

Chapter 41 - Her Alpha's Orders

Unknown POV

It had hurt to feel the life of her daughter start to ebb away, the connection she had to her being severed so slowly, she'd run off into the woods to get away from it. It wasn't the first time she'd felt like this, there had been another time. She'd left the pack last time. The pain had been too great, poor child had no idea who she was, what she was, and she would never tell her, not unless the worst happened.

She was praying nothing would come of her father's bloodline. He was a cruel evil bastard and she was glad he was dead, dead by her hands no less. At least her little girl was safe from that man. His plans for their child were just as sick and twisted as he was. Killing him had been her greatest pleasure.

She'd never looked at the child, not even when she'd given birth to it, had not wanted to know if it was a boy or a girl, she wasn't going to keep it, couldn't keep it, for she knew that child would be used and abused by everyone in her home pack, if they found out about her and what her bloodline was.

So that night she had birthed her child alone, out in rogue territory, then had bundled it up in a torn piece of material, she'd ripped from the dress she'd been wearing, snuck in undetected to this pack and lay that little baby so tiny in the snow, kept her eyes closed as she'd knelt there, it hadn't cried once, not the whole time she had brought it here, a good little baby it had been.

She had kissed her child's head and apologised "I'm sorry, I just can't be your mother." silent tears had fallen down her face as she had abandoned her child in the snow and fled once more from the pack, to give her body time to heal and the scent of that sick bastard blood to be gone from her system before returning, had not risked coming back to the pack for several weeks.

By then the child had been placed with another. She yearned to know, always in the back of her mind, but had steadfastly not allowed herself to look for her child. It was safer with another family, if no-one knew she was the child's mother, it would be better for the child. It was easier not knowing if the baby had been a boy or a girl. And that year many baby's had been born so there had been a lot around.

The first time she'd felt the pain of her child's life ebbing from her it had been so painful she had gone away to visit her family, not that she wanted to be in their pack either it was creepy and they all watched her like hawks. All eyes on her, bloody seers everywhere. She'd kept her little girl hidden from the whole world even from herself until that day. Not knowing meant the seers couldn't know either.

Though she had suspected, seen her with the Pack's future Beta not long after she'd turned 16, and her heart had skipped a beat, though the situation she had found her

child in had not been to her liking, she could not interfere, she had wanted to, it was not her place. But seeing her with Terence, she had known, the girl looked very similar to her two daughters, she had younger sisters and didn't even know it. Had a whole family she had no idea about, one she was this very minute still keeping her a secret from.

When she had left the pack at just before she turned 18, she was actually a little glad, gone off to live in the human world, a safer place for her, though she always knew some where deep down that she would come home. When she had come home, she was different had seen it instantly, smelled it, smelled him, his bloodline and the power that came with it.

Had watched carefully to see if she to had changed, was like him. A cruel evil creature that would need to be put down. Hadn't seemed to have changed much and the Packs Beta very happy to see her, the new Alpha though? She didn't blame him poor bastard had been forced into mating her didn't even recall it, neither did her daughter for that matter.

She suspected who had done it, but had never been able to find any proof so confronting them had not been an option. She could have brought a seer from her home pack to check the truth of the matter but that would out her own child, one she had hidden for a reason. So had to leave it alone. Not that she hadn't take the opportunity to beat the both of them during training.

But now watching in secret from the forest seeing with her own eyes the power she was displaying frightened her, taking on the Pack Beta without fear, her emotions ignited that other side of her, a side she'd likely never tapped into ever. A darkness that could and would likely consume her soul.

She would not be surprised if the woman she was watching now, had the same markings the Beta had, some where on her body, though likely more prominent, she'd not gotten close to the woman since she'd been brought back home. The Alpha and Beta had tracked her down and made her to come home. Even after the girl had offered to allow him to turn her rogue. He'd seemed more furious about that than accepting her pledge and loyalty. She knew he had marked her, he had tasted her blood, the girls venom also ran in his own veins, perhaps his attachment was more than it seemed. Perhaps it was unnatural, she did not know, he'd never shown any signs of wanting to hurt her, quite the opposite in fact. But she had been gone a long time and not been of age when she had left.

Time would tell, she could well imagine the Alpha on Beta fight that was going to happen over the woman there had been one before, when she'd fled at the near death of her daughter at 18, those two men had turned on each other.

The Beta's attachment was unwittingly her doing, she had prayed to the moon Goddess herself, the night she had abandoned her child, and fled from the pack for someone to

always look over and protect her child. Selena the moon Goddess, had heard her plea and answered her prayers, her little girl had a been gifted the strongest of protectors.

A part of her had wished it was not him. But another part of her was also glad, not many could bring down a wolf of royal blood. He would die for her, she was seeing the evidence of that right this very minute, would die even at her own hands. Couldn't harm her, not ever, he was her protector.

To see her stop and stare almost in a trance and then just pass out, that was good there was a power stronger than her own, carried off to the pack-house for rest and re-cooperation. There was no hiding who she was now, she knew the Beta suspected, though he'd never broached the subject, seemed to know better. She knew he was going to come for answer. His little Jo-Jo was alpha blooded. He'd always knew she was different but now it was out and for all to see.

Her Alpha also now aware his lost Mate, not so simple a creature anymore. Deadly even to him, what he would do about it? she didn't know. Knew he'd gone into the cells to have a word with that bastard, who she couldn't get near herself. But if they so much as let their guards down she would slip in side and strike fear right into that mans heart right before she killed him.

Her concern though her unconscious child. Her powers activate by her anger or raw emotions it seemed, though she had never been an angry child, not even when Mate to Alpha West in such an unhealthy manner, had just mosied on like a good little soldier seemed to not have been angry about it just accept her fate, til she didn't. She wondered about that. Perhaps something from the Goddess herself.

Chapter 42 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV.

She woke in her room, the light next to the bed was on but the rest of the room was in complete darkness and it all came back to her. She'd taken on T.J., something had come over her, her whole body had burned like it was on fire. Her whole damned back had burned so hot and she'd felt so much anger and rage at being tossed aside, that something inside of her had just snapped and she'd lost all control of herself and turned on her most trusted friend.

Her hand clamped over her mouth as a sob ripped out of her, pain touching her at what she had done to him. Tears burned her eyes and she covered her face and cried, felt a pair of arms slide around her and looked through her tears and saw him, right there, didn't even look mad at her.

"Shh." T.J. said and pulled her into his chest. "We're okay I promise."

Jo-anne rolled over and into his big chest, curled her arms around him and sobbed “I’m sorry.” and just lay there and cry into him. It was not the first time she’d been wrapped in his arms, sobbing in pain. But it was the first time, she didn’t think he should be there holding her and trying to comfort her, after what she had done.

She didn’t deserve his comfort, but she had no-one else, just him. Always just him, she felt a little bit broken, knowing that.

Her own father had tried to kill her and her stepmother didn’t want to have anything to do with her. No family left. She tried to hold it in but just couldn’t and she felt more tears pour out of her, her whole body shuddered as it was wracked with uncontrollable sobbing. Couldn’t stop, tried to but couldn’t.

He just lay there and held on to her. She could feel he was rubbing her back and registered he was telling her it was all going to be okay, that he was here for her. That, no matter what, he would always be here for her. It just made her cry even harder. She didn’t deserve a friend like him. He was too good for her.

Jo-anne knew that something was wrong with her. She’d never been angry before, always calm, able to just take what life had thrown at her, never gotten angry, not about anything ever and she had a past to be plenty angry about. The way her family had treated her, the missing memory, her entire Mate Bond, so much she could have been angry about, but never had she let it consume her.

Today had been different, the need to understand why he had turned on her so completely, there had to be more to it than what he told her. It couldn’t just be a punishment dealt out to him that had made him want to kill her. She needed to know, every day it bothered her, why he had done it.

Who was he? He was not the man who had loved her, the man she recalled smiling down at her when tucking her in to her bed, reading her bedtime stories, occasionally even sang to her, had pushed her on the swings in the park and chased her around tickling her while she laughed up at him. What had happened to her dad to make him hate her so much? This man was not that man, not anymore.

Or was it her? She knew she had changed over the years, but that had not been her fault. She’d not asked for that mark to appear on her, and didn’t know why it was there. Or even what it meant. Did he know about it? Was that why? Was it because she was different that he didn’t love her anymore?

There were too many unanswered questions, questions only he could answer, she supposed, and she wanted those answers. Needed them now more than ever, now she was turning against those she did not want to hurt. He was just a patrol man, but what was her mother? She didn’t know anything about her, he’d only ever told her she was beautiful and had a kind soul. That she had her eyes and temperament, but maybe she wasn’t normal.

She had no idea how long she lay sobbing on his chest, or just lay there silently when she stopped, didn't want to move away from him. He'd always been there for her. Why was another thing she didn't know or understand?

"T.J."

"Yes Jo-Jo." he spoke softly.

"What are you to me?"

"That is a difficult question to answer. Even I don't understand it, Jo-Jo," he sighed softly.

At least he understood what she had meant, "I'm not normal T.J. There is something wrong with me."

"No there is not...but there is something we do need to discuss with you."

"We?" she asked.

"Mm, West and I. It's time we three sat down and talked."

"West? Why West?" she asked, a bit confused.

"Because he's the Alpha, and what you decide will be up to him to follow through on."

"I don't understand you. You're not making sense T.J." she pushed away from him and sat up to look at him, caught movement by the window and blinked when she realised it was West standing over there. Had he been here the whole time? She'd rarely cried in front of him, T.J. hell that man had seen it all the time. But not West.

Watched him as he walked across the darkened room and sank down on the side of her bed, just looked at her. She couldn't read his expression. It was a bit mixed. Looked from one to the other.

"Terence is right, Jo-Anne, we need to talk to you. What you will hear is not going to be..." he sighed, looked at T.J. who nodded, then she watched him rub his temples "Not going to be easy to understand, or to hear even. But after today, you need to hear it."

Jo-anne just stared at him. He'd never spoken to her like this before. He sounded unhappy about what he was going to impart. "Better just say it then." she sighed herself "I guess I deserve it." she knew she had attacked the pack Beta, he was here to punish her, she supposed.

He was looking right at her, a frown on his face as though he didn't understand her, then he shook his head and sighed heavily "I'm not here to lay out a punishment, Jo-

anne. What happened today. It was strange to say the least, but we'll get to the bottom of that another day."

"But I attack T.J."

"Yes you did, but you didn't actually harm him and T.J. doesn't want you punished."

Her eyes moved from West to T.J. He just smiled at her reassuringly. "It's okay Jo-Jo, you have a lot going on. It would break the strongest of people."

"I feel broken," she admitted.

"T.J. we can't do this now." West suddenly got up.

"West, if you leave this room, I swear I will come out there and beat the hell out of you, we agreed already."

Jo-anne's eyes widened at his statement. He just threatened West, his own Alpha, threatening to beat the hell out of him. She'd never thought that would ever happen, they'd always been so close. The oddest thing was West was just standing there staring at his Beta, didn't even seem offended by it, or surprised even that he had said it.

She was looking from one to the other, waiting to see what was going to happen, even Clova was on alert to get out of the way when the Alpha on Beta fight broke out right here in their room.

West's eyes turned right on her, "Fuck." he muttered and sat back down, "fine T.J. but it could just make it worse."

"Lets just get it over with, the sooner the better, that was the agreement considering today's events."

They were talking in circles as far as Jo-anne was concerned, but whatever it was, they had been in agreement, but not anymore. He took a deep breath in and looked right at her. "Jo-anne, Heath is not your real father."

"What?" she shook her head. " Yes he is. My mother died in childbirth. I'm named after her and everything."

"No. that is all a lie. Shit sorry, that was a bit harsh." he seemed to want to correct himself.

"It was not the truth of the situation, Jo-Jo, but Heath's Mate did die in childbirth and her name was Jo-anne just like yours. But you were not named after her."

She was staring at T.J. now "You're not making any sense."

“Jo-anne, you were an orphan and my mother placed you with Heath, bled you into his line so you would feel connected to him, that he was your father.”

“What? No!” she shook her head.

“Yes Jo-Jo, I was the one who found you. I was 4 and you were alone out in the snow, no one around.”

“What? Why are you saying this?” she could feel pain welling inside her chest.

“Jo-Anne, we need to sever your blood bond to Heath, that’s why we’re telling you.”

“What? No, he’s my father. I don’t want that.” she moved away from them, backed up on the bed.

“Jo-Jo, it’s the only way. You need to trust us. We would not hurt you on purpose.”

She actually snorted with sarcastic laughter, and her eyes moved to West, “Really, I don’t know if I believe that.”

Saw West stand up, his facial expression changed instantly, became impassive and unreadable. “I would not on purpose hurt you, Jo-anne.” he stated, a hard edge to his voice.

She was looking right at him. He had many times. Alpha ordered her on purpose, causing her pain. He’d known it would, did it anyway, and had walked away uncaring and never once apologised to her for it either. For two years, not one apology, and how many Alpha orders did he have on her right this minute? That caused her pain.

She believed T.J. would not, hurt her on purpose, he’d always been her protector, he’d even saved her life from West once. She had no doubts about T.J. whatsoever, but West, no that man would if he wanted to. Had plenty of times before, and his attitude towards her had not changed all that much, was always angry with her. Didn’t even like being in the same room as her for that matter.

She could feel anger welling off of him, raised an eyebrow right at him as if making her point, he balled his fists. She noted, T.J. got up off the bed and put his hand on him, “Go stand by the window and try to calm down.”

“I told you, she would never believe me.” he snapped and stalked off to stare out the window, a silhouette in the darkness.

T.J. walked around the bed and sat next to her. “Jo-Jo trust me then, we can deal with your and West’s trust issues later. Tonight I need you to really understand. I did find you out in the snow when I was 4. There was no-one with you, just a little newborn baby

crying in the snow. I was even the one who named you. Your real name is Jo-Jo. Its why I'm the only one that calls you that."

"I don't understand, I know he's my father. I feel it T.J." She touched her chest.

"I know you do, but Jo-Jo, he is not. I actually wanted to keep you but Luna Natalia took you from me. Gave you to Heath, I can tell you I threw one hell of a tantrum and I was only 4."

"Punched mother if I recall correctly," West interrupted, sounded a bit calmer, she noted.

"Bit my own father and kicked him too." T.J. snorted "I was a bit of a nightmare over your removal, our bond is very strong Jo-Jo, you know that."

Jo-anne did know that, but she still could feel it, her bond to her father, how much she loved him, even after all he did, how much it hurt. It couldn't possible hurt this much unless he was her father. She shook her head.

"West, best bring the file for her to read." T.J. sighed.

Jo-anne turned her eyes to West and he moved from the window to the bedside table and picked up a folder. She shot off the bed and backed away, shaking her head, "No." her insides were twisting like a knife, she didn't want to see that. Backed all the way away from him as he walked around the room, shaking her head the whole time.

He handed the folder to T.J. looked at her. "The process is quite quick Jo-anne, though it will be painful if you resist. Best you read this."

She shook her head, "No." she stared up at him, pain welling inside her at just the thought of losing that man. He might be a horrible person but he had raised her. She had many wonderful memories. "I don't want to."

"I understand, but please do. Heath has somehow, for some unknown reason, turned against you. He is dangerous to you now. And if you won't give me your permission to deal with him the way I should have the day he attacked you. Then I, Jo-anne, am asking you, to please read your own file and let me break his hold over you."

"I'll have no-one West." she bit her lip, tears spilled down her face and she shook her head "I'll be all alone." she sobbed.

He walked across the room and pulled her into his arms, into his chest. "No you won't, you will still have T.J. and me. I know that is not much, but we will be here for you."

