

## Chapter 61 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV.

Hearing West tell her sisters that Heath was unwell, then to have him clarify and say he'd gone insane, made her sad. She'd not yet been allowed to see him, still wanted to see him. To find out why? he had hurt her like that, just didn't have the same drive or desire that had burned inside of her before, but Jo-anne still wanted to know, why he'd done it? Try to understand his reasons, whatever they were. He had raised her, been her father for 28 years now, why would he suddenly turn on her?

When West finally agreed, she did not stick around in his office long enough for him to change his mind. Grabbed T.J. and dragged him out of the office, knew full well that West would have the cell Guard stop her, if T.J. was not with her. The man clearly still had issues where she was concerned.

Probably didn't help that they'd had sex more than once in the past 24 hours.

She let go of T.J. once they were outside of the pack-house, he stopped her after a few minutes, a hand on her arm, when she turned to look at him, saw that his eyes were glazed over.

If West had changed his mind, she was going to stalk in to his office and give him a piece of her mind, Alpha or not, ex-Mate or not, he could not keep changing his mind. Was nearly seething by the time T.J. looked at her, his shocked expression said it all. Her anger was right there on the surface for all to see.

"Calm down."

"If he's changed his mind." she snarled.

"He has not. Just asked that we go in after Maree and Marie come out."

Jo-anne turned on her heels and headed off towards the cells, T.J. fell into step beside her.

"It was like a ten second conversation, how'd you get so mad?"

"The man ticks me off." she muttered, and he did sometimes, annoyed her mostly but sometimes she really just wanted to punch him in that face of his.

"I can see that Jo-Jo, He's not that bad. I'm honestly surprised he's letting you see Heath."

"I'd have come on my own anyway." She stated flatly and she would have.

“Jo-Jo, do we really need a repeat of the last time you were out here?” he asked, sounded concerned.

She sighed “No, I guess not. But my anger would be at him, not you.”

“And you think that is wise?” he sighed this time.

“He’s just going to put another Alpha Order on me T.J. It’s what he does.”

Jo-anne noticed that he didn’t say anything, looked right at him, he didn’t look to happy about her statement, but it was the truth and they both knew it.

“The man has some serious issues, put him in therapy T.J.” she shot at him

“He doesn’t need therapy, Jo-Jo. He needs his Mate, once he gets her, everything will calm down.”

“Well send him out there to find her already. I don’t like being his target all the time.”

“He knows who she is, has to wait for the full moon, for her to scent him out.” he sounded somewhat amused.

It only made her frown “What? How?”

“Scented her out already. The Goddess let him I suppose.” he shrugged at her look.

“Well I hope she can handle his grumpy ass.”

T.J. snort “I’m sure, she’ll give him a run for his money.”

“You know who it is then?”

T.J. nodded “Of course I do...No, I’m not telling you who she is.”

“I don’t need to know. Just make sure she’s at the Mating Ball, because he’ll be to obsessed with her to bother me anymore once he’s got her.”

“You hope.” he snorted. Fully amused now.

Jo-anne glared at him “You’re an ass.”

“A Royal pain, I know.” he burst out laughing.

Jo-Jo shook her head, he was making fun of his own bloodline it seemed.

Both her sisters came out of the cells, looked terribly sad, glanced at her “It’s not him.” Maree, the oldest of the two said softly. “What happened to him?”

“I don’t know.” Jo-anne admitted “I only found out about this, when you did.” She stepped over and hugged them both “I’ll try and find out, let you know when I do.” They stood there and hugged her back for a moment, and then let go and walked away. She’d never been close to them, or they to her, that was probably the first family moment she’d had with them since they were very little. Had liked holding her baby sisters, bouncing them gently on her knee.

Jo-anne sighed and looked to T.J. he didn’t say anything, just wave a hand toward the cells, the guard let them pass. Her nose wrinkled at the scent of rogue and for a moment, she’d forgotten he’d gone rogue, had been confused as to why he smelled like that. Then remembered. Looked at him, hanging there on the hook from the ceiling and wondered if this was how he was every day, no wonder he wouldn’t talk.

“Heath?” she asked softly.

The eyes that turned on her were not her fathers, nor was the voice that came out of him “Ah, you’re still alive I see.” there was a gleam of something depraved staring at her.

“Heath, it’s me Jo-anne.”

He snort, “My little monster.” then burst out laughing “Killed anyone yet?”

Jo-anne’s eyes widened, she’d never hurt a single soul, never even had the inclination to. Felt T.J.’s hand on her back “He’s insane Jo-Jo, don’t listen to him.”

