

## Chapter 21 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

Jo-anne's stitches had been removed and all the art supplies she had ordered, had finally arrived, along with a very unhappy T.J, apparently, humans delivering things to the pack was a no go. She'd not even thought about it, just ordered what she had needed, and clicked the express delivery button upon payment, sent it right here to the pack's address.

T.J. had stood there and informed her, all his Beta showing, that any deliveries from humans, needed to be requested and approved of. Jo-anne had clicked the sign for it button, as she always liked to sign for her supplies so that she could make sure, everything she ordered was there and everything was undamaged.

T.J. had driven her down to the gate himself, still annoyed about it, it seemed. He had other things to do, he told her, with the first allied packs meeting' for West in just 2 days' time, he did not need to be driving her around, as it was pulling him away from his Beta Duties.

Jo-anne had apologised and told him she could collect them herself. He had just stared at her, muttered something about having to go and lay the law down with her. Obviously, it came from West. Put her in his truck and proceeded to do just that as they'd driven to the gate. Reminded her of all the rules that needed to be obeyed where humans were concerned.

The human delivery man, Dean, his name tag read. Looked a little more than scared as T.J. had marched about collecting her things from him. She'd smiled at the young man, barely a man she thought, maybe 18 if he was lucky, and told him that T.J. was just a wee bit cranky today. She dealt with humans all the time, seeing as she had lived amongst them for the past 10 years, as long as you were calm and kept your wolf off the surface, they didn't even notice that wolves were different to them.

She had years of practice, not that she ever really got mad, had liked living in the human world for the most part. The freedom to do as she pleased, when she pleased and with no-one to really answer to, she guessed, had suited her.

Jo-anne couldn't physically collect the things herself, she had tried to step through the gate as the human was not allowed in pack territory, but found pain had shot through her body as she had crossed the pack line, making her gasp and stumble back into pack territory. The bloody Alpha Order, not to leave the pack, was in effect. T.J. had stared at her for a moment a little confused and then had huffed and shaken his head, then marched himself out the gate to collect her things from the delivery man himself. Very unhappy about it, it seemed.

Jo-anne had tried to mind-link her father a few times but nothing, could not, it seemed. She had heard nothing really, but the lack of her ability to talk to him, likely meant that he was in the cells, punished for biting her. She knew West and T.J. had investigated it. T.J. had informed her as much, told her he had punished the man himself, then he had walked away from her door. That was the extent of her knowledge on the matter.

The look on his face at the time as he'd told her, looked irate to be honest. She had not asked any questions at all, he had still been unhappy with her. Obviously, because of her not telling him what had happened, she had no idea what her father had told them either, had sent him one mind-link to tell him that she'd told them it was an accident and felt him sever the link the second she'd stated it. Wouldn't allow her to connect with him after that.

On the bright side, West was too busy to hunt her down himself, and rant at her for not telling him, her Alpha, the information that he had wanted to know, when he wanted to know it. So she had had two days of peace and quiet.

She'd actually had lunch with Luna Natalia and Miranda to discuss the portrait of West, that Miranda wanted to present to him as a gift. Luna Natalia smiled at her and then apologised to her for the attack on her, by Heath. Miranda's eyes had widened at hearing this. Didn't know anything about it apparently.

Luna Natalia had been staring hard at her and Jo-anne just knew she was trying to pry for information about what had happened that night. Jo-anne waved it off and smiled at her. "Silly me, startled my own dad's wolf, what can you expect? He hadn't seen me in 10 years." kept her tone light and dismissive.

Luna Natalia had let it go, but had still looked right at her with a disapproving frown.

Miranda had placed a hand on Jo-anne's shoulder. "I hope you're alright." she said a little worriedly.

"I'm fine." Jo-anne had smiled at her. She knew the girls' Luna instincts had kicked in, worried about her pack members.

"Goodness I'm sorry, West did not tell me."

"It was not important, don't worry yourself about it." Jo-anne had smiled right at her. But it still bothered her.

The three of them had taken lunch on the second floor of the library. Apparently, West hardly ever came here, so it was a good place to hold their secret meeting, Luna Natalia now in on it. She wanted a portrait of her son as the Alpha as well. It was a tradition here within the pack.

Though she thought a portrait of West on his own was a better idea. Miranda had pouted at her, still wanted one of the two of them together. Jo-anne liked painting the Alpha with his Luna next to him. It was a good sign to the pack that they were happy. Put forward her idea's about the poses she'd thought would be good and Miranda seemed happy with them.

They walked about the library, the three of them, to look at the portraits of the previous Alpha and Luna's of the pack, a little history lesson on each of them from Luna Natalia, looked at the different styles and paint usage. Every single portrait was a solo picture, none of them actually held the Alpha and Luna together, a few of them had them pictured next to their wolf. That was an interesting idea.

Though all of the former Luna's portraits were hung directly next to their Mate and Alpha, to show them together. Only Alpha Damien's portrait did not have his Luna next to him, guess it was still hanging in the woman's office downstairs. Though there was a space made available for it, she noted.

Luna Natalia stated quite calmly, this was the pack's tradition and that is why she thought it was the best option for a portrait of West by himself. Trying to convince Miranda, Jo-anne thought, she would paint what she was told to. She did like the idea of West smiling in the portrait, though admitted it was very unlikely to happen.

"The damned boy won't smile. No matter how hard I try, he will not smile." she shook her head and huffed, annoyed with her only son it seemed.

Jo-anne just shrugged it off. She'd never seen the man smile either, it was nothing new to her. Had turned to Miranda "perhaps you could get a shot, privately on your phone and flick it to me."

Miranda had laughed softly and shook her head. "No, he doesn't like me taking photos of him, it actually makes him quite mad." she replied.

"Then I will do my best, might take me a while though," Jo-anne had nodded.

"You've got time dear." Luna Natalia smiled at her. "There is no real rush."

Jo-anne had frowned and queried about the up-coming Luna Ceremony for Miranda, wanting a time line, as it could take weeks to perfect a portrait and get all inflections and skin tones, tattoos and markings correct if the person had them that was. West had never had any that she'd seen back then. And from what she'd seen of the man, nothing above the neck, who knew what was under that shirt of his.

Then there was also the problem of getting a picture of West smiling, if his own mother couldn't get him to smile, and Jo-anne knew that she was not going to be able to do it either. How was she going to get that one magic shot?

Luna Natalia had simply smiled at her “It won’t be this coming full moon, so you have time. I’m holding a mating ball for the triplets. They turned 18 just over a week ago.”

“A mating ball?” That surprised her. Wouldn’t the Luna’s Ceremony out weigh that?

“Yes.” she’d nodded.

Jo-anne had never attended a mating ball. They had been held regularly but she had been under age when here, so had not been allowed to attend, only those 18 and over being allowed. Then, once Mated to West, had been informed very bluntly by him. That she would be staying in their room the entire time, not allowed to go anywhere near it. Though he had attended every one of them, she herself had not ever been allowed.

Not like she didn’t see the other visiting packs, or come across their Alpha’s and pack members the day before and the day after, during meal times. Though T.J. had always been in her company and if he had been unavailable, West himself had been with her. It was the only time the pack actively saw them together during their Mate Bond and only at meal times. Their room had not had a kitchen, so she’d had to go downstairs to eat.

It was pretty much an escort from their room down to eat and then straight back to their room. Looking at other pack members or them looking at her had pissed the man off, she’d learned quickly to keep her eyes on her plate or would have been faced with his angry scowling all the way back to their room.

She’d never really understood that about him, likely it was more a Volt thing, wanting to keep Clova away from the un-mated males. They were not allowed to shift when there were visiting packs either. His wolf had loved hers, that much she did know, their bond had been good and strong.

“Am I allowed to attend that?” Jo-anne suddenly asked. She’d never found her Mate and was now an un-mated she-wolf of eligible age to attend the ball.

“Of course you are Jo-anne.” Miranda smiled at her like it was a silly question. “Why wouldn’t you be able to?”

However, her question had been directed at Luna Natalia, who was now looking at her with a frown on her face. “I would ask Westley that question, Jo-anne.” she finally replied after a minutes contemplation.

“Oh, so it’s for Ranked members only then?” she no longer held Rank.

“Yes. but...”

Jo-anne nodded, she got it. He’d never let her before, might not now either, not even his own mother knew the answer to that question. The man had issues where she was concerned and his mother obviously understood that about him.

"I'll bring you." Miranda piped up "What can he do?"

Jo-anne smiled at that, that would definitely get her around him, "You promise?" she laughed.

Saw a rather worried look pass over Luna Natalia's face as she looked at Miranda, but ignored it.

"Yes." Miranda smiled right at her "Everyone had the right to find their Goddess-Gifted Mate, not even an Alpha can deny you that."

That was true "I'll have to go shopping for a nice dress then. Is there a dress code?" she directed at Luna Natalia.

"Cocktail dress and suits for the men. I want my girls to look beautiful, when they find their Mates. But not so good, that it will be like how they would look for a Luna Ceremony or their introduction to another pack will be overshadowed."

"You're thinking an Alpha will connect with them."

Luna Natalia nodded "Triplets are rare, especially identical like my girls, so it is likely they'll end up mated, highly ranked. I only invited packs with un-mated Alpha's for this one. Hopefully it will go well."

That was true. They could all likely end up mated to the same man for that matter, or they would be split up and she rarely saw or heard about that. Usually twins or triplets of the same sex, all ended up within the same pack. Some times attached to other twins or triplets. The goddess was usually kind to them in that way.

Jo-anne spent the next two days stalking the man himself, from a distance, of course, her camera in her hand, but the man had rarely left the pack-house, or his office for that matter, and when he did, he never just strolled about, always off on some Alpha business. Jo-anne had her own mission and so, when he was out of the pack-house, so was she.

Her mission appointed to her by the current Luna and the future Luna, to sneak about after him and try to get that one photo of the man smiling. A magic shot, she'd aptly nicknamed it, because she thought it was going to take a miracle to get it. Sent up a prayer to the Goddess herself to give her that one perfect shot. She just needed one.

The damned man was never in one place for long either. So she constantly had to be at the ready. West didn't seem to notice, her sneaking about and around the pack after him with her camera. It was a good thing on her part. He was way too busy and preoccupied with making sure everything was ready for the 3-day visit.

There were Omega's all over the first floor, she noted, getting rooms ready for the guests. She'd heard 10 Alpha's were coming, quite a lot, and that they and their Beta's would all be staying on the first floor, now that was interesting to her.

She was definitely going to get to see them, and she was going to take the opportunity to hand out her portfolio to as many of them as she could and offer her services to them.

She would likely recognise some of them, due to already having been hired by a few of them, but some she would not know, and she was pretty certain there would be allied packs with new Alpha's, so she wouldn't know them, some of them would likely be around her age too.

She knew already that they would all be damn fine to look at, Alpha males, bloody handsome devils, the lot of them, it seemed, they were from her experience a very photogenic bunch too. Might just have to point her camera at a few of them while they were here, she thought, with a smile to herself.

Laughed softly at the thought of making a calendar of all Alpha males, half naked, from the waist up, damn that would sell out so fast. Single she-wolves would love that, was chuckling to herself about it when she saw West come out to stand on the pack-house stairs, his hands in his pockets as always. Wearing black slacks and a deep blue shirt, a black tie, he was likely waiting for the first Alpha to arrive. Today was the day. West's blond hair was swept back. He'd recently had a trim, she noted through the lens, his head was tilted down slightly looking at the ground.

Jo-anne was some distance away under the shade of a tree, her eyes on him through the lens of the camera. He looked up finally and to her shock, one corner of his mouth was tilted up in a smile. The magic shot she was looking for right there.

She pressed down on the camera's button and held it down to capture it all, reeling off consecutive shots, capturing every movement so she could have multiple shots to choose from. Sweet Goddess, it was the first time she had seen the man smile since childhood. It lit up his whole damned face, reached those green eyes of his and everything.

Look at that, the man was actually very handsome. She nearly couldn't believe it, would not have believed it if she hadn't seen it with her own eyes, watched as his eyes moved around the pack and she froze. Would he see her?

His eyes never met hers, 'few' she sent up a prayer of thanks to the Goddess, watched through the lens as T.J. appeared and walked over to West, as they interacted, got a few shots of them actually smiling at each other. Then a car rolled passed her and his smile was gone in and instant, back to that impassive grumpy look he constantly wore.

Jo-anne turned her eyes to her camera, stared down at the screen and smiled happily, she had actually achieved her mission, couldn't believe it. The man did know how to smile. Wow, he almost looked just like his father when he smiled, though he had his mother's hair and eyes for that matter.

Oh, she was going to keep this under wraps, no-one was going to see it. Her little secret for now. Till it was painted anyway. Jo-anne glanced up at the pack-house as she stood up, only to find T.J.'s eyes right on her.

'Why do you look so happy Jo-Jo?' he asked via the mind-link, sounded amused himself to her ear.

'None ya business.' she grinned and turned to walk off up the path next to where she was sitting, noted he was still watching her 'Go be the Beta.'

T.J. snorted laughter down the mind-link at her and then cut it. He did have Beta duties to attend to and she knew it.

She now had to get them printed out, but how to do that without anyone else in the pack seeing them? Dammit. Her photographer gear was not here yet, still en route back to the pack. It would likely take weeks, and she didn't want to wait that long before starting.

Sank down in her room on her bed to shop for new printing gear and quality photopaper, all that she would need to start her work, was about to hit the express shipment button, when she realised she was about to order a delivery from the human world, better get permission.

'T.J.' she mind-linked him 'I need to get an art delivery.'

'Fine, I'm busy being a Beta.' he teased her.

'I know' she laughed 'it will come in 2 days, it says.'

'Alright, I'll inform West later.' he cut the link, his tone all Beta again.

She'd likely interrupted him but had to get permission for her delivery, could get in trouble for that, she thought, but he seemed like he was back to normal with her. Good, she didn't like it when he was all Beta and cranky with her. Shades of West, she saw when he was like that.

## **Chapter 22 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

He was so busy trying to make sure everything was ready for his first official meet and greet with his allied pack's Alpha's, all would be coming for a 3-day visit, the day of



arrival, afternoon arrivals, a casual dinner that night in the pack's common dining hall. Then back to back meetings all day the next day and a full formal dinner in the Alpha's private dining room. They could seat them all comfortably. It was built for this type of occasion, then an informal breakfast the next day and see them off out of the pack mid morning to early afternoon.

His father was talking at him for days about how to address them and what was expected of him. It wasn't like West had never seen this before, or been in attendance, for that matter, for the other pack's heirs' first official meet and greets. As the future Alpha, he had been to all Alpha meetings and special events.

Had been to a lot of these, even had to field many questions about when he would be taking over himself. The answer was always 'when father steps down.' usually elicited a laugh from other Alpha's. They too understood the annoyance waiting to be handed the pack.

There were a few Alphas younger than him, having taken over at 25 or 26, and one that had inherited his pack at just 22 when his father had died fighting another Alpha. And here was West at 32 and only just taking over. He'd likely be in charge a very long time, not having a Mate at this time, so producing an Heir, not even on the cards, and not likely to happen soon at all.

At least he had plenty of experience before taking over, his father had often left him in charge when he'd gone off on Alpha business that didn't require West to be there in attendance. And West did attend to the running and managing of most of the human world companies. Was often in Olympia with the new airline business, in fact.

