Read The alpha who saved me (Quinn and Declan) novel Chapter 27 online free

CHAPTER 27

WARNING: ABUSE & POSSIBLE TRIGGERS

I'm not sure what is going on but there have been whispers all day long, starting up after Luna Jenna had been dismissed from the kitchen. Eyes follow me everywhere, and the omegas that are in charge of bathing and dressing me each day seem even more hostile towards me. I try to ignore it all but it's hard when you are being held captive in a strange place and you can sense that something bad is about to happen.

Four of the Omegas are escorting me to yet another part of the pack house, when I hear bits and pieces of their conversation. I'm not sure if they are trying to be quiet or if they want me to hear what they are saying, but they must know that my hearing is rather good, even if Tala is still asleep somewhere inside.

"Why does she get to go in there? I don't understand what's so special about her!" A blonde she-wolf exclaims to another.

"it's not like they are **her. They can't do that just yet, so we still have time. We just have to try harder." One of the two brunettes responds to the blonde.

"He hasn't touched us since she's been here, so I doubt we will get him to change his mind."

The redhead speaks up, not caring that I can hear her as she sneers, "Well, I for one, hope they use her good. Maybe then she will stop thinking that she is better than the rest of us and start acting like the **she is now."

"What didn't you hear, Rae?" the blonde asks the redhead, "He's taking her as his Luna, so she will be above us."

**Yeah, well he won't want her if she is hideous. We can hire someone to **her face up." The vicious redhead snickers.

"And chance the Alpha finding out?The brunette asks while the others gasp, Are you crazy?"

The redhead shrugs, "It was just wishful thinking."

"That kind of thinking is going to get you either locked up or killed!" The second brunette finally speaks up. When I glance over at her, she has a familiarity to her. She tries saying something through our eye contact, but I don't know what.

When they stop in front of a closed door, the blonde produces a key and unlocks it. Shoving me in ahead of them, I glance around and stop in my tracks. They brought me to a****sex room or something! It looks like one, almost, but it also looks like a torture chamber from a different era.

There is a chill in the air even though there is a fire going in the fireplace. I continue glancing around, and taking everything in. To my surprise, one of the Omegas takes the mouth gag off, letting me close my mouth for the first time since this morning. I can't talk even if I tried because my jaw is too sore.

When one of them begins to untie the belt around my waist, I start to back away and shake my head no. Two others grab me and hold me while the Omega strips me of the only coverage I have, which isn't much since the thing is sheer. I whimper and try to break free of the she wolves grip, but I'm getting too weak. I haven't had a real meal since I left Dark Moon that faithful morning. I get water and I get a slice of bread twice a day. Jasper says that I would get more if only I would submit, but that's not happening.

"God, look at her! Why do they want her, she's so boney." I hear one sneer.

"It's only until she realizes that she's never leaving here. Once she submits to her new mate, she can have whatever she wants." Another explains but still has a nastiness to her voice.

"Come on, we don't have much time before he gets here, and she needs to be ready." The redhead says right in front of me.

They push me down to my knees on the cement floor, and while two of them hold me down, the other two take my wrists out of the shackles and they each stretch them out to the side, cuffing them in a new set of restraints attached to posts on each side. My head hangs down, because my strength is waning, and it takes too much to hold it up.

"You're so** pathetic! You have the Alpha and Alpha heir wanting you and you continue to deny them both! You're either * or dumb!" the blonde snickers.

"Really?" I whisper, my jaw aches with the movement. I glance over at the others, silently asking if the blonde is really that ignorant.

The redhead is the one that speaks up. "Shut up, Bridget. You're making yourself look dumb!"

The blonde huffs, but takes a step back, getting in line with the others. I wonder what they are doing, but then I hear it; footsteps coming towards the room, multiple footsteps. My heart races, not knowing what's going to happen.

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CHAPTER 27

Father and son walk in together. As soon as they see me in all of my naked glory, they both break out in big grins. They circle me like **vultures circle their prey, but I refuse to show them my fear. I won't let them break me no matter what.

"Isn't she magnificent?" Luther asks his son, "Her mother was the same way. Had it not been for that **mate of hers coming along. I would have had her myself.

"She is a beauty, Father." Jasper licks his lips,

"Remember," the Alpha addresses his son, the only thing you are allowed to stick your **in is her mouth. Otherwise, you can have at her, but first let's give her our mark.

Wait, what? I snap my head up, and around, but neither are coming close to me yet. The Alpha snaps his fingers towards the Omegas, "Summer, be a doll and bring me that syringe that I gave you earlier."