“Ah, little Jo-Jo, whose going to murder her own mummy.”

“W...What?” shocked by his words she stammered.

He was laughing all crazy like, “I’ve seen it you know, kill her you will.”

Jo-anne stared at him, he was insane, he’d raised her, she had no mother, just him. He wasn’t even her real father, how could she kill her own mother, when she didn’t have one.

“I try to stop you. Make you go away. But then I see you killer her, I can’t let that happen.”

“I don’t have a mother.” she told him.

“Jo-Jo come on.” T.J. urged her to go “he’s insane.”

"Come in here Jo-Jo, let me kill you, to save you."

She shook her head, "You're not my father."

"I was once, till I saw you, for what you are. A monster."

"I'm not a monster, I wouldn't hurt anyone." she shook her head.

He was laughing now "You sent the Alpha insane already Jo-Jo. He's going to kill you."

T.J. was dragging her away suddenly, she started pulling at his arm to go back "Wait it doesn't make sense, T.J. let me go."

"No, Jo-Jo. He's insane."

"T.J. what did he mean? The Alpha is going to kill me?"

"West would never hurt you Jo-Jo, not ever."

"Then why'd he say that. Those horrible things?"

"Heath is insane. Trying to kill you broke his mind. This is what happens when one harms their own kin, when they really love someone and turn on them, it breaks them. He can't be fixed Jo-Jo, you need to understand this."

"But what did he mean?"

"It's all nothing Jo-Jo. Ignore it."

But she couldn't, she'd heard his words.

Kill her mummy, didn't even have one.

Turned the Alpha insane. She bit her lip, West had become a very different person from his teenage years. She stopped walking "T.J."

"Yes Jo-Jo."

"West was happy before me right, a normal man. Smiled and laughed right?"

He looked at her with a frown "Don't listen to him Jo-Jo."

"Answer me." she yelled at him.

"Yes, a ladies man, most she-wolves thought he was charming and found him funny to boot. Laughed a lot, Why?"

“He changed after being Mated to me.”

“Yes.” T.J. admitted “He has his reasons and he is going to sit down and talk to you about that next week, like he told you he would.”

“I did that to him, didn’t I?” she looked up at him “I made him like that.” Heath was right she’d made West change.

“No, Jo-Jo you didn’t. The situation the two of you found yourselves in, made him the way he is. Not you personally.”

“You don’t know that.”

“Jo-Jo, Heath is insane. Let West put him down.”

She stood there and wondered about that. Heath had told her to go away to leave and when she hadn’t, his wolf Jester had bitten her, to try and make her leave, said she was going to kill her mummy. “It’s Karen! He thinks I’m going to kill Karen. Its why he tried to kill me. To stop me from hurting his Mate. It’s the only explanation T.J.”

“Why would you hurt Karen?”

“I don’t know.” She shook her head, “She’s the only mother I’ve known, so it’s the only thing that makes sense.”

“Nothing makes sense Jo-Jo, Let us put him down.”

“No, I need answers, We have to go back T.J.”

“No, West will not like it. Just leave it. Perhaps when he’s having a good day, I can bring you back. Heath, the man that raised you is in there somewhere, when he surfaces. I’ll bring you back, to talk to him then.”

“Do you promise me?”

“Yes.”

Jo-anne nodded “I’m tired.” she said softly, and turned to walk back to the pack-house, she could feel T.J.’s eyes on her many times, but she didn’t say anything at all. What could she say. Heath thought she was going to kill Karen and Heath said West would kill her. He nearly had once before, would have if T.J. hadn’t turned up and stopped him. Maybe the man wasn’t insane, maybe he just knew something no-one else did.

Did she actually believe that West would kill her? She didn’t know. Unlikely though she thought. He’d never once laid a hand on her, in a harmful manner, had held onto her arm a few times, picked her up a little possessively few times and strode away with her.

He'd yelled at her, but never once hit her, never once did she even think he would, the man had issues that was for sure, but they were more like he was still possessive over her.

She walked into the pack-house muttered good night to T.J. and had headed straight for her room, as she thought about all his orders on her, really thought about them, each and every one of them kept her here, in his pack, in the pack-house and away from other males. They were all orders of a possessive ownership nature.

She frowned, wondered if he would take them back, come the full moon. T.J. had said the man had already scented out his mate, and that he was just waiting on her to scent him back.