Jo-anne stood there, not knowing what to say, not knowing what to do. West had never held her before, didn't exactly know how to feel about that right this minute. He sighed

and stepped back, and looked down at her, brushed her tears away gently. "Please read the file, I'll come back later, T.J. will stay with you and when you're ready he'll let me know." Then he turned and walked from her out of her room.

Her eyes moved to T.J. more than a little shocked, he chuckled softly "The man has a soft side, you've only seen it once, I believe."

"Huh? When?"

T.J. raised an eyebrow at her, "Do you not recall that kiss in the hospital?"

That snapped her head up. "What? No surely not. That was a bloody oxygen-deprived hallucination."

T.J. burst out laughing "Then Jo-Jo how do I know about it?"

Jo-anne was staring at him, her fingers moved to her mouth, touched her own lips gently as she recalled the way West had looked down at her, had been looking right into her eyes, his eyes filled with compassion, how soft it had been, how nice it had actually felt, how much comfort it had given her at that time, no surely, she must have told him, maybe told some one and he over heard.

"Wow Jo-Jo, it must have been some kiss if it literally blew your mind away." T.J. laughed.

She ran over and whacked him several times, which only made him laugh even harder. "From your reaction to just thinking about it. Bet you wanna do it again" he burst out laughing.

"Shut up, that is not funny." she yelled at him.

"Yes it is, I should have taken a picture when I walked in on the two of you, making out all lovey dovey."

"T.J. that's enough."

"I'm going to torment you with it forever."

"Oh yeah, well I'll tell Cole, you dry humped the hell out of Ella." she shot back.

"I did no such thing."

"Bull, you want me to tell you what she said, or that she had to go home and get out her vibrator to sort herself out afterwards."

He was staring at her now, a smirk on his face, "I am good. Probably took her hours to sort herself out, thinking about me." he wiggled his eyebrows at her.

Jo-anne laughed. "Named her vibrator Terence."

He grinned right at her now. "Really, now that I like. Damn," she watched him lean back on the bed, his hands behind his head and stare up at the ceiling. She knew he was thinking about it. Watched him roll over and look right at her "What did she say, I wanna know. All the details."

"You bloody girl."

"Cough it up or I'm going out there to tell West you got all hot and bothered thinking about that kiss."

"I did not." she shot at him. "Just didn't know it was real. Honestly, though it was a dream."

"Nope, it was real Jo-Jo. Did you like it?"

"None ya business." she shot at him.

He snort "you did."

She glared at him. Til he started poking her with a finger. "Come on spill the details about Ella, what did the woman say?"

"I owe her one Beta."

"Well hell woman, if you owe her one Beta, you'd better find a way to pay back that debt, sooner rather than later, if you know what I mean."

"And what, you want me to walk up to Cole and tell him, Hey Cole, I want you to let T.J. fuck your sister."

"Well, not be so crude about it. But hey, if it works."

"And why would he accept it from me? I'm nothing."

"Ah, you're still a Luna-ranked wolf, so technically you still outrank him."

She stared at him. Point a finger at him, and thought about that for a moment "Ha. I outrank you then."

He roared with laughter "I got Royal blood sister, no way you'll ever outrank me."

"You know T.J." Jo-anne lay down on the bed and looked at him. "I know lots of secrets about you, I might just start telling Ella."

"Go ahead better tell her all the good stuff, you know." again he wiggled his eyebrows at her.

"The first thing I'm gonna tell her is..." she smirked right at him, then jabbed him right in the side and dug her fingers in, tickling him. He burst out laughing and smacked her hands away.

"Don't you dare, I'm the pack Beta. I need to be seen as tough and strong and not brought down by being ticklish."

Jo-anne laughed at him, and then just sighed, and stared at him, all fun gone at the thought of what she had to do. "I'll stay with you till your ready."

She shook her head, "I don't want to read it."

"You need to Jo-Jo."

"Did you really name me?"

"I did," he nodded.

"How'd you find me?"

"Now that's a stupid question. How do I ever find you? I guess we were connected from the moment you were born. Can I ask you a question, Jo-Jo?"

"Sure."

"Can I see your back?"

"Why?"

"The day of your 18th birthday, likely the time you were born, I got a mark on me, I think it's the same as what's on your back. I got a glimpse of it when Patterson was stitching you up."

That got her undivided attention. "You get any weird side effects from it?" she sat up and turned her back to him, lifted up her shirt for him to see it.

"No, why do you?"

"Nope." she bit her lip "just curious is all. Is it the same?"

"Yes it is." he said, "Look." he moved the sleeve of his shirt up and there on the inside of his bicep was indeed an identical mark to hers. Though it was much smaller.

"What do you make of it?" she asked.

"I don't know. Though I always suspected you had one too."

"It's weird. The only thing I know is it's called Celestial Moon Phases."

He shrugged, "Means nothing to me."

"Me either." she lay back down and stared up at the ceiling. She knew just from his answers he had been the one to find her, which meant it was all true. Heath was not her father, never had been. And his Mate Jo-anne had never been her mother. So who was she? Turned and looked at him "Call West, let's just get it over with. Whatever hold Heath has over me, puts you in danger, I don't ever want to do that again."

"You don't want to read it?"

"No, I believe you T.J."

West arrived like 5 minutes later, with the pack ceremonial blade in his hand. She sighed, he sat down on the bed next to her, took hold of her hand, "I will ask you to renounce your blood tie to him, then I have to cut you. The research I did says only the blood from him will come from the cut. Once it does, the tie will be severed."

"That's it?"

"Yes, quite simple. You ready?"

"Just do it." she sighed.

He cleared his throat and she saw Volt on the surface with him, smiled up at his wolf, they winked right at her. She knew it was Volt, not West. By the way, he shook his head slightly afterwards "I Alpha Westley ask you, Jo-anne Morris, do you want to sever your blood bond with Heath Morris." his voice was gravelly, him and his wolf talking together.

"Yes, I want to sever my blood bond with Heath Morris, I no longer accept him as my father."

West made a small nick on the palm of her hand, and it bled just a single drop and then sealed over.

"How do you feel?" he asked.

"No different. Really." She shook her head "how am I supposed to feel?"

“Disconnected.” he was frowning at her.

She watched as he wiped the blood away with a tissue from her bedside table, “maybe it takes awhile.” she shrugged.

“Should be instant. But let's give it a few hours.” he stood up. “try and get some rest.”

“West?” he turned and looked at her “If I’m not a Morris any more, what am I?”

He seemed to think about it for a moment. “A Carlton I guess.”

Her eyes widened as she watched him walk out.

Chapter 43 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

Hearing her sob so uncontrollably was nearly killing him. She’d woken up and almost immediately burst into tears. She knew what she had done, he and T.J. had both been in her room waiting for her to wake up. After arguing about severing her tie to Heath, he didn’t want her bound to that bastard anymore than T.J. did, but he wanted to give Jo-anne answers first. T.J. it seemed, didn’t give a shit about getting her permission had told West he would bloody do it if West didn’t.

He knew the man well enough to stop arguing about it. It was Jo-anne. So he’d agreed told T.J. in the morning he’d send for her to come to his office and they would do it then. That had not satisfied the man, he wanted it done now. The minute she woke up. Wanted that tie to Heath gone and was not willing to wait a single second longer than it needed to be.

So he’d retrieved her file and they’d headed for her room. She was alone in there, sleeping. The use of whatever powers were contained inside of her had drained her completely, either that or Belinda had done something to her. He wasn’t exactly sure. Who knew what the Royals could do?

T.J. had made himself comfortable on her bed, right next to her, to West’s annoyance, but he’d said nothing. Volt was very unhappy about seeing it, T.J. stretched out on the bed watching her sleep. He was not touching her, and West knew it was the man's ever present need to protect her and comfort her, that made him be there on the bed with her. Volt was prowling around inside his mind glaring at the man.

It was almost as if T.J. knew it too, every now and then he would simply snicker for no reason, West had stopped prowling around the room, when T.J. had nearly burst out laughing at him, when Volt, had let out a low growl at the man for actually touching her face. Bastard was playing with his wolfs' possessiveness.

What on earth drove the man to toy with his Alpha's wolf like that, only the Goddess herself knew. But it was a deadly game. At some point, he was not going to be able to contain his beast and there was going to be a massive fight erupt right here, in her room where she was sleeping, if the man wasn't careful.

Her sob had drawn his attention, he'd turned in time to see both her hands cover her face as she'd been wracked with sobs, T.J. had pulled her into his arms and she'd apologised right away, just lay there clinging on to him crying uncontrollably. He had wanted to leave the damned room. It hurt hearing how much pain she was in, didn't think he'd ever heard her cry like that.

He knew he'd made her cry, coped a fist to his face every damned time, took the hit from T.J. without question, never hit him back, not once. He'd known he'd deserved it, even the first time, when he'd picked himself up off the floor, he'd just looked at T.J. half expecting another, but it had never come.

The only thing he'd ever said was "one day you'll regret everything West. One day it will be all too late and no apology will save you." and he had been right about the day that it would all be too late. As for the regret, he already had that, regretted everything the minute he'd done it. Lived a lifetime of regret where she was concerned.

Trying to explain to her about her father, he'd known it was going to be difficult, but to hear her say she already felt broken, how could he continue and break her even more? Trying to leave the room, the threat that had come out of T.J. he knew the man meant every word. He didn't seem to care that she was in too fragile a state to handle this. Just wanted what he wanted and right this bloody minute.

It didn't surprise him that she was resistant to the idea, but bloody hurt when she turned those eyes of hers on him, pure disbelief in them about him not hurting her on purpose. Even Volt hadn't liked it. He'd given her years of pain, not that she ever even yelled at him about it. Just accepted it all and held it in, why she'd never screamed at him, hit, kicked or lashed out. Not even once still to this day shocked him. If he'd been her, he'd have beat the living hell out of his Mate for that treatment.

He'd stood and just closed himself off to everything, the way he always did. He knew his anger at her words aimed directly at him was on display. He couldn't help it, even telling her he wouldn't hurt her on purpose didn't seem to matter to her. The damage he'd done to their Mate Bond was already embedded into her. She would never believe he'd not hurt her on purpose. T.J. was right, no apology was ever going to make it okay. He turned and walked away to the window, didn't want to look at her expression, see the disbelief anymore.

Her reaction to him picking up her file to give to her. He knew she understood they were telling the truth about the situation, this was her reaction to not wanting to believe them. Not that she didn't believe them, she was scared he could see it. He handed the folder

to T.J. and tried to tell her it was a quick thing that could be dealt with easily. But if she was resistant to it, would in all likely be very painful.

She didn't want to, he could see it and hear it in her voice, trying to gain her permission, telling her he wanted her to do this, that he was asking her, not forcing her to, her reply "I'll have no-one West." tears spilling down her face, terrified it seemed that she would be all alone. She would never be alone, he would never allow it.

Hadn't even thought about it, just walked across the room and held her, tried to reassure her she would not be alone, that he and T.J. would always be there for her. And true it wasn't much. Two people in a pack of nearly 1800, it wasn't much at all. But they would never let anyone hurt her. He knew that, and come the full moon he was dead certain one of them was going to be her Mate. Just hated which he knew it was going to be. But at least she would be happy and T.J. would never allow harm to come to her, bloody woman couldn't stub a toe without him knowing.

Used his thumbs to brush her tears away, he wanted to lean down and kiss the woman, but refrained because T.J. was right there. He'd pushed his luck the last time. Today he would not, asked her to please read the file and left her there with T.J. stepped out of the room and walked off to his office.

It was almost an hour before T.J. called him back to the room and she was ready, sat down next to her and explained the process to her. It was quite simple, formally renounce the man and use the packs ceremonial blade, to bleed his blood out of hers. He felt Volt push forward to do the asking, as her Alpha and she smiled right up at his wolf, damned beast near exploded with joy, winked right at her, to show her he was happy with her smiling at him. Was purring inside West, which West managed to stifle and shake off, then asked her if she wanted to sever her blood bond with Heath. She didn't hesitate to answer at all.

A single drop of blood seeped from the cut to her hand, he wiped it away with a tissue from the bedside table. And looked at her and asked her how she felt because she smelled instantly different to him. Whatever part of Heath had been in her was gone and her scent changed along with it. Though she said she didn't feel any different. He knew it had worked.

It was odd that she didn't feel anything at all.

Though she'd not felt anything when she'd broken their Mate Bond either. He'd watched that mark burn right off her neck and she'd not even flinched. When he'd accepted her rejection, it had felt like the skin on his neck was being peeled off one layer at a time while he was awake, with the use of a hot searing knife, caused him complete and utter agony and unlike hers, which had gone in less than a minute, his had taken hours to burn off his skin.

When he'd gone to leave the room and she called him by name. Liked it when she called him West actually, sounded nice coming from her. Wondered if he should start making everyone else call him Westley and only allow her to call him West. Wanted to know what she was now if not a Morris anymore.

He had thought about it 'Ours is what.' Volt had shot at him. "A Carlton I guess." Then he'd left the room. 'Jo-anne Carlton,' he'd never given her his name when they were Mated but he should have.

'Alpha, you might want to come down to the cells. Something weird is going on with your prisoner.' it was his guard, Howard.

'On my way.'

'T.J. something going on at the cells, might want to come.'

'wait for me.'

West was only a few steps from her room. He stopped and waited. T.J. appeared a minute later and they headed over there. Walked into the Cells could hear the screaming coming from Heath looked at his guard.

He shrugged "no-one in or out of Alpha, as ordered. Just started screaming and thrashing, pitching a fit like nothing I seen or heard before."

Definitely sounded like it, they walked in and the man was indeed pitching one hell of a fit, to the point he was no longer up on the hook, was lying down on the ground rolling around and screaming in pain. Like he was lying on hot coals and they were burning him all over. He looked at T.J., who shrugged.

"Started when she cut ties with him, I suppose." West leaned on the cell bars.

"She didn't feel anything," T.J. commented.

"No, but he is." the man was in agony. It seemed "how do you think he got down?"

"Acrobatics, who knows?"

Heath's eyes finally found Wests. "What did you do to her?" he screamed trying to get up.

"Nothing. I did nothing to her."

"You lie." he screamed, finally managing to get himself up off the floor "I can't feel her."

West stepped back, as did T.J. when the man shot forward to try and reach him through the bars, his hands were out stretched, his fingers digging in the air trying to get a hold of West.

"I'll kill you." he screamed all of a sudden, then he was grabbing onto the bars and trying to break them, kicking at them and throwing himself at them.

This was a new turn of events. The man had tried to kill her himself, yet now he wanted to kill West for the fact that he couldn't feel her. "Let's hang him back up, he might kill himself." West acknowledged, the man appeared to be in some sort of grief rage, over the woman.

The minute the cell door was open he was charging at them both screaming in anger. The two of them hauled him back to the middle of the room and hoisted him up on to the hook once more. He was then kicking out the two of them.

He stood staring at the man thrashing about, "I'm guessing you're feeling the pain of her severing her ties to you."

"She wouldn't even know how to do that," he gasped "I'm her father. She wouldn't."

"I knew how, and I told her how. Terence here helped convince her." West informed him simply.

"No, why would you do that?" he suddenly sobbed "She's my little girl, all I have." actual tears of sadness were falling from the man. What the hell was wrong with this man?

"Why? Are you stupid? You tried to kill her."

"I didn't mean it," he burst out, "I didn't want to."

West looked at T.J. The man really did sound genuine, full of remorse.

"Sounds truthful but I saw it with my own eyes, heard him laugh. He wanted to do it."

"It wasn't me," he screamed. "I would never hurt her."

West frowned. "But you did, even before you tried to kill her, your wolf attacked her."

"He didn't mean it, we're confused."

"Confused about what?" the man seemed awfully chatty. All of a sudden, might as well get some answers.

"I don't know, it was her, but..." he trailed off.

“But?”

“I don’t know how to explain it. Let me see her. I want to see her, need to see she is alive with my own eyes.”

