

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 51

Chapter 51

We spent the next few days falling into a routine. She spent time in the morning memorizing the different floors of the house while I made breakfast. We then would go outside and either lounge by the pool or sit on the rocks by the water. She seemed to enjoy being outside the most. We would come in, have lunch and then I would read to her from one of the books in the library. She sat quietly on the couch as I read aloud. She would make dinner and I would try to get some work done on the computer. Morgan was back to not answering his phone and I just had to trust that he was actually hurrying back at some point. She would go to bed after that and it finished out our day.

Tonight though, a storm had rolled in. I was sitting on my bed, reading through some emails that had come in. One specifically came in from Micah giving me the directions on where to send his 'gift'. I sent a message to the men at the warehouse to go ahead and proceed with the shipment. As I hit send, I heard a quiet padding of footsteps going downstairs and I furrowed my brow. Going down, I saw that Auri had gone down to the first floor.

She was in one of my shirts that went down to her knees. She had her arms wrapped around her, as she faced the windows that I had left cracked to listen to the incoming storm. The waves crashed against the rocks loudly and the thunder was sometimes loud enough to shake the windows.

"Scared, little bird?"

She jumped and turned, bowing low to me. I chuckled.

"Don't worry, little bird. It's okay. This is your space too."

I knew she didn't understand but I wished she would. I walked over to the back of the living room. I lifted the covers off the keys of the grand piano I had on the bottom floor. I sat down at the bench.

"Come, little bird. This might make you feel better."

She padded over to me, facing away from the window and leaned against the piano. I pressed a cord and she smiled. An involuntary smile and my heart soared. She hadn't done that the first time she sang. I hoped I had been

helping her, that something was getting through. I started into the first song and she sang, my heart hurt I was so happy. While it wasn't full of passion like it had been, it wasn't the emotionless performance at the castle. She moved a little bit as she sang. She tipped her head to the side with the notes. I continued to play, lost between the music and the crashing of waves outside.

We rolled into the second song and this time, she sang softly. Her voice carrying only in the room. The storm consumed it but it was so quiet and intimate I closed my eyes as I played. Focusing solely on her voice, on her feel for the music. Finishing the second song, I stopped. I looked up at her and she looked sad.

"Are you okay to do one more song little bird? I don't want you in pain."

She nodded, sticking her tongue out as proof. I didn't smell any blood and so I started into the third song. This time Auri sang at full volume. Her feet didn't move but her body swayed and dipped with the sound and notes. It sounded beautiful and sad. Oh so sad. The crash of the waves behind obscured the sound I thought was the door closing. Looking at Auri, I was caught up in her words, her voice, the actual emotion coming from her. I played for her and she sang for me. She hit the high note and my heart flew with it. A note only Auri could hit. As she came down, I paused my fingers on the keys, hearing her voice alone with the storm.

It's then I heard a suitcase drop on the floor and my eyes shot up to look at Morgan. He was visibly shaking in the entrance.

"What the FUCK is going on?"

Auri stopped singing immediately and stepped back.

"Shit Morgan, scare the fuck out of us why don't you?" I breathed out a sigh.

"You're a vampire Max, you should have heard me drive up the damn driveway."

I pointed out the window. "If you hadn't noticed, there was a storm and I was playing the piano."

Morgan's eyes never moved from looking at Auri. She could feel him staring too. Her hands were clasp together, head bowed, reverting back to her usual stance. One that I had finally thought I stopped her from doing.

"Little bird, relax. Morgan won't hurt you." I glared at him. "You're scaring her Morgan, stop!"

"What do you mean I'm scaring her! I don't even know what I'm fucking looking at."

Auri inched over to me so that I was between her and Morgan. "Morgan, it's Auri."

He strode up to me, his eyes ablaze with anger. "Auri is dead Max. She died over a year ago."

"No she didn't. The Bloodhunter Coven had her this whole time." My voice was barely above a whisper.

Morgan looked from me to Auri. "They confirmed her death."

"Who did? You did? You saw her body? Saw her dead? Or did you hear it from someone who could easily be paid off by a coven?"

"Max, you're a fucking lunatic."

"You heard her sing! Just now! You can deny all you want but you can't deny her voice! Trust me, I know. I lost it. Her hair was dyed back and I didn't recognize her at first. Being this thin... this frail...this... broken. But when she sang, Morgan, I knew. It was our Auri." I paused though, glancing at her. "At least what's left."

He roared and Auri shrunk back behind me. "Then why isn't she talking? Why doesn't she recognize me? Only remembers you? Convenient."

"She doesn't recognize me, Morgan. Our Auri is in there.. somewhere. But she is broken, has been broken. Currently, she's more doll than she is human. I've been trying, slowly, to get her out of it. But she doesn't know her name, doesn't speak. Frankly, that performance was the first time I've heard any emotion in her voice. I was so happy..." I trailed off.

"Then why is she hiding behind you!"

"Because currently I'm her master!" I yelled at him and he, shocked, stepped back.

"Master?"