I watch the she-wolf pull a small syringe from her apron pocket and hand it to the Alpha. Once again, she makes eye contact with me, trying to tell me something. The Alpha called her Summer. I knew a Summer once, she was one of the she-wolves that used to crush on my brother, Dylan. Could it be? Could this wolf be from my old pack? Did Luther take prisoners when he attacked us?

"That's a good girl. Come to my room tonight, Summer. I want to watch my mate make you come again." Luther winks at the poor Omega.

I can see the repulsion on her face, but she still responds with. "Yes, Alpha."

Luther turns his attention back to me, "Here, here, we can't have your wolf waking up just yet, can we?" He brings the syringe close to me.

spit on him as he bends down to stick the

I jerk away the best that I can, but it doesn't deter him, so I do the only thing that I can do needle in my neck.

He jumps back, dropping the needle in the process. "You ***!" He backhands me so hard that I see stars. "Look what you're making me do! Now I have to mark up that pretty face of yours!" he hits me again and again. I can taste blood in my mouth, but he doesn't stop there. He yanks my head back and to the side by my hair and stabs me with the syringe. Aside from the sting of the needle going in, don't feel anything.

Jasper buckles the mouth gag back onto my mouth and then let's my head hang down, but Luther isn't having it, "Bring the branding iron over here!" He orders his son and then looks down at me, "You can thank dear old Stacia for our treatment of you. Had she stayed with me, then you could have been mine, but no, she dropped me for that piece of ***father of yours, now you get to have our pack's mark on you and my** inside that mouth of yours!

I hadn't even realized he had pulled himself out until he tries shoving himself into me. I shake my head back and forth, but it does no good, especially when he backhands me again. I go limp, but it matters none to him as he uses me for his own gratification.

"Do it now!" I hear Luther say as he plunges himself into me. A searing white pain erupts on the side of my neck, right where my mate is supposed to mark me, and then all goes black.

When I wake up again, I have a throbbing pain in my neck, and I'm chained to a bed that isn't Jasper's. I can smell the faint scent of Luther and Jenna, so I'm assuming I'm in their chambers, but why? By the looks of it through the window, it's late afternoon. How long was I out for? I try taking stock of all the aches and pains that are wracking my body, and thankfully, they have kept their word so far, and did not take my virginity.

I feel a stirring inside of me, and shockingly, I hear my wolf whimper, 'Tala! Are you okay? I'm so glad you're waking up!" I cry out to her.

"I'm here, Quinn, but i'm so tired.' She yawns, "Let me nap and I will be good to go.'

'Tala, you do know that we were kidnapped, right? The Desert Sand Alpha has us.'

'What? How did you manage that?' She asks, fighting the sleep that's trying to take her.

"Me? His son snuck up on us, so the way I see it, you were the one that wasn't doing their job.'I lecture.

"Oops, my bad. Let me take a quick nap and then we will figure out a way to get out of here.' No sooner does she say it, I hear loud snoring coming from within, and I have to block it out.

The bedroom door opens, but it's Summer that comes in. I can only see out of one eye, but I can still see the concern in both of hers. She closes the door and hurries over to the bed with a tray. I was hoping for food and water, but there are medical supplies on the tray.

"Summer," I whisper, "You're from my pack, aren't you?"

She glances back at the closed door, "Yes," she whispers back, "There were five of us taken when they attacked. My friends and I were at the pond when they came. They took us right from there."

"Who else was taken?"

it doesn't matter right now, there are only two of us left her voice **, "Me and Veronika, but she was claimed by one of the warriors and she's got a pup now

"We need to get out of here." I say trying to remain calm, "I'm not going to last too much longer if I stay. I will kill myself before I let them use me like they want."

She gnores my statement, "Has your wolf woken up yet?"

"She stirred but went back to sleep." I reply sadly.

Summer nods "it's going to take a little bit, but I was hoping she'd wake up soon. I switched the syringe with the drugs for one with saline in it Hopefully, she wakes up by the time help arrives."

"Help? I make a hissing noise when she goes to clean the mark on my neck.

She nods, but then the door opens, and she changes tactic, "Stop refusing to submit. You will love giving yourself to them."

shake my head. "No, I won't!"

"Ah, I see you've had no luck with the ***either, huh?" The Luna comes walking over to Summer, brushing some of her hair back and then leaning in to kiss my pack member on her neck.

I can see Summer's expression and can tell that she's holding the vomit back as Jenna touches her. When the Luna stands back up, she keeps her hand on the other she-wolf's shoulder.