“Not going to happen.” T.J. shot at him.

“She’s my little girl, I want to see her.” he screamed at them.

West sighed “She is not yours and I will not be letting you see her.” Then he turned and walked out of the cell, closed and locked the door once T.J. was out. Looked right at the man, even T.J. had a hand on West’s arm, he saw it too.

The man’s demeanour had changed, there was an evil smirk on his face. “She’s still going to die by your hands West. Its unavoidable you know.” so much menace filled his words.

“I, unlike you, would never hurt her.” West snapped and turned to leave,

The laughter that bubbled up out of the man was evil and sent a shiver all the way through him “Just one bite, Westley, and you’ll want to kill her. Won’t be able to help yourself. You’ll see.”

He turned and looked at the man, fear was ripping right through him. Heath’s eyes were locked right onto his, he meant every word, there was deadly certainty in the words he’d spoken.

Heath sneered right at him. “Hope I’m alive to see it, see your pain when you kill her.”

Felt T.J.’s hands on him and pulled him from the cell. The man was laughing one second all psychotically and then he was sobbing uncontrollably the next. Something was seriously wrong with the man.

“Don’t listen to him, West. He’s clearly insane. Listen to him now, that is the sound of insanity.”

West turned and looked at the cells. The man was screaming out Jo-anne’s name so filled with pain and suffering and then the next thing he was laughing maniacally, almost like he had a split personality. It was the phrase that bothered him the most ‘Just one bite Westley, and you’ll want to kill her. Won’t be able to help yourself.’ Heath’s wolf had bit her, one bite and then he’d been trying to kill her.

He turned and walked away, he’d heard enough, he’d bitten her before that much was clear. Marked her, he’d not wanted to kill her then, but...he sure as hell hadn’t been concerned about alpha ordering her to the floor that day, didn’t care if she’d died from it,

hadn't cared until T.J. had stopped him. What if it was true? Every time he'd been angry with her family he'd gone off and taken it out on her.

She'd been underage then, her blood not fully realized, to what she was. What if a bite then had made him the way he was, torn up inside, loved and hated her at the same time, couldn't understand it himself, he had craved her so much, but when it came to alpha ordering her he'd had no feelings about it at all, just did it like he couldn't help himself.

What if a bite now tipped him over the edge. She was of age now, her blood would be different. If he turned out to be her Mate and he Mark her, would he be unable to stop himself from hurting her? From killing her? Fear was creeping in on him. Volt had been going to go Clova today and he was always angry with her. He stopped walking. He didn't want to hurt her.

"West don't let him get into your head man." T.J.'s voice

West turned his head, he'd forgotten T.J. was walking with him. It was too late, the man was already inside his head and he knew it. His Bond to her had never felt right to him, he'd told T.J. that once before. After the first time, he'd Alpha ordered her for answers. Tried to explain it to him. Gotten blindly drunk to try and obliterate the memory of what he'd done. But it had never left him.

Chapter 44 - Her Alpha's Orders

T.J. POV

Trying to track that woman down; she was not an easy woman to get alone right now. She knew he was coming to have that conversation finally. A conversation she clearly did not want to have with him. Though her outright refusal to be alone with him, only confirmed for him 100%, that he was right about who Jo-Jo's mother was.

Did it really surprise him? No. Jo-Jo looked like her mother a fair bit, looked like her sister's too. Made him wonder how no-one had picked up on it? Or maybe it was just that only a very few select people knew the real truth about her birth. It did sadden him though, that she would run from him, and not want to talk about it with him.

How the woman's Mate did not know about this, was a curiosity to him. That man had been around Jo-Jo and a fair bit of late, but didn't seem to notice the likeness to his own daughters, or did he also know, but never said anything and, if so, for what reason? Just more questions for him to figure out.

T.J. was faster than this woman in human form, but not in wolf, that damned thing was a nightmare to pin down. Not only was her wolf freaking fast, it was agile to boot. Could turn on a dime, it seemed. Her wolf was smaller than his by half, therefore it could fit

through narrower gaps in trees that Lark could not, and she and her wolf were making use of that to out manoeuvre Lark.

T.J. was not about to out the woman about being Jo-Jo's birth mother to the whole pack, therefore he could not ask for back up or any assistance to corner her wolf either. She had a Mate and 3 other children, which it was obvious were oblivious to the fact that Jo-Jo was also a part of their family unit. He would like to rectify that, but it didn't seem this was what the woman wanted. T.J. had a nagging feeling why.

He'd not even told West of his suspicions about who Jo-Jo's mother was, and was intending to keep it to himself for now. Didn't even know if he should tell Jo-Jo herself. It was a concern, how she would react, and he didn't want to set her off.

He was currently trying to corner the woman's wolf, she was blocking all his attempts to form a mind-link with her, she was frustrating the hell out of him. He knew several pack members had seen his wolf chasing hers, most had just smiled and laughed. This woman was a full-blown warrior and trained the juniors in wolf form, was often seen running through the pack with the new wolves trying to catch hers. She was pushing them and training their wolves how to be nimble and quick in the wooden area's. A good skill to have for hunting or escaping. So he was in her domain right now and she and her bloody wolf were likely loving this chase.

Most of the pack members who saw Lark racing after her, likely though he was training with her, most just smiled and laughed, he got a few mind-links about being too slow to catch her. Annoyed the hell out of him and he'd shot back. He was just toying with her, but in reality he really couldn't get the woman pinned down.

Lark snarled in frustration as her wolf went leaping across a gorge of about 20 feet, didn't even hesitate at the gap, made it with ease and then skidded to a stop. Her wolf turned and snorted at him. Their wolves were now staring each other down across the gap, she was still keeping the mind-link closed to him, damned woman was so stubborn.

'To slow Beta.' she finally opened the mind-link he was pushing at her.

'We need to talk.' he shot back at her.

The link was closed off to him and she was gone running off away into the woods on the other side of the gorge. Lark snarled in disappointment, they turned and headed back to the pack-house. Bloody woman wasn't willing to talk to him, and she needed to, or he was going to out her right in front of West. Let him deal with her and get the truth out of her, the answers they needed.

He'd been chasing her all bloody morning since before, sun up even. To no avail, her wolf had just as much stamina as his, frustratingly annoying chasing one of the best damned warriors of the pack around. Shifted and entered the communal mudroom to

clean off, there were several others showering, coming back from training, he supposed. Something he'd missed due to that infuriating woman. She did not even care she was defying the pack Beta.

T.J. stepped into one of the shower stalls and stood under the water letting the hot water ease the tension in his muscles. He had to sort this out, needed actual information, needed to understand why and how. Heath seemed to have a fractured mind and he had not been like that prior to his wolf biting Jo-Jo. This woman could have the answers.

Heath's claim, was a huge concern. T.J. knew that West was more than concerned by it. To Mark a Mate was to bite them, so any Mate, she got, West or another, to Mark her could potentially be a threat to her. Though T.J. was pretty sure that West was more concerned about the comment that she was destined to die at his own hands.

It would not happen on T.J.'s watch. He could get there in time to save her. If that happened, not that T.J. thought it would happen, West couldn't stand the thought of harm coming to her. Wouldn't allow it to happen if he could prevent it. Her being injured now had been unforeseen to all. Who would have thought her own father would try and kill her? Not even T.J. had thought he would do something like that.

Her mother, could likely provide all the information about Jo-Jo's father's bloodline. He didn't need her mother now he knew who she was, he understood her bloodline on that side of her, but perhaps there was something in her father that explained the rest about her. None of her mother's bloodlines had glowing eyes that he knew of. So that part of her, was all her father.

Maybe he should have Patterson run her bloods in secret. He groaned, if he did that, it would out her mother, to the pack doctor and he might feel compelled to tell West. He was so frustrated. A snarl ripped out of him and he punched the wall of the shower stall. Tiles shattered and fell to the floor, he sighed and scrubbed his hands over his face.

"You alright in there?"

T.J. turned his eyes to the woman's voice. Silvia was leaning but ass naked on the entrance to his shower stall. "Come here woman." he growled at her with a smile and reached for her. She strolled right on in and slid her arms up around his neck. "Distract me from my worries." he told her.

"Sure thing Beta." she smiled up at him and pressed her naked body right up against his "I only got like five minutes though."

"That is not, enough time," he groaned, his mouth on her neck already. "I need at least an hour," and heard her chuckle.

"You know you could just shove me up against that wall and furiously fuck me, I'd like it a lot." she was rocking her hips against him.

"Ah, that's not me." he put his hands on her hips and stopped her grinding. "You know that."

She smiled "I know, but I'd be up for it." she teased him. He knew she would.

"Yeah I know." T.J. sighed, leaned back on the wall and put her naked body a little away from him. "Get...you're torturing me woman."

She smiled, then slid her hand down his body, stroked his cock, then grabbed it firmly, her eyes right on his as he started to get hard, grinned up at him, then just let go and walked away out of the shower. Bloody woman, he knew she had patrol duty and couldn't be late. But Jeez, touching him like that, she was trying to frustrate him. His needs ran deeper than a five-minute fuck.

Turned the water from hot to cold and shook it off, he might have to make his way to her bed tonight to sate himself and her for that matter. Turned the shower off, dried off, pulled on a pair of gym shorts to walk through the pack-house, to head for his room to dress for the day.

Everyone was up and heading for the pack dining hall for breakfast.

"You sexy beast." Ella grinned right at him, her eyes sliding over his mostly naked body as she was walking down the stairs he was going up, then cracked him hard right on his ass, her fingers giving him a good squeeze to boot. Elicited a growl from both he and Lark, she laughed at his response.

Cole was trailing her, bloody man whacked her up the back side of her head and T.J. nearly punched him in the face for it. The only thing that stopped him was hearing Ella's all super innocent comment to her brother "What?", made T.J. smile to himself as he continued up the stairs, cheeky ass woman.

That woman was going to get more than she bargained for one day. One day, she would do that and they would be all alone and she'd find herself underneath him. Hell yanked onto his face, begging for more as he ate her out, for as long as he damned well pleased. T.J. could eat something that freaking sweet smelling for hours. Hell he'd hold her down and eat her out until she was a quivering blood mess on the floor.

Dressed and in the West's office, he found his Alpha focused on pack business, probably trying to keep his mind off of Heath and Jo-Jo. He glanced up at T.J. "You missed training."

"I did." T.J. nodded "Had a more pressing matter to attend to."

West frowned at him, he'd not given T.J. anything to do, but seemed to just let it go. "I don't want Jo-anne going anywhere on her own. She's your job now."

"My job?" T.J. queried.

"Yes." he waved T.J. off, turned back to pack business.

T.J. shook his head, the man was nuts. If he wanted her escorted everywhere or to know her every move, why didn't he just have her come and sit in the damned office, he had to get her mother alone and talking. That was his plan for the rest of the day. Or had been til now. Sighed and left the office to go and find her. It wasn't hard, she was having breakfast with Ella and her friends. His eyes locked with Ella's for a moment and she winked right at him. Bloody woman was definitely asking for it.

He walked Jo-Jo down to the pack hospital Dr Patterson wanted to give her a check-up. Now she was all healed. Patterson sat in front of her on a stool and checked Jo-Jo's neck. All her wounds were healed completely, he had her run through some vocal chord exercises, including having Clova growl and snarl and the two of them to push forward and talk together. Only then did T.J. realise he'd never seen the two of them do that, talk as one.

Patterson was happy with everything and T.J. walked her back to the pack-house, asked her how she was feeling. It had only been a few hours since she'd severed ties with Heath, she'd seemed quite happy with Ella and her friends, he'd noted, laughing and having a joke.

Apparently she was completely fine, apologised to him again for yesterday's event. He nudged her "Don't worry about it. What do you want to do today?"

"Actually I'd like to paint today, so I'll likely be in my room a few days. It won't paint itself, you know."

"Can I see it yet?"

"Nope." she shook her head.

"Why not?"

"You can't keep a secret." she teased him.

"Oh, can't I? Think you'll find I can."

"Nope." she shook her head again.

"Better lock your door then, I'm gonna peek." he chuckled "Who ordered it? You've got no new contracts I know of."

“None ya business.”

“Oh, so its like that is it!”

“Yep.” she grinned up at him as they walked into the pack-house “You go play at being the pack Beta.” she shot at him cheekily.

T.J. snorted “I don’t play at it.” watched her head off up stairs. And just like that, the old Jo-Jo was back. Had bounced right back, just like always, he shook his head. He didn’t know how she did it, strolled into West’s office, he was on the phone, all business still, it seemed.

Sat down and actually pulled out Jo-Jo’s contracts. There were a few details that just needed clearing up and then he could have West sign them off, hell he could do it. He’d seen his father's signature on one or two of her contracts over the past few years, though would have to get West's approval to do that.

Lifted his head, as his wolfs hearing picked up a voice he wanted to talk to, left the office on his own business, nearly snarled out his irritation as he saw she wasn’t alone, backed off instantly, she was with her whole family having a casual lunch I the packs foyer.

Her eyes met his and she smiled right at him, then returned her attention to her family, dismissing him. She knew he wasn’t going to out her.

“Son.” T.J.’s eyes moved to his father, who was addressing him. “How are you? Your mother told me what happened yesterday.”

“Did she?”

“Yes, how is Jo-anne?”

“Woke up distressed, West and I severed her tie to Heath last night, so hopefully it won’t happen again.”

“How’d the girl handle that?” his father asked him, seemed quite concerned for her.

“Fine, as far as I can tell. Didn’t even hurt her...Heath, on the other hand, interesting response.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Come, I’ll show you.” T.J. indicated for his father to follow him. His eyes landed on the woman, she was still with her family, smiled right at him, definitely knew he wasn’t about to break up her happy home.

Headed for the cells with his father.

Heath's first words, were filled with concern, full of sadness, worried about Jo-Jo, begged to see her, seemed almost desperate even, begged profusely to be allowed just to lay eyes on her, even promised he'd apologise.

"Just wait." T.J. told his father, it did not take long for Heath to switch demeanour to that nasty piece of shit, with foul intent and nasty words about West killing her. He and his father sat and watched. Saw that poor bastard go back and forth, like hew as two different people, one her kind and caring father and the other, the evil bastard who'd tried to kill her.

"I think you should put him down, son." his father told him, "not going to get anything from him now. Completely lost his mind, it seems."

"It does seem that way." T.J. nodded as they headed back to the pack-house. "How's mother after yesterday?"

"She's fine Terence. Was more concerned about you not even trying to fight for your life."

"I can't hurt her, you know that."

"Terence, there is such a thing as defending yourself. Use it next time. Or I'll pit you against your mother in a sparing match."

T.J. smirked at that "Organise it. Just me and her, let's see who wins. I like a good fight."

"Son, she's much stronger than all of us, including young Jo-anne, I hear."

"Thankfully," T.J. nodded.

"West has real concern over Heath's words," he sighed.

"Heath is insane. They're just ramblings, don't worry about it."

"Already buried himself in work."

"That's how he copes, Terence, you know this."

"I know, it's just that..." he trailed off.

"Hmm, you aren't the only one to notice the changes in him, since she came back."

"Changes?" T.J. stopped walking. "He stopped smoking the minute she told him it wasn't good for him."

His father laughed. "She's got a Mates effect on him, I know we all see it Terence."

"What if he's not?"

"Do you really believe that?"

"I don't know, he's different around her, but their past is not good."

"It'll sort itself out, Terence. Are you still annoying the man over the woman?"

"Yeah!" he chuckled.

"You poke the bear son."

"You get bit." Terence laughed "I been bit before and survived it. It's all good."

His father smiled right at him. "You two are weird around that girl."

"West needs to be forcibly shoved in the right direction. I don't mind being the one to do it."

"Is it working?"

"Ah, I hope so... Sometimes I see it, other times he's still an ass like normal. But he's had a long time to be an ass, and not much practice at anything else...so it's difficult."