"Yes, her master. Because Micah of the Bloodhunters brought her in as a slave and so I bought her. I didn't know what else to fucking do. I paid for Auri and he transferred ownership to me." I finally voiced the anger of what Micah had turned me into.

"I don't understand."

I was mad. I was mad at Morgan for not listening.

"Little bird, stand here please."

Auri came and stood next to me.

"Little bird, kneel."

She kneeled on the floor.

I glared at Morgan who was visibly mortified. "Little bird, take off your shirt."

She complied without a second thought.

"Little bird, beg."

She put her forehead down to the floor.

"Stop." Morgan was shaking again.

"Little bird, stand up and kiss me."

"Stop it Max!"

Auri got up and pressed her body into mine. She kissed my lips. I didn't open them, anger rolling off of me. I was only trying to prove a point.

"Little bird, thank you. Put your shirt back on and go to bed now. I'll wake you in the morning for breakfast. You will get a reward tomorrow for being a good little bird."

She smiled and gave a quick bow, throwing the shirt over her head before walking back to the stairs, giving Morgan a wide berth as she did. I listened as she padded up the stairs and closed the door. I glared at Morgan. He was staring outside, into nothing. His hands balled up into fists.

"How..." His voice cracked and he didn't continue.

I walked over to the kitchen and pulled out what looked to be a wine bottle. I poured the blood into a glass and turned to Morgan. I explained the whole ordeal at the High Council, explained my idiot plan. I left out how much I paid and the shit I had done to her when I was trying to sell my persona. As he listened, he ended up pulling out a chair from the bar and sitting down.

"I don't care what you were doing, you need to answer your phone when I call. I don't give a shit about the other guys, but when I call. It means I need you, not the damn business."

"Logan said he felt her die. That he felt her in pain for hours and then he felt her die."

I shrugged, finishing off my drink. "I know silver blocks the link between wolf and pack, that's why they make werewolves wear the bracelets at the meetings. Outside of that, I've really got no clue."

"She had..." He touched his own neck.

"Yeah. They are solid silver. There were three long chains connected too but I managed to get them cut off without her freaking out. Young and I tried to take them off of her when I first managed to get her but she freaked out. Starts to scream and panic. I haven't tried again."

"She doesn't answer to Auri?"

I shook my head. "No. Just little bird." I tossed him the booklet. "There is this."

Morgan flipped through it, more and more disgusted as he flipped through the pages.

"Jesus fucking christ."

"But there is a light in this."

"A fucking light? Max, you have got to be shitting me."

I shrugged again. "While Micah may have broken her, he never knew who she was. He would have never brought her to the High Council meeting for fear of you or I recognizing her. Hell, even Alpha Logan if he came. So she never gave him any information."

"No, she just gave him her soul." Morgan stated bitterly. "I don't even know what to do about Logan."

"My worry is whether or not we can even get Auri back.." I finally voiced another of my concerns.

Morgan nodded, burying his face in his hands. "Fuck."

"Fuck is right."

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 52

Morgan's POV

I sat back in the lawn chair. Max sat on the rocks while Auri played in the water. She would smile as the waves crashed against the rocks and sprayed her. It was like raising a child again. Except so much harder. Max was actually doing really well considering. He was never one for gentle and subtle but he handled her with the softest touch.

We decided to not tell Logan. Not yet. Not until we could see if there was any chance of rehabilitation. It had taken a bit for her to trust even being around me. Now, she didn't shy away from me but it wasn't the same. She still didn't speak, but she sang more and more in the house. There were still days I had to pinch myself. Still confirm I was on this world and not another. That she was actually in front of us. What she made abundantly clear though was that we could not touch the collar unless it was bath time. We didn't know what made her panic but we had to leave it alone.

There was progress but it was slow. As vampires, we didn't care. Time was irrelevant to us. But the world kept moving on and I was worried on both sides of the spectrum. If we waited too long, Logan might actually move on and maybe the chance of her being happy with her mate would be gone. Or if we did tell him and she never came back, that he would destroy what was left in her.

Suddenly my phone rang.

"Speak of the devil." I mumbled. "Hey Logan."

Max turned around from his rock to look at me, picking up my words.

'Morgan, you missed our monthly call yesterday.'

"Sorry, I've been bus." I watched Auri squeal as a wave pushed her down.

'Yeah, you sound real busy. Is that the ocean I hear?'

"Look boy, when you get to my age, you take your vacations where you can."

He chuckled on the other end. Max leaned back and looked at me, yelling across the lawn;

"Ask him how Leandra is doing." Max's sarcastic tone was apparent as he rolled his eyes and looked back to Auri.

'Did he just say ask about how Leandra was doing?'

I chuckled. "Yeah, Max had a unpleasant run- in with the Alpha King about six months back. Apparently some shit was said between them and Max wanted to, and I quote, 'grab him by the throat until his head snapped off'."

'The man's an ass that sure, but I don't know if he's worth starting a war with the werewolves over it.'

I saw Max shrug and I laughed. "He shrugged so. You never know."

'Also, you can tell him that Leandra is good. We are expecting our first pup at the beginning next year.'

I froze and Max went stiff. We both were silent. Both of us staring at Auri, who was crouched down looking at something in the water between the rocks.

