

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 56

Chapter 56

After the incredible dinner, I convinced Max to let me help wash the dishes. I was scrubbing the plates, Max was sitting in one of the chairs at the kitchen bar and Auri was sitting on the couch across the room. True to Max's words, it had already started to get dark as the waves crashed angrily at the rocks.

"Man, Morgan missed a good dinner tonight. He is gonna be pissed."

I chuckled. "I figured you would always eat like that."

"What? Like an Italian grandma cooks for us every night? Not even. Hell, even Auri sometimes decides it's cereal night."

I looked over at her, sitting on the couch, eyes closed and curled up in a ball. She looked like she was listening to the storm, turning her head ever so slightly.

"Do you guys take her out ever?"

Max chuckled. "Of course we take her out. She's not an invalid, Logan. Tomorrow we were thinking about going to the open market since it's Saturday. This storm should pass by the morning. If you want to come."

I rinsed the plate off and placed it next to the sink. "I wouldn't mind. I've never actually been to Italy before."

"Well then! We should go sight seeing! Show you my home!" Max smiled. "Little bird, would you like to drive around and go to the market tomorrow."

She perked up and smiled, nodding.

"There we go! It's a plan."

Just as he said it, a loud crack of thunder rattled the windows. I looked out at the lightening that streaked across the sky every few seconds. It was mesmerizing but I focused back on the plate in my hand.

"Morgan better hurry up, or he is gonna miss tonight."

"Tonight?" I placed the last dish I had rinsed on the counter and went to grab a towel.

"When we have a chill day like today, I'll play the piano into the evening."

I nodded.

"I had stopped playing for a long time and so little bird likes to keep my skills in check." Max said the last bit a little louder and shot a grin over his shoulder.

Auri gave a toothy grin in reply but she didn't look in our direction. The door suddenly slammed shut and Morgan came in, throwing a briefcase on the table.

"I didn't miss it did I?"

I laughed and so did Max.

Morgan's eyebrow raised. "Shit Logan, you look like a normal human being now. Auri do that?"

"Yeah. Look okay?" I brushed my hair back.

Morgan chuckled. "Sure, go for the male model pose. Sorry Logan, wrong century for me but I appreciate the effort."

Max rolled his eyes and left the chair, opening up a couple more of the windows.

"It's gonna be a loud one tonight but short." Morgan pipped up, sitting in one of the chairs across from Auri. "Should we put a fire on?"

Auri's face lit up and Morgan held his arm out. "I think we have our answer. Max?"

"Oh sure, you know you can just as well get the fire started." Max snapped back as he came over, kneeling at the fireplace. "You should be a little nicer to me. You're lucky I didn't kill you today."

"Please, you wouldn't have took so long if you were actually going to kill me. You just wanted me to suffer."

Auri had a frown on her face and I cleared my throat, pointing out her mood to the guys.

"Sorry, little bird." Max mumbled as he went back to putting wood in the fireplace.

There was a flash of light and then the house rumbled with the thunder. The waves crashed louder as the room quieted. Max lit the paper under the wood and waited for a minute, making sure the wood caught fire. Then, he replaced the screen and sat on the couch next to Auri. She scooted into him and huddled against him. I sat down in the other single chair next to Morgan. He pulled out a notebook and started to write in it. Max stared at the fire, thoughts elsewhere. I stared out at the storm. Listening to the thunder and crackle of the fire when it started to pour.

I sighed. "Maybe I needed a break more than I thought I did."

"A break from the responsibilities of being an Alpha." Max said a-matter-of-factly.

"Most Alpha's take some time every so often. I think you're the only one who works so hard." Morgan didn't look up from his notebook. "Hell, even I need a break sometimes."

"Yeah, and don't answer your goddamn phone while you do it." Max grumbled but let out a grunt as Auri elbowed him.

"You gonna keep hanging that over my head? You did perfectly fine without me. Personally, I would have set fire to the whole castle and burned everyone in it to the ground."

Max rolled his eyes. "Yeah, and that's why Young said he was glad you didn't come."

"I'm still gonna burn that place to the ground. So he better not show up." Morgan grumbled.

Max shook his head. "Little bird, I think we need to practice before Morgan gets anymore crazy ideas about taking down the largest ruling body of supernatural beings."

She nodded and got up with Max. I watched as Max went over to the piano. He pulled up the cover, sitting down at the bench. Auri stood on the other side of the piano facing Morgan and I. The house was dark, all the lights off except for the light that was being emitted by the fire. The flashing of the lightning also illuminated the room as well every so often. Leaning back, I prepared to listen to Max's playing.

He started playing and I knew the song instantly from one of the songs Auri had recorded for me. What I was not prepared for, was Auri's voice start in. At first it was soft, breathing every single word. But she got louder and louder. My hands tightened on the arms of the chair as I listened. She swayed and moved with her words, with Max's music. Morgan had said she didn't speak. He never said anything about her being able to sing.

My breath caught as they started into the second song, Auri flawlessly singing with him. I watched her, eyes closed, moving her head and memories flashed in my mind. Everything that I had been holding back. Holding back since I felt her die. Her singing in the morning making pancakes, to her screaming my name as we fucked in bed. All the emotions of her death, of mourning her and of trying to function on a day to day basis without her. Everything bubbled forward and I leaned forward in my chair, my face in my hands.

I heard Morgan shift next to me, his hand rested on my shoulder but it couldn't stop the shaking. It couldn't stop as her voice filled the room and encompassed me. I took a deep breath, trying not let the tears fall out but when I did, I smelled it. I was transported back home, back as I walked through our territory, her hand pulling me through the forest. She was smiling at me as she smirked and wiggled her eyebrows at me. The forest and spices made me choke as Cato howled from the back of my mind. I couldn't take it.

