

A Pack of Their Own

- I watched as we were driving away to go park 21

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[1,362 words]

KESKA: "I am not trying to do anything, so don't threaten me, Keska!" "I am not threatening anyone, I am just informing

you of the consequences of the situation, and the fact that there are witnesses to the crap that you are pulling to keep

Jessie's attention on you, she already has a punishment that she has to do, because she was caught bullying a student,

and why? Because you got too close and put your arm around her and Jessie saw it. That's on you." I tell him. "Just be

mindful of what you are doing." I turned and started to walk away from him. He grabs my arm hard, and I know it's going

to leave a bruise. "You are just jealous of me and Jessie, because I picked her instead of you." "Ha! I could care less who

you date Seth, it makes no difference to me, but what does matter to me is the fact that between the two of you, you

have put the pack in jeopardy of being given to someone else, and how do you think James will react when he figures all

this out for himself?" "As I said I could care less who you date, I just care about the pack, and my home, now let go,

before you get embarrassed." I tell him. "What are you going to do? Beat me up?" "No, but I will put you on the floor, if

you don't let go." I hiss at him, with a bit of anger in my voice. He let go, and I walked back to the front check out desk to wait for Nana. "Oh, thank you so much for your help this evening." I hear her say to the librarian. "Are you ready Nana?" I

asked, "I just need to check this book out, and then we can go." I waited for her to finish, and we left. "did you

accomplish what you set out to do?" "I hope so Nana I hope so."

KESKA: The next day Nana showed up in my history class to set Mr. Greyson straight on who killed the rouge Lycan, and

how it was done is a family secret, and will not be reviled to anyone but family.

KESKA: The rest of the week flew by without any more issues from Seth or Jessie, thank the goddess. Mackie and I kept

up our training with Nana. Now, just need to get through the next 6 weeks without issue, that's a lot to hope for I know

but one can still hope.

KESKA: Two weeks before graduation Jessie did make her apology to Betsy, she did it in the lunchroom in front of

everyone there and the few teachers that monitor the lunchroom. She stood on a chair and got everyone's attention,

"Excuse me but I need to have your attention please! I have an announcement; I need to make." Everyone went silent. "I

Jessie Sutter of the Alpha family do apologize to Betsy Wright, Omega, Freshman class." Typical Jessie, even her apology

sounded like an insult, but at least she did it. ("Now you can go tell Beta pierce I apologized in public.") I just turned to

go to my table after she made her announcement, so I could finish lunch and be ready for my next class. "Hey Keska! Don't ignore me!" I heard Jessie say from behind me. "I'm not ignoring you, what do you want Jessie?" "I just sent you a

link, and you completely ignored me!" "I didn't ignore you I did not get your link, what did you want?" "I told you to tell

Beta Pierce that I made my public apology." She sniped at me. "And what do mean you didn't get my link?" "I didn't get

it, and I was not the one to tell Beta Pierce anything in the first place." I tell her. "So, no I will not be the one to tell him

that you apologized. May I go have my lunch now or is there something else you wanted?" "You're lying you had to of

gotten my link!"

KESKA: "I think you are confusing me with** your** friends Jessie I am not lying I did not get your link." I say to her.

"Keep this up and I am going to tell mom, and dad." She spouts. "Go ahead, I didn't get it." I say to her. Her eyes clouded

over and the next thing I know James is linking me. "Now what is going on with the two of you?" "Don't ask me, I just want to go eat lunch and Jessie is griping about me ignoring her, I did not get her link." "Well try to link her and see what

happens." "James, I don't have time for all this nonsense I'm hungry, I'm going to get my lunch eat it and then get to

class." "Jessie I'm hungry I'm going to get lunch excuse me." I moved past her and went to my table to finish my lunch.

"What did Jessie want?" Mackie asked. "She said that I was ignoring her, and that she linked me, if she did, I did not get

it. And now she is throwing a fit about it." "What if she did try to link you?" "Still, I did not get it." "Do you think it might

have something to do with what happened a month ago?" "Well, if it does, then that's on her as well and she threatened

to tell mom and father, won't that go over just great, give her enough rope, but of course I know that I will get blamed

for that too." "Let's go to class and forget about all of this until it becomes an issue." She says.

KESKA: Last bell rings. "Yeah! Only 2 more weeks!" I say to Mackie as we head over to our bikes. "Hey Kes, do think we

should try to get real jobs this summer?" "Sure, what did you have in mind?" I asked her. "You know that human town

about 2 and a half miles away? Maybe we can go there and see if there is anything available." She says. "Ok sure, but we will have to come up with a schedule that we can both work so we can go together." I tell her. "We will need

transportation, other than our bikes though." "I know, but if we pool our money, I might be able to get the short fall from

Nana, as long as I promise to pay her back, we should be able to get a decent used car." She just nods her head. "We will

have to get our driver's license as well." I say. "I will start a search for a vehicle after training tonight." I just nod my head.

MACKIE: After we finish our homework and do our training with Nana, I set up my laptop and start a search for used

vehicles on the wolf web, and Kes is talking to Nana about helping us pay for it if needed. We both have continued to

help the senior population of the pack and have earned more than I think she realizes. "Hey Kes, I think I found one. It's a

private owner and they are asking \$8,000 for a 2022 Toyota; it says it has under 40,000 miles on it." "What's wrong with

it, that car should be more than that." "I will message the person and ask." I sent a message to the person, and kept

looking, not expecting to get a response right away. So, I was surprised when I got a message back. (Thank you for your

inquiry, the car belonged to my late wife, she passed away from cancer two months ago and I have no use for the car and

keeping it hurts, due to the memories. There is nothing wrong with it, I just wish to have it gone. H. Night. Dark forest

Pack.) “He says that it belonged to his dead wife and wants to get rid of it.” “Wow, if it’s true we just hit the jackpot. Do we have enough to get though?” she asked.

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[1,253 words]

MACKIE: I opened our bank app and looked at the balance, “we would need to barrow \$1,500 from Nana to get the car.” I

told her “And that will wipe us both out until we get our first paycheck from wherever we find a job.” “Go ahead Mackie

tell him that you will take the car.” Nana tells me. “I will buy it for Keska’s birthday gift.” We both just look at Nana.

“Nana that’s too much.” Keska says to her. “Nonsense, the twins’ got more than that, I will do this for you, besides

owning a car is more expensive than you think, you have to have insurance on it, and with both of you being students

that will be expensive, plus the upkeep, oil changes, maintenance work, preventive care, it all cost money. So, I will buy

the car.” Both Keska and I jump up and hug her. “Send the message that we will have cash for him, and we will be there

to get the car the weekend after next. As next weekend will be graduation.” She tells me. I send the message to him and

give him just enough information so when we get there, they know we are not rouges, or shady characters. JESSIE: When I

get home, I go to dad’s office and knock on the door and wait for him to answer. “Come” I hear him say. So, I entered the

office. “Can we talk dad?” “Sure honey, what’s up?” “Keska is ignoring me, I linked her today and she totally ignored me.”

“Did she block you?” “No just ignored me walked away from me with no response whatsoever.” I tell him “Were you to

fighting again?” he asked “No.” “what did you link her about?” “I made my apology today and I told her she could tell

Beta Pierce that I did it and she ignored me.” “I will talk to her about ignoring you, but it is not up to her to tell Beta

Pierce that you made your apology that is up to you to do.” He tells me. “Ok daddy.” I say to him as I get up to leave. I

hope he gives her more punishment the brat, it will teach her she can't ignore me.

DRAKE: “Keska where are you?” I link her. “At Nana’s” “I need you to come home now.” “Yes father.”(When did she stop

calling me dad?) I thought to myself.

KESKA: “I have to go home Nana; Father wants me for something.” “Alright dear, I will see you tomorrow” I wonder what

happened that he wants to see me for, probably to take on more of Jessie’s responsibilities, so that she can go “PLAY.” I

thought to myself. “Mackie, we will go to the range, and get some aikido work in tomorrow if I am not in trouble that is.”

I link her as I am riding home. “Ok.”

KESKA: I put my bike away, and I look around the garage with a new perspective of things, considering I will have a car

now I will need someplace to park it, but there is no room, at least not right now, maybe if Jessie finds her mate, then she

will take all three of her vehicles with her. I know, what does she need with 3 vehicles? One is off roading, she and James

compete with each other. Then her sports car, heaven forbid she does not have the latest sports car, and then her SUV,

for every day, when she is not riding with James. I walk into the house. And link father. “I’m here.” “come to my office.” Great now what did I do to get called to his office. I trudge up the stairs to his office and knock.

DRAKE: “Come.” I call out when I hear Keska knock, I know her scent. “Take a seat.” I tell her and watch as she walks over

to the chairs in front of my desk and takes the one closest to the garden window, which is mostly obscured by my

computer monitor. "Why are you ignoring your sister Jessie?" I ask her. "I'm not" "Then why was she in my office telling

me that you completely ignored her link this afternoon?" I ask her. "Because she's Jessie and she will do whatever she

can to get me in trouble or blame me for whatever she can blame me for." She deadpans. "She said she linked you, and

you ignored her." "If she truly did link me, I did not get it, and no I was not blocking, because James linked me at lunch

and I answered him, I got his link." She says. "Jessie link your sister, be nice about it, as I am going to keep this link open,

just ask her to bring you one of my pens." "Yes daddy." "Keska, are you with dad? Could bring me one of his pens?" I watch Keska closely; she doesn't seem to have heard her sister's request. "I am going to link with you Kes, and I want you

to link Jessie." I open a link with her, "Now link your sister." "Hey Jessie, do you want to join me and Mackie on the

archery range tomorrow?" Nothing from either one of them to the other. "Keska care to tell me how it is that you can't

link your sister?" I ask. "Ask Jessie." "I'm asking you" "The only thing that makes any since to me, is because I accepted

Jessie's rejection of me." "WHAT" I roared shaking the whole house. "WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU ACCEPTED JESSIE'S

REJECTION!" "About a month ago she was telling her friends how your mother rejected me at Adrian's ceremony, and

that she slapped me, her friend made the comment that they didn't blame her, who would want to be related to me

anyway, Jessie said not me that's for sure. So, I accepted her rejection and as per her request we are no longer sisters."

She just deadpans, again as if it were an everyday occurrence. I am shocked and stunned to say the least. "Carla dear, we

have a problem with our children, can you come to my office." "Of course, dear, but sort of problem do we have with the

kids?" "I will fill you in when you get here."

KESKA: "May I go now?" "NO!" "May I ask what my punishment is?" Father looks at me like I have two heads, when I

asked him that. Then there is a knock on the door. I can smell mom. "Come in dear." Mom comes into the office and

gives my father a kiss. I am just sitting there, waiting for whatever he decides to give me as punishment, for accepting

Jessie's rejection, ignoring Jessie's mind link, telling on her, and who knows what other offences he will tack on. "What's

going on dear?" mom asked Father, "Care to tell your mother what you told me Keska?" Father says. "Not really." "Why?"

"Because you will believe whatever Jessie tells you anyways so why should I bother?" I say to them both. "Just give me whatever punishment you deem fit for me ignoring her and send me on my way so that I can get it done." I say. "Keska!

Drake what is going on?" "Sorry mom, but you need to talk to father and Jessie, I just came here to get whatever

punishment Father deem fit for me, because I ignored Jessie, and she told on me.

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[1,408 words]

"There is more to it than that Keska." Father says, "I told you; you need to ask Jessie, I can't speak for her, nor would I want to for fear of getting something wrong" I say. "You are being very disrespectful right now, Keska, your father would

have every right to punish you for that disrespect alone." Mom states.

DRAKE: "Yes mom." she says and sits silently. I am just about at my whit's end with her. "Why won't you tell your mother

what you told me?" "Because you both will make me out to be a tattler and I'm not, so it's just best that you get the

story from Jessie, then give me my punishment." She states like it happens all the time. "Jessie come to my office please."

"Yes daddy." There is a knock on my door a couple minutes later. "Come." "You wanted to see me daddy?" (KESKA: I

open a link to James. "Are you busy?" "Not really, why?" "Just listen, I will keep the link open." Then I opened one to Mackie, "Just listen.", and then one to Nana "Just listen.") "What happened a month ago?" I asked Jessie. "I don't know

what you're asking about, lots of stuff happened a month ago." (JAMES: Shit, I can't save her this time it's too late to warn her.) "Think Jessie, it was around the time of the whole bullying issue." "Nothing but that." She states. "So, you maybe didn't reject your sister?" I asked her and watched her face. "Umm maybe, I don't remember, what's that got to

do with her ignoring me." "Do you remember her accepting it." "OH, yeah that kind of hurt, come to think of it." "You

put the pieces together Jessie, and then tell me why you think Keska ignored you."

CARLA:** "YOU WHAT? JESSIE HOW COULD YOU!" "Mimi did it."** She says. "You are not Amanda! Why would you

accept it, Keska?" "Why wouldn't I, I'm just supposed to accept the pain of rejection every time Jessie decides to get a

bug up her butt and that she doesn't want to be my sister anymore and makes a public announcement of it. No thank

you." "What do mean every time?" "It happens at least 3-4 times a school year mom. I just got tired of it, so I finally

accepted it and moved on, and if she hadn't come crying to father about "me ignoring her" she used finger quotes

nobody would be the wiser of it, except for James, Nana, Wyatt, Mackie, and her, maybe her two cronies. But all this right

here right now (she uses her hands in a circler motion palms down.) is all on Jessie, not me."** "You little bitch! I will get

you for this!”** Jessie yells and makes a lung towards Keska before anyone can react to stop her.* Shit now I know what I

felt a month ago, it was Jessie and Keska.*

KESKA: I knew that what I said would provoke Jessie, did I do it on purpose? Not really, it just had to be said, and I knew

she would come at me, and I was ready for her, I jumped behind the chair in order to give myself some space to defend

myself. Aikido is a defensive form not an offensive form. So, when she came at me, I just made her keep going right past me using her own momentum, and she landed on her stomach with her face on the floor. You could tell she was pissed,

and she was going to come at me again. Until Father roared using his Alpha voice. “ENOUGH!” Oh, shit **“sorry

everyone.”* I apologized. I closed the links that I had held open. Even though Father used his alpha tone I stayed on my

guard; I wasn’t going to take any chances with Jessie.

DRAKE: “Sit, both of you!” Jessie moves to sit in the chair in front of my desk. “Keska!” “Sorry Father I would rather stand;

I mean no disrespect in denying your request, but I would rather say on my guard, thank you.” She tells me rather flatly,

bowing her head and bearing her neck to me. “Make her sit daddy.” Jessie whines at me. “Enough! Jessie! Keska you will

sit!” Keska takes the chair closest to the garden side window and pulls it about 6 inches away from Jessie’s chair and

turns it slightly to watch Jessie better, rather than look at me. “Now tell me what happened a month ago Jessie.” “She got

in my business with that omega bitch that was trying to steel my boyfriend, we left them in the locker aisle and went to

lunch, after lunch we were in the girl’s bathroom and Dedi and Marla were asking about the bruise on her face, I told

them what Mimi Sutter said and did. We had a good laugh about it, and Dedi said she didn't blame Mimi who would want to be related to her anyways, I** might** have said not me, just in the heat of that moment." I looked over at Keska

to see her reaction to Jessie's statement, and nothing she sat there with no expression on her face whatsoever. "Keska,

did you hear Jessie say that to her friends?" "Yes." She deadpans her answer. "So, you thought it was a good idea to

accept Jessie's rejection without coming to your mother or me?" I reopened a link to both Nana and Mackie at this point,

knowing that I was going to get some form of punishment. "What good would it have done me?" she asked again with

no emotion in her voice and keeping her eyes on Jessie. "Keska stop being rude to your father!" Carla admonished her. I

also had noticed her eyes glaze over, so I knew she linked someone. "Who did you link?" I asked her. "Nana." "Why?"

"So, I won't have to explain why I won't be at training, because I will have some form of punishment." She says

KESKA: "How am I being rude?" I asked glancing at mom, then turned back to watch Jessie "I just asked a question, one

that I have asked over and over with the same answer NONE." "Do you remember Uncle Carson's Ginseng Ficus? I was 7

years old; it was two weeks after Lissa and Liam turned 5, it wasn't me that knocked it over, it was James and Jessie, but

because they both said it was me, then I guess it had to be me, right?" "I was made to apologize to him for something I

didn't do, and the whole time both of them were laughing about it." "I knew how much that tree meant to Uncle Carson,

he would use to talk to it and tell it that when it got to be a bit bigger it would go out to the garden and be the star of

the garden just like Great Grandma wanted. That was the first time I felt the sting of father's belt it was also the last time

that I apologized for something I didn't do." "Or how about when I was 8 James and Jessie were 10 and your crystal vase,

got broken? I wasn't even home when it happened, I came in just before you and father walked through the door, but

again because they both said I did it, well then hey I did it. I even have a witness for that day, did you see Delta Cole that

day when you came in? Probably don't remember, it was so long ago, he had just dropped me off. That was the second

time I felt the sting of father's belt. Or just last year, after they thought it would be fun to break Mr. Rickman's window I

spent two months working for him to pay off the cost of that window and spent every night for a week in the cells, and

again I felt the sting of Father's belt. The list goes on. Each time I thought he's going to ask me, right? But he never did.

So, I just stopped expecting it and just started asking what my punishment would be and how long it would last." "James

and Jessie have never felt the sting of Father's belt, but I have felt it more times than I care to remember." "So how am I

being

rude?" I asked again.

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[1,208 words]

DRAKE: "WHAT!" I roared "They broke that window?" I look at her then at Jessie.
(JESSIE: "James, Keska just told on us

about breaking old man Rickman's window." I linked him.) "I want the truth! Who broke that window?" "What's it matter

now for? It's not like you're going to punish them for it. Not when I have already paid the price and did the punishment."

(Not like you would or could take it back.) Again, she states with no emotion and keeps her eyes on Jessie. It's starting to

scare me a little, have I really broken her? "I just want to know what my punishment is so that I can go please." "There is

no punishment, Keska." I tell her. "Daddy!" Jessie whines. "What do you mean no punishment, there is always a

punishment when Jessie whines about something. I ignored her, that alone has got to be worth what? at least 5 lashes,

and a night in the cells to say the least." She again states it with no emotion to her voice or face. "Keska!" Carla

admonished her again. (Pup speaks truth, gives Alpha respect, but not father heart.) My wolf tells me.

DRAKE: "Jessie now that you have settled down, tell me have you put the puzzle pieces together yet?" I asked her. She

has a look of concentration on her face, which tells me she has not figured it out. "The only way you will be able to link

your sister is by a pack wide link, not just one on one, you rejected her she accepted, the link between you is broken,

Keska did not ignore you." "Keska you can go." She gets up and makes a wide berth around Jessie's chair as she leaves

the office. James, come to my office. There is a knock on the door. "Come." "You wanted to see me dad?" "Yes, take a

seat." I tell my son. "Did you know about Jessie and Keska?" I ask him "Not until after the fact." "You didn't think to tell

your mother or me? Would, you have stopped it?" "I don't think anyone could have. It was between Jessie and Kes I was

not going to be a tattler tale.” He says to me. “That didn’t answer my question, but by the answer you did give I know the

answer.” “Now tell me what exactly happened to Mr. Rickman’s window.” “It truly was an accident we were just horsing

around throwing a baseball back and forth, playing hot potato with it, and it got away from us.” “So, you decided to

blame your sister rather than taking responsibility for what you did. That is not a sign of a good Alpha James. Have I ever

shown you that you blame someone else for what you did?” “No father.” “I wonder what else you have blamed her for,

and she has had to pay the price for. Because you didn’t take responsibility for it yourself? That is not how you run a pack

James, and now if I can’t trust that you will take responsibility for your own actions you will not get this pack. Do I make myself clear.” “Yes father.” “I do want you to go and apologize to Mr. Rickman and confess to what actually happened, do

I make myself clear on that note as well?” “Yes father.” “You both have a lot to make up for, you both need to apologize

to your sister as well, and Jessie there is only one way to fix your rejection, but you will have to figure that out on your

own. You, my leave.”

KESKA: “Well that’s a first, but I am not going to let my guard down I don’t trust that something won’t happen, and I will

end up paying some form of punishment.” I say through the link to both Nana and Mackie. “But I will say good night and

see you both tomorrow.” I closed the link, and after everything I said all, he took away from it is Mr. Rickman’s broken window, I just shook my head, went to my room, and locked my door, I don’t trust Jessie.

JAMES: We walked a short distance from the office door, and I turned to her. “You couldn’t leave well enough alone could

you Jessie? Anything to get Kes into trouble, what is wrong with you? Now we have to go confess to old man Rickman,

about something that happened a year ago, that is going to look pretty damn stupid." I seethe at her. "How the hell was I

supposed to know that when a rejection was accepted that it would break the link? They didn't teach us that." She says

back. I just shook my head and walked away from her.

DRAKE: "I fear that I have lost Keska." I say to my mate. "Why would you say that?" "Because as she said I never did ask

her, her side of the story I just took the twin's word for everything. I never gave her a chance and now she won't even

take the opportunity to tell her side, she just accepts the punishment and won't even look at me."