'Morgan?'

I closed my eyes and tried to recalibrate. We had been too late but Auri wasn't read if we had done it sooner.

'Morgan, I know your still there. I know it's not... ideal. Frankly, she became my bedmate and understood that there wouldn't be any love in the relationship. She still stayed though and it was nice. To have someone care. She got pregnant. We found out about a week ago.'

"But Auri..." I looked out at my girl on the rocks.

"Auri is gone, Morgan. The Alpha King was right about one thing, I needed to think of my pack, of the packs future."

"She's not gone." I choked out.

Max turned to me, wide-eyed. He got up and started walking towards me.

"Morgan, stop."

'She's gone Morgan. She dead. You know that. I know that. Don't do this.'

"She's not dead. We found her Logan. Max found her. "

"Morgan Russo, you stop right now." Max yelled. "She is not ready. She needs more time. He will break her."

I pulled the phone away from my mouth. "He already has Max, he's having kids with someone else."

"I don't give a shit if he fucks every single werewolf between here and there. I don't care if he gets every single one of them pregnant. SHE is our priority. SHE is what matters. And SHE is not ready."

Not since the first night I came home to find Auri was Max this angry. I stared at him as he glared at me. After a few minutes of silence, Auri came up and took Max's hand. She stroked it slowly, her way of trying to calm him down.

"I'm sorry, little bird. I didn't scare you did I?" Max sighed in relief as she shook her head.

'What the fuck is going on, Morgan?

Max and I stared down each other still. Auri looking between us.

"MORGAN!"

"Max found Auri with the Bloodhunters Coven Her mind shattered, but alive."

Max growled. "Damn it, Morgan. Fuck you. You don't give a shit. You're hurting her and you're hurting him. But you don't give a shit about that."

I moved the phone away again. "He might be able to help her!"

"Oh, and if he doesn't, he could hurt her more. All this progress we've made, lost. And if he does by some miraculous means he fixes her. What then? What does she have to go back to, huh? A mate with a pup on the way with someone else? A pack who has mourned her death for years and has been finally moved on? What will she have Morgan?" Max looked at Auri. "Go inside little bird, I'll be right there." He watched as Auri skittered off to the house.

"You're so fucking selfish. You don't give a shit about the things you set in motion when you try and make nice with everyone. You don't see how badly it could go for both sides. Well this time, it's Auri and I will not allow you to fuck with her anymore than she has already been fucked with." He left and I heard the door to the house slam shut and I couldn't help but flinch.

'If it was just coming from you, I would think you were playing a sick fucking joke. But with Max. Morgan, is she really alive?'

"Yes."

I heard a choked sob on the other end and phone drop on the floor. You didn't need vampire senses to know he was losing it. Footsteps sounded through the phone and there were multiple voices coming across. A couple I knew, a couple I didn't.

'Alpha, what's going on?' Bryan's voice I knew.

'What the fuck happened?' Hectors as well.

A softer voice came over the line, one I didn't know. 'Its been over year since he's had an attack. Bryan, help him up.'

'What's going on? Is he okay?' Another female voice filtered through the line.

I hung up the phone and rubbed my face with my hand. We had to do something. Maybe I was being selfish. That I wanted our Auri back faster. It was torture seeing her like this. I called back his line after about ten minutes, voicemail picking up immediately.

"It's Morgan. I'll be in town next month for business. I'll swing by when I can. If you..." I paused and looked back at the house. "If you want to talk, or come back with me."

I ended the message, wondering if I was doing the right thing still. But it was to late now. I got up and walked back to the house. Back into the shit storm I had created.

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 53

Logan's Pov

Bryan and Hector picked me up off the floor and set me down on the couch in mv office. Hector shoved a glass of bourbon in my hand and after controlling my breathing, I gulped down the drink. I gave him a smile and he gave me a quick nod back.

I looked around the room. Bryan was leaning against my desk, Hector taking up his usual post in the doorway, Denise standing next to Leandra, and Leandra was sitting on the edge of the couch next to me. It took a minute to recall what had just happened, but I looked down at the phone I had dropped. I started to have a hard to breathing again. Leandra tried to put her hand on my shoulder but I shrugged it off.

"Everyone, out. Please. Except Bryan." I pinched the bridge of my nose. "And when I mean out, I mean out of the packhouse. I don't want anyone in the packhouse for the next hour."

"Alpha?" Hector looked confused.

"OUT. NOW." I yelled, letting some of my Alpha authority seep into my words.

Denise and Leandra yelped a little and quickly exited the room. Hector gave Bryan and I one last look before leaving. I waited until I heard the front door close and the house settled into quiet.

"That was unnecessary Logan."

"I don't care."

"You should, they're your friends."

"I don't care right now, Bryan."

"I can go too. That's my mate you just snapped at. For doing nothing wrong."

I glared at him. "Bryan I need you to shut the fuck up right now or I swear to god I will have take over the training for the rest of the year."

He fell quiet, stunned. I sat on the edge of the couch, my head in my hands and my elbows resting on my knees. I tried replaying the conversation in my head. Tried listening for anything in Max and Morgan's fight.