West had told her he wanted to talk about there past, explain things to her in a week or so, which meant after he found his Mate. Maybe he thought having her around would keep him calm, during the conversation. Or maybe he was worried that she, Jo-anne would warn the girl off, tell her about their history, perhaps he just wanted to make sure. She kept her mouth shut, she had no intention of speaking about her past. It was just that, in the past, long over.

Lay down in her bed and sighed, she'd had a long day, Ella had dragged her all over the pack, showed her all around, all the changes that had been made over the years, why she needed a pack tour, when all she had wanted to do was crawl back into her bed and sleep half the day, she had no idea.

But now as she lay there in her bed, sleep would not claim her. Heaths words rolled around inside of her mind. Jo-anne couldn't fathom a single reason why she would want to kill Karen, why Heath would even think that, was he insane and just rambling crazy stuff or was it that he knew something about her that no-one else knew.

Did that man know who she really was? Was there something bad inside of her? How was she going to find out?

## **Chapter 62 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

Jo-anne had stayed away from him now, spent the last 3 days holed up in her room, painting it seemed, Ella was spending time with her on a daily basis, and was reporting back to him, he was worried about how she was after her visit to Heath. T.J. had report to him what the man had said.

That she had concerns about everything Heath had said and that she seemed to be able make some reasonable assumptions about the mans ramblings, that could actually make sense, though West did not believe she had sent him insane. He was not crazy. Confused about many of his actions with her in the past but not insane.

Ella had understood once T.J. had talked to her about why the need to report back. That man it seemed could sway Ella to his wants with minimal effort. She really did like him it seemed to West. Ella had report that Jo-anne seemed alright, had been clearly upset about Heath's words, but not even Ella had been able to convince her that he was insane and they were just ramblings.

T.J. had even offered to take Jo-anne into Seattle for a day, to get her away from the pack and hopefully off of thinking about Heath. Jo-anne had declined it. Even when T.J. had told her West was okay with it and was approving of her leaving the pack territory had still declined the offer.

Jo-anne was currently standing in front of her canvas, had a pair of headphones on, was listening to music and painting. Had yet to realise he was leaning on the open door way to her room, just watching her. He had knocked, knew she was in her room, could feel her with his tether to her. When she had not answered the door, he'd let himself in to check on her.

Just working it seemed, preoccupied. She was actually standing quite close to the portrait of him, working on the green of his eyes. West had been watching now for several minutes, not once did she look at the photo of him for reference as to the detail of the colour of his eyes. Clearly knew what his eyes looked like, all the colours that made up his green eyes. Knew him well it seemed.

Walked across the room finally, itched to be closer to her as did Volt, but he left the door open, so that he wasn't likely to try anything on her. Keep his hands to himself. Stood right behind her, breathed in her scent, nearly sighed out loud and had to refrain himself from sliding his arms around her waist and pulling her back against him to bury his face in her neck, it was what he wanted to do. Could imagine doing it when they sorted things out and he got to claim her once more. Could see it clearly in his mind, her working in her studio and him slipping inside to cuddle her. Made him happy to think about it.

She was completely focused upon her work, it seemed, it was a very good likeness, reached out and lifted the left side of her head phones, "It looks good."

Heard her gasp and saw her head whip around, eyes very wide as she stare up at him in shock. Had definitely been very focused on her painting "Startled you I see."

"huh?" she removed her head phones "What did you say?"

"Startled you I see." West repeat himself, his mouth twitched in amusement.

"Yes, I was in the zone, so to speak."

"I know, I could see that, it's coming along nicely." his eyes moved back to the portrait "Though I think you missed the little bit."

"I have not." she cut him off, held up her pallet to him "Right there, that tiny bit of light green, I will do it last." she was pointing to a small amount of green paint with her paint brush.

His dark green eyes had a light green just around the pupils, he'd not thought she'd missed it, just wanted to tease her, so darn cute, she was trying to tell him she knew what she was doing, which she obviously did.

"What can I do for you?" she asked him.

"Nothing really. It's what I can do for you actually." and it was, all her things from Korea had finally arrived. T.J. was at this moment down the front gate to escort the humans in. No-one here was going to be happy about them on pack territory, but it was a shipping container full of her things.

"And that would be?" she turned away from him, back to her portrait, but he heard her heart beat increase slightly.

Smiled to himself, moved his mouth to her ear "Have a guess." he teased her softly letting his voice go all deep and husky. And heard her heart rate quicken even more. Chuckled softly, couldn't help it, "Not that." he teased even more "Though if you asked me to, I wouldn't say no Jo-anne."