I ran out of the room. Out of the house. I ran past the pool to the edge of the rocks that dropped down to the ocean. The waves sprayed me, stinging my skin and the rain pelting me. I leaned over, on my knees and threw up. I couldn't tell what was rain or sea or tears but I couldn't hold it in. I yelled into the storm. I yelled and cried and sobbed into the crashing waves.

Everything I had held in, everything I had shoved down, not feeling anything, just moving forward. Everything I had said and done to my friends and family, hurting them as I numbly lived my life. Not fully processing Auri's death. Numb enough to bring another woman into our bed. Feeling the anguish and pain and absolute despair of seeing her like this. Imagining all the pain she

suffered. I didn't stop yelling, almost screaming, holding myself as I rocked back and forth.

The lightning and thunder was deafening and my voice was carried away by the wind. It started to rain harder and I was soaked through. I was so weak. I put my head down against the ground, sobs rippling through my body. My back suddenly felt warm as someone held me, arms wrapping around my chest. It was only when I felt the burn of the silver manacles that I knew it was Auri. Her body shielding mine from the rain, her hair soaked over my shoulders. Instead of smelling the sea and the rain I smelled the forest and I started to cry again.

"It's okay, Logan." Her voice whispered in my ear, making me shake more.

"I'm sorry, Auri. I'm so sorry." I choked out, not even knowing if it was loud enough to be carried over the waves.

"You did your best, Logan. It's okay." Her head buried into the crook of my neck. "You're okay."

I yelled and pounded my fist against the ground. Again and again, until her hand snaked down my hand and wove her fingers between mine. The searing burn of the silver against the inside of my wrist kept reminding me of her pain. Here I was, uncontrollably breaking down and the woman who had gone through so much more was comforting me. Holding me together. It hurt so much more.

"Come back to us, Logan. Come back." Her voice derailed my thoughts.

I closed my eyes tight, trying to stop the tears, tried to get my haggard breathing under control. Tried to focus on the electricity that was flowing from her body to mine. Trying to get a grip back on my sanity. I lifted up a little, her full weight resting against my back as she went back to holding my chest.

"There we go." I felt her smile into my neck. "See, you're okay. You need to be strong. For me when I can't be."

I felt her head slump against me and her hands go slack. I quickly grabbed her arms and held them before she fell down. She had passed out. The smell of forest was washed away by the rain and waves. Testing my legs, they wobbled a little as I tried to stand. I put my hands behind me, under Auri's butt, and lifted her up with me. She needed out of this rain.

We were both soaked to the bone. I was weak and struggled to walk all the way to the house. Max ran out to us halfway and took Auri from me, carrying her in his arms. I tripped and my knees dug into the grass. My hands caught me before my face fell into the grass and mud. Morgan grabbed me by my upper arm and dragged me up onto my feet. He brought me into the house, puddles for all four of us dripping in the house. I stammered as he closed the door, still holding onto.

"She's in there. Morgan, Auri is in there."

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 57

Chapter 57

I opened my eyes and looked up at a ceiling I didn't know. Sitting up, I looked around the room. It all came rushing back to me. The flight to Italy. Seeing Auri. The days events. Her singing. Goddess, her singing. I put my head in my hands. Did I dream smelling her? Hearing her speak to me? I looked out the window. It was well past noon.

Showered and dressed, I made my way slowly down the stairs. Auri was sitting at the kitchen counter, swinging her legs under the tall chair while Max was chopping up something in the kitchen. Max looked up from his chopping and smiled.

"Sleeping Beauty has woken up! Honestly, I didn't think you would get up this early. The time change is terrible. Plus, you just passed out standing up." He looked at Auri. "Little bird, why don't get some food out for Logan too?"

She nodded and got up. My heart sunk. I watched her, her usual head tilt down, small movements. Had I just dreamed it? I sat at the kitchen counter, Max was staring at me for a moment before he went back to his chopping. Auri behind him just rummaged around and was taking out different ingredients.

"You feeling better? Getting all that out?" Max didn't look up as he asked.

"Better? No." I took a breath. "Exhausted? Sure."

He smiled. "You're as disappointed as Morgan was this morning. He took off to the office."

"So no change? What is just a one time thing?" I watched Auri as she lit the stovetop.

Max shrugged and spun around to throw what he had been chopping into a pan on the stove. The two of them worked in tandem, never getting in each others way even if they did brush into each other. My heart struggled to see their connection, slightly jealous of it. She wasn't my Auri though. She was little bird.

"After we eat, we can go to the street fair by the ocean. It's a little late but better late than never." Max flipped the pan back, tossing the ingredients in it.

I nodded and smiled as Auri seemed excited to go as well, smiling exuberantly. Looking at my phone, it showed I had some missed calls but I just flipped it over on the table. I wasn't ready to face it, to try and explain yet. Explain what I didn't understand. Max took my mind away from it as he placed a pile of pasta with what looked like salmon pieces in it.

"Auri's request to use the salmon. Hope that's okay."

I nodded and the two of them sat at the counter with me. All of us eating in silence. Auri took a few bites and then put her fork down. She glanced over to Max who was still eating. He had pulled out his phone and was scrolling through emails. I had just finished and pushed my plate forward to set my arms on the table.

Getting up, she came around back of me and set her plate down in front of me. It still had a pretty large pile of food on it. She swapped forks on the plate and then took my empty plate around to the sink.