His mother had been in and out of his office a lot in the past 2 days as well. Sorting out menus with him and finalising decorations and flowers of all things, to go into the visiting Alpha's rooms. Giving him, no he thought, telling him what to do, informed him of the gifts she'd purchased for the visiting Alpha's to the pack.

Telling him about what Alpha went to what room and made sure all the Mated Alpha's got suites to accommodate their Beta's as well. And that the un-mated Alpha's and Beta's all got single rooms in case they wanted to Mate un-mated she-wolves while they were here.

She went over the seating arrangements for the formal dinner, but told him they could sit as they pleased when it was informal, wanted to know if he wanted them seated according to the strength of their packs and how long said Alpha had been in charge or the strength of their alliance with his pack. That had made him think long and hard. Opted for strength of the pack.

Only one Alpha coming had bothered him, but not so much anymore. That big bastard had reportedly finally found his Mate and he and his whole unit now all mated off. That was actually a relief. West was not looking forward to the Alpha's who were un-mated



walking around his pack-house on the prowl for an un-mated she-wolf to entertain them and their needs.

T.J. didn't seem to be worried about it though, he had shrugged it off when West had begrudgingly told him at T.J.'s insistence to know why he suddenly fumed with anger for no apparent reason yesterday, T.J. had just laughed it off and shaken his head "Not a full moon West, don't worry about it."

How could that man be so laid back about Jo-anne coming into contact with so many un-mated Alpha males or their Beta's for that matter? There was no full moon, but that did not mean an Alpha wouldn't scent the woman out or one of those Beta's. The Goddess did gift Mates at will to her own liking. Probably thought it was funny.

His mother had picked out the clothes for him to wear, frustratingly annoying to him. West could do that himself, he was not a child. Hadn't bloody been a child for a very long time. She had glared right at him, pointed one of her long manicured fingers at him and rolled her Luna Aura at him "You will do as your mother tells you. I'm still the Luna around here, till you get one for yourself...Could have one now, if you weren't so stubborn."

He'd not wanted to get into an argument with her yet again about Miranda, so he had just frowned at her and said nothing, reigned in his anger, he did not want to Mark or Mate the girl, no matter what every one around him wanted him to do.

Knew it was going to be a sore spot with her father when he arrived today. But West needed other things sorted out in his life before he made that decision. Had actually been thinking about the girl and how attached to him she was, what to do about it. He'd not made a decision yet. Still needed to wait at this point.

She would not be standing by his side for these Alpha meetings. That much he did know. It would speak volumes if she did, and he did not want that. Was going to have to talk to her father about it. A new alliance would have to be drawn up if she didn't go home with him, now that he was the Alpha. West was not looking forward to that, the man was definitely going to be pressing for a Mating Alliance for sure.

He was standing on the front steps of the pack-house, had been notified that the first Alpha was at the front gate, Alpha Thomas, Miranda's father. It did not surprise him that he would arrive a couple of hours earlier than all the others would. Here to see his daughter, no doubt, hadn't seen her in a couple of months now.

West could feel it, there were eyes on him. Felt for the tether in his mind and knew it was Jo-anne. It had not escaped his attention that for the past 2 days the woman had been stalking his every move, and with that camera of hers to boot. What she was after exactly he had no idea. She'd stayed well away from him, got a good zoom he thought absently, as he stood there.

He had seen the photos she had taken of his swearing in ceremony. He'd looked like one angry, imposing Alpha. That was fine with him, his pack was not as large as others, but he was not one to be messed with. Not many Alpha's were, though some more than others.

West knew at this very minute he could feel through his tether to her that she was somewhere down off to his right, tuned his hearing to location and could hear her laughing softly at something she found amusing, likely that she thought he had absolutely no idea about her sneaking around after him for the past 2 days.

Couldn't actually help it, when his mouth twitched into a smile, as he heard her chuckle at something, it sounded so genuine, she was really happy right this minute, he could hear it, lifted his head though he didn't want her to know he knew exactly what she was doing right this moment, allowed his eyes to sweep over the pack and right past her position, did not look directly at her.

She was sitting cross-legged under the shade of a large tree, her camera pointed right at him, somewhat hidden by a hedge along the road, her hair was pulled up into a pony tail, she was smiling behind that camera of hers, and she looked very comfortable. Been there a while, he thought.

Waiting on him, it seemed, she knew he would be out here waiting to greet the arriving Alpha's 'What are you smiling at?' T.J. stepped out of the pack-house mind-linking him

'Nothing in particular.' West replied, but even he could hear the cheerfulness in his tone. Something rarely heard.

'She still stalking you, huh?'

'What?' West asked, a bit confused.

'Jo-Jo, still stalking you, you think I hadn't noticed?' T.J. shot at him fully amused. Like it was stupid of him to think he wouldn't know where the woman was.

'Yes', West admitted 'Why? Who knows? Do you know?'

'No.' T.J. laughed, and shook his head 'Her own mission, I have no clue.'

They heard the car coming and his happy mood evaporated just like that. Alpha Thomas was here. He stood and waited for the man to step out of his car.

It did not surprise West in the slightest, that he was met with a frown by the man, or that his son Ryan stepped out of the car after him. He was due to take over their pack on his next birthday, only a few months away. Beta Edward and his son the future Beta Brian also stepped out of the car. None of them greeted him warmly, they were all expecting him to have Marked and Mated Miranda by now.

“Alpha Thomas.” he greeted the man.

“My daughter not with you?” he frowned.

West knew that it would normally be the Alpha and the Luna that would be standing here greeting arriving pack members. Today it was just West and T.J. “No, I believe she is with my mother.” he answered honestly, he had seen the two of them walking and talking earlier.

“Fair enough, though greeting packs, she should be on your arm, Westley.”

West raised an eyebrow at the man as he walked up the stairs. “Other things to attend to, I suppose. She knew when you would be arriving.” She did actually and he’d told her, she would not be greeting the arriving pack members with him, had made her pout.

She’d thought to argue with him but had decided against it, seeing their conversation the other night over him telling her exactly where she stood. She’d not left and still slept in his bed, still wanted him every night, it seemed.

But had been put firmly in her place by him and had to respect it or he would put her in a car and send her back to her father, that little bit of news had not gone down so well and she’d stalked away from him muttering about that he would come to realise he loved her one day, like she did him.

He and T.J showed them to their rooms on the first floor, at the eastern end of the pack-house, the man knew who Jo-anne was and what she had been to West, their packs alliance went way back nearly 2 decades old now. Even West’s mother had though it was best to put him at the opposite end of the building, in the hope of the man not seeing her.

Laying eyes on West’s ex-Mate, might tick the man off, as he would likely think she was the reason he had not claimed Miranda. Might start an Alpha fight of massive proportions. His mother and father had both voiced concerns about this to him on separate occasions over the last two days.

Apparently Jo-anne was going to be out for dinner with her friends tonight, away from the pack-house down in the towns centre, all organised by his mother, dinner and drinks with her old school friends. West didn’t like the drinking part but had no say in it. did not argue about it they were likely right about Miranda’s father.

West spent the afternoon on the pack-house front steps with T.J. greeting his allied Alpha’s and their Beta’s more than he thought had brought their Heir’s with them along with the future Beta’s as well. West hoped his mother had extra rooms prepared for all the unexpected guests, he had not seen some of them on the guest list, but didn’t say anything about it greeted them as though he was expecting them as well.

The pack-house was large enough to accommodate them all but not knowing half of them would be bring two extra guests with them he only hoped his mother had presumed to allocate extra rooms to be made up for them.

West left them to get settled in, his mother had prepared every room apparently, on the first floor laughed at him and said “Son, you got to be expecting them to test your hospitality at every turn.” then had walked away from him. She had expected unannounced extra guests it appeared.

Each room had a printed itinerary for the next 3 days, so they knew what to expect, they had all been here on at least one occasion so knew their way around and were free to roam about when not doing anything on the itinerary.

## **Chapter 23 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

Stepping out of her room to head out for dinner, Jo-anne came to a complete halt at seeing the two men standing across the hall from her door, they appeared to be just coming out of the room, her head tilted up as she took him in and her eyes widened “You’re one big bastard aren’t you?” came out of her mouth before she could stop it, snapped a hand over her mouth a second later.

He was so damn tall she hadn’t been able to not say it, was more than a foot taller than her, he was. His dark blue eyes were on her now, his black hair was slicked back neatly and he was wearing a dark grey suit, tall and imposing he was. Jo-anne had thought West at 6ft 6 was tall, this man would tower over West easily.

His eyes moved over her and then locked right onto hers, his head tilted slightly as he looked into her eyes, seemed to really be looking at them, knew he was looking at the silver around the outer edges and the flecks as well, a smile touched his lips “I am, indeed.” he nodded.

She knew he was an Alpha just by looking at him, and the man next to would be his Beta. “My apologies, I didn’t mean to insult you.” she told him and bowed her head slightly showing him full respect.

“You, didn’t I get it often. My Mate calls me a big bastard all the time.” he sounded happy and amused by the thought of it.

Jo-anne nodded, thankful she had not offended him, then realised she was standing before an Alpha and Beta she had not met before “Wait here one sec.” she told them and ducked back into her room, found her card and came back out, held it out to him “If you want a portrait of you or your Mate or the two of you together. I’m an artist, you can check my portfolio of work, I’d be happy to do it.” she smiled up at him.

His Beta took the card from her hand, no surprise there, most Alpha's didn't get handed things from just anyone. She watched as the Alpha before her narrowed his eyes at her, then leaned forward and smelled her openly right there in the hallway.

Jo-anne took a full step back and held up both her hands "I'm not hitting on you." she assured him "just offering my artistic services is all."

"I am not interested in you young lady, I love my Mate. But you...are a Luna ranked wolf yes." he stated and then his eyes moved to her neck and he leaned back away from her.

Just trying to figure out what she was Jo-anne guessed, that was a relief to her, she was only wearing a spaghetti strap summer dress, and the scar of her previous Mark would be noticeable to him, anyone for that matter, she didn't have to hide it everyone here knew who she was. "Was once." she acknowledged "not anymore."

"Alpha Nicholas, The Rising Blue Lotus Pack. This idiot is Jeremy, my Beta." he nodded to the man, next to him.

Jo-anne turned her eyes to the man next to him, he winked right at her, about the same height as West she realised, he didn't seem to take any offence to his Alpha calling him an idiot. "Jo-anne Morris, resident Artist to the pack." she answered him, it seemed an appropriate title, seeing as she didn't exactly know where she fit in anymore.

"Nice to meet you Luna." he nodded.

Jo-anne blinked up at him "Oh I'm not a Luna, don't address me as such please."

"You smell like one, therefore you are one." he stated firmly.

She shook her head, "No, it is very inappropriate, I would prefer you did not ever call me that, Jo-anne is fine." she stated firmly "I have to go." she turned to walk away from them, if West heard him say that, surely she would come under his line of fire. But did she still smell like one, was that possible? Hadn't even been one, never officially. It confused her greatly.

"Coming down to dinner?" he fell into step with him.

"Not at all." she shook her head "Out with my friends."

They walked down the stairs together, and she was about to walk away when his Beta touched her arm "You only paint Alpha's?"

"Anyone, you interested?" she asked hoping to drum up some business already.

"Yes," he pulled out his phone and showed her a picture of a very pretty blue haired girl.

"My Mate Faylan, I would love a portrait of her."

"All contracts will have to go through my Alpha, but I don't see a problem with it, being that you're an allied pack, should get pushed through quickly." she told him as she looked at the girl "what is she?" she clearly wasn't wolf.

"Water nymph." he sounded very proud.

"Wow lucky you." she smiled "Talk to Alpha Damien...Oh, I guess Alpha Westley now. Will be handling all my contracts. I have 4 currently pending not allied packs lots of details to work out." well she thought, there had been out in the human world, shouldn't be now she was in the pack "I am happy to put you on the list, you can check out my work on the website there on the card."

He nodded and Jo-anne walked off, excellent one down lots more to go, smiled to herself, drumming up business it seemed was going to be easy, always had been actually, now that she thought about it, was a little odd, but she just went with it. Work kind of always just seem to fall into her lap.

Found herself under Wests direct gaze, as she walked towards the front doors of the pack-house. He was still frowning she noted, and right at her, she watched as his eyes moved behind her and then back to her quite pointedly, and turned to look to see what he meant, knew he was asking a question of her.

Found both Alpha Nicholas and his Beta Jeremy watching their interaction, Goddess what had she done now to warrant his unhappiness "Offered my artist service. The Beta is interested Alpha." she told him "May I go?" she asked knowing she couldn't until he dismissed her.

He nodded, but she could feel his eyes on her the whole way out of the pack-house, anger to, seemed to be rolling off the man as she walked away. The man definitely had issues, why? Would not part of her fees be revenue for the pack to help make the pack more prosperous. Surely he wasn't going to say 'No'.

He'd had T.J. help her find a place for her art studio to go, so she could actually continue to work and be a contributing member to the pack. Till she found her Mate and moved on that was.

Hmm. That thought made her wonder, she'd left before turning 18, she might have a mate here, or find one at the up coming mating ball. Might have to move away from this pack. Wondered how that would go? She was currently under his Alpha Order to not leave the pack without his permission.

Goddess if she found herself Mated off to another pack, she was going to have to get his actual permission to leave, not to mention have to ask him to relinquish all his orders on her, that might not go down so well.

If she found her Mate, he was not going to like that, and she doubted that West would feel like explaining himself to any man. Especially if he was of lower Rank than himself, would not likely do so, she was only a patrol man's daughter, nothing more. Not likely to be Mated to a high Ranking wolf of any kind. At best a warrior. If she got a Mate at all that was.

Her Mate might not be in this pack, he might not come to the mating ball, who knew? For all she knew he could have been a Kitsune in Korea and now she would never know. She sighed, only the Goddess herself knew who it was.

Dinner and Drinks at the local Tavern was a good idea, she got to meet most of her friends pups and their Mates too. Some she knew from school and some were a bit older, warriors and trackers one of them was a gamma ranked wolf, Ricky's younger brother Hayden.

It was a nice night every one laughing and having fun, the pups all running around on the grassed area while the adults sat around and had a drink after dinner. She herself was sitting with a glass of scotch and dry, it was wolfen strength and it was her 2nd one, it was definitely way more potent than the human version, she was already feeling the effects of it, she was definitely a little on the tipsy side. A little more giggly than normal.

The pups and their mums and dads all headed home around 8 and that just left Jo-anne and her still un-mated friends at the Tavern drinking, she was half way through her 4th drink now and the topic turned to all the Alpha's and Beta's that were visiting the pack currently.

Jo-anne smiled as they were all talking a little dreamy eyed about how good looking they all were, she just laughed and then jokingly brought up her idea of that calendar with half naked Alpha's. All eyes were suddenly on her, they all thought it was a great idea, all that smoking hotness and rippling muscles, on full display for them to look at. Wanted to know when she was going to get on that?

They were all still talking about it when one of the Alpha's strolled right into the Tavern with his Beta next to him, both of them in jeans and tee-shirts, neither were sporting a Mark she noted.

Looked like they were on the prowl for some action she thought absently as she watched them, stroll up to the bar and order drinks, surveyed the room, looked right at her table. It was a table full of un-marked she-wolves, and they were, as was everyone else in here, watching the two of them, even she was, though not for the same reason.