"Were you on the phone with Morgan?"

"Auri is alive."

"You broke the news to him that Leandra was pregnant didn't you? I told you not to..."

I looked up at him through my hands. "Bryan, Auri is alive."

"No she isn't. She's dead. You felt it, we all felt it. She's gone." He snapped at me. "You were finally about to find someone who might not fill the hole but at least gives a shit about you. She doesn't even ask for love back. Not that you could give her ANY emotion back, you're incapable of feeling."

I pulled my leg up and hugged my knee, resting my chin on my knee. Bran was right. I didn't feel anything anymore. I didn't allow myself to feel anything anymore. I focused on strength. My strength and the strength of the pack. And what was I going to do if I did find her?

"Morgan's pissed because his daughters mate might be moving on. He's making up an excuse for you to feel bad. Auri is gone. Don't let him fuck with you."

I pulled my head away from my hands. Surprised at the Bryan's venom at me.

"What if he isn't lying though..."

He huffed and threw his hands in the air.

"Bryan, what if he isn't making it up? Do I risk just ignoring it?"

"Alright, for the sake of argument, lets say he's right. By some fucking ludicrous sick joke by the universe she is alive. You literally have a pup on the way, Logan. What are you going to do about the pup? About Leandra? Just toss them out? Or will you have them and Auri live together? One big happy threesome?"

"I'll let Auri go." I replied after a few minutes.

"Excuse me?"

"I would let Auri go. Let her be happy. Not with an Alpha who didn't believe in her. Who didn't come to rescue her. Who can't feel anything anymore. I would let my mate go."

"Then why bother entertaining the idea that she might be alive Logan? If you're just going to turn around and reject her. Literally reject your Luna. Your goddess given mate."

I looked away from him, closing my eyes. "Because I have to know if she's safe and happy. Wouldn't you want to know if Denise was okay?"

Bryan shook his head and crossed his arms over his chest. "So what? You're gonna leave for months during the time Leandra needs your help and support?"

"I'll be back well before the pup is born, Bryan."

"Shit Logan. I'm against it. I'm against all of it. This is stupid and you know it. You know it and I won't be fucking part of it. I won't tell anyone. But you keep this on your own damn shoulders. I want nothing to do with it." Bryan left my office and even left the packhouse, slamming the front door behind him.

I let my foot fall and buried my head in my hands. He was right, again. But I couldn't get the fight that Morgan and Max had on the back end. Never had I heard Max be so strong and passionate and pissed as he was at Morgan. I waited in silence as no one came back for an hour. Leandra was the first to come back. She timidly opened the door.

"I have to leave for a few weeks next month. Morgan is requesting some help on a business issue."

She nodded. "That's fine. Just as long as you come back safe." She tucked a stray hair of mine behind my ear and took my hands in hers.

I smiled at her and nodded. "I'll try not be gone too long."

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I watched as Morgan's car pulled down the road. Hector and Bryan were behind me, both of their arms crossed. They weren't happy with me and they thought it was stupid I was leaving. Hector was particularly vocal about it, Bryan stewed silently, knowing the real reason I was leaving. Morgan drifted to a stop in the dirt and I leaned back away from the dust. He got out and strode over to me. He looked better than I had seen him but you could tell there was still the perpetual frown on his face.

"Logan." He held out his hand.

I didn't take it and just swung my bag over my shoulder. "Both Hector and Bryan think it's dumb of me to do this."

He looked at both of them behind me. "Honestly, I don't think I would have told you if there wasn't a chance to help her. I would have just left you alone with your new family."

"But instead your pulling me away from them to help yourself."

Morgan nodded, not even denying it.

"Fuck." I turned to my Beta and Gamma. "I'll be back. Take care of the pack."

They both nodded. I turned and got into Morgan's car. He was already in the drivers seat and we sped down the road. I knew I drove fast, but Morgan's driving was at a different level.

"You brought your passport right?"

I look at him, confused. "Yes?"

"Good."

The rest of the ride was silent until we pulled into the airport. Morgan was not slowing down. His walk even made me jog to keep up. We headed to the private plane hanger and Morgan signaled for the pilot to start the engine. He waited for me to get up the stairs to the plane first before he ran up them and pulled the door shut. I sat down on one of the chairs, placing my bag next to me.

"So what are we going to do? Run around? Chase leads? Track down wherever the Bloodhunter group has been?" I sneered at Morgan.

His face remained devoid of any emotion. "No. No running around. We are going to Max's house."

I leaned forward. "His house?"

"Yes, Max has a home on the southern tip of Italy. It's lovely all year round. He was lucky to buy the property back when he first started to work for me. Held on to it ever since."

"And why the fuck would we go to Max's house?"

This time Morgan looked at me, angry. "Shut up and stop asking questions if your going to be snarky ass. It doesn't matter whether or not you believe me at this point. You're on the plane."

I sat back, surprised at him lashing out at me. We were about four hours into the flight when he received a phone call.

"How's she doing?" Morgan's tone was much softer.

'Fine. She made a cake yesterday.'

