

Read The alpha who saved me by Stacy Rush Chapter 41 online free

CHAPTER 41

Declan

I had just laid my son in the small makeshift bed that I have in my office, so I could tackle a few of the more important things while he sleeps. I'm not even five minutes into my work when one of my warriors that is on border patrol mind links me.

"I think you had better come to the eastern border, Alpha. We just found another body."

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I curse under my breath, "Do you recognize who it is and what pack they are from?" I ask as I pick Holden back up and head downstairs.

"Uh, that isn't possible. Whoever did this did a damn good job in hiding this she-wolf's identity. She's unrecognizable, Alpha."

"Damn it! Okay, I will be there as soon as I can. I'll send some more warriors out to you in the meantime. Do not touch anything while you wait." I order my warrior.

"Copy that, Alpha."

I close our mind link only to open another one to both Carter and Keenan. I inform them of what is going on and tell Keenan to send a group of warriors over to the location to begin their search for any kind of evidence. I'm assuming that whoever did this is long gone by now. Carter is to come and meet me out front before I leave myself. After leaving them their instructions, I'm once again searching for Lila.

'Why is that woman always gone when I need her?' I growl to myself, but then Duke answers.

"You don't need her, Declan. There are plenty of others around to help out with our pup. Maybe it's time you start taking note of her comings and goings. Eventually, she will fuck up, and maybe we can boot her ass out.'

What Duke says makes sense, but I don't know exactly how all of that works. Maybe it's time that I visit the Elders and find out what it takes to be able to denounce a forced Luna, but in the meantime, I need to find someone to take my son.

I run into one of the omegas that likes to help my mother out in the kitchen and ask her if she's seen the former Luna. I am told that she has gone to a neighboring pack to visit a friend of hers. So, I switch directions and head out to meet with Carter.

My Beta is already waiting for me when I come out the front door, "I need you to stay and hold down the fort for me. This is something that I need to take care of myself."

"No problem, Declan," he glances at the bundle in my arms, "Does that include Uncle duty as well?" There is a bit of nervousness to his voice, and I grin.

"Why yes, yes it does." I carefully pass Holden over to him as to not wake the little tyke, "Lila has disappeared once again, and my mother is visiting a friend."

"You do know that I know nothing about babies, right?" Carter's face grows a little pale, "Can't you just mind link his mother?"

I sigh, "I can but I really don't like doing it, because once I open the link up she thinks she has free reign to talk my fucking ear off. Besides, don't have time to wait for her. You are here now. Take him to his room and place him in his crib. He should be out for a while, just make sure to keep the baby monitor with you at all times."

"Okay, that doesn't sound so bad." His big, bad Beta chuckles nervously.

I roll my eyes and grin at him. "I will link Lila and tell her to get her ass home, but if she doesn't let me close it right after, you will be on diaper duty for a week!"

"No!" Carter rushes out, "I mean, don't worry about her, I can link her myself. You've got too much to do, scram!"

I smirk at my best friend, "Are you sure? I know you hate linking her just as much as I do."

“Pfft, I will be fine,” He waves me away. “Go catch that killer, Alpha.”

I don’t waste any more time, as I turn and transform into my wolf. Stopping at the tree line to grab a pair of shorts in my teeth, I take off toward the eastern border. It doesn’t slip my mind that this specific border also borders Quinn’s pack, so it makes me wonder if the killer left the body on my property accidentally. If so, that would make it two bodies that they have left for the new Alpha. Why would they be targeting her, though?

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When I get to the area where the body was found, I see that we are only about three meters from Dark Moon’s border. I’m fairly sure that my assumption is correct, and this body was meant to be on Quinn’s property. As I get closer to the still form lying on the hard ground, I slow

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my steps. For a brief moment my heart stops as it takes in the color of the dead she-wolf’s hair.

No, no, no, no, no it can’t be her! I move quickly until I’m kneeling beside the bloody form. All I can smell is death, the woman’s natural scent is long gone. My warrior was right, she is unrecognizable, with her face beaten to a bloody pulp and gashes all over her body. Quinn has no identifying marks on her, her skin is perfect, so I can’t go by that either.

Lifting one of the eyelids, I snatch my hand back really fast. Staring back at me is one blue eye; not quite the same color as Quinn’s, but that could be the rigor mortis setting in. For the first time ever, my stomach turns and wants to empty itself over a dead body. I don’t have my phone on me so I can’t call her yet, but I do send a few warriors over to Dark Moon’s pack house to see what they can find out.

Fifteen minutes later, I get a mind link from one of the warriors telling me that Alpha Quinn isn’t home and that they do not have her permission to tell us where she is at. What the fuck, Quinn? She knows there is a psycho on the

loose and she takes off the way she does? There isn't much that I can do about it until I have the body taken care of.

glance down at the she-wolf once more, before instructing my men to take her back to our pack and give her over to Milo, who we like to call the pack's mortician. He's the closest thing we've got to one, and he's does good work in finding out cause of deaths. We burn our dead, sending their spirits back up to the Goddess Selene, so it's not like he needs to do any embalming or preparations to the body. My main concern is finding out who this she-wolf is.

Once I get back home, I immediately text Quinn, but I get nothing back. I proceed to call her and get nothing but her voicemail. I'm on edge all night as I call and text her continuously. At some point, exhaustion takes over and I fall asleep sitting at my desk, with my phone in my hand. Waking up with a jerk, I look around my office and then stretch my sore back out. Taking care of the kink in my neck, I check the time on my phone and see that it's only half past six in the morning. I also notice that my phone is about to die, so I stick it on the charger and leave to go check on my son.

Finding him in his crib, his monitor is gone, and I'm not sure who has it, but they are doing a terrible job at monitoring him because he's fussing as he lays in his bed. I pick him up and notice right away that he's soaked through both his diaper and his pajamas. I automatically feel responsible for the state that my son is in. If he's soaked all the way through, then he's probably hungry as well.

Giving Holden a quick bath, I put him in a new diaper and a dry onesie before going to the kitchen to make him a bottle. When I see that Lila hasn't left any extra for me to feed him, I stomp to her room and without knocking, I throw the door open, causing it to crash against the wall. The she-wolf jerks to a sitting position, wiping the sleep from her eyes. When she finally focus's in on me, she lays back down, covering herself back up.

"What do you want, Alpha? It's too early..."

I notice the baby monitor beside her bed, and I growl, "Did you not check on our son once during the night?"

"I have the monitor..."

It's then that the scent hits me, "Were you out drinking last night?"

“What’s it to you, if I was?” She mumbles.

I march over to the side of the bed, and throw her covers back, “Are you fucking serious right now? You’re asking me that? My son is my business and when he has to depend on you for his food, and you think it’s okay to drink and do Goddess knows what, then yeah, it is my business!” i grab her by the arm and pull her out of the bed, “I found Holden soaked through, and I now know that he is probably hungry as well. Since we can’t use his mother’s milk to feed him, you will get your ass to the store and buy him some formula!”

I’m seething right now, and if I didn’t have my son in my arms, I probably would have strangled his mother. The gall of her to go out and get drunk when she knows that she is nursing our son!

“Where were you all night, Alpha? Don’t be putting all the blame on me when you’re the one who usually takes care of him during the night.” The she-bitch spats.

Laying my son down on her bed carefully, I turn and grab her by the neck. Duke comes forward at this point, and I take a backseat, “You dare try and cast blame on your Alpha when he is the only one that takes care of the pup, while you run around doing Goddess knows what?! Your Alpha has a lot going on, but he still takes care of his pup. Had you not been so drunk and brought him the monitor, our pup would have been taken care of!” Duke’s fangs are out and are dripping with saliva.

Careful, Duke, we can’t kill her over this.’ I warn him.

*As much as I would love to, I know it’s not a big enough offense to off her just yet.’ My wolf responds before turning his attention back to the pack’s supposed Luna.

“You wanted to be Luna, but you don’t know how to even act like one! You’re a pathetic she-wolf who wants to play Luna but doesn’t want the responsibilities! You may be considered Strom River’s Luna, but I will never call you by that title again. Until you can prove yourself to us that you can be a good Luna and a good mother, you will be treated as a regular she-wolf.” Duke spits out, and I completely agree with him.

I come forward once more, “Now, like I said, you will get your ass to the store right now and get my son some formula. When you get back,

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you can return to your room on the second floor.”

“What about Holden? You would make him stay with the unmated males too?” She asks shocked.

I laugh in her face, “My son is the heir to this pack, and he will stay where he belongs. As for you, you’re nothing to this pack; you have a . title, that’s it. You don’t belong in the Luna wing. As I’ve said before, you belong sleeping with the unmated males, right where you’re used to being.”

“You can’t do this, Alpha! I will go to the Elders!” She threatens.

I laugh, “Go right ahead and see where that gets you. Now get your ass moving, my son is fucking hungry!” I roar at her, and she hustles. I watch as she throws on a pair of yoga pants and throws her hair up into a bun before hurrying out the door.

I go over and pick my fussing son back up, “Shh, it’s okay, Daddy is going to get you fed real soon.” I coo as I bounce him in my arms.