Jo-anne had been Mated to an Alpha before, didn't need that again. She sipped her drink and wondered if she should leave, she'd gotten an unhappy look from West for just talking to a Mated Alpha and his Mated Beta. Probably end up in his line of fire if she was seen with these two who were not Mated.



She and her friends 5 of them made for a nice un-mated platter she guessed, Jo-anne's attention turned to her friends, oh yes they were all interested in being served up on a platter for those two, who were still leaning on the bar, she shook her head, crazy all of them.

"Stop your drooling ladies." she said nice and loud, totally trying to embarrass them, got hissed at by two of her friends, but then everyone of them along with her, was laughing and giggling about it.

Watched as Ella grinned at them all, then got up from the table, she was a Delta ranked wolf, Cole's little sister, a very well endowed she-wolf with an athletic body, walked right past the Alpha and Beta and leaned down to read the titles from the jukebox in the corner, her very toned firm ass on display for them, to look at, she was wearing skinny jeans and a tight fitting top, had clearly bent over on purpose.

Jo-anne watched as both men's eyes were looking right at her ass, Ella selected a song finally then stood swaying her hips as the music started, turned and walked right back passed the two who were smirking right at her, not stupid at all, they knew exactly what she was doing. Likely seen it all their lives.

Ella walked right onto the dance floor and beckoned the girls at her table, with a crooked finger to come and join her, they were all up and dancing, right in front of the two men, she however stayed put, amusing as it was to watch, especially when that Alpha and Beta put down their drinks to join them on the dance floor. Ella turned to look right at her grinned stupidly as the Alpha put his hands right on her hips and started grinding up against her.

Crazy ass she-wolf was going to be bloody sore in the morning, likely unable to walk if she wasn't careful. Jo-anne was laughing to herself Ella's face said it all she was taking that man home.

His Beta was happily sandwiched between two of the other girls he had a hand on each of them. All of them completely crazy she couldn't help but chuckle and shake her head as she watched the girls. Saw the Beta look right at her and wave her over, she just shook her head, even though she was smiling.

Found a pair of large hands land on the table on either side of her, effectively caging her in and smiled. Saw the Beta on the dance floor look at the person behind her and then return his attention back to the girls dancing with him.

"T.J." she said, she knew his scent.

"Well at least you got some common sense woman." he picked up her drink and downed it in one go.

"Hey, that was mine." she turned her head to look up at him.

He was smiling down at her “Was.” he stated “Come on, home with you.”

“What why?” she turned back to her friends “its fun to watch.”

“Cos I said so.” he turned her stool around to face him looked right down at her.

Jo-anne watched as more Alpha’s and their Beta’s strolled into the Tavern, raised an eyebrow up at T.J. who was standing right in front of her his body she realised was practically touching hers. “Aren’t I allowed to have any fun?”

T.J pull her up on to her feet and into his side, walked her towards the door his arm draped across her shoulders “No.” he smiled at the passing Alpha’s and their Beta’s “Home now.” he stated loud enough for all of them to hear.

She shook her head as they stepped out the door “you know, kinda sounds like you’re warning them all away from me.”

“I am.” he told her without hesitation shocking her completely.

Jo-anne stopped walking and pulled herself from his side to look right up at him “hey, I’m a free agent. And if I want to, can sleep with who ever I want to.”

“Not on my watch.”

“T.J. are you jealous? I might be interested in one of those smoking hot wolves back there.”

He raised and eyebrow at her, frowning now. Took hold of her hand and pulled her away from the Tavern “Alpha.” he nodded to West as he walked past them.

Jo-anne had not known he was there, till T.J. addressed him.

“Beta.” he commented a slight edge to his voice. Glanced right at her and then continued on passed them.

Jo-anne shook her head “I’m un-mated T.J.” she stated once more loud enough for West to hear her, as she was being dragged away, she didn’t care that he did, too much wolven loaded scotch in her system to give a damn right this minute.

T.J. was still pulling her away from the Tavern “I know that Jo-Jo, that’s why I’m removing you from that place, they are all on the prowl for she-wolf action.”

“So?” she shot at him.

His grey eyes turned right on her “Do you think it’s wise to be in there right now?”

"I know how to say No." she informed him.

"Home, Alpha's orders." he informed her right back.

"What's he going to do when I find my Mate, T.J.?" she asked annoyed with him and her bloody annoying Alpha.

"I don't know, but until you do, as the former Luna of this pack you will not be going around having meaningless sex with anyone."

"I was never the Luna T.J." she shot at him, "never was going to be. That man has a stick so far up his ass.."

She was yanked around firmly and T.J. was suddenly glaring down at her "Watch your words Jo-Jo." he snapped at her "and you would have been. So unfortunately for you, certain rules apply, call it a code of conduct if you like."

"He's bloody insane." she yelled at him "He has a Mate, can't he just leave me be!"

She watched as he frowned at her, for almost a full minute then said "Apparently not Jo-Jo."

He walked her all the way back to the pack-house all the way back to her room, past a bunch of Alpha's and their Beta's sitting around drinking in the common area "It's not fair T.J." she yelled at him.

"No, its not Jo-Jo. But it is how it is. You're going to just have to deal with it."

"Till that mating ball. Miranda invited me to it. Then I'll find my Mate and be out of this pack." she snapped at him and slammed the door right in his stupid face. Opened it a second later, glared right at him once more and slammed it shut right in his face again, once had not been enough. Stalked off to her bed and flopped down on it. Just freaking great, more bloody orders from her Alpha, coming home was definitely a bad idea.

## **Chapter 24 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

Meeting and greeting his allied pack's Alpha's and Beta's was a long process, and he was actually glad to retire to his office and shut the door, once they were all here, he'd been unhappy, but not showed it. About noticing Most of the Heirs to his allied packs were all un-mated as were their Beta's for that matter.

Currently in his pack were 5 young un-mated Alphas all between 24 and 30 and there were 7 un-mated Beta's as well, 5 future Beta's and 2 actual Beta's one of them he

knew had lost his Mate in child birth two years ago, the pup had survived and so he'd pulled himself together, but he was also only West's age. He did not like it at all.

T.J. handed him a bourbon neat, then sank down opposite him "You know those young ones, are going to want to head out tonight looking for some action right."

West did know it, he was no different when in another pack. "I know, let them."

"Might want to check where Jo-Jo is going out to dinner then?"

"Why? She'll be back before they all head out!"

"You sure about that? Drinking and dancing to 2 in the morning, last time she was out with her friends, so drunk I literally had to carry her back to the pack-house and put her in her bed myself."

West sighed "Great."

T.J. laughed "You could just let her be, she seems happy doesn't she."

"She does." West admitted had been smiling and chuckling today, had been happy and he knew it "Find out where T.J. only intercede if those Alpha's and their Beta's, go where she is."

"Good thinking." T.J. raised a glass to him, seemingly approved with West's comment.

West closed his eyes and tilt his head back, wondered if it's always this stressful having so many packs Alpha's and Beta's around. He hoped not, he'd never really concerned himself with it before, but then again his father had been in charge. The stress would have fallen on his shoulders.

"What are you going to do about Alpha Thomas?"

"I don't know, some sort of Mating alliance, he's going to push for I imagine."

"And?"

"And what? The woman is not my Goddess-Gifted Mate."

"No she is not. But you do enjoy her every night."

"Mm."

Got kicked by T.J. "Hmm?"

"I've had better to be honest T.J., I just like that she does what she is told, no holds bar." opened his eyes and looked at his Beta.

The man shook his head "So how long til you get rid of her then?"

"Might not yet." he thought out loud, if he didn't get what he wanted, would likely settle

T.J. was really looking at him now. More than shocked "Are you actually thinking about Marking the girl?"

"I might consider it later." West actually admitted "But not at this point in time."

"Waiting on what?"

West just stare at him for a full minute "If I don't find my Mate in the next year, I'll likely give he girl what she wants."

"A year?"

"Yes and in that year, I will attend every bloody Mating ball and so will she for that matter, give us both the opportunity to find our Goddess-Gifted Mates, if nothing happens." West shrugged.

"What brought this on all of a sudden?"

West shrugged "It's what every one wants...she's also up for anything."

"Doesn't mean you'll be happy West." T.J. was frowning at him, he knew West's thoughts on it.

"What else is knew T.J." he sighed, he hadn't been happy in years, it was his normal, barely even recalled a time he was happy. Didn't think he had a right to be. Probably why he'd never been gifted a Mate, didn't deserve one.

"So when are you going to tell Miranda? She's going to go crazy happy over the news."

"Likely start planning her Luna Ceremony with mother on the spot." he shook his head, that will be very annoying to hear about day in and day out.

"Not till she's fucked you stupid over it."

"Mm." he supposed so.

"You don't sound convinced West."

"I'd rather have a Goddess-Gifted Mate than a chosen Mate, you know that."

"I do." T.J. nodded "Guess we'll see soon enough."

"I guess." West nodded and downed his drink in one go. So would his Beta, as relaxed as the man was over there, they were both staring at each other now.

West got up from the couch in his office, to head out for dinner it was just about time. Stepped out of his office and stopped dead in his tracks. T.J. ran right into him, had to step around him in fact. West's eyes had landed right on Jo-anne who was standing at the bottom of the staircase leading down from the first floor.

She was wearing a mid thigh length pink dress, her shoulders both bare due to the tiny thin straps on the dress, her long legs also on display, her hair was loose and fell down her back in soft waves, why was she dressed like that? should go back to wearing jeans and tee-shirts. Seemed the woman liked showing off her body, wasn't even worried about the scars that she had, for all to see either. From her broken arms and legs, that had all had to be reset and healed without her wolf, so had formed scars where she been stitched and stapled, nothing seemed to bother her these days. Was like she was a completely different person.

She was standing talking to that big bastard Alpha Nicholas and his Beta Jeremy, she was looking at the man's phone, he was standing directly behind her, leaning over her shoulder, showing her something. He didn't like it.

'Calm down West, they're both Mated.' T.J.'s voice came down the mind-link at him.

'I know that.' and he did know that, was in fact very thankful for that right this minute. Those two had been the last to arrive today, having flown in on Wests plane at that. They were allied through business, it wasn't likely they'd ever be able to help each other out in the event of an attack, not unless they knew about it a day in advance.

That being said. The Man was known to be viscous, killed his own brother to take over the pack at just 25, with a massive pack and a huge amount of well trained warriors. The man was also a pure blooded Alpha wolf.

Not even West was that, not many of those around. West's father was born an Alpha male but his mother was born to a Delta blood line, both still strong lines but did not make him a pure blood.

Technically T.J. had a better bloodline than even West. Just wasn't the right bloodline to take over as Alpha. Though if something did happen to West and he didn't have an Heir he'd already set it up that T.J. would take over as the new Alpha. A contingency, not many packs had one, but with Wests history and no Mate it was needed. T.J. had simply nodded at him when he'd been informed. Nil objections at all.

West watched as Jo-anne walked away from the Alpha and Beta, looked right at her, and then at them, noted both of them were looking at him and his interaction with Jo-

anne, West didn't particularly care what they thought. Turned his eyes right back to her, watched her look where he had, she understood his unspoken question.

"offered my artist service, the Beta is interested Alpha." Anger welled in him at that word, he had a bloody name "may I go?" she asked.

West nodded, though could feel anger rolling off of him, he really did not like her calling him Alpha, when he had a name, he didn't understand her, sometimes she called him West and other times Alpha. Why?

'Calm down West.' T.J. urged him again.

He glared right at his Beta and then turned to look back at Alpha Nicholas and his Beta Jeremy, the two of them were just standing there watching him, looked like they'd been having a private joke, Alpha Nicholas nodded to him and the Beta was smirking right at him, made West want to walk over and punch the man right in the face. Why was he looking at him like that? Had they been discussing him via their mind-link? He didn't like it.

Turned and headed for the dining room. Alpha Nicholas fell in step with him, T.J. stepped back automatically out of respect.

"Seems that young lady is a problem for you Alpha Westley." he commented though sounded fully amused to West ear.

"It's not a problem."

"Hmm, if you say so." sounded like he didn't believe him.

"Found your Mate finally I hear." he turned the attention back to Alpha Nicholas, all Alpha's enjoyed talking about their Mates' it was the easiest way to distract one.

"I did. She is handful to say the least." he smiled "caused me all sorts of grief, constantly till she marked me."

"She Marked you?" he questioned that was not normal most Alpha males would never allow that always marked their mates first.

"Yes didn't even see it coming to be honest. Marked her right back though."

"Congratulations then."

"Thank you." he nodded.

"Please don't bring up that woman during dinner." West asked, received and oddly curious look, but the man nodded and said nothing more.



Alpha's always had their own personal reasons for requests to other Alpha's, most were respectful of that and abide by those requests. He was likely to see for himself anyway, Miranda would be at dinner, at the table with her father and brother and the way she was likely to address him, familiar, would make it clear why he didn't want the woman brought up.

West was not wrong either.

Miranda sat right between him and her father, touched his arm frequently and called him West Darling like she always did. Couldn't bloody help herself, even after their conversation the other night, she'd just gone right back to hanging off of him, like nothing had happened. Like it didn't bother her that he had not been faithful to her, and was not likely to be in the future either. The girl was crazy it seemed, any other she-wolf would have up and left him for it but not her.

He saw Alpha Nicholas watching the two of them, his annoyance with her did show on occasion, he'd tried to keep it in check, especially with her father right there, but just couldn't at times. Especially when she talked like she was already the Luna to his pack. Irrked him instantly. She wasn't the Luna, he'd told her she wasn't going to be and yet she went on like she was the Luna. Maybe he wouldn't settle after all.

West caught a raised eyebrow from not only that big bastard but also his Beta, had to ignore it. The dinner went well other than him being annoyed with the woman next to him. All six coursed delicious, why six courses he didn't know, it was at his mother's insistence, though he did note every one ate everything. Wolves naturally ate a lot, their metabolisms ran high needed the energy. Feeding not just their humans but also their wolfen counterpart.

West had not bothered arguing about the menu with his mother, only put his food down on soup, did not want it, did not like it, didn't think other wolves did either for that matter, never had he ever seen one choose that option willingly. But other than that he had let her go about doing her Luna thing. She had been a Luna for well over 30 years now.

As dinner wrapped up he heard some of the younger Alpha's comment that they would like to head into the town centre for a casual drink and some fun. West had told them he had a fully stocked Alpha bar here in the pack-house, to try and deter them though knew it was not going to work. They had other thoughts in mind, he just nodded to them, would be rude of him to decline them, seeing as when in their packs he did the exact same thing.

They were all on the prowl for willing she-wolves to take back to their rooms. He did not stop them, didn't want to cause any trouble with the alliances he held with their respective packs. He had however sent T.J. a head of them when his father offered up the Tavern, unwittingly knowing that was where his mother had sent Jo-anne and her friends for the night. He told them about Maxi's if they were interested in a nightclub

atmosphere. A much better place for them to all find a willing she-wolf. Not that he thought any of them would have a problem with finding something to fuck.

Only one of the young Alpha's knew where the place was and headed off by himself with his Beta, West offered to escort them himself, they were fine with it.