*Alpha told me to meet him in here, and that you would be here too. Does that mean Luther wants another show?" Jenna asks softly. She seems to really like Summer, by the way she fondles the she-wolf's hair as she talks to her.

Summer nods and smiles up at the Luna, "That's what he told me earlier, but then he brought her here. I don't know what plans he's got for her, but I'm not touching the **." Summer pretends to sneer at me.

"No worries, baby. I'll make sure he doesn't make you touch her." Jenna pushes Summer down on the bed, across my legs and starts making out with her.

*Starting without me? A booming voice comes from the doorway.

The Luna glances up at her Alpha and wipes her mouth, "No, just warming up a little."

"Good. Now that we are all here, the fun can begin!" Alpha Luther claps his hands together and licks his lips at me, giving me a very bad feeling about this.

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CHAPTER 28

DECLAN

Duke races back to the pack house just in time to hear our Beta finish giving his orders. Transforming and giving me back the reigns, Keenan throws a pair of basketball shorts to me, and I quickly put them on. Gavin is just coming from the pack house when I address him first

"Have you talked to your father yet?"

"Yes, I just got off the phone with him. He's willing to send a small team to the two packs closest to us."

"Okay, good, but there is a change in plans, and I no longer need him to send them to those packs." I climb the steps to the front porch and then turn to face my warriors, "I have just learned that the Desert Sand pack does, indeed, have Quinn!" Duke growls within, "We must get to her as soon as possible, because she is not in good shape and I fear that if she is left there any longer, she will not survive."

"Quinn is strong, Declan." This comes from Carter, and I smile sadly ay him.

"Quinn is the strongest she-wolf that I know, that is true, but I also know that she would rather die before letting Luther touch her the way! know that he will." A murmur ripples through my warriors, "I received a picture message just a few moments ago from an unknown number. Quinn has been stripped and beaten while being in chains. Luther is in the picture, along with, I believe it's his son. I haven't heard anything about the son in many years, but he's around the right age."

"Can I see the message?" Gavin dares to ask me.

"**no, you can't see the message. I'm not about to pass around a picture that shows another Alpha's weakness." I scowl at my cousin. He probably just wants to see Quinn naked, but even I wish I could unsee what I had. I turn to my Beta, "I need you to get on the phone and get our allies to the north of us to meet us just outside of Luther's territory. We need them there in two hours' time." I turn to my cousin," need you to contact the south allies, and I will take care of the rest." I look over the crowd, "We leave here in twenty minutes. I want you all prepared for engagement, because we are not leaving without Alpha Quinn!"

We are just getting ready to head out when Lila comes walking up. I don't have time to even wonder what had taken her so long to get back,

and I really don't care. What I do care about is her stopping me just before I shift.

"Alpha, where is everyone going?"

"It has nothing to do with you, Lila. Go inside and do whatever the **you usually do." I answer and try to walk away, but she reaches her hand out to stop me once again. Duke growls, "Back the ***up and don't touch me!"

"But Alpha, there are things that we need to discuss about the pup. I was talking to Dr. Langly..."

"I SAID BACK THE ***UP!" Duke actually nips at Lila's hand that is still on my forearm, so I have to push him back. Sighing. I look at the shocked she-wolf, "Lila, I don't have time right now. I have important business, but once it's all settled then you can tell me what you and the doc discussed." It takes all that I have to be this calm with the Luna.

"Okay, thank you, Alpha." She gives me a small smile, but I'm already turning around and forgetting the whole conversation.

"Declan," Gavin calls out, "I've talked to Quinn's Beta and he's going to meet us there with his warriors as well."

"Thanks, I wasn't going to reach out to him, knowing that they don't have the numbers, but I should have known that he would want to be there to help rescue his Alpha."

Suddenly, a vicious growl echoes through the crowd, "That's where you're going? You're going for HER?" Lila stands facing us with her hands fisted at her sides, "We have things to discuss concerning YOUR pup, and you are choosing HER AGAIN!?"

"Mind your tongue, Lila!" I warn, "Rescuing another Alpha takes precedence over discussing baby names, or birthing plans this early in the pregnancy!"

"But you're ALWAYS choosing HER!" She shrieks.

I take big strides until I'm right up in her face, And I told YOU that I will ALWAYS choose her over you! When are you going to get that through your head, woman?"

"I am your Luna!" She crosses her arms in front of her and glares at me.