"I imagine so, How'd you get him into the Alpha Suite?"

"I didn't, he stopped sleeping in his room and started sleeping elsewhere after Alpha Jayden kissed Jo-Jo. Then he moved himself into the suite while she was in the hospital." T.J. smiled to himself and thought, after he kissed the hell out of her, but he left it unsaid.

"What do you know?"

"No more than the Luna." T.J. chuckled.

"Cryptic bastard aren't you." his father shoved him and T.J. shove him back and then the next thing he knew, they were rolling around on the ground trying to pin each other down, laughing at each other.

Chapter 45 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

West did not come and visit her, seemed it was up to T.J. to check on her after the severing of her bond with Heath, not that she minded she liked T.J.'s company. He escorted her around when she wanted to go somewhere. Every time she left her room he was walking towards the stairs to meet her. It was a little disconcerting that he knew she was on her way out of her room or to go off somewhere.

She had wanted to let Clova out, asked permission, still worried about Volt and Clova coming across each other, his wolf had winked at her, and West had kissed her in the hospital, though now she just had guilt about that, poor Miranda, that woman must be going through hell with Jo-anne back in the pack. She didn't mean for any of it to happen, hadn't started any of it. Was all his wolf or West himself.

Though that kiss in the hospital, she had kissed him back. A part of her had always wondered what it would be like to have him kiss her like that. She had tried that first year of their Bond and curiosity had always been there. She shook it off.

T.J. had declined her request on the account of 'it might not be safe.' She'd asked him what it meant, he'd not said anything, just shrugged, but Clova still wanted to go for a run. Jo-anne was at this minute contemplating just letting her, without asking permission. She'd seen West and T.J. leave in West's car, so it was safe. Clova would not be near Volt, though Jo-anne had no idea if they had left the pack or were just off elsewhere.

She stepped outside her room to find a man sitting on a chair across the hall from her door. His eyes landed right on her, and then he stood up. "Going somewhere?" he asked her.

"No." Jo-anne went to walk down the hall. He fell in step with her and she turned to look up at him. "You going somewhere?"

"Where ever you are. Alpha's orders." he told her casually.

Jo-anne stopped walking and stared at him. "What?"

"Alpha's orders, where you go, I go. Till he or the Beta get back."

Just great, so she had a constant companion, it seemed now. "Why?" she asked and continued down the hallway.

The man shrugged "Just following orders."

"I don't need you to go, everywhere I go." she stated flatly.

"That maybe, but I got orders to follow."

Jo-anne got the distinct impression that this man would not be budged. Probably picked because he would follow orders without question.

“What Rank are you?” she asked casually.

Heard the smile in his voice “Elite Warrior, you won’t get away from me or my team miss.” he was not fooled, it seemed.

“Team?” she frowned now, so not just one, but a whole team. West was insane. If he had a team following anyone around for protection it should be, on his Mate, Miranda.

“Yes,” he answered, but did not elaborate further.

Jo-anne sighed, so it seemed she was going to have a body guard, why she walked about, Heath was still in the cells as far as she knew, so why all this? She didn’t know.

“How long do I have you and your team?”

“Till the Alpha or Beta come back,” he stated, as he had before.

“And when are you expecting them?”

“I’m not. I don’t ask questions about where or what my Alpha does. I just follow his orders.”

Jo-anne sighed more than frustrated with this man, wondered if she could give him the slip, looked him over, he smiled right at her “Try it.”

“What orders do you have, if I do?” she was not so dumb.

He laughed “Wouldn’t you like to know?”

“I would,” she answered honestly.

“Let’s just say...I would inform the Alpha and the Beta, do you really want to incur their wrath?”

Jo-anne turned now to look right up at him. “Wrath, T.J. would never.”

“Do you think, your Alpha, won’t punish you?” he seemed quite amused.

“Well, I’m going out with the girls tonight. You’d best bring your dancing shoes.” she walked off ahead of him. He followed her all the way into the town centre, where she got food and a cup of tea, then sat and ate it while he stood by, uncaring of the looks they were both getting. It was very annoying for her.

Although Ella had said West had people following her at a distance during their Mate Bond, she'd never noticed it. Was this what it had been like? It was weird, to say the least. Poor Miranda, once she was Marked by him, was in for a life of no privacy, it seemed.

Returned to her room, to paint. Only to find Luna Natalia standing in her room, looking at the canvas. It had not been covered, the paint was still wet. Jo-anne had been working on it all morning. She, however, had been trying to keep it a secret.

"When did you start it?"

"After I got out of the hospital," Jo-anne informed her, the picture of West smiling was on a stand next to it for reference.

"You did it."

"I did." Jo-anne nodded. "Took me several days, the man seemed to be happy to be having his first real Alpha meeting, here within the pack."

"I can't believe it." Luna Natalia sighed as she picked up the photo and touched it gently. "The boy hasn't smiled in forever."

"I wanted to keep it a secret, surprise you."

"You, Jo-anne, have surprised me." she turned and smiled right at her "did you get any others?"

"I did."

Jo-anne walked over and turned her laptop on and indicated for the Luna to sit down. Showed her all the ones she had taken, including West and T.J. seeing as the secret was out, there was no need to hide the rest.

"Oh my Goddess, look at them. Just like when they were teenagers."

Jo-anne knew what she meant. A small pang of pain touched her. She meant before he'd woken up Mated to her. He'd been 20 at the time. She had ruined his life, it was what West had always told her on many occasions.

"Can I take one?"

"I'd prefer not, for now. He'll see it, know I was sneaking around, might get me into trouble. I don't want, nor need that from him."

The Luna chuckled softly for a moment, seemed amused by something in her words "When it is done?"

“Yes, I will give you whatever ones you want, once the portrait is finished.”

“I want them all.” she turned and looked at Jo-anne, a happy bright smile on her face. “Gosh, he looks like Damien when he smiles.”

“Handsome, when he’s not grumpy.” Jo-anne nodded, saw his mother raise an eyebrow at her tone. “I never once saw him smile.” Jo-anne elaborated with a shrug.

“Not once...even...well.”

“No, not even then.” she knew what his mother was talking about, before or after sex. “A scowling man always,” she shrugged “smiling makes him look younger.”

“It does.” she nodded and turned back to the photo’s “I don’t know how to repay you.”

“Don’t. This one is on the house...for everything you and Alpha Damien did for me, over the years. Even after I left.”

“Thank you Jo-anne.”

“Anytime.”

Luna Natalia left Jo-anne’s room still smiling to herself, promising to keep it to herself. Happy with the knowledge that West could actually smile. Likely his portrait was going to shock his whole pack. She smiled herself, and stepped back up to the canvas, picking up a brush to continue her work. It was going to be worth its weight in gold, wondered absently as she painted about the frame his mother would choose.

The girls all turned up at 9pm to go out dancing. She was ready, wearing a pair of pale blue low-slung, well-fitted jeans, and a long sleeved flared top, that was off the shoulder in a pretty dark pink colour. A pair of black suede boots with a 3 inch heel. She left her hair out and was made up with dark pink lipstick, black eyeliner and smokey grey eye shadow. Ready for a night out with the girls.

“Whose the muscle?” Ella smiled at her, after eyeing off the new men trailing them, three of them not one at the moment. Why she had no idea?

“I don’t know,” she shrugged. “Something West insisted on, for Goddess only knows what reasons.”

All the girls burst out laughing “Well.” Ella turned and looked at the three men, “Hope you fellas like a good bit of drinking and dancing. It’s ladies' night at Maxi’s.”

“What’s ladies night?” Jo-anne asked. She’d only been to Maxi’s once. That first night she’d been back in the pack.

“Oh my, that’s right, you don’t know. You should have brought your camera, topless un-mated males serving drinks, putting on a show or two, and dancing with us freely, sweet sexy asses everywhere you turn. And girl, touching is okay. Young warriors, all of them, so buffed up to the hilt. You’ll love it.”

Jo-anne laughed “Well now, next time you gotta warn me. I’ll def bring the camera. You think they’d be up for that calendar idea?

“Sure, some of them anyhow.”

“T.J. won’t pose, grumpy ass said no.”

They were all laughing as they headed into Maxi’s. Ella was not wrong, there were a dozen young warriors walking around in skinny jeans, slung low on their hips, all their pecks, abs and v-lines on display for all to see and oiled up to boot. There was more than one show up on that stage too. It was an un-mated she-wolf’s dream and these young warriors were more than happy to be dancing with any she-wolf that asked them to.

Jo-anne was standing at a table with a wolfeen loaded scotch and dry in her hand, watching two of her friends as they sandwiched one of those un-mated males between them, pressing right up against him and gyrating all over him. They were both smiling and he too seemed to be enjoying the attention, had his hands on Julie’s hips and was grinding away on her.

As her eyes swept around the room, they fell on the future Luna, dancing with one of those men, damned near spat her drink all over the place. If West found out, he would go ballistic. He was a possessive man. Jo-anne could see that the un-mated male had his hands on Miranda’s hips and was merrily grinding himself against her. He should bloody know better.

Goddess the woman was playing with fire, not to mention she was practically wearing nothing, a tiny little white dress, that barely covered her ass cheeks, and her breasts were pushed up with cleavage for all to see, and that dress was all leather crisscross straps up the sides. West would never allow her to wear so little, barely a bit of satin at all.

Turned to look around, West maybe not here in the pack, but surely at least Ricky or Cole were here to supervise the woman or protect her. She couldn’t see them anywhere. Turned her eyes back to Miranda to find the woman smiling and waving at her, she walked off the dance floor and right over to her. “Hey, good to see you all better, don’t you just love it here. I love these nights.” she was a little breathless from dancing, it seemed.

“Um, should you be doing that?” Jo-anne asked, more than a bit concerned for the woman and the un-mated male she had been dancing with.

"It's just dancing, what's wrong with that?" she laughed, seemingly unconcerned at all.

"West will get really mad."

Watched as Miranda snorted, "No he won't, he doesn't care that I come here dancing."

Jo-anne was completely shocked by the woman's statement. All mates were possessive creatures. And she knew first hand what West was like. He may not have wanted to be mated to her but that did not stop his need to make sure no-one saw her naked. Hell, Miranda's skimpy dress would be enough to have West blow a gasket. She'd never had a problem with anyone trying to touch her, but she could only imagine it wouldn't have gone down so well.

West was an Alpha Wolf, so any other male wolf touching his un-marked Mate would likely set him off into a rage. That man over there could well get his head ripped off for touching his Alpha's Mate.

"I think maybe you shouldn't do that."

"Why?" Miranda asked, downing a drink that she snagged from one of the servers and then took a second. "West doesn't care"

"I'm pretty certain he would." Jo-anne couldn't figure this woman out.

Watched Miranda down that second drink and then just laugh "Well I don't. Come dance with me." she grabbed on to Jo-anne's arm and pulled her out onto the dance floor, slipped her arms around Jo-anne's neck and smiled up at her, "You're like tall huh." then was suddenly dancing and grinding her body up against Jo-anne. Like she had been that male.

Jo-anne had been staying off the dance floor, for a reason. Those un-mated males had wandering hands, and she did not need them touching her, would cause her pain. Kept an eye on them and made sure to keep a she-wolf between her and them at all times. Could not believe how Miranda just danced with anyone, male or female. The girl was handsie with everyone, including Jo-anne.

Jo-anne managed to slip off the dance floor when the woman finally let go of her to turn and grab hold of another she-wolf, she found one of the three men that were trailing her everywhere, Mr I'm not telling you anything, as she liked to think of him, hadn't even coughed up his name. Asked him to take Miranda back to the pack-house before West found out she was here.

He'd glanced over at Miranda and then just shrugged "Not my charge." he told her.

"But she's the future Luna. You have to do something."

He raised an eyebrow, "Looks, like she is having fun. Not my problem."

Jo-anne glared up at him, "Well, if West finds out, that you did nothing. You'll be in trouble. Don't expect me to save your ass."

"I'm not," he stated simply.

Jo-anne huffed, she didn't know what to do about the situation. Stood biting her lip as she watched Miranda on the dance floor. Nearly passed out from shock when Miranda was suddenly lip locked to one of those un-mated males and grinding herself hard up against him. Put her hand to her mouth in horror, she turned to look at her body guards. Not one of them moved a single muscle to stop it, didn't even seem to consider going and separating them. Goddess it was so wrong. She had to do something.

Hurried over to the woman to try and pull her away from that male, West would kill him, one of his own pack members over this. Only to have a hand wrap around her arm and stop her a metre shy of reaching Miranda. Pain shot through her arm as he was pulling her away from Miranda, she tried to pull herself free of him. "Let go." she gasped.

He did not, not until she was off the dance floor and back at the table where she had been standing before. Jo-anne rubbed her arm and glared at him. It was unlikely he knew no-one could touch her, but West "Not me," she snapped and pointed to Miranda.

"They have an open relationship, it's fine." he told her, shocking her completely. An open relationship?

"I don't..." she frowned "What?..." shook her head, maybe she'd had too many scotches already. "What Alpha would share his Mate?"

"Yours," he stated flatly.

It had to be a lie, she'd been Mated to West before, she knew the man did not share, would not even like how much skin was showing on Miranda. For that matter, Ella was suddenly next to her. "What's up sweets?"

Jo-anne pointed to Miranda and Ella's eyes followed. "Oh, that. West won't care, don't worry yourself about it." she waved it off. "Shots" she suddenly yelled and a tray of them was placed on the table. Ella put one in her hand and told her "Drink woman, it's girls night out, let's get your drink on."

Jo-anne downed the shot with the rest of the girls, without asking what it was, gagged at the bitter taste. "Arg." looked at Ella. "What was that?"

"Wolfen loaded Absinthe my friend, trust me you'll love the effect in a minute, and we're gonna do another." then she was yelling for more shots.

A second shot down, and wow, it did not take long for Jo-anne to feel the alcoholic effects of those drinks. She was giggling and dancing on the dance floor with her friends a few minutes later. Not a care in the world, she snarled at males that touched her, the pain of their touch, even accidentally, seemed to be increased, but she was more than giggly and didn't seem to care at all after the 3rd shot went down latched onto Ella and danced right up against her, Ella didn't seem to mind at all, the fog machine was set off and the atmosphere seemed to become all sultry. She downed the next shot Ella shoved in her hand, she was really having a good time, though was laughing and giggling so much she could barely stand.

Squealed when the whole room was suddenly upside down and spinning around, then she was outside in the hot sticky night air, arg it was way too hot out here. Her shirt was too hot on her skin and she tried to take it off.

"What the hell are you doing?"

Hmm, where did that come from? She lifted her head and looked up. It was really weird, she had this sense of moving but knew she wasn't walking, couldn't see anyone, shrugged it off, and tried again to remove her shirt but it was stuck somehow on something, no matter how hard she tugged at it, it wouldn't come off.

"Stop that." a gruff voice said.

Huh! Oh Goddess, everything was spinning as she looked up to see where the voice came from, felt herself gag, oh! That was not good, she thought, as acid burned her throat.

"Don't you dare."

Her stomach heaved and she threw up a lot of bright green liquid. "Arg, that's terrible." she muttered as the burn in her throat persisted still. Then she was tipping again and then crashed down on the ground and just lay there, staring up at the stars in the sky. Oh, she did not feel so good. Everything was spinning and she had this weird sense that she was falling, which was really weird because she knew she was lying on the ground. How can you fall when already on the ground?

"arg." she rolled over onto her stomach, felt more cramping in her stomach, tried to get up, managed only to make it to her knees, one hand shot to her mouth. Nope, she was going to vomit again.

"For the love of the Goddess Jo-anne, pull yourself together."

Huh! She turned her head one way and then the other, to try and see who was talking to her, but the movement only increased her need to want to vomit, groaned and leaned forward to vomit some more. Oh, Ella was going to pay, a part of her thought it was funny, another did not.