"No." she stated firmly, almost as if she was trying to convince herself, or maybe Clova even.

West was not offended, not when he knew being this close to her, talking about sex with her was actually effecting her physically "Pity." he murmured and leaned away "Your belongings have arrived from Korea." he told her finally.

Watched her turn and look up at him surprised "Really."

"Yes." he nodded "T.J. is having the shipping container brought up as we speak."

Jo-anne smiled right up at him, he smiled right back. He'd wanted to be the one to tell her, had hoped she'd be happy at hearing the news, like that he could make her smile, and right up at him. She was beautiful.

"Um, where's it all going to go?" She suddenly asked.

"I don't know." West admitted "Haven't gotten enough room in here, that's for sure." He looked around.

"No, it won't all fit in here. Guess put it in storage, till I am...allowed to move out of this room."



West's eyes moved back to hers, her smile was gone and so was his, "I'll find you somewhere appropriate, soon" it would fit in his suite for sure all he had in there was a wardrobe full of clothes and some toiletries in the bathroom. "How much room do you need?"

"Not much once the studio is built, but til then...I guess a two room apartment or a cottage would do. One room for my art and the other for me."

"Out side of the pack-house?" he frowned down at her.

"Yes. That would be completely normal, under any other circumstances, Correct?"

West sighed "For a normal she-wolf yes." he admitted, but she was not normal like the others, she was to be his Luna, just didn't know it yet.

"Then why can't I?" she asked outright.

"Because I want you in the pack-house for the time being." he stated calmly, what he actually wanted was her in his Alpha Suite, in his bed. There was plenty of room up there for all her things, it was essentially empty just basic furniture up there.

Jo-anne was standing staring at him now. Probably looking for an explanation, one he was not going to give her, it was only 3 days until the full moon now, they could talk then, she would understand then. "I'll see what's available within the pack-house" he offered in stead, though wasn't going to look, it would be a waste of time moving her twice. Though he did know the whole first floor was empty other than her and there were more than 1 or 2 suites down here, in fact there was one right across the hall from her.

There was also plenty of room on the Alpha floor, though all those suites had balcony's, he was not comfortable with that. Frowned to himself, he was really going to have to think about that, his suite had a full wrap around balcony, like T.J.'s did, he didn't want to have to lock it down from her, needed to try and learn to be comfortable with the thought of her out there on it.

Then again who knew how long it was going to take him to convince her to take him back, if he could at all.

"You know there is a solution." She offered him.

"And that would be?"

"Let me choose where I want to live."

"Maybe a good idea, I'll show you a couple of rooms later." he nodded, had to start giving some leeway.

“Not what I meant.” She was frowning at him.

“It’s as good as it’s going to get Jo-anne. I’m sorry. I know its an inconvenience to you, but you are...a Luna ranked wolf, you should be housed in the pack-house, it is safer for you.”

“Safe from who? Who am I in danger from?” she asked him outright, annoyance in her tone.

“I don’t want to fight Jo-anne, I will find you another room, isn’t that good enough.”

“It would be better if you relinquish your order on me.” she snapped at him suddenly.

“I’m sure it would.” West nodded but with that order on her he knew where she was every night “T.J. will have your things brought up and let you know where he’s put the shipping container.” he stated flatly and turned and left the room. Did not want to fight with her, his happy mood was gone, with her mentioning his order on her.

He was going to have to release them all, he knew it. Just didn’t like not having any control over her. If he let them all go, who was to say she would stay put, could just up and leave any time she liked, day or night. He didn’t know if she would stay of her own accord, that was the problem, once he did, he would release them.

He had to get her out of that room, she’d eaten in her room, all of her meals for the past two days, he didn’t like that she had shut herself away, it wasn’t healthy to be locked away from the rest of the pack, though he knew it was mostly because of Heath, West still didn’t like it.

West returned to his office, Pack run was tonight, but West had his reservations about letting Clova out, Volt was likely to mate her. That one thought made Volt snort ‘Likely?’ inside his mind. She was his Mate and he had not been near her in days. Not seen Clova herself in wolf form in near a month, he wondered what Clova felt about not being let out, if she was used to it, he rarely saw her surface even, didn’t seem to have much interaction with the pack at all.

Though she had trained with Belinda, that thought stopped him. Not just Belinda but also Ava and Sonja, she had been training with her whole family and not known it. He was suddenly curious as to how that had gone, would normally have asked Belinda, but the woman was also holed up in her room right this minute. He shook his head, they were so much alike in so many ways, it seemed.

‘Ella.’ he mind-linked her ‘come to my office please.’