CARLA: "I fear I am not much better." I told my mate. "Well, she at least still calls you mom, all I get from her is "yes

father, no father, you wanted to see me father." I don't get dad, or daddy from her anymore, just the cold formality of

respect, not the warmth of love and family." He tells me and I can hear the pain in his voice and see it on his face. "But I

guess we now know what happened a month ago, and what the rejection I felt was, I just wish she would have said

something." I said. "Would it have mattered? Like she said, it was Jessie. Maybe she did, just not to us." He says. "What

do you mean?" "Maybe she said something to your mother? After all she was linked to her." "I will check with her in the morning, but right now we need to get dinner."

KESKA: I had finished my homework and was just laying on my bed listening to a mix of some of my favorite music, of the

late 60's, 70's, and 80's, don't ask me why but there is something to be said for Peter Paul and Mary's "Don't think

twice.” Followed up by Richie Sambora’s “Stranger in this Town.” Then back to “Mahogany, and some Led Zepplin.” It

just kind of sooth me. It was about 6:30 when mom linked me. “Come down for dinner.” “ok” I got up unlocked my door

looked around, I didn’t see either of the twins’ I locked my door and went down to the kitchen. “Hi Sarah” I greeted our

cook. “Hello Kes, what are you in the kitchen for?” “Mom said to come down for dinner, so here I am, is there anything I

can help with?” “You go to the family dining room I can manage.” She tells me. I really don’t want to go into the family

dining room, but

I go and take my seat across from Liam at the end of the tabl

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[1,185 words]

DRAKE: “Graduation is a week away, your mother and I have decided to keep it a small affair, as we will be hosting a

mating ball for your 18th birthday, so think about who you want to be at your graduation other than pack members. Also

keep in mind that whomever you choose will more than likely be traveling twice in a very short amount of time.” Dinner

was being served during this conversation. “Mimi and Papa Sutter for sure.” Jessie pipes up. “Adrian and Kina would be

nice.” James says. “The Alpha and Luna from High Crest pack, Lukas and Jewel with their two kids Josh and Leasha” Jessie

chimes in. “What about Alpha Ty, and Luna Tara from

Cold moon Pack with their twins Blake and Blane.” Lissa says. The twins nodded at her suggestion. “Theres the Alpha and

Luna from Dutch Wood Pack Shane and Avery with Colton and Janica.” Liam puts his two cents into the mix. Again, the

Twins’ nod.

JESSIE: “Good, I think that is a good mix of people and nobody is fighting with anybody in that grouping, it should be

fun.”

CARLA: “Keska is there someone you wish to add?” I watch as she looks at me like I have two heads. “No, why would I?

this is for James, Jessie and Wyatt, if anything you should be asking him who he wants, it has nothing to do with me.”

She says with no emotion to her voice at all.

JESSIE: I make a sour face at mother’s question to Keska, and I feel a link push at me from James. * “Stop it Jessie,

everyone else has added someone, leave it alone.” “This is for us not her, she shouldn’t get to have a say.”* I close the

link.

LIAM:* “Kes, what’s wrong?” “Ever since you and Lissa were 5, they have ignored me, and now suddenly, they want my

input? Why? It’s going to take more than asking me who to invite to something that is clearly set for James and Jessie,

No thank you.” “You can tell me if there is someone you want invited.” “Nice try Liam, and thank you, but no, if they can’t

think of one of the most important people that should be at this event I am not going to tell them.”* She closes the link

to me. I opened a link to mom. * “Mom what’s going on with Keska?” “Dear there is an issue between Jessie and Keska,

and it’s not good. Why is she being mean or rude to you?” “No, just not her usual self is all.” “Sorry dear, just give her

some time.” “She did say that you’re missing someone important from the guest list though.” “Did she say who?” “No.” *

I closed the link.

LISSA: I opened a link to Liam* “Why is Keska being such a bitch!?” “She isn’t being a bitch, but if you had to put up with

Jessie dumping all her shit on you how would that make you feel? And Jessie has been getting away with it for years,

Keska is just standing up for herself finally and you are calling her a bitch for it? What’s wrong with you?” “What are you

talking about? Jessie hasn’t done anything!” “No? Then why does Keska have to do a week of hard training with the elite warriors and Jessie got off easy with no cheerleading? Does that seem fair to you? Or weren’t you paying attention? Plus,

Kes loses a week of summer break to have to do that hard training, and if you think that Jessie hasn’t done anything, go

hang with Jessie for that week and see what she does.” “You’re just being mean towards Jessie and sticking up for that

brat.” “And what you just said about Kes constitutes as bullying, but you don’t bully right?”* I just closed the link and

glared at him.

KESKA: “May I be excused? I am done.” I had to get away from the tension filled atmosphere in the dining room. I felt like

I was choking. I noticed that Lissa was glaring at Liam I opened a link to him.* “Liam don’t fight with Lissa; she will take

Jessie’s side of things, and you will end up on everybody’s shit list.”* I close the link. I know that there was a lot of linking

going on at the table, but I was keeping my mouth shut, I wasn’t going to be the reason that Jessie and James were

going to protest about me wanting someone at** their** graduation party, plus I was trying to figure out how I was

going to survive the night in question without any issues with the twins’ in question.

DRAKE: I am watching the linking going on at the table, but I am not going to interfere with any of it. Then Keska asked

to be excused. "Yes." Is all I can say to her, I just don't know how to reach her right now. I watch as she gets up with her

dishes and heads towards the kitchen. I feel exhausted from the day's events, and I just don't know where to turn, to

even start to get a handle on things.

KESKA: I wake up the next morning, go to my bathroom and do my business then head downstairs for breakfast. "Good morning, Sarah." I say as I enter the kitchen. "Good morning Kes." "I was wondering do you have the menu worked out

for the twin's graduation?" "Not yet, I don't know how many extra are coming." "Oh, I thought they would have given

you that last night, they were discussing it at dinner, but anyways I am here to offer mine and Mackie's services to be

kitchen help that day and service help for the evening." "And how does Mackie feel about you offering her services

without her knowledge?" Sarah asked raising an eyebrow at me. "She won't mind, it will keep us busy and out of sight

for the most part of the party goes, you know, out of sight out of mind." I quipped at her. Just then the kitchen door

opens, and mom comes in.

CARLA: "Sarah I would like to have breakfast in the family dining room this morning." "Yes Luna." "Keska, what do you

have planned for the day?" I asked her. "Well Mackie and I were thinking of going to do the rounds, checking on the

seniors, and then maybe head over to Nana's to run the obstacle course." "What do mean, check on the seniors?" I asked

her a bit confused. "Mackie and I run errands for the seniors that are house bound, and those that don't necessarily want

to do the errands themselves." She says with a nonchalant tone in her voice like she has done it for years. "How long

have you been doing that?" "Since we were 9 and could handle a shovel." Then she turns and takes the juice pitcher from

Sarah and walks out of the kitchen. Leaving me staring at her back, shaking my head in wonder.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 26

[1,248 words]

CARLA: "After breakfast Sarah I want to go over the menu for the twin's graduation party." "Yes Luna, Keska had mention

that to me." Again, I stood dumbfounded, at how she was on top of everything. I left the kitchen and headed to the

dining room. I linked the kids and Drake Breakfast is being served in the dining room this morning. I soon hear them all

coming downstairs.

DRAKE: "So, what does everyone have planned for today?" I asked to the table at large. "My friends and I are going to

the mall to do some shopping for the party." Jessie states. "Are you going to take Lissa with you? "Sure, if she wants to

come with us." "James what about you?" I asked him "Wyatt and I are going to be with next year's team, practicing and

then yeah we will probably hit the mall to see if we can find something new." "Are you going to take Liam with you?"

"Happy to take him." "Thanks, but I really don't need anything new, there are things that I haven't wore much so I can

just pick something from my closet." Liam states. "Are you sure?" I asked him. "Yeah, dad I'm sure, besides I will probably

need a whole new wardrobe before next school year, so I will save you guys some money.” “What do you have planned

to do today then?” “I think I will hang out with Keska and Mackie today.” That totally shocked me, I was not expecting

that, and from the look on Keska’s face she wasn’t expecting it either.

KESKA: “I’m not going to be doing anything interesting today, Liam, are you sure that you really want to hang out with me?” I asked my little brother. “Yeah, I’m sure.” I link Mackie “Hey, are you ok with Liam tagging along today?” “Yeah, I

guess, if he really wants to.” “Not supper sure but he says he wants to.” “Does he know that he will have to ride his bike”

“I will make sure he knows.” “Liam we will be on our bikes all day today.” I tell him at the same time I closed the link with

Mackie. “Ok, cool.” I just shake my head, with a half grin on my face. I open a link to Nana “Nana, Liam will be with

Mackie and Me today.” “That’s fine dear.” I close the link.

LIAM: I noticed that dad didn’t ask Keska about going shopping, or even what she had planned for the day like he asked

everyone else. I am starting to see why Keska calls him father and not dad, he treats her differently.

KESKA: With breakfast over I take my dishes out to the kitchen and rinse them. “Ready to go Liam?” I asked him. “Yep,

let’s go.” We hop on our bikes and head over to the Gamma’s residents to pick up Mackie. “We’re here.” I link Mackie.

“On my way.” She comes out a couple minutes later.

CARLA: “Sarah, we will be hosting High Crest, Cold Moon and Dutch Wood Packs for the twin’s graduation, it will just be

the Alpha’s, Luna’s and 6 Kids well they aren’t, kids anymore either.” “Is there anything special that you would like me to make for the celebration?” “I would like that flank steak that you make, cut into strips and wrapped around cheese cubes

in hors oeuvres portions and the gourmet crackers. Dinner will be your famous chicken in white wine sauce with all the

trimmings.”

LIAM: “Hey.” “Hey Liam, why did you want to come with us today?” “I just wanted to hang with Kes today and didn’t feel

like being around James.” “Ok, but we aren’t going to be doing anything special today.” “I know, she told me.”

KESKA: “Let’s get going, I think Mrs. Cranston needs her herbal supplements refilled today.” “Ok.” They both say at the

same time.

CARLA: After I went over the menu with Sarah I linked mother. “Are you busy?” “Not at the moment, why?” “I need to

talk with you about Keska.” “Ok, but I don’t know how I can help with anything that might have to do with her.” “Did she

tell you that Jessie rejected her?” “Yes she did the day it happened.” “Why didn’t you tell us?!” “Would it have done any

good? You would have stood up for Jessie and the results would still be the same as they are right now. You and Drake

have let the older twins walk all over the two of you, and you are letting the younger ones do the same as well, at least

Liam will be worth his birth right, because as far as I can tell James is not.” “Mother!” “What? I only call it like I see it, and

right now I don’t see much in James, hopefully when he goes through his Alpha training he will grow up and take

responsibility for his actions, because if not this pack will go downhill fast.” She closes the link on me.

LIAM: By lunch I was tired and hungry, my legs hurt from keeping up with them all morning, they not only refilled Mrs.

Cranston's supplements, which was a trip to the pharmacy and back which was 4 blocks one way, but then they each mowed two lawns, albeit small, but two none the less, then helped clean two other houses, again albeit small, and with

each new place we went she introduced me to the pack members, then they were done. I don't even think James could

have kept up with them, and they each got paid around \$20 to \$30 dollars after every job even though they said no

every time. "Now what are we going to do?" I asked. "We go put our money in the bank and then we go to Nana's for

lunch and run the obstacle course." Kes tells me. "What obstacle course? Nana doesn't have an obstacle course." I say to

her. "yes, she does, and she is teaching Mackie and I how to run it, and every few days she changes it up on how we have

to run it." She tells me. "Ok let's go, I'm hungry." They both just chuckle at me.

KESKA: after spending the rest of the afternoon at Nana's running the course, and coaching Liam through it, we parted

ways with Mackie and headed home. "Did you enjoy your day?" I asked Liam "Is this what you guys do every weekend?"

"Not every weekend, but yeah most weekends, different pack members different small tasks, keeps us busy and out of

trouble for the most part." I tell him. "Can I come with every weekend?" He asked with that bit of excitement to his voice.

"I think we can manage that." I tell him. We reached home in time to clean up and have dinner.

CARLA: I hope things have calmed down after yesterday's chaos, I just want a nice quiet dinner with everyone at the

table and no fighting, but with the situation between Jessie and Keska I don't know if that will happen, and after my

conversation with my mother, I just don't know when everything got so out of hand with the two of them. Shaking my

head I call them all down for dinner. I did tell Drake what my mother said, he was not happy that she didn't inform us and

let us be blindsided by everything.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 27

[1,249 words]

DRAKE: I am the last to enter the dining room, I want to see how they interact and how they treat each other, before I

enter the room, I see that Keska waits to sit after everybody else is sitting, then she moves to take an empty chair away

from everyone. I just shake my head, the only one that has interacted with her is Liam. "Well did everyone have a good

day?" I ask as I enter the dining room.

"Well, I believe next year's team is going to make a strong showing." James says, "Good it helps to build self-confidence

if you can win one or two right out of the gate." I say. "And how did your shopping trip to the mall go? Did you fine

anything for graduation?" I asked him "Yeah both Wyatt and I found nice suits for the ceremony and the party." "Good,

and how about you Jessie, Lissa did you have any luck shopping?" "Yes we did, I hope you don't mind but I asked Jessie

if we could bring Demi with us, and she didn't mind." Lissa states. "No dear I don't mind as long as everyone got what

they wanted." I tell her. "I think Jessie went a little overboard, but yeah we had fun." She says with a grin on her face.

“Hey, I did not go overboard.” Jessie states. (KESKA: I knew father would ask Liam about his day as well, so I sent him a

quick link. “When father asks you about your day just, please tell him we ran an errand for Mrs. Cranston, he doesn’t

need to know what it was, everything else is up for grabs.”) “Ok, ok, no arguing.” I chuckle at the girls. (LIAM: After

getting Keska’s link I was waiting for dad to ask me about my day.) I then turn to Liam “And what did you do today?” “I went with Kes and Mackie, we ran an errand for Mrs. Cranston, helped the Blanchard’s, Joesph’s, Case’s, and Wentz’s with their yard work and then helped the Preston’s and Seabury’s turn their mattress’s, and clean their homes, dusting,

and vacuuming. Then after all that we had lunch with Nana and ran the obstacle course.” “That was a full day, you did

good, I commend you going help the elder pack members.” I say to him.

JAMES: “Sence when did Nana get an obstacle course? And how come I didn’t know about it?” “I don’t know, ask Nana.”

Liam answered, “But Mackie, Kes, and I had a blast running it, and Nana would change it up on us just to keep us on our

toes.” Liam says with excitement in his voice. I look at dad, “did you know that Nana had an obstacle course?” “Actually, I

did, I seen part of it when I gave your sisters their punishment last month.” I link Kes. “How long have you known about

the obstacle course?” “Since she put it up, the Monday after Adrian’s ceremony.” “Why didn’t she say anything?” “I don’t

know that is something you will have to ask her.” “And you have been working on it this whole time?” “Yes.” “Why didn’t

you say anything?” “Not my place, if Nana wanted you to know I’m sure she would have told you.” I close the link. I feel

hurt that she didn’t let me know about it.

LAIM: “Hey Kes can I hang out with you again tomorrow?” I asked her. “I don’t care, but it won’t be like today was,

Mackie and I have lessons tomorrow, and then we will go to Nana's, so I don't know how much fun that will be for you."

She tells me.

DRAKE: "What lessons are you talking about?" I asked her. "I am taking a martial arts class." "I don't recall getting a bill

or receipt for a martial arts class, nor signing any type of permission slip for one." I said to her. "That's because I didn't

need one, and I am paying for it myself." She tells me with no emotion to her voice. "How are you paying for it?" "I have

been doing odd jobs around the pack for years and have gotten paid for them." Again, she answers in my direction

without eye contact or much emotion.

LIAM: "Cool, can I come watch? Maybe I might want to take it to if I see how it's done." I say to her. "I will have to ask the Master." (Liam, there is something you must understand, it is in the human world, not ours, that is why I didn't say

anything about it, I know father wouldn't have let me do it otherwise.) I just looked at her, I was shocked.

KESKA: I knew father wouldn't let me go to the human town, and if he realizes that I have been sneaking out to go there I will have a punishment all my own. Oh well at least I will have earned that one on my own. "May I be excused? I am done

with dinner."

DRAKE: "Yes." Is all I can say to her. Since dinner is done, I link our head warrior "Mitchell do we have any martial arts

classes anywhere? That you know of." "No Alpha none on pack lands technically, there is a dojo about a half mile up the

road it's that old storage warehouse that the human's use for a while and I believe, that it's on pack land but not sure,

that's run by an old Chinese master." "Thank you, Mitchell." "Your welcome Alpha." (I am going to have to put someone

on Kes just to find out what she does, where she goes, she clearly is not going to tell me anything by asking her.)

KESKA: I link Mackie. "Hey Liam wants to come with tomorrow, I know I will have to call Master Cho, to get his permission

but what do you think?" "I don't mind." "Oh, and I might be in trouble again, only this time it's all on me." "What

happened?" "Me taking the Aikido class came out at dinner, and because it's in the human realm, there could be

repercussions." "Well, we will just have to wait and see I guess." "Yeah. I'm going to call Master Cho to ask him about

Liam." "Good luck." I close the link and call Master Cho. "Hello?" "Hello, Master Cho? this is Keska." "Yes, Keska what can

I do for you?" "My little brother wants to sit in on tomorrow's class, I told him I would have to ask you." "Can he sit

quietly and not cause an issue if his sister gets put on the mat?" "I will make sure he knows." "Then I do not mind if he

comes to watch." "Thank you, Master Cho." "Welcome." "Bye." "Bye." I opened a link to Liam. "I called Master Cho; he

said that as long as you can sit quiet and not make a fuss when I hit the mat he doesn't care if you come to watch."

"Thanks, Kes, and I'm sorry if I got you in trouble." "Hey, don't worry about it, if anything comes of it at least it's all on

me, and not something James or Jessie did. But I have some studying to do, I have a couple of finals on Monday." "Yuck."

"I know." I chuckle at him and close the link. I study for my final until around 8:30 then go to bed

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 28

[1,246 words]

DRAKE: After breakfast I link our best tracker.* “Darius, I need you to follow Keska, I want a full report on where, what,

and when. Make sure she doesn’t catch you. Got it!” “Yes Alpha.” *

KESKA: Liam and I head over to Mackie’s to pick her up for Akido. “We are going to be on our bikes again today, are you

going to make it?” I asked Liam. “I will be fine.” He tells me. *(“Did you know you have a shadow?”)* I got a link from Mackie. *(“Was not for certain, but figured it was going to happen.”)* “Ready?” I ask out loud. Both Liam and Mackie

acknowledge yes, and we take off for the dirt road that cuts through the copes of trees that run behind the cottage

houses. Once we get close to the border we take a path that Mackie and I have made over the years by continual use, it

runs right up to the barrier of the border, there is a small gap that we wedge our bikes through and then crawl through

and get out on the road about 50 yards up from the gate, and head for the dojo that’s about half mile up the road from

the pack gate.

LIAM:* (“Keska, we are being flowed.”)* I linked my sister. *(“I know, Mackie caught him before we even left, just ignore

him, I’m pretty sure Father set him the task of following me.”)*

KESKA: We make it to the dojo in about 20 minutes, after we hit the paved road. We entered the dojo, I showed Liam the

boys locker room and rest room, then pointed out the girl’s locker room and rest room. “Mackie and I have to change

into our Gi’s, you can go sit on the bleachers, and when we come out, I will introduce you to Master Cho.” I tell Liam.

“Ok.” And he walks back to the front of the studio.

KESKA: After Mackie and I got changed we head back out front. I walked over to where Master Cho was waiting to start

class. "Master Cho." I bow to him. "Yes Keska?" "I would like to introduce my brother to you if I may?" "Of course it would

be an honor to meet him." I waved my brother over to where we were standing. "Master Cho, this is my little brother

Liam, Liam this is Master Cho." I made the introductions. Master Cho shakes hands with my brother. "I trust you can

observe quietly young man, and not cause a scene?" "Yes sir." "Good, you may go take your seat." We spent the next 90

minutes learning our form and moves and counters, takedowns, and submissions. Then after class Mackie and I practiced

for our next belt color for about a half hour. When Master Cho said that he had to get ready for his next class.

LIAM: "Now what are we going to do?" I asked the two of them. "We head back home and hope we don't lose our tail." Mackie states and Kes just laughs. "Ok let's go, hey by the way when do we eat lunch?" They both laughed at me.

"What? I can't help that I'm a growing kid." I state. "Come on, let's go." Kes says. We jump on our bikes and head back

home. At about 50 yards up from the gate they slow down and catch the path that was barely visible, back through the

barrier, and when I thought, we would head to Nana's they took the dirt road to the right. "Hey where we are going?" I

called out to them. "Archery range." Kes calls back.