Pushed herself over and flopped down on the ground, 'ah screw it, I'll just sleep right here.' she thought, then there was a face right in front of hers, her eyes widened "Wow, you close." she stared up into dark green eyes. Reached up and poked that face, it was really close.

"Snap out of it." the voice was so loud and sounded very angry.

But all she could do was giggle, it looked so mad. It was so very loud to her ears. "Big face is too loud." she reached up and grabbed hold of that face and squished the mouth. "Ssh, don't tell the Alpha, I'll get in sooo much trouble." then she was giggling again.

"Oh, you're in trouble alright." Big face muttered down at her.

"Shh. Too loud, he hear you." she giggled again "Alpha got a stick up his ass so faaar." she put her finger to that face's lips "But shh, don't tell him I said so."

Then she was upside down again. "Don't you dare Vomit on me again."

"I would never," she replied indignantly and yawned, "will you put me to bed?"

"Yes." that voice answered her, though sounded very grumpy to her sleepy ears.

Chapter 46 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

West spent the next 2 days staying away from Jo-anne, burying himself in the pack business's, to preoccupy himself. Headed into Olympia for dealings with his new airline. Though he was unhappy to leave the pack knowing Jo-anne was alone at the same time. She had spent the last two days in her room painting from all accounts. T.J. had said she seemed fine, had simply returned to normal as though nothing had happened at all.

T.J. said she was smiling and could have a good laugh at his jokes, had not once asked about Heath at all, with their blood bond severed, it appeared she no longer felt the need to go and see him. A good thing.

West had called on his Elite warrior unit, the next one down from his Alpha Unit, led by one of his war generals, to keep watch over her. Instructed them to never let her go anywhere on her own. She was free to move about the pack as she liked but had to have a guard at all times. The men had looked right at him, only one had been stupid enough to question why. He'd raised an eyebrow at the man, who'd snapped his mouth shut so fast it wasn't funny and apologised for questioning his Alpha's orders.

He'd looked at them, this was not technically a part of their duties, but he could instruct them as he so pleased. "Her father tried to kill her, has eluded to the fact she would die still." he commented and all of them had stood to attention.

His general, Oliver, had nodded. "She'll be safe with us, Alpha." he'd stated firmly. West knew she would be. It was a 6 man unit. And Oliver would see to running his team properly. He dismissed them. Heard Oliver snarl out a man's name as he closed the door and knew he was about to round his own man for questioning their Alpha. Let him deal with it.

Heath's words weighed heavily on West still, and they had made for two very restless nights of sleep up in his Alpha Suite. A place with way too many empty rooms for his liking. He knew all those empty bedrooms were for when he found his Mate, for that Heir he would produce to stay in.

West's mother was hoping for a bunch of grandchildren from him. Had told him having lots of children had made her life feel blessed in many ways. That, seeing as he was her only son and all her daughters would likely move away to other packs. She was expecting him to give her lots of grand babies to spoil absolutely rotten. West doubted it would happen, but had just nodded at her and said nothing at the time. It had been when she'd finished decorating the suite.

There was way too much empty space in this suite for him right now. West knew why he shouldn't be alone in here, and if he hadn't been such an ass-hole all the time, he'd likely not be alone in here and those empty rooms, would have been filled already. West pushed that thought away, that was a torturous road to go down right that minute, with Heath's words "Just one bite." West hated that thought. Pushed it aside too.

He wanted answers, no he needed answers, but in the past 2 days, Heath seemed to be losing his mind even more than before. Poor bastard, it seemed, had gone completely insane when Jo-anne had severed her bond with him. West had not physically checked on the man, just mind-linked the guards twice a day for up dates. His screaming and laughing was increasing rapidly.

West was also waiting patiently to see if what his mother had said was also true. He had his guards eyes peeled for anyone lurking about around the cells, especially a female, though there was nothing yet and it had been several days. Not even his Mate Karen had turned up. Might just have to walk her over there himself. Seeing her might snap the man straight.

West had gone to his mother's office and questioned her about her knowledge on Jo-anne's mother and what she had told Heath. She'd chuckled softly and admitted she had no idea, said that no-one did. That she had done it to strike fear into the man, as that was what she wanted to do. A bluff it was.

West had been annoyed by her telling him it was all a bluff, he didn't want it to be, the way he'd heard his mother speak that day to Heath, with full certainty, even West had believed she knew who the woman was. West was curious about Jo-anne's mother, and her father for that matter. But still it seemed no-one knew anything.

It was odd, he thought, considering the power she had displayed, how could no-one know, nothing at all? Surely, as a newborn baby she would have scented of her mother. Possibly even her father, depending on which one of them was Alpha-blooded. An Alpha-blooded child abandoned in the middle of winter.

Hell, why had that Alpha not felt his child come of age and hunted her down? He'd read many history books where chosen Luna's who'd run off pregnant to an Alpha she didn't want to be mated to, had to hide their child with potions and witch craft and sometimes depending on the Alpha and his bloodline. Even that didn't work. The Alpha Wolf could feel their child out there once they got their wolf, and drove the Alpha Wolf to hunt like crazy for their own off spring.

Those Alpha Wolves became agitated and restless, they just had this deep-seated need to hunt down and claim what was theirs and nothing would settle that drive until they had claimed it. So why had that Alpha not come to claim Jo-anne? It made West wonder if the Alpha part of her was on the mother's side and, seeing as she had abandoned her, that was the reason she had never claimed her.

There were too many ifs, surely someone had to know something, he just needed to find the right person. It was starting to really hurt his head, constantly buzzing around in the back of his mind.

It was late when he and T.J. returned to the pack from Olympia. He mind-linked Oliver the second they crossed the pack's border to make sure Jo-anne was safe and unharmed. Though he knew if there had been any trouble, Oliver would have called and reported, straight away.

West was informed, that right that minute Jo-anne was very drunk, down at Maxi's night club, with a bunch of her friends. They were all dancing and having a good time at ladies' night.

A snarl had ripped right out of him and T.J.'s head had whipped around to look at him, eyes a little wide, likely expecting West to report an attack on the pack or something bad.

"Drop me a Maxi's." he growled, more than annoyed. Ladies' night was a stupid idea his father had initiated due to half the pack being un-mated and most of them female at that. It was a way for them to release their, as his father put it, sexual needs and urges.

T.J. had burst out laughing, he would know it was ladies night, "Good luck." he'd said as West had gotten out of the car. It had been T.J. who'd dealt with drunk Jo-anne the last

two times. She was out of control, been here for nearly 3 weeks, since he'd taken over, and drunk as many times.

He stalked his way into Maxi's and could smell arousal all around him. A dozen half-naked, oiled-up young warriors were all dancing and grinding up against the un-mated she-wolves. West could see a couple of them, with hands in places they shouldn't be in public, looking around the room, bloody fog machine hindering his sight.

Located Jo-anne off to the left, downing a shot of something green, she was giggling with her friends, dancing and wobbling about, hanging on to one of the girls, barely able to stand on her own, he realised. Drunk off her ass.

Oliver was not wrong, his eyes turned to the man in question. West could not blame him for Jo-anne's current state of inebriation. He had told Oliver she was allowed to go wherever she wanted to, just had to have someone with her at all times. He could see she had 3 of Oliver's men here in the club watching her.

"Miranda is here to Alpha, over there." West's eyes moved to the place he pointed, just freaking great, both of them drunk and here.

"How much did Jo-anne see? In Miranda's case?" he asked. The two women were on opposite sides of the room, and might not have seen each other. West knew that Jo-anne still believed Miranda was his Mate, he had not disillusioned the woman. In fact, no-one was to tell her, otherwise his possessiveness around her might make her feel uncomfortable around him. Or lead her to ask him questions he didn't want to answer at this point.

"Enough Alpha, to try and get us to remove Miranda and take her back to the pack-house. She was worried, it seems, you'd get mad."

"What did you tell her?" West asked, as he looked at Miranda, she was currently dancing with a group of girls around one of his un-mated Warriors, wearing practically nothing, he noted.

"That you and Miranda, had an open relationship."

West looked right at him now, a raised eyebrow. Jo-anne would never believe that about him, there was no way.

"Jo-anne has had 4 wolfen loaded scotch and dry's, and is 3 or 4 shots into wolfen loaded Absinthe now Alpha." he was informed. At least he was doing his job, and knew how much the bloody woman had had to drink. He doubted though that she would have drunk like this in the human world. No wolfen loaded drinks out there. Could kill a human.

West rubbed his temples, just great, no wonder she was in her current state. Took a deep breath and walked over there to where she was dancing. Ella and Julie did not surprise him, but Ava and Sonja did. They were all looking at him as he yanked Jo-anne around and tossed her over his shoulder, ignoring all their looks and their sudden outburst of laughter.

What Miranda made of it if she saw him, he did not know. Although he had moved out of their room and they were no longer together, Jo-anne had returned to the pack the day before he'd taken over as Alpha and Miranda had told him, he had been different since he'd become the Alpha.

She had seemed happy enough, the last few days doing her own thing and when they did pass each other in the pack-house she smiled up at him, waved and said hello, it appeared to West that she was all good, with them not being together anymore. That him allowing her to stay here and not be sent back home to her own pack had allowed her to let go of him and just be herself.

Within 2 minutes of him carrying Jo-anne towards the pack-house, she was squirming around on his shoulder, and though he had a firm grip on her, she was not staying still. He glanced over his shoulder to see what the issue was, only to see her struggling and trying to take her shirt off.

"What the hell are you doing?" he snapped at her. Was she insane? They were out in public and she was trying to get naked. Everyone would see her. Not on his watch, she wouldn't be. Felt her still for a moment after he spoke, but then she started to do it again. "Stop that." he growled at her, annoyed by her drunken behaviour.

There might not be many pack members out and about right this minute, but damn it, she knew better than to be naked out in the pack, and yes, he had let her go skinny dipping with her friends the other night but he had made damned sure the area was cleared of all males. When T.J. had come in and told him what she and Ella were going to go and do, he'd not liked it at all, but knew that Jo-anne had been given even T.J. the angry brush off. She'd needed to let off some steam, it seemed, she was never angry with T.J. and for it to persist as it had done, was even affecting T.J. the man had become mopey and it was very annoying to see. Not something he'd ever seen.

So, for once, he had sucked it up, and ignored his own need to be the only one to see her naked and had just let her go and do it. She was with Ella, Cole's little sister, a Delta Ranked wolf and a good warrior in her own right, so she would be safe. His allowing it had more than shocked his whole unit actually, they had all stood and stared at him like they thought he'd lost his mind for a moment. Before turning and walking out of his office to leave him alone.

West felt Jo-anne heave and gag "Don't you dare." he grated out, but it was already too late, heard her throw up, and was suddenly wet down his back. Growled in pure

annoyance and dumped her drunken ass on the ground to pull his now vomit-covered shirt off. Damned woman.

Watched her as she just lay there on the ground for a long moment staring up at the night sky, then tried to get up, didn't seem to be able to manage it, only made it to her knees before her hand covered her mouth, knew she was going to throw up some more.

"For the love of the Goddess Jo-anne, pull yourself together." it appeared to West. She didn't understand who was talking to her or where they were, too much wolven loaded alcohol in her system to make sense of anything, it seemed. Then there it was, more vomit. Then she just flopped down on the ground, rolled over and lay there like she was done for the day.

West hunkered down and looked right at her. Her eyes were still open, she looked right at him, poked him right in the face. He was very annoyed seeing her in such a state. He'd never seen her like this, not even close to this, in fact. Had been drunk the other night at the Tavern but not legless and near unconscious from it.

"Snap out of it." he snapped at her. How could she just go and get so stupidly drunk? Anything could happen to her in this kind of state and she wouldn't be able to defend herself. Volt was also annoyed with her, it seemed. Is this how she conducted herself in the human world? If it was? He was very disappointed.

"Big face is too loud," she said, and then her hands were on his face squishing it, "Shh don't tell the Alpha, I'll get in sooo much trouble."

"Oh you're in trouble alright." he muttered, he was very unhappy with her inebriated state. Then she shushed him "Shh. Too loud, he hear you." she giggled again. It was actually kind of cute, the way she looked up at him and hearing her giggle like that. The next words that came out of her mouth, however, did not amuse him at all.

"Alpha got a stick up his ass so faaar." she put a finger to his lips "But shh, don't tell him I said so."

West's jaw tightened instantly at her words, yanked her up off the ground and tossed her back over his shoulder, her vomiting episode over it seemed, and headed for the pack-house once more.

"Don't you dare vomit on me again." he grated out at her.

"I would never." she informed him, as though she had not already done so.

Then she was yawning and asked him to put her bed, all tired out it seemed.

"Yes," he muttered as he stalked off, he wasn't very well going to leave her out here now, was he? Jo-anne was completely passed out by the time he got to the pack-

house, where he could see T.J. standing and waiting on the outcome. Laughed out loud when he saw West was shirtless and carrying his vomit-covered shirt in his free hand.

“Awe, she’s drunk.”

“Bloody said, some not so nice things about me too.” West muttered.

“About a stick and your ass, I imagine.” T.J. chuckled.

“What?” West stared at him. How’d he known that? Then he realised she’d bloody well said it before, to T.J. and he’d not mentioned it at all.

“Yeah she’s a mean drunk.”

“Stupid drunk, not mean.” West corrected him, as he headed up the stairs. Used his master key to unlock her door and walked over to the bed, put one knee on the bed and lifted her off his shoulder and put her down. She just lay there completely out of it, he shook his head, stood up and frowned down at her. Was going to have to talk to her about this kind of behaviour and how it was unacceptable of her.

Turned and headed out of the room, looked at the covered canvas. He’d seen it the other night, but had been too preoccupied to think about it. But now! He hadn’t signed any of those new contracts yet. Reached out to lift the cover sheet only to hear T.J. clear his throat “If I’m not allowed, neither are you. Come on.”

West looked at it, it could realistically be anything he guessed, even something for herself, though it was very large. He walked to the door, turned and looked at all her art supplies and the stations, she’d set up for herself from the bedroom doorway. T.J. was right, about her room not being big enough, it was too small for her to paint in, she needed more space.

Chapter 47 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

The headache she woke up with was nasty, dragged herself off her bed and into the shower, she was irritable and dehydrated, even the hot water from the shower annoyed her. Got out and stood and drank two full glasses of water, made her feel a little better, did not make the headache go away.

Made her way down to the pack-house dining room for breakfast. It was just after sun up, didn’t imagine she’d had much sleep, was still a bit tired, but was hungry. There was no body guard outside her room when she stepped out. That must mean West and T.J. were pack on pack territory.

Must have come back last night at some point. Saw T.J. sitting at a table with West, Ricky and Cole. They were all eating breakfast, dressed casually, probably had been for early morning training. T.J. looked right at her and smirked, fully amused about something, she raised an eyebrow at him, rolled her eyes and said "What?" sarcastically.

"You and your drunken ramblings," he laughed now.

Jo-anne found herself under West's direct gaze, an angry glare right at her. She didn't know why he was mad at her, she had just been out dancing with the girls all night. Then it came back to her, she'd been carried out of that club, a frown touched her face, only 3 men were allowed to touch her, West obviously, T.J. and the pack doctor, Patterson.

T.J. had already told her that West had altered the latest of his orders on her, but not rescinded it. She'd rolled her eyes when he'd told her and muttered 'what else is new?'

Jo-anne had a vague memory of her trip home, "Sorry T.J." she nodded to him, as she walked passed him to get a plate, also vaguely recalled insulting his Alpha again, something T.J. had not taken kindly to, the last time she'd said it.

"I'm fine with it. West might not be." he commented, sounded fully amused to her ear.

Jo-anne's head whipped around to look at him. He was still smiling. Oh, for the love of the Goddess, he'd gone and told West what she'd said. Reported her drunken insult about the Alpha to the Alpha.