‘Yes Alpha.’

Took her ten minutes to walk into his office, she was wearing gym clothes, he raised an eyebrow at her?

"Training day." She told him.

"Oh sorry," West hadn't even realised that, he did know all the training schedules within the pack, but had not thought about it, preoccupied.

"No biggie." She shrugged "What can I do for you Alpha?"

"Got some questions about Clova."

"Might want to ask Jo-anne." She replied.

West shook his head "Currently mad at me."

"What did you do this time West?" She huffed at him, hands on her hips.

West tilted his head and raised his eyebrows at her sudden questioning of him and the annoyed stance she had taken up.

"Shit, sorry Alpha." She dropped her hands and bowed her head, realising what she had done.

"Sit down Ella." He waved her into the chair in front of his desk "and all I did was tell her she had to stay in the pack-house, instead of moving out of it."

"Yeah so, isn't that the current norm."

"Yes." he nodded "Anyway about Clova, her training the other day with Belinda, how'd that go?"

"Good actually. Pinned starling 3 out of 10 rounds."

"Good. Be careful Ella, she is stronger than you think or she knows."

Ella raised an eyebrow at him now, but said nothing on the subject "Are you actually going to let her train?"

"Perhaps, only with Belinda for now. If Belinda will agree."

"Why wouldn't she?" Ella seemed confused, but she didn't have all the facts either.

Yes, why wouldn't she, she had done so the other day and did manage to stop Jo-anne attacking T.J., she was likely the only one to be able to stop her when in an Alpha rage. Though Jo-anne still had no idea, that was what she was at this point. They were still

trying to figure out her glowing eyes, which Belinda could surely help with, but was not ready.

He shrugged at Ella he could not explain that to her “How was Clova around the other wolves?”

Ella laughed softly “Actually she was very cute. Run around like a playful puppy almost, pranced and pounced about, played with both Ava and Sonja’s wolves and they played back with her. All excited, I’d say Clova really enjoyed the wolf social aspect quite a bit, pack run should be good for her.”

West sighed “I don’t know about pack run for Clova.” and he didn’t.

“Why Alpha, are you worried Volt will Mate her in front of everyone?”

West frowned at her, “Jo-anne told you?”

“I guessed, pretty easy thing to do actually. And if you think, you’re hiding it from the pack you’re not. Many of them see how you are. All possessive again.”

“Not surprised.” He shrugged and he wasn’t, it was very unlikely Oliver and his whole unit and not figured it out. Having to stalk the woman every time West was off pack territory. Alpha’s didn’t just go around throwing around protection of a she-wolf for no reason. Other pack members would have seen Oliver or one of his men trailing her and being that he was Wests’ War General it wouldn’t have gone unnoticed.

“If I allocate her training, I want someone with her I can trust.” West looked right at her.

“I don’t think she would handle my level of training.” Ella shook her head.

“I know, so I’d like you to train with Belinda if I can get her to agree to it, that is.” He as the Alpha could just tell her to do it and she would have to, but under the current circumstances he would not do that to Belinda, she had a lot going on right now and did not need West forcing the situation.

“Extra training or a complete move?” Ella asked him.

“What do you want?”

She seemed a bit surprised by his offer, allowing her to choose. He knew that Ella was Delta Ranked and so had been set training, never much had a say in it for that matter, her father had laid the law down for her, and his father the Alpha at the time, had simply gone along with it.

“It’s my choice?”

“Yes, I don’t see why not.” he nodded.

“Dad, won’t be happy about it.”

“Send him to the Alpha, to deal with it.” West smiled right at her.

Watched her mouth nearly drop to the floor, “Well, damn. Look at that, you do know how to smile.” Ella finally said after shaking off the shock of it. It seemed.

“I can.” West nodded “Which will it be?”

“Does Terence train with his mother?” she asked suddenly.

“No, not really.”

“Bummer.” She frowned.

West chuckled, couldn’t help it, the girl really did want T.J. saw her eyes widen at his chuckle and shook his head amused “I could swing that once a week for you.”

“Now Alpha, you have just gotten yourself a deal.” She was grinning right at him “I’ll switch completely, I actually hate training with all them testosterone filled ass hats. Its much more fun playing with the juniors.”

“Deal.” wWest nodded “you can go now.”

“Thanks Alpha.” she smiled at him as she got up.

“Don’t torment Terence, to much now Ella.” he teased her.

“I would never.” she grinned right at him and then run out of his office all happy.