DARIUS: As soon as we get back on to pack lands I link the Alpha* "Alpha we are back and yes she did leave pack lands,

but not too far off, just a half mile up the road, I watched through a window and she is indeed taking an Akido class, and

now they are headed to the archery range." "Stay with them until they either come to the pack house or go to Lilly's."

"Yes Alpha."* I close the link.

KESKA: I know we still have our tail, I have caught his shadow, not really him, but I am not going to say anything. "Hey

Kent, we need to rent a couple bows today and the arrows.” I call out to Kent as we enter the shop and head over to the

counter. “Be right there.” Kent calls back. “Well, hey Keska, you said you needed to rent them today?” He reiterates as he

comes from his storage area. “Yeah, we were at the dojo this morning and we can’t have weapons with us there. So today we need to rent them.” “Ok here you go, and let’s hope we don’t have a repeat of last month.” He says with a chuckle.

“What happened last month?” Liam asked. “There was a rouge attack, that if your sister and Mackie hadn’t been here to

catch early we would have probably lost some lives, but thanks to their quick thinking very few people even knew about

it.” Kent tell him. “Wow that is so cool.” He says. We practice for about an hour, then turn everything back in and head to Nana’s for lunch and to run the course.

DARIUS: *Alpha they are headed to Miss Lilly’s.* I link him.* “Ok, Thank you Darius, I may need you again next weekend

I’m not sure yet.” “Ok Alpha.”* I close the link.

KESKA: Last week of school yeah! I have two finals today and the rest of the week is just a sail through. Friday will be

graduation, then two weeks after that is my 16th, birthday, and a week and a half after is James and Jessies 18th that and

the next month will be Lissa and Liam’s 14th. I just want this week to be over with so I can get to My punishment, I know

that sounds crazy right? Who wants punishment, but when it involves training I’m all for it, bring it on, and we will also

be going to get the car, I have to ask Nana if I can store it at her house until maybe Jessie finds her mate, I still don’t trust

Jessie not to try and mess with it, knowing that it is mine. I get up and go to my bathroom and do my business and get

dressed, head downstairs and get breakfast. “Good morning Sarah, what’s for breakfast this morning?” “I have bacon wrapped medallions, scrambled eggs and toast.” “Sounds yummy.” Sarah smiles at me. I help set the island up for

breakfast and then help Sarah serve. I head out to meet up with Mackie and head to school.

KESKA: After my two finals (which were basically testing to make sure I was ready for my junior year.) the rest of the week

flew by. Both James and Jessie apologized to Mr. Rickman about breaking his window.

MR. RICKMAN: "Thank you for the apology young Alpha, but you should have come forward before now! You need to

apologize to your sister for making her take your punishment, she never did apologize for it, come to think about it and

always said she did not break my window, but she did everything I asked, told, or needed her to do for two full months.

Did you know that? You have lost some of my respect young Alpha."

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 29

[1,417 words]

JAMES: "I understand Mr. Rickman, and no I did not know that Keska had to work for you for two months, I and Wyatt

will come work for you for two months after graduation, before I leave to go do my Alpha training."

KESKA: It remains to be seen if they apologize to me, but I'm not going to hold my breath over it. Friday is pretty open

and free flowing, and no one cares whether you're in school or not. The Alphas, Lunas and their kids have started to

arrive for the ceremony and party after words. I am more curious about my week of training though; I send a link to

Father.* “Father?” “Yes Keska?”* (I am surprised, and a little shocked at getting a link from her.) *’’May I start my training

tomorrow?’* (Shit I had forgotten about her punishment, and I guess I was thinking everyone else had as well, especially

after everything else, I should have known better with Keska, I am tempted to dismiss it all together but that will cause

issues as well I think.) I wait to hear back from him, I wait for about 5 minutes. I Link him again. *’’Father?’ “No Kes you

can start on Sunday.” “Ok thank you.”* Ha! Saving face in front of company. I link Mackie. *’’Hey, are you busy?’ “No”

“Want to come help with setup?” “sure, why not I have nothing better to do.” “Thanks, because I already offered up your

services to Sarah.” “Ha I figured as much.”* I chuckled as I closed the link.

MACKIE: I put on an ombre peach colored sun dress that goes into a rich mauve, it has a scooped neck and is an A frame

and comes to my knees. I brush and braid my hair, it’s the color of dried hay on a summers day, and I have light brown

eyes, in a square shaped face. I don’t do makeup. I put on a pair of cream-colored flats and head out to my bike, and

head over to the pack house to help get things set up.

KESKA: I put on a sage and light green paisley scoop neck A-line dress, the best thing about it, it has pockets I brushed

out my hair pulled the top and sides back into a clip paired it with a pair of cream-colored sandals and headed

downstairs and reported to the kitchen. “Hello Sarah, reporting for duty, and Mackie is on her way.” Sarah just chuckles at me. “Shouldn’t you be out front greeting the guest?” “Why? None of them want me out there, and all the guests know

about me, so if someone wants me I’ll get a link from someone. So put me to work.” She hands me a tray with some of

the meat and cheese cut up on it and sends me out the door to the family dining room to place it with the rest of the

trays of food. There are a verity of fresh fruits with a sweet cream whip for dipping, there is a tray of fresh vegies with a

whipped butter milk dip, and now the meat and cheese tray. I was turning to head back into the kitchen when Mackie

came through the door with party decorations and streamers. "Sarah said we need to put these up in the game room."

She told me. "Ok let's go." Most of the decorating was done just a few last-minute small things, like the small streamers,

and putting out the plates and cutlery for the hors d'oeuvres.

LIAM: "Keska where are you?" I link her. "Helping with last-minute set up's, why?" "Shouldn't you be out here with the

family greeting the guest?" "Liam, look at father does he look stricken that one of his kids is missing? Or mom for that matter?" "No" "exactly they have left me out of things like this for so long that it is habit for them I am not going to

change it, I can do more good by making sure everything is set for when they walk through the door and that's when I

will greet them." "Well get ready then because Mimi, Papa, Adrian, and Kina are coming in now." "thank you." I close the

link.

ADRIAN: I can see that Keska is not with the rest of the family to greet us when we get out of the vehicles. I shake hands

with my aunt uncle and cousins, "Where is Keska?" I ask "She is waiting inside" Liam answers me. I am more and more

disappointed in them. "Thank you Liam." "Welcome." I turn to Kina "Let's head in." and I take her by the hand, and head

for the door.

KESKA: We had just finished with the streamers in the pack game room when the front door opened and in steps Adrian

and Kina. "Wow she is pretty." Mackie links me. "Yes she is, I will introduce you, come on." I link her back. I step over

to Adrian and Kina. The minute Adrian sees me he wraps me in a bear hug. Chuckling I say "Adrian, I missed you to, but

there are introductions to be made, and I don't want Kina to bite me." I tease him, looking over at Kina, I see she is

almost laughing. He lets me go. "Luna Kina this is my best friend, (I sign) (and gamma.) Mackie, short for Mackenzie."

"Nice to meet you Mackie, do you sign as well?" "I am learning Kes is teaching me. Nice to meet you as well Luna Kina." Mackie says to her. As she is talking to Mackie I sign to Adrian that I have news he will want to hear/know, and it is about

the ELDER MRS. SUTTER. "What is it?" He signs back. "I plan on accepting her rejection so be ready for some fall out. I

was thinking I would wait for the twins birthday, but I think I will do it tonight." I sign back.

ADRIAN: I sign back to her, "Kes, don't start trouble." "I don't plan on starting anything, I plan on finishing what she

started a month and a half ago. She does not want me as a grandchild, I don't want her as my grandparent, and since

Uncle Carson isn't going to be here now is the time to do it." She signs back to me. "What do you mean Uncle Carson

isn't going to be here?" I sign to her "I guess just like me they forgot about him to." She signs. "Oh, and don't be

surprised if Nana Lilly starts something though, she was pissed, when I told her what Amanda did to me. The scars have

faded some, but are not gone." She shows me her right upper arm. "There is more but it will have to wait, I have to great

the others." She signs to me. I link my mate *"This trip just got very interesting, Keska just told me she plans on accepting

Mimi's rejection, and that Uncle Carson is not here. There is going to be some fireworks." "I hope she knows what she's

doing." "Oh, she definitely does, Lilly Brookes is not someone that you want to piss off, and Mimi has done that in

spades.” “Wait, Lilly Brookes is here? From the Brookes family?” “None other, and when you look at Keska you are seeing

a younger version of Miss Lilly.” “I would love to meet her, and it sounds like this is going to be an interesting trip

indeed.”*

KESKA: Dutch Wood were the next to enter, and I greeted them and made the appropriate introductions between the

Alphas, Lunas, and their children, it’s strange to call them children, as they are between 17 and 19 years old. “Alpha

Adrian, Luna Kina, May I present Alpha Shane, Luna Avery, their son Colton and daughter Janica, they are from Dutch Wood Pack, Alpha Adrian and Luna Kina are the new Alpha and Luna of Moon Rise Pack.” They greeted each other with a

handshake. High Crest Pack were the next to arrive. Again, I introduce Adrian and Kina to them, “Alpha Lukas, Luna Jewel,

this is Alpha Adrian and Luna Kina from Moon Rise Pack, and these are Josh and Leasha, Lukas and Jewel’s kids.” They

greeted one another with handshakes. And the last to arrive was Cold Moon Pack. Alpha Ty, and Luna Tara already knew

everyone in attendance, so no introductions were needed with them.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 30

[1,236 words]

KINA: I approached Keska, “Will you introduce me to your grandmother?” I ask her. “Sure, I can do that.” Her eyes glaze

over so I know she is linking someone. “Done, Nana will be here shortly, now that all the guests have arrived. When she

gets here I will introduce you to her.” She says. “Thank you.” Then I sign to ask her “Does she really know how to kill a

Lycan?” With a chuckle she signs back “Yes, she really does, and she is teaching me, but sshh don’t tell anyone that.” I

just smile at her.

KESKA: I excuse myself from Kina to check on the table, I noticed that we needed to replace the fruit plate and refill the

dip, so I pick up the fruit plate with the dip bowl on it and head to the kitchen. “Sarah, we need more fruit and dip” I say

as I enter the kitchen. “It’s in the last refrigerator, and the dip is in the big gallon jug marked with an F on it.” She tells

me. I busy myself refilling the bowl with the dip and take a fresh fruit tray out of the fridge and head back out to the hors

d’oeuvres table.

KESKA: I came out of the kitchen with my hands full and headed over to the table when the ELDER MRS. SUTTER blocked

my way. “May I please pass Grand Dame Sutter?” I asked, and then I linked Mackie* “Please get Adrian, I’m just outside

the family dining room with a tray of fruit in my hands and Amanda is going to start trouble.”* I tried to step past her so I

could continue to the dining room, but she kept stepping in my way.

**“GRANDMOTHER!!” Step aside and let Keska

pass.” Adrian roared out. Drawing everyone’s attention to her. “Adrian dear no need to yell, I was just making sure that

she wasn’t trying to poison us.”

DRAKE: hearing Adrian’s roar I headed out into the entry way to see what was going on. I see mother, Keska with a tray

of fruit and Adrian. “What’s going on here?” “Your mother is being her typical bitchy self” Adrian says to me. I am

shocked to hear him talk like that about his grandmother. "Adrian! That's no way to speak about your grandmother." I

say to him. "Oh, and I suppose that letting her bully one of your children is ok, is it? Didn't you make a promise to Uncle

Carson about bullying? I do believe that that also included your mother!" I look at Keska, and motion for her to continue

to the dining room. "Mother, please leave Keska alone. Or are you trying to get the pack taken away from us?" I say to

her. "She is just helping the kitchen staff today." "Drake darling, I would never try to get the pack taken away from you,

dear. Never."* Shit I think I just figured out who is missing from the guest list, and Keska knew it all along. Well as she is

fond of saying give them enough rope and they will hang themselves. I will have to call Carson. I open a link to Carla.

("Dear, I figured out who is missing, and that Keska knew it all along, it's Carson.") ("Oh, shit you are right Liam did say

that she said we were missing someone important from the guest list.") ("Yes and now we know who, I will call him and

see if he is anywhere close.")* Just at that moment the door opens and in walks Lilly, not the person I want to see at the

moment, as I am in the middle of dealing with my mother and I know she doesn't like her.

LILLY: I walked in the front door of the pack house to see Alpha Drake, Alpha Adrian, and that BITCH Amanda, even

Cinder my wolf does not like her, and lets out a low growl. ("Cinder stop, we need to play nice for a short time, play our

cards right and then when the time is right we will help Kes when she accepts her rejection.") I say to my wolf. ("Only for

our grand pup.") She says back to me. I nod to Alpha Drake and to Alpha Adrian. I link Keska. *"I am here dear."* I see her

come from the dining room with a very pretty Blond with her. "Nana!" She comes to give me a hug, and I see the

disapproving look on Amanda's face. "Hello dear." "Nana this is Luna Kina, Adrian's mate, Luna Kina this is my Nana Lilly

Brookes." She introduces us. I offer my hand to the Luna. "Miss Lilly it is an honor to meet you." "It is very nice to meet

you as well my dear, please tell me what is your home Pack?"

DRAKE: As Lilly is talking to Adrian's mate I lead mother into the dining room. "Please do not start trouble mother." I say

to her. Then I take out my phone and call my Uncle Carson. "Hello?" Carson answers his phone. "Hello Uncle, are you

anywhere close by chance?" I ask "Not really, I am down in the southern part of Wisconsin, why?" "We are having a small

gathering for the twins graduation tonight. I am sorry about the short notice, but we have been rather busy with a couple

of financial business issues, on top of the party preparations." I tell him.

KESKA: After bringing Kina out to meet Nana I go to the kitchen to check in with Sarah, and she hands me a pitcher of

lemon ice water to take to the dining room, as I walk in I hear my father on the phone. *"Sorry Father is that Uncle

Carson?"* I link him. "Hold on a minute Carson." "Yes it is." He says to me. "Will you please ask him to come for my

birthday?" I ask father to ask him. "Carson, Keska would like for you to come for her birthday." "Tell her I will be there,

and as for the twins' graduation, I am sorry, but I will have something for them when I come for Keska's birthday." "Ok

Carson and again I am sorry about the short notice."* (there wouldn't have been a short notice, but that's on them.)* I

think to myself. I turn to walk out of the dining room when I feel a pain in my upper right arm again. "OWW!" I screech.

Which brings Adrian, Kina, and Nana into the dining room, and makes my father turn to see the elder Mrs. Sutter with her wolf's claws buried in my arm.

LILLY: I was talking with Luna Kina, "I am originally from the Dark Moon Pack." She answers my question, we were just

outside the dining room when I heard Keska scream. I storm into the dining room, and I see that bitch with her claws in

my grand pup. "YOU WILL TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MY GRAND PUP!" Cinder roars at her. I was pushed to the back of my

mind before I could even assess the situation. "What? She was being disrespectful to me, and was not listening, I asked

her to please pour me a glass of water, and she ignored me." "I said remove your hand, or I will remove it from your

arm!" Cinder growled at her. "Cinder p

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 31

[1,389 words]

CARLA: I hear the commotion coming from the dining room along with everyone else in the house, and I make my way

there to see what in the world was going on, I thought that I might have heard my mother's wolf, and if that was the case

I knew there was going to be trouble, Cinder is a very laid back wolf, so when she makes an appearance there is hell to

pay. "Cinder please give control back to mother." I say very calmly to her. "NOT UNTIL SHE RELEASES MY GRAND PUP!"

she growls. "Amanda let go of Keska now! Cinder will not stay calm for long." I tell Amanda.

James: I was in the middle of a game of pool with Wyatt and the twins from Cold Moon Blake and Blane when we heard

the roar of a wolf. "Who was that?" Wyatt asked. "remember when you thought that you piss off Nana?" "Yes." "Well

Nana is Piss off now, that was Cinder, Nana Lilly's Wolf, and who ever pissed her off better know what they are in for, she

can still hold her own with some of our warriors." I tell them as we make our way to the dining room where everyone was. When we get there we all see Mimi with her wolf's claws dug into Keska's arm, and Cinder about to take total

control of Nana Lilly. *"What's going on James?"* Jessie links me.* "Mimi just pissed off Cinder, by picking on Keska."* I

link back.*"By the goddess why can't she just go away somewhere and stop causing problems for us. This is supposed to

be our day, and she has to steal our spotlight, I hope Mimi teaches her a lesson."* Jessie links back. I just close the link on

her, she will never change, I am now starting to see where Jessie gets it from and I let her manipulate me, I don't like that

I let it happen so easily to myself, is it because of the twin thing? I don't know, but I do know that I have to be stronger

then that from now on.

KESKA: Mrs. Sutter is not letting me go, I was going to wait to do this but in order to try and keep Cinder from shifting I

accept her rejection. "I Keska Sutter of Blue Crescent Pack do here by accept your rejection Amada Sutter of Moon Rise

Pack per your request I am not your grandchild." She let out a long harsh wail and dropped to her knees, letting go of my

arm in the process. I just walk over to Nana and Cinder. "It's ok now Cinder, you can let Nana come back." I say to her.

She sniffs me, sniffs my arm, then she raises the cap sleeve and just licks my arm, until she has calmed down enough, and

the bleeding has stopped, that is when I noticed her eyes change back.

DRAKE: Now I know where Jessie gets it from, my side of the family, My mother is a narcissist hell bent on always having

her way, I can see why Uncle Carson was leery of letting me have the pack. I am disgusted with my mother. "Adrian,

please link your grandfather to come to the dining room to take his mate to their room." I say to my nephew. A couple

minutes later my father come into the room "What the hell is going on in here!" "Keska just accepted mothers rejection."

I tell him. I don't even try to disperse the on lookers, mother always wanted a scene so now she has one, I link Carla

"Take your mother and Keska to the kitchen and see to her arm please." "Yes dear."

CARLA: I approach mother and Keska very calmly; I do not want Cinder to feel threatened. "Mother let's get Keska to the

kitchen where we can attend to her arm." I say to her. "I will take her, you can stay and deal with that bitch, but if she ever

lays a hand on my grand pup again I will end her." She says to everyone present. I flinch hearing her say that.

LILLY: I don't care that Charles heard me, I meant what I said, I will! end her. I walk Keska to the kitchen. "Sarah please get

me the first aid kit." I say as I walk into the kitchen. "Yes miss Lilly." " And you were finally fully healed from the last time

she did this." "I know Nana." Sarah come and hands me the kit. I start to clean Kes's arm with peroxide and then I put an

antibiotic ointment in the claw marks. "I know this is going to hurt some, but it has to go into the wound to be effective."

I tell her. "I know." She says between clenched teeth.

JAMES: We were all stunned when we heard Nana say what she did. Grandfather was helping Mimi up to get her to their

room to rest. I had no idea that Mimi had clawed Kes, I know she slapped her but not clawed her. I know she rejected her

as well, I guess Jessie has company now. "Come on Guys" I say. I don't want to be around Mimi anymore. "Did you bring

your suits?" I asked them "We can go to the pool and chill before we have to get ready for commencement." I say, "and

link your siblings to join us." I link Jessie *"The guys and I are going to the pool, see if the girls want to join us."*

JESSIE: I was sitting in the garden with Leasha, Janica, Marla, Dedi, and Star when all the roaring and rucks happened. I

linked James to ask him what was happening. I kept the girls out of it, I knew that Star would take Keska's side, and so would Janica and I didn't want my day to be ruined by that little bitch's tantrum, so I just said that it was probably some

of the warriors training outside. And kept them away from going to investigate. When I got the link from James that the

guys were going to go to the pool I asked the girls if they wanted to go, some of them got links from their brothers. We

decided to join the guys at the pool.

GIRLS: Collectively we got links from our brothers, except for Star. We all asked what the heck happened? James's

grandmother Mrs. Sutter almost started a fight with his other grandmother Miss Brookes. They told us. So now we know

that Jessie mislead us, not actually lied but deliberately mislead us. But we all decide to join the guys at the pool. (STAR: I

link Mackie *"What is going on?" "Amanda just dug her wolf claws into Keska's arm, and she cried out in pain, which

brought Nana Lilly to her rescue and well Amanda is in deep shit with Miss Lilly!" "We are going to the pool are you

going to join us?" "It's better that we don't, see you at dinner."* I close the link)

CHARLES: I helped my mate to our room to rest before we would go to the high school for the commencement

ceremony. "Are you happy now?" I asked her "You had to cause a scene and look what happened to you. Are you even

going to be able to go to the ceremony?” “How dare that little bitch reject me!” my mate seethes at me. “She didn’t

reject you; she just accepted your rejection of her. Now you know what that feels like and you can’t undo it.” I say to her.

“Not to mention you have severely piss off Lilly Brookes.” “Oh, who cares about her, she is nothing!” “Nothing! Lilly

Brookes is nothing, you don’t have a clue about who she is do you?” I asked her. “No and why should I care?” “Because

my sweet mate! Her family is the only ones that have killed a Lycan. Do you understand that? Her family hold a position

on the royal guard, to the royal Lycan family. So, when she said she will end you, I do not believe that there will be

anybody that could stop her.” I tell her “So for my sake leave Keska alone.”