Making my way back to my office, I look at the time and see that it’s almost seven. My phone has a little bit more charge to it, so I dial Quinn once more. My heart skips as I realize that my call was ignored. That’s a good sign, isn’t it? I redial and wait.

“What in Goddess’s name can be so important this early in the morning?” Her beautiful growl reaches my ear and I release a huge sigh of relief.

“Quinn! Thank fuck! I’ve been going out of my mind worrying about you!”

“Why, what’s going on?” She asks alarmed.

“Another body was found. It was unrecognizable but she had the same hair color as you. Had you not answered in the next fifteen minutes, I was coming to your territory.”

“Wait a minute, another body was found? Where?” Comes her response.

“Right between your border and mine.” I reply.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t answer your text last night. I was busy, but had I known, I would have texted you back right away.” I can hear the regret in her voice.

“Yeah, I didn’t think to say why I was trying to get a hold of you, sorry.” Holden starts to fuss again, so I start to bounce him once again as I soothe him.

“I better let you take care of the little guy. Let me know if you need my help with anything, and please, keep me in the loop as to who it is that was found.” She’s quick to want to get off the phone with me, and I try to stop her.

“Quinn, I don’t...” I’m cut off.

“I’m sorry, Declan, I’ve got to go. Have a good day.” And then she is gone.

I stare down at my phone, ‘What in the world just happened?’

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Gavin

I couldn’t believe my luck when Quinn accepted my date proposal finally. I don’t know what got her to change her mind about us becoming more than just friends, but I will take it. I’m aware that her mind can change at any moment, and so I’m being as patient as I can with her. As much as I want to take her and claim her as mine, I know she is far from ready for that.

I’m not a good man like my cousin, Declan, but I’m trying to be better, for her. I don’t know what it is about this she-wolf, but she’s different from the rest, and I don’t mean because she’s an Alpha. No, I noticed it the first time I met her. I was drawn to her instantly.

She had been dead set on waiting for her mate at that time. Unfortunately for her, it’s been almost a year and still, she is mate less. I’m so glad that I stuck around and waited her out, because now, I have a chance with the gorgeous

Alpha. Our wolves get along too, making it so much easier to be able to claim each other if the time comes.

My father has been hassling me for months now about closing the deal with the new Alpha, but what he doesn't realize is that I'm not doing this for him. No, I care for the beautiful she-wolf, and I'm not going to use her just to please my father. If I have to wait until his death before I can claim my rightful title, so be it. I've never been one to go against the Alpha of our pack, and because of that, I've ostracized myself with certain family members.

Declan, for instance, he hates my guts because of the things I've done in the past. I've always looked up to my older cousin, and I still do. It hurts every time he ridicules me on anything I do, and so I fight back, not wanting him to know how much his hatred for me hurts. Had I known back then what I do now, I would have fought my father harder, at least I like to think I would.

When the situation between Declan and his now crazy Luna first happened, I said a few things that I didn't really mean, but I was still trying to keep up the pretense of being an asshole. Now, I don't want that pretense, I want to be accepted.

Back when I was still a young pup, just coming into myself, my father thought I should become a man. I wasn't allowed to wait for my fated mate even if I wanted to, because it's not what my father wanted. He wanted to see his son turning into a man, so when he brought me to the pack's she-whore, who so happened to be in love with my father, he ordered her to bring her only daughter, into the room. The girl was a year older than me. My father then abused his title and used his Alpha command on the girl, ordering her to spread her legs for me.

Of course, being the tender age that I was, I was both nervous and excited. I couldn't look the girl in her eyes, though. I didn't want to see the tears streaming down her face as I stepped up to her spread thighs and placed my cock at her entrance.

I remember my father's exact words at that point, "No sense in drawing it out, son. It's going to cause her pain when you take her virginity either way, so just ram that little cock of yours right into that tight hole and then fuck her like a real man." My stomach turns now as I think back to that moment, but the memory continues, "She's going to follow in her mother's footsteps anyway, and as the Alpha heir, it's your right to be the one to take her maidenhead."

I remember looking at my father at this point, "What about her mate, Alpha?"

My father had scoffed, "No mate in his right mind will want a whore as a mate. She's going to take after her whore mother anyway, so if it isn't you turning her into the whore that she is meant to be, then it will be someone else. Now, stop wasting my time and fuck the little bitch!"

The girl's mother had tears in her eyes, but she didn't do anything except hold her daughter's hand. When I hesitated, my father slapped me upside the head, telling me that if I couldn't fuck a simple whore then I'm not cut out to be an Alpha. Mouthing my apologies to the young she-wolf, I plunged myself into her pussy, and fucked her as hard as I could with my father urging me to go harder.

It hadn't taken long for me to spill myself inside of her, but my cock hadn't softened yet, and so I was instructed to keep fucking her until my cock couldn't get hard any longer. We were there for three hours, and that poor she-wolf took everything I gave her. For a month after I had taken her virginity, my father brought me back to her every chance he had.

It was really starting to eat at me, the way she would lay there, silently crying as I fucked her over and over. Who could blame her, though? My father would sit and watch each time, until the day came that he thought I was man enough to come on my own. He had made a schedule, what for, I haven't the slightest idea, but I was to go to the girl three times a week.

The first time I went to her on my own, I had decided before I had even gotten there, that I would not touch her, not unless she wanted me to. This went on for two weeks, where I would go visit her and we would just sit and talk. We slowly became friends, somewhat, but one day when I went to see her, she informed me that she was pregnant. I felt bad, but I knew that I was responsible for her condition, and so I would be man enough to accept it and take care of her and our pup.

Telling my father hadn't gone over so well, and to this day, I wish I had never mentioned it to him, because that night, he took me to the girl's house, and had me fuck her one last time before he strangled her and then strangled her mother, making it all look as though they had a break in. Since he's Alpha, nobody questioned him when he made the decision to burn their bodies and send them up to the Goddess right

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away

A few short months afterward, he had me do it all over again with a different she-wolf, although that time, it was an orphaned she-wolf whose parents had died in a car accident, and she was taken under my father's wing. She lived in the pack house, and eventually my father made her sleep in my room with me. I had started to have feelings for the she-wolf, and she had feelings for me.

Declan was visiting the day it happened, and since he was family, my father brought him in on it as well. My cousin knew of my feelings for the girl because he always teased me about it, but when she came into my father's office to tell us about her pregnancy, my father sent my cousin out to wait for us. Without making me fuck her this time, he pretended to sympathize with her and when he walked behind her, he wrapped his hands round her neck and strangled her as well.

Tears burned my eyes, but there was nothing I could do to stop him, I was too young to fight him off. My father then called Declan back into the office and he saw what had happened. My father made it sound as though I was the one that murdered the innocent girl. He also commented on how this was the second time that I had to take care of my mistake.

Once my father made Declan take an oath to never speak of it, my cousin left and never came back for another visit. It's also when he turned his back on me, but it's partially my fault because I never once corrected the false accusations against me. I think it's because I was hurt that my own cousin would think that I could do something like that.

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"How was your date with the Alpha bitch? Did you get any pussy?" My father's voice yanks me back to the present.

"Don't talk about Quinn like that, and no, we are not there yet, Father. It was only the first date." I roll my eyes once I turn away from him.

“Don’t use that tone with me, Son, and I will call her whatever the fuck I want.” He stands, looking outside the window with his hands behind his back, “You will do what you must in order to claim her. I want to combine our packs.”

“I can’t claim her if she decides that she doesn’t want me.” I argue.

He turns back to me, “Well, if you ever want to be Alpha, then you better figure out a way to claim her! Knock her up if you have to, you’re good at doing that.”

I flinch at my father’s words, “I will do no such thing. I like Quinn, and I respect her too much to deceive her. Why do you want to combine our packs anyway? Dark Moon is still a small pack.”

My father ignores the first part of what I said but responds to the last part, “They may be small, but they have connections that I will never have. They have the ears of many packs and if that Alpha bitch knew how to rule, she would know that her pack is pretty much at the top of the list for being one of the best packs. It doesn’t matter how small they are right now. Why do you think they are growing so fast?”

I never really thought about that, but none of that matters to me. Not that it will do any good to tell my father this. I will just continue letting him believe that all is well and on track. I’m older now, and I can protect her from him this time around. One of the reasons why I never brought any girlfriends around is because I didn’t want to see them turn up dead, but then again, I learned to wrap my shit up when things turned intimate. She-wolves aren’t required to take the birth control until they turn eighteen, so as teenagers, I always carried condoms with me.

“I hear another body was found, this time on Declan’s territory, but close to Dark Moon’s as well.” My father’s statement has me whipping my head his way

“What are you talking about? When?” I ask as I stand up.

He shrugs, “Last evening, I guess. I received an email about it this morning from Declan’s Beta. They are wanting info on any possible disappearances of she-wolves with auburn hair and blue eyes. Apparently, the body was not recognizable.” He says all this like it’s nothing. like the poor she-wolf wasn’t anyone important.