"And I am your ALPHA!" I snap at one of the warriors that are staying behind. He comes jogging quickly, "Ben, please see to it that my Luna

CHAPTER 28

gets put into one of the clean cells. Make sure she eats all her meals and takes care of herself while she is being punished."

"WHAT? You can't be serious!" Lila cries out as ben takes her arm. "Be mindful of the pup she's carrying." I tell the warrior, "I don't want anything to happen to my heir."

"Yes, Alpha."

I turn back towards my men, and they all quickly turn away except for Carter and Gavin, who both are wearing matching smiles.

"Don't ***say a word!" i glare at them both. Carter holds both hands up and steps away, while Gavin just chuckles. "Let's go, we are already running behind."

By the time we reach just outside the Desert Sand territory, most of the other packs are already there. Depending on how soon each pack left, they should have all made it within an hour and a half, but I wanted to give them that little extra time in case it was needed. By the looks of it, we are only waiting on two of the ten allies that we reached out to.

"Declan," my cousin Deke approaches, "I'm sorry to hear about this. I set out as soon as I got the call."

"Thanks Deke, I really appreciate it and I'm sure Quinn will as well." i slap his shoulder.

Just then a few of the scouts that I had sent over to watch the pack, approach me and my cousin, "Alpha, after watching Luther's pack for the past few days,

it is our understanding that he doesn't have the numbers to be able to attack the packs that he has been attacking."

"That's what I thought. Quinn had said that it looked like he had rogues with him the day he had attacked her pack. That must be what he's doing, but how he's getting them to follow him, is another mystery." I stand with my hands on my hips, "How about now? How do our numbers look going into his territory?"

The warrior scratches his head, "That's the thing, Alpha, you shouldn't have any issue getting in and getting out because he may have only a quarter of what we have here."

"Do you think he has rogues hidden throughout his territory?" Deke asks.

"I mean, it's possible, but we haven't seen anything out of the ordinary." The young warrior states.

The last two ally packs arrive, giving us at least two thousand warriors, give or take. None of us could bring all of our numbers because we still need to protect our territories as well, but this is a good number to have.

I turn towards everyone, "Thank you for coming and bringing aid to help another Alpha and ally. Alpha Quinn has been in captivity for a little over a week now and from what I saw in the message I received, she's in rough shape. I'm not sure when the picture was actually taken, so she may be worse than what the photo showed." I proceed to inform them of what my scouts had learned and told them all to keep their eyes open at all times and to have each other's backs because we are not sure if we will encounter any rogues within the territory.

Half of us remain in human form while the rest transform back into our wolves. I remain in human form until we reach the border of Luther's town. Our men took care of his border patrol but I'm not sure if they were able to get word to their Alpha that they had been breached.

We are spotted just as I bring Duke forward, but it makes no difference because we have Luther's little town surrounded. I don't know if he is that dense not to have extra defense when he has a captured Alpha or if he is just that smug to think that he wouldn't be caught, but regardless, I'm about to teach him a lesson in how a real Alpha takes care of business.

A light brown wolf comes at me, baring his teeth, and I'm able to step to the side just to circle around and grab him by the scruff. Clamping down on his neck, I shake my head back and forth, viciously, until I hear a snap. I toss him to the side and continue to run, dodging a number of wolves that come straight at me. I know I have my men behind me that will take care of the **, so I just keep pressing on. Unless I can't get past the ***, I will let my men handle them; I just want to get to Quinn.

I enter the town the same time that Deke and Spencer enter, all from different directions. Gavin is only a minute behind, but just as he enters, a wave of **rogues come barreling toward us. I'm not sure where they were hiding, and it doesn't matter. What matters now is taking as many out as soon as we can because I have my sight on the pack house, and nothing is going to stop me from getting there.

Most rogues are a vicious bunch. They have nothing to live for, so they just hunt and kill for the hell of it. They are wolves that were either part of a pact and got kicked out or they chose to leave. Then there are those who were born into the rogue life. The ones who choose to leave normally aren't bad. They just roam around until they can find another pack to join, otherwise they will turn feral after so many years.

These are the feral kind, and it only makes me question how Luther is getting them to cooperate. They are nasty and they **stink of garbage, and if you're not careful, they will rip you apart in no time. Glancing around, I notice that even with the rogues, there are still more of us. This one moment that we use to take stock of the situation, almost costs us. Pain shoots up my hind leg as a black and white wolf latches on. I growl and use all my strength to flip us both over. When he lands hard on his back, his jaw loosens around my leg and I'm able to free myself. I don't waste time and go straight for the jugular. A yip breaks out as soon as I sink my fangs into the rogue's neck. Ripping out that portion of his neck, I spit it out in the wolf's face and leave him to bleed out.