Her eyes moved to West, he was looking right at her, she was going to get ripped a new one, she could tell by the look on his face. 'Why'd you tell him?' she shot down the mind-link at T.J.

"I didn't bring your drunken ass home, Jo-Jo." T.J. stated out loud for all to hear, seems he didn't want to have this conversation in private.

Her eyes shot to his. He was fully amused now. If it wasn't him...Jo-anne's eyes moved back to West a tiny bit of fear crept in. If it wasn't T.J. then it had to be West himself, so she had told West he'd had a stick up his ass.

"Yes Jo-anne, it was me who saw you home." he grated out.

'Well shit' she thought to herself, and Jo-anne thought staying in her room and just hanging out with the girls would keep her out of trouble, she didn't know what to do or say, for that matter. A part of her wanted to apologise, but another part of her didn't want to. He had so many Alpha Orders on her. One insult, was worth it as payback.

Standing there with his eyes directly on her, she knew he was waiting on her to apologise to him. She bowed her head slightly to show respect, "Thank you Alpha, for seeing me safely home," she said. Jo-anne was not going to apologise to him, he'd not apologised to her. Well, there was that one time just recently, but that was it. She turned and walked away to get breakfast as though she did not know what she'd said, was going to play dumb on that one.

"Is that all you have to say?" she heard West snap at her.

Jo-anne took a breath slowly in, and turned to look at him, "I did thank you. Though I do not recall being taken home at all." she informed him, it was actually a little on the hazy side, but she likely recalled most of it.

West was still glaring at her. He stood up slowly. "I will see you in my office, after you've had breakfast." he grated out and then stalked off out of the dining hall.

Jo-anne sighed internally, then turned her eyes on T.J., waited for West to be clear of the room, walked over to T.J. and whacked him several times "You could have warned me! I'd have stayed in my room."

T.J. was not the only one laughing now, both Ricky and Cole were as well. Her eyes moved to them and then back to T.J. he'd obviously told them what she'd said to West.

"Got to watch your drunken mouth, Jo-Jo."

"Well, if I get punished, it's your fault."

T.J. roared with laughter, " You're the one that said West had a"

Jo-anne's hand slapped across his mouth to stop everyone in here from hearing him "Shut it T.J. or I'll beat you up myself."

The amusement at the whole table increased dramatically. The three of them knew she'd not been allowed to train, was no match for T.J., hell likely no match for a junior warrior. She glared at both Ricky and Cole, who were now laughing almost hysterically at her comment.

"You're all A-holes." she snapped at them and the silence in the room was suddenly deafening. Her eyes moved to the dining room and then she realised what she'd done, just insulted the entire Alpha Unit in front of a room full of pack members. Ricky and Cole had stopped laughing, but T.J. was still fully amused, it seemed.

She took her hand from T.J.'s mouth and stepped away from the table, bit her lip when Ricky stood, his eyes directly on her, he had not like the insult, it was clear. Watched as his eyes glazed over, took several steps back, he was reporting her to West and she knew it.

'Fuck' she thought, then just turned and ran from the dining hall, out through the outside door and headed for the woods. There was nothing else she could do, was in past the treeline when she heard T.J.'s voice come down the mind-link 'I hope you got faster, while you were away, Jo-Jo.'

Jo-anne ignored him and just ran, ran deeper into the woods behind the pack-house.

'I'm coming for you, Jo-Jo, West said to bring you in.'

'Come on T.J.' she begged back.

He just laughed down the link and then it was severed.

'Crap.' she couldn't out run T.J., heck she was unlikely to out run any of the Alpha Unit. Turned at the sound of him actually laughing, saw him coming now.

"Run Jo-Jo." he yelled. The damned man was toying with her, while bringing her in.

Shot past her and stopped in front of her, she gasped, slid to a stop and turned and ran the other way. He was still laughing ten minutes later, he was playing a game of catch the prey with her, a game all wolves loved and his constant laughing and catching up with her, but then letting her get away, was fun for him. But she had not run in human form like this in a long time and was quickly wearing down.

He pounced out of nowhere at her and she screamed in fright, scrambled to a stop, nearly fell down, managed to somehow stay on her feet and turn to run the other way, crashed right into a solid wall of muscle. Fell back and landed on her ass, gasping for breath as she looked up.

West was staring down at her, a raised eyebrow and a slightly annoyed look on his face, then he reached down to grab her, she scrambled back away from him, heard T.J. laugh, West frown right at her.

"Come here, Jo-anne." he stated.

Jo-anne got herself up, never took her eyes off of him. 'Fuck I'm in so much trouble.' she thought, he was just watching her, a hand out and one finger pointed to the ground in front of him, where he wanted her to be.

"RUN." T.J. suddenly yelled in her ear, and without a single thought, turned and ran on pure instinct, ran from her Alpha and his Beta. 'I'm gonna die.' she thought, though Clova, however, thought it was very funny, even lent her her wolf speed, Jo-anne knew she wouldn't get far.

Bloody T.J. had startled her and her flight response had kicked in instantly 'you bastard.' she shot down the mind-link at T.J. He just laughed right back, fully amused with his joke .

She could hear them coming, or maybe it was just West, from T.J.'s amusement. She was pretty sure it was just West. She didn't look back to find out, 'crap I'm running from the Alpha, not good, not good.' she thought. Clova, it seemed, was of the total opposite opinion. She loved being chased.

It didn't take long to be dragged down on the ground with an arm around her waist, he had crash tackled her and they were rolling over on the ground, Jo-anne put her arms up to protect her face and when they came to a stop she was lying on top of him, he was holding her back to his chest, she could feel his breathing was as quick as hers, her head was resting on his shoulder and she just lay there closed her eyes to try and catch her breath. 'gonna bloody kill T.J.' she thought.

"Really! You thought you could out run me?" West's voice.

"No," she answered honestly, "T.J.'s fault, blame your Beta."

West sighed "My office." and then he got up, took her with him, set her on the ground once he was upright "March." he muttered, turning her to move off towards the pack-house. She walked and a sigh left her. West walked behind her, following at her pace the whole way, never said a single word the whole way.

T.J. was sitting in the office, a massive grin on his face. She glared right at him, that bastard had done it on purpose and she knew it. He'd been supposed to be bringing her in and instead he'd turned it into a bloody game of his liking, which only made for more trouble on her behalf.

"Sit." West told her and pointed to the chair in front of his desk.

T.J. was casually sitting in the chair next to where she was supposed to sit, she punched him right in the chest, as hard as she could, not that he even flinched 'Ass-hole.' she shot down the mind-link as she sat down.

"See that Alpha, she just assaulted your Beta."

Jo-anne's head whipped around to stare at him incredulously. Was he completely insane? Wasn't she in enough trouble already? "you started it." she yelled at him.

T.J. was just smiling at her. "I didn't do anything, you were the one who ran." he shrugged.

"You yelled it at me." she snapped "I couldn't help it." he knew what it would do, startle a wolf like that, so blatantly, when already nervous, they run. Bastard.

"You didn't have to listen." he was damned near laughing at her.

West cleared his throat "When you two are done bickering."

Jo-anne glared at T.J. one last time and then turned to look at West, still wanting to punch T.J. in that smug face of his. She might just find an excuse to do it later, she thought.

"Alpha," she acknowledged him formally, had to she was here for punishment.

"Jo-anne." he looked at her pointedly.

She looked right back at him, was still going to plead ignorance and feign she had no memory of last night, "Yes Alpha." she acknowledged, though even to her ears there was a little too much innocence in her words. She had no practice at this at all, had always just done what she was told. To avoid annoying him.

He was frowning at her now. Oh, that's the face she knew, the one he'd always only ever looked at her with, well, other than anger that was.

"I want an apology." he stated flatly.

'So do I.' she thought absently, but knew she would never get one. He was not one to apologise for anything he did. She knew that with full certainty. "Is the rest of the Alpha Unit coming for me to apologise to?" she turned and glanced around the room. Ricky and Cole were not here. She would apologise to them.

"No," he snapped at her, clearly irritated by her behaviour.

Jo-anne turned back to look at him. "Then Alpha, please accept my apology on their behalf. I understand I insulted them. My apologies to your Unit."

He was glaring right at her now. "That is not what I meant."

"Then, I don't understand Alpha." she raised her eyebrows questioningly at him.

"To me, apologise to me Jo-anne." he grated out.

Apologise to him! Not likely. She frowned right at him "I don't understand, what did I do? To you." she looked right at him, almost a direct challenge for him to repeat her words.

"You know what you did." he grated out again, though now his jaw was ticking away.

Jo-anne leaned forward slightly in her chair, and shook her head. "I don't Alpha. What are you referring to, exactly?"

Heard T.J. sigh a little on the heavy side, ignored it, stayed focused on West, he had way more to apologise for than she did, waited on his response.

“Your comment last night. Not to mention you threw up on me.”

Jo-anne nearly laughed, she did not actually recall throwing up on him. “I did that?” her eyes moved to T.J. questioningly and he nodded in confirmation.

“Yes.” West snapped at her.

“Oh!” it was completely genuine. “I don’t recall that at all.”

“Apologise Jo-anne.”

“Why? I didn’t ask you to come and get me. Your body guards could have taken me home.”

“And just how would they have done that, when you could barely stand, let alone walk?” he growled at her,

Jo-anne leaned back in her chair “Same way you did, I guess.” she said with a casual shrug, something inside of her knew she was playing with fire, but she had this sudden burning desire to defy him, like it had been in her all this time and only now had it sprung to life.

His eyes narrowed right on her, he knew what she was indirectly saying, because none of them could touch her without causing her actual pain. Jo-anne sat there and stared right at him, an actual challenge this time, and she could tell he didn’t like it, but really what more could he do to her, another Alpha Order, she supposed, house arrest? he wasn’t likely to put her in the cells when Heath was there still and she knew it. Though wouldn’t mind talking to the man, the urgency of that need seemed to have vanished with the blood bond gone.

A full minute of silence passed in the room. She was not going to back down, she was not going to apologise, he’d taken it upon himself to collect her and so, technically, it was his fault. She could feel T.J. looking at her, he also knew she was outright challenging the Alpha.

Not something any pack member would do, without a punishment being dealt out, but here she sat, right in front of him, and for the first time, ever, was going to stand her ground against him. A fire somewhere inside her was lit and demanded to be burned hot. Jo-anne had always had to bow down to West and his will. But damn it, not today. She was sure he would just make her like he used to, wouldn’t be the first time, that was for sure, but something inside of her burned for him to try it now.

Jo-anne knew she would fight it right back, this minute, and she knew it would start one hell of an argument, but hell she didn't care, for the first time ever she was going to stand up to him.

"Jo-Jo, please apologise." T.J. urged her. He seemed to understand she was not going to as well.

"No." she stated flatly, still looking at West, saw his anger tick up a notch, then turned and looked at T.J. "I did not ask for the Alpha to collect me, or...make me leave Maxi's. I don't know, recall. If I was leaving on my own...or made by the Alpha to leave, against my will...Do you T.J.?" Jo-anne was pretty certain, which it was. West still had issues where she was concerned, so it was very likely that he had dragged her out of that club of his on accord and she'd had no say in the matter.

T.J. was frowning at her now. He didn't like her clear defiance of their Alpha, or her questioning his motives either, turned her eyes back on West as a low growl emitted from him. His clear displeasure at her words and questioning him and his actions directly to his Beta had sent his anger off the Richter Scale. He looked to be absolutely fuming right this minute. Well, what else was new? But he didn't seem to say anything to her.

So she asked him directly "Alpha, which was it? If you don't mind filling in some blank spots in my memory?" she asked, ignoring the anger, she'd dealt with him before, he was only likely to force his aura on her.

"Get out" he snarled right at her. "Go to your room."

Jo-anne stood, yes, treat me like the child I used to be, she thought, and simply turned and walked out of his office. She didn't rush away, strolled at a casual pace, she didn't care what he thought right this minute. It was not an order, more of a demand, she realised, but did actually go, knew if she didn't there would be hell to pay at some point.

She'd set him off and, for some reason unknown to her, he'd held himself back. But she knew there was trouble brewing. It was just a matter of time, before he stalked into her room and screamed at her. Guess she just had to wait for it.

It was very unlikely she was going to get away with questioning him and his authority. He was the Alpha and could and would do as he pleased and his pack members were all supposed to just fall in line and not question him.

The fact that he had not answered her question at all, spoke volumes, pretty much told her that he had in fact come to Maxi's and removed her without a care of what she wanted. For his own stupid reasons.

Chapter 48 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

West was more than annoyed with Jo-anne. She'd instantly apologised to T.J., nil hesitation what so ever, however just stood there and stared at him, when T.J. had informed her he had not been the one to take her home. Even when West had told her he'd been the one to bring her home, she did not apologise for the insult, she had said right to his face. Instead, she had just thanked him for escorting her home.

Seeing as she had apologised to T.J., then it was highly likely she knew what she had said. Then there was the way she stood and stared at him. He knew that she recalled telling him, he had a stick up his ass.

Then to just turn away and walk off like that was the end of the conversation, that she needn't say anymore on the subject. Dismissed him without that apology. "Is that all you have to say?" he snapped, fully irritated that she did not apologise, had insulted him, her Alpha, and was now refusing to acknowledge she'd even said it.

Commented that she had thanked him and then tried to tell him she didn't recall being taken home, what a crock of shit that was. She bloody well did recall, just hadn't recalled it was him, to damned drunk it seemed.

West stood up before he started yelling at her there in front of the entire pack. "I will see you in my office, after breakfast," he grated out. He needed to go and calm down, this behaviour from her had to be addressed. She could not go around getting so drunk that anyone could take advantage of her, let alone trying to take her clothes off in public. He would not be standing for that.

He figured she should eat something, before their conversation, might help clear her head, but he doubted it.

Got a mind-link from Ricky not even 5 minutes later to hear she had just called his whole Alpha Unit 'All A-holes.' and in front of the pack, made him sigh and rub his temples. Where did this new attitude come from?

'Terence, bring Jo-anne to me now.'

'Can't, she already run away West.' he sounded very amused 'Knew Ricky was reporting the insult and bolt right out into the woods.'

For the love of the Goddess, 'Well go and get her, Terence.'

'Sure West, I'll hunt her...though wouldn't you and Volt have more fun doing that?'

'Beta.' West snapped. If he had to hunt her, it was likely his wolf would mate her out there for all to see, in human form.

Heard Volt snort in amusement and also heard more amusement come down the link from T.J., damned man, what was he playing at? He knew West couldn't risk that kind of thing and as for mating outside in human form, not a hope in hell, she was not allowed to be naked outside of her bedroom, never had been. Why would it change now?

Ten minutes passed and West sat in his office still waiting for T.J. to bring her in, surely it couldn't take that long to catch her. Though she did have Alpha blood, it was possible she was fast. He'd not seen her run in human form for a decade.

'Terence?' he mind-linked his Beta.

'Mm,'

'What are you doing?'

'Chasing my prey.' he growled softly back.

West shot to his feet. Wolves loved to hunt before mating. Fuck! Would T.J. mate her out there? He was gone from his office instantly. 'Where are you?'

'Stalking.' his voice was a little too husky for West's liking. He used the tether inside his mind to find the two of them. They were both moving to the west side of the pack, not that far away, and he was off. Hunting them, to stop his Beta from mating his ex-Mate in public.

Saw her running in the woods, T.J. was in deed stalking her, already sneaking up on her from another direction, to pounce on her. Bloody hell what did he do?

He'd stupidly set this off, when he'd told T.J. to hunt her, should have known better, should have sent Ricky or Cole, never should have sent T.J.

'Terence stop.' he shot down the mind-link to his Beta.

'No.' he and his wolf replied.