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 32

[1,139 words]

KESKA: After Nana cleans and bandages my arm I give her a big hug, I just hold on to her, and let the tear fall. She holds

me and rocks me like a small child, till the tears stop. “Nana may I go run the course? I will take Mackie with me, just until

they all leave to go to the school, then I will come help Sarah with dinner.” “Of course, my dear.” “May I take Adrian and

Kina to show them?” “Of course, you might even want to take Liam as well.” “Thank you Nana.” “Welcome sweetie.” I turn

to Sarah, link me please when you start on dinner, we (I point to Mackie and myself.) will come help.” I say to her. “I will

make sure to do that." She tells me. I then link Liam *"Are you having fun?" "Not so much." "Do you want to go to Nana's and run the obstacle course?" "Yes Please!" "Meet me and Mackie at the front of the pack house in 5 minutes, we might have a surprise." "Ok, I'll be there."* I close the link and go in search of Adrian and Kina.

DRAKE: After father took mother to their room I look around the dining room, and see the faces of some of our guest. I

don't even try to make excuses for what just happened. "Mother has always been an excentric scene maker, and leaves

everyone else to clean up her messes. I am sorry that you all had to witness that, but please lets go out and join the kids

at the pool and enjoy ourselves until we all have to make our way to the school." I say to everyone. I link Carla,* "Have

the omega's move the hors d'oeuvres table out to pool side." "Alright dear."*

KESKA: I go in search of Adrian and Kina, and not finding them I call Adrian. "Hello." "Hi, would you and Kina like to join

Mackie Liam and me? We are going to go over to Nana's to run the obstacle course she has in her back yard." "Hold on

and I will ask her." (Kina dear, Keska is on the phone and wants to know if you would like to go to her Nana's house, she

has an obstacle course from what I understand." "I would absolutely love to go; it could be fun to try the course

ourselves and it might prove advantageous for training." "Where do we meet you?" at the front door of the pack house

in about 3 minutes." I hang up and Mackie and I go to my room and change out of our dresses and into shorts, tee shirts

and cross trainers, and head downstairs to the front door. Liam is already there and a minute later Adrian and Kina show

up. Nana comes walking up behind us all. "Are we all ready?" she asks the group assembled. We all answer "Yes." And

head out.

KESKA: On the walk to Nana's, I tell Adrian about what happened with Jessie and that I accepted her rejection as well and

now she can't link me. "Why didn't you tell me that?" Liam said. "Because I didn't want you influenced by what was

happening between me and Jessie. She is still your sister, even though I broke our bond by accepting her rejection." I tell

him. "And you have already felt the rift it has caused with your argument with Lissa that night at the dinner table. I don't want you fighting with them because of me." I tell him. We spend the afternoon running the course, Nana has a target

set up at the very backend of the course. It looks like an oversized stuffed wolf's head on a wood pole dressed in

oversized raggedy clothes stuffed with hay and straw. "Now this time Kes, you are going to make your way to the target

as quietly as you can, and from as high as you can. Do you understand?" "Yes Nana." I say to her. I run the course with

everyone there watching me. I get about 2/3rds. Of the way up the last pole and I make a leap to the target, I grip it as

hard as I can as I end up sliding down to the ground.

LILLY: I look at everyone, "now you know how my grandfather killed that Lycan so long ago. I would appreciate it if you

kept it to yourselves." Those present nodded at me.

ADRIAN: I receive a link from my grandfather. *"where are you? It's time to leave for the school." "We will be right there; we were spending time with Miss Lilly at her house."* I link back. "Time to go dear." I tell my mate. "Thank you so much

Miss Lilly, it's been a pleasure spending time with you, I hope to see more of you in the future." My mate says to our

host. "The pleasure was all mine. I will see you at the school." She says and we take our leave.

LILLY: "It's time girls, Liam to get ready to go." "Do we have to Nana?" Liam whines at me. "Liam! Yes we have to, it's

your brother's and sister's graduation ceremony, if you don't go you will end up regretting it in the end. Not to mention

that they will not let you forget that you did not go." I tell him. "Nana, Mackie and I have to go back to the pack house to

change." Kes says. "Stephen will take you, then come to get me and we will pick you three back up in 10 minutes, so

hurry and be ready." I tell them. "Stephen" I call out. "Yes Miss Lilly?" "Please come and take the kids to the pack house."

"Yes Miss Lilly." I watch as they drive away, then make my way to my room where I change into something a little dressier

for the commencement ceremony. And make sure that I am ready when Stephen comes back.

KESKA: We get back to the pack house, Mackie and I go to my room, and Liam goes to his to change. Mackie and I put

our dresses back on that we had on earlier in the day and Liam changes into a pair of casual slacks and a button-down

shirt that sets his eyes off. "You are going to give James a run for his money." I tell him. He blushes at me "Stop!" "You will have to ride home with the rest of the family." I tell him, "Mackie and I will have to leave after Wyatt walks, or the

twins, whichever comes last because we promised we would help with dinner, and I will have to remind Nana of that

when they come to get us." I tell him.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 33

[1,249 words]

LILLY: We pull up at the front of the pack house, I link Keska *"We are out front."* I close the link. The three of them come

out of the house and climb into the limo with me. "Nana Mackie and I need to leave right after the twins or Wyatt walk, we promised to help with dinner prep and clean up." "Not a problem dear we will sit to the back so as not to disturb

anyone when we leave."

KESKA: the commencement went in alphabetical order, so Wyatt walked first, as their last name is Dawson, then Star as

her last name is Gleeson, then the twins, as soon as Jessie cleared the stage we left for the pack house. Mackie and I

make a mad dash into the house and into the kitchen and jump into getting the serving bowls and serving platters, along

with the utensils out and organized. Then we fill the bowls with veggies, and potatoes, while Sarah is making the wine

sauce for the chicken, well actually Cornish game hens, but still chicken. It was about 30 minutes after we got back to when the others came in, we had the dining room set and ready to go for them. Mackie and I stayed in the kitchen taking

the empty bowls from the omegas and refilling them and handing them back. Minimizing the exposure and lessening the

possibility of causing problems, so the twins, Wyatt and Star can have their day.

LIAM: I miss having Kes at the table with us, but I now know why, things have been the way they have been, thanks to

Jessie, but even more right now with Mimi being so mean to her. I'm just glad that Kes got some back on Mimi.

JAMES: "After dinner what would you all like to do?" I asked the group as a whole.

LIAM: "I am up for going to Nana's to run the obstacle course and watch Kes burn you." "The only reason she could is

because she has been doing longer." James answers back. "Oh! please Kes can't out do anyone on anything." Jessie

states. "I bet she can out do you on it for sure." "No, she can't." "Bet me." "Ok fine, \$20.00" "Done."

ADRIAN: "I'll take that bet as well if you're up for the challenge Jessie." "Fine I will show you all what a looser she is."

CARLA: "Jessie! Stop picking on your sister!" "And don't you think you should ask your grandmother before inviting

everyone to her house young man?" "Sorry mom." Liam answers. I notice Jessie says nothing.

LIAM: "Nana, can we go and run the course? Please?" Chuckling at him "I don't mind, but I do not have as much space as

the pack house does so it will be a bit cramped especially since the course takes up most of my yard." With a grin on my

face, I link Kes.* "Hey are you done?" "Not until everyone leaves the dining room so we can clean it up." "Leave it to the

staff, you and Mackie go get changed, Jessie is going to lose at least \$40.00 bucks, maybe more if more people jump in

on the betting." "Liam, it won't be Jessie paying it will be father, do you think that is fair? And do think it will teach her a

lesson?" "Yep, considering everything that has happened yep, because you will smoke her on the course." *

JAMES: I link Wyatt. *"Don't get involved with the betting unless you want to lose, Kes and your sister have been running

that course since Nana put it up 2 months ago." "Why haven't we been on it before now?" "Because I just recently found

out about it myself so if you want your ass handed to you by your little sister stay quiet." "My lips are sealed."* "I'm up

for going to check it out anyway." I say aloud. Everyone at the table agrees.

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KESKA: "Liam just made a bet with Jessie that I could take her on the obstacle course, and form the sounds of it, Adrian

also took that bet." I told Mackie. "We promised to help with cleaning up though. Remember." "Yes, and I am not going

back on my word, we will help with clean up.” “Sarah?” “Yes Kes?” “Is the pack dining room empty?” “I believe it is, why?”

“Then Mackie and I will start our clean up in there.” “Ok.”

KINA: “Where is Keska, by the way? If this is going to involve her, shouldn’t she be here to give her consent?”

AMANDA: “No! Why should she? She needs to do as she is told!”

LILLY: “You need to keep your mouth shut! Amanda. Keska has every right to give her consent whether you like it or not.

You have no say.”

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DRAKE: “We have had enough of you mother, stop causing trouble and trying to influence the kids into rude habits and

bad choices. And Jessie you also need to apologize to your mother, you didn’t even acknowledge the fact that she spoke

to you!” “Sorry daddy.” “Not to me young lady your mother!” “Sorry mom.” “Thank you, Jessie.” Carla says to her. “I

don’t care if the kids want to go run the course Lilly, but I think the adults, minus yourself of course as it is your home

may wish to stay here?” I speak to the room at large. Most of the adults agree, except Adrian and Kina. “James link your

sister and find out where she is.” “Ok dad.”

KESKA: Mackie and I head to the pack dining area and start cleaning up the dishes and taking down the streamers that we had put up earlier in the day. Mackie stacked the dishes on the cart, and I washed and wiped the tables dry. With the

two of us working in tandem we finished the pack dining room in about 15-20 minutes. Leaving just the family dining

room for the staff to take care of. We staked the dishes in the dish washer and started the wash cycle at 30 minutes. “I

think we have everything in the pack dining room done Sarah.” I tell her. “Thank you, Keska you’ve been an enormous

help today.” She says giving me and then Mackie a hug.

JAMES: *‘‘Where are you?’’* I linked Keska. *‘‘Staying out of sight and there for staying out of trouble, so if something

happened you can’t blame me for it this time.’’ ‘‘That didn’t answer the question.’’ ‘‘I am helping with clean up and

dishes, why?’’ ‘‘Dad and Nana have given permission for all of us to go run the obstacle course.’’ ‘‘So, what does that have

to do with me? And since when does father have to give permission for Nana?’’ ‘‘You are annoying you know that.’’ ‘‘Now

who hasn’t answered the question.’’* ‘‘She says she is helping with clean up and dishes.’’ I tell dad.

KESKA: ‘‘Let’s go change if we are to run the course, I’m not doing it in my dress.’’ I say to Mackie. ‘‘Agreed.’’ We both

headed up to my room to change.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 34

[1,260 words]

DRAKE: Of course she is. *‘‘Keska did you even go to the graduation ceremony?’’* I linked her. *‘‘Yes, father I did, not that

anyone would have cared. I sat with Nana at the back so we wouldn’t disturb anyone, as soon as Jessie cleared the stage we left, I promised we would help with dinner, and unlike some people we keep our word.’’* Even that was delivered

emotionlessly. I have messed up with her big time. *‘‘You need to come join the family now. The staff can finish.’’ ‘‘Yes

father.”* I close the link.

KESKA: “Time to go join the masses.” I tell Mackie. “Who were you linking?” “First James and then father.” “Oh well if

Alpha says we need to go then I guess we had better go.” “Indeed.” We leave my room and head downstairs to join

everyone in the family room. We walk in and take seats, say hi to those around us and wait for whatever is supposed to

happen to happen. We were sitting there for about 15 minutes, when Jessie starts griping “where is she, god is she going

to make us wait forever?” “Who are you talking about Jessie?” Star asked, “Our stupid sister, we are waiting on her after

all.” “ENOUGH! JESSIE!” Father roared at her. I was shocked, he has never done that before. Well except that time in his

office. “She has been here for the last 15 minutes Jessie.” Star told her. I just sat there looking at her.

LIAM: I just busted out laughing, I couldn’t help it. I saw when she walked in and sat down Star seen her too, but James

Jessie, Lissa dad and mom totally missed it.

LISSA: *’What are you laughing at?’* I linked Liam. *’The fact that she has been here for the last 15 minutes, and Jessie

has had no clue.” “She should have said something knowing we were waiting for her.” “And how was she supposed to

know we were waiting for her? Did you tell her? Did James tell her? Did dad tell her? Nobody ever waits for her, so how

was she supposed to know. You are becoming more like Jessie every day.”* I close the link and just glare at him.

LIAM: I just laughed harder after my chat with my sister. I just couldn’t help it I was in the middle of a full on laughing fit.

KESKA: “Liam are you ok?” I asked him, but he just kept laughing, then Star started to laugh, then Blake and Blane started

to laugh, Josh and Leasha, joined in the laughter, Colton, Janica, and Wyatt all started to laugh as well even James was

smiling. Mackie and I were smirking but not outright laughing. I seen that Lissa was glaring at Liam. "Liam, breath shallow

breaths." I try coaching him to help the laughing fit he was in. "Shallow breaths, ok?" He was nodding his head at me. I

got up and went to the buffet counter and got him some water, brought it back and helped him. "Small sips, I don't want

you choking because you swallowed wrong." After about another 10 minutes to get everyone calmed down and we were

off to Nana's. When we get there, I show everyone to the back yard, then I go ask Nana if she needs me to help her with

anything. "No, my dear just go have fun with everyone." When I got back outside, I noticed that the target wolf was

gone. *"Nana, the target is gone."* I link her. *"Yes dear that is for you to work on not for everyone else to try, remember

it's a closely guarded family secret for a reason." "Yes Nana."* I close the link.

JESSIE: "So where do we start?" I asked out loud. "Where do you want to start?" Nana asked back. "I will start at the

porch and run it that way." "Very well, just remember to incorporate every piece of the course." She tells me. "Thank you Nana I got this." I say to her.

KESKA: I go to the balance beam in the middle of the course and head in the opposite direction of Jessie. I know how to

run the course, and I also know she will take the easier way through it, I am going to go up and over her without her

evening knowing where I am. Nana shouts "GO!" and we both take off. I hit the center of the balance beam and turn left

on it, walk-run to the end take a leap and grab the swinging rope, I get it to swing harder and then threw my weight at

the high poles, there were 5 of them I slide half way down the first pole and then leaped to the next one I use it to launch

myself at the next one, going sideways across the poles, kind of like the bike in the cage going round and round really

fast. Then I launch myself at the rings, which there were 6 of, swinging over to the rope on the opposite side from where I

started, I wrap my leg in the rope to slow it down, hand over hand down it and leap to the balance beam on the right

side and walk-run to the center and step off. I turned to see where Jessie was in her progress, and she was just getting to

the rope at the left side of the course and hadn't even touched the balance beam yet. I go inside to get us each a bottle

of water and come back out with them. "I won; I told you all she was a loser." I walk over to her and offer her the water. I

don't say anything because she is just hurting herself and in front of company, she is more and more like Mimi every day.

She looks at me like I have two heads when I offer her the water, and she just snatches it from me.

LIAM: I knew Jessie would pull some crap, so I recorded it to show her that Kes. In fact, was the winner and she had to

pay up. "No way, there is no way she could have won! She must have cheated." "No, she didn't, she won fair and square.

Pay up, I believe you owe me \$20.00 and Adrian \$20.00." I tell her. (Inside I am jumping for joy for Kes, I am so happy for

her.)

JAMES: Seeing that Jessie was about to through a fit, I link her. *"Let it go Jessie or you are going to embarrass yourself in

front of everyone." "But how is it that she won! With out cheating?" "You have to remember that she has been running

this course since Adrian's swearing in ceremony, that's why, she knows it." "Just pay up and be a good sport and don't

act like Mimi."* I close the link. "I think I will give it a try next." I say out loud.

KESKA: We all spend the next couple of hours at Nana's running the course, Nana even ups the hardness degree a bit

and puts the swinging bags over the balance beam, Mackie and I have run it with them in play before, so even with them

we still came out on top. It is getting late, around 9:30ish when Nana finally calls it. "All right Kids, time to be done, the

sun is down, and I don't want anybody getting hurt." She calls out to all of us.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 35

[1,289 words]

KESKA: We all say good night to Nana. "Do you need me to stay and help clean anything?" I ask her. "No dear, go back to

the house and get some rest you had a very busy day today with all the work you did." She tells me. "Ok Nana, love you."

I tell her. "Love you too." She says. I headed out to the front of the house to find Adrian, Kina, Mackie, and Liam waiting

for me. "You guys didn't have to wait for me you could have left with the rest of them." "Yes, but then we wouldn't get to

gossip." Liam says. "Liam, we don't gossip, that is left for Jessie and her cronies." They all busted out laughing. "I noticed

a change in James." Adrian says. "Yeah, that is because I let it slip that I was not the one that broke Mr. Rickman's window

last year, but I am the one that got punished for it. Father was furious and made them go to him and apologize, and I

guess James got told a few things that he didn't like hearing, I heard he actually volunteered himself and Wyatt to work

for Mr. Rickman for two months just like I had to, to pay for the window.” “Wow that is impressive, there may be hope for

him yet.” Adrian says. “I won’t hold my breath, Father also told him and Jessie they needed to apologize to me, hasn’t

happened yet, and I doubt Jessie ever will, you saw how she acted tonight. And the real kicker is I have a week of hard

training with the elite Deltas’, because I told a student to contact Beta Pierse about Jessie bullying her instead of telling

father about it first, as if that would have done any good, because it’s Jessie we’re talking about.” “Well hopefully she will

find her mate in another pack at the mate ball that will coincide with their birthday.” We walked the rest of the way back

just chit chatting about nothing important.

KESKA: I woke the next morning to pounding on my door. “Are you going to sleep the day away sleepy head?” I heard

Adrian’s voice. “You’ll miss seeing us off if you do.” He says. “I’m up now!” “Hurry or you will miss breakfast.” “I will be

down in 5 minutes.” I yell through the door. I hurry through my morning routine I dress in shorts and a tee shirt, but

because I slept later than I wanted I wasn’t able to help in the kitchen, to stay out of sight of everyone, so I just grabbed

a plate and sat at the end of the table where I hoped I wouldn’t be as noticed.

JAMES: I was up early, as I wanted to spend as much time with our friends as possible before they would have to leave

after lunch. After breakfast I asked everyone what they would like to do before they had to leave. The twins from Cold

Moon Blake and Blane voted for the game room, the rest agreed so after breakfast we all headed to the game room, to

shoot some pool, and play video games. “How about boys against the girls in a game of Pool?” Jessie calls out. “Sure.” One of the guys says. So, we divided into our groups. Josh, Blake, Blane, Colton, Wyatt, and myself, against Leasha, Janica,

Star, Didi, Marla, and Jessie. I knew it wasn't going to be a walk in the park because other than Didi and Marla the girls were all ranked, most of them Alpha, with Star being Beta. "Best 2 out of 3 wins." I said.

KESKA: While the others went to play in the game room, Mackie and I helped with cleaning up after breakfast. "What are

you doing?" mom asked me. "Cleaning up like I always do, why?" "Shouldn't you be in the game room with the rest of

them?" "They don't even notice that I'm not there, so no, I will do what I always do and help with clean up, and then

maybe take Adrian and Kina to the archery range." I tell her.

LIAM: I got bored after the first round of pool, so I went in search of Kes. I couldn't find her in the house, so I linked her.

*"Where are you?" "At the archery range with Adrian, Kina, and Mackie why?" "Mind if I come join you?" "No, be my

guest."* I close the link and told mom that I was going to the archery range. When I got there, they were all taking turns

shooting. "Hey, what are you doing?" "Accuracy shots." Mackie answered. "Are you betting?" "No, just shooting." "Can I

try?" "Sure, go ask Kent for more arrows, though ok?" "Ok." I go inside the building and call out to Kent. "Hey Kent,

Mackie said we needed more arrows." "Be right there." A couple minutes later Kent came from his back room. "Here you

go." "Thanks." I take the quiver and head back out to where Kes, Mackie, Adrian, And Kina are. "So, what's the game

plan?" "Take the last target, and aim for a head shot, a heart shot, and a groin shot, hit as close as you can to each target

spot. We will wait for you to catch up." Mackie tells me. "Ok, but why those areas?" "Because each one will either be a kill

shot, or incapacitates the enemy, in order to allow for escape of a pack member or take a prisoner for questioning." Kes

says. I never thought about it that way. I walk over to take up my position at the last target, I take aim and let fly. I miss

the head completely, I take my next shot at the heart, bullseye, then the groin I hit the stomach. "Well, I didn't do very

good." I said. "You did better than you know." Kes tells me. "And with a little more practice you will be one of our top

shooters." Mackie says. "You did better than me." Kina says. "Kes is the best though." I say. "No, I'm not, I am good, but

not the best, that title is Mitchell's." she says. "What about the tracker dad put on us?" I asked. "Considering I don't

know which one he had tailing us I couldn't say." "What do you mean? He had you followed?" Adrian asked "Yes, it was

after the blowup at dinner one night, that happened after the whole Jessie thing in his office, after everything I had said,

which got said in front of Jessie, all she did was smile at the fact that I had taken the blame for so much of her shit, she

almost started to laugh." "They were making plans to go shopping, and I really didn't want to go, so I asked to hang with

Kes, and Mackie, then at dinner that night dad was asking how everybody's day went, and we got the subject of the next

day, and I think I kinda blew it because I wanted to still to hang with them and it came out that they took aikido lessons

at the dojo down the road." I tell Adrian. "Hey, Liam, it's ok, we aren't angry so don't worry about it." Kes tells me.