The fact that this is the second body that has been found on or near Quinn's territory and that this last one had the same color hair and eyes as Quinn, is not a coincidence. I turn and go to leave, but my father stops me.

"Where do you think you're going? Your mother has her friend and their daughter coming to visit. You should be here to woo the daughter in case it doesn't work out with the Alpha bitch."

I clench my fists, "I'm going to see Quinn, to make sure she doesn't need Blue River's support in this latest find. It will help with bringing us closer, and that's what you want, isn't it?" I know I shouldn't, but I play on my father's own greed just so I'm able to go see Quinn without going against the Alpha. I can only fight so much, but going against your Alpha can get me punished, even as his only heir.

"Yes, yes, you are totally right! Go on then and work your magic." He waves me off.

I grin as I walk out. The bastard doesn't even know when he is being played by his own son. I guess he taught me well after all.

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The phone call from Declan has been disturbing me all morning. Who is killing these innocent she-wolves, and why are they leaving them to be found by us? Is it supposed to be a warning a threat? I don't want to live my life being scared, if that's what they are trying to do. I'm going to continue running my pack as I have been, but I'm going to train more, so if and when the mother fucker comes for me, I will be ready

*Alpha, there is a small group of rogues at the border seeking entrance,' one of my warriors' mind links me, 'What would you like me to do?'

"How many?' | ask.

'Twelve, five males, three females, and four pups, and if I may say so, Alpha, they don't look threatening.'

"Okay, thank you. Please tell them that I will be right there.'

*Copy that, Alpha."

I head out right away. Instead of letting my wolf out, I drive to where the rogues are. I'm not too keen on being half naked in front of strangers, so it's easier just to take my car. I love the sound of her when I start her up and she purrs like a kitten, but then takes off like a lion. My thoughts automatically turn to Declan. He got me this car, he's done a lot for me, and what have I been doing? I've been avoiding him and dating his cousin..ugh!

I'm so torn! I'm in love with one cousin but can't have him, and I can be with the other cousin, but don't know how I truly feel about him. I know my feelings for Gavin are growing stronger, but I'm not in love with him. There is something deep inside me, nagging at me to keep Declan close, but it hurts to do so.

"ARGH! Why does this have to be happening to me? Why can't I be like every other normal wolf?" I grip the steering wheel tightly, yelling and growling up toward the roof of my car.

'There is nothing normal about us, Quinn.' Tala's voice comes softly.

"What's that supposed to mean, Tala?"

"You will get all of your answers all in good time, have patience.' My wolf says.

"UGH! I don't know who's worse, you or the Goddess! I growl at Tala, 'You always talking in riddles to me and not giving me answers is just as bad as the Goddess not giving me a mate and putting me through all these obstacles!'

Tala giggles, 'It's frustrating, I know, but I am sworn to secrecy until the right time comes, Quinn. I am sorry.'

I blow a piece of hair out of my face, 'Yeah, whatever...'

I finish the rest of the drive in silence and as soon as I see the small group, a small smile graces my face. My warrior was right, they don't look threatening

at all. They do look like they are in need of a good meal and a nice, long rest, though.

Stopping just a few feet from them, I get out and walk over to them, "Hello, I'm Alpha Quinn of the Dark Moon pack. I hear that you were requesting entrance?"

One of the older males steps forward, "Yes, Alpha. We were hoping for an audience with you. We are seeking shelter but hoping that you will allow us to join your pack."

* And where is it you are coming from? I'm assuming that you all left your old pack since you don't seem to be vicious rogues."

The male that has been doing all the talking looks around the small group that he came with. All the adults nod at him and his eyes land back on me, "If I tell you what pack we are from, will you keep it to yourself?"

"Of course, I never reveal information about my pack members unless they want me to." I smile at him, wanting nothing more than to ease his worry.

"We left our pack because our Alpha is becoming mad. He's always been a bit on the meaner side, but now he's becoming cruel and..."

I wait a few seconds for him to continue, but all he does is look down at the ground, "And what?" I urge him to keep going.

"Well, lately, he's been taking whatever he wants..." I watch as his eyes sweep over the she-wolves in the group. The youngest looking only to be about eighteen..if that.

"Are you saying that your Alpha is forcing himself on she-wolves?"

The male nods, "Among other things."

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"Does he have a mate?" I ask quite disturbed by this revelation.

"He does, but apparently the Luna is turning her head and letting him do whatever he wants." His face twists in disgust.

“What pack are you from?”

“Blue River, Alpha.”

I’ve been shocked before, but never to this extent. I knew I didn’t care for Alpha Daniel for a reason, but to hear about what he’s doing to the women of his pack and that Luna Sara is allowing it...” I can’t even think about it anymore.

“Alpha Daniel is the one you’re running from? Luna Sara isn’t doing anything about it?” I have to confirm that I’m hearing correctly.

“Yes, Alpha, you are correct.” The male says.

“What is your name?” I ask him.

“I’m Conner, Alpha, and this here,” he points to the grown male beside him, “is my son, Walker. He was also one of Blue River’s warriors, so I’m sure they know by now that we left the pack since we have been gone a week.”

“What took you so long to come here?” I inquire since it’s been a whole week since they left their pack and it’s obvious that they haven’t had much to eat.

“We wanted to make sure that we were in the clear and that we wouldn’t be found before getting here. We are not the first ones to try and leave,” he glances around his group once more, “most of them are brought back, dead.”

gasp and cover my mouth.

“It’s true, Alpha Quinn,” Walker finally speaks up. As a warrior, I was privy to the hunting parties that were sent out to round up the deserters. Alpha Daniel told the pack that our warriors found them already dead, but that isn’t true. He’s the one that gave the order to kill all of them.”

I try wrapping everything they are telling me around my head, and I just can’t believe that an Alpha would do this to his pack members. I think about both Declan and Gavin being related to this monster. Gavin!

“What about the Alpha heir, does he not do anything about his father’s treatment?” I ask, hoping and praying that he isn’t like his father.

“As far as I know, Gavin knows nothing of his father’s behavior,” Walker provides this information, “Alpha Daniel continues to keep his son away from

the real ins and outs of how he, himself runs the pack. He has no plans on handing over the title to his son any time soon. I've heard him with my own ears, that he thinks Gavin is too soft to run the pack."

A huge weight lifts from my chest, and I breathe a sigh of relief, "So, do you have anything against, Gavin?" They all shake their heads, and another sigh escapes me. "You do know that I am good friends with the Alpha heir?"

Walker speaks once more. Yes, that is one of the reasons we came to you. He's talked about how fair and just you are, and of course, everyone knows about the Dark Moon pack and their Alphas." He smiles warmly.

His words cause me to blush, "Gavin is too kind, but you need to know that he is here often and well, we are sort of seeing each other now. There is a good chance that he will see you all." None of them looked concerned about what I just said, and it just reaffirms my thoughts about the Alpha heir not being a bad guy.

"We like Gavin, he's nothing like his father. We stayed as long as we did, hoping for the title to be passed to him, but after I heard the Alpha say he wasn't passing it down for a while, we knew that we couldn't stay any longer." Walker states.

"Well," I clap my hands together, "That settles it then. I'll have my men come and pick you up and bring you to the pack house. You can get cleaned up, eat, and rest first. Later I can swear you into my pack." I go to turn away, but Conner stops me.

"With all due respect, Alpha, we would like it if you would swear us in first. We don't want to take any chances of the Alpha's men finding us here before our bond is broken."

"I doubt that will happen, but I have no issue with granting you this." I smile and then mind link my Beta to send a van to pick up the group.

My phone buzzes in my back pocket, and I pull it out to see that it's a text from Gavin. Swiping the message open, I can't help the smile that forms on my face

GAVIN: He beautiful, are you busy?

ME: Actually, I am, but I have a little bit of time. What's up?

GAVIN: I was hoping to come see you for a bit later and was wondering if you had time to spare for little ole me.

ME: I was actually going to have you come by as soon as you have the chance. Something's come up and I think you need to know about it.

GAVIN: Is this about the body they found last night? My father told me about it and that's one of the reason's that I wanted to come by.

1. Actually no, it's something else, but I would like to discuss that with you as well.

GAVIN: Okay, I'll be there shortly after lunch.

1. Thanks, see you soon!

I turn to the group. "That was actually, Gavin and he will be here after lunch. You will all be sworn into my pack before he gets here, just in case any of you are worried."

"Thank you, Alpha. We owe you for doing this for us." Conner states.

shake my head, "You don't owe me anything. If anything, I should be thanking all of you. Thank you for coming to me and wanting to be part of my pack. I take great pleasure in knowing that my pack is growing stronger by the day by all the new members that I add. You all bring something to the table and that's all that I can ask for.

"Uh, Alpha?' A warrior mind links me.

"Yes?'

*There is a group of wolves coming our way, and from the scent of them, they are from Blue River.'

"Well, shit!

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CHAPTER 44

How in the hell did they find them so fast? I ask myself this as I move into motion and continue my orders, 'Okay, stall them, but don't engage. I will send more men your way and will be there as soon as I can.'