Was almost on them, when he saw T.J. jump out at her and she went skidding to a stop, saw the humour in his Beta's face 'you bastard.' West shot down the mind-link, T.J. had on purpose lead West to believe he was out here stalking her for the Mating, even his blood wolf was in on it.

Jo-anne turned and ran right into him, fell down backwards and landed on her ass. He could hear T.J. laughing down the mind-link, thought it was very funny it seemed, she was gasping for breath, clearly not as fit as most wolves, probably hadn't trained at all in the past 10 years.

He reached down to help her up and she backed away from him, heard T.J. laugh out loud and frowned, watched her get up "Come here. Jo-anne." he pointed to the spot right in front of him. She was staring right at him, knew she was in trouble. He could tell from her expression.

Then bloody T.J. yelled "RUN." right in her ear, and she bolted instantly. Didn't even think about it, ran on pure instinct, he knew it. Had seen it many times before. Hell his father had done it to him as a boy. Thought it was very funny.

West turned his eyes on T.J., who was grinning right at him. Volt was scratching at his mind to be let out, wanting to chase her. Shit. He was going to have to or Volt would be out of him. Glared at T.J. who was now laughing, and shot after her, that made his wolf happy, stopped scratching at his mind, to sit back and watch her run through the woods ahead of them.

West caught up easily, snagged her around her waist and down they went, rolled over on the ground until he was lying there on the ground under her, a half smile on his face. She was breathing hard and didn't even try to get up off of him. 'fun' Volt piped up 'do it again.'

'No.' West knew exactly what his beast wanted, that short sprint after her was not enough for his beast, he really wanted to hunt her, then mate her.

"Really! Though you could out run me?" he asked, trying to keep his amusement out of his voice.

"No." she actually answered him "T.J.'s fault, blame your Beta."

West sighed, yes it was Terence's doing, the man had yelled at her on purpose. The bloody bastard thought it was funny, even though there were too many risks right this minute for fun and games, with her as prey "My office." He got up from the ground, kept hold of her, a bit selfish of him, but he liked her up against him, if things were better, he'd have just laid there with her, until she wanted to get up.

Volt snorted 'You'd have mated her.'

"March." he muttered, ignoring his wolf's seemingly amused attitude.

T.J. was lounging in one of the chairs in front of West's desk, smiled right at them "Sit." West pointed to the chair next to T.J. watched her stalk over and punch him. The pack's Beta right in front of her Alpha, didn't seem to think about it at all.

West sat down in his chair and watched as the two of them started arguing, well Jo-anne was unhappy, T.J. still looked fully amused to West. It was weird to watch. To be honest, he'd actually seen Cole and Ella argue just like this. In fact, he shook his head. "When you two are done bickering."

Jo-anne looked right at him “Alpha.”

He still hated when she called him that, she was at this minute in his office for reprimanding, so it was the appropriate response from her, but a part of him was irked by it, none the less.

“Jo-anne.” he was staring right at her, she knew why she was in his office. To apologise for insulting him. She looked right back at him for almost a full minute and then a sickly sweet and all-innocent tone came out of her, it was too much, a full act on her part, as she still played at not knowing what he was talking about.

“Yes Alpha?”

He frowned at her tone. “I want an apology,” he told her flatly, saw something in her facial expression, but it was gone too quickly for him to register what it meant. Then she looked around the room and asked where Ricky and Cole were.

“No.” he grated out, annoyed by her stubbornness and refusal to apologise to him, belying she was only here to apologise to his Alpha Unit. Then turned and looked right at him and, to his disbelief, asked him to accept her apology on their behalf, still did not apologise to him.

West could not help but glare at her, she was infuriating to deal with today, it seemed. Where was the Jo-anne he knew, the one who just did as he told her? Ever since coming back to the pack she had, disregarded him, had not listened to his words, this woman was not like the Jo-anne he remembered. 10 years away from him and the pack, had definitely changed her attitude towards his authority.

“That is not what I meant.”

She was questioning him? Even when he had told her to apologise to him, she did not, instead asked what she had done, claiming she had no idea or understanding of why she needed to apologise to him. Just sat and stared at him as though she actually wanted him to explain in detail.

He was not going to repeat her words “You, know what you did.” his anger was rising and he could feel his jaw was ticking. Volt was sitting up in his mind watching her, his head cocked to one side, appeared curious about her sudden display of defiance.

“I don’t Alpha, what are you referring to?” she leaned forward in her chair, giving off the impression she didn’t actually understand, though he knew it was a lie. Even T.J. sighed heavily at her behaviour.

When he told her it was about her comment and the fact that she threw up on him, she barely held in a laugh, “I did that?” and when she turned to look at T.J. for actual

confirmation, he realised she didn't recall throwing up on him. So it was possible not all of her memories from last night were intact.

Told him she didn't recall throwing up on him, but still did not apologise to him.

"Apologise, Jo-anne." he demanded of her.

But no, she then asked him why, and told him that his body guards could have taken her home, she knew damned well they couldn't touch her, not without causing her pain, so it was a stupid thing to say as far as he was concerned. She was just leaning back in her chair now, all casual like, just staring right at him, challenging him, her Alpha, to admit, it was his fault. That none of his men could have carried her home last night.

The tension was growing in his office and at a rapid rate, it was very clear to him, that Jo-anne was not going to back down or apologise. He didn't like it at all. He didn't particularly like this new side of her.

T.J. even urged her to apologise and she actually had the hide to flat out refuse "No." she turned away from West to look at T.J. "I did not ask for the Alpha to collect me, or...make me leave Maxi's, I don't know, recall, if I was leaving on my own...or made by the Alpha to leave against my will. Do you T.J.?"

Oh, he was fuming now, she was indirectly claiming he'd made her leave, which he had done, he supposed. A low growl escaped him, he couldn't help it, he did not like this side of her at all. Then asked him our right which it was, wanted him to openly admit he'd made her leave against her will.

"Get out and go to your room." he snarled at her, unable to contain his anger any longer. She stood and walked out of his office, still yet to apologise to him. Had turned the whole situation on him, she'd insulted him, yet had turned the tables on him completely, by letting him know, she was certain he'd removed her from Maxi's without regard to what she wanted and if he had admitted it. He would have to apologise to her for it.

Volt seemed very amused inside his mind, 'she's cheeky now, I like it.'

West did not like her questioning his authority at all. His eyes were still on the empty door, bloody woman was asking to be punished, he thought 'asking to be punished.' Maybe she thought he'd put her in the cells for a day, she'd not asked to see Heath, but challenging him and defying him? If it had been any other pack member, they would have gotten a day in the cells as punishment.

Is that what she was playing at? He didn't know. He turned his eyes to T.J. who was looking at him with disapproval.

"What?" he snapped at his Beta.

“Cut her some slack West. She’s right and you know it. You did go and get her. She had no choice, seems she knows it too.”

“I’m not going to apologise Terence.”

“Of course you’re not.” T.J. snapped at him, sounded very angry and then got up and stalked out of the room. “You never bloody did, even when you were in the wrong.” he shot over his shoulder as he walked out the office and then slammed the door shut on his Alpha.

West sighed and rubbed his temples. The man was not wrong on that account. He had a lot to apologise for, probably should just suck it up and go do it. Was still too angry, it would have to wait until he calmed down or he’d just loose it again.

Chapter 49 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

Well, she had not apologised to him, had actually stood her ground and had not backed down. It was the first time she had done so, and knew West was completely furious about it too. T.J. also seemed annoyed by her sudden change of attitude, but damn it, she’d not asked to be collected. That much she was pretty certain of.

Stood and glared at the canvas in her room. Didn’t want to work on it, to have to stare at his stupid handsome face, smiling at her, with all that light and joy in his eyes. Wanted to punch him and wipe that smile right off his face.

Sighed as she heard her tummy growl, she was hungry, still hadn’t had breakfast yet, looked at the time, it was still early, barely 0730 the dining room would still be open for another hour, headed off to have breakfast. Stuff it, she was supposed to be in her room. Well tough, she had to eat too. He couldn’t starve her.

Ella was still sitting at a table drinking a cup of coffee. Jo-anne had been going to have breakfast with her before she’d gotten in trouble. She was sitting at a table with T.J.’s two younger sisters, Ava and Sonja. Ella waved her over and she nodded, loaded up a plate full of pancakes and freshly cut fruit, poured over some maple syrup and grabbed a glass of orange juice, and went and sat down.

“You get in trouble?”

“Of course I did. Apparently it was my fault, he took me from Maxi’s. He did just take me right?” she asked Ella, trying to confirm her own suspicions that West had in fact removed her for whatever his own selfish reasons were.

“Yep, marched on into that club, tossed you over his shoulder and marched out with you, without so much as a word.”

“For crying out loud! What’s his problem?” she muttered “I’m not his Mate anymore.”

Ella and both of T.J.’s sisters burst out laughing at her remark.

“What?”

“Could have fooled us.” Ava snorted, she was T.J.’s youngest sister 4 years Jo-anne’s junior, looked more like Belinda, than T.J. did, he looked like Jonathan, bar his grey eyes, got them from his mother. Both his sisters had their mothers eyes too, she noted.

“What is Miranda going to think about his behaviour?”

All three of them, were staring at her now. They seemed a little confused by her statement “What?” Jo-anne asked.

“Why would Miranda worry about that?” Sonja asked.

“She’s his Mate, is why!” Jo-anne frowned at them. Why did she have to say this to people all the time?

“No she’s not.” Ava and Sonja replied in unison.

Jo-anne stared from one to the other, a frown on her face now. “What? But... they are always together and Luna Natalia is with her all the time. West never denied it when I congratulated him on finding his Mate...neither did Miranda.”

“She’s been his bed buddy for two years, but is not his Mate” Ella replied “Do you think that man, as possessive as you, yourself know he is, wouldn’t lay claim to his Mate, the second he found her.”

Jo-anne just stared at her, dumbfounded, she’d been here in this pack for weeks now, and the way Miranda was all over him, it did appear she was his Mate. West had never denied it. Miranda had also wanted that portrait with her and him, as the Luna and the Alpha. Jo-anne was more than a little confused right now.

At least Jo-anne could understand why West’s mother had said she just wanted West in the portrait...well now what was she going to do with all that room off to the left side of him in the portrait, dammit she didn’t want to have to toss it away and start again.

“Did he choose her then, to be the Luna?” she asked, trying to work it out.

“Not as far as I’m aware.” Ella shook her head “Though she is Alpha-blooded, and everyone thought she was going to be.”

“Til he moved out of her room, a few days ago.” Ava snort.

"Why is that funny?" Jo-anne asked. "I thought they were happy?"

"West happy?" Sonja laughed and then got up. "Never seen that man smile." she waved at someone behind Jo-anne and then pulled Ava up "We have to go train."

"Oh hey, can I come? I was never really allowed before." Jo-anne stood "Ella can be my partner, right." she looked at Ella.

Ella stood, "Sure, it's not a training day for me, but why not?"

"Sweet." Jo-anne was excited, she and the girls all headed off. It was Belinda, Ava and Sonja's mother who was going to train them. She looked at Jo-anne, a slight frown on her face, then after a moment's thought, just nodded and waved her to join them, "It'll be wolf training today, Jo-anne."

"Yikes, West never let Clova train. Might have to go easy on her." Jo-anne commented.

"She'll be fine, we're going to run first, then we'll spar in wolf form."

"Okay."

Clova was already really excited at the prospect of being out for the first time in ages. Jo-anne was not even going to ask for permission, be damned if West didn't like it or wanted her training. He might be the Alpha, but he wasn't her Mate anymore and if she wanted to train, she should be allowed to.

What good was she to the pack? If she couldn't fight, if she couldn't be able to assist when there were attacks, even if she wasn't out there on the border, sometimes rogues got through and the women here in the pack-house had to fight, she didn't want to be useless. No, she would train and he could go shove it.

They all strolled down to the training grounds. A few other pack members were down here waiting for Belinda, about 20 others. Belinda called everyone's attention and told them to shift. Jo-anne disrobed like everyone else here and shifted to Clova, then they were off and running, following Belinda's big black wolf Wren. She was fast.

Most of them had trouble keeping up, bar Ava and Sonja's wolves, who Jo-anne noticed were very similar to their mother's wolf, both black like her and with a white moon on their chest, though Ava's looked much fuller and Sonja's was a full moon, all the royal family had moons in some form on their chests.

Clova was loving it, chasing the others, felt very freeing and loved being out with the other wolves, running like this, not something she had done in years, her energy seemed to have no limits at all, even when they got back to the training grounds, Clova was running around and prancing about, jumping on Ava and Sonja's wolves all happy

and excited to feel like a real pack member, their wolves were playing right back with her, in the same manner.

Clova took to training like a duck in water, followed every instruction, eager to learn, it seemed, and learned quickly. She jumped and leapt out of the way, kicked Ella's wolf Starling off and leapt on her, they rolled around trying to pin each other down, nipping at each other, training only, a nip to indicate they would have gotten a full bite in if they had been in a real fight.

Clova was actually standing with both her front paws on Starlings chest, playfully growling at her, as she won the round, happy about it, Starling had won the last three in a row. This was Clova's first win and she was very excited about it. Proud of herself, had managed to pin down a Delta ranked wolf.

Training was called to a stop after ten rounds. Clova only managed to win 3 of them, but she was happy and so was Jo-anne, seeing as it was their first real training in wolf form. They all shifted back and she went to retrieve her clothes like everyone else.

"Jo-anne your back." Ava gasped and ran over to her. "Mum, come check it out, its the same as Terence's, only massive."

Jo-anne smiled, "I got that when I turned 18," she told them.

Belinda walked over and looked at it. "Unusual, that you and Terence, have the same tattoo."

Jo-anne shrugged "I wasn't here when I got it."

"I'm aware of that." she was frowning at it. "Does Terence know?"

"Yes, he's seen it." Jo-anne nodded as she started to get dressed. "Do you think it means something?"

Belinda shook her head. "Probably to do with the connection you two have always had, I suppose." the woman reached out and touched it.

Jo-anne shivered and stepped away from her. Oh, that was a weird feeling. Belinda looked at her with a raised eyebrow.

"You alright Jo-anne?" she asked.

JO-anne nodded, "Yeah, just got this odd sensation. When you touched it, no ones ever touched it before, is all. Guess its just sensitive."

Belinda was staring at her now. "Why'd you choose the Celestial Moon Phases?"

“What? Oh...um.” how did she explain this? She didn’t choose them, just shrugged “I don’t know.” she finally got out “You know what they are?”

Belinda nodded, “I’ve seen it before on another.” then she dressed and headed off.

Jo-anne wanted to go and ask her what it meant, but that would mean she’d have to tell her it wasn’t a tattoo, and then how was she going to explain things? Life was too hard to explain sometimes.

They all walked back inside together. T.J. she noted was watching them all walk in. He raised an eyebrow at his mother, she noted and then looked right at her, a slight frown on his face.

“What?” she asked.

“Thought the Alpha sent you to your room?”

“Guess I didn’t listen.” she shot back, “I’m allowed to train T.J. every one is.”

“West won’t like it! Mother, I want a word.”

“I’m busy Terence,” Belinda told him and walked off.

T.J.’s eyes turned back to Jo-anne “West saw you train, he was not happy about it.”

“Well T.J. everyone has the right to train, do they not?”

He was back to frowning at her, he couldn’t argue with her statement, turned and walked away from her.

“You’re in so much trouble girl.” Ella giggled.

“What else is bloody new!” Jo-anne muttered “Better go to my room.” she rolled her eyes and spoke sarcastically.

“Wow, where’s all the attitude coming from?”

Jo-anne shrugged “I don’t know, just feel a bit different lately.”

“Hmm. Well, don’t go ticking the Alpha off, might end up tethered to him as punishment.”

Jo-anne snorted with laughter. “Yeah right! We’d likely kill each other.”