"Was it..." his voice trailed off.

'Yeah. It was the cake. Her cake. So it's a step. You headed back?'

"Yeah. I'm flying back now as we speak. Has she said anything?"

'No. I don't know if she will Morgan. I really don't know'

"I'll talk to you when I get back."

The phone line clicked and Morgan ran his hand through his hair. He opened up a mini fridge and held up one of the little bottles of alcohol. I put my hands up and caught one. He took two and immediately downed both of them. Morgan leaned back in the chair and closed his eyes.

"Did you tell Max I was coming?"

"No. I didn't."

I didn't ask anything else as I looked out the window. I felt more and more uneasy. Bryan and I expected a wild goose chase. Morgan getting some

details from an unknown source and then we would take a couple weeks flittering about. But that wasn't the plan and now I didn't know what to think. I hadn't really prepared myself for anything else.

We landed a few hours later. It was late morning in Italy. Morgan's pace slowed considerably as he walked to the waiting red Ferrari from the plane. I sat in the passenger seat as we peeled out of the airport. Morgan drove in silence, his hand gripping the steering wheel, white knuckled. He wasn't looking forward to going to Max's, that much was obvious. But he didn't slow down as we snaked along a cliffside road overlooking the water. It was beautiful out here. I looked out over the sea and mused how nice it would be to live here all the time.

Morgan pointed to a house that stood alone on a rock and jutted out into the ocean. "That's Max's house. That's where we are going."

I cursed. The place was a mansion. This house beat out my pack house in style, beauty and location easily. Morgan turned down a road that sloped down to the house and parked in the driveway. Getting out, I shook my head. How did anyone ever leave this place?

Morgan waited for me to get over the view before opening the door and letting me inside.

"Drop your bag there. They are probably out back."

Morgan walked through the home as I set my bag down, marveling at the inside of the house. It was immaculate and stunning. It felt like a Tuscan vacation home you saw in the movies. I looked over to see Morgan standing in the backyard with his arms crossed. I walked out the door and stood next to him, looking over the water.

It's then I spotted Max, sitting on some of the rocks that sloped down into the sea. In front of him was tiny twig of a girl. Her long hair as braided multiple times to keep it up but she was sickly thin. She was hunched over a rock in the water as the waves washed over her. The girl stood up and looked over at us. My breath caught in my throat. My knees gave out and I fell to the ground as I looked at the girl, confusion written on her beautiful face, her grey eyes seemingly looking right at me.

"Auri."

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 54

Chapter 54

Before I could blink, Max was holding Morgan by the throat. Max was livid as he held Morgan, who was struggling against his grip. I was frozen in my shock, on my knees, looking at the increasingly panicked face of Auri.

She was alive. But at the same time, she wasn't my Auri. She was rail thin, looking malnourished even for a human. Bones were showing against her skin that you shouldn't be able to see. She had a collar on, with shackles on her wrists and ankles. There was no flickering of her eyes. They were just grey, looking in the direction of the house, at the two vampires locked in a fight. Auri started to run towards the two of them and my breath caught as she yelled from the yard.

"STOP!"

She ran past me, grabbing Max's arm, pulling it as she sobbed: "Stop, stop, stop..."

The two men froze, looking down at her. Max released Morgan and he dropped down to the ground. He rubbed his neck as Max kneeled in front of Auri.

"I'm sorry, little bird. I didn't mean to scare you." He hushed her. "It's okay." Max pulled her into a hug and held her tight, kissing the top of her head. "Little bird, you used your voice. I'm so proud of you. You definitely deserve a reward."

I growled as Max held my mate but he glared at me with such anger I shut my mouth.

"Don't kill. Please." She choked out between her sobs as she buried her head into Max's shoulder.

"It's okay, little bird. It's okay. We stopped. We are done." He stroked her hair. "It's my fault. I got angry. But I'm okay now."

She nodded into his chest.

I could see both Morgan and Max exchanged looks between each other. Sadness? Pity? Anguish? I couldn't place it and I looked back down at Auri. Alive, in front of me. Morgan put a hand on my shoulder, cementing me in place as I tried to get up to go to her.

"Wait. I was going to give you a warning before Max jumped me but you need to wait." Morgan's grip tightened more when I tried to shake him.

"Little bird, there is someone else Morgan brought home. He is gonna stay with us for a bit." Max kept calling her little bird and it was starting to piss me off, grating on me.

"Little bird, this is Logan. He's a werewolf, like you. He isn't going to hurt you and he's a big softy like Max. He's gonna stay with us for a bit." Morgan introduced me and looked from him to Max to Auri, confused as hell. What was I missing? What the hell was going on? Auri though, turned from Max and bowed to me.

"Go ahead and go inside, little bird. We will have lunch in a bit and then we can continue reading."

I saw her give Max a quick nod and smile as she scurried off. Morgan peeled his hand from my shoulder but I didn't move. Max ran his hands through his hair.

"Are you a fucking idiot? Or just a selfish bastard?" Max asked Morgan, still very much seething.

"Can I not be both?" Morgan gave a forced smile.

"Someone tell me what the hell is going on here." I demanded.