"Okay, we will try.

'That's all I ask.'

I look at the group. "Okay, listen up, Blue River wolves have been spotted coming our way, so we don't have time to wait for my men to pick you up. I want you to throw your bags into my trunk and then the pups will get in with me, while the rest of you turn to your wolves and follow me. You should be safe enough once you're over my border but i'm not wanting to take any chances."

That bastard dares to send warriors to my pack when we are supposed to be allies? I'm in my right to offer protection to wolves who are seeking it. It's Alpha Daniel who is in the wrong and you better believe that I will be calling a meeting about all these accusations. In the meantime, I need to swear this group in faster than I ever have, so I can return to talk with the wolves who are searching for them.

Grabbing my phone once again, I send Gavin another text, asking him to come over right away, instead of waiting until after lunch. He responds back that he is on his way. If everything goes the way I want it to, I should be done swearing in this group and be back here to greet him.

We hustle with loading the bags in my trunk. Good thing they packed lightly when they left, carrying only one backpack per person. Since the pups were all between the ages of three and eight, they are all small enough to squeeze into the backseat.

"I will take one female with me since the pups don't know me and I don't want to scare them." It's the youngest of the females that climbs into the passenger seat. We nod at each other and then I gun it once I know the kids are buckled in safely.

On my way back, I link my Beta, letting him know of the situation. He has clothing waiting for each of the wolves when we arrive, and we usher them all into the packhouse. Normally, I will do groups outside, but again, I'm not taking any chances. I don't trust Alpha Daniel.

As soon as all twelve people are in my office, I start swearing them in. I'm even swearing the pups in because I'm not taking any chances. I have to cut open my hand multiple times due to our fast healing, but it's all worth it in the end each time I feel a new bond snap into place.

I ask Cici to show the new members to some rooms for now, and we will figure out living arrangements later. After mind linking Cam to let him know that he is in charge until I get back, I take my Beta with me, and race back to the border. When we get there, I link the warrior who first warned me about the Blue River wolves, asking him for an update.

'They're not doing anything, Alpha. It's like they are just here, guarding the area or waiting for something.'

"Okay. I will let you know what I decide to do, just stay where you are.'

'Ten-four, Alpha.'

Gavin pulls up a few minutes later, and I turn to Spencer, "Go on and meet with the others to see what you can make of the group of wolves. I'm going to fill Gavin in and then we will meet you there."

"Are you sure you are safe?" He looks to Gavin as he gets out of his vehicle and then back at me.

Smiling, I place my hand on his arm, "Yes, I'm perfectly safe, Spence. Thank you."

"Okay, I'll see you soon then." He pulls the shorts off that we found behind a tree when we got here and tosses them back to the same spot.

I'm still in the over-sized t-shirt, "Hey Gavin, thank you for getting here so fast." I pull him in for a hug.

"What's going on? You sound a little off." He furrows his brows as he holds me at the waist.

I bite my lower lip. Now that he's in front of me, I'm not sure how to tell him everything that I've found out. Will he be hurt? Will he be upset at me because I swore in new members that used to belong to his pack? I'm now second-guessing everything.

"Hey, it's okay," he soothes as he cups one of my cheeks, "Whatever it is, you can tell me."

I hesitate a little longer and I just start at the beginning, about the group of rogues who approached my territory. By the time I finish telling him everything, his hands are tightly fisted and he's pacing back and forth in front of me.

I'm thinking he's mad at me, so I go on the defense, "I'm sorry, Gavin, but I have to help those who come to me seeking shelter and protection. What kind of person would I be if I turn them away to be slaughtered for wanting a better life?"

He finally stops his pacing and gawks at me, "You think I'm upset with you?" He comes over to me and pulls me back into his arms, "No,

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Quinn. You did the right thing. I felt the bonds break on my way here and wondered what was going on." He pulls slightly away, "Both Connor and Walker are good men—honest men. If they told you these events happened, then they happened." Grabbing both sides of my face, he kisses me deeply before letting me go, "Let me pull my vehicle to the side of the road and then we can go meet the others."

After getting a progress report from Spencer, which is the same from when my other warrior reported in, my Beta and other men keep watch as me and Gavin step out and approach Gavin's pack warriors. We bring a pair of shorts with us, and Gavin orders the head of the scouting group to change, tossing him the shorts once he does.

"What is the meaning of this?" Gavin demands an answer.

*The Alpha sent us out to bring back deserters. All leads brought us to Alpha Quinn's territory." The warrior states.

*And you didn't think to approach the Alpha about any of this? Instead, you prowl her border, waiting?" Gavin places his hands on his hips,

And what's this about deserters? Since when do people not have the freedom to leave if they choose?"

"With all due respect, Gavin, you are not our Alpha yet, so we have to do what our present Alpha demands."

I can see the tick in Gavin's jaw when the warrior states this, "Well, you're wasting time just standing around here, and I will personally report this to my father. As you can see, I'm right here, and the only pack members that I've seen here are you and your team. I've been with Alpha Quinn since I got here and haven't seen anybody else." Of course, they don't know that he just literally got here, but he hasn't told them one lie, he hasn't seen any more of his pack members, and he won't because they are now my pack members.

I watch as Gavin steps away to mind link his father. It looks like they are having words by the way Gavin scowls and kicks the dirt every once in a while. He rubs his temples and then curses one last time before moving back to us.

"You may leave Alpha Quinn's territory, and if you don't believe me then ask your Alpha for fucks sake but get the fuck out of here. Her men have better things to do than to sit around babysitting you asshats! Besides, this is no way to treat one of our allies. You are damn lucky that Alpha Quinn and I are close." He growls.

I notice how the head scout goes silent for a bit, and I know that he is contacting Alpha Daniel to confirm. There is something more going on with that Alpha, I'm sure of it. Why else has he not passed the title to his only heir. Most Alphas pass it down by the time their heir turns twenty-one, and Gavin is a few years past that.

Just as we are about to shift back to our wolves and head back, the head scout addresses us, "Alpha Daniel has changed his mind. He would like for us to wait for him, because he would like to meet with Alpha Quinn personally and we are to escort him to your pack house upon his immediate arrival."

I don't miss a beat. Nodding my head, "Very well, I will see you all when you arrive then." I need to get back to the pack house and hide our newcomers; we also need to get Gavin's vehicle over to the pack house as well, so it looks

as though he has been here for a bit. I go to turn to leave once more, but the warriors next words stop me in my tracks.

“Alpha Daniel would like for both you and Gavin to wait here until he arrives.”

That’s it for now! Come back tomorrow for a little more! Don’t forget to leave your thoughts in the comments section. I love hearing everyone’s thoughts on Quinn’s journey. =)

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CHAPTER 45

“This is ridiculous! You do know that as an Alpha, my time is precious. I have too many things that I need to be doing that sitting here waiting for your Alpha to get here!” I make sure I put enough annoyance into my voice. Trying to buy time so my Beta can mind link his mate and get the newcomers hidden into the saferoom and send someone for Gavin’s vehicle. It’s nice having a Beta that knows you so well that you don’t even need to tell him what to do, he just knows. He sends me a slight nod, indicating that he’s contacted his mate.

“My apologies Alpha Quinn, but I only do as my Alpha asks me to do.” He wears a smirk as he says this and a few of his men chuckle.

I turn my back on them and face Gavin, sending him a wink as I start in on him, “Is this how your pack treats their allies, Gavin? What makes your Alpha think that I will submit to him? He is not my Alpha, and I don’t answer to anyone!” I start to pace as I continue, “To think that I was starting to like you! Were you playing me this whole time?” .

“Please Quinn, don’t be so dramatic, and no, I’m not playing you, but I do feel as though my father has a say in this. He is only looking out for the welfare of his lost pack members.”

I have to admit that Gavin is a very good actor. He acts as though he's bored as he talks to me and he's trying to appease the new female Alpha. We want to make Blue River's warriors believe that he is with them. The last thing we need is Daniel thinking his son has changed sides.

As soon as I get the sign from Spencer that everything has been taken care of, I continue, "Like I said, I don't bow for any other Alpha, and I have work to be done. I'm heading back," I glance at the head scout, "If you want to send one or two of you men with me, so be it, but I'm leaving now." Without another word, I let Tala out and we make a mad dash for home. My men follow as well as a few of Blue River's men, but Gavin stays behind to wait for his father.

'All twelve are in the safe room?' I mind link my best friend.

'Yes. I explained the situation to them, and they were happy to hide. Tommy just got back with Gavin's vehicle as well...' she stops talking like she has more to say, and yet doesn't.

'What else is there?

'Erm, well... Summer gave me a spray. She told me to spray it around the house to help eliminate their scent. She said that it's the same as what Jasper would use to cover his scent when needed.

'I mean, it's a good idea, but why does Summer have some?'

'She's the one that always made it for him. She's into medicine, I guess.' Cici explains the only way she can.

'Hm, I will have to talk to her about it further, especially with these attacks that are happening.' We are still about ten minutes out, 'Cici, grab a few other people and have them run through the house. We can't have a pack house with barely a scent in it, it will be too suspicious.'