“Or...” Ella snickered. “Fucking.”

Jo-anne rolled her eyes. "Get...go bug T.J. looks like he could use that very thing." she laughed "He'd be up for it, you know."

Ella grinned right at her a little mischievously "really now that is some good news."

"He's ticklish, lower ribs." Jo-anne laughed and headed off to her room, to shower. She was feeling better than when she had left her room this morning. Her running and training had helped her a lot, she supposed. Got out her annoyance at her Alpha.

She would, however, stay in her room and paint for the rest of the day, figured she couldn't get into any trouble doing that, hopefully. Set herself up and started to paint.

Heat shot up her back and her hand shook as the first signs of a shiver hit her. She took a step back from the canvas and put the brush down. Oh goddess, she moaned softly as the first wave of pleasure rolled through her body. Clova almost howled instantly, they'd not had a shiver in almost a week.

Walked across the room and leaned on the wall, put both her hands on it as another wave hit her, goddess she knew it was going to be strong, bit her lip at the thought of trying to fight it, then just closed her eyes and thought, screw it, stopped fighting it, allowed herself to just enjoy it, let the waves roll over her, goddess it was so good to just let it happen.

Slid her hand down her body to enhance it, slipped her fingers into her panties and touched herself, it had been a while and she would really enjoy this one, get a hell of a release from it.

Chapter 50 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

His eyes fell on Jo-anne over there in the training ground, she was completely naked, he and his whole unit had been out looking at the new agility course and he was not expecting to see her out there, had supposed to be in her room.

West had come to a complete stop at the sight of Jo-anne's naked body, she was facing him, but her head was turned away from him, they were all discussing a tattoo by the sound of it, another bloody tattoo, how many did the woman have, he did not like that she had marked her skin.

His eyes moved over her body, taking her all in, he'd not seen her naked in a very long time, her breasts appeared fuller as did the curve of her hips, though she did not have the defined muscles of all the other she-wolves down there, he did not care, liked how soft and feminine she was, imagined her skin was very soft to touch, Volt was up in his mind instantly, and then scratching at his mind 'Mate her now.' he was growling inside West's mind.

"Terence fix that now." he'd snapped at his Beta and then turned and strode the hell away from her, Volt was trying to take control of him to make him go back to her. West was struggling to contain his beast, needed to get away from her, goddess only knew what would have happened if she'd still been shifted.

'Mate her right there for all to see is what.' Volt snarled at him, unhappy that West was actively walking away. He was headed for his office, slammed the door shut behind him, his fists balled tightly, 'Back off Volt' he yelled at his wolf.

'She's ours, claim her already.'

'Not ours.'

'The hell she ain't.' Volt snarled right back at him 'Always our Mate.'

'Volt, please back off,' West practically begged his wolf 'the full moon, just wait for it,'

Volt snarled right at him all anger and aggression, then stalked off to the back of his mind and seemed to back off. The full moon was only a week away, not that far away. West sat in his chair and tried to focus on his work, it was not an easy thing to do.

All he could see was her bloody naked body in his mind, wanted nothing more than to touch her, stood up and stalked around his office, damned woman just had to be naked didn't she, had no bloody idea that she was killing him with frustration, that he wanted to slide his hands over her body, taste every damned inch of her. Something he'd never let himself do, might have been mated to her, but had not wanted to take all those first experiences away from her. He'd always known deep down she'd leave him the minute she could, had wanted her to, for her own good, not his. So he'd not touched her, not tasted her. So that she could have something for herself to share with someone she actually wanted to touch her, not him a man she'd been saddled with some how.

He believed Jo-anne had every right to experience those pleasures, the way she wanted to, when she wanted to, with who she wanted to, so he had not let himself take those moments from her. He had no right to them, none what so ever. Goddess he had wanted to though, had only touched her once, and just briefly before he'd pulled himself together, and stopped himself from doing all the damned things he'd yearned to as her Mate.

Even now standing here in his office, he wanted to touch her, hell he wanted more than to touch her, closed his eyes and dammit he could see her in his mind as they used to be, hear how she'd gasped and moaned, rocked against him 'fuck' he had to put an end to this, she couldn't go prancing around the pack naked, he had to go and make sure she understood why.

Stalked out of his office and headed for her room, stared at her door, stood there for a moment and took a deep calming breath, Volt snort in his mind 'Wont work West. You want her as much as I want Clova.'

Ignored his wolf, opened the door and stepped into her room, stopped dead at the sight before him, Volt was up inside his mind instantly, all attention. West closed the door damn quick and flicked the locks, he was practically drowning in the scent of her arousal, his eyes locked on her as she leaned up against the wall moaning in pleasure. 'Oh, she's ours now.' Volt growled inside West's mind.

West could hardly believe what he was seeing, she was not just hot and bothered, goddess she was actively touching herself right in front of him, admittedly she had yet to realise he was in the room.

"Jo-anne." he growled softly, unable to hold back his shock, or the desire that was coursing through his own body, he was already hard for her, itching to have her, watched as her head turned, and she looked right at him over her shoulder. Goddess he wanted to run his hands over her body, down her back and grab her hips to pull her to him.

A cry of pleasure ripped out of her, her eyes still on him, as he thought about it 'you mate her or I will.' Volt growled.

West kicked his shoes off 'Oh, she's mine.' he told Volt, she watch him as his pull his shirt up and over his head and then his hands were undoing his pants, saw her bit her lip as he walked towards her completely naked and hard for her. It was so hot to watch her as she bit down on a moan, goddess he was going to help her along with that oncoming orgasm that was building.

Stepped right up to her, right behind her "Let me help you Jo-anne." her growled deep and husky.

"West." he heard his name, kind of pleading, he couldn't tell if it was begging for him to satisfy her need or for him to go away, but there was no hope in hell of him leaving this room, with her like this, still touching herself while he was watching, her arousal so strong around him.

"Goddess Jo-anne." he growled and slid one hand around her hip and the other up her back, she cried out in pleasure at his touch and he groaned "I want you." he had to tell her, wanted her to know what she was doing to him, slid his hand down the centre of her back, his fingers trailing along her spine, she thrust hard, back against him, his hard cock up against her ass, there was no stopping him now, his hands slid down her thighs over the material of her dress, slow and firmly till he found the hem and then his hands were touching her bare skin.

Slid up her thighs slowly taking the skirt of her dress with him, until it was up and over her ass, flicked around her waist, exposing black panties for his eyes to see, fuck she smelled so good, moved his hands down, rip the sides of them panties and they fell to the floor, then his hand was between her thighs, pushed her hand away and closed his eyes as he touched her, slipped his fingers through her wet folds, so fucking wet and hot, growled deeply as a moan escaped her at his touch, stroked her clit, and heard her cry out, both her hands snapped to the wall in front of her "West." she gasped in pleasure, pushing back against his hand, rocking herself hard and fast against his fingers to gain more pleasure for herself, from his touch.

"Yes." he smiled, loved hearing his name on her lips so full of desire, rubbed and rolled his finger over her clit, helping her along in the orgasm that was coming, pinched her clit gently right as she was about to climax, and heard her scream with pleasure, growled himself, it was fucking beautiful to hear her orgasm from his touch, slid his hand away as he kicked her feet apart, to slip his hard cock through her wet folds, one hand on her hip, the other sliding up her back, she bucked against him, gasping.

Goddess she was amazing, he thrust himself against her rubbing and sliding his hard cock over her clit and through her hot wet folds, wanted to hear her call out and scream more, but his need to have her was great, then he was grabbing at her hips and thrusting himself deep inside of her.

Volt snarled inside his mind, wanted to push forward and take over, West was not going to let him, she was his now. Her hips thrust back hard against him and she was crying out instantly, fuck she was so tight, he didn't want to hurt her, but goddess at the same time he wanted to pound the hell out of her.

Started moving slowly at first, pulling almost all the way out and then pushing hard back in, her body moved with his, wanting him, she was already moaning in pleasure, he breathed in her scent, so freaked sweet, slid a hand up her back and suddenly she was moving hard and fast, slamming herself against him, taking him in, furious in her need it seemed.

West did not stop her, matched her urgency, and let her hard and fast thrusts increase his need, he was gripping her hard one hand on her shoulder and the other on her hip "Fuck Jo-anne." he growled as he lost all control and started slamming himself in and out of her, saw her hands press hard up against the wall as she use it to push herself back against him, wanting more, harder it seemed.

Then her claws were out and digging right into the plaster of the wall, her head snapped back and she was crying out and he could feel her cumming, her body tightening around him, pulsing and fluttering all over his hard cock, hear her cumming "West." she scream his name as she thrust back hard against him, her body clamping around his so tight as she cum, and he explode, his seed spilled inside of her, as the sound of his name burst from her, it felt like her body was milking him of everything he had to give her, and he wanted her to have it all.

His body was pressed hard up against her on the wall, leaning on her, his breathing as ragged as hers, a smile on his lip, he'd not come here for this. But he was damned glad he'd walked into her room now. She was as breathless as he was.

'my turn.' Volt suddenly shoved forward, West had not been expecting it at all, not even thought about his wolf, was to busy coming down from his own orgasm that he was caught of guard, and shoved to the back of his own mind quite violently.

"Clova." he heard Volt call to Jo-anne's wolf, saw through his wolfs eyes as her head turn and Clova stare right back at him, then Volt had his hand on her face a firm grip and his mouth was on hers hard and demanding, growled right at her and she growled right back, then he was mating her, both of them in control now, mating in human form.

West didn't even try to stop him, there was no way he could, not with the scent of her arousal all around them, not with Clova in control of Jo-anne's body, his wolf was not gentle, never had been, for that matter, Mate Clova furiously in the past, and it seemed nothing had changed he was now holding her to the wall slamming in and out of her, hard and fast, over and over until she was a howling mess, and then he had her pinned to the wall growling into her neck.

Only a minute was she given to recover from him before he was mating her again, his wolf's needs seemed to be out weighing all other factors, including that Jo-anne was the one that was going to suffer the pain of his mating her wolf in human form, damned wolf never cared about that, only his need to mate Clova.

Volt finally relinquish control and West was given back control of his own body, had to catch Jo-anne as her legs gave way, and she crumple, "Shit." West muttered, an arm around her waist to stop her falling all the way to the floor "Jo-anne?" he questioned softly, worried about her.

"Mmm,." she half sighed, sounded sleepy, she leaned her head back on his chest, and West smiled as he looked down at her, eyes half closed, flushed face, a slight smile on her lips.

"Are you alright?" he asked softly.

"Mmm, Volt hasn't changed I see."

West actually chuckled "No, I guess not." leaned down and picked her up bridal style, walked over to her bed and lay her down, her dress ruined, Volt had torn it to shreds as he'd gripped and groped Clova during their mating. West was more than surprised that the thing was still on her.

Looked down at Jo-anne, all sleepy "Satisfied are we?" he stretched out on the bed next to her, couldn't help himself, wanted to be close to her.

“Mmm, I am.” she yawned and her eyes fluttered closed.

West watched her fall asleep, just like that, touched her face gently and wondered how they were going to deal with this, he'd been the one to touch her, he'd wanted her, told her as much, she knew it was him and not Volt, well not til Volt had taken over and called to her wolf any way.

Volt was stretched out inside his mind all relaxed and happy, satisfied himself 'I mate her good.' he practically purred 'She loved it.'

West shook his head slightly, but it did seem that way, Clova had always enjoyed his wolf, their mating always furious, seemed Clova wanted Volt just as much, had been known to start the mating, would annoy Volt with fighting him but only enough to make Volt get all frenzied with need, so their mating had been even more furious at times. Jo-anne's wolf had seemed to like it rough, and his wolf, liked to give her what she wanted, when she wanted it.

West had always enjoyed Jo-anne, but had kept that to himself, no more would he do that. He wanted more already, reached out and removed the tattered dress, it wasn't really hiding her nakedness from him. Just parts of her, parts he wanted to see. Selfish bastard that he was, was going to look at her naked, while she slept. He'd used to do that when they were Mated. It was the only time he allowed himself to look at her, with all his feelings on the surface, when she was asleep and couldn't see it.

He had not deserved her, and so had kept her at bay as much as he could. Kept himself closed off from her, didn't want her to know, he craved her day in day out. He tried to keep his hands to himself all the time.

Goddess how was he supposed to do that now? How as she going to feel when she woke up? With him right next to her, completely naked 'shit' should he even be? Would she want that? Should he stay? Should he leave? Hell he didn't know.

Felt her body shift, and watched as her body rolled into his, and she was curled right into him, he smiled, slid and arm around her and held her, he would leave, but not just yet. Slid his hand through her hair, kissed her forehead and closed his eyes, he would lay here for a little while and be selfish.

Frowned, could feel something tugging inside his mind, flicked his eyes open and realised as he yawned, he'd fallen asleep, glanced down at Jo-anne, she was still asleep, her body pressed up against his. There was that tugging sensation again, inside his mind. Kind of felt like someone was pulling on his tether, trying to reach him, but it couldn't quite connect.

Didn't particularly want to get up from her bed, glanced at his watch and blinked, shit it was almost 3 in the afternoon, he'd come in here nearly 5 hours ago. Slipped from the

bed, she murmured something in her sleep, he smiled down at her, so damn cute, all messy and smelling like sex still.

Walked across the room and pulled his clothes on, glanced at her canvas as he was doing up his pants, it was uncovered and come to a halt, he was looking at himself. Wow, It was very detailed 'ah that's why she was sneaking around the pack after him for days on end' cheeky woman.

West's eyes fell on the photo next to the canvas, she'd been trying he bet to get a picture of him actually smiling, unbeknownst to her, he'd only smiled because she'd been trailing him.

His mother had probably asked her to do it, for the Alpha portrait to be hung in his office.

He turned and looked at her on the bed, laying flat on her stomach now, his eyes moved to her back and widened at the tattoo down the centre of her spine, from the base of her neck to the middle of her back, he recognised it instantly. T.J. had the exact same one.

Turned and walked out of the room, made sure to lock the door, didn't get the chance to even think out her tattoo. The moment he stepped out of her room he was bombarded with voices, all of them sounded stressed and anxious.

'West, where the hell have you been?' his father Damien.

'West, where the hell are you?' T.J.

'Son, are you alright?' his mother.

'What happened to you?' Ricky

West's hand snapped to his head, goddess they were all loud and screaming at him, he hadn't gone anywhere. Was right bloody here in the pack-house, the whole time, why were they all panicking?

'I'm fine, in the pack-house.' he opened a multi lined mind-link to all of them, then suddenly realised he would smell like Jo-anne, headed for his suite, to shower 'What's all the fuss?'

'You were bloody missing.' T.J, shot at him.

'What? No I wasn't. Where are you?'

'We're all out bloody looking for you!' T.J. shot back sounded very annoyed.

West frowned as he headed up the stairs 'I'm in the pack-house, have been all day.' he told them and he had been it was not a lie.

'We're on our way back.'

'Alright.' West shook his head, showered and changed into jeans and a tee-shirt, strolled back down to his office, it was flooded with people 10 minutes after he got there, most of them in just gym shorts, his mother was wearing a long tee-shirt, and she ran over and started patting him all over, checking for injuries.

"I'm fine." he assured her, assured them all "Tell me what is going on."

"You bloody well, just vanished West." T.J. yelled at him "Gone, poof, no-one could get a hold of you, no mind-link, no tether, gone. Where the hell were you?"

West had, had time to think about that while he'd showered and changed, as he was not about to tell them all he'd been sleeping with Jo-anne. "library archives." he commented. None of them needed to know that he or Volt had been mating Jo-anne, T.J. certainly didn't not after West had seen that tattoo on her back. The very same tattoo T.J. had on his arm. How was it that the two of them could have the same tattoo, when she'd not been here in ten years. It bothered him more than a lot. Spoke volumes to him about their connection and he did not know what to do about it.