Cole was going to get real mad, but West saw the way Terence had looked at Ella, and he did it a lot, the man really liked her it appeared. Ella was more than interested, always had been.

He might just give them a push together, they’d likely make a good Mated pair, even as chosen Mates. Leaned back in his chair wondered what would happen if they were accidentally on purpose locked in a room together. Smiled to himself, that was easy T.J. would likely rip her clothes off and that would be that.

Shook his head, let Ella sort it out, she had humped him silly in the park that night and if T.J. had not been on a Jo-Jo hunt, his need to know she was okay and find out what happened to her. He’d admitted to West he’d have had her right there in the park for all to see. Then she’d kissed the him in the dining room at breakfast the other morning,

seems Ella was on a mission to get the man himself. Likely would to, he hoped she was prepared for it.

She was actively hunting an Alpha-blooded male, he was only ranked Beta here, because his father was the Beta, she did always call him Beta to, it might very well have slipped her mind that T.J. was actually Alpha-blooded, smirked, the girl had better know what she was doing, not many could handle the Pack Beta. And she was actively sexually taunting him. Was likely going to find herself impaled by him at some point.

West knew the man had needs that ran deep. Deeper than West's in fact, probably to do with the fact he was also a royal. Poor bastard never really had been truly sated, perhaps Ella was the one that would be able to take him on and satisfy him. West hoped so. For the both of them.

Speak of the devil himself. T.J. strolled into the office and sank down in the very chair Ella had not long left. West saw the man's nostrils flare a little, he could smell her. But didn't say anything "I got all Jo-Jo's things sorted out West."

"Good, I've switched Ella to train with your mother. I'm going to let Jo-anne train with her as well."

"What brought this on?"

"Apparently Clova is all puppy out there with Ava and Sonja's wolves. I thought it might be good for her."

"Don't push mother into it West." he sighed.

"I won't be. I'll ask first, it'll be her decision, but she did train her the other day."

"Hmm, I suppose...though I was thinking she likely needs 1 on 1 training with...your father probably."

"Why is that?"

"Because of her bloodline, she needs Alpha training West."

West sighed "I don't want her charging off into a fight Terence, it's why I never let her train in the first place." not only that if she trained with his father she'd end up all muscled up and he really like her all feminine, soft to touch, found it more than attractive, loved her the way she was.

"I know West, but she needs to get that aggression out. Alpha females can be all soft and gentle in appearance but can be a bloody nightmare to handle, look at Miranda all sweet and happy all the time, but challenged you and rolled her aura right at you when ticked off, and you've seen it for yourself, Jo-Jo and her strength when ticked off."

“Lets start small.” West nodded “If Belinda says no, you can train her.”

Terence burst out laughing “Me...I thought about that decided against it West, I’d get my ass kicked by you if she so much as came back with a single bruise.”

“Yep. But she also trust you. More importantly, I trust you.”

“Guess one of us needs to go and talk to mother then.” T.J. sighed.

“Flip you for it.” West smiled.

T.J. flipped him right off “I win you do it.”

West shook his head, it was something the two of them had used to do as kids. “Oh, I told Ella.” he smirked at his Beta “you’d be in training once a week with them too.”

“What? West that is not a good idea.”

“Sure it is. Might just get you what you want.”

“Shut it.” T.J. muttered.

West smiled at him, “Why not?”

“She’s not my Mate is why not.”

“So, Silvia, she’s not your mate.”

“That is different, Silvia’s just a ...”

“And Ella?” West pushed.

“Nothing, leave it alone West.”

“Well I made a deal with Ella, so you have to.”

“Do I now?”

“Yes, I could order you to, if you like.” West chuckled. He would too.

T.J. stared right at him, then sighed “Fine, if she ends up in my bed, its all your fault.”

“Fair enough, Cole will deal with it Terence. Now pack run tonight.” He changed the subject.

“Yes that is tonight.”

“Clova! Volt will mate her, I’m certain of it.”

“Not much you can do about it. Clova isn’t going to say no, just let them.”

“You’re alright with that?”

“Yes West. Just not you and Jo-Jo.”

“Bias much!”

“You’ll keep your hands off of, my little sister, till the full moon.” he smirked right back.

“Still not used to that.” West shook his head, didn’t know if he’d ever get used to it to be honest. And who was he going to talk to about stuff with her now. Frowned.

T.J. laughed right at him, seemed to find it highly amusing.