"Apparently, she thinks you need to eat more. Usually it's me, sometimes Morgan. Today it's you." Max chuckled, not looking away from his phone. "Eat it or you'll upset her." The last sentence came out a little more threatening.

Once I finished Auri's plate, I helped with the dishes and we disappeared to our rooms to get ready. I came down, button up shirt that I rolled up the sleeves and some tan shorts. Max was wearing something similar but he was wearing pants instead of shorts. Auri was next to him, wearing a little red skirt and a white frilly top. She was even wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and matching purse. I smiled as I looked down at her, taking in her beauty.

"Let's go." Max opened up the door to the garage and swore.

I went in after him and looked at the red Ferrari and a black Maserati. I whistled but Max ran his hands through his hair.

"Morgan took the damn Alfa Romeo. That's the only car with more than two seats."

"And here I thought my garage was loaded." I chuckled.

Max crouched down and took Auri's hands in his. "Little bird, are you okay sitting in Logan's lap for the ride?"

I sputtered and my eyes widened as Auri nodded. Max smiled and ruffled her hair. Max unlocked the Maserati. He opened the doors and climbed into the driver's seat. I looked at him, still slightly shocked.

"Get in. Let's go."

I sat down and put on my seatbelt. Looking at Auri, she was standing at the door, nervously holding her hat which she had taken off. I pulled the seat back as far as it could go and brought my legs together.

"Permission, Logan."

"Oh, right." I sighed. "Little bird, you can come sit now."

She nodded and came towards me. Auri turned and sat down in my lap. But she was nervous to swing her legs in. Tapping my legs, she waited for a moment. Confused, I separated my legs and she slipped hers between mine. Confused, I brought them together again and I hissed, my leg touching the silver manacles. Her head fell and I could feel her start to leave my lap but I placed my hands on her waist, holding her in place.

"My fault, little bird. I didn't realize what you were asking." I moved my legs but pulled her back more, so that she wasn't resting so much on my knees.

Reaching over, I closed the door and took a deep breath. Nodding to Max who was staring at us with an amused look on his face, he pulled out of the garage. When he turned out of the driveway and onto the road, he stepped on the gas. The car roared to life. Instinctually, I wrapped my arms around Auri's waist and pulled her even closer to me. She squeaked as she slammed into my chest.

This time Max chuckled, unable to hold it in. Auri held her hat the whole time, running her hands along the brim. She settled a little bit in my lap after a while. I, however, was having trouble though. The electricity was racing through me as I held her against me. Trying to focus on anything other than my mate in my lap. For the first time, I was glad I couldn't smell her. I didn't think I would be able to handle it. But one thing that I kept replaying in my mind was that this was reality. This was actually happening. Touching the woman I thought I would never see, let alone feel again. My heart hammered the entire time.

Max pulled into a smaller street off the road and then an underground garage. It had been about a half hour drive and when I opened the door, Auri jumped out quickly. She was shuffling, waiting for the two of us. I got out and stretched a little. Sure, she weighed next to nothing but my legs were in a weird position trying to avoid the silver. At some point my butt had gone numb.

"Little bird!" Max called to her and she raced around, taking hold of his arm. "Remember to stay close. I want you near either Logan or I the whole time. Is that clear?"

She nodded and clutched to Max even tighter. My head dropped down and I felt the familiar ache in my heart. As we walked out of the underground parking lot, I was hit with so many wonderful smells. I looked up and around. We were off an alley but as we walked through two tight buildings, an entire street filled with vendors and even the shops behind the vendors had their doors wide open. I smiled as a bunch of people were yelling in Italian and there was a pretty significant crowd of tourists but also people lived here as well.

There were so many sights and smells that Max put a hand on my shoulder, smirking at me. "Welcome to Italy and the local street fair."

We went from stall to stall. Max was talking enthusiastically in Italian to each of the vendors.

He purchased almost every food item we came across. Reaching down, he would have Auri smell it and she would wrinkle her nose or nod her head. She never left Max's side, but she didn't look down once. Her head was held up and she had a smile on her face. Multiple times I caught her soaking in the sunlight as she stood next to Max. I tried a bunch of the food Max passed to me. He explained what it was and basically that it came from every direction

within an hours drive. I nodded, enjoying his switch between English and Italian.

Some of the vendors came up to me, showing of their wares or handing me a sample. I tried to . wave, unable to converse in Italian. Max had to save me a few times, coming up and having a back and forth until he would decide to try it. He also picked out a few things for Auri. There was some cute clothing that he would hold up to her and decide whether or not it looked good. She looked embarrassed every time he did it but she would graciously allow him. I smiled, watching her shuffle as he purchased a hat and shoes to match.

"I need to run into the bakery here. Do you mind keeping Auri by your side Logan?" Max asked, pointing to a shop behind the vendors.

"Sure." I nodded.

Auri let go of Max's arm and took hold of my shirt. I must have let mv face show how dejected I looked when she did that. Max chuckled and pointed to his wrist, then pointed at Auri. I realized what he was saying. If she had done the same, she would have burned me with her shackles. I cursed being so readable and jealous.

He disappeared into the shop and I walked down a little further the street. Always being aware of Auri holding onto me.

Stopping in front of a vendor that made handmade toys and stuffed animals, I looked over them. One caught my eye. There was a bunny in the far right corner. It was made from different scraps of fabric. Some of the fabric was textured, some were smooth, and some even had a pattern of flowers on it. It's ears flopped down, being as long as the head and body combined.

Walking into the tent, I pointed to the bunny. The man nodded and grabbed it. He started to speak in Italian to me but I put up both hands, trying to convey I didn't speak Italian.