'Go Duke! We have a clear path to the pack house.' I tell my wolf.

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CHAPTER 29

Alpha, can I please get a taste before we begin?" Luna Jenna sits up and licks her lips as she looks at me.

"Why the ***do you keep drinking her blood, woman?" Luther asks his mate.

"I don't know, baby, she just tastes so delicious! She's sweet like candy."

"Fine," the Alpha sighs, go ahead, but don't take too much. I don't want her passing out on me again!"

"You didn't let it stop you earlier..." The Luna smirks at her Alpha.

My eyes bug out and I glance at Summer who has a regretful expression on her face. I'm going to throw up. Like literally, I can feel it coming up, but then a pain in my thigh takes hold, and my body forgets all about vomiting as the Luna **takes my blood once again.

"Mm, baby, you really ought to try this." Jenna swipes her finger across her bite mark and holds it to her mate's lips.

"I'm not into drinking ** blood!" He pushes her hand away.

"I wasn't either until I tasted hers. Please, just trust me, baby." She brings it to his lips again.

The Alpha hesitates before he finally gives in and opens for her. He closes his lips around her finger and a second later, his face lights up and his eyes snap to me as he cleans her finger off.

"My Goddess, why does her blood taste like that?" Luther asks no one in particular.

"I told you she was delicious." Luna Jenna says smugly.

Alpha Luther stares at me hard, as though he is trying to figure something out. He walks to my side and runs a hand down my bruised cheek, "You were so beautiful, just like her, and then you betrayed me, just like her. Why did you have to fight me, Quinn? I wouldn't have had to ruin your beauty."

"**you, Luther and your blood sucking **!" I spit at him again, and even though it didn't hit him, that didn't stop him from hitting me.

He's wearing a ring this time, so when he backhands me, I feel it slice through my cheek, "You * is!"

glare at the piece of **Alpha, "I'm going to kill you long before then, **!"

He throws his head back and laughs, "oh, are you now? Well then, maybe I will just take what I'm owed now, so I don't miss out!" He shoves his hand between my legs and rubs his disgusting fingers against me but doesn't enter. With the way my limbs are restrained, I can't fight him off. "How does that feel, Alpha? Do you want me to ** my fingers into you too?"

"Please don't," I don't want to beg but I can't let him do this.

"Are you going to be a good girl and let the Alpha use your mouth willingly this time?" He asks.

I hesitate, but then I nod. I feel Tala start to stir again, 'Ouch! Why are we sorer than the last time I woke up?

"Tala, I want you to remain calm for now, okay?" I tell my wolf which probably wasn't a good thing because right away she raises her hackles, 'No, don't! we can't let him know that you are awake, so you can't heal me yet either. If he figures out that you are awake, he will give me more drugs that will put you back out, and I need you in order to escape!

"Okay, okay! Don't go she-beast on the alpha **, got it.' She growls within.

'I will tell you when to show yourself, but just let things happen until I figure something out.'

My wolf rolls her eyes at me, 'Whatever, you're the boss.'

Another pain hits me, this time on my breast. The alpha has bitten into me and is now drinking from me like he's a pup, drinking from its mother's breast. His Luna dips down and continues to lick and suck on her own bite mark.

'They shouldn't be drinking from us, Quinn.' Tala says.

'Well, no **sherlock, but as you can see, I don't really have a say in the matter.'I respond back.

"No, I mean, we have special blood, Quinn. Nobody can know, you need to get them to stop."

'What's so special about our blood?" I ask confused.

"I can't tell you yet, but please just believe me."

"Fine."

"Alpha, please. I'm feeling lightheaded." That gets him to stop, and he shoves his Luna away from my thigh as well.

"We can't have you passing out on me again, can we?" He gets up on his knees and unzips his pants, "Open wide, hot stuff, and let the Alpha in

What the **?' Tala shrieks in my head, 'Oh **no! I was wrong, let him keep drinking! Don't let him put that thing in our mouth!"

"It isn't the first time, Tala."

What?! I leave you alone for a little while and you're putting nasty alpha **in our mouth?'

"You're not helping the situation, Tala.'i sigh and open my mouth wide.

"Oh Goddess no! I can't watch—*gag* I think I just puked a little.' Tala closes her eyes.

An alarm blares throughout the pack house just before he is able to get inside my mouth. I glance over at Summer, and she gives a slight nod. I respond back with a slight tip of my head just as a commotion breaks out right outside.