Saw T.J. coming out of the Tavern with his arm draped around Jo-anne, looked very possessive over her, like she was actually his and heard the man state "Home now." the implication of those two words would not be lost on any of the Alpha's or Beta's around him, at least it should keep them all away from her while they were here. Not that he was at all happy about the tone or display neither was Volt for that matter snarling inside his mind.

Heard her reply about him warning them away from her, and T.J, out right tell her he was. She had not even realised that he had been trailing behind the Alpha's and Beta's her attention was solely focused on T.J. clearly annoyed with him now.

West did not like her stating she was a free agent and could sleep with whoever she wanted. Technically it was true, she was an un-mated she-wolf right this minute. Likely wouldn't be if he or T.J. got their way.

Outright asked him if he was jealous that she might be interested in one of the smoking hot wolves. His jaw had tightened instantly over the comment and he'd stopped walking to stare at the woman. Waited on his Beta's answer actually, he was also curious about that. There wasn't one at all, he just grabbed her hand and pulled her up the road away from the Tavern "Alpha." he acknowledged West as she came to where he was standing.

Saw her eyes move right to him a little wide in surprise, at seeing him, the silver in them a little brighter than normal he noted, wondered if it was just because it was dark out and that silver was gleaming in the light. Or because she was angry, eye colour did usually change with emotions.

He acknowledged him right back, then as he walked away towards the Tavern he heard her loudly and pointedly state, likely directed at him, that she was un-mated. Had to ignore it he could smell alcohol on her, scotch he recognised the scent. Likely well on her way to being very drunk. Drinking it seemed loosened her tongue.

West stepped into the Tavern and found several she-wolves dancing on the dance floor, already had an Alpha and Beta being all hands on. Stayed put and had one drink with them out of courtesy, most of the alpha's and beta's were a bit on the hands on side he noted. Not that any of his she-wolf's seemed to mind at all.

More un-mated she-wolves arrived not long after he did and started drinking and dancing, he could smell the scent of arousal strongly, wrinkled his nose and downed his drink. It was going to turn into a free for all at some point, all them hot bloody horny

wolves, likely be mating all over the pack with out concern as to who saw. Left them to it, he did not want to see that, was glad T.J. had remove Jo-anne.

Found T.J. with a beer in his hand, chatting away with a couple of the other pack's Beta's, he looked right at him, "In her room boss. Unhappy so." he informed West, knowing exactly what West's unspoken question was. He didn't care that she was unhappy right this minute not with what he saw down in the Tavern.

"Good." he stated "I'm headed for bed, see you in the morning." he headed for the stairs "First meeting at 9."

"I know the schedule, West." he replied.

West nodded and headed for his room, it wasn't that late but he was actually tired. Glanced down the first floor hallway and hoped she had locked her door, thought about going and checking for himself, but decided against it, T.J. would have locked it and he knew it.

Miranda was not there, likely still off with her father somewhere, he took the opportunity to have a long hot shower and just relax, alone for the first time all day. Then just lay down in his bed to let sleep claim him.

## **Chapter 25 - Her Alpha's Orders**

T.J. POV

Standing outside the Tavern, staring at a drunken Jo-Jo, who had decided to start yelling at him, for the first time ever, T.J. did know why. He was man handling her, not something he had ever done. But not even he was happy about her being in that place, knowing it was about to turn into a lust filled place full of horny hot blooded Alpha males and their Beta's too boot.

Her eyes were practically glowing at him, all super bright and iridescent around the edges, he'd not seen anything like it before and the angrier she got, the more they seemed to glow, very unnatural.

T.J. had never actually seen the girl he'd known, or the woman before him mad before, not ever he realised, as she was yelling about West having a stick up his ass. He'd had to cut her off mid sentence and yell at her using his Beta tone, to stop her words. They were borderline punishable. It was also not the first time he'd heard her say it in fact, also said the last time she was drunk. Seems alcohol mixed with Jo-Jo brought out a whole new side to the woman.

One that could potentially be a problem.

If West heard her say it, he might go all Alpha rage on the woman, and West had seemed to finally be adjusting to having her back on pack territory, was actually trying to be an Alpha and respect her as other pack members. Not act like the crazy domineering and possessive Ex, that he was.

T.J. marched her all the way home, in through the front doors of the pack-house, he was not however expecting that just about all the other Alpha's and their Betas, to be sitting around in the foyer common room drinking with Alpha Damien and his father Beta Jonathan. He found several pairs of eyes on him and her.

He glanced right down at her frowning, she really did look pissed off and her eyes were still kind of glowing he noted, pulled her passed all of them, quite quickly, she did struggle a little bit, but his Beta's Strength was no match for her at all and she had no choice but to fall in line and follow him.

Yelled at him about it 'not being fair' at the top of her lungs, T.J. knew that every Alpha and Beta on the floor below them would have heard her. Hell she could have said it normally, or even under her breath and all those Alpha's if they were so inclined and wanted to listen would have heard her with their hearing.

Telling her she was just going to have to deal with it, which she was going to have to do. Unless she wanted West up here in her face, putting more Alpha orders on her, she needed to just suck it up. He could only do so much and intervene at certain times, he was still only the Beta and West was the Alpha.

That crack about her attending the up coming mating ball, finding her mate and then leaving the pack. Shocked him completely, she'd just gotten back, it was a bit strained but with the history it was bound to be, just needed time to let things settle. She had still be yelling at him and those eyes of hers were all glowing now, right at him, all silver glowing bright like neon.

It was unlikely, very unlikely that West was going to let her anywhere near that mating ball. Didn't even like the fact that she was here in the pack-house with Alpha and Beta males without a full moon. Putting her in a room full of them on a full moon. Likely not going to happen, it was more likely she was going to be locked in this very room with West staring right at her.

Slammed the door right in his face, then opened it and slammed it again. T.J. could have sworn the thing was about to go flying off its hinges and smash right out of the door frame and into him, had actually taken a step back away from it, braced himself for the impact.

What the hell was that? He thought.

He could have sworn he felt raw power roll off the woman, had no idea what to make of it, just stood there and stare at the door, could see cracks in the wood, reached out and

touched it those cracks so many of them, that was one hell of force she'd slammed that door with. And it was slightly warm to the touch.

What the hell was that? He frowned, was not going to go inside and find out, might not like what else came out of the woman, turned and walked away down the hall. Down the stairs, something was definitely different about her since she returned, likely why she smelled different, why her eyes were different and now bloody glowing.

Found himself under the gaze of everyone in the room glanced around and sighed internally, then just smiled amused at them all as though nothing was wrong, shrugged half laughed and stated "Teach me to take her drink right out of her hand and down it for myself." then headed off to get himself a beer. He needed it, had a lot to absorb right now.

"Looked very unhappy son." his father commented to him.

"Yes." he nodded, but was not about to disclose what he had just witnessed up at her room. Would be keeping that to himself until all these alpha's were off the packs territory and gone. It was likely that his little Jo-Jo, was not only just a wolf, but part something else, though what he had no idea.

West walked in the door and looked right at him, wanted him to report. He had and the man had simply turned in for the night. T.J. had watched him stop briefly on the first floor and look down the hallway to where her room was, maybe stood for 5 seconds, then he turned and moved on, heading for his room.

His eyes had returned to the room to find Beta Jeremy walking right over to him, leaned casually on the wall next to him "my my."

T.J, raised an eyebrow at him.

"Nice set of eyes the woman has."

"Stop." T.J. shot at him with a warning glare.

"Hmm. I'm betting by the look on your face, that's the first time you've see it."

"Enough Beta." he grated and rolled his Aura right at him, letting him know that yes he was a Beta but was also Alpha-blooded too.

The man tilted his head, smiled right at him like it didn't phase him at all "We all saw it. Just so you know. You might like to know. My Mate's eyes glow too." he nodded to him and then walked off, back over to his alpha, who had been watching them.

Was the man trying to tell him something, perhaps he understood what was going on, maybe he was trying to put across that he was up for a private conversation before he left. T.J. didn't know.

But just great every one of them Alpha and Beta's had seen it, including Alpha Damien and his own father, there was no hope in hiding it then. West was going to find out, but if this lot started talking about it West would be on him like a shot for not bringing it up with him the minute he walked in the door.

He downed his beer and one long drink and stalked off up to his own room 'Son?'

'Not now.' he shot back down the mind-link. Didn't want to get into it.

'Son, why the anger?'

'Let it go dad.' he replied and severed the link, he was actually one of the most laid back and easy going wolves within the pack, and for him to go and stalk off all angry and annoyed, it never went unnoticed.

T.J. stripped off his clothes and looked down at the inside of his right bicep, it wasn't the first time he'd looked at the mark there. Not since seeing Jo-Jo's back the other day when being patched up in the pack hospital. He had not seen all of it, but T.J. was willing to bet she had 5 moons all the way down her back, like he had 5 moons down the inside of his arm. Just appeared the night she had left. 2 in the morning, it had burned like hell when branding him.

Didn't know what it had meant at the time. Or why it had appeared, it had not escaped his attention that it was the day she had been born. Roughly, well now, was likely the exact time she had been born.

He still recalled that night, vividly so. He'd been just 4 and had woken up in the middle of the night, in his bedroom, crawled out of his bed and stared out his bedroom window. He'd felt cold all over and had heard a baby crying out there somewhere, sounded sad and he'd felt pain touch him, even at just 4 years old, felt so very cold and alone.

He'd left his room, to go and wake his father.

"Daddy, I hear a baby crying." he'd tapped his sleeping father's shoulder, as he had stood next to the bed.

His father's eyes had opened, just barely, and looked at him still half asleep, and then he'd closed his eyes and sighed.

"Daddy, I hear a baby crying." he'd repeated himself.

“Son.” he’d sighed, sounded tired to little Terence’s ear “there is no baby crying.” he’d not even opened his eyes.

“But daddy,” he’d tugged at his own father’s arm now. He could hear the baby and it was crying, it was somewhere outside in the snow “the baby’s crying.”

“There is no baby Terence.”

“But daddy.”

“Go back to bed son. I hear no baby.” he’d given Terence a gentle push towards the door “it was just a dream son.”

Terence had left his father frowning, there was a baby and it was alone and cold, crying somewhere outside, in the snow. He knew it, he could feel it. He could hear it.

He was convinced, even if his father was not. There was a baby and he was very worried, something was going to happen to that baby, if he didn’t go and find it. Went back to his room and looked out the window worriedly.

‘If daddy won’t help, I will find the baby myself.’ he had pulled on a pair of shoes and headed for the door to the room. But he had not been big enough to get it open. Struggled for many minutes with it, before going to his room and getting his small chair to use to stand on so he could better reach the door handle and open the door.

Left the suite they lived in and headed off down the darkened passageway, hurriedly heading for the front doors, there was no one around, no nanny to pick him up and take him back to his father or to his bed.

Pushed out through the front doors and went out into the bitter coldness of the winter night, snow was falling lightly that night, and he ran away from the passageway in knee deep snow, in search of that baby so cold and still crying. With every step he took he snow getting deeper, the further from the passageway he had gotten. The louder he could hear that baby crying.

No one was out looking or searching for the baby, he recalled, no-one could hear it, but him. He ran on searching “I’m coming.” he called out to the crying baby, worried as the cries were becoming less, it was too cold for a baby out here.

Then there it was, lying in the snow, wrapped in a light cloth, not a blanket, a torn piece of clothing maybe. A little girl lay there in the snow, her tiny arms and legs moving as she sobbed, her little grey eyes filled with tears, her lashes had frozen tears on them from the cold winter’s night, and there was snow covering half of her tiny body.



He had reached down and brushed the snow from her and told her "I got you." softly. Picked up the tiny baby and cradled her into his body, the little girl had looked right up at him and stopped crying.

Little Terence had smiled down at her, held her into his chest, keeping her as warm as he could, as he walked back to the pack-house and through the front doors, she is sleeping in his arms now, feels warmer now and Terence feels happy. He had been right and he had saved her. Carried that baby girl all the way back to his father. Walking into the Beta's suite he'd not closed the door when he'd left.

Walked right up to his father, still sleeping in his bed "Daddy." he says happily, knowing his daddy would be so proud of him, for saving the baby.

"Terence son, please it's late, go back to bed." he'd grumbled without looking at his son.

"But daddy, I found the baby." he tells him proudly.

"What?" his fathers eyes open and he turned to look at his son, standing next to his bed holding a baby.

Terence smiled up at his daddy "See daddy, its a little girl."

His father was really staring at him now, wide awake, reached out to touch the baby as though he didn't believe what he was seeing.

"She's stopped crying now daddy."

"Where did you get the baby son?" his father had asked him.

"Out in the snow daddy, she was crying and all alone." he smiled down at the little girl he'd still been holding "She's sleeping now daddy."

His father had reached for the baby "Give her to me son."

Terence had shook his head and stepped back from his father "No daddy, she's my baby. You didn't believe me."

"Son come on, give her to me." his father had encouraged him.

"No." he'd told his father firmly "She's mine daddy." he looked back down at the little girl in his arms "I will name her...Jo-Jo."

"Son you can't keep her, she's someone's baby."

"She's mine." Terence had told him and turned and left his father's bedroom, to take little Jo-Jo back to his room. Climbed up into his bed with her, tucked her blankets around her and lay down next to her put his hand on her tiny chest and pat her gently.

Alpha Damien and Luna Natalia had appeared in his room to look at the baby, tried to coax him to give her over, but he would not, she was his baby to look after and protect now.

He had went where little Jo-Jo had gone the next day, his hand in the Luna's hand as she had carried little Jo-Jo, down the hall, having removed her from a very unhappy Terence's care.

No-one had stepped forward to claim the little girl and Terence had told the Luna, it was because she was his baby. Wanted to keep her for himself. Threw a tantrum as she'd handed little Jo-Jo over to a man, who promised to keep her safe and love her as his own.

That man had hunkered down in front of the little Terence who was crying and upset at losing his baby. He didn't want her taken away from him, he'd let little Terence kiss her right on the head gently to say goodbye "bye Jo-Jo." he'd sobbed.

"Jo-Jo, huh? It's pretty. Why don't we call her Jo-anne and just you, young man can call her Jo-Jo."

Little Terence had looked up at the man and nodded 'My baby too.'

He'd watched that man walk out of the Luna's office with his Jo-Jo.

T.J, sighed at his own memory, still bloody tugged at his heart strings, he was willing to bet that mark on her back just appeared as his did that day. But what did it mean? They had always been strongly connected. He lay down and stretched out on his bed, now to see her eyes glowing like that, to feel actual power roll off of her and that door hot to touch and splintered from the slamming.

Rubbed his hand over his face, he didn't know. No-one knew anything about her. He'd not been able to show them where he had found her out in the snow. They'd never found her birth mother either. Just a lone baby out in the snow, in the middle of the pack's woods on a dark and moonless night.

Only he had been able to hear her, no-one had seen anyone coming or going from the pack, it was presumed the mother was someone within the pack, but hadn't wanted the little girl for whatever reason.

Heath had raised her and no-one knew she wasn't actually his daughter. His Mate had died in childbirth the day before Terence had found her and everyone just presumed the child had survived, only a select few knew she was an orphan.

He knew, always had as did his father, the Alpha and Luna, likely the entire previous Alpha Unit, and Heath but other than that, just he and West.