Holding out the little tag on the bunny, I saw numbers in Euro and I nodded, taking out my card. The vendor nodded and pulled out a machine to swipe my card. Once the transaction was completely, I took the tag off and walked out of tent. Auri was following me the whole time, holding onto my shirt.

Taking her hand, I held it and had her let go of me. I turned around and bent down on one knee.

"Little bird?"

She cocked her head to the side.

"This is a gift for you. Take care of him, alright little bird?" I pressed the bunny into her chest.

Her arms came up and hands touched the stuffed animal. She held it out, running her hands along the different fabrics. I put my hand on her back and we sat down on a bench. It was still in view of the bakery in case Max came out early. Auri sat, feeling the bunny's body and ears. A smile crept on to her faces as she touched the toy. Taking her hand, I grabbed one of her fingers and touched each of the fabrics.

"Pastel pink." I moved to the next one. "This one is pink too but a little darker. It also has a pattern with red roses and blue birds." The next. "A deep red." The next one. "A pink but it's a little brighter, like bumble gum." I touched the ears. « Grey." Touching the button eyes. "Wood, dark brown, like chocolate."

Auri stared down at the stuffed animal as I went through how it looked. Once I finished, she ran her hands over the entire bunny before clutching the bunny to her chest. She held him tight and I smiled, feeling as though I had done something right.

"There you are! Can you believe the didn't have any more sourdough? Sold out." Max strode over to us, a two huge bags in hand even with the multiple bags from the other vendors. "Little bird, what's that?" Max eyed me, raising his brow.

Auri held up the bunny to him, gently holding it up under the arms as though she was holding a child. Max smiled and winked at me.

"He will need a name, little bird. You'll have to think of one. He is very cute."

She nodded, pulling the bunny back to her chest.

"Let me help." I reached out and grabbed one of the bags from the bakery and one from the vendors.

"Thanks. Let's drop these off at the car and then we can go to lunch. Here is a little cafe on the corner, they have the best view of the sea from their balcony."

I got up and Auri got up with me. She took hold of my shirt with one hand, clutching the bunny in the other. Max looked at me wiggled his eyebrows up and down. Shaking my head, I followed him back down the street.

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 58

Chapter 58

Once we dropped the items off in the car, we walked back into the street. Max picked up Auri, letting her sit in the crook of his arm. She seemed use to it because she didn't even squeak. I had to lengthen my strides to keep up with Max. We made it to the edge of the street after a couple minutes. The crowd of people that seemed to have doubled since we dropped the items off. It made sense that he picked up Auri now.

The view from the edge of the street with spectacular. You could see a wharf at the end with a multitude sailboats and yachts. The bright blue sea stretching out but the populated city abutted the sea with cobblestone streets. Honestly it was one of the most breathtaking landscapes I had seen in my life. Max had already gone into the building on the corner.

"Logan, come on."

I nodded and followed after him. He had put Auri down and was talking with a man in Italian. They clasped hands and laughed. Auri nodded to him, doing a quick spin. I remembered Morgan saying she spoke Italian. It made sense since both Max and Morgan were from Italy. Max motioned to me and we walked up the stairs to the second floor.

There were a couple small tables but the man came up behind us and pushed open the doors that lead to a balcony. A larger table with six chairs was set. Auri sat with her back facing the sea. Max sat on the end and I sat across from Auri. Looking out over the view, I was mesmerized.

"Like I said, best spot."

A waiter brought us water, fresh bread and oil to dip it in. Max tore a piece in half and handed it to Auri, who started to nibble on it. "This is incredible. I don't think I've see anything like it." I took out mv phone and snapped a couple photos.

"It's not just the view. Stefano, the man I was speaking to, is the owner and chef. His food is amazing. You're in for a treat." Max smiled.

Soon enough, he was right. About five dishes were brought to us. I stared them down, stunned. Max grabbed the extra plates and did a sampler plate for Auri. Whereas he just handed me my plate and started to pile on the food to his.

"It makes me glad that I can still taste and eat. I think if I couldn't, I wouldn't have been able to live so long." Max chuckled, taking clam and digging out the center.

"How old are you? I know Morgan is almost 600 right?"

Max laughed. "Don't let him catch you saying that. He might cry. He hasn't been looking forward to the big 6-0-0."

I rolled my eyes. "It can't be much different from the other hundreds."

"Oh, it's very different. Each one hundred is different."

"So?"

"I'm 412."

I coughed on some of the pasta, taking a sip of water. "You're 400? Morgan makes it seem like your so much younger."

Max chuckled. "Morgan found me about fifty years into my vampire life and I started to work for him then. He had already been a vampire for over one hundred and fifty years. That brought a wisdom that I didn't have. I look up to Morgan, for his morals and his abilities. I became his second-in-command thirty or forty years later. Bought that house with my first paycheck." He smiled, reminiscing. "But that doesn't mean that sometimes I will step up if he acts like a fool." Max grumbled and took a bite of food.

"I think the only thing that made me believe that Morgan wasn't just blowing smoke up my ass was you fighting with him over the phone."

"I still don't feel you being here is going to be good." Max wasn't angry when he said it, he just said it matter-of-factly. "But Morgan has been struggling with

her being like this. I mean, I do too. But not so much I want to chance breaking her."

I nodded. "Honestly, I'm not sure I trust myself." I looked at Auri. She was eating silently, the bunny in her lap and I smiled. "Bryan and I were prepared for a wild goose chase. Like Morgan was pulling me away to do this great search. But now, seeing her like this..." I didn't know what to say but Max nodded, seemingly understanding.

