would think if I got into a real fight.” She says. I just nodded and chuckled. “Will you be leaving tomorrow?” She asked “Yes, I believe we will, I have to make arrangements with Courtney’s brother on where to send her things, but with this whole Stone Claw issue and the possibility of a pending war, I think it best that we do head out tomorrow.” “Then stop by before you go, so Kes can nip you, and I will have the herb bundle ready for you.” She says. “What exactly does her “nip” do? And what and how will I be immune?” I asked Lilly. Using finger quotes. “There are **3** things about Keska’s bite, 1 ice, she can **turn** someone into an ice statue, instantly, Death. 2 she can leave someone a pile of ashes, instantly, Death. 3 i believe that her bite carries a myotoxin, similar to that of a snake bite, it breaks down the muscle tissue, and if not treated right away, a very slow painful, and agonizing death, we just haven’t seen it manifest yet, the other two we have. And it may be that it may not be as bad as I think, but we don’t want to take chances with the **people** that **she** respects, and cares about.” She says.

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