Who was she? What was she? Was she now well adjusted because of what she was? She did seem different to him at times. T.J. raised his arm and looked at the mark. Everyone thought it was a tattoo, even West did. He'd never correct the man, when he'd asked about it a week after it had appeared.

## **Chapter 26 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

West woke up alone, for the first time in a long time. Actually didn't mind it, dressed and headed down stairs. He'd slept late, not something he would normally do, it was almost time for his first meeting, and was likely going to miss breakfast in the pack-house and would have to scavenge something from the kitchen in all likelihood.

His first meeting of the day was Alpha Thomas, was headed to his office, a sandwich in his hand, a mouthful of food, when he saw Miranda walk in through the pack-house front doors, carrying her shoes, still wearing the same clothes she'd had on yesterday at dinner.

Locked eyes with him, West raised an eyebrow as he continued to chew his mouthful. He had come to a halt at seeing her, it did not escape his attention that she looked dishevelled, had not been alone. That was for sure. She stared right at him, tilted her head slightly as she looked right back at him "What?" she'd stated, and then walked on by him heading for the pack-house stairs. It was very clear to him she had been out with others. Likely the Alpha and Beta's.

Turned and watched her walk off and up the stairs, her father was coming down the stairs, frowned right at her. It would not escape his Alpha sense of smell, that she smelled like someone other than West. Watched as the man snapped a hand around her arm and pulled her in close to him, they had a private conversation through their Mind-Link to which she simply yanked her arm from his hand and stalked off up the stairs.

The man turned to find West's eyes right on him, he was frowning. West realised this meeting with him was about to get very interesting, he thought, and turned to head into his office. T.J. was sitting behind his desk, looked up at West and nodded in acknowledgement, then shut down whatever he had been doing, and stood up to give West his desk back.

"Miranda just came home." he commented.

"What?" T.J. seemed completely shocked.

“Still wearing clothes from last night. Her father saw that I saw her.”

“Interesting.” T.J. nodded “We need to talk about Jo-Jo.”

“Why?” he asked.

“Something happened, something weird. I don’t want you hearing it from anyone else.”

“Alright.” West indicated for him to continue as he finished the last of his breakfast.

“Her eyes glowed, and I mean glowed like bright neon lights.”

West was staring at him now, “What?” he asked, though he too had thought last night they were a little on the iridescent side, but had put it down to the street light shining on them.

“Everyone saw it. Just wanted to let you know, before you heard it else where.”

“Alright.” he nodded “Might have to deal with it later.” He had back to back meetings all day today, likely wouldn’t leave his office except for meals, and they were going to go right up until that formal dinner tonight.

Alpha Thomas sank down in the chair across from him, to discuss the alliance he had with West’s Pack, to bring about a new alliance now that he was in charge. Hesitated, West knew the man had been going to push for a Mating Alliance, but now, after seeing his daughter, was apparently unsure about doing so.

West did not bring it up. He didn’t particularly want one with the girl. Didn’t mention her stroll into the pack-house at all. They all knew she had been out with some other Alpha or Beta in all likelihood, it was likely that her father was very annoyed with her, right this minute. Screwed up his plans.

So a standard pack alliance was agreed upon, assistance given for rogue attacks or enemy attacks, an actual number of warriors allocated to it and his and his Beta’s presence and Alpha Thomas had to agree to the same, though he would send his son and the future Beta. West didn’t care much about that the man was going to take over in a few months anyway. Better to deal with him. Though he was currently sitting quietly in a chair not actively participating in the meeting, just observing.

Nodded to West as to say he was okay with it. West voiced no objection at all. Then they were all heading out of the office. Alpha Thomas stopped at the door and turned back to look at West. “Are you even mad at her?”

“No,” West answered, he had been shocked by it but was not mad. He’d told her to go and find someone else if she wanted to. So she had. He couldn’t be upset or mad about

it, he'd never been faithful to her, and though he didn't like the thought of someone else having sex with his current woman, he had told her to go and do it.

"Why not Westley? She has been with you for 2 years?"

"Is not my Mate, she can do as she pleases, see who she wants to and leave anytime she likes."

"That's it?"

"That's it. She knew this. To be honest, I was thinking about sending her home with you."

"Sounds like a very good idea," the man nodded.

West nodded right back. "You can tell her."

He watched as her father and his Beta left the office. T.J. looked right at him, "Thought you were considering."

"Was considering...Maybe she'll leave on her own and I will go back to just waiting." he shrugged "Wait and see, might not leave yet, just a little payback probably since I told her I was never faithful to her."

"You actually told her...and you're alright with that, her sleeping around."

West stared at him. "Have to be. I was never faithful. Why should she be?"

T.J. just shook his head seemed a little dismayed by West's uncaring attitude.

One meeting after another, all pack alliances mostly stayed the same, the previous ones well written in the first place by his father and former Beta. Only a few minor adjustments here or there. But nothing major needed to be changed for the most part.

He was headed for the pack-house dining room, for lunch with T.J. when his eyes landed on a sight that made him frown. His sister Emma, barely 18, was sitting on the lap of a Beta in his pack-house foyer. She was all smiles and he noted that just off to her right were his other two sisters. The remaining set of his triplet sisters. They were leaning on the back of a couch, staring at the man, all dreamy-eyed and smiling.

Marched himself over there "Get your hands off my sister." he muttered.

Saw it was Beta Leighton of the Crescent Moon Pack, the man looked right up at him, and smiled openly, clearly not bothered by West's unhappiness at the situation. "My hands are not on your sister." he replied and lifted both his hands up off the arms of his chair, the man was not actually touching her it seemed.

“Emma Get up.” he snapped at her.

“No.” she pouted up at him and then, to his disbelief, turned and buried her face into the man’s neck. He heard both her identical siblings oohing and aahing. West turned to look at them, they paid him no attention whatsoever. Both were now resting their chins in their hands, apparently very happy.

“Emma, get up or I will remove you. This type of behaviour is unacceptable.”

He had to watch as she just snuggled further into the Beta, who was smiling quite happily, and clearly was not about to help West out. So he reached down to grab hold of Emma to make her get up. If she wouldn’t do it herself, he would remove her from the man’s lap himself. Only to have Beta Leighton’s wolf surface instantly and snarl right at him all aggression.

Volt surfaced instantly at the threat his wolf was making. Emma giggled and to his shock, saw her wolf push forward and start rubbing her face into the man’s neck.

“I don’t think my Wolf Jax or hers want to be Separated, Alpha Westley.” Beta Leighton informed him quite calmly. His wolf had more interest in his sister’s wolf, reacting to his surfacing. The bloody thing was purring at her.

“It’s not a full moon,” West stated flatly.

“No it is not.” the man nodded and looked up at him “But I, too, am a triplet, have two identical brothers myself, back in our pack.” the man’s eyes moved to West’s other two sisters, Dana and Anna, who were still looking at him all dreamy-eyed.

“Till the full moon comes. Keep your paws off my sister.” West snapped.

“My paws are well under control, and I will be coming back for the next full moon. Pretty sure Emma here is my Mate. She landed herself in my lap without warning, and won’t leave. My wolf, Jax, is more than happy, I can tell you.”

West glared at the man, it was likely if he was also a triplet, and by the way, both Dana and Anna were staring at the man, that he was Emma’s Mate and his two brothers would be his other sisters’ Mates. He rubbed his temples and sighed. Separating her from his wolf seemed would start a fight. He had to get her to leave on her own.

Looked down at his sister for a minute, then stated “Emma, take your sisters and go tell mother.”

Her head whipped up in an instant, then she was off his lap a second later. Beta Leighton’s wolf growled a little and he watched as Emma turned and giggled at him and then she and her two sisters all linked arms and headed up the stairs to find their mother and tell her the seemingly possible good news.

"I don't like it," West informed him.

"Not up to you. The Goddess will do as she pleases." he was informed right back.

Turned to follow them up the stairs himself to try and sort this out, only to find Jo-anne coming down the stairs to the foyer, a place filled with visiting Alpha's and Beta's. Volt snarled up at her, unhappy at the situation, did not want her anywhere near any of them. He was looking right at her, fully on the surface.

West watched as she tilted her head slightly, sighed a little heavily and then turned herself around and walked back up the stairs, his wolf stalked her to the first floor, then relinquished control, so West could go up to his parents' suite. ' Please stay in your room for the moment.' he mind-linked her.

'Whatever.' she stated, sounded annoyed to be honest. He let it go. Had to deal with other things. He found his three sisters all talking at once at his mother in her suite, all very excitedly, she looked a little overwhelmed, and shushed them. Waved them to the couch.

Turned to him "There is a Beta downstairs, claims to be a triplet himself, identical at that...Emma," he glared at his little sister "Attached herself to him, rubbed herself all over him, right there in front of not just me but a room full of Alpha's and Beta's."

Watched his mother's eyes widen slightly and then turned to her daughter, Emma smiled up at her brightly. "He's the one, mother, I just know it. Even Jazzy feels it." Jazzy being her wolf.

"What Pack West?" she simply asked him.

"Crescent Moon Pack." he replied.

"Then we'd better extend a mating ball invitation to them. Wait and see I guess...have you had your meeting with them yet?"

" Not yet. Later in the afternoon," he admitted.

"I'd like to be there West. So will your father when I tell him." she looked back to the triplets and then at him.

West just nodded, it was unavoidable his mother and father would want to see it for themselves "put some rules down for her. At least."

"Of course," his mother nodded at him. Though she did not seem upset about them not being mated off to a Beta, he'd known she was hoping for an Alpha match. Though they did not know any Alpha triplets, not allied to them anyway.



West left the suite he had grown up in. Just bloody great, everyone of his siblings, all 5 of them Mated off before him and he was the oldest. Made his way back down stairs, walked himself along the first floor and was about to knock on Jo-anne's door when he saw that it had cracks all over it, 'what the hell' had someone tried to break into her room? But then he noticed some of the wood was splintered outwards, towards him. That wouldn't happen if someone was trying to break in. break out maybe. Shook his head.

Rapped on the door twice and opened it, bloody thing was again unlocked. "What happened to your door?" he pointed to it.

Watched as she got up and looked at it. Shrugged "I don't know. Didn't look like that last night when you had T.J. drag me home."

He ignored her shot at him, "There was nearly and Alpha on Beta fight down stairs. Volt just wanted Clova away from it, in case it escalated. I did not mean to snarl at you like that." he tried to explain his reaction to seeing her heading down into a room full of Alpha and Beta's.

"Fine."

"Do you need something, I'll have it sent up." he offered, she must have been going somewhere.

"I can go and get what I need myself."

"I would prefer, for now, you stay in the room." he told her in all honesty and he did prefer it, "please," he added.

"You can't keep me locked up. It's not right." she stated flatly.

"I won't be, just for today. Please stay in your room, in case things get out of hand, is all."

"And how am I supposed to eat?" she snapped, her arms folded across her chest. She was glaring at him and he knew she did not believe him, but didn't voice it.

There was no kitchen in here. She was right, likely had been headed downstairs for lunch. "I'll have that door fixed, please lock your door, I'll send up some lunch for you." he said and left the room. Frustrating day to say the least.

The meeting with Crescent Moon Pack was interesting. The minute Emma walked into his office she was all over, that Beta, all dreamy-eyed, not even Wests' father said anything about his daughter's behaviour, just stood watching.

Beta Leighton did not encourage anything, simply stood with his hands in his pockets as Emma was all over him, leaning on him and smiling up at him, touched the man's chest and then his face. Leighton smiled down at her when she touched his face and everyone in the room saw Emma practically melt into the man, closed her eyes and sighed softly to herself.

To West's surprise, his mother asked Beta Leighton to put a call into his bothers, and had him put it on loud speaker. He did just that, even told his brother Dylan he'd found his Mate she was a triplet, got the man's undivided attention, yelled instantly for their other brother Stephen to come to the phone.

Dana had been the first to react to the man's voice, stepped right over and touched the phone. Her eyes right on it, her head tilted to the left, When Stephen called him a lucky son of a bitch, Anna moaned out loud at the sound of his voice, and suddenly the pair of them were huddled around Leighton were both touching his phone.

Yes definitely most likely Mates. Both of them looked up at Leighton when he'd disconnected the call, sadness in their eyes, he smiled at them and said "I will bring them for you," didn't stop them turning to their mother, still looking like they'd lost the most important thing in the world to them.

They had extended the mating ball invite, and Leighton had actually turned to his Alpha looking for permission to accept it. It was unlikely he was going to stop his Beta from claiming his mate, or having his pack receive 3 alpha-blooded females into his pack for that matter. His Alpha nodded without issue.

His mother escorted his sisters from the room, to their reluctance, Leighton just stood and smiled, seemed he was happy enough to wait for his Mate, until there was actually a full moon. West was curious about that, but left it alone. A whole new alliance would have to be made up now, one to protect the triplets, a guarantee that they would be safe, so to speak.

So their current meeting was put off until after the next full moon, no point in hashing out all the details now, only to have to redo it and change it all in a matter of weeks, so the decision to keep their current alliance til then was made.

His last meeting of the day was Alpha Nicholas and his Beta Jeremy. Their alliance had actually come through the Wolfen Council itself. Alpha Nicholas had a very effective law firm that dealt with contractual law, and the Wolfen Council had wanted a third party not affiliated with West, in anyway, to sit down draw up the contracts around the non-allied packs to West using his new airline. West had not objected, it was a good idea, and he wasn't getting a choice in the matter. Without the third party, his business was a no go.

West had to have a sit down in the Wolfen Council chambers. Alpha Nicholas's size had shocked West. He'd thought he was tall at 6ft 6inches, but clearly not. It did not escape

the man's attention either that both T.J. and he were shocked by the size of him. Just smiled at their widened eyes.

They had to go over all the details, with Alpha Nicholas's legal team. He had stayed for the whole thing himself. Details that West expected, the controversy and complications of non-allied packs using the airline, rules and compliance's, not just for the safety of his crew, but for the safety of those travelling wolves as well.

The potential fights mid flight and on the ground in the terminal if rival packs were both using the same flight, a logistical nightmare, it had taken well over a week, going back and forth. Insurance policy's and punishment policy's how everything would be dealt with, and there had been two council members in that room the whole time as well, to voice their concerns or veto whatever they saw fit.

Once it had all been sorted out, to the Wolfen Council's liking, a proper business alliance had been made between his pack and Alpha Nicholas's pack, but now that he had changed his pack's name, new paper work had to be done, it was just a formality. West could well imagine that Alpha Nicholas was in alliance meetings constantly at the moment.

He was just signing his signature when Alpha Nicholas stated "Your Artist?"

"What about her?" West looked right at the man. As T.J. signed the new contract as a witness.

"My Beta here, and I would like to commission her to paint portraits of our Mate's, I want one of my Mate with her wolf next to her."

"That can be arranged." West nodded. He saw no problems with it at all, to be honest.

"I'd also like one of my entire Alpha Unit with their Mates. To go in my pack-house foyer."

West raised an eyebrow now. "Why?" he couldn't make sense of that. His pack had a tradition of painting the Alpha and the Luna, but that was just for history, so future leaders could look back on them and know who they were.

"I hand picked everyone in my unit. Unlike you West, I was not born to be the Heir, and this will be the packs new beginnings on display for all to see. We who turned the pack around."

"I'd have to talk to her about that."

"I'm sure, she would enjoy coming to my pack to paint." he smiled right at West.