"I begged Morgan to take over for me. I didn't think I could handle it. I still don't. For the first few weeks I felt like taking a shower in holy water every night. But eventually, we just meshed and she started to ease into having freedom, making choices, being able to smile and enjoy things."

Looking out over the sea, I sighed. "I know she is in there, after last night. But it worries me as well."

"Your new family?" Max looked at Auri worried for a moment, but she was leaning back in her chair, eyes closed. I wondered if she was listening to the waves crashing and the seagulls.

"I told Bran before I left that I would let Auri go."

Max's head snapped to me, his brow knitted together. "What do you mean let her go?"

"I wouldn't make her come back, would set her free from me. Let her go."

"What if she doesn't want that?"

I took a bite of food. "Having them live together as though we are one happy family? How could I do that to Auri?" "So you would choose them over her? Your own mate?" Max was now glaring at me. "I knew Morgan shouldn't have called your ass. You're gonna bring her back. You're gonna help her heal and then you're just going to turn around and break her again."

"It's better than forcing her into a terrible situation." I bit back at him. "I only did what she asked of me Max. She was dead and I did exactly as she asked."

His eyes narrowed. "Oh really? You happy Alpha? Happy with you family? With your pack?"

I looked down at my plate.

"That's what I thought." Max called over the waiter and asked for something in Italian.

The waiter brought over a bottle of white wine and Max opened it, pouring himself a glass from it. He swirled it around and took a sip. Starting at Auri, or the scenery behind her, Max ended up shaking his head.

"I wonder if you can. If you actually let this little one go." His voice was far away.

"For her sake, I'm going to try." I poured myself a glass of wine as well and took some sips. Birds flew up past the balcony and I heard a whistle off in the background. I looked up at Auri but her face was no longer resting. It was screwed up in pain, her eyes open wide and tears streaming down her face. Max also had noticed it, standing up a bit.

"Little bird?"

She started to shake and cry, clutching the bunny to her chest. It was like in slow motion, Max and I watched her as she stood up and turned. Auri leapt over the balcony. I tried to reach out but she was too far. We heard a few screams and a smash down below.

"Fuck!" Max was leaning against the railing.

I ran to the edge and without a second thought, jumped down as well. Looking around wildly, I saw her figure running up the sidewalk on the road next to the ocean. She was fast. I quickly turned and sprinted after her. My mind was blank. All I could think of is that I had to catch her. Catch her when I knew she was the wind. But Auri wasn't at peak performance. Between her malnutrition and the shoes she was wearing, I just barely was able to catch her at a full sprint.

Breathing heavy, I closed the distance between us. Noticing further way, there were multiple black SUVs parked on the side of the road. She was heading straight for them. Cursing, I used one last burst of speed and wrapped my arms around her. We tumbled to the ground together. I held her close, doing my best to take the full damage of the fall. Her collar burned against my chest but it didn't matter.

Auri was shaking and sobbing. She was still holding onto the bunny, protecting it the same way I had done to her. I coughed and pulled her away from the road. There was a small little alley just behind up and I pulled her back into the shade of the alley, out of view of the road. I was breathing heavy but I kept a vice grip on her. Turning against me, Auri clutched to my shirt for dear life, the bunny squeezed between us. She was still crying, shaking her head furiously.

Whistling, louder this time, rang through the air and made Auri freeze on top of me. Quickly, I slammed my palms over her ears and pulled her head into my shoulder.

"Don't listen. Just focus on my voice, my heartbeat. Focus, Little bird."

She was shaking, but her forehead was against my chest. My heart was hammering and I knew that even with my hands over her ears, she could hear it. I felt her slump against me and I pulled her face up, seeing that she had passed out. Holding her in my arms, I took a few minutes to gather my breath full. Max came running and slid into the alley.

"Are they still there? The black SUVs?"

Max leaned out of the alley and looked at the road. "No, there are no black SUV's." I sighed and let my head fall. "There were four, maybe five? She was headed straight for them. I think the whistling triggered something in her. I don't know. She stopped when I covered her ears."

"Fuck. Fuck!" Max paced at the end of the street. "We should go. Now."

I nodded and stood up, still carrying her in my arms.

"Shit! Logan, your back is bleeding."

I shrugged. "I wasn't about to let her take the fall. I straight tackled her."

"I'll bring the car around. Stay here." Max disappeared from view.

Looking down, I stared at the passed out woman in my arms. She looked peaceful, her chest rising and falling ever so slightly. I forced my lips into a line, trying to not let the emotions out that were welling up inside. What the hell had my mate been through? What the hell had this vampire done to make her this

way? Staring down at her, I couldn't hold back. I brought her closer to me and pressed my shaking lips to her forehead, kissing her gently.

"Auri, come back, please." I whispered against her head. "Don't let him win, my love. Don't let him control you anymore."

Her breath still continued at a steady pace and I shook my head, shaking the tears from my eyes. Max pulled up and opened up the passenger door from the drivers seat. I walked to the car but paused.

"I'm going to mess up your seats..."

"For fucks sake Logan, I don't give a shit. Get in the damn car."

I stepped in and sat down, still holding Auri to my chest. I was able to just let her legs drape over mine and her body laid against my chest. We staved quiet for a while as Max drove even faster than before through the streets. Once he was on the main road, I heard him let out a breath.

"If you hadn't have been there, I would have lost her." Max was gripping the steering wheel tightly.

"I wasn't even thinking." I mumbled, moving a hair out of her face that had fallen down.