Max sneered. "He's all yours Morgan. You brought him here. You deal with it. I need to make lunch."

I watched Max leave and Morgan held out his hand, lifting me up as I grabbed it. He walked over to the table, taking one of the cigarettes out of an open box and lit it with a lighter that also was just lying on the table. He was staring in the direction of the house as he blew the smoke out.

"I said she needed help. I said her mind was broken. But obviously you weren't listening."

"You were telling me my mate was alive! Was I supposed to remember an details after that?"

"Barely, I said barely." He took another drag and let it out. "Max and I still think she's in there, somewhere. She has mannerisms, traits, and even memories." He looked at me. "The cake she baked the other day being one of the examples. But all in all, she is 'little bird'. The slave girl who was molded and twisted on the whims of a sick, twisted, and evil vampire for no other reason than the pure pleasure of it."

I looked at him, horrified. I didn't want him to continued. But after he smoked a little bit more, he did.

"Max managed to buy her off him. It was at a High Council meeting and so as much as it would have pleased me for him to set that whole place on fire, it probably would have ended in his death and not getting Auri back. Frankly, he was smart about it. But don't tell him I said that." He smiled at me but the smile dropped after taking a breath. "Micah, the fucking manic, transferred control of 'little bird' over to Max. Max is her master now."

I growled but Morgan ignored me as he turned and snuffed the cigarette out in the ashtray.

"We've been slowly trying to rehabilitate her. Try to see if Auri is actually still in there. We don't even know if she is..." His thoughts trailed off with his words.

"What about Kai?" I asked about her wolf.

Morgan shook his head. "While I don't have much understanding of exactly what silver does to a werewolf, I do know that it cuts them off from their pack and their own wolf."

Before I could ask, he looked over at me, his eyes reflecting the tears that he was trying to hold back. "She won't let us take the damned things off. Every time we try to touch the collar or the shackles, if it's not bath time it throws her into a completely hysterical state. We've tried every few months. But it's heartbreaking every time we try."

I was trying to process all the information he was throwing at me. Trying to justify that it wasn't as bad as Morgan made it out to be. Trying to process that she had just walked past me, looked at me, bowed at me. But the biggest thing was her scent. Her scent was off. It didn't smell of the forest anymore. It

didn't have the spices anymore. She smelled like the beach and like the sun. But it was devoid of the what made Auri my mate.

Cato? Are you there? Do you have any ideas?

I hopelessly reached out Cato but there was no answer. Cato hadn't resurfaced in over a year now. Hadn't talked to me in a year. Hadn't taken over for a year. I felt him, he was still there, deep in the recesses of my mind. But it was just darkness when ever I tried to reach out to him. I would have thought with Auri in front of me he might say something. But as I looked back at the house, I wondered if she could be considered Auri anymore?

"Truthfully, I thought maybe you could help. I thought her seeing you would help. Maybe mend her, bring her back. Make her want to come back." He mused, not really looking at me.

"I'll stay for a bit." I croaked out, unable to take my eyes off the door. "I'll do what I can to help."

"Max thinks you wouldn't be able to handle it. Handle her the way she is. That your patience and temperament would only serve to hurt her in the long run." Morgan's face was hard, a frown on his face as he looked at me. "Prove him wrong. I don't care what you need to do, but keep control at all times around her."

I nodded.

Max opened the back door, "Lunch is ready."

Morgan flashed me a smile and headed into the house. I followed after him. Max gave me a hard look but didn't say anything as I went inside. A place was set out for each of us on the dining table. Roasted cherry tomatoes over a cheesy garlic bread. There also was a side of pancetta that both Auri and Max put directly on their bread. Morgan was staring at his phone, eating just the pancetta separately.

I stared at Auri out of the corner of my vision. Some hair had fallen out of her braid and was hanging down the side of her face. She looked so small as she took tiny bites of the bread.

"Little bird, think you can finish it all this time?" Max was smiling at her. I had never seen him so open and caring.

She shook her head and smiled at him. He laughed and Morgan pipped up;

"Little bird, you're gonna make him fat with all the leftovers he has to eat because of you."

She smiled wider but slid her half-eaten slice over to Morgan. Max laughed and Morgan chuckled. Watching this display hurt me. They obviously had fallen into a routine with her, treating her like a child. I swallowed my last bite of food and stood up.

"Thanks for the food. I need to make a phone call." I mumbled, taking off to the back yard again.

Morgan called after me, "Tell Bryan I said hello!" I heard him still chuckling but after shutting the door outside, I strode well past the table and chairs, into the grass just before the pool. I took out my phone.

"Bryan."

'Ah! Alpha! How's the hunt going? How many countries have you been through yet? Five? Or are you pouring over the leads and the maps?'

I really didn't need his sarcasm. It drove the knife deeper. "We are at Max's house in Italy. It's gorgeous." To prove the point, I started a video call and panned around the view.

Bryan whistled. "That's a hell of a base of operations. How many leads does Morgan actually have? Ten? None?"

Ignored him as I still panned around the back yard. I watched in my phones view as it fell to Auri, who had her head down, holding a plate in her hand.