KESKA: I get a link from mom. *"Time to come for lunch, and to say goodbye to everyone." "Ok, on our way."* "Time to

go home for lunch." I tell everyone. Adrian signs to me. ("Did you get in trouble for the whole Aikido issue.") I sign back

("Not as of yet, but it remains to be seen if he will add anything to my week of training.")

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 36

[1,131 words]

LIAM: "Why do you guys do that?" I asked. "Do what?" Kes asked back. "That stuff with your hands." "It's a form of

communication, so you can talk with some one that might be deaf." Adrian tells me. "Who would be deaf, your wolf would heal it." "Not necessarily, my Gamma has a cousin that is deaf, she won't get her wolf for another 2 years yet so we won't know if her wolf will be able to heal her or not." (While Adrian is telling Liam about his Gamma's cousin, I take the

quivers back into Kent and pay him for the rental.) "What happened to her?" "Their pack was under attack when she was

being born and an explosion went off next to the clinic that caused her to go deaf." "Oh, wow that's messed up." "Yes, it

is, but it was not her fault, and so My Gamma and I are teaching my pack to sign so that they understand how to

communicate with her, if or when she comes to visit, and not to be mean and bully her." "Can I learn?" I asked. "Mackie

and I will teach you if you truly want to learn." Kes tells me. "Even though we are still learning ourselves, that's why I take

every chance I can to sign with Adrian, so I continue to learn as well." She tells me. "Cool."

KESKA: We head back to the Pack house for lunch.

JAMES: I noticed Adrian, Kina, Liam, Mackie and Kes coming in from outside. "Where were you guys?" I linked Liam. "We were at the archery range, why?" "No reason just curious." "Kes was giving me shooting pointers, so that I will be helpful

if the pack gets attacked." "You will be in the safe room with mom, and the girls if the pack gets attacked." "Yeah right."

KESKA: I see that James and Liam are linking, and the look on Liam's face is sour. I link into the two of them.* "What's

going on?" "James said that if the pack comes under attack that I will be in the safe room with Mom and you girls."

"Liam, you probably will, but that doesn't mean you can't be effective in the attack, you will be able to help defend the

people in the safe room, by being able to make every shot count you will be able to do 20 kills, and if you are able to

retrieve any arrows you will be able to incapacitate others so they can't hurt anyone that is with you. So, there is no need

to be upset with what James said. Ok?" "Ok. Hear that James, I will still be able to help." "Yeah right." "Stop it James, with

what he did today, he just needs a bit of practice, and he will be very effective, and very deadly with a bow." "Yea just like

Kes was." "What are you talking about Liam?" "Kent told me that Kes and Mackie took out like 6 or 8 of the rouges that

attached us a couple months ago." *

CARLA: I notice that 3 of my children are not paying attention, so I link into their conversation.* "Enough you 3, we have

guests that will be leaving soon, you need to be conversing with them not each other." "Sorry Mom."* I get from all three

of them.

JAMES: I am going to have to talk to dad after everyone leaves.

KESKA: "Hey, where did you get off to?" Janica asked me. "I was down at the archery range with Alpha Adrian, Luna Kina,

Mackie, and Liam." "Why didn't you say something I love archery." "Sorry, when you come back for the twins'

birthday/mating ball we can get in a few rounds, and if you're lucky your mate will be able to join us as well." "Or mates."

"Yes, or mates." We both end up chuckling. We all enter the family dining room for lunch. When lunch was over, I started

to help with cleaning up, and my mom stopped me. "It's time you join the rest of the family and seeing our guests off."

She says to me. I almost want to argue with her, they are not my guests, but the twins, Her's, and fathers, they had

nothing to do with me except Adrian and Kina. But I didn't. I walked to the front of the house with the rest of the family. Waved goodbye as everyone climbed into their vehicles and headed to the pack gates. As the last vehicle rounded the

curve out of sight I turned and went straight to helping clean up from lunch.

JOSH: "Do you think they will ever change?" I asked, "What do you mean Josh?" "That they will ever accept Keska as part

of the family?" "I would hope so son I would hope so." My dad said.

LEASHA: "I don't think Jessie ever will, she is too enamored with her Mimi Sutter. Adrian's swearing in, and Luna

Ceremony and they said that the elder Mrs. Sutter rejected Keska in public and no one said a word to her about it." "That woman is a piece of work, I feel sorry for Drake and Adrian having to be related to that atrocious woman." Mom said.

"That makes sense now." Josh said, "What makes sense?" "Keska accepted her rejection, which put her on her knees, too

bad though I would have like to see Miss Lilly kick her ass." "Josh!" both our parents scold him.

"So that's what happened, huh, Jessie tried to get us to believe that it was the warrior training outside." I said. "You will

have to be cautious when dealing with whoever she gets mated to." I said.

COLTON: "I am almost afraid to go back for their birthday/ Mating ball." I say out loud. "Why is that, Colton?" My dad

asked, "Because I don't want to be mated to Jessie, she is a spoiled brat." "Colton!" Mom scolded.

JANICA: “No mom it’s true, she through a fit when we were at their Nana’s house and Keska smoked her on the obstacle

course, and I overheard her and her friends talking about how Keska got punished for all the crap that the twins have

pulled over the years, she got the belt, and has had to spend time in the cells all because of James and Jessie.” “That

doesn’t seem like Drake.” Dad says. “I can’t speak to that; I am just telling you what I saw and heard.” I tell them. “You will have to be careful when doing any dealings with whoever she ends up with, so you don’t get taken and make sure

you read all the fine print on any contract dealing with them.” I say

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 37

[1,228 words]

KESKA: I stacked the dishes in the dish washer and started it. “Is there anything else I can do for you Sarah?” “No, go and

have fun Kes.” I link Mackie * “Do you think we might catch the late class at the dojo?” “We might if we leave now and

hurry.” “Let’s go.” “I have to go get my Gi, at home.” “Ok, I will meet you at the copes road.”* I close the link and head

up to my room to get my Gi and work out bag. And then head out to the back of the pack house, jump on my bike and

head over to the dirt road that cuts through the copes of trees behind the cottages, to wait for Mackie.

JAMES: “Dad did we have an attack a couple months back?” “Yes. Why?” “Just something Liam said earlier.” “What did he

say?” “That Kes took out 6 or 8 of them by shooting them, I was just wondering if it was true.” “I was told that several of

them were shot with the silver and wolves bane arrows, but no one knew who it was that shot them.” He told me. “Why

didn’t you tell me about the attack?” “It was over before it even got started.” He said. “But what exactly did he say about

Kes.” “He said something to the effect of Kent told him that Kes and Mackie took out several rouges before our warriors

engaged with them.” I told him.

DRAKE:* “Liam, what do you know about the attack that happened a couple of months ago?”* I linked him. *’’Kent told

me that if it wasn’t for Kes and Mackie we would have possibly lost people, but they caught the movement in the trees

and were quick to act and were shooting at them, he even said that there were a couple of families there and were saved

because of Kes.”* He almost sounded enamored with a little hero worship towards her. *’’Thank you.” “Welcome.”* I

closed the link.

KESKA: We get to the dojo just in time to start with the second class of the afternoon. Then after class I asked to speak to Master Cho. “I may miss a few classes, because I have been given extra tasks to do at home.” I tell him. “That is fine, as

long I know, your spot will be held for you.” “Thank you Master Cho.” We head back home, and got there before dinner.

As we were coming out of the trees on the dirt road, I happened to see Betsy. “Hey Betsy.” “Oh, Hey Kes.” “What brings

you this way?” “Just out for a walk, I hope it’s ok?” “Of course. Hey Betsy, would you be interested in earning a little

money?” “What would I have to do?” “Small task, but rewarding, do you have a bike?” “Yeah, but what exactly will I be

doing?” “Helping the senior pack members with their tasks and errands, shoveling snow, in the winter mowing lawn in

the spring and summer. Small stuff like that.” “Sure, I suppose I could.” “You might end up with my little brother as

company, but if he doesn't pull his weight let me know. Ok" "Wait, what do mean your little brother?" "He may want to

help, but with him there, there will be less likelihood of any bullying happening. Would you like to meet him?" "Sure? I

guess?" "It's ok you don't have to, I just thought that you would be a good fit for taking over for Mackie and me." "What

are you going to be doing?" "we are going to try and get a job in the human town. But Sshh it's a secret." "Ok. Yeah I

can meet your little brother." "Good." I link Liam *"Hey little bro, are you busy?" "No, where are you?" " in the front of the

pack house, there is someone I want you to meet, come out front."* "Ok." I close the link. A couple minutes later Liam

comes out of the house. "What's up Kes?" "Liam this is Betsy, Betsy my little brother Liam, Betsy will be a sophomore

next year, when you and Lissa are freshmen." "Hi" Betsy says holding out her hand to Liam. "Hi." He shakes her hand.

"The other thing I wanted to talk to you about is that Betsy will probably be joining us tomorrow when we do our senior

pack visits." "Oh, ok." "Are you good on long bike rides, cause these two are crazy." He tells Betsy. "I can hold my own."

She answers with a chuckle. "Good, we will meet here at about 3:00 tomorrow afternoon. I can't do earlier because I have

stuff I have to do first." I tell Betsy. "Ok, I will be here. It was nice to meet you Liam." "Nice to meet you to Betsy." They

shake hands again and Betsy continues on her walk.

LIAM: "What's going on Kes?" "What do you mean?" "Why is she coming with tomorrow?" "Well, if things work out like Mackie and I want, I want to know that the seniors will be taken care of. And I trust both of you to be able to do that."

"What do you have planned?" "I will tell you if it works out. Ok, I promise." "Ok. "Oh, by the way dad was asking about

the rouge attack a couple months ago.” “Why?” “Don’t know, you’ll have to ask him, or he may ask you.”

KESKA: Shaking my head we both say goodbye to Mackie as she makes her way home, and we head inside. I go wash up

and go straight to the kitchen to help with dinner prep. I am completely caught up in my own thoughts about how

tomorrow will play out, what training will be like, to how the elder pack members will take to Betsy and Liam taking over

for Mackie and me, that I completely miss mom coming into the Kitchen.

CARLA: “Sarah week after this one, we will be going to Dutch Wood and High Crest Packs to reciprocate them coming to

the twins’ graduation, so the twins and us won’t be here, Beta Greg Gleeson will be in charge” “Yes Luna.” “Then when we return, we will go over the menu for the twins’ birthday/Mating ball.” “Yes Luna.”

KESKA: Fingers crossed now that everything else has calmed down, they will go back to their usual selves and forget that

I’m here. They have already forgotten or deemed my birthday unnecessary, considering it is in the week they will be

gone. But again, that’s ok too because I will have Uncle Carson to myself, and hopefully Mackie and I will have found a

job by then as well. We finish with dinner, and I help with clean up and dishes, and head up to bed. If father wanted to

know anything about the rouge attack he didn’t ask me anything about it. I was so excited hoping that my plans would work out, that I practically skipped up the stairs to my room. I was up early I put on a sports bra under an old tee shirt,

and yoga pants and my high-top cross trainers, and headed downstairs for breakfast, I joined the rest of the pack in their

dining room, as the only one up in the family besides

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 38

[1,357 words]

KESKA: I head out to the training grounds with the rest of the warriors, giddy with high expectations on how things were

going to go.

MICHELL: "Keska, what are you doing here?" "I have a week punishment of hard training with you. Father didn't tell you

did he!" "No, he did not, I will have to verify it with him." I link the Alpha. "Alpha, Keska is here stating that she has

punishment of a week of hard training, is this true?" "Shit, sorry Mitchell, yes she has punishment, it's a long story, but

short version I fucked up, and no she really shouldn't have to be there, but if I rescind it, there will be an even bigger

blow up, just put her with the newest batch of warriors that reached elite status, maybe put Frank with them." "Yes

Alpha." "Alright Kes fall in line on the left side of the field." "Yes sir." "Frank, you will be working with the newbies, this week per Alpha's request." "Great."

KESKA: We start with calisthenics and a half-loaded pack 5-mile run. After a short water break we start with the hand-to-hand combat part of training. I was put on defense first, and I know I probably shouldn't have done it, but I let my Aikido

training kick in, along with all the training I did with Nana, defense was my thing. Dodging, weaving, ducking, I was in my

element. When I was put on offense, it was harder for me, and I struggled there. Frank had to actually take me back to where my training stopped to get me up to where I would be able to keep up with the guys, but I could take a punch

with surprised them. I stayed with them till training was over at around 1:00 in the afternoon. I headed back to the house

to clean up and change into regular clothes for errand day. After meeting up with Betsy, Mackie, and Liam we headed out

to start our rounds. The Pack members took well to Betsy and Liam, Mackie and I coach them through each member's

errands and what usually they would want done on what weekend, and let them keep the money that got paid to us.

"Now, to keep things fair, we usually split the money 50-50, just because sometimes some jobs aren't as long or as hard

as others, and then there will be times when you will have to work together to get something done, like flipping mattresses do you two think you can do that without fighting about it?" I asked them. "I think we can do that, but what

happens if it can't be divided equally?" Betsy asked, "then put it into a container until you can split it 50-50." I tell them.

"I would also think about maybe starting a savings account so you can put it some place and you will earn interest on it,

not saying you have to, but it will help avoid questions from nosy people." "Same time next weekend?" Betsy asked.

"You and Liam can start earlier if you want, the pack has excepted that you two will be coming now so you can start whenever, but make sure you are together." I tell them. It was around 5ish when we headed back to our perspective

homes after Betsy and Liam agreed on a time for the next weekend. I am beat, not going to lie today was rough, but I

made it through it. Tomorrow won't be so hard I don't think because I won't have the pack stuff to do.

KESKA: I am up at 6:30 and go do my morning routine and head downstairs, I pop into the kitchen to tell Sarah why I wasn't helping with the food prep and hope she wasn't angry, "goodness gracious child no I am not angry." And then go

join the fighters in the pack dining room. I follow them out to the training field, and just like the day before calisthenics

and a 5-mile run with a half pack. But today when we get back from the run Jessie and Lissa are there sitting on the

bleachers watching, and cheering on the fighters. Today I am put on offense first, again I struggle with it but better from

yesterday. ("HA, HA, HA. YOU ARE SO PATHETIC YOU CAN'T EVEN FIGHT! HA, HA, HA!") came from the bleachers. I

ignored Jessie and concentrated on the training. I watched as Frank demonstrated the correct stances and moves to be more effective on offense. Then he partnered me with Brent Carter, who had just got promoted to the elite squad a

couple months before. (HA, HA, HA, GET HER BRENT! HA! HA! HA!) I took up my position and watched him, we circled

each other, and I made my move, I started low with a leg swipe, and he jumped back, I completely missed him, as he

landed he threw a punch which I dodged, I threw a punch which he dodged, we went back and forth like that for a while,

I maybe landed a few blows, but he landed more, and every time he hit me Jessie cheered him on. We switched and I went on the defense and again bobbed, weaved, and dodge, ("YOU CAN'T CHEAT LIKE THAT! STUPID COW!") I was tired

of hearing her, so I decided to give her what she wanted most, and let Brent connect, he put me down, but I also know

how to take a fall without getting hurt too much. ("YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!") Jessie cheers from the

bleachers. "Hold." Frank calls out. "Kes what is going on with you?" "I just thought I would give Jessie something to really

cheer about. She wants to see me get beat, so I might as well give it to her then maybe she will go away." "That won't

happen, if anything it makes it worse." "Ok I understand." "If you want Jessie to go away I can tell the Alpha, and let him

know she is harassing you." "NO! if you do then that will make it worse too, just keep an eye on her, so if anything does

happen you can be a witness." "Fine as long as you stop giving in and start doing what you're supposed to." "I will I

promise." I see Frank's eyes glaze over, so I know he either got a link or is linking someone. *("Is there a problem with

Jessie, Frank?" "Kes says no, but to just keep an eye on her just in case something might happen there will be witnesses."

“Dose she expect trouble?” “Don’t know, but she was very adamant about not telling the Alpha.” “Fine for now but if

things escalate I won’t hesitate.” “agreed.”)* “That wasn’t Father was it?” “No, it was Mitchell, he says that if things

escalate with Jessie he will be the one to inform the Alpha.” “Now get your head in the right place and let’s do it again.”

“Yes sir.”

LISSA: It seemed like the Jessie was getting more worked up the more Kes took. She kept harassing Kes, I think to make

her mess up. I can kinda see what Liam was talking about now with Jessie. I link Liam. *
“Where are you?” “In the game

room why?” “Kes is doing her training, I thought you wanted to watch.” “No, I just wanted you to watch Jessie, is she

there?” “Yes and she is picking on Kes sort of.” “Sort of, there is no sort of, what is she doing?” “Heckling her, trying to make her lose concentration and focus.” “Well good luck with that, it won’t happen unless Kes does it on purpose.”

“What do you mean?” “Keska and Mackie are two of the most intensely focused people I know. I have watched them on

the archery range nothing short of Jessie standing right in front of her getting in her way is going to make Kes lose focus,

unless like I said she does it on purpose. But stay and keep watch on Jessie.”* I closed the link.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 39

[1,278 words]

JAMES: “What’s up little brother, we lost you.” “Yeah, Lissa linked me.” “Is she ok? Did anything happen to her?” “She is

fine, she was letting me know that Kes was doing her training, and she thought that I wanted to watch.” “Do you want to

go watch?” “Naw.” “Why not? I thought you were close to Kes.” “I am, but I don’t need to watch her doing her

punishment, especially when it wasn’t right or fair to begin with.” “I’m lost, why is Lissa there?” “Because she was always

getting on my case about not being on Jess’s side of things when shit hit the fan. I could see that you two were being mean to Kes from the start, now I have got Lissa in a position to witness it firsthand rather than taking Jessie’s word for

things all the time. There are things that happened to Kes that you don’t even know about, and don’t ask me because

she didn’t say anything specific in front of me but ask Jessie, I’m sure she will be more than happy to brag about what

punishments Kes has had to go through because of you two.” I could see he was pretty upset, so I left it alone. But I did

link Jessie. *’Hey Jess.’ “What’s up?” “You never did tell me what happened in dad’s office that night that Kes told dad we broke Mr. Rickman’s window.” “Oh, well it was fun as all get out really, every time we got her into trouble, dad used

his belt on her, and she even had to spend a week in the cells because of that broken window.”* She giggles at me.

’Thanks for telling me.’ I say and close the link. I am appalled at what she just told me, and Liam was right, she was

happy to brag about it. I never thought about any of it growing up, Dad never did come back and punish us, unless he

actually caught us doing something or one of the teachers told him we had done something wrong. But it was always a

grounding or loss of privileges never the belt. *’What’s up James you look like you just seen a ghost or something.’* Wyatt linked me. *’Man, I have fucked up big time and I think dad did even worse.’ “What are you talking about.” “Well,

I have just put somethings together, and I wouldn’t blame Kes if she never talked to me again.” “Dude, you have me so

confused right now.” “Sorry, but you remember all the times I would brag to you that we blamed Kes for shit we did, and we never got in trouble for it?” “Yeah, we used to laugh about it.” “Well, every time dad took his belt to Kes, and when we broke Mr. Rickman’s window last year, not only did she have to work for two months to pay for it but spent a week in

the cells because of it.” “I don’t get it why didn’t she tell him it wasn’t her?” “I have a feeling he wouldn’t have listened

to her, and he also probably didn’t ask her.” “Oh man that is messed up.” “Yes, and now I know why she has been calling

him father for the last few years instead of dad, she sees him as a sperm doner and not her dad.” “Ouch, do you think he

has figured that out yet?” “Maybe in some small part, but I don’t know if it will change, after all its Kes, and she looks and

acts nothing like the rest of us so it’s easy to ignore and forget about her.”*

KESKA: Day 2 down, and I’m not sure if it’s a 5-day week he meant or a 7-day week I will have to get clarification.

“Father, are you busy?” “Not at the moment.” “Am I training for 5 days or 7?” (I don’t believe I did clarify that so this would be an out for both of us.) *5” “Ok, will you let Mitchell know please.” “Yes, I will do that right now, so I don’t

forget.” “Thank you.”* So, 3 more to go. I link Macie. *4“Are you busy?” “No, board, but not busy.” “Want to go to Nana’s

to run the course?” “Sure, I’m down for that, but aren’t you tired?” “A little but I don’t have anything to do until it’s time

to start dinner so might as well keep up with the obstacle course.” “Ok, meet you there.” “Meet you there.” I then link Nana. “Nana, I hope it’s ok if Mackie come run the obstacle course?” “Yes of course dear, I will have Stephen put the

target back up for you.” “Thank you, Nana.”* I close the link. I freshen up, taking a wet cloth to my face neck and arms,

then head out to go to Nana’s.