## **Chapter 63 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

T.J. was sitting on her couch staring at her, he’d just informed her, West was actually going to let her train with Belinda, that Ella would be moving over to that training and he’d be their himself, once a week to keep an eye on things. She was more than confused, West did not like her training back then, and hadn’t been happy about it earlier in the week. T.J. had told her as much.

“Why now?” she asked.

“I don’t know, he just told me, as long as mother agrees to it. It’s a go.”

Maybe having found his mate it didn’t bother him anymore her out there with other pack members training. A blessing, Clova had really enjoyed being with the other wolves and she’d taken pretty quick to training.

“If Belinda say’s no?” there was a possibility, she did only work with the juniors and that was not her.

“You and I one on one.” he grinned right at her. “You got a preference?”

“Not really.” Jo-anne shrugged “But Clova did enjoy running with the other wolves, so probably that.”

He just nodded “On that note, the Pack run is tonight.”



"I heard." She nodded, had no idea even if she would be allowed to go, or if it was a wise decision.

"Volt could be an issue." T.J. stated.

"Could be? Or will be?"

"Will be I'm guessing."

"So it's a no, I can't go on the pack run then."

"Yes you can go. Just be prepared to have Volt mate Clova."

Jo-anne sighed and shook her head "What is Volts issue T.J."

He shrugged "Appears Volt is still very much attached to Clova."

"Right so it's not going to go away then?"

"Not any time soon." he shook his head.

"When he gets his Mate."

"Things will be different yes."

"I might forgo the Pack run and let you guys all head off, then let Clova out and go the other direction. At least she can be out."

"It's your choice. West just thought you could use the heads up."

"How long is the Pack run."

"A few hours."

"Exactly T.J.?" she needed to know to get Clova back inside before Volt hunted her down.

"Will start at 8 and go til midnight, that's the usual."

"Alright." Jo-anne nodded, hadn't decided on what to do about it, would think on it Clova didn't seem to have an opinion at this point. Had liked hearing Volt would likely mate her, not particularly a good idea, he was about to find and claim his Mate in three days.

Clova was very excited, pawing at Jo-anne's mind to be released, nearly the whole pack was here, half of them already shifted, Ella was leaning on the pack house wall next to Jo-anne wearing just a tee-shirt ready to run herself. Jo-anne was waiting for it to start,

going to stay at the back of the pack. West and Volt would be leading the run so this was the best place for them, they also likely didn't know she was out here to run so another bonus. Volt wouldn't be looking for her.

Jo-anne still wasn't certain it was a good idea but Clova really want to be out with the other wolves, and Jo-anne rarely deny her what she wants in this regard. Living in the city for so very long, had limited the chances for wolfing out, and never got to do it with the social aspect of other wolfs around. So when Clova had the chance and wanted to, Jo-anne always let her.

Was trying to keep a low profile, out of sight out of mind, where Volt was concern. Which only worked until Ella saw T.J. stroll out with the Alpha Unit, all of them just wearing gym shorts ready for shifting. Wolf whistled right at him, the whole Unit turned and Ella laughed, got a frown from Cole and a Wink from T.J., West's eyes fell right on Jo-anne, one corner of his mouth tilted up and his eyes glowed for a moment. Volt was looking right at her.

It didn't go unnoticed by the pack, his half smile. Several gasps ran through the pack before he walked off 'Your good for this pack.' Ella shot down the mind-link 'That man chuckled right in front of me today.'

Jo-anne turned and looked at her, Ella just smiled at her.

Well so much for West and Volt not knowing that they were out here.

West called for the run to start and everyone who wasn't shifted, shifted in to their wolves including her. Then Clova was running, she loved the feel of paws on the forest floor, hearing the other wolves, running with them, picked up her pace, and Jo-anne had thought she had been running at full speed it seemed not. Moved from the back of the pack to the middle of the pack.

Starling was keeping pace with her easily, started nipping at her and urging her to run even faster and Clova did, really stretched herself out and was soon running like the wind, actually keeping pace with Starling with ease, getting closer to the front of the pack by the minute. Jo-anne didn't know Clova could run this fast.

Clova didn't stop running at all, even when the Pack run was over she was still itching, so much energy inside of her and she just bolt off on her own, happy to just be out all night. Saw a fox and was off after it, it was quick and agile and ran down into its burrow before she could get it. Clova stood at the burrow and dug at the ground for a minute or so before giving up and wandering off.

Found herself under the watchful eye of Volt. Looked right at him, snorted at him, while swishing her tail back and forth. Suddenly pounced towards him, Volt jump out the way and looked at her and then Clova just turned and ran off through the woods. 'Clova?' Jo-anne sighed it was no use.