"Thank you, Logan." Max looked at me, seriously. "I can only think of bastard who would know her triggers, one that wasn't even listed. Which means he is close. Too close."

I just nodded, staring down at Auri in my arms. She looked so tiny like this. The bunny was in her lap, her hand still holding it. I smiled. Somehow, even during all of it, she still managed to hold onto it. I hoped we were a step closer than we were. A step towards getting her back.

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 59

Chapter 59

Auri took up the seat next to me and I was surprised. Max also seemed a little surprised. She usually left a seat between everyone except Max. She started swinging her legs as she rested her head on the countertop.

"I can't believe that the bakery didn't have sourdough bread yesterday. Frankly, it's an insult to have to use anything else." Max took out a loaf of bread and started to cut it. "How's your back?"

Auri looked in my direction, confused.

"Stings a little. The shower yesterday was a bitch but it's mostly just road rash. Can't do anything for it but let it heal."

Max looked up and I froze as Auri reached over and ran her hand over my back. It was a feather touch but I hissed as she touched a particularly sensitive spot. Her eyes looked wildly in Max's direction, but he was too shocked. The knife in his hands frozen. She got up and went up the stairs.

"She didn't wait for permission."

I nodded, also shocked.

"Maybe Morgan was right. Maybe it is you she needed." He then let out a full barking laugh. "She knew your ass needed saving and even Auri can't ignore that."

Sighing, I rubbed my forehead with my hand. "Why do you need to say it like that?"

Max just laughed harder and Auri came back down the stairs, a round container in her hands. She tugged on my shirt and I pulled it up, wincing as it ran over the rough skin. Unscrewing the cap, she placed her fingers in the gel and rubbed it on her hand. Slowly, she placed a hand on my back. I gasped and my back involuntarily straightened against her touch. A mixture between the cold gel, the electricity from her touch, and the pain made me flinch.

Auri huffed and leaned in. This time I closed my eyes and balled up my fists. She was gentle, coating my back in the gel. It already was feeling ten times better when she finished. The gel was helping cool my skin and make it less sensitive. Her hands came up and gently pulled my shirt down over my back. After setting the now closed gel container on the counter, she walked over to the sink and started to wash her hands.

"Thank you, little bird."

She just nodded.

Max was staring at Auri, still stunned at the display. Auri elbowed him, pointing at the stove behind him. He cursed and spun around, taking the pan off the stove. She was snickering as she watched Max fumbled with the pan and taking the food out. My heart pounded in my chest. Even in this state, she still took care of me. Still couldn't help but make sure I was okay. I wanted nothing more than to hug her. I wanted to tuck the piece of hair that had fallen out of her braid behind her ear. I wanted to shake her awake and tell her I still needed her.

"Alright!" Max broke my stare as I looked at him. He had set a plate in front of Auri and I.

I raised my eyebrow. "Grilled cheese?"

Auri took bites of her little half sandwich Max had given her.

"Italian grilled cheese. Made from all local ingredients. Though sourdough would have been better." He grumbled absently.

I took a bite and was surprised. It tasted amazing. There was definitely extra herbs and with what I guessed was pancetta. Digging in, we ate in silence. It was only broken up by a cellphone ringing. We looked up as Max fumbled through his pockets and pulled out his phone.

"Hello?"

I was surprised how quiet the voice was on the other end. I couldn't hear anything but Max's face reflected that it was something serious.

"Alright. I'll be right there. No, it's fine. I think after today's display they will be fine."

He hung up the phone and looked at the two of us. Auri looked worried. Max came around the counter and went down on one knee so Auri was looking down at him. He took her hands in his.

"Little bird, I need to go to work. I'm going to leave you with Logan. Okay?"

She shook her head and her hands clasp his.

"It's okay, little bird. Logan will take good care of you. You need to listen to him as you would me, take his word as mine while I am gone. Do you understand?"

Her head nodded slowly.

"Logan, I need to work. Morgan needs backup. I'm leaving her in your hands. Protect her with your fucking life." Max stood and looked at me, seriously. "I understand you have a pack and a family back home. But right now, Auri is the only thing that matters. You better give your life for her if anything happens."

"Of course. I'll make sure I keep her safe."

He nodded and quickly grabbed his jacket. A second later a car's engine roared to life and pulled out of the driveway, leaving me alone with Auri. She was on the verge of tears, staring at her half-eaten grilled cheese. I ran my fingers through my hair.

"We should finish eating, little bird."

She looked up at me and then looked back down to the plate, nodding. Her bites were slow and I also continued to finish mine. My nerves were on edge. I didn't really know how to handle her outside what I had seen Max and Morgan do. Picking up my plate, I brought it to the sink and absent-mindedly started rinsing it off. The plate slipped from my hand and started to fall into the sink. I grabbed it but my hand had rammed into the knife that was at the bottom of the sink. Hissing, I put the plate down and started to run the cut under the water. I couldn't win. I couldn't remember the last time I had hurt myself so many times in a 24 hour period.

Auri got up immediately and ran into the bathroom, she came back with a little first aid kit. She looked at me as she stood next to me, holding the kit in her hand.

"It's okay, little bird. Don't worry about it."

She was shifting her weight on feet, not leaving.

Sighing, I placed my hand on hers and she looked up at me for a moment before holding it. Auri pulled me to dining room table and sat me down. Pulling the chair right up to mine, she sat down and opened up the first aid kit. First,

she ran her finger over my hand, analyzing the wound. Then, she dabbed my hand with an alcohol wipe. It ran from my wrist up to my pinky.