DRAKE: I link Mitchell. *4“Kes will only be with the group for 5 days.” “Ok Alpha, I will keep track.”* I close the link. (“Do

you think we will ever get back to where we were with her Helios?" I asked my wolf.)
("You will have to stop taking

Jessie's word for everything, especially if it concerns Keska." He tells me.)

JAMES: "We have to go talk to Mr. Rickman, to set up the time we will be working for him." I tell Wyatt. "Let's go and get

it over with then." "We'll be back in a bit Liam." "Take your time, I am going to see if Kes is done yet." I just nod my head

at him and Wyatt, and I leave.

LIAM: "Kes?" "Yes Liam" "Are you done with training?" "Yes, we're at Nana's." "Can I come to?" "Yes, you know you

don't have to ask me, it's Nana's house not mine." "Yeah, but it's a better chance of her saying yes if you're there

already." "You're a nut." "Yeah, but you love me." "Yeah, you're right I do." *

KESKA: the next 2 days follow in the previous 2 days footsteps. Including the harassment by Jessie. I don't let her get to me though. And by the 5th day I am starting to hold my own on offense, feign to get your opponent to commit. Landing

solid punches. Working with the different warriors to get a feel for how they work. It's the last day of my punishment

training, and no Jessie, I link Lissa. "Where is Jessie?" "She said she needs to pack for the trip to High Crest and Dutch Wood Packs."* She links back to me. Finally a day of peace without Jessie's constant harassment. We made it through the

first set of offense/defense when someone shouted rouges north border, the whole training field evacuated and headed

to the north. Frank told me to get Lissa and get to the safe room. I linked Lissa. "Run to the pack house now! I will be

right behind you."* But I didn't make it three feet when I was grabbed from behind with a hand over my mouth and

stabbed, I felt the blade go into my Right thigh, then I was picked up by the throat. I didn't flail like most people would,

instead I folded in at the waist and bent my knees, then with all my strength I kicked out at the person holding me, and

caught him in the chest, and then I felt the knife go into my side, I grabbed a hold of it and threw myself towards the

person holding the blade catching them off guard and they let go of the blade. I fell to the ground, and everything went

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 40

[1,238 words]

JAMES: Wyatt and I were walking back from Mr. Rickman's when we saw everyone on the training field head to the north.

That only meant one thing, rouges. I told Wyatt to go check the field and the surrounding area, to make sure that

everyone had made it into the safe rooms. I was going to head North, with the fighters. We each took off.

WYATT: I went to the first house and made sure it was empty, and then the second, there were still people in that one, I

ushered them to the safe room and continued my way to the training field office and storage building; I checked them to make sure they were empty. Then I was going to cut across the field and head North as well when a huddled bundle on

the ground caught my eye. I approached it cautiously ready to fight if I had to, when I noticed the hair color, I know that

hair color, then the next thing I hear is my sister screaming and running straight at me. I catch her, and she starts to fight

me, to put her down. I link James. *"Have you reach the border yet?" "Yeah, but there is nothing going on here." "I think

it was a ruse, you are going to want to get back to the hospital fast." "Why, what's going on?" "It's Keska I think she's

hurt bad." "Shit.*" I close the link. "Let me go Wyatt! I have to help her!" "Calm down Mackinzie."** "Don't tell me to

calm down, you wouldn't be calm if it was James laying there! Let me go!"** "Makinze! Stop! I will get her to the hospital,

ok. But you need to calm down." I see Mackie's eyes glaze over, so I know she just linked someone.

MACKIE: I linked Nana. *"Nana Keska is hurt I don't know how bad because my stupid brother won't let me check her."

"Don't fight him Mackie, where are you?" "At the training field." "On my way."** I then linked Liam. *"Keska is hurt, she is

at the training field." "What do mean hurt, did a rouge get her?" "I don't think so, but I can't check her, because my

stupid brother won't let me."* I didn't get any response from him.

LIAM: I took off as fast as I could, everyone around me tried to stop me but I just dodged them and shot out the front

door of the pack house and headed to the training field.

LILLY: I leave the house with Stephen right behind me, we get to the training field where we see a huddled figure laying

on the ground, and Wyatt holding back his sister, who is struggling in his hold. I go directly to Keska; she is unconscious

and has lost quite a bit of blood. I see that there is a silver dagger stuck in her side, and that she has a wound on her leg.

I have Stephen pick her up gently, and I wrap my scarf around the dagger, so it won't affect him as he carries her. "Wyatt

let your sister go please. We need to get her to the hospital, not fight between yourselves." "Yes Nana." They both say in

unison.

LIAM: When I get to the training field, I see Nana there and Stephen has Keska in his arms, she is so still. I run over to Nana "Is she dead?" "No, my dear boy she is not dead, but we need to get her to the hospital to insure she stays with

us.” She told me.

LISSA: Liam took off so fast that I couldn’t tell him about the rouge attack. I did call out Rouges when I walked in the

house and then there was a flurry of activity going on, I headed to the safe room in the house. Once I was in the safe

room, I noticed Kes wasn’t there. I try linking her but get nothing. I then link my twin. *”Liam where are you?” “With

Nana, Mackie, Wyatt, Stephen and Kes.” “Is Kes ok, I tried to link her, and she didn’t respond.” “No, she is unconscious we are taking her to the hospital.” “What happened? She told me to run to the house and that she was right behind me.”

“Did you see anyone around her?” “Yeah, I mean there was chaos when they called rouge attack north border, so there were several fighters close to her.” “Will you please tell me what happened?”* I asked him again. *”She was stabbed with

a silver blade.” “Is she alive?” “Yes, but just barely.” “Oh, goddess I should have stayed, I should have waited for her.”

“And if you had it would be both of you not just Kes.” “You don’t know that.” “You’re right I don’t for sure, but there is a

good possibility of it. We are at the hospital I will link you later.” “You better.”* I close the link.

DRAKE: I hear some noise about a rouge attack at the north border, so I link the patrol that is up there. “Is there any sign

of rouge activity up there?” “None that we have seen, Alpha.” “Link the rest of the patrol and get back to me, oh and

don’t panic, but someone raised the rouge alarm so you will get more fighters there soon.” “Yes Alpha.” I wait to hear

back from the patrol, it doesn’t take long, and I get a link “Alpha it was a new recruit that raised the alarm, but in all

fairness to him, he did smell the tell tail sign of rotten flesh, but it was an old animal kill, not rouges.” “All right, but next

time please investigate better first, before raising the alarm.” “Yes Alpha.”

JAMES: I run as fast as I can all the way to the hospital, linking dad as I go. "Dad."
"What James?" "Wyatt linked me, and

he thinks that the alarm was a ruse, because Kes is hurt." "What do mean hurt?" I don't
know exactly, but he said I

needed to head to the hospital." "I will meet you there with your mother." I close the link
and head straight to the

hospital.

DRAKE: "Carla, we need to get to the hospital, Kes is hurt." I link my mate. "What do
you mean hurt? Was it a rouge?"

"No there were no rouges, it was a false alarm, but James just told me Wyatt told him
Kes was hurt and on the way to the

hospital." "I will meet you at the front door."

CARLA: I grab my purse and rush to the front door where I meet up with my mate. I link
Jessie "Stay with Lissa and Liam,

in the house." "Okay, why?" "Did you not hear the rouge alarm?" "Yeah, but not the
official alarm." "doesn't matter, until

it is verified just stay in the house." "Where are you going to be, if I have to stay in the
house?" "At the hospital with your

father." "Hospital, did something happen to James?" "No, your sister Kes." "Oh please,
mom, she probably just fell and

skinned her knee or something and is being a crybaby about it." "JESSIE! You need to
stop! And you need to do it now! We are going to go find out what happened. You just
need to stay with the twins." "Yes mom

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 41

[1,259 words]

JESSIE: I head down to the safe room to tell everyone it's ok and they can come out. I see Lissa but I don't see Liam,

"Lissa where is Liam?" "He took off like ghost was chasing him or something." "Took off where?" "I don't know,

something about Kes being hurt though, but he hasn't linked me back yet." "When did he leave?" "Maybe about 15

minutes ago or so." Great just fucking great.

JAMES: I get to the hospital, and I see Stephen carrying Keska through the front door. I link Wyatt. *"What happened to

her? Is she still alive?" "Yes, she is, but barely, she was stabbed with a silver dagger, which is still imbedded in her side,

Nana just wrapped her scarf around the handle so Stephen could carrier her without getting burned by the silver

himself." "Embedded? Why not take it out?" "Something to do with the fact that it might be stopping the blood flow

right now and if we take it out without the proper medical procedure it could let her bleed to death." "Oh shit!" "Yeah, oh

shit is right."* I close the link and catch up to them in the waiting room area. About 5 minutes later mom and dad come

in.

DRAKE: "What's going on where is Keska?" "They took her into emergency surgery to remove the dagger, and to make

sure she doesn't bleed out." James tells me. "What the hell happened? How did she get stabbed?" "Lissa said that there were some warriors around her, and things were complete chaos when they announced the rouge attack, it may have

been an accident, stemming from the chaos." Liam states. (CARLA: "Liam what are you doing here? You are supposed to

be at the house with your sisters." "Ha, I left before you and dad did, Mackie linked me, and I left.") "Watch your tone with your mother young man." I say to Liam. "Yes dad. Sorry mom." "I understand sweetheart." Carla tells him. "How did

you know Mackenzie?" I asked her. "I don't know Alpha, maybe because she is my only friend and we are so close, I just

knew something was wrong." She tells me. We are sitting in the waiting room for about an hour and a half when the dr.

finally comes to talk to us.

DR. GRANT: "Alpha, Luna, your daughter is extremely lucky, and very blessed."
"Please explain Dr." The Alpha said. "The

blade only punctured the human appendix, so no real vital organs were damaged, but we did have to remove the

appendix, the part that makes her blessed is that the silver did not affect her, like it would a normal wolf. How or why, I

cannot say. She will have to stay in the hospital overnight for observation, but then she will be able to go home. There will be restrictions for her for the next couple of months, due to the fact that she does not have her wolf, she will have to

heal like a normal human. No strenuous activities, she will be able to do stairs, albeit slowly, no heavy lifting of any kind,

no overhead reaching for the first 2 weeks. She will need to just take it easy, no long-distance traveling." I tell the family.

"May we go see her?" "Yes, but not all at once, and not for long, she needs to rest, to heal. She is in the Alpha wing."

"Thank you, Dr." "You are welcome." I leave them to go about my rounds.

KESKA: I wake up in a strange place, with an annoying beeping going off in my left ear. "Hmm, make it stop." I mumble

and I don't recognize my own voice. I slowly open my eyes. "No too bright." I mumble again. It came out like a croak of a

frog. Where in the goddess's name am I. I hear movement around me. I can feel the light dim. I try to open my eyes

again. I am in a room; it's a light beige color and it smells like disinfectant. "Where am I?" "In the hospital." I hear a

familiar voice. "Nana?" "Yes dear." "How did I get here?" "I had Stephen carry you."
"What happened?" "You were

stabbed dear.” “What? Wait, Rouges, Nana, Lissa is she ok?” I say as panic sets in.
“Calm down dear, Lissa is just fine,

there were no rouges, it was a false alarm.” She tells me. I try to get up but there is pain
in the right side of my stomach.

“Ahhhggg.” “Kes stop moving, or you will tear your stitches.” She tells me. “What
happened? Why am I here? And why

does my stomach hurt?” “Well, we were hoping you could tell us what happened. What
do you remember?” “Someone

called out rouges at the North border. Frank told me to get Lissa and get the safe room.
I linked her to run to the pack

house and I would be right behind her. But someone grabbed me they put their hand
over my mouth, I felt the knife go

into my right thigh, then I think I was picked up by my throat, I kicked him, but then I got
stabbed in the side, and

everything went dark after that.” It was a bit fuzzy, but it was coming back to me. “Do
you think the attack was targeted,

or an accident?” “What do you mean?” “Do you think that the attack that happened was
deliberately meant for you?” “I

don’t know Nana, maybe. There was so much chaos, it’s hard to tell.” “Ok sweetheart,
don’t stress over it, get some rest,

the Dr. says you will be here over night.” “What time is it?” “Almost dinner time.” “Love
you, Nana.” “Love you too, rest.”

She leaves the room. Then Father and mom come in. “Oh, my baby!” mom is in tears.
“Drake we can’t leave now.” “What

are you talking about Mom?” “The trip to High Crest and Dutch Wood. We can’t leave
you here like this.” “Oh! Hell no!

You will go, I am not going to get blamed for Jessie not getting to go!” I almost yell.
“Calm down Keska, we don’t want

you tearing your stitches. And watch your language and tone young lady!” Father states.
I bow my head and bare my

neck. I link James *^{*}“You had better convince Mom and Father to take you Jessie and Wyatt on that trip!” “What are you

on about?” “The graduation trip, I am not getting blamed for Jessie not getting to go! So, whatever you have to do to

convince them you better do it!”* I close the link. “Who were you just talking to?” “James.” Father just shakes his head,

he knows what I did, I’m sure. “What would you like for dinner?” Father asks me. “Whatever they are serving, I don’t

need a special meal.” “Well actually you do have to eat soft foods for a couple of days, so you don’t stress the internal

stitches.” Came a new voice. “What do you mean Dr?” “We had to put a few stitches in place when we took the appendix

out. So soft foods, like mashed potatoes with gravy, mashed up hamburger, with gravy, meat loaf with gravy soft vegies,

no lettuce salad. No steak yet, understand?”

JAMES: I just shake my head; she is giving ME orders now? WTF. She gets stabbed and she thinks she can boss everyone.

LILLY: “What’s wrong James” I ask him after seeing him shake his head.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 42

[1,238 words]

“It’s Keska, she is giving me orders now.” “What do you mean?” “She just linked me to** tell me** I have to convince

Mom and Dad to go on that graduation trip. That she wasn't going to be blamed for Jessie not going." I just chuckle at

that. "Think of it as a way to get into her good graces, after all the punishments she has taken for you, don't you think

you owe her?" "Did you know?" "Yes, unfortunately I did." I tell him. "Why didn't you tell Dad?" "Wasn't my place, you

needed to come to that conclusion on your own, as an Alpha heir." "Why does she want us to go on this trip so bad?" "I

don't know, that is something you will have to ask her." I tell him.

KESKA: "Yes Dr. I understand." I say to him. He leaves my room. "See, you have to have special food anyway dear, Drake we need to stay and take care of her." Mom says. I am pissed to say the least, I get hurt by someone that is not them and

now they pay attention to me. F*ck no! "Look, I will be fine, Nana and Sarah will look after me and I will be good as new

when you get back." I say with a bit of sarcasm letting them know what I think of the fuss they are showing. "We will

discuss it." Father says. "What is there to discuss, Jessie will through a fit, if the trip gets canceled because of me, and she

will be relentless." I say to them. "It will be better if you just take James, Jessie, and Wyatt, go to High Crest and Dutch Wood, Mackie and I can hold down the fort with Beta Gleeson, it will keep the peace." I say. "I said we will discuss it!"

Father says a little of his Alpha's aura slips out. Opps I pushed a little too much, I bow my head and offer my neck to him.

There was a knock on the door, Father released his aura and answered the door, it was dinner, so they left my room. "Can Mackie and Liam come in?" I asked. Father just nodded his head. Mackie and Liam came in and sat with me while I ate. We just chit chatted about nothing and everything. "Mom and Dad took Wyatt and James home." Liam tells me. "Liam, I

am sorry you probably should have gone with them, you are going to miss dinner. Same with you Mackie. I'm sorry. I'm

being selfish." I say to them. "Forget it. We would rather be with you than with them anyway." "Thank you, but I will be

home tomorrow, and you need to have dinner too." I say to them. "Kes, why are you so adamant about Mom and Dad

going on that trip?" Liam asked me. "Well in part, I would prefer to have Uncle Carson to ourselves, without the two of

them always butting in on everything." I tell him. "In Part, what's the other part?" "I want to talk to him about his sister-in-law, and find out what he really thinks of her, because I have heard Nana mumbling and calling her a gold digging

stasis climbing bitch." "Keska!" "Yeah, I know I swore. Opps!" There was a knock on the door, and the kitchen aide came

in to take my tray away. And the nurse came in right after. "I need to take your vitals, and visiting hours are now over."

She tells me Mackie and Liam leave.

LISSA: I have been waiting to hear from my brother for hours. I am so angry at him right now, that when I see him, I am

going to hit him for making me wait, I would have linked him, but Jessie said that they would be home soon. I have so much pent-up nervous energy that I have to get it out so I go to the kitchen to ask Sarah if there is anything I can do to

help. She put me to work setting the table for dinner.

LISSA: I was in the family dining room when Mom, Dad, and James come in. "Where's Liam?" I ask as they come through

the door. "He will be here a bit later, he stayed with Keska." Dad says. "Is Kes ok? She said she would be right behind me,

but she never came!" I was near tears. Dad came over to me and just held me. "Kes will be ok, it will take her a little bit of

time to heal from what happened to her, but she will be just fine." "What did happen to her?" I asked. "She was stabbed

with a silver knife. You were there watching today?" "Yes." "Tell me everything you remember, ok." "Ok, I got down to the

field at about 8ish, they had started the second round of switching offense and defense, Kes was paired with Brent

Charter, and there was 1 other pair close, because Frank would have them switch partners. So, it was Kirk Anders paired

with Ronnie Briginhall. Then someone shouted rouges north border, everyone stopped what they were doing, then

everything turned chaotic. Frank told Kes to get me and get to the house, she linked me to run to the house, I was on the

bleachers and that she would be right behind me. But she wasn't, and by the time I realized she wasn't everything had

already happened. I am so sorry Daddy." I started to cry. "Sshh sshh sweetheart it's not your fault, we don't know what

happened. Like you said everything was chaos."

LIAM: Mackie and I walked together on our way home, "Oh crap, Lissa is going to kill me." "Why would Lissa want to do

that?" "Because I was supposed to let her know what was going on with Kes, and I just forgot about it, until now." I tell

her. "Sorry about that but go home and take whatever she says or does like the Alpha born you are and show James how

it's actually supposed to go." She tells me. I chuckle at her meaning, and just nod my head. We hit the split where she

heads to her house, and I have about 2 more blocks to reach home. It was after dinner when I walked through the front

door, and I got punched in the shoulder. "OWW." "You said you would link me!" Lissa seethe at me. "I know, I am sorry, I

got caught up with everything that was happening with Kes, I just forgot." I tell her. "Is she ok?" "She will be, and she will

be home some time tomorrow." I tell her. "I was so scared Liam." I had to hold back my sarcasm, because just a week ago

she could have cared less about what happened to Kes. "What happened, why the change of heart all of a sudden?" I

dead panned the question to her. She punched me again. "OWW! What was that for?" "I am not Jessie; I care about what

happens to Kes." "You couldn't have proven it by me, the way you were always sticking up for Jessie." I tell her. I noticed

that both James and Jessie were in the game room as I walked by, headed to the kitchen to get something to eat. So, I

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 43

[1,365 words]

DRAKE: *"James please come to my office."* I link him. *"Yes dad."* I only wait a couple of minutes and there is a knock

on my door. "Come." "You wanted to see me?" "Yes, what did Kes want with you at the hospital?" "She more or less

ordered me to get you and mom to take us on that graduation trip." "Ordered?" "Yeah ordered." "So, what do you think we should do?" I asked him. "Well, I think what should happen is that you send either Beta Gleeson or Gamma Dawson

with us, so that we are reciprocating in kind, but let them know the situation about Kes. So that they understand you are

not snubbing them, and that way peace is kept for the most part." He tells me. "If I do that, are you going to behave and

take orders from either one of them? And not let your ego get in the way of anything that might come up?" "Yes, I think I

can handle that and keep Jessie under control as well." He tells me. "Good to hear, I will let Beta Gleeson know he will be

accompanying the 4 of you, and I expect that you will be on your best behavior, as you will be representing our pack." I

tell him. "You should let Jessie know, that it will be Beta Gleeson, and minimize the fall out now." He tells me. He is right. I

link Jessie. "Jessie come to my office, please." "Yes Daddy." "Do you want me to go?" "No stay, you may be able to minimize her tantrum." I say to him. He just chuckles at that. The knock comes. "Come." I call out. "You wanted to see me

daddy?" "Yes Jessie, in light of what happened to your sister, your mother and I will be staying home, you will be traveling

with Beta Gleeson, and if I get a negative report for any reason concerning you, you will be brought home immediately

do I make myself clear young lady?" "Yes daddy. But we still get to go? Right?" "Yes the 4 of you will still be going."

"What 4?" "You two, Wyatt and Star, as it was the four of you that graduated you will be going to represent the pack." I

tell her. "Ok." "You both may leave." I say to them.