West frowned at him, got the distinct impression he was trying to get information out of him about Jo-anne, but why? the man had a Mate. "I'm certain she won't be going to your pack. Take a high quality photo and email it to me, we'll go from there."

Alpha Nicholas leaned back in his chair and looked at him for a full minute, then smiled right at him "She smells like a Luna, you know. That will likely attract Alpha Males to her."

West was frowning now. "You smelled her?"

He nodded, "I did, those eyes of hers made me very curious, and well now, with what I saw last night, very curious, as I imagine will be every other Alpha here, right now. What is she?"

"A wolf."

"I don't think so, or at least not entirely, there is definitely something else in her bloodline. Something that also, will likely attract Alpha Males to her."

"What's your point, Nicholas?"

He shook his head. "No real point just thinking out loud for you. You know you can't keep something you rejected, that is not fair to the woman...who I'm guessing was your Luna once."

"I did not reject her." West corrected him. In fact, he had tried to beg the woman not to leave him.

"Now that is interesting, why did you accept it then? seems to me...you still want the woman."

West sighed he was a perceptive bastard, and didn't beat around the bush it seemed.

"I had to. No choice, in fact."

"Had no choice? I doubt that."

"I did not have a choice in it. The minute the words were out of her mouth, my Mark on her disappeared from her skin. I watched it and hadn't even accepted it. Seems the Goddess was in agreement with her decision. Granted her what she wanted, regardless of what I wanted."

"Now that is interesting."

"Not really, considering our circumstances. Which, before you ask, I'd rather not get into, if you don't mind."

“Fair enough...Just a suggestion if you’re open to it West...tell the woman how you feel, even if you have to do it a hundred times to make it sink in. Sometimes...trust needs to be built.” then he stood up and left. “I’ll email those pictures and the sizes I want.” he stated as he left West's office.

Tell the woman how he felt? He shook his head, yeah that was going to work, probably should have done it while they were together. He sighed their relationship was way too complicated. Nothing was likely to fix it, he rubbed his temples and leaned back in his chair.

“That’s all the meetings West.”

“Good, let’s get through this dinner and then I’m going to bed. I am tired.”

T.J. smiled at him. “And I thought training with you was exhausting? Sitting in this office is worse. Glad it’s you in that chair and not me, my friend.”

## **Chapter 27 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

She woke up to her body hot all down her moons, and a shiver rolling through her body. Goddess she could swear the shivers were more frequent than they had been prior to coming home to the pack. Pulled the pillow over her face and lay there in her bed and accepted it. Goddess, it really did feel like someone was touching her today, and damned near everywhere, it was curling her toes, she moaned into her pillow, gasped out loud, tossing the pillow away to roll over on to her stomach as the heat down her moons increased and ecstasy rolled through her body. Pushed herself up onto all fours and all the way back as though there was some one behind her, driving himself inside of her, cried out as her hands dug into the sheets as her orgasm ripped through her body long and draw out like it was just not going to stop, Oh goddess it didn’t stop rolled her right into a second one, her left hand snapped and gripped the bed head tightly as she came again, finally when it was over her whole body sagged down onto the bed.

Just lay there, all hot and sweaty, her panties drenched and tried to recover from it, just breathing deeply in and out to try and calm down her racing heart, Clova, she noted, was all stretched out in her mind, rolling around, appeared very satisfied herself. Had thoroughly enjoyed this morning's shivers herself, it seemed.

It was always more intense if they just let themselves enjoy it. Didn’t resist against it. And today she had done just that. Allowed herself to feel it all, revelled in the pleasure of it. Damned shivers, when were they going to stop? And if not...when she found her Mate how was she going to explain it to him? Goddess he would probably just sit back and enjoy watching it, or join in. She had no idea.

Got up out of the bed 15 minutes later, finally fully recovered and back to normal, had a shower, stayed in there and just stood under the hot water to enjoy the feel of it, so relaxed right now, she didn't think anything would bother her. Really wished this room had a bath tub. Oh, that would be so nice, just lay in there in the warm water, could stay in there right now for at least an hour.

Had breakfast in the pack-house dining room, just after 8am, got to see some more of the Alpha and Beta's first hand, had come prepared with her cards. Walked around and introduced herself to them one at a time and gave her card to their Beta's she knew not to try and hand anything directly to the Alpha. If she wasn't a ranked member, she could do so but was not.

Sank down and enjoyed her breakfast. Found herself sitting with a couple of her friends from last night, all smiling and happy. "Have a good time?" she teased them.

"Yes." they all giggled.

Jo-anne just shook her head at them, they all wandered off after breakfast, headed out to the lake to go for a morning swim and then off to do some shopping in the town's centre, which had a small mall. She picked up a few more clothes, checked her bank balance and damned near dropped her phone, there was over a 100 grand in there, where the hell did that come from? She checked the deposit, which was pack related. Bit her lip for a moment. Who knew, only West or Alpha Damien could likely approve that amount of money.

She knew West would be busy all day today, as would T.J. mind-linked Alpha Damien about it.

'Good the boy paid you out. Finally.'

'Paid me out? For what?' Jo-anne enquired.

'He broke your work contract, and your art exhibition contracts. I tallied up how much money you would have earned, put my seal on him breaching your contract, so the pack had to pay you out.'

Jo-anne had just stood there, more than a little dumb founded but she guessed it did make sense, she had not breached her contract.

'Thank you Alpha Damien.'

'Its alright Jo-anne. I quite liked putting my idiot of a boy, in his Alpha place.'

She snorted and then apologised, realising Alpha Damien would have heard her.

'It's fine Jo-anne, I always did like you. I'm glad your here matter of fact, might bring my idiot son to his senses.'

'I don't think I can help you on that one.'

'We'll see.' he sounded quite happy about putting West in his place.

So she did shop, bought a bunch of new clothes. She didn't have many with her, just what had been in her carry-on, half a dozen outfits and that dress she'd gotten from Steffan Lang. Returned to her room and sorted it all out and hung it up, smiled at them. Happy with her choices, lots of pretty colours, blues, pinks, greens and yellows and whites. Dresses and blouses and skirts. Had even managed to get herself a soft grey silk, knee-length, open-backed dress with a small lace collar and lace running down from it to her hips on either side of her back, a pretty halterneck dress.

She had tried it on and it suited her, even all her friends encouraged her to buy it, even went well with her moons. One of her friends, Julie, had looked at her moons and tilted her head slightly, then just smiled and shook her head. No explanation given though as to her reaction to it. Jo-anne was going to wear it for the Mating ball that was being held in a few weeks. She intended to go to it. Miranda had invited her.

Jo-anne was headed down stairs for lunch, she could see West down there in a bit of an altercation with a Beta. It looked like his little sister Emma had likely found her Mate, then West turned to come up the stairs. She was heading down when he spotted her, was snarled at very aggressively by him or Volt, who knew, she just sighed and turned and walked back up the stairs, to go back to her room. She knew what that snarl meant. Yes, she had seen all the Alpha's and Beta's lounging around down there on her way down the stairs. It didn't bother her, she was not looking to hook up, or attract one of them, for that matter.

But clearly it bothered him. Why she had no idea, knew he'd once been very unhappy about her being around other Alpha males, but that had been due to their Mate Bond and Volts' possessiveness over Clova. The man and his wolf were nuts, it seemed. They had a Mate, so why it annoyed him or his wolf was a mystery.

Being here was becoming increasingly difficult, if the man couldn't even let go of the past, or whatever issues he had where she was concerned, she might just have to go rogue so she could leave and find another pack to take her in. likely have to be an allied pack, she didn't know if she could trust and un-allied pack. At least an allied pack would know who she was, so there would be a better chance of being accepted. The question was, would they call West? and tell him. She shook her head.

Hadn't been here long enough to know if she could stay here or not. Just needed to adjust to being back in the pack. Seemed so did he, have to adjust to her being here. Likely hated looking at her, knowing their history and how he'd felt about her, when she'd been here before.



West stepped into her room a little while later, after knocking but not waiting for her to answer, just walked on in like he owned the joint. Oh, that thought stopped her, he actually did own this room. The entire pack, no matter where she went or stayed, he could just stroll in without knocking if he so chose.

She actually had no idea what had happened to her door, why it looked banged up a bit, she had pretty much passed out on her bed the minute she'd flopped down on it after yelling at T.J. had felt exhausted and was out like a light.

She stood and listened to his excuse as to why he or Volt, he stated, had snarled at her, didn't care for it to be honest, she would have stayed well away from a wolf on wolf fight, knew better than to get involved. Wondered if she would be allowed to take up training, she didn't see why not, but...who knew what her new Alpha wanted? Only him likely.

He sent up a meal for her, seeing as she was now to stay in her room for the rest of the afternoon, luckily she had plenty of pictures to go through to find that perfect portrait to paint, and although she was still annoyed with him, she was a professional and had been asked to complete a job. That and painting did always calm her down, she could just get lost in it.

Stand or sit at her easel and paint, her headphones on, music to her ears and just focus only on the art itself, her supplies would come tomorrow and she could then start it. Once it was underway, she would be more than happy, to stay in her room. Day in and day out.

West wouldn't even know she was here, she would be well and truly out of sight and out of mind. What trouble could she get into for just staying in her room and painting? Hopefully none that was what.

It was just after 8pm when she left her room to find food. He had not sent dinner up so presumably it was alright for her to go into town and grab something, the pack-house dining room would be closed by now. It was Saturday night there would be a few places in the town centre still open. She could get take away and purchase some snacks too. Her stomach was growling at her, she was very hungry.

Was walking down the first floor hallway heading for the staircase when she found herself face to face with an Alpha, "Well, hello," he smiled down at her.

"Hello." she acknowledged him right back, tried to step around him only to have him step right in front of her yet again.

"Excuse me." she begged his pardon.

"What's your name?" he asked, though it wasn't so much as he didn't seem to know, but more like he was trying to see if he had recognised her.

She looked right at him, he did seem a bit familiar to her, had light blue eyes and blonde hair, stood about the same height as West, similar build at that she noticed. He was smiling right at her, seemed a bit older to her. He was a very nice looking Alpha, all charm and smiles, she noted. He was dressed in a navy blue suit, his pale blue dress shirt was undone three buttons and his tie had been undone and was hanging down on either side of his collar.

“Jo-anne.” she answered him. “Could I please pass?”

He stepped right up to her, his eyes seemed to light up instantly at her name, and she backed right up. He followed without hesitation, right until she was pressed up against the wall in the hallway, staring up at him. He leaned a hand on the wall next to her face. He was still smiling down at her. His other hand touched her face gently, her eyes widened as she stared up at him.

“It’s a lovely name, lovely like you are.” he leaned down as though to kiss her, his voice dropped so soft and smooth.

Jo-anne gasped, what was he doing? She didn’t know him, his eyes were on hers. “Pretty eyes, Jo-anne.” he said softly, and then she felt his thumb brush across her lower lip, saw his eyes move to her mouth.

She sucked in a breath and saw him smile even more. Her heart rate increased at the thought that he was going to kiss her. She’d never been kissed before, only Volt had kissed Clova in human form. West had not once even attempted it.

Felt her heart rate suddenly double, “Would you like me to kiss you?” he asked her. Would likely have picked up on her reaction to him with his Alpha senses.

Jo-anne had no idea to be honest, this was all new to her. Did she want that? Maybe she did! Felt his hand slide down her neck softly, and around into her hair.

“I would like too.” he told her softly, his mouth was so close to hers, his lips so close to hers, they brushed hers as he spoke, then they were touching hers, gentle but firmly pressed on hers. She gasped in surprise, not really knowing what to do, put her hand on his chest to push him away, only to have him lean into her completely, his body pressed up against hers.

His mouth moved over hers and she couldn’t help but close her eyes and let him kiss her. Her first real kiss, a man willing to kiss her, wanted to touch her, felt tears prick her eyes. Never had she felt wanted before, leaned into him a little and just enjoyed it for what it was.

When he leaned back from her, he smiled down at her, as her eyes opened and looked up to his “Alpha Jayden Crown, the Silver Moon Pack.”

Jo-anne blinked, she knew that pack. "Your pack is from the Olympic National Park area."

"Yes, backs right onto the ocean, beautiful view, you should come visit."

Jo-anne sighed, "I can't, I'm sorry." she wasn't allowed off the pack's territory.

His eyes moved to her neck, to her mark spot, he raised an eyebrow at her. "You're not Marked, you could request a visit. Where allied packs."

His hand was touching her face softly. "I will personally guarantee your safety."

Jo-anne stared up at him, "I...I can't." she stammered, her heart was still beating inside her chest, at his touch, how soft it was, like he wanted nothing more than to touch her.

"She can not." West's voice sounded very angry, her eyes shot to where it had come from, and she realised that Alpha Jayden was still touching her face and was practically leaning up against her. Felt West's hand clamp around her wrist and she was pulled out and away from Alpha Jayden's body quite abruptly.

Alpha Jayden just smiled right at West "Why can't she West? I would not harm her."

"Because as her Alpha, I said so." he snapped back, and then he was dragging her down the hallway back to her room. She turned and looked at Alpha Jayden, mouthed the word sorry at him, he just stood and watched.

Jo-anne was pulled right into her room and the next thing she knew was shoved up against the wall next to her bed. West was staring down at her, he was fuming, she could feel waves of anger coming off of him. She had not done anything wrong, that man had kissed her, it wasn't her fault.

"Why would you let him, touch you like that?" he grated out at her.

"West I..." she didn't know what to say to calm him down, "I...I didn't do anything wrong," she stammered finally.

He leaned right down to her ear, he was breathing quite hard and his jaw was ticking. "You will never let another man touch you, Jo-anne."

"What?" she gasped at him. Turned her face to look at him. He was completely crazy.

"I forbid it. No man, other than me." his whole body was suddenly up against hers and his mouth was on hers hard and demanding. His hands grabbed her hips and pulled her hard up against him, then his hips were pushing against her and she was up against the wall again. He was grinding himself on her firmly, she gasped and his tongue was inside her mouth, demanding her to kiss him back.

Then he yanked himself away from her and stalked clean out of the room in long fast strides, and banged the door closed behind him. She just stood there dumbfounded by his actions. What the hell had just happened? West had never, even once looked like he'd wanted to kiss her. And that had been West, kissing her. She'd not seen Volt behind his eyes. She didn't understand it he had a Mate, how could he even want to look at her when he had a Mate? But that look it had been like he had been, all rage and jealousy. She was certain that was what she'd seen in him.

And that Order, it was completely ridiculous. No other man, but him, was allowed to touch her. That was completely insane. They weren't Mate's, not any more. She knew it was an Order, had felt it, his Alpha Aura, and she'd heard Volt right there speaking with him, when he'd said the words "I forbid it."

Her fingers touched her lips softly. Kissed twice today in just a matter of minutes, by two different Alpha's. The whole bloody thing was crazy. Her once happy and calm life was it seemed, spiralling out of control and she had no idea, what to do about it at all. Clova who had not objected at all to Alpha Jayden kissing them out in the hall, had lifted her head up and seemed to just not worry about it, kind of felt a little curious about it, was now purring inside her mind, she realised, happy about West and Volt's actions, shoving her up against a wall and kissing her like that, made Clova very happy indeed.