Auri watched it for a moment, but it continued to bleed. She wiped it away but looked up at me, confused. I realized what she was waiting for and smiled sadly.

"My wolf has been missing for a long time little bird. I don't heal quickly anymore."

She looked up at me, eyes filled with sadness. I guessed Max and Morgan had explained a little bit of what it meant to be a werewolf. Auri tapped her collar.

"Yes, little bird, like what silver does. But, my wolf left when we felt our mate die."

Her eyes shot up to me, they started to fill with tears. I smiled down at her.

"You don't need to cry for me, little bird. It's okay."

Looking back down, she wiped away the blood again and put gauze down this time. She put a wide strip of tape over the gauze, so it was tight against the cut. Her hands were soft and I felt each spark every time she brushed me. Auri leaned back, seemingly pleased with her work. She took the kit back to the bathroom and I walked back around to the kitchen. A squeak sounded and she pulled me away from the sink. She stood in front of it and started to wash the dishes in it.

I smiled. Maybe Max was right. Maybe Auri was only coming out when she needed to save me. Once she finished, we sat on the couch. She curled up and put headphones on. Her eyes shut and her breath steadied, almost like she was sleeping or mediating. I pulled out my phone and scrolled through the internet.

My head perked up when I heard multiple vehicles coming down the driveway. They weren't the sound of Morgan's Ferrari or Max's Maserati. It also sounded like there were three of them, not two. My skin prickled and the hair on the back of my neck stood up. I turned to Auri and took her headphones off. She looked at me confused until she also heard the sound of the cars. I watched as fear flashed across her face.

"Little bird, listen to me. I want you to go hide. The only time you can come out is either when you hear 'Let's go to the beach' or you hear Max come in. Do you understand, little bird?"

She started to cry but nodded.

"Go now! Hide!"

I watched as she took off up the stairs. Her footsteps disappeared and I took a breath. I knew Morgan had enemies but I didn't think they would attack the house directly. I wondered what to do. I would protect Auri, but outside of that, how else would I deal with this. Sitting down on the couch again, I pulled my phone up and texted Morgan.

3 SUVs. Tweet hide. Waiting.

Shit. Shit shit. On our way. Protect her.

I set my phone down and covered it with a book. The front door opened and six men in black suits filed into the room. They were looking around and when their eyes met mine they pulled out guns. I didn't move though, still sitting on the couch. A man strode in as well, but he commanded the attention. He wasn't wear a suit, but a silk shirt buttoned only halfway up and black slacks. His hands ran through his hair as he looked at me.

"Alpha Logan, it's good to finally meet you."

Confused, my brow knit, "I'm sorry. It seems you know who I am, but I'm not acquainted with You." He waved to the men. "Check the house, make sure no one else is here." Walking over, he sat in Morgan's usual seat. "Oh, I am well acquainted with you Logan Everfell. You and your pack." He leaned back in the seat, his legs crossing and he wove his hands together. This man looked like he was playing a villain in a movie. "In fact, I might even know more about your pack than you do."

I sat up, leaning my arms against my knees. "You're wanting to specifically talk to me?"

"Yes, why do you think I sent Maxamillion and Morgan on a wild goose chase? You are a hard man to get to. But you finally left your pack territory and here we are, finally being able to speak." He smiled and I tried not to frown.

"Who are you?"

One of his men came up behind him. "All clear sir, no one else in the house."

He nodded and motioned him away, his eyes settling back onto me.

"My my, where are my manners. I was so excited. My name is Micah, Micah Smith."

Alpha's Blind Luna, Chapter 60

Chapter 60

Looked at the man before me. "Well, Micah, since you apparently know so much about me, why not enlighten me as to why your breaking into someone else house just to speak with me."

He smiled. "A man who knows when it's time to talk and not fight. I like it. You command an air around you, frankly, it's interesting to see in person."

He was right, I did start to let my Alpha presence fill the room. He didn't seem disturbed by it at all though.

"I've come to see if you and I can make an arrangement, a deal per say."

My eyes narrowed. "Normally, I'm not one to make deals with vampires."

Micah laughed. "Oh, I know. Other than Morgan and Max you surprisingly have very little to do with the supernatural world or any politics of it. But I think this may be one you want to listen to, considering it has to do with not just you but your family as well."

I growled. "What are you saving?"

"That you have more enemies than you know little Alpha and I'm here to help with some of them." He smiled. Snapping his fingers, one of his men brought a black box. It was the size of a shirt box and even had a silver bow tied around it.

"You see, Logan, I was presented an opportunity while I was at the High Council meeting a few months back. The Alpha King came to me with an interesting deal. One that I couldn't necessarily refuse considering the High

Council was not being open minded. Do you want to know what the deal was little Alpha?"

"If it doesn't have to with me or my pack, I don't care."

He clasp his hands together. "You see! That familv mentality. Fascinating. But in fact, it does. The Alpha King wanted you gone. You and your entire pack to be removed, everyone killed."

My eyes went wide. "What?"

"I wasn't surprised given your history, but he said he had enough land, enough members of his pack that he didn't want to even take them in. He just wanted everyone dead."

"Why?" I choked out.

Micah smirked. "You really don't know anything about your past, do you little Alpha? Frankly I'm surprised that Morgan didn't tell you at some point. The man loves stirring up trouble and then leaving. But that history is not what I'm here to talk about. Just know that the Alpha king wants you dead and that's the deal we made with him."

"What would you get out of it?"

"Very perceptive. The Alpha King offered me your land. That my coven could take over and the cities that inhabit it and we wouldn't have an issues from him or the High Council."