KESKA: I was sitting in my hospital room; it was after breakfast was over when I remembered we were supposed to go get

the car this weekend. Oh crap. I open a link to both Nana and Mackie "I can't go with to go get the car" I state. "Don't worry about it dear, I will take Stephen, and I will get your father to allow me to take one of the warriors with and we will

bring the car back." Nana says, "I am torn Nana, I would like to come, but I also want to stay with Kes." Mackie says,

"I understand dear, you stay and make sure Kes follows Dr's orders." Nana tells her. I close the link and wait for the Dr.

LILLY: I link my son in law. "Drake, I will need an extra warrior to help me with an errand this weekend." "Of course, Lilly, who would you like?" "I think I will take Frank, and or Pete." "I will let you have both." "Thank you." "Welcome." I close

the link.

DRAKE: I open a link to both Frank and Pete. "I need the both of you to help Lilly with an errand this weekend." "Yes

Alpha." I then open a link to Beta Gleeson. "We will not be going this week, but I would like you to go in our stead, you will be in charge, and if there is any trouble, or issues with Jessie come right back immediately, you will have all 4 of the

grads. With you, and I will send 8 warriors with you.” Yes Alpha, I will be ready, when will we be leaving?” “Before lunch.”

“Yes Alpha.”* I then open a link to Carla. * “Are you ready to go get Keska?” “I will meet you at the front door.”* I close the

link.

LIAM: I am hanging out in the game room waiting for mom and dad to come, because I am going to go with them when

they go to get Keska from the hospital, I don’t care what they say.

DRAKE: I see Liam following us out. “What are you doing?” “Going with you, you are going to go get Kes right?” “Yes.”

“Then yeah I am coming with you.” I can’t argue with him. On the way to the hospital, I call Dutch Wood. “Alpha Shane, I

am calling you to let you know that there has been a change in the itinerary, I am sorry, but it will be my Beta that will be

accompanying the kids, we had an incident, and Keska got hurt and is in the hospital.” I tell him. “I totally understand, I

hope she is ok.” “Yes, she is good, we are on our way to get her now. But that is why I am calling, and I was hoping that

you might pass it along to Alpha Lukas as well?” “I will call again when I have a little more time to explain what happened

but as they will be leaving shortly, I needed to get it out to you.” “Of course, I will call and let High Crest know about the

change.” “Thank you so much for understanding.” “Not a problem.” I hung up the phone. And noticed we were at the

hospital. “Go park the car and I will link you when we are ready” I tell the driver. “Yes Alpha.” Carla and I follow Liam into

the building and head to the Alpha wing.

KESKA: I am going stir crazy just sitting here waiting, I usually am busy doing something, not being able to anything is

going to drive me up a wall. Then Liam comes into my room. "Hey glad to see your up."
I have been up since about 7:30-

8:00 this morning, all I want to do is get out of here." "Mom and Dad are here, we should
be able to leave soon."

DRAKE: I make my way to the reception desk in the Alpha area. "Is Keska ready to be
discharged?" "One moment while I

confer with the Dr., please." I nod my head. She picks up the phone, "Dr. Alpha is here
to pick up Keska." "I will be right

there."

She hangs up the phone. "Dr. will be right with you, Alpha." "Thank you." I say to her.
And move over to the waiting area.

The Dr. comes over to Carla and me. "Can we take her home now?" I ask the Dr. "I
need to check her chart and see where

her last set of vitals were at and when was her last pain medication, give me a
moment." He tells us. He walks back to the

reception desk and then comes back with Keska's chart. "Everything appears to be in
good order, she had her pin meds

with breakfast so yeah, she is good to go." "What do we need to do for her?" "Well as I
said yesterday, soft foods, for the

next couple of days, no strenuous activity, no reaching over head, take stairs one at a
time for the next week. She will

need to take the pain meds. On time for the next couple days, then after that, only if she
needs them." He tells Carla and

I. "Thank you Dr., I have a question for you though, if you don't mind?" "Of course not,
what is it." "In your opinion, do

you think that what happened to Kes was an accident? Or deliberate?" "I feel that what
happened to her was indeed

deliberate, and the reason I say that, is due to the force in which the wolf used to stab
her with." "Thank you, Dr." He just

nods his head and leads us to Keska room. We hear voices coming from her room.
"Liam." Is all I say. He nods agai

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 44

[1,304 words]

DR. GRANT: "Well everything looks good so you will be able to go home. Just remember, no strenuous activity take the

stairs one at a time, soft foods for the rest of today and tomorrow, and make sure you take your pain meds every 4 hours,

for the next couple days." "There is a list of things here. And I will have the nurse check in with you in a couple of days

from now to see how things are going, then in a week I want to see you back so we can check on your stitches and

maybe if you are healed well enough, we will be able to take them out. But that does not mean that you will be able to

go right back into your normal routine, that will be a few weeks to a couple of months. Understand?" "Yes Dr." she say to me.

KESKA: I just want to go home. Mom hands me a bag with some of my clothes in it and I go into the bathroom to

change. Thank the goddess that she brought me a button down so I didn't have struggle with putting my arms through

the sleeves on a tee shirt, even though it would have been more comfortable, it would have meant I would have to reach

over my head and the Dr. said none of that. I go to bend over to put my shoes on, and I nearly fall over my side hurts

"Agghh." "Kes! Are you ok?" "I will be, just give me a minute to breath." I pant out. "What happened?" "Doc. Didn't say

anything about bending over." I panted through the pain. "I am coming in." Mom says. Thankfully, I was mostly dressed,

just my shoes. Taking one look at me she tells me to sit and points to the toilet. I just follow orders; she bends down and

helps me into my shoes. Then we both come out of the bathroom. We walked out of the room and meet up with Father

at the receptionist desk to get me checked out.

DRAKE: I link the driver to pick us up at the front entrance of the hospital. As we are on the way back to the pack house I

link Mitchell. *"Meet me in my office in 10 minutes, I want to go over what exactly happened yesterday and find out why

or how Kes got stabbed." "Yes Alpha."* I closed the link. We get Kes in and settled in the game room and I head up to my office. "I will be in my office dear, link me if you need any help with Kes. Ok." "I will, love you." "Love you more." I kiss

my mate and head up. A couple minutes later there is a knock on my door. "Come." "You wanted to see me Alpha?" "Yes Mitchell, come in, and take a seat." He comes in and I get right down to business with him.

KESKA: I am happy to be home, the place seems quiet, but that is because James and Jessie aren't here. I link Mackie.

*"Hey, I'm home, want to come hang out, maybe play some video games, watch the movies we want to watch for a

change, since the older twins aren't here, we can do that, granted it's only for the week but still." "Yeah, on my way, and a week is better than nothing, I'll take it."* I close the link.

LIAM: "What do you want to do Kes?" "I just linked Mackie, she is on her way, how about a video game us two against

you and Lissa?" "I will see if she wants to play." I link her. *"Lissa, do you want to play us against Kes and Mackie in a

video game?" "What game?" "I don't know we haven't picked yet." "Sure, I'll play as long as we get to pick at least one we like." "I will tell her."* I close the link. "She says yes as long as we get to pick a game we like." "Of course, I am not like

Jessie and need to have my way."

KESKA: We spend the late morning playing video games, each person taking their turn picking a game they want to play,

up until lunch time, we head into the pack dining room to eat lunch, and I get my pain meds., after lunch was over we

headed back to the game room to watch movies, after the first movie I am getting tired because of my pain meds. "Sorry

guys, I don't think I will be able to last through another one, I just can't stay awake." I say with a yawn. "No worries Kes.

Just rest." They all say. I just let my eyes close, and I am out.

LISSA: I link Dad. *"Daddy Kes is falling asleep on the couch in the game room." "I'll be right there sweetie."* I close the

link. In a couple minutes dad comes and picks Kes up and takes her upstairs to her room to rest.

LIAM: "Hey Mackie?" "Yes Liam?" "Can we go to the range and shoot while she sleeps? I will get some cash from mom to

pay for the rental." "You don't have to do that, I have enough to pay for the rental." "Between the two of you, you have

always paid, I haven't made enough yet to pay but I will soon, but mom will give me enough to pay this time. So, I want

to." "Alright. Let's go, do you want to ask Lissa?" "Naw, she doesn't like archery." I go ask mom for fifty dollars and

without even a questioning look she goes to her purse and pulls out two \$20.00 and a \$10.00 and gives them to me. I

can't help but think that if it were Kes that asked she would get the third degree. But Kes never has asked for anything. I

walk out back where Mackie is waiting, and we head over to the archery range. I walk into the building with Mackie and

go to the counter. "Kent" I call out. "I'll be right with you." Came his reply from somewhere in the back room. He came

out carrying a couple rolls of register paper. "Just give me one minute to change this out and I will be glad to help you

out." He says. Mackie and I look around the store at the weapons on the wall and the different shelving units he has.

“Aren’t you afraid someone might steal these?” I asked him. “Naw, because each one has a sensor in it, if it gets too close

to the door the door locks and no one leaves until it gets put back in its place or I take the sensor out when it gets paid

for.” “So now how can I help you?” “We would like to use the outdoor target range please, and I need to rent a bow, and we need the arrows.” I tell him. He busies himself getting my request. “Hey Mackie? Where is Kes? She is usually with

you.” Kent asked her. “There was an accident at her training, and she was hurt from it.” “I didn’t know she was training, I

thought that training ended after freshman year for the girls.” “Yeah, it does, but it was punishment.” “Oh, well I hope she

is ok.” “She will be, and we will be back here with her in no time.” Mackie tells him. “Here you go, one bow and two

quivers. Take the first two targets that are left of the door. Stay safe and have fun.” He hands the equipment over. I pick

up the bow and one quiver and Mackie takes the other quiver. And we head out to the range.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 45

[1,306 words]

DRAKE: After I carry Kes up to bed, I go back to my office, and I call Dutch Wood. “Hello?” “Hello Alpha Shane, this is

Alpha Drake. I said I would call when I had a little more time to be able to explain things a bit better.” “Yes of course

Alpha Drake, they have not arrived yet, but we expect them soon, so yes please tell me what happened.” “I had given Kes

a punishment unfortunately before I truly had all the facts, but they did not come to light until months after I had already

set the punishment. But during her training there was a false rouge attack, meaning someone, raised the alarm of rouges,

and in the ensuing chaos Kes was stabbed twice and was in the hospital because of her injuries, so Carla and I felt it

prudent that we stay with her, and I can investigate what went wrong, and how and why she got hurt." "I am sorry to

hear that, I hope she is, ok?" "She will be, but due to the fact that she is young and does not have her wolf, yet she has to

heal like a normal human." "That is the hardest part. When the young get hurt. They have to heal slowly." "Yes, and again

I thank you for your understanding, with the change. If there is any trouble whatsoever, and I mean anything please send

them home, I unfortunately have let Jessie get away with far too much already." "I will, I promise." "Thank you, Shane.

See you in about two weeks." "Yes, see you. Bye." "Bye." I hang up the phone with him, but I still have to call Alpha

Luckas.

LISSA: I link Demi.* "Hey, you want to come over and hang out for a while?" "Sure." "See you when you get here."* I close

the link. About 5 to 10 minutes later she shows up. "So, what's up?" she asks, "want to play games, watch a movie?" I ask

her. "Sure, got a deck of cards?" "I think I can find one around here somewhere." "Good we can play cribbage, I brought

the board, I just didn't have the cards." I nod and go in search of a deck of cards. "I heard what happened to Kes, is she

Ok?" "Everyone says she will be, but because she doesn't have her wolf she has to heal at the human rate." "What

actually happened though? I mean I heard she was hurt, and had to stay in the hospital overnight." "She got stabbed

when someone call out (rouges north border.) She linked me to run to the house. I was on the bleachers watching her, I

took off towards the house but when I got to the safe room she wasn't there. I tried to link her and got nothing; I was so

scared." "I can about imagine I am so sorry." "Thanks. Let's just play." "Where is Liam and Mackinze?" she asked me. "I

think they went to the range, which is where Kes always like to go to let off steam as she calls it, now I think she has

gotten Liam doing it now too." She just nods at me.

LIAM: We take turns shooting but my head really isn't in it, but we shoot until it's time to go back for dinner. "Liam

what's up, I know you're a better shot than what you were doing." At first, I don't answer her, "Liam?" "I know, goddess

Mackie I was so scared that I was going to lose my sister, and other than you and Nana, I feel like nobody would have

cared." I stopped my bike and just burst into tears. Mackie stops, gets off her bike and comes and puts her arms around

me, and rubs my back until I calm down some. "I can't lose my sister Mackie I just can't!" I burst into more tears. "Hey,

sshh, I know Liam I know, I feel the same way about her she is my best friend, hell she is my only friend, I can't lose her

either, but we didn't, she is here, she is strong she will get better, ok." "Promise?" "Promise." "I need to go see her."

"Let's go then." We ride the rest of the way home in companionable silence

KESKA: It's around 4:30ish when I wake up, I'm a little confused about where I am. I look around and see that I am in my

room. But I don't remember how I got here. Oh well. I look around and find my phone, I need to call Adrian, because I'm

sure no one let him know what happened. I open my phone, see his number, and hit send. "Hey Kes, is everything all

right?" "I just needed to call because I'm sure no one let you know what happened to me, and I would rather you hear it

from me than through the rumor mill." "What happened Kes?" "I was stabbed yesterday late morning during training." I

told him. "What do you mean stabbed? Did they catch who did it?" "No, but there is more to it." "There always is. Tell me

what happened." "Someone call rouge attack north border, then there was total chaos, that's when I got stabbed, it may

have just been an accident." I say. "I doubt that. Are they at least investigating?" "Yes I believe they are." "How are you

doing?" He asked me. "I am OK, recovering, a little sore, and I have to take it easy for a few weeks, due to the stitches,

but all in all good." "Kina and I will be there for your birthday on Wednesday, and we have news to share." "Can't wait."

"We will see you, take it easy, ok?" "I will. Bye." "Bye." I hang up. And I hear my door open and see Liam poke his head in.

"Oh, good your awake. Can Mackie and I come in?" "Of course." They both enter my room and close the door. Liam

comes right over and climbs onto the bed with me. He puts his head in my lap, and just hugs my legs. "Kes don't ever

leave me." And his tears start. "Hey, hey, Sshh, Liam I'm not going anywhere buddy. I'm right here. Ok?" "But you almost

did." He cried. I just lightly rocked him until he was cried out. I looked at Mackie, she too looked like she was ready to cry.

I patted the bed on the other side of me for her to come and sit next to me. She came and sat down on the bed as well,

and put her head on my shoulder. We all stayed that way until mom came to get me for dinner and seen the three of us

there. "Ok you three, time for dinner, Mackie you need to let your parents know where you are." "Yes Luna." Mackie's

eyes glaze over so she was doing what Mom told her.

MACKIE: I linked Mom.* “I am at the pack house with Keska, Luna said I should link you to let you know.” “Is your sister

still there?” “I will find out, just a minute.”* “Mom wants to know if Demi is still here.” “Tell her yes, she is downstairs with

Lissa. And we don’t mind having you both stay for dinner.” Luna says. * “Yes, mom Demi is still here with Lissa, Luna says

that we are welcome to stay for dinner.” “Alright.”* “Thank you, Luna and mom says yes.” “Good, now all three of you get

ready for dinner.” She then leaves Keska’s room. Liam follows her out. “All she did was ask about Demi; she didn’t care where I was.” I stated to her. “I know, I get it.” She answers me back. And she does

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 46

[1,051 words]

KESKA: After Mackie linked her mom, and my mom left Mackie, and I got up freshened up and went down for dinner. It was nice sitting down to dinner, I felt that I didn’t have to try and hide for once, and with no sibling drama from the older

two, sitting at the dinner table was rather nice. “Remember Liam tomorrow is pack duty day.” I tell him. “I know, I just

wish you were coming like last time.” “Sorry little bro, I wouldn’t be able to do anything to help anyway.” “It helps that

you are there even if you don’t do anything.” He says. “Kes what are you talking about? What pack duties?” Mom asked.

“Liam said that he would like to take over doing the small tasks, and errands that Mackie and I have done since we were

8 or 9. I told him I didn’t care, but he has to be consistent with them, and not go running off to go play.” “So, he and

Betsy are going to be doing those, and earning the money from them." I tell mom. "And what will the two of you be doing

instead?" Father asked. "We were hoping to find jobs, but now with this, (I wave my hand to my right side.) I don't know

how well that will work. Sorry Mackie." I said. "We will figure something out." She says. Turning back to Liam, I say. "How

about I sit at one of the picnic tables at the park, that way you can see me while you do the yard work ok?" "Ok, it's not

perfect, but I'll take it." He says. Mom gives me another Pain pill after dinner. "I won't be very good company this

evening guys." I tell them. "It's ok, I am going to stay anyway." Mackie says to me. "I will link mom and ask if I can stay

too" Demi says.

KESKA: The weekend passed in a drug induced haze for me, and I hated every minute of it, I slept more over the weekend

than I probably have my entire life. Nana, Stephen, Frank and Pete went to Dark Forest pack to get the car, Mackie and I were waiting for them when they got back. "Stephen, will you teach us how to drive?" I asked him. "It would be my honor

to teach you how to drive miss Keska." "Thank you, Stephen." I tell him. "Nana can the car stay here with you for right

now, I don't trust Jessie not to do something to it." "Of course, dear, and I completely understand." "Thank you, Nana."

"Stephen, can we start our lessons next week? Hopefully I will be off the pain meds by then." "I believe we can arrange

that."

KESKA: Great Uncle Carson came on Tuesday, and I was ecstatic to have him there. The Sutter Gene was strong, because

he was a bit greyer at the temples, but his hair was still as black and shiny as Adrian's, and his eyes were still so sharp and

blue you could drown in them. It made me wonder if father would be the same when he reached 75. I was the first one at

the front steps to greet him. I took my usual place at the back, though, I wasn't going to change my place just because

the older twins were not home. "Carson welcome back." Father said extending his hand "Thank You Drake it's good to be

back." He said shaking hands with father. "Carla good to see you too." He stepped up to give mom a hug. "Lissa, Liam,

you two have grown so much since the last time I saw you." The twins step forward to give him a hug. "Keska, come give me a hug, it's your birthday tomorrow, what would you like?" "Just having you here is present enough Uncle Carson." I

say to him. And he just chuckles at me. "I hear that you are going to host a mating ball along with the twins' birthday." He says looking at mom and father. "Yes, it is our hope that one or maybe both of the twins will find their mate." "Do you

have the guest list made yet?" "We were going to go over that today or tomorrow." Mom tells him. "There are a couple

of Packs that I would like to see on the list, and a couple that if you do invite will need to be watched." He tells both mom

and father. "Let's go inside, instead of standing out here on the front steps." Father says. "By the way where are the older

twins?" Uncle asked. "They are reciprocating graduating ceremonies with a couple of nearby packs and won't be back

until the weekend." Mom tells him.

CARSON: "Why didn't you two go?" I asked them. "There was a training accident and Keska was stabbed, we didn't think

it prudent to leave her alone." Carla tells me. No wonder Kes looks a little pale. "I hope you are investigating what

happened." "We are." The pack looked good, it felt good too, to be back home. Even though I am not in charge any more it is still my home, and my pack. I missed it. I am looking forward to catching up with my old Beta and to see if my

nephew was keeping his word. But the kids look good, though. I am a little pissed that they didn't, rather it's, couldn't or wouldn't let me know that the twins were graduating, I would have made sure to have been here for it. Oh well what's

done is done. But I am here for Keska's birthday, and I will stay through both the twin's birthdays before I go to see my

brother and other nephews. "So Kes, who is coming to your party?" I ask her. "I am keeping it small, Uncle." She tells me.

"Ok, but still, who is coming?" "You, Nana, Beta Pierce, Mackie, Lissa, Liam, Adrian, Kina, Mom and Father." "I would like

to ask Alpha Camron, but it would be too long for him to be away from his pack." She tells me. "Who is this, Kina? You mentioned." I ask her. "She is Adrian's mate." "Wow, I have missed a lot." I say.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 47

[1,144 words]

KESKA: "Can we have Nana over for lunch?" I asked mom. "Of course, dear, why not link her and have her come now and

visit with Carson." "Ok, I will." I link Nana. *"Nana, Mom would like for you to come and visit with Uncle Carson and then

stay for lunch with us." "Carson is here?" "Yes Nana, I asked Father to ask him to come for my birthday." "I will be there in

10 minutes." "Ok Nana, love you." "Love you too."* I close the link "She said she would be here in 10 minutes." I tell Mom.

CARSON: I link my Beta. *"Calen, I am back, and I am at the pack house, come join us for lunch." "I would love to, then we need to talk privately." "Ok, where and when?" "Probably here at my place, in my office, where I know it's secure."

"Will do."* After linking Calen. "Carla dear, I hope you and Sarah don't mind but I have invited Calen to have lunch with

us." "No problem, Carson, Keska invited my mother as well, so we will have a reunion of sorts." She tells me. Lilly is

coming, I have missed her spunk, it will be good to see her again too.