'Oh! I didn't even think about that!'

'It's fine, we will be there soon.' Cutting off contact, I slow just a fraction, trying to give my friend more time to stink up the house.

"Alpha Daniel, welcome to Dark Moon. Can I get you anything to drink?" I ask the man that just entered my office with his son.

“Alpha Quinn, nice to see you again. Thank you, but I won’t take up too much of your time.” He states grumpily.

I want to roll my eyes at him, but I hold myself back, “I’m sorry I couldn’t stay to wait for your arrival, but as you can see,” I spread my hands towards the desk that I made a mess of before he arrived, “I’ve got quite a lot on my plate, plus the new issue that arose with the dead she wolf.”

“Yes, yes, it’s a sad thing, isn’t it? All these poor she-wolves.”

He says this with not an ounce of sympathy to his voice, making me cringe, “Alpha Daniel, please have a seat.” I wait for him to take one of the two chairs in front of my desk, “Your man said that you wanted to meet with me, but never said what it was about.” I fold my hands on top of my desk in front of me to wait for his reply.

“Yes, well, I didn’t really want him talking about pack business with others, so I figured I’d come myself. I’ve had a few members who stole from me and are now wanted. I believe they may be holding females and a few pups hostage as well, seeing as they disappeared at the same time.”

The gall of this fucker! I gasp, “Oh Goddess, are they dangerous?”

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“They very well could be.” He replies as he nods.

“And your men said that they thought they were headed this way? They wouldn’t have been the ones to kill those innocent girls, could they?”

“I rightfully don’t know, Alpha Quinn, but it’s a huge possibility.” His mouth goes in a tight line as though he’s really thinking that Connor and the rest were killers and thieves.

“Goddess! I will make sure I put out the word to all my men, telling them that they are to capture them if they come to my territory. I will make sure they are delivered straight to you, Alpha Daniel.”

He slaps his knee, “I knew you weren’t just another pretty face, Alpha Quinn!” He glances behind him to where his son stands by the window and then turns

back to me, “You know, my son needs a Luna, and you would make a fine one for him, once I pass the title down to him.”

i sit back in my chair, and pretend that I’m having a nice conversation, Alpha to Alpha, “Does he now? Well,” I lean back in and lower my voice, “I think he would make a pretty fine Alpha, and he would do a great job leading both our packs.” I give him my best fake honest-to Goddess smile

The Alpha’s eyes light up at the mention of his son running my pack as well, “So, you think it would be a good union as well?”

“Of course!” i look over at the Alpha heir, “He’s so assertive and dominant; my people already listen when he talks. They love him.”

“Yes, yes, I taught him well! So, when would you like the union to take place?” The greedy alpha asks.

scoff and then chuckle, “What’s the rush? Besides, I can’t hand over my pack until I see how he runs his own pack. I also can’t mate someone without an Alpha title.” I give my best wistful look towards Gavin, who, by the way, is covering his mouth and smirking at my performance.

“Well, maybe it’s time my son and I had a serious talk about my retirement. It’s time to let you young ones finally deal with all the chaos.”

Gavin whips his head toward his father like he can’t believe what he’s saying, while I continue with my Grammy winning performance, “Oh Alpha Daniel, you are still in your prime, but hey, at least you will have more time to have a little fun here and there.” I wink at him.

He throws his head back and laughs, “Oh Alpha Quinn, if only I was a young pup again, I would be all over you!”

“Well, I guess I have the next best thing – your son.” I bite my lip and send a seductive glance Gavin’s way.

The Alpha stands, “I think that’s my cue to leave you two alone. I’m so glad we had this talk Quinn..you don’t mind if I call you that, do you?”

I stand and smile, “Not at all, Daniel.” I pronounce his name carefully.

“Good, good! I will be on my way then,” He stops beside his son and leans in, but I can still hear everything, “Close the deal with her son, or else i’ll tap that hot piece of ass.”

T’ll get right on it, father, literally.” He smirks at Daniel.

The Alpha slaps his son on his shoulder and then exits the room, chuckling. I drop down into my chair with my hand placed over my nauseous stomach. Gavin shuts my office door and then comes over to me, pulling me out of my seat.

“I am so sorry you had to go through all that, Quinn.” He crushes me against his chest. My shoulders begin to shake, I can’t help it, I can’t hold it in any longer, *Please don’t cry over my father, he isn’t worth it, sweetie.”

I bring my head back, laughing my ass off, tears rolling down my face, but not from being sad, “Oh my Goddess, did your father really buy that hook, line, and sinker?” My hand goes back to my stomach, this time because it hurts from laughing, “I didn’t think it would work, but he really is serious about you and I uniting, isn’t he?”

“Yes, he is.” Gavin says sternly.

I bellow out another chorus of laughter,

his mating with me really that hilarious to you?” Gavin asks with a sad chuckle.

I glance at him, and sober up a little, “No, of course not! I wasn’t laughing at that part.” I can really see that my words and laughter wounded him, “Hey,” i grab his chin, “i thought we were going to take this slow so neither of us would get hurt?”

“Yes, we did.” He agrees, but it doesn’t make how I feel about you lessen.”

“Oh.”

* Just forget about it, Quinn. I don’t want to let this meeting with my father cause any rift between us, okay. Gavin says as he gazes down into my face

“Yeah, okay.” we just stand here in my office staring at one another, his green eyes to my blue ones, like we’re having a staring contest, “Gavin?”

“Hm?”

“Will you please kiss me now?”

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CHAPTER 46

“I thought you’d never ask...” He gives me his drop-dead gorgeous grin as he swoops down. He bends me backwards as he gives me his lips chuckling at first, but then the kiss changes and he brings me back up but never breaks the kiss. He lifts me up and sets me down on top of my desk as I wrap my legs around his waist. He doesn’t try taking it any further and to be honest, I’m struggling on whether or not to do so.

“Mm, maybe we should stop before someone walks in...” I say against his lips, but then wrap my arms around his neck and i kiss him harder.

“I’ll stop if you stop.” He mumbles and then squeezes my ass.

“Don’t you dare...”

I grab hold of his hair as he lays me back onto my desk, so he comes down with me. I can feel his hardness twitch against my core, and suddenly Declan pops into my head. Pulling my lips away and turning my head so I can catch my breath, Gavin continues to kiss up and down my neck oblivious to what’s going on in my head.

I feel guilty, but I don’t know if I feel guilty for thinking of Declan while I’m with Gavin or that I’m making out with Gavin behind Declan’s back even though there is nothing between me and the Alpha of Storm River. It’s so confusing. I’m so engrossed in my own head that I don’t even realize that Gavin has stopped kissing me.

“Quinn...” He says my name, his voice laced with worry.

“I’m sorry....” I don’t know what to say.

He smiles down at me, but then he's helping me to sit up and then straightens my hair, "I think we might have gotten a little carried away."

He's too sweet. We both know that I pretty much initiated that, "No!! mean, maybe a little, but it was nice." I grab his face and kiss his lips once more, but I leave my tongue in my own mouth this time.

"I would like to have a little talk with Connor and Walker, and the rest of the group as well, if you don't mind."

My eyes widen, "Oh shit! They're still in the safe room!"

Gavin chuckles, "That's what you did with them? I wondered, but what about their scent? I never scented them when we came in."

* Apparently, Summer knows how to make that little concoction that you can cover your scent with, because she's the one that was supplying Jasper with it before." I open my door and head downstairs to the back of the house.

Speak of the devil. Summer is just coming from the kitchen as I open the door to the safe room. I point to her, "Don't go anywhere, I want a word with you." She points to herself, and I nod, "Yeah you!"

Just as the safe room door opens all the way, Summer gasps, and then I hear a low growl coming from the safe room. All of a sudden, Walker blows past me and stops as he comes face to face with Summer

"Mate!" he growls.

Summer breathes heavily as she gazes at the handsome male in front of her, "Mate..." she whispers softly.

They both rush towards each other, and crash together as they hug. Gavin and I glance at one another and smile, glad that we were able to bring another mated pair together, even if neither one of us have found ours.

"Um, Summer, this is Walker, and Walker, this is Summer." I chuckle because I don't think either one hears me. I turn back toward the safe room and see Connor with a proud grin on his face, "Congratulations, Connor. Looks like you just gained a daughter-in-law." I laugh.

He watches his son and new-found mate, "I was worried that he would never find her."

I place my hand on his shoulder and lean in, "She's been gone for the past three years, but that's her story to tell, not mine." He nods and smiles before stepping out and going over to the mated couple.

"I guess I will hold off on talking to them for a little bit." he chuckles, and then looks back in at the rest of the group, but his chuckle fades as he stares at the youngest of the women, the one that rode with me and the children, "Demi? Why are you here?"

My heart lurches for a moment thinking this is an ex-girlfriend or something, but then he turns to me and explains, "Demi is one of my friend's cousins. She used to tag along with us every chance she got."

I'm confused, "How old is she?"

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"I'm twenty The she-wolf states.

"Oh I took you as maybe eighteen, I'm sorry."