"What the **is going on... Luther cuts off as he witnesses Summer tear the throat out of his Luna.

*NOW TALA!"

I don't know how we do it, but my wolf breaks from the metal restraints and takes hold of the Alpha's head, "This if for my family and my pack, **!" We rip through his neck, snapping his spine and yanking out his vocal cord. I spit it back in his face, "I told you I was going to kill you, *."

Come on, Alpha, we don't have much time before someone comes to find him!" Summer waves for me to join her as she peers out the door.

I jump from the bed, but my feet no sooner hit the floor and I'm falling back, dizziness taking over me. I blink a few times trying to get my bearings before using the bed to help me stand. There are wolves fighting close by inside the house. Summer comes over and puts one of my arms around her shoulder and takes hold of my waist, helping me to walk. She peeks out the door again and then she has us passing through it and down the hall, away from the snarling wolves.

We are just about to the back stairs when we hear a loud, menacing growl, "Take your hand off her and step away, she-wolf!"

I know that voice!

Summer whips us around, dizziness rips through me once again. I shake my head back and forth and then open my eyes. Once I feel steady enough again, I look up and come face to face with the one person that has saved me once before.

"Declan..."

"Quinn, I'm here, sweetheart!" he growls again, "Let go of her!"

"I can't Alpha, she's too weak to walk. They took too much blood." Summer cries out, worried that he's going to make her drop me, "I'm the one that sent you that message, Alpha Declan. I was hoping you would come soon."

"You?"

"Yes," Summer responds, "I used to be part of the Dark Moon pack until they attacked. I've been here ever since."

I feel myself being lifted up and I take in Declan's scent. Now that I know I'm safe, I rest my head against his shoulder. I'm no longer listening to their conversation as we begin to move. At some point along the way, a sheet is thrown over me before we get outside.

I snuggle into the most comfortable bed ever, and smile; it smells of him. A few seconds pass by and I realize that my body in moving up and down. Frowning. I open my eyes, but it's dark. When I try lifting myself, a pair of arms come around me, and I begin to freak out and thrash.

"No, let me go! Don't touch me!"

"Shh, Quinn, it's okay it's me, Declan!"

"Declan? Is it really you?"

A light turns on and I have to blink until I'm able to open them again. When I do, Declan is laying beneath me, and I'm sprawled on top of his chest

"Sorry." I mumble and try to climb off him, but he holds me in place.

"No, I'm the one that put you here. I need to feel you in my arms tonight, to know that this is real, and we have you back."

I stare at him a moment and then nod, but suddenly, the flood gates open and I can't stop myself from crying. The memories from the past week or so are all swirling around in my head. I didn't think I was ever coming back home because what I said was true. Had they touched me and taken what didn't belong to them. I would have found a way to end my life.

"Oh, sweetheart, please don't cry!" Declan pleads softly, "You are safe now. They can't hurt you anymore." Declan rains kiss after kiss down on the top of my head, "We've disabled their pack; they will not hurt anyone else."

I swipe at my tears as they begin to slow down, "Goddess, I feel like such a*. An Alpha, crying her eyes out, pfft!"

"Hey." Declan grabs my chin and lifts my head so he can see my face, "You are far from a*Quinn. Anybody, male or female that goes through what you went through, would do the same thing." He wipes some of the stray tears away, "Do you know what we found when we went through that pack house looking for Luther?" I remain quiet, "We found your handy work, Quinn. You avenged your family and your pack. You got your revenge for what he did to you. Luther is dead, because of you, Quinn. *? No, you're far from it." He brings his face down and presses his lips lightly against mine.

I pull away quickly, and I see the hurt on his face, "I'm sorry, Declan. It's not you. I haven't brushed my teeth yet and I can still taste them. I don't want any of that touching you."

Declan tenses at my words, "Them?"

I nod. "Luther and Jasper." I whisper.

* Jasper?

*That's Luther's son. He's the one that took me from here."

"What's he look like?"

"The spitting image of his father." I scoff.

Anger appears on the Alpha's face, but he hides it right away and changes the subject, "How about a nice hot bath? Most of your wounds are healed or almost closed up, so you should be okay to soak in a bath."

He lifts me off him and places me on the mattress. When I look around, I notice that I'm in my old room at the Storm River pack house, and I smile. Declan moves to the ensuite, and I hear the water in the jacuzzi tub start to run. Instead of staying in the bed, I slowly climb out and wait until I'm steady enough and then I make my way to the tub.