Jo-anne's stomach growled, she was still hungry, bit her lip, sucked in her bottom lip to chew on it and could still taste West on her own lip. He must have had a drink, she could taste bourbon, that must be it, he'd had too much to drink. Her head snapped up at the sounds of a fight starting out in the hallway.

## **Chapter 28 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

Dinner was over and once again, those un-Mated Alpha's and Beta's were all going to head out for a night of sex with any she-wolf that took their fancy and was willing, within his pack. West had no intention of walking them down there tonight, they all knew where to go from here.

It has also been pretty darn clear which Alpha and Beta Miranda had been with, they kept smirking right at him, he didn't care, the girl had massive needs and if it took two of them to satisfy her. Then so be it. He did not respond in any way other than to raise an eyebrow, they knew she was here in his bed. He'd seen them all over the past two years. He wondered if they were trying to push his buttons.

It would not work. Hell if the woman decided to go home to their pack he wouldn't stop her. Let her, let them deal with her demanding father. Just sat through dinner with her next to him and let then openly smirk about it, saw her smile right at the two of them, smiled himself at one point and shook his head.

T.J. and West had been headed up stairs, only for the pair of them to come to a halt at the first floor landing, he found T.J.'s hand land right on his shoulder, a tight grip he suddenly had, as they both saw Jo-anne pressed up against the hallway wall with the Alpha of Silver Moon Pack, his body was pressed right up against hers, Volt was up and snarling inside his mind instantly all pure Alpha aggression , his breathing quickened instantly, she wasn't even fighting him off, not one iota of resistance was coming from her.

'Calm down West.' T.J.'s voice came down the mind-link.

'Don't tell me to calm down T.J. this is exactly why, I didn't want her near any of them.' he snarled back down the link.

All Alpha males were a concern to him. Good looking and could lay on the charm so think they could seduce any she-wolf just about, only rare few declined a night with an Alpha. She was obviously no acceptance to the rule.

West stood there at the top of the stairs and watched as the man finally stopped kissing her, leaned back and introduced himself. His hand, however, was still touching Jo-anne's face, his thumb was brushing back and forth across her cheek, extending the intimacy they'd just shared. As he looked down at her.

Jo-anne even knew where the man's pack was, likely because she'd lived so close to it, could have been letting Clova out to run in the national park, right by his pack, he supposed.

To hear Alpha Jayden invite her to his pack, had West clenching his fists. He wanted to punch that bastard into next week.

'Allied pack West.' T.J. seemed to know what he was thinking 'don't start a fight here in the hallway. Jo-Jo is right there.' his Beta urged him to think about it.

How T.J. could be so calm with what he was seeing, West couldn't understand. He should be as irate as West was right this second. Yet he was more concerned with keeping his Alpha from starting a fight, and yes, he was keenly aware of where Jo-anne actually was.

She at least told him she couldn't go. But West hated hearing her apologise for not being able to go. Saw Alpha Jayden actually look at her neck. She was wearing a tee-shirt and jeans right this minute, there was no silver filigree to adorn her neck like there used to be, would have been the last time Jayden saw her in this pack.

The man stated she wasn't Marked and could request a visit, which she actually could do and go if West gave his permission. To hear that he would personally guarantee her safety, West knew what that meant.

It meant that he would be putting her on his arm, and having her in his very own bed while she was there within his pack. She would know what it meant. The meaning would not be lost on her. She was just staring up at him. At least she knew she could not go.

West pulled himself from T.J.'s grip. He'd heard and seen enough. Stalked over there "No she can not." he stated all his anger and Volts as well for all to hear, he did not care. She looked right at him a little more than startled to see him.

Reached out and grabbed her wrist, pulled her right out from Alpha Jayden's body. The man did not even seem to be offended, smiled right at him in fact. Seemed amused by West's behaviour actually. "Why can't she West? I would not harm her." he stated calmly. No, the man would not harm her. He was looking to pull her into his bed and mate with her.

"Because as her Alpha, I said so." he practically snarled at the man, then pulled her down the hallway, shoved her bedroom door open and stepped into her room. Walked clear across the room and put her up against the wall and stared down at her, he could still smell that bloody Alpha on her, and it wasn't just him but Volt as well, they both wanted that smell off of her.

"Why would you let him touch you like that?" he grated angrily. He nor Volt for that matter, wanted to see another man touch her, let alone have her pressed up against a wall and kissing her like that.

Her stammered response, that she didn't do anything wrong, did not ease his or his wolf's anger in anyway at all. Even if that Alpha had touched her, started it. She had not pushed him away from her, not even tried to as far as West had seen. He could feel his tightly clenched jaw ticking like crazy, Volt was trying to get out of him, wanted to Mate her right this minute. To rid her of that other Alpha's scent, he was scratching and snarling inside West's mind and the only reason West had control of his beast, it seemed, was because it was Jo-anne and not Clova up front. He would not let his wolf, Mate Jo-Anne, his beast was quite aggressive even with Clova in human form. Her wolf might like it but he doubted Jo-anne would.

He leaned right down into her ear. Trying to contain his beast was not easy and to try and maintain some control over his anger at the same time was starting to tax him 'Never touch her' Volt was snarling in anger 'tell her.' he growled at West.

West did tell her "You, will never let another man touch you, Jo-anne." he informed her, trying to placate his wolf's need to mate her with all he had. Her face turned to look at him. Her eyes were wide as she stared at him in complete disbelief.

"What?" she gasped.

"I forbid it." he and Volt snarled at her together "No man other than me."



Then his hands snapped out and grabbed her, pulled her hard up against him, pushed her back against the wall and was grinding himself against her hard and full of need. His tongue was in her mouth, demanding she kiss him back, tasting every inch of her 'Mate her now.' Volt urged him and West suddenly realised what he was doing.

That his mouth was on hers, tasting her, his hands were on her pulling her against him, he was touching her. Something he had no right to be doing. Had never had the right to do, not ever. Something he had always resisted doing, knew he had no right to.

Yanked himself away from her and fled the room, banged the door closed behind him and tried to calm down. He was not allowed to touch her like that, had no right, not him. Never did have, not after what he had done to her, not after how she had looked that day. The day he'd woken up next to her in that hotel room.

His eyes moved down the hallway, T.J. was still standing down by the landing and Alpha Jayden was exactly where he had left him, leaning casually up against the wall. They were both looking at him, T.J. a bit of concern. Jayden however, smiled right at him, slid his thumb over his lips as though taunting him with it.

West stalked down the hallway, turned on the man. Put his hand right to the man's chest and shoved him, Volt right there on the surface. "Don't ever touch her again." they snarled at him.

Saw the man's wolf push forward. "Not yours anymore West, I believe."

He and Volt growled right at him and Jayden's Alpha wolf growled right back. Just as aggressive, his meaning was clear, he was willing to fight West over her.

"Enough." T.J. roared at the pair of them, his own Aura rolling right at them and all of it his Royal blood Alpha Aura at that, it didn't matter it was too late to stop the fight that was about to start. He could hear people running in their direction, as the fight actually broke out, his fist landed right in Jayden's jaw as Jayden hit him in the abdomen. Volt was lending all his Alpha blood and strength. He wanted a piece of this man and his wolf, who dared to touch Jo-anne to get to his Clova.

Then it was all over the place, and Alpha on Alpha fight, all claws out and they were snarling and growling and tearing into each other right there on the first floor of his pack-house, hall tables were being smashed and broken, there were walls getting damaged as the two of them beat the hell out of each other. Two allied packs, Alpha's fighting it out, the very day their alliance had been renewed.

It took 6 other Alpha and Beta's to separate them and pin them both down on the floor on opposite sides of the hallway from each other. Volt was still snarling even as he was being held down by T.J., his own father Damien and Jonathan, his pack's former Beta.



Alpha Jayden, he could see, was pinned down on the floor by his own Beta Ben, plus Alpha Nicholas and his Beta Jeremy. Jayden was the first to be let up, as he was the first one to calm down, he looked right at West for a long minute, spat blood from his mouth and then smiled right at him, there were still three sets of hands on the man. "I'll take my leave early Alpha Westley and I will see you again," his smiled turned to a smirk "At your mating ball."

West glared right at him, Volt was still snarling inside his mind, he was coming back for the mating ball, and West and Volt both knew why. Started struggling against those holding him, to get at that man as he was led away. He found not just his father's Aura rolling at him, but also T.J.'s as well and Jonathon's. He could feel the pain increase as he actively tried to fight past it all.

The pain increased with every minute. He'd never had an Alpha Aura rolled at him like this before. It was excruciating. He had to stop fighting it, let them hold him down to ease the pain he was causing himself. Just lay there on the floor, held down until Alpha Jayden was completely out of his and Volts sight line and way down the other end of the pack-house.

Then he was hauled up off the floor and marched by his father, who's Aura was still in full force, and Jonathan up to the 4th floor and into his father's suite. He knew it was so that he was kept away from Alpha Jayden as he left the pack. West didn't fight it, there was no point, his father was furious with him. He could feel it. Only been in charge a damned week and he'd lost all control and attacked one of his own allied packs, Alpha's.

Though it did not appear the man was not going to break their alliance, West knew why. He wanted to keep his invitation to that up-coming mating ball open to him. If he broke their alliance, West would rescind the invite instantly, still wanted to do it, though he knew it was unlikely his mother or father would allow it.

Certain rules had to be applied to mating ball invitations. Once it was accepted that pack had every right to attend, that pack could opt out of the mating ball at any time for whatever reasons, but the inviting pack could not rescind the invite without proper reasons, and some how West did not think either of his parents would agree that Jayden could not attend, with his un-mated wolves over the possibility that Jo-anne was his Mate, in fact they would likely insist on him coming, you couldn't keep an Alpha from his Luna.

That had been what Alpha Jayden had been implying, in front of everyone, that he would be coming back to get what was his when the moon was full. West had actually known Jayden a long time, that man knew who Jo-anne was. What she had been to West and that she was now no longer his Mate.

He'd told her she was un-mated, had actually looked right at her neck, but not until after he had kissed her, that was. Damned bastard knew she had been West's and didn't

seem to care at all. Either that or he was really trying to piss West off. If that was the case, he'd managed it.

West was pushed down into a chair by his father, didn't say anything at all. West realised T.J. was not in the room. 'Where are you?' he shot down the mind-link.

'Seeing Alpha Jayden off pack West. Then I will go and make sure Jo-Jo is alright.' he was all Beta it seemed.

'She is fine, I didn't hurt her.'

'I know that. But she would have heard that fight West. The whole pack-house would have heard it. Started seconds after you left her room. After you pull her out from another Alpha's arms. She'll be worried.'

'Fine.'

A glass of bourbon was put into his hand. "Drink it now and calm the hell down. Tell me what the hell happened West."

West stared at the glass, but did not drink it, put it down on the coffee table in front of him, he did not want to drink it at all. "He had Jo-anne up against the wall." he stated, knew he would not need to explain any further to his father.

His father sat in front of him and stared right at him "West, son. You can't go attacking guests. It could start a war."

"He won't start anything. Not with Jo-anne here. He wants her."

"If she turns out to be his Mate? West! You will have to deal with it."

"I understand that." West acknowledged, he did understand it, but he did not have to like it, and he did not have to let her attend that bloody mating ball either. It was actually at his discretion as the Alpha to choose who could attend it. Though not letting her attend did not mean that Alpha Jayden wouldn't stalk the pack territory looking for her, or scent her out no matter where she was.

## **Chapter 29 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

She stood inside her room, listening to the fight that was going on out in the hallway, and knew without a doubt that it was West and Alpha Jayden. Even knew that it was West how had likely started that fight.

Less than 30 seconds outside of her room and that fight had broken out.

It was very loud and aggressive, and she could hear it was more than them just full on fighting it out, there were others out there in the hall trying to break it up as well. A lot of yelling was going on. She only recognised a few voices, others who knew likely visiting pack Alpha's and Beta's. Only other Alpha's and Beta's would try and get in the middle of it to stop it.

It took a good 10 minutes for there to be quiet out in the hallway. Jo-anne stood there biting her lip not knowing what to do.

Knew better than to go out there and see what had happened or who was injured or possibly sedated. Prowled around inside her room and wondered who was injured. Were they both injured? Was it serious for either of them? Was this going to start a war? She prayed not to the goddess herself.

Jo-anne did not want anyone hurt because of her, she did not want a war to start between her pack and that of the Silver Moon Pack. Closed her eyes and prayed that everyone was alright, that everything would be alright.

Sank down on the couch and looked at the door, was almost 30 minutes before the door opened and T.J. stood there before her. She stared up at him worriedly.

"Everyone is fine. Minor injuries, their wolves will heal them easily." he told her.

She just nodded and said nothing, had no idea what to say either.

"Why Jo-Jo?" he asked as he stepped into the room and closed the door.

"I didn't do anything wrong, the man kissed me." she told him honestly.

"You should know better," he sighed "West can't see that Jo-Jo."

"Why? He never wanted me back then! Why so mad now? You'd think he'd be happy to get rid of me, and what about Miranda? How does she feel about him reacting like that? He's going to hurt his own Mate, T.J."

She knew that once again, poor Miranda would have felt his betrayal to her. This was not good.

"Don't worry about Miranda...and he doesn't want to get rid of you Jo-Jo, just needs time to adjust. Last time you were here, you were his Mate."

"So. It's been 10 years T.J. and he's found his Mate." she stated again. She couldn't understand West.

T.J. sat down next to her and sighed heavily "It's very complicated, Jo-Jo. You and West," he sighed again "A history, with no answers...Don't think he doesn't care. He

actually does Jo-Jo. But he has put so many rules on himself, that he's backed himself into a corner, so to speak."

"I don't understand. I set us both free T.J. why is he not happy? Not moved on? I got over it, and it was me who suffered him. Not the other way around."

He just stared at her silently for a long minute, then reached out and patted her hand. The minute his hand touched hers, pain shot through her and she snatched it back and looked away from him.

"Jo-Jo?"

"N..Nothing." she stammered, just one more order from her Alpha she had to deal with.

His hand grabbed hold of her chin and turned her face to his. She gasped as pain seared her face, his fingers let go instantly and his eyes widened "He bloody didn't?" he grated out, sounded very angry.

She said nothing at all.

"Jo-Jo, tell me he did not put an Alpha Order on you again?"

She could not tell him that, because West had done just that.

"Bloody fool," he snapped, "I'll deal with it, Jo-Jo." he told her.

"Just leave it T.J." she sighed softly "If it'll prevent him from being ticked off, just leave it alone for now."

"Do you know? What you're asking, if you find your Mate, on the full moon."

"I know, he'll have to get West's permission to touch me." it was not going to be a good conversation, trying to explain that to her Mate when ever she found him.

"He's not likely to give it Jo-Jo. You know that right. Volt still wants Clova. It's part of the issue."

"I know. I got a bigger problem T.J." she sighed and then looked at him. "Clova still wants to please his Alpha wolf."

"Oh..." he was staring at her now, a slight frown "Clova is not apposed to the idea at all? Even though they are not Mates anymore."

"Doesn't seem to be, of the opinion, if Volt, her Alpha. Wants her, he can have her."

"That's a problem, from my understanding, Volt still lays' claim to Clova, hence all the aggression you're getting from West."

"Great T.J. what do you suggest I do about it?" she bit her lip.

"I don't know to be honest. It shouldn't be like this."