'Logan?' I heard Bryan whine.

I looked over the top of my phone and smiled at her. I brought my phone down, no longer looking at Bryan, who I could hear making incoherent sounds in the background.

"Did you bring me something, little bird?" I followed suit in how Max and Morgan spoke to her.

She nodded and quietly padded up to me. Auri didn't raise her head and she held out the pate with a single cookie on it.

"Thank you little bird. Did you make this?" I took the cookie.

She nodded but she was peering up at me, waiting. I smiled wider and took a bite. My eyes welled up in tears, tasting the cookie, tasting Auri's baking that I didn't think I would ever taste again. She looked shocked for a moment but then panic started to creep onto her face.

I quickly tried to smile at her again. "Little bird, this is the best cookie I've ever had. Thank you."

The panic was replaced by happiness as she bowed again and raced off back into the house. I pulled the phone by up, switching it back to voice only, listening for Bryan.

He breathed out. 'That's our Luna.'

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 55

Logan, what the fuck is going on?'

"What you see. No chase. No leads. She's here." I paused. "But at the same time she's not."

'What do you mean by that?'

"I dunno Bryan. She's empty. She doesn't know her name. Doesn't really speak. Hell, she doesn't even smell like Auri to me. According to Morgan, a vampire turned her into a mindless slave. Tortured her and twisted her. Honestly, I'm still trying to wrap my head around it."

'So...now what?'

"I don't know. I really don't know..." I gulped down the emotions rising to the surface.

'Well, figure it out.'

I snapped. "Don't fuck with me, Bryan. I'm not in the mood. I called you for a level head. For my Beta, who is supposed to have my back. Not you being an sarcastic ass. I genuinely feel in over my head right now."

He quieted for a moment. 'Sorry Alpha. Give me some time to process this.'

I sighed. "I'm at least gonna stay for a bit. See if I can help. That's what Morgan is asking. I'll talk to you tomorrow." I paused for a minute. "I feel like I shouldn't need to say this, but this stays between us for now."

'Yes Alpha.'

I hung up the phone. I stared out at the sea as I ate the rest of Auri's cookie. Maybe I was just in shock and my brain hadn't processed through everything that I was feeling. I still felt so numb towards the whole situation. My thoughts wandered to my pack, my family. Bryan had spat at me what would happen if Auri was alive, what I would do. At the time, I said I would let her go. But could I? Could I let my Luna, my Auri go?

Walking back inside, I wasn't going to get an answer to my question staring at the sea. Morgan was still seated at the table, mulling over his phone.

"They went to the library. Max reads to her every other day." He chuckled. "The Count of Monte Cristo, no less."

"Is that a joke?"

"No. But he's been reading it to her in the original text, so if you don't know French, don't bother."

I furrowed my brow. "Auri knows French?"

Morgan looked up at me, dead panned. "Sometimes it blows my mind how much you didn't know about her. How much of 'The Huntress' she kept to herself. I knew she put 'The Huntress' in retirement when she was 18 but damn."

"So, I take it she does know French." I growled.

"French, Italian, Chinese, and Spanish actually. She learned from 13 to 15 all four languages."

I sat down across from Morgan, rubbing my neck. "Frankly, within the packs, The Huntress was a myth. Outside of when Hector ran into her group on a mission. But she never trained with the group and we were so busy with the rogue attacks, that I never saw her fight them with my own eyes. Only ever the aftermath."

"I wonder if she does come back if she would destroy the High Council or the Bloodhunter Coven. Or both." Morgan mused.

"Would you help her destroy them?"

"That's a stupid question Logan."

I shrugged. "Is it though? You've stayed neutral mostly throughout your career and while your distaste of the High Council has been noted, you still haven't outwardly done anything to them."

Morgan stared at me, his jaw locking. "I would do anything for her Logan. She will be the closest thing I have to a daughter in my life. What I'm surprised is that you wouldn't."

I looked down at the table at his intense stare. "I don't know if it's the silver or it's just the fact that she's a shell, but I don't smell her, don't feel the mate bond."

"So you would just leave her? Just say 'Fuck it' and go back to your pack because she doesn't smell like your mate anymore?"

"I haven't even processed what I'm looking at yet! I just processed the fact that I got a woman, who I had taken to my bed, pregnant. Processed that I was now starting a new family, and that I owed it to my pup to be there."

Morgan leaned in, setting his phone down. "And this, Leandra, you've known her for how long? Fucked her for how long? You remember what Max said. Leandra was sent to you from the Alpha King. You don't think there is a play in there somewhere."

I slammed my hands on the table. "Don't you dare Morgan. Leandra is a beautiful woman, inside and out. She had done nothing but care for me. Even when I have given her nothing to care about."

He scoffed.

"There is no reason why the Alpha King would do anything to our pack, to me. We have never fought for top spot. I've never been interested in politics and have a hate for the High Council just as you do."

"How about you actually being the successor to the throne? That the Alpha King isn't actually the one meant for the throne?"

"Fuck off Morgan." I got up and started to walk up the stairs.