I'm in a button-down dress shirt that I can only assume is Declan's, so I start unbuttoning it from the top. Declan finally notices me, and he stands once he sees that I'm getting undressed.

He goes to step around me, but I reach out and grab his forearm, "I'm going to go get my mom so she can help you." He informs me.

Shaking my head, I let go of his arm and continue to unbutton the shirt, "No..."

*Quinn, you're not steady yet and you need someone with you."

"Please, Declan, I want you. Please stay."

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CHAPTER 30

I stumble a little. I don't know whether it's from the state I'm in or from having Declan gaze at me like I'm the most important person in his life, but I do, and he catches me. Slowly, he continues to unbutton the rest of the shirt, but he never once takes his eyes from mine to feast upon my body. Once the last button is freed, he lifts me bridal-style and sets me down in the bubbling water.

Sighing, I close my eyes and let my achy body relax into the heated water. My wolf might have healed my wounds, but I will still feel the achiness for at least another day. Soft tunes begin to play, and the light dims. Opening my eyes, Declan is moving around silently, bringing me soaps and towels. He then leaves but is quick to come back with another one of his shirts, this time a V-neck t-shirt.

"Declan..."

"Hm?"

"Please, sit down and talk to me."

He chuckles, "Sorry, I guess I'm just a little nervous."

I raise a brow at him, "Alpha Declan is nervous? Whatever would you be nervous about?" I grin.

"You."

The grin drops from my face, "Me? What does that mean?" Is he disgusted by what has happened to me now and he doesn't want to be around me but is afraid to tell me?

"I'm nervous, because I'm not sure what I'm allowed to say to you or around you right now. I don't want to set anything off that's going to cause you pain. You know, sort of like PTSD." He slides his hand over his face.

The relief I feel is immediate and I smile at him, "Declan, there isn't anything you can say or do that will cause me pain. Thank you for thinking of me, though. It could have been so much worse for me had they not worried about *the Goddess Selene off by taking one of her Alpha's against their will. Apparently, they didn't think that kidnapping one was an offense against the Goddess as well..."

Declan comes close to the edge and points to my back, "May 1?"

I nod.

He's already in basketball shorts, so he climbs up and sits on the ledge of the tub's platform right behind me. His feet come into the water on each side of

me and I hand him the loofah as I sit up, bringing my knees up in front of me. A moment later he's massaging my back pulling little moans from my lips.

I lay my cheek on top of my knees and wrap my arms around my shins, "What happened after I passed out? Where is Summer?"

"Well, first off, the Desert Sand pack, along with their rogue pets, were no match for ten other packs, even without all of our numbers."

"Ten packs came...for me?"

"Of course! They are allies and you are an Alpha."

"I only know of five packs that have resigned with us."

"Well, I'm guessing after this, the other four will resign as well." He drops the loofah into the water and starts working the knotted muscles with his hands, "Anyway, without their Alpha or alpha heir, they turned themselves over to us."

"So, Jasper is dead too?" I ask, thanking the Goddess.

"I'm not one hundred percent sure, but I think he might have run." I tense at his words, "Hey, you have nothing to worry about. Now that we know what he looks like, we will track him down, and he will pay with his life."

I try to relax again as I nod my head.

"Summer stayed behind for now, only to help with who needs to be relocated."

"What do you mean? Both the males and females in that pack are vile creatures!"

"Calm down, Cujo," he chuckles as he uses the name of the *dog that I had nightmares about for months after he made me watch the movie, "That is why she stayed behind. Summer will inform my guys which ones are worth relocating."

"Where will they go?"

"It will be up to them, but Summer thinks that most will probably want to join whichever pack she goes to."

I look back at him, "She's coming to mine, though, isn't she?"

He grins and nods, "looks like your pack just grew a little bit more."

It makes me happy that I can offer these people a new home after who knows how long they suffered at the hands of Luther. How many wolves were abused or taken captive just for Luther's enjoyment? How many she-wolves had to suffer a worse fate than myself?

Declan and I sit here and just gaze at each other, neither one of us say anything more with our lips, but so much is being said with our eyes. I was wrong before when I said I would wait for my fated mate. I would choose Declan, I do choose Declan, but he can no longer be mine. He belongs to someone else now, even if there is no intimacy between them.

A knock at the bedroom door draws us out of our trans-like state. Declan dries his legs quickly and goes to see who it is. Just when I close my eyes, Amelia sweeps into the ensuite and comes over to hug me, not caring if she gets wet.