The woman smiles "That's okay, everybody thinks I'm younger than I actually am."

"You haven't answered my question, Demi." I can hear a trace of worry in Gavin's voice.

"H needed to get away from there." She stutters and looks away.

Why Demi?" Gavin sounds a bit more demanding and I place my hand on his arm. He closes his eyes a moment and takes a deep breath,

just need to know why."

Demi looks at Gavin, "Because I didn't want your brother growing up with that evil man you call father."

Gavin's back straightens and he looks around, finally noticing the little three-year-old gripping Demi's leg. Now that she's mentioned it, I can see the resemblance. I cover my mouth and look at Gavin who is standing there shocked as hell.

"Your father would rape me two to three times a week and refused to use a condom," the she-wolf continues, "I wasn't on the medication because I was only seventeen years old. Your father wouldn't allow me to take it; he wanted me to get pregnant."

*Demi." Gavin blinks and tries saying more, but nothing comes out.

"It's not your fault, Gavin, you didn't know. The only person who knew was your father's Beta, and we all know how much of a coward he was when it came to standing up to your father."

"I am so sorry, Demi."

gasp when Gavin drops to his knees and covers his face. Demi follows him down and wraps her arms around him, "it's okay now, Gavin. I have Ayden because of it, and even though I hate his father, I love my son to pieces. I also know that he has an older brother that is a good man and who will be an amazing Alpha one day."

"That's what your father meant by them stealing something from him wasn't it?" I ask Gavin.

"I'm sure it was. I think he did it to make sure he had another heir in case I failed him." Gavin sounds so desolate.

"Well, you just need to prove him wrong, Gavin." It's Demi who says this, "Blue River needs a real Alpha, their true Alpha, and that is you!"

"I've tried, Demi. He refuses to hand it over." Gavin looks up at her.

I go down to my knees in front of him, "Maybe we can get him to change his mind. Wait until he talks to you like he said. You never know, I might have gotten through to him." I say hopeful.

He smiles at me, but it's a sad one, "Yeah, maybe."

Well that doesn't sound too convincing, but I stand up and hold out a hand for him to take, which he does, "How about we go make some lunch? Do you know how to work a grill?"

He stands up and his grin is much broader, "Are you seriously asking a male if we know how to grill?"

I shrug, "I'm only asking because I surely don't, and we need to come up with a quick lunch for all these hungry faces and the only thing I can think of is hamburgers and hot dogs. We can make it into a welcome to the pack lunch."

He throws his arm around my shoulder as we turn towards the door, "Let the grill expert show you how it's done."

"Oh, maybe another time. I'll help the ladies make the salads in the kitchen. I giggle as I move out from under his arm.

"Oh good, right where a woman belongs!" He jokes and slaps my ass as I go to take off.

I spin on him, almost making him walk into me. Hands on my hips, I raise a brow, "Want to say that again?"

He grins and then picks me up off my feet and whispers in my ear, "You didn't let me finish. I forgot to add in nothing but an apron." He drops me back down to the floor.

"What?" I slap his chest.

"Hey, at least I didn't say barefoot and pregnant." He laughs before taking off out the door before I can react.

Hm... I'm kind of falling a little bit in love with Gavin myself now. How about you? Team Declan or Team Gavin?

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CHAPTER 47

Declan

I'm not sure what's wrong with Quinn, but I need to figure it out. I can't let her just walk out of my life. I know it's hard being around each other with how we feel for one another, but we can figure it out. If I can't have her as my mate, I want her as my friend. Quinn has never really been one to hold grudges or anything, so this has to be about feelings. She hasn't even been over to meet my son, and she loves kids, especially babies, that's how I know it's more about her feelings for me.

I'm doing all that I can to take care of pack business, so I can head over to her place after lunch. If she won't come here, then I will go to her. Besides, after the whole fiasco with Lila this morning, I need a fucking break. I'm about two seconds from kicking that woman out of my pack, Elders be damned! Let them live with the fucking she-bitch.

A knock on my door draws my attention, and I smile when I see my mother popping her head in, "Hey, Ma, what's going on?"

"I'm not disturbing you, am I?"

"Of course not. Did you need something?"

"Well, I wanted to discuss something with you, actually." She seems a little nervous, and that isn't like my mother at all.

I set my paperwork aside and give my mother my full attention, "Well, Declan, you know how hard I took it when your father passed away. You also took so much of your time taking care of me, on top of taking over as Alpha." She smiles, "I've enjoyed watching you grow into the Alpha position, and now you have your own heir. I know it's not how you wanted an heir, but Holden is so precious."

"Where are you going with all this, Mother?" I'm getting a little nervous myself now.

"I was going to tell you this before everything happened with that she-bitch, but then she was knocked up and I put it on hold, because I wanted to help you out."

"Please, Mother, just spit it out."

"I'm taking a six-month vacation, Declan. I'm going to travel and take time for myself." She's wringing her hands in her lap.

I blow out a breath that I didn't realize I was holding in, "Is that all?"

"What do you mean is that all?" She asks me, surprised.

"You scared me for a moment. I thought you were going to tell me that you were moving away or something huge." I chuckle.

*Traveling for six months is huge, Declan!"

grin, "Go have fun, Mother, you deserve it, but I must say...I'm sure going to miss you."

"Oh, you will be too busy with that son of yours that you won't have time to miss your own mother." She giggles.

"Oh no, I will miss you, especially when I need a last-minute sitter."

"That mother of his can take care of her own son. You need to put a stop to her disappearing like that all the time."

I sigh heavily. "Honestly, I don't think I even want her near my son anymore."

*Well, I'll be traveling to different packs, and I'll see if I can get any kind of information for you about this situation." My mother scoffs, "she should just sign her rights over. To think, a mother who goes out drinking when she is nursing a baby!"

"Well, I've started him on formula as of this morning. The only other option is hiring a wet nurse, and I really don't like the thought of my son getting his nutrition from a stranger."

"I don't blame you one bit, son."

"So, when do you plan on leaving us?" I ask.

"I'll be leaving in three days."

"That soon?" I ask, raising my eyebrows.

"It would be sooner, but I still need to make my rounds to say goodbye," she hesitates a moment before going on, "I still want to go see Quinn. I miss that girl."

I give her a sad smile, "Me too, Mame too. I'm actually heading over there to see her after lunch. I was going to ask you to watch Holden

"Maybe not as close as we once were, but hey, she's probably really busy with pack stuff. It's always growing with new members." i inform her.

"It's settled then," my mother states, "The Storm family is going to go visit their girl!" She gets up from her chair and practically skips from my office. I feel a little bad for her; she loves Quinn like a daughter, and I've chased her away. I have to find a way to get her back to the way we once were before this whole shit storm happened.

We are just rolling up to Dark Moon's border when the patrol stops me. It's actually a couple of my warriors that are still on loan to the pack, until she no longer needs them. They don't recognize the Jeep that I'm driving because they are used to my Tesla or one of my many other vehicles.

"Oh, hey Alpha, I didn't recognize the vehicle. I keep forgetting you have the new wheels for the little one." He chuckles.

"It's perfectly fine. I'm glad you're doing your job well. How are things going over this way?" I ask them.

"It's not too bad. Had a group of rogues come through this morning that joined Dark Moon, but you will have to talk to Alpha Quinn about that. There was a bit of excitement over it I guess."

"Oh really? I wonder what that was about."

"All I know is that Alpha Daniel ended up showing up, but he wasn't here very long." The warrior states.

"My brother was here? Since when does he go around visiting other Alphas if it's not some big affair?" My mother asks no one in particular.

"I was just asking myself that same question." I look back at the warriors, "Thanks for the information. We will see our own way in."

“Ten-four, Alpha.”

My mother and I share another look as we drive in the direction of the pack house. I don't like my uncle Daniel visiting Quinn. I really hope she wasn't alone when he came to visit. My mother feels the same way I do, and that's her own brother. Thank Goddess both my mother and her late sister, Deke's mother, got the good genes from my grandmother because according to my mom, my grandfather was an asshole too. Uncle Daniel didn't get so lucky, being the only son and heir, my grandfather had influence over him, just like Daniel has influence over Gavin.

When the pack house comes into view, I curse under my breath. ‘Speak of the fucking devil.’ Gavin's vehicle is parked off to the side.

“Oh, Gavin is here! I'll get to see him before I leave as well.” My mother smiles. “How do you not see how Gavin really is, Mom? He's just like his father!” | growl.

“Oh stop, Declan. He is nothing like Daniel, thank Goddess.”

I scoff, but don't say anything more on the subject because she has always taken his side when it comes to this argument. If I hadn't let Daniel talk me into taking that stupid oath, I'd tell the fucking world just how bad of a person my cousin Gavin really is.

“Please Declan, just try and get along with him while we are here. This is Quinn's pack, and we are all guests. Hell, we weren't even invited... My mother chuckles.

I snicker as well, “I'll be on my best behavior, Mother.”

“Thank you. Now, let's get the little one out of this stuffy car. I want to show off my grand pup!”