JESSIE: My phone started ringing after lunch on Monday, I checked caller ID and saw that Marla was calling. "Hey what's

up?" I answered as I looked around and made sure no one was around me. "They are investigating what happened to

Keska." "So as long as those four idiots stick to the script, I don't care." "Have you come up with a way to keep her from

the mating ball?" she ask me. "No not yet, but if you have any ideas or suggestions I'm open to hear them." "Nothing

short of kidnapping her and holding her somewhere no." "Well, we might have to do just that." I say. "Where are you at

right now?" She asked, "We are at Dutch Wood, and we will be leaving here tomorrow after lunch to go to High Crest,

their ceremony is Wednesday evening, and then we will be home Saturday." "Well, if you work out a plan for the ball let

me know, and anything I or Dedi need to do, we will get it done." "I will, gotta go bye." "Bye." I hang up and go join my

brother, Star, Colton, Wyatt and Janica.

STAR: I had noticed Jessie on her phone, and watched her body language, she was up to something, I linked Wyatt.

*"Take a good look at Jessie, what does her body language say to you?" "That she is up to no good." "That's what I

thought as well, do we say something to James?" "We can try, he has been noticing things with her lately that have not

set well with him. I will tell him later. We will just have to keep an eye on her."* I close the link. And come back to the

conversation of the group.

JANICA: I noticed an exchange between Wyatt and Star, and I followed where they were looking and saw Jessie on her

phone, I also noticed one of my friends not too far away from where she was. *Macey, move slowly toward the blonde

on her phone, not to close but try to read what she is saying.* I say to her through the link. "I believe that we should all

learn some other form of communication, It's not a pups fault if something happens during birth or childhood that

causes trauma to them, and then on top of everything they can't communicate. We as the ranked wolves need to ensure

that everyone in our packs are taken care of, no matter what the situation." I say coming back into our conversation.

"Now you are sounding a lot like my cousin Adrian." James says. "Who sounds like Adrian?" Jessie asks, coming to join

the group. "Me apparently." I say. "What's the topic." She asked. "whether or not to incorporate different ways to

communicate within the pack." I say. "Ah, yes that is definitely an Adrian thing." She says. "I had noticed that Alpha

Adrian and your sister Keska were signing when we were there." I said. "Yes, I guess his gamma has a cousin that is deaf,

and won't get her wolf for two years yet." James says. "What happened?" I asked, "Not 100% sure, but something to do

with something that happened when she was born, and completely out of anyone's control." James said. "So that makes my point. Why should an innocent pup be a victim more than what they already are by something that was beyond them

to control to begin with." I say. "We need to make sure that they have a way to communicate, with us and us with them,

or we are no better than the rouges."

COLTON: "Janica does have a point." I say. "It would behoove the ranked wolves to incorporate some form of

communication for people and situations like that.” “True, as we never know what others have gone through it could be

the difference between getting a treaty, or business contract signed.” James says. “Usually those people have interpreters,

so why bother?” Jessie says. “Well, I don’t think that I would prefer to leave contract negotiations open to just a onesided affair, and hope that I don’t get screwed.” I say. I noticed that my sister was getting a link, so I kept the focus on me. “Ok I guess there is that.” Jessie concedes. “Excuse me, I will be right back.” Janica gets up and heads into the

kitchen from the back door. “Is it something I can help with?” Jessie asked. “No, just using the restroom, and then I will

bring out more refreshments.” My sister says.

JANICA: I go into the house and head for the restroom, I really did have to use it. But I also wanted to know what Macey

found out. *“(What did you read Macey?” “I couldn’t get everything, but this is what I did get.”(four idiots, stick to the

script, any ideas, hear them, might have to do, Dutch Wood, after lunch, High Crest, home Saturday.) * “That’s all I got

Janica, sorry.” “Don’t apologize you did good. Thak you.”* I closed the link. I washed my hands, went to the kitchen,

grabbed a tray put some fresh bottles of water on it along with a pitcher of fresh lemonade and glasses and headed out

the door. “So, what did I miss?” I asked as I set the tray down, and took my seat. “Nothing, we were discussing maybe

going into town and doing the arcade.” My brother says. “sounds like a good idea, we have a few hours to kill before

dinner, it will be fun.” I say.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 48

[1,303 words]

JAMES: "I will link the Beta to let him know." I said. "Really James!" Jessie huffs at me. "Yes! Really Jessie, I don't want him

to panic, and then we have to go home early." I tell her. She rolls her eyes at me "Whatever." I just shake my head, and

link the beta. *"Colton and Janica want to take us into town to show us the arcade." "That's fine just please be back in

time to get cleaned up for dinner." "I will make sure."* I close the link. "He doesn't care as long as we are back in time to

clean up for dinner." I tell the group.

COLTON: "We should all make sure we all have each other's phone numbers in case we end up getting separated, it's a

big place, it has three floors to it." I say. And everyone agrees. "we should send a one-word text to everyone just to make

sure each number is correct." My sister adds. So, before we leave, I call my beta to be, Tom to join us, everyone

exchanges numbers. I link dad. *"We are going to take them to the arcade." "Ok, just be home in enough time to get

cleaned up for dinner, I don't want your Mom stressing." "Ok dad."* I close the link. "Dad said the same thing. But his

reasoning was because he doesn't want mom stressing." I chuckled. We head out and take two vehicles and a third with

a few guards in it.

STAR: My phone dings on the drive to the arcade. I check to see who texted me. It was from Janica. ("If you are close to

Jessie, just say it's your mom, or a friend checking in. but we need to talk, just us.") I texted back, ("Jessie is in the front

seat next to Tom, I am in the back. Go ahead, tell me what you need to.") ("I have a friend that is practicing reading lips, I

am not sure if this is important but this what she told me she got from Jessie's phone call. { four idiots, stick to the script,

any ideas, hear them, might have to do, Dutch Wood, after lunch, High Crest, home Saturday.}") ("Well, the last part is our

itinerary, the first part might have something to do with Keska's stabbing. The middle is a mystery. Thank you.") ("Just

thought you should know; I don't trust Jessie.") ("I don't either.") "What's all the texting Star?" Jessie asked, "Mom just

checking in to see how things are going, and if we're having fun." I tell her. "Tell auntie I said hi." "I will." I say. And I

actually text my mom. ("Hey mom, this has to be quick, Jessie says hi, I am sending a screen shot to you please show the

Alpha.") and I sent her my text screen from Janica. ("No dad doesn't know, we are on our way to an arcade, if I get more

time somewhere I will fill you in more, but not right now. Love you.") (Ok. Love you too.") "She says Hi back and wants us

all to have fun." I say to everyone. I link Wyatt. *"I have some information you will find interesting. Janica has a friend that

is learning to read lips, and Jessie is definitely up to something. When I have time alone someplace I will send something

to you, but can't now."* I close the link. Settle back and watch the scenery.

WYATT: After getting the link from Star, I link James. *"Don't react, but Star and I believe Jessie is up to something, Star

just linked me and said she would send me something when she had the time to do it." "Then I guess we need to give

her the time, and keep Jessie occupied elsewhere." "Agreed."* I closed the link.

JAMES: "So dose this place have pinball?" I asked "Yes, the main floor is the front entrance, and then it is divided into

video, pinball, and food court, the top floor is more active type games like the dance stuff, and Wii, and the bottom has a

6-lane bowling alley, paint ball/obstacle course combo, and skeet ball." Colton answers me. We pull into the parking lot;

the place seems pretty busy. Park the cars and go inside. "Wow." I say. "I know right?" Colton answers. The place is lit up

like a disco, with all the flashing lights and the music is just loud enough that it is in the background, and you can still

hear your game. We need to get one of these built in our pack, it will help keep the kids occupied and not have them

causing trouble. I thought to myself. We move through the place, with Colton and Janica pointing out different games to

try out our skill levels on.

STAR: "Is there archery?" I asked. "That would be upstairs, with the dance, and the Wii." Janica answers me. "I would like

to go try that." I say. "Ok." "Jessie, anything catch your eye?" Janica asked her. "I would like to try the dance." She says. "I

am going to take the girls upstairs" Janica says to her brother. "Ok." Colton answers her. And we head for the stairs.

COLTON: "So anything in particular catch your eye?" I ask James. "Yeah actually, I would like to do the paintball and

obstacle course. But I have a question." "Shoot." I say. "Is it possible to do it in combination, like you and Tom with the

paint guns and Wyatt and I running the course and then we switch?" "I think we can do that; we will have to ask though."

I tell him. But I like the way he was thinking. For sure. I went and asked at the counter about James's question, and we were told that yes we could most certainly do that. Each group stayed in their perspective areas for about an hour, then we all came back together on the main floor to get beverages, bathroom break and then on to the pinball and video

games.

STAR: When we took our bathroom break I sent Wyatt a screen shot of my text screen with Janica from earlier, with the

message that I was going to delete it from my phone because I didn't want to take a chance of Jessie seeing it, and to let

me know he got it. "Received." He sent me. And I deleted it. I put my phone back in my purse and left the stall, washed

my hands, and met up with the girls. We stayed playing pinball and video games for about an hour and then headed

back to the pack house to make sure we were there in time to freshen up before dinner. While I had the time before

changing for dinner I texted mom. ("I have a little bit of time, so I wanted to bring you up to speed, about the screen

shot, Janica has a friend learning to read lips, and this is what she picked up from a phone call Jessie receive earlier

today.") ("Ok, dear, but this could be considered an invasion of privacy.") ("I get that mom, but if this has anything to do

with Keska's stabbing then the Alpha needs to know.") ("You are right on that count, but we need more proof then just

this, to link her to what happened, this could be anything, like a skit that she might be working on for the ball or any

number of other things.") ("Maybe, but I still think he should know." "But I have to go so I'm not late for dinner.")

("Alright dear, tell your father I love him.") ("I will.") I put my phone back in my purse and head out for dinner.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 49

[1,246 words]

EVELYN: The next day I head over to the alpha wing of the house, it was after lunch, and link Drake. *Alpha I need to

speaking with you please." "Come to my office." "Thank you."* I head to his office, I am a bit nervous, because of what I will

be showing him involves his precious Jessie, and it's circumstantial at best. I knock on his door. "Come." I open the door

and enter his office. "Evelyn, come in. What brings you to me?" "Thank you Alpha, I'm afraid that what I have to show

you could be very bad in one of two different ways, and unfortunately I don't know which way it will be." "Well let's see what it is first shall we?" I take out my phone, open it and go to the text screen and hand it to him. "Star sent me a screen

shot of a text message she had with Janica. { four idiots, stick to the script, any ideas, hear them, might have to do, Dutch Wood, after lunch, High Crest, home Saturday.} I know it could be nothing, but Star seemed to think that Jessie might be

up to something." "I'm confused, I think you need to start at the beginning." He says. "Supposedly Janica has a friend

that is learning to read lips, and this is from a phone call that Jessie had with someone on Monday." I tell him. "I have to

say Evelyn if this turns out to be nothing it's an invasion of privacy." "I know Alpha, that's what I told her. But she seem to

think that it might have something to do with Keska's stabbing." "If that's true, we will need more than this. But it does

fit I hate to say it. and coming at it from that perspective we now know that there are four others involved." He tells me.

"And that means people are lying to me. I will probably have to use my alpha command to get it out of them." "I am

sorry alpha; I know how much you don't like to use your command on the pack." "Not your fault Evelyn, thank you for

bringing me this, can you send this to me?" "Yes alpha." I take my phone back and forward the screen shot to him. "I

have thing to get back to.” “Yes, of course, thank you again Evelyn.” I get up and leave his office and head back to my

own.

BETA PIERCE: I am happy to have Carson back in the pack, I am going to let him know what happened with Jessie, I don't

believe that she got a harsh enough punishment for what she did, but the whole apologizing in public was the right call

on Drake's part, but he needed to be harsher with the rest of it. If you think that makes me a tattler I don't care,

Carson built this pack from nothing to the 15 hundred members it has today, and I am not about to let it go down the

drain because of his great niece thinking she is entitled like his sister-in-law.

CARSON: I walk with my beta to his place, and we head straight to his office. “What's on your mind Calen?” I asked him.

“A lot, but first welcome back,

How was the trip?” “It was good, I met with different businesspeople from different types of businesses from all over the

country, I think some of it will help benefit the pack, I just need to get with Drake and James and share the possibilities

with them.” “Good, I wish I had as good of news. What I am going to tell you is old news, and has been dealt with but I

don't feel that it was enough, and I don't believe the person in question learned from it at all.” He tells me. “Alright tell me.” “Jessie was bullying an underclassman at school.”

“WHAT?” I roared “HE SWORE TO ME!” “Carson, calm down, it

was taken care of, he made Jessie do a public apology to the student in question.” “But still it shouldn't have happened!”

I was angry to say the least. “I know, I did remind him of that.” “What's the rest.” I asked, “I don't think she learned

anything from it, and I think more happened at that time, but I'm not in the loop anymore, so I can't be sure of

anything.” He tells me. “I might know of someone who is, though.” I tell him. “Who?” “Lilly. After all she is the Luna’s mother, she may know.” “Carson. Wow that’s genius.” I link Lilly. * “Lilly, are you busy right now?” “No, is there something

I can do for you Carson?” “Would you please come to Beta pierce’s.” “Sure, I can be there in about 5 minutes.” “Thank

you.”* I close the link. “she is on her way said she’ll be here in 5.” I tell him. He gets up and starts to get some

refreshments put together and some light snacks for us.

LILLY: I let Stephen know that I was going to go to Beta Pierce’s and that I was going to walk it was only about 5 minutes

away so no need to take the car out. “When should I expect you back?” he asked me. “Honestly I don’t know, if it gets to

be close to dinner I will link you, so you will know, ok?” “Yes miss Lilly.” I head out the front door and head over to Beta

pierce’s. I ring the bell and wait to be let in. A younger woman opens the door, she is in her thirty’s “Miss Lilly, please

follow me, Mr. Calen is expecting you.” I step into the front entry, the house is decorated in lighter neutral tones of beige,

green, and blue. Very nice. I am led through what appears to be the family living/sitting room down a short hallway to a

heavy oak door on the interior wall. The young woman knocks on the door. “Come.” I hear Callen’s voice. She opens the

door and ushers me in, then closes the door behind me. The office is also done in a softer shade of green, with darker wood furniture.

BETA PIERCE: “Lilly come in please have a seat.” I watch as she takes a seat with her back to a wall and somewhat close to

the door, ever the instincts of the warrior. “To what do I owe the honor of being asked here?” “Well Carson and I were

hoping that you might have insight on what’s been going on with the family, and the pack.” I say to her. She just studies

us for a long while, as if debating with herself. "If I tell you what I know, I need to know that you won't go flying off the

handle and cause a scene." She finally says to us. "I think we can handle that request." I tell her. "I hope so because

neither one of you is going to like what you are about hear from me." She says matter of factly. "Please tell us." "It starts with Adrian's swearing in ceremony, Amanda rejected Keska in front of most everyone present, and slapped her, then as

they were going to leave, Amanda assaults Keska again by digging her **wolf's claws** into her upper arm, she will carry

those scars for life. Then the next week during all the

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 50

[1,211 words]

About a month, maybe 2 later Jessie tries to link Kes, and Kes doesn't respond, so Jessie runs home to daddy (she uses

finger quotes for the word daddy.) and tells him that Kes is ignoring her. "Wait your telling us Jessie rejected her own

sister? That's insane." "Yes I am, well you know the outcome of Jessie's punishment for bullying, Calen, but what you don't

know is that Kes got punished as well because she got you involved, instead of going straight to Drake. We both know

that he wouldn't have believed a word Kes told him over Jessie, and that's why she did it. Oh, and Carson, don't be

shocked when Kes continues to call him father she has been doing it for the last few years." I look at Carson in complete

shock. We are both stunned by what she is telling us. "What was Kes's punishment?" "A week of hard training with the

elite Deltas.” **“WHAT!”** We both shout. “That’s right.” “What about the graduation?” Carson asked, “That I have no

clue about, but if you want my honest opinion, they just forgot about you. That’s why Kes asked to have you here for her

birthday. Which by the way they keep forgetting about. This will be the first time in I want to say about 3-4 years that it

will even be acknowledged.” She tell us. “One more thing, you need to know Carson, Kes accepted Amanda’s rejection at

the graduation gathering. And again, this was after Amanda dug her wolf’s claws in Keska’s arm. I also want to let you

know that I threatened her.” “What did you say?” “I told her if she ever dared to lay hands on **MY** grand pup again I

will end her regardless of who she thinks she is.” “Well, I can’t blame you. That woman has always been a piece of work.”

Carson tells her. “But what about the Stabbing?” I asked. “I still don’t know anything on that front, I haven’t heard

anything in regard to the investigation. But I just have this gut feeling that Jessie has had a hand in it. She is taking her

cue from your sister-in-law Carson.” After Lilly finishes her narrative we are both left stunned and speechless.

CARSON: I can’t believe that Drake could be so blind as to let all this happen. “Is there anything special that Keska has

said she wants for her birthday?” I ask Lilly. “No, I bought her and Mackie a used car, as she insisted she didn’t need a

new model.” “Well, what about a new phone?” I asked. “That might be a thought, She hasn’t had a new phone in 3 years.

Every time the twins’ get new phones their old ones get handed down to Kes and she takes the second one for Mackie.”

She tell us. I am getting more and more pissed with every new reveal she tells us. “What about James, how is he?” “He

has gotten better over the past couple week, since he was told a few things by Drake and a pack member.” “What

things?” “Well, they were all threatened that you could come back and take the pack back, and away from them

completely, which I think gave them all a wake-up call, with the exception of Keska they were all a little scared. Then

James, Wyatt, and Jessie had to go apologize to a pack member for breaking their window, which Keska took punishment

for in the first place because the twins blamed her, said pack member told James he has lost some respect because he

didn’t come forward and tell the truth to begin with. So, I believe that gave him a bit of a wakeup call, and then Keska

got stabbed, I think that shook him to his core a bit, made him think how he was letting Jessie influence him.” “Well, I

guess I need to go shopping. Care to come with.” I ask Lilly. “As long as we are back by dinner.” She says.

LILLY: I link Stephen. * “I am going shopping with Alpha Carson I am hoping to be back by dinner.” “Ok miss Lilly.”* I close

the link. “Are you going to join us Calen?” I asked the beta. “I don’t know what I would get her.” He says. “Arrows, and

lots of them.” I tell him. “Arrows!” they both say together. “Yes arrows, she is probably the second best shot in the pack,

followed by Mackinzie, and I know that her having to not be able to shoot right now is driving her up wall so that will be

a welcome gift for her, when she is able to get back to it.” I tell them.

KESKA: For some reason I am feeling antsy, I just don’t know if it’s due to the fact that I really am not supposed to be

doing anything strenuous or if it’s due to the pain meds, and no it’s not because my birthday is tomorrow, because they

most likely forgot about it. I go in search of mom. I look for her in her office and she is not there. So, then I link her.

*“Mom where are you?” “With your father, in his office, why?” “I don’t know, I just feel off, antsy, is there anything I can

do to get rid of this feeling?” “Are you in pain?” “No.” “I guess you can see if Sarah needs any help in the kitchen, just be

mindful of your stitches.” “Ok.”* I close the link and head to the kitchen. “Sarah, please give me something to do, I am

going crazy, I feel so antsy right now.” “Well, I can mix up a batch of your favorite cookies. And you can spoon them out.”

She tells me. “Done.” She starts the batter, and I get the cookie sheets out, and ready. My favorite cookie is chocolate

chip WITHOUT the chocolate chips. I know I’m weird. But that is what I like. It helps that I can do something, it takes

some of the antsiness away for a bit.

CARLA: Drake and I are going over the packs that we will be inviting to the ball. So far we have the rules set.

UNDER THE LAWS SET FORTH BY ROYAL DECREE ALL PACKS PARTICIPATING IN THE MATING BALL MUST SEND 12 MATED GUARDS TO HELP WITH SECURITY. THE FOLLOWING ARE BLUE CRESENT’S RULES FOR THIS MATING BALL.

*No casual sex hook ups until after the full moon.

*Attire is not formal, but dressy, business casual, no distressed or street wear.

*All unmated ranked wolves, 12 unmated males and females of unranked status. From each pack.

*Two fancy outfits, one for the meet and greet, one for the birthday party.

*Any disputes will be brought to the Alpha’s attention to be judged openly and fairly.

*The highest ranked member from each pack will be responsible for their pack member’s bio-information, and behavior

while here.

SIGNED Drake and Carla Sutter Alpha and Luna. Blue Crescent Pack.

CARLA: Now to the Packs. DUTCH WOOD, HIGH CREST, COLD MOON, DARK FOREST, HARVEST MOON, MOON RISE, DARK MOON, BLACK CRESENT, MIDNIGHT SKY, BLACK WATERS, GOLDEN SUN, BURNING EMBER.

“Why your mother’s and the royal pack?” Drake asked.

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