"Oh, my poor girl! I'm so glad you are back, baby!" Her hug is warm and inviting, and so I reach up and hug her back.

"It's so good to be back, Amelia."

"I'm going to go see if I can round up some food for you." Declan informs us and no sooner are his words out, my stomach rumbles.

*Thank you, Declan. All they gave me was two slices of bread a day and water."

Declan curses and Amelia clucks her tongue,"No wonder you look thin as a rail! Declan, bring her a feast fit for a queen!"

I laugh. "Please don't. I won't be able to eat it all and I don't want to make myself sick."

"I know exactly what you need." He winks and then disappears.

The room goes silent until I ask what I've been dreading since I realized where I was, "How is the Luna taking me being here?"

"You need not worry about her! This is your home, and you are welcome to stay as long as you need to."

"You have always been so kind to me, Amelia, but we both know that I could never stay here as long as she carries the heir. I couldn't do that to your son. She would make his life miserable."

The former Luna shrugs, "Maybe, maybe not. She tried to stop him from going after you, and now she sits in the cells until he decides to let her out."

"What? He has his pregnant Luna in the cells?" I'm blown away that Declan would do something like that. I mean, lock her in her room, but the cells?

"1. for one, think she deserves it and more. As long as the pup is taken care of, then I don't see what the problem is, and it's not like she's sleeping beside criminals. She has a nicer cell that has four walls, and they even carried a comfy bed down there. She's got a television and a laptop, but no wifi. She's hardly being neglected."

"Then why is she even down there? Why not lock her in her room in the Luna suite?"

Amelia sighs, "Declan refused to give her the Luna suite, because she's not his rightful Luna, so she's on the second floor with the unmated warriors. Apparently, my son thinks that she would be right at home with the unmated wolves."

I bite back the snicker, because I would have to agree with the Alpha on that one. It's got to be a hard blow for Lila though, having the Luna title with barely any of the perks when it comes to anything dealing with this pack. Of course, if it's something that the Elders would have to be included in, they would take the Luna's side no matter what.

"Besides," Amelia continues, "He already locked her in her room the day you went missing because he was trying to search for you and she threw her tantrum, so he put her in confinement. A lot of good that did, she didn't learn her lesson." Amalia sighs and smiles warmly at me, "I really wish it could have been you and my son together. He adores you, Quinn, and you will always come first over Lila. That's what upsets her so much. If she would just accept her fate, then we can all live in peace."

I give Amelia a small smile, but my heart really isn't in it. Maybe it's time that we all accept our fate and move on. Declan and I will never be together.

Maybe once we move on then Declan and Lila can try and build a decent

family for their pup. As long as I'm in the picture, though, he will always choose me, and I'm really not sure that I can live with that.

Declan is back and carrying a tray with what smells like Amelia's famous clam chowder that I love so much, and some warm buttermilk biscuits. Amelia says her goodbyes and Declan comes to help me from the tub after placing the tray of food by the bed. Holding out the large fluffy towel, he turns his head while I step out, and I smirk.

Declan found a new toothbrush and toothpaste for me, so now I'm feeling clean and fresh for the first time in over a week. Most of the bite marks on gone, but there are a few that she wasn't careful with and tore me, so there is a bit of scarring and of course, the brand, but otherwise, my body looks whole once again.

I jump up on the bed, all excited to be eating Amelia's clam chowder and Declan laughs, "I knew you would be on cloud nine. Mom made

this especially for you after we left to come get you."

I take the first bite and it's almost like an instant *. It's so c*y, with just enough of salt and other spices that the flavor just bursts in my mouth, and I'm left moaning. I don't know how she does it, but I will never eat clam chowder from anywhere else.

"That good? I'm a little jealous right now." Declan jokes.

He sits with me through the whole meal and then some. Most of it I don't pay too much attention to because I'm thinking about what Amelia and I were discussing, and the fact that I need to let go. How do I let go to someone that has come to mean the world to me; someone who has saved me not once, but twice now? How do I ever repay him if I can't do it with my love? Then it comes to me, and I know that what I'm about to do probably goes against everything I have ever valued, but it no longer matters at this point.

"Will you stay with me tonight, Declan?"

He squeezes my thigh, "Of course, I will stay with you," and then he stands up, "Let me grab the t-shirt I brought for you, so you don't have to sleep in the towel." He chuckles and turns his back on me to retrieve the shirt from the ensuite bathroom.

"No Declan," I call out to him, and he turns back to me, "I mean, stay with me." I open the towel and let it fall to the mattress.