"Shit, you're from the Bloodhunter coven aren't you."

His smile grew wide, unpleasantly so. "Bingo."

My hands clenched into fists and I tried to slow my breath. Losing control now would do nothing but kill me. I looked up at him. "So why come to me? Sounds like a great deal for you."

"You see, here's the thing. I really don't care about your pack or werewolves in general but it's really a waste of my manpower and resources to literally wipe the second largest pack off the earth. You could also say I really hate the audacity and the cockiness of the Alpha King." He looked at me though, eyes narrowing. "Or you could call be a believer in the prophecies. That I believe

that while you have your moon goddess and I have my Night Queen, we all are children of the night and that when the night provides proof of a destiny, one must listen. But that's neither here nor there. Believe whichever one you want."

He continued, "I have a deal for you, Alpha Logan Everfell. You partner with me. Half and half, we attack the Alpha King and remove him from his throne. Then, you can absorb his pack and suddenly are the largest pack with no one to contend with. Hell, you could even have the Alpha King title." The idea for some reason made him laugh and it made me stiff.

"But what would you get out of that deal?"

"I'm glad you asked! There are three cities that fall on the far west side of the Alpha King's territory. We want you to just, move your boundaries back and turn a blind eye to those cities."

I leaned back in the couch, my arms crossed over my chest. "So you want to live out your disgusting practices in those cities and want me just not care."

"Exactly! Eventually I'm sure the High Council might throw another fighter our way but we will do exactly the same thing we did to the last one."

My jaw locked as I realized he was talking about Auri. I tried to stop the shaking, tried to control but I was losing it.

"At this point, little Alpha, it's your pack or his crown. There isn't another option and I could have just wiped your pack out while you were gone. Imagine the heartbreak you would come back to, while on vacation here in Italy." Micah waved to the room. "It is lovely out here."

"How long do I have?"

"I'm a vampire, time has no consequence to me. But I believe the meeting between the Alpha King and I is in a month. So let's say you have until then. Four weeks. To decide whether or not you want your pack to die or to live."

I took a deep breath. "How will I contact you?"

"You won't. We will contact you." Micah stood. " This is a gift. Let's say a goodwill gesture." He placed the black box on the coffee table between us.

"What is it?"

"Your history, little Alpha. You and your packs history. Why you should hate the Alpha King, why all your problems stem from the Alpha King. Help motivate you to make the right decision." Micah flashed me another one of the smiles that sent shivers down my spine. "It was good to finally meet you Alpha Logan Everfell."

With a flourish, he left, his six suited guards following behind. I put my head in my hands, trying to focus. All that was running through my head was that my pack was in danger. I looked down at the box and I wondered if maybe all of this was made up. He just wanted me to attack the Alpha King. He was a Bloodhunter and I wouldn't put it past him one bit. I listened as their cars left. Letting out the breath I didn't realize I was holding, I stood up.

"Let's go to the beach, little bird!" I yelled, looking up to the stairs.

It took a minute but I heard her footsteps pounding through the top floor. Auri swung around the bottom of the stairs. She ran to me and didn't stop, her body crashing into mine. Stunned, I felt her arms wrap around me. I held her, confused at the sudden contact.

"He's a bad man." I heard her say softly, fearfully.

I nodded and rubbed her back. "He is, but he is gone now."

She looked up at me, tears in her eyes. "He is the bad man."

Suddenly it clicked. I vaguely remembered Morgan telling me the name of the vampire who had broken her. He had said his name was Micah. My knees went weak and I fell onto the couch. She was still holding me and I hugged her tight, my face now at her chest.

"You will never go back to that man, little bird. Never. Max, Morgan, and I will always take care of you."

She nodded, still shaking.

"Thank you for telling me, little bird. That was very brave."

"What will Logan do?" Her voice was so small.

I pulled my head from her chest and looked up at her face. Memorizing it for the thousandth time. "I don't know little bird. My family could be hurt but he is a bad man." I looked at the black box on the table.

She nodded again but didn't say anything more. I grabbed the box and untied the bow. Auri sat down next to me on the couch, pulling her knees to her chest. I opened the box, expecting for something to explode but there were a bunch of files and paperwork in it. I picked up the first one and opened up the file. I saw a photocopy of a blue scroll. 'The High Council formally requests Liam Everfell and Evelyn Fang to turn over their son Logan Everfell over to the High Council, where he may begin his training after his first shift to become the Alpha King. ' I couldn't read anymore. I was already shaking. Was this the blue scroll that Morgan was talking about? My parents had denied giving me up to the High Council?

Auri's hand held my arm and a wave of calm came over me. The paper in my hands stopped shaking and I set it back in the folder. The stack of papers in the box became heavy in my lap.

"I'm going to need a bigger space for all this." I mused to myself.

Auri got up and walked over to the dining table, she removed the table runner and all the decorations on the table, folding them and setting them on the kitchen counter. She then went into the refrigerator and got out a jug of what looked like iced tea. I smiled. Of course she would remember her iced tea recipe. I raised an eyebrow as she took a bottle of vodka out of the freezer and poured it into both the glasses. She added some lemon and brought it out to the table. Another quick run into the other room and she brought out Morgan's box of cigarettes, a blue lighter, and an ashtray.

I couldn't help it, I laughed. I brought the box over to the table and she pulled out the chair on the other side of the table. Auri sat down, pulling her knees to her chest and stayed there. I pulled all the contents of the box out and placed them on the table, spreading them out a little. Taking a deep breath, I sat down in the chair and reopened the top folder, pulling out the 30 or so pages from it. I held them out and started to read.