Getting out of the Jeep, we hear voices coming from the back of the pack house, along with some music. The scent of grilled food fills my nose, and then I hear it. Quinn's beautiful laugh. It brings a smile to my own face. Grabbing the pup carrier from the back seat, me and my mother walk around to the back of the pack house. I can sense her before I even round the corner.

I see her talking with Summer and Quinn up on the deck and just stand there, watching her for a moment. Just as I start moving forward again, though, it's like I'm punched through the chest and my heart is ripped out.

I watch as Gavin walks up behind Quinn and puts both arms around her waist. She smiles up at him and they each say something to the other, but that's not what has me struggling for air. No, it's the kiss that they are now sharing.

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The looks I get when I walk back into the crowd in the back yard are priceless. Once Cici realizes who I'm holding, she comes barreling through the crowd with her arms already spread. I block her from taking him from me. He may not be mine, but he's part of him and he's a baby, so I'm going to hold on to him for a little longer.

"Back off baby burglar, he's mine for now!" I hold a hand out and let Tala to the surface. My wolf is one of the biggest pup lovers I've ever known

"Geesh, pup hog!" she says, holding her hands in the air,

"Have you held him before?" I ask my friend through squinted eyes.

"Well, yeah. Every time I go see my parents and brother." She states.

"Seriously? This is the first time I've laid eyes on him, and you're trying to take him from me?" Tala actually growls viciously at my best friend, making her back way up.

"Okay, damn! Calm down, Tala."

I come back to myself. "I'm so sorry. I don't know what's gotten into her!" I glance at Declan and he's smirking, but then it drops. Turning back, I see why.

"Hey, who do we have here?" Gavin asks as he comes and places his hand at my lower back.

"This would be your cousin." I grin.

“Oh, Holden, is it?” He glances at Declan, and he nods back.

“My mom is going to be so upset that I got to meet him first. She’s been talking about coming to visit ever since she heard that he was born.” He runs his finger over Holden’s little fist, and he grabs hold of Gavin’s finger as he sleeps.

“For as strong as our genes are, you would think that he would look like you.” Gavin is still just staring in amazement at the little bundle in my arms.

I guess I didn’t even think about that, but now that Gavin has mentioned it, I know what he means. I glance at Declan who is gazing down at me, not even knowing what’s going on around him.

“Do you want him back, or do you mind if I hold him for a bit yet?”

He smiles at me, “You can hold him for as long that you want.”

I can’t explain it, but I’m being a bit possessive over this pup that isn’t mine. Maybe it’s because it’s Declan’s and he’s done so much for me, I don’t know, but even Tala is feeling it. She doesn’t really say too much to me these days, mainly because she doesn’t agree with me dating Gavin, but this is my life too, so she will learn to deal with it.

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Amelia and I talk for a long while as she tells me her plans for her trip. I’m excited for her, she needs this. I think her taking this trip with her friend will be so good for her and she will come back a different she-wolf. Surprisingly, she leaves me to go talk to a long-time friend, Connor. Maybe Cici is on to something after all.

Looking around the yard, I notice both Declan and Gavin are sitting in the lawn chairs in the middle of the yard, far away from listening ears. It makes me smile, hoping that they will work things out, but I won’t hold my breath just yet.

Summer comes to sit beside me after a while, smiling as she sees the sleeping pup in my arms, “You will make such a wonderful mother someday.”

Looking down at Holden I smile. “I sure hope so.”

“You will, Quinn.”

I look her up and down and remember that I wanted to talk to her earlier, so I decided to get it over with now, “How do you know how to make that scent blocker?”

“I’ve been waiting for you to ask me,” she chuckles, “I’ve always loved medicine. I would have gone to school had I not been taken. Jasper knew this, so he asked me to work on a spray that would block our scent, so others wouldn’t be able to tell when we were around.” She picks at an imaginary piece of lint on her skirt, “I had perfected it within two weeks’ time. Instead of simply saying thank you, he thanked me

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by raping me and passing me around to his friends. He told me that it would be worse if I ever told anyone that I had made it for him, even his father.”

I gasp. “Oh, my Goddess! I am so sorry, Summer!”

“It’s all over now. Quinn. I would just like to forget about it, if it’s okay with you.”

“Of course!” I squeeze her hand with my free one, “I hope you find all the happiness that you deserve with Walker.”

The she-wolf glances over at her mate, “I think I will, Quinn, I really do.”

As the afternoon turns into early evening, pack members start dwindling down. Amelia and Declan come over to claim Holden back since I’ve hogged him all afternoon. He was just too precious to let go. Once they have him settled into his carrier, I remember that I had gotten a gift for him. I rush up to my room and dig the bag out of my closet before rushing back down the steps.

“Here, I had gotten this a while ago for him, but I wasn’t sure when I’d be able to give it to him.” I hand the big gift bag over to Declan.

Placing the carrier on the patio table, he rummages through the bag. There really isn’t anything too special in it. A few articles of clothing that he can wear in a few months, some rattles and teething rings. My favor is the set of t-shirts that I had ordered in every size for the first five years of the little guy’s life.

They all say the same thing, 'Storm River Alpha in Training'. Declan seems to really love these, so I guess did good.

*Thank you, Quinn. You didn't have to, you know." He says softly.

"Yeah, I know, but I wanted to." I smile slightly.

"Take care of yourself and call me if you ever need anything. We are still your family regardless." He smiles a bit sadly.

"Yes, Quinn. Always remember that." Amelia agrees as she comes in for a hug.

Declan is next, but his hug lingers a lot longer than Amelia's. I see Gavin glance over at us, and the question he has in his eyes, so I pull away, "Of course, and you do the same. I promise I will talk to you this time." I chuckle.

"Yeah, well, I'm glad we have that all cleared up." The Alpha says, but there is still a sadness in his eyes. I'm pretty sure it will be there for some time.

"Oh, I almost forgot," Amelia exclaims, "I'm not going to be here for your birthday!"

"It's okay, I forgive you as long as you promise to enjoy yourself." I chuckle.

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"That, I can do, Quinn darling. You take care of yourself, and my nephew. I'm so glad the two of you have each other." She states. Declan clears his throat and picks up the pup carrier.

"I'd like to talk to a few of the other Alphas about what we discussed earlier, Gavin." Declan addresses his cousin.

I turn and see him sauntering up to us, "Of course. something needs to be done, and soon." Gavin agrees.

"I will keep you informed then," Declan states and then turns back to me, "Quinn, it's always a pleasure." He winks after saying such a thing, knowing that I'm the only one that understands why he says it. Ever since we were

intimate and he was the first to give me the pleasure that I needed, he's said that simple phrase.

I finish saying goodbye to everyone and then collapse in a chair on the deck. Gavin drops in a chair in front of me and grabs my foot, slipping my shoe off to massage it. I sit back and enjoy the feel of his fingers kneading into the sorest parts of my feet.

"Mm, that feels so good." I close my eyes and lay my head back against the head rest.

"I had a good time today. Quinn. Thank you for having me be part of it." He says.

I grin, keeping my eyes closed and head back, "Like I could tell you to leave when you were the one cooking the main meal."

"Oh, so you used me for my skills. I see, and it's grilling, not cooking." He tickles the bottom of my foot.

I try jerking my foot away, but he grips it tighter. When I kick out with my other, he grabs that one too. I struggle as I laugh, losing steam really quick

"Okay, okay." I laugh, "I give up!"

"Hm, I kind of like you restrained. You look hot." He wiggles his brows at me.

A small throb begins to form at my core, and I giggle nervously. "Can you please let me go?"

"Will you come over here and give me a kiss?" He muses still holding on tight.

I nod, "If I must." I joke.

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He let's go of my limbs, setting them back down. "Come here." he orders huskily.

I lean forward at first, and press my lips against his, but I need more, so I move until I'm on his lap, straddling his legs. Opening my mouth, I let his tongue sweep in and tangle with mine as our kiss heats up. His hands go to my ass, but he only rests them there.

After talking with Declan and knowing that he now knows about me and Gavin, I feel as though a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I also feel that I can now move forward with Gavin. I begin to move my body just slightly, getting more into the make out session. I don't want him thinking that I'm wanting to dry hump him, but I move slightly, hoping that he will pick up on my little hint. I want to see if he will take control, and if he doesn't, then I will.

I grab both sides of his face as our tongues clash together, each of us making our own moaning sounds, letting the other know that we are into it. There is a slight squeeze to my ass, and that's all I need to move forward.

"Don't do it, Quinn." I hear Tala's small plea.

"I'm not going to live my life as a nun, waiting on something that is never going to happen. I'm sorry, Tala."

I feel my wolf's hesitation, "Fine, whatever, but don't say that I never warned you!" Tala huffs and goes back to her little corner.

I turn my attention back to the man who is now moving my hips back and forth over his hardness. I don't want just a dry hump session. I need the real thing; I need to feel the closeness of another body.

Reluctantly, I pull my mouth away, "Want to take this inside, to my room?" I ask, still trying to catch my breath.

Gavin looks lustfully at me and then smiles, "Yeah, if that's what you want."