"I know that," Jo-anne acknowledged.

Her stomach rumbled and T.J. raised an eyebrow at her. She shrugged "I was on my way out to get something to eat, I was not looking for a man, and certainly not an Alpha, to kiss me."

"I'll get you something. Best to stay in here till they all leave."

"Alright." Jo-anne did not argue with him at all. Not after what she'd heard out there in the hallway tonight.

"I'll send breakfast up as well. They should all be gone by lunch time."

Jo-anne nodded. "Might want to ask Alpha Jayden to stay away from me or my room."

"He has already left." T.J. told her, surprising her. Bit her lip and closed her eyes.

"Is the pack's alliance ruined?"

"No, the man stated he'll be back on the full moon."

Jo-anne's eyes snapped open and she turned to stare right at him now. More than a little nervous, was he saying what she thought he was saying? Surely it couldn't be that.

"West is very unhappy about it. But he was one of the packs coming anyway. West won't rescind the offer, but its not going to be a fun night, I imagine."

"And I'll be locked up in this room, right?"

"I hope not," he sighed. "But I don't know to be honest. It's 3 weeks away. He might calm down and come to his senses by then. I'll go get you that food." he stood up.

Calm down and come to his senses? She thought, had no idea why he even needed to, likely Volts doing. Maybe that was why he'd not Marked Miranda. Maybe Volt was resistant to the idea. She sighed, had no idea and there was nothing she could do about it. She'd already done the one and only thing she could for the both of them, a decade ago, rejected him, something he'd been unable to do, it had to come from her. She had released them both from their torment to each other.

West's parents needed to encourage him to Mark Miranda. That would solve the whole issue, he'd be all loved up and happily obsessed with her, a girl who wanted nothing more than to be his Mate. The way she talked about him. Talked to him, looked at him. It was very clear she was completely in love with West. He had to see it. Everyone else did.

Perhaps her portrait of the two of them would show him how good they looked together, as an Alpha and a Luna, he'd be so happy to see it, he'd Mark her and then Jo-anne knew she'd be off his radar for good. Would just be another pack member to him and nothing more.

She would be allowed to live somewhere else and work in her studio, never to bother him again. She knew that T.J. could handle all her contracts and would likely be doing so, would suggest it, to keep herself out of his office and off his radar completely.

Doing so would mean, she'd never have to go into the Alpha's office. T.J. she knew would come to her, he'd nut out all the details and bring her the contracts and she could live quietly. Perhaps she could get a small one bedroom apartment attached to the back of her studio, and then live out there on the edge of the forest. That would be nice.

T.J. returned with plenty of food piled up on a tray, and a lot of snacks. It looked like he was preparing for her to be locked in this room for days on ends. Her raised eyebrow at the loaded tray, just made him laugh and tell her he had no idea what she liked to eat, so he'd brought lots of options.

Then he'd excused himself, had Beta duties to attend to. She could well imagine what they were. Damage control in all likelihood considering what had happened out in that hallway.

## **Chapter 30 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

It was clear that both his parents were upset and annoyed with his behaviour, his mother ranted and raved at him about the stupidity of his actions over an un-mated she-wolf, did not once use Jo-anne's name. Or state she was his ex-Mate either. That seemed to not matter to her at all.

His father just looked disappointed in him. But really didn't say anything much at all. He seemed to understand West's anger and possessiveness somewhat, that he still retained for the woman, he'd once again Alpha Ordered. Something he'd told himself he would not do again, but even Volt had wanted that order on her.

His wolf was still stalking around inside his head, flicking his tail furiously from side to side, still wanting West to go downstairs and mate Jo-anne or let him call Clova out and

mate her himself. His beast, it seemed, had no intention of relinquishing his claim on Clova, still wanted her and no other. Which was not helping the situation at all.

He felt Volt push forward to the surface twice while his mother was ranting at him, on both occasions it was the way she had refused to address Jo-anne by name. It was royally ticking Volt off, it seemed. Her raised eyebrow at his sudden appearance, did not make him back down either. He was the Alpha Wolf now and though she still held the Luna Rank of the pack, he, West could, if he so chose to, stop that and retire her.

They could run a pack without a Luna. There were those packs, where Alpha's had to wait out decades upon decades to find their Goddess-Gifted Mate. Alpha's just took over the Luna duties with help from their Alpha Unit. He could do that if he wanted to.

West also knew that the minute the triplets were Mated off, his parents were taking his plane to go on a well-earned vacation. So it would just be him and his Unit in charge, no supervision, not that West thought he needed it.

His mother and father, for that matter, were of the exact opposite opinion right that minute. His mother had literally questioned her Mate's decision to step down and allow West to take over. Volt had shown his displeasure with a snarl, her wolf had surfaced instantly but not reacted, just made herself known, didn't like the disrespect she thought she was getting.

Well, her human counterpart had shown it first. Volt was just reacting to it. It had also annoyed West. He'd worked tirelessly to know how to run this pack, make sure he had the knowledge and skill to continue to make it profitable, had a business degree and accounting degree so he could manage the packs funds effectively, had even drummed up new business ventures throughout the years, which were already making that pack more prosperous.

One Alpha on Alpha fight, should not have her stating he wasn't ready to take over. He was ready and had been for years, in fact. If this had happened years ago, maybe things would have been different, he internally sighed, though it was unlikely.

His attention was brought back to her, when she realised he was no longer paying attention to her yelling and ranting, had jabbed a finger right into his forehead and snapped his name. West had blinked, he'd stopped actively listening a while ago, his eyes were tracking her movement around the room as she stalked back and forth, but he'd tuned her out some time ago.

Heard his father snort, and try to cover his amusement only to be cracked up the back of the head by his own Mate and told 'its not funny.' his father did not seem perturbed or annoyed by the whack he had received. West had seen her do it a million times, his father was used to it.

"Answer me West." she turned her attention back to him.



West, however, could not answer her. He did not know what the question was, to answer it. His eyes moved to his father, who said nothing, just sat watching him, a slight smirk on his face.

“What was the question?” he asked simply.

She was glaring right at him now. “When did you stop listening?”

“A while ago,” he answered honestly. There was no point in lying about it and he couldn’t actually recall how long ago he’d stopped listening to her rantings.

“When are you going to Mark and Mate Miranda? This Westley will solve all problems around that she-wolf.”

“No it won’t.” West stated simply “And I can’t Mark her, unless Volt agrees to it. He doesn’t want Miranda or her wolf Violet, for that matter.”

She was frowning at him now. She understood that if his wolf said No, he actually could not do it. They both had to want to Mark the she-wolf for it to happen. He could have sex with any she-wolf he liked, Volt couldn’t care less, turned a blind eye to it, did not participate what so ever, didn’t even watch from inside his mind, it was just sex, not mating.

The only time he’d ever actively watched or pushed his Alpha Wolf stamina at West to prolong Mating and give him an insatiable drive, was with Jo-anne. Never once so much as lifted his head for any other she-wolf, not in the time before her and not in anytime after her.

Though West had the distinct feeling that if he had taken it further with Jo-anne downstairs, if he had not come to his senses. Volt would have pushed everything he had at him, likely taken over at some point, and demanded Clova to push forward for him to mate, directly after West had...he pushed that thought away. He was not allowed to go there, had no right to go there.

Tonight he had lost all control and Volt had pushed his anger at the situation at him as well, and smelling that son of a bitch Jayden on her, had forced all his primal instincts to get that scent off of her, to put his scent on her. So everyone would know to stay away from her.

“Then why keep the woman around, all this time?” she interrupted his thoughts.

“Do you really want me to answer that, mother? You might not like the crudeness of my statement.”

He watched her stamp her foot on the ground and rub her hands over her face to pull her hair, frustrated with him. “Impossible Westley...you’re impossible.”

He simply nodded and guessed he was in her opinion.

“Get out and don’t go near that Alpha or that she-wolf, for that matter.” she snapped at him.

“That she-wolf,” West replied as he stood up. “Has a name, bloody use it.” he snapped. Volts gravelly voice burst out of him angrily, that she refused to say Jo-anne’s name.

“I know her name Westley.” she addressed him, ignoring his wolf.

“You used to like her once,” he commented as he walked to the door. His mother had actually really liked Jo-anne, had been unhappy about their situation, but the girl had been, in her opinion, sweet, attentive and caring. Tried her best to learn her new role and his mother had been concerned when Jo-anne had just stopped attending, telling his mother she needed to just focus on her schooling to get into a good university. West had known differently. She wanted out of their Mate Bond as much as he had, asked multiple times for him to reject her in fact.

She’d stopped attending, West had figured out, when she’d decided, that the minute she could reject him she would be. Though he’d not thought about that until many months after, she’d stopped attending. 9 months after, in fact.

“I still like her. West, It’s just Miranda...”

West cut her off “Is not my Goddess-Gifted Mate. I will not be Marking or Mating anyone who isn’t...I was thinking about Miranda, but...” he shook his head. “I don’t think that I can, to be truthful, I don’t want her as my Luna.”

“Son, she will make a good Luna.”

West turned and looked right at her. “A great Luna, I imagine. But not to this pack.” he told her and stepped out of the suite, he did mean it. She was well liked by all and would definitely make a great Luna. He really did need to help her find her Mate.

Leaned on the door and closed his eyes, he had been considering it, but her talking like she was already the Luna at dinner not just tonight, but last night, had more than annoyed him, he’d wanted to yell at her at one point but had not, had refrained due to the company they had been in.

Stepped away from the suite and headed for his room, his clothes needed changing, still had his blood on them, not to mention were ripped and torn in places as well. As both he and Jayden had both had their wolves claws out during that fight, a show that both their wolves were actively attacking as well.

Strolled into his room and found Miranda's eyes on him. They widened in complete surprise and she got up. West held up a hand to halt her. "I'm fine, let it go." he told her and walked into the bathroom, turned to shut the door, to find her right behind him.

"Out" he stated and turned her around and pushed her gently from the bathroom, closed and, for the first time, ever locked the door to keep her out. He did not want her near him right this minute, he'd likely not be sleeping in here either, he did not want company at all. Wanted...he sighed internally and stripped his ruined clothes off, turned the hot water on as hot as he could stand and got in.

Wanted, what he in fact could not have, leaned back on the wall, closed his eyes and tried not to think about who he wanted in his bed. Volt was of no help. He wanted it too.

Came out of the bathroom to find Miranda standing in the middle of the room waiting on him. He headed for the walk-in to get dressed.

"West?" she asked him as he headed for the door to leave the room again.

"It's fine." he told her "I'll be out late, don't wait up." he informed her.

"Are you mad at me?"

"No!" he answered honestly "this is not about you." he told her and stepped out of the room, walked down to the other end of the pack-house and stood staring at his old room. Then stepped inside, walked through the rubble and lay down in his old bed. Closed his eyes and sighed. Volt lay down in his mind. They both hated and liked this room at the same time.

A million memories this room had, Volt had many happy memories in here, with Clova. West had memories, whether he could call any of them good. He'd never let himself, mostly for him, though he recalled all the times he'd Alpha Ordered her to tell him, what had happened that day. Something she had not ever been able to tell him, because, like him, she had no idea at all what had happened.

He rolled over and stared at the empty side of the bed, he'd once shared with her. He understood his Alpha Aura on her would have hurt her, both physically and emotionally, seeing as she had been his Mate. But today, having felt it himself for the first time ever, he had no idea how she survived it. So many times, he'd been an ass-hole just like Volt had told him he was.

How could she be here in this pack and be so happy at times? How could she smile right at him? How did she forgive him? He had no idea. Didn't believe he deserved her forgiveness and he would never ask for it either. He was responsible for his actions. He had treated her terribly and he'd known it then as much as he knew it now.

Though back then his constant anger, had been driven by his stepmother's constant demands on him and his family. All the bloody things she'd thought she'd been entitled to, her and her other daughters, had wanted everything and she had demanded it. A house on the lake, a bloody mansion at that.

Pack cards for all of them, so they could shop at will and parade their new status around in front of everyone she knew and she had done that, made more than a few people pissed off and she had way fewer friends nowadays, due to her attitude. So high and mighty she had become once he'd been Mated off to Jo-anne.

A new car for both her and Heath and then a year later another new car, not that there had been anything wrong with the BMW's the pair of them had been driving. Had gone on about as the future Luna's mother she had to have nothing old ever and had demanded new cars Mercedes this time. He'd wanted to run her over with her freaking car.

The day she had walked into his father's office asking for a yacht she had wanted, 18 months in to his Mate Bond with Jo-anne, had produced a picture of it on her phone, had been utterly ridiculous. Not even his family owned a sail boat of any kind. Only 50 grand she'd stated so casually.

His father had argued with her about it and West, in the end, had completely lost his shit when she'd threatened them once more to go to the Wolfen Council if they didn't buy it for her. He'd launched himself at her, all of Volt's claws had been out, if Jonathan and his father hadn't been quick enough he'd likely have ripped her head clean off. She'd run from the office in fear of him.

He'd stalked up stairs that day and Alpha Ordered Jo-anne to tell him why she'd done this to him, not for the first time, but it had been the last time. He'd been furious and all his anger at her stepmother's greed he'd taken out on her, his own Mate. Every time he'd been angry with her family he'd taken his anger out on her.

That last time she'd just been a girl, only 17 and a half, and he'd poured so much Aura over her she'd been forced all the way down to the floor, so low a punishment only for those who had committed actual crimes and wouldn't admit it. Blood had poured from her nose, he'd really hurt her that day, he'd not even been angry at her, just her stupid greedy money grubbing stepmother.

West knew deep down that if T.J. hadn't turned up, he'd likely have killed her, his own Mate. His anger had been out of control that day. She'd never spoken to him after that day. He knew why, couldn't and didn't blame her.

She'd never once asked for anything from him. Well accept for his rejection. Something he'd not been able to give her, without her family taking him to the Wolfen council for punishment. She'd never once even said a hurtful word to him, never once said a bad word about him to her friends, as far as he knew, not even told him no when he'd

wanted to have sex with her, and Goddess, once he had started having sex with her he couldn't bloody stop wanting to.

Their bloody Mate Bond caused him to desire her, and want her, sometimes so damned strong he'd not been about to stop himself. He'd been able to ignore his needs for the first two months she'd been in his room, every time he'd looked at her, his thoughts had been consumed, with the day he'd woken up to find himself Marked and Mated to her.

She had been desperately trying to pull clothes on, a girl he'd been looking for with his Beta for 4 days, and to see her so bruised and bloodied, actual bite marks on her body in several places, he could smell himself on her. He'd not understood what had happened. Had stared right at her, the girl he'd always believed would be his best friend's Mate, bruised and bloodied his Mark on her. Her wrists burned from silver. It was clear she'd been tied down, probably for the entire time she'd been missing.

West sighed and reached out and touched the empty side of his bed. Volt whined in his head. His wolf had been damned near unconscious when he'd woken up, too drowsy to be raised and see her state, but he had been fully awake by the time Heath had marched into his father's office with her behind him. He'd recalled what she looked like. It still haunted both of them.

It was likely too, for the rest of their lives, she'd never once blamed him for that day. She had no memory of it, neither did he. It might not have been him. But it was highly likely with his scent all over her. He, however, had blamed her the whole time, never let her forget it either. How do you go about apologising for something like that? He had no idea, didn't even know if an apology would be enough.