"You think your pack stays out of politics when you end up playing into their hands, Logan. You never once asked what the blue scroll your parents received was about. You never asked why rogues were attacking. You never ask and therefore you are nothing but a pawn to them, pushing you around as they wish."

I slammed the door to the guest room Max had showed me earlier, my bag sitting on the bed. I didn't want to think about Morgan's political rant. My pack was safe and that's all that mattered. Stripping down, I jumped in the shower, feeling the hot water against my skin. Exhaustion that had built up started to settle on my shoulders. Getting out, I wrapped a towel around my waist and walked into the bedroom. I looked out over the sea view and tugged at my hair. I really needed a haircut.

"Oh shit, sorry. Didn't think you were undressed still." Max quickly turned in the door.

"We are gonna make dinner. I didn't know if you had a preference." He paused. "Also, if you need a haircut, Auri can give you one. She's quite good."

I looked at him, dubious. "No preference on dinner, but I would rather not put anything sharp in her hands right now. Not to mention she can't see how it looks."

He laughed. "Please. She's more than capable Logan. Come down when your read and I'll set you up."

I dressed slowly in some jeans and a shirt. Walking down the stairs, Auri was in the kitchen, juggling two pots on the stove and chopping different herbs. Morgan wasn't sitting at the table anymore and he wasn't anywhere in the bottom floor.

"Morgan needed to go to work for a couple hours. He'll be back after dinner." Max pulled a chair out and set it on top of a sheet that was placed on the floor. "Little bird decided to go a little fancy for you tonight."

She beamed from behind the counter, throwing in the herbs she just chopped into a saucepan. Taking out a bottle of white wine, she splashed some into the pan and the fire flared up in her face. Auri didn't flinch, she just tossed the mixture in the pan.

"Little bird, I'll take over. You take care of Logan's hair." Max tossed a kitchen towel over his shoulder, wearing a red and white striped apron.

She nodded and swapped places with him, still leaning over him to make sure he was taking care of the pans. Seemingly pleased with the takeover, she padded over to me. Max had set a comb, a brush, scissors and a spray bottle. Her hands ran over the tools before coming over to me. Auri hesitated, rubbing her hands together.

"Logan, you need to give her permission."

"Permission?"

"To touch you."

I cleared my throat. "You can touch me, little bird. I leave my hair in your hands."

She nodded, smiling. Reaching up to my head, she hesitated for a moment before she touched my head. Auri jerked her hand back, a small squeak coming from her. Max turned around, eyeing both of us. But my eyes were wide in shock. While it was nowhere near how it used to be, the electricity of the mate bond coursed through me.

"What happened?"

"It's the mate bond." I looked at him, eyes still wide. "We both felt the electricity of the mate bond."

Max smirked and turned back to the food, not saying a word. Auri came back over to me after a moment and ran her fingers through my hair. I sat rigid in the seat as the waves coursed through my body. I could feel Cato stirring, felt him shift in my mind. But she continued to feel my hair. It had reached almost to my jawline. I closed my eyes as she ran her fingers against my scalp, feeling every part of my head, the electricity starting to calm me from my initial shock.

Her hands left me and Auri walked away into another room. I looked from her to Max but his back was turned, focused on the food on the oven. She came out and was holding a battery operated razor. Placing it on the table, she stood in front of me. Her hands came up and I closed my eyes as she felt my face. Brushing against my skin, she ran over my forehead, jawline, nose and cheeks. Her touch electrified me and calmed me at the same time. Another feeling I never thought I would feel again. It gave me goosebumps.

She grabbed the scissors and I kept my eye shut as my ears picked up the steady snipping of my hair. Auri would run her fingers down every piece she cut, knowing exactly the length she was going for. More and more of my hair fell away. Then she grabbed the razor and turned it on. I squeezed my eyes together and heard Max chuckle. She put her hand on the side of my head and as she ran her hand over my head, the razor followed.

About ten minutes later, Max alerted us that dinner was ready and Auri set down the razor. I opened my eyes, only to be met with Max's smirk and his arms crossed over his chest.

"You went from shaggy mutt to sexy wolf. I swear, how she knows what is good for our facial structure is beyond me." He ran his hands through his own hair.

Getting up, I looked at my reflection in the window. She had decided to buzz the sides of my head and back short, leaving the top a little longer. Trimming it so that no matter if I pushed it back or let it fall to the side, it looked like it belonged. I had to admit, I looked good.

"Thank you, little bird. I love it."

She beamed at me and put her tools away before getting out plates and setting the table for dinner. Max came over and cleaned up the floor, shooing me away from helping.

"Don't worry about drinks, little bird. I'm gonna make us some."

She nodded as she brought over the feast that Max had plated, setting it on the table. I watched as Max headed across the room to a mini bar that was behind a grand piano. He took about 5 minutes but carried 3 different glasses over to the table. Auri had one that was a deep blue, mine looked more of a like an iced tea, and Max's was a deep red.

"Time to eat."

We all sat, Max reaching over and serving up all three of us. The meal was spent mostly in silence as we all ate, lost in our own thoughts. Max looked out the windows.

"We are gonna get a storm tonight."