I nod.

"Answer one question for me, though."

"Okay..."

"What's going on between you and Declan?"

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CHAPTER 50

Gavin

Can I grill? Please...'I say to Mace, my wolf, 'Is it just because I'm an heir that she would think I don't know how to use a grill?'

'Um, when have you used a grill, and where was I when you used it?' Mace shows me an image of him scratching his head.

*Pfft, I watch all those cooking shows, I know the gist of it. Exactly how hard can it be?' I ask him.

He face paws himself, 'She going to know.'

'No, she's not. They are not going to know; I will make sure of it.'

'Whatever. Don't say I didn't warn you.' Mace chuckles and then goes to his corner to watch me.

I'll show him, I think to myself as I start the grill. See, I've never turned a grill on either, and voila, it was a piece of cake. Now all I have to do is not burn the food. Adjusting the flame, Connor walks out with the tray of beef patties and a tray of hot dogs. It doesn't take a genius to know that the hot dogs will cook faster than the burgers, so I hold off a bit before putting them on.

After a small fire and a few crisp patties, in which I tossed before anyone could see, I had done a pretty decent job, and everything was edible. I don't think they were Grill Master worthy, but when Quinn compliments me, I will take it.

Walker comes over and we stand here and chat for a while as I steal glimpses at Quinn who is over talking with both Cici and Summer. I can hear the awe in Walker's voice as he talks about his mate, and I wish I had that. I wish Quinn could be my mate, but we've already established that she isn't, not a fated one, anyway.

Someone calls Walker away and I take this chance to go to Quinn and wrap my arms around her. When she glances back, her smile makes my whole world stop for just a moment.

“There’s the amazing Grill Master!”

“I told you I was pretty good. I think you owe me a kiss for doubting my talent.” I smile back down at her.

She begins lifting herself up, so I lean down and meet her lips. As much as I would love to steal her away, I know it’s impossible right at the moment, so I break away from her soft lips. I turn my attention to her friends who are now talking about Walker, and I feel Quinn slip from my arms.

“I will be right back,” I hear her mumble before she walks away.

Looking in the direction that she’s going in, I see a flash of movement slip around the corner, and I sense my cousin right away. As much as I want to know what’s happening, I stay put and wait for Quinn to return. My aunt Amelia steals my attention from the corner of the house where I watched Quinn walk around, following Declan, and I turn towards the older female and smile warmly at her.

I’ve always loved my aunt Amelia. She’s never treated me unkindly and has always praised me in everything that I have done. I wish my father had gotten just a smidgeon of the kindness that both his sisters had gotten, then maybe life would have been different for me.

“Oh, Gavin, my dear boy! How are you doing these days?” Amelia asks, placing a kiss to my cheek.

“I’m well, Aunt Amelia. What about you? Breaking hearts I hope.” I grin down at her.

Slapping my arm playfully, she chastises me, “oh stop it, Gavin! You know fully well that I’m always on my best behavior, and if anyone has a broken heart than it’s their own fault. I never lead any male on.”

“I know this, Auntie,” I chuckle, “but it sure is fun getting you all riled up.”

“Shame on you, Gavin! To think that I came over to you, first, when I could have visited with anyone here!” She scoffs but her smirk takes the bite out of her little comment.

“Oh, you know I’m your favorite nephew, Auntie.” I say and kiss her on the forehead.

“I don’t have favorites, it wouldn’t be fair to Deke, but I do see you more, and we do have pleasant conversations each time we do, but as for favorites...” Her wink tells me all that I need to know. “Speaking of favorites, though, how are you and my favorite adoptive daughter these days?”

“We are good. We just sort have started seeing each other though, so there is that.” I say sheepishly.

“I had a feeling the two of you may start something. You have always been there for Quinn, and she needs someone like you, now that my son is not able to be there like he used to be.” A slight sadness comes over her, and I can’t help but wonder what she means by her

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statement

Is she referring to Declan being Quinn’s guardian, or is she meaning it in a different sense? Was there something between the two before Lila got knocked up? I know he’s always been protective of Quinn, but it’s been more telling this last year. I don’t like assuming anything, and I’m not one to pry things from other people, so I’ll just have to ask Quinn once we are alone.

“Yeah, well, we are taking it slow for Quinn’s sake. I don’t want to rush her into anything that she isn’t ready for.”

“And that’s one of the reasons why I think you are perfect for her.” She pats my cheek softly and then says goodbye and scurries away to mingle with others

Once Quinn came back, she was carrying my cousin's son, so I went over to see them, using the excuse that I hadn't met my new cousin as of yet. I could sense a tenseness between Quinn and Declan, but I held my tongue throughout the whole get together. I was relieved when the crowd started to dwindle down, but it wasn't until my cousin and aunt left that I really felt myself relax.

When the last of the guests leave, Quinn plops herself down in one of the chairs, looking exhausted. I go to her and take the chair in front of her. Without saying anything, I take one of her legs and bring her foot to my lap, removing her shoe in the process. I've never given anyone a foot rub, but it felt natural to do so with Quinn. Her little moans make me chuckle.

"Mm, that feels so good."

I keep kneading her foot, "I had a good time today, Quinn. Thank you for having me be part of it."

* Like I could tell you to leave when you were the one cooking the main meal." She grins.

"Oh, so you used me for my skills. I see, and it's grilling, not cooking." I tickle her foot and when I realize that it affects her, I continue to do so. I grab her other one as she tries to kick at me, and I hold them tight.

"Okay, okay, I give up!" She laughs.

"Hm, I kind of like you restrained. You look hot." And I'm not joking, something about her not being able to get away from my torturous hands turns me on. I've never been into bondage or anything, but I'm beginning to see its appeal.

A little nervous-sounding giggle escapes her lips, "Can you please let me go?"

I gaze at her briefly, "Will you come over here and give me a kiss?" I grin.

"If I must." She muses. I let her legs go, setting them back down onto the floor without taking my eyes off her.

"Come here." I order her, my voice now laced with desire for the beautiful Alpha.

She brushes her lips against mine, and then crawls up onto my lap, straddling my legs. I place my hands on her ass but let her keep the reigns. When things begin to heat up, I squeeze her ass and press her against my growing hardness. I don't want to scare her, so I don't take it any further. Besides, I kind of want to know what's up between her and my cousin before I take the next step with her, if that's even where this is going.

She pulls away first, "Want to take this inside, to my room?" She asks, breathlessly.

Fuck, is it possible that I'm finally going to be able to be with Quinn Night? The only she-wolf that I've been mooning over for almost a year? "Yeah, if that's what you want.

I wait until she nods, "Answer one question for me, though."

"Okay..."

"What's going on between you and Declan?"

She hesitates briefly and pulls back, but doesn't climb off, so that's a good sign. Biting her lower lip, she concentrates on what she's going to say, so I give her this time to think it through as I run my fingers through her hair. If she tells me that there is something there between her and Declan, I don't care what it takes, I will fight for her. My heart beats rapidly as I wait for her answer.

"I'm going to be completely honest with you, Gavin," she looks me straight in the eyes, and my heart rate increases even more, "There isn't anything going on between me and Declan," and my heart rate slows down, but I frown at her last word, "anymore."

I furrow my brow, "What do you mean by anymore?"

She stares at me a moment, "I gave him my virginity. Gavin."

My wolf, Mace, whines in my head, and my whole body tenses, but then I remember that I'm not her mate and that it was her decision to do with it as she pleases. I just wish she would have given it to me.

"Why?" I ask softly.

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*There was an attraction between us, and after he saved me not once, but twice, it's all I could give him that was of value to me."

"You shouldn't have had to repay him for saving you, Quinn! I helped that day too, and I have never once thought of asking for payment." I scowl.

She smiles sadly. "It's not like that. I do love him, and I wanted to give him the only piece of me that he will be able to have."

"You love him? My heart cracks a little.

She nods, "Yeah, but I know there can never be anything between us, and so I want to move forward. I love you too, Gavin, and I want to give us a chance, I want to see if my love for you can change into what I have for him. I don't want to keep secrets from you, and so I'm being honest."

My eyes sweep her face, and I can tell that she's being completely honest with me about everything, "How many times were you with him?"

"Only once, and then I left and came home. I wanted to put it all behind me and move forward." She plays with the hem of my t-shirt, "Then, things started changing between you and me, and I wanted to see where it went. I'm tired of waiting for something that is probably never going to happen, so why not try being with one of my best friends? Her blue eyes meet my green ones and I become lost. I've never liked being second choice, but she has been nothing but honest with me, and I have wanted her for so long.

Reaching a hand up, I caress her cheek, "I want you to be sure that this is what you want, Quinn. I will understand if you need more time, especially now, after what you just told me."

"I'm here with you now, aren't I?" She whispers.

I tilt my head and study her face, "Yeah, you are, aren't you?"

Already having the decision made in my head, I stand up, lifting her in the process. Once her legs are locked behind my waist I start for the door, and

without taking our eyes off one another, I carry her all the way up to the Alpha rooms on the third floor.

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