Clova was running away and she could hear Volt giving chase, she was taunting the Alpha wolf and he was all in it seemed, chasing her and cutting her off, nipping at her playfully and appeared to be taunting her back. Playing with her as much as she was him, it appeared the two of them just couldn't help themselves. Uncaring of who saw them playing together.

Then Clova ran and fast, lead him well away from the pack-house and deeper into the southern woods, and he gave chase with earnest. Pushed herself hard to run as fast as she could making him hunt her, just what every wolf loves.

Volt finally run her down and stood above her staring down at her, as she lay on the ground underneath him, he nudged her with his big head and she rolled right over and stood up right under him, and he mate her right away. Jo-anne had no choice but to let it happen, it was pretty clear it was going to happen with all the hunting and chasing they were doing. Had also been warned, but Clova had wanted to go on the Pack run, and she couldn't deny her wolf that, Clova had also had a great time out there tonight with the other wolves. Surprised Jo-anne as to just how fast her wolf was, she'd never seen Clova run that fast before, or have so much energy even after the run.

'West?' she asked at one point it was getting very late in the wee hours of the morning.

'Just go with it Jo-anne.' his voice seemed rather amused to her.

'West this is the 3rd time now he has mated her, can't you do something?'

'Can you?' he laughed right back at her.

'Not funny West.' she shot back at him.

'Hmm, I suppose not. I can't however make him leave, he has full control, get Clova to stop.' still sounded amused to her ear.

'Yeah right.' Jo-anne muttered 'my wolf is bloody loving the attention.'

'Then let them be.' he told her casually

'West their not mates anymore.'

'Tell them that.' he snorted.

'You're not even trying to stop this are you?'

'No.' he told her 'When did Clova get so fast?'

'I don't know.' and she didn't.

It was nearly sun rise when Clova and Volt made there way out of the woods and towards the pack-house, Jo-anne glared at West after being shifted back, he was standing there naked holding the pack-house mudroom door open for her to walk through "It's not funny West."

"I didn't say it was." He was however smiling, and she had not missed that his eyes had wandered slowly over her naked body, "Come on, before someone sees you."

"You got issues you know that right." She muttered

"Yes, my biggest issue right this minute, being you're naked and people are about to start heading for training and will see you."

Jo-anne rolled her eyes at him "Maybe, I'll just walk naked, all the way back to my room."

"And maybe, I'll toss your naked ass over my shoulder and carry you off to finish what Volt started."

Jo-anne glared at him and stalked inside the door past him finally, felt his hand smack her right on the backside, a firm whack, his hand cupping her left butt cheek as he did so. Snapped her head around and looked right at him "What the hell was that?"

"Punishment for back chat. Do you need another?"

Jo-anne's eyes were wide, opened her mouth to say something else to him only to see him smirk right down at her, he bloody would to, she realised, snapped her mouth shut and found a shirt to put on and stalked off out of the mud room, down through the pack-house's ground floor towards the foyer to the stairs that would lead up to her room.

Found the whole Alpha Unit coming down the damned stairs, and grit her teeth, she knew she would smell like West and Volt right this minute, it was not going to get past any of their senses, not to mention the hour of the day or that she was wearing just a tee-shirt and West just a pair of gym shorts as he strolled casually along behind her. Glanced back at him he was smiling at her. Didn't even seem to care that his whole Alpha Unit would now know what had gone on all night.

She stalked up the stairs as she heard T.J. snort with amusement, her foot fall said it all she was unhappy as she stomped along. "Now boss, you haven't been out all night have you?" she heard T.J.'s amused tone.

"Volt has." West replied, sounded amused himself "Night boys." and she heard him actually trot up the stairs to his floor. Bastard admitted it to all of them. She could kick him.

Clova was already sleeping, all mated out it seemed, Volt had not changed one bit, it seemed. Well that wolf has had the last of her wolf, in just 2 days they'd have their Mate, problem solved. She showered and climbed into bed, she was tired, and had no intention of getting up all day.

Woke up mid afternoon absolutely starving, and dragged her ass out of bed to go and find food, walked out of her room to find several omegas buzzing about in the hallway. Stopped and asked one of them what was going on.

"Alpha's and there un-mated wolves arriving tomorrow for the mating ball, were getting all the rooms ready."

"Oh!" she had nearly forgotten that there would be Alpha's coming, bit her lip and wondered if Alpha Jayden was going to be here, she really didn't need another fight between West and that man. Headed off downstairs to the dinning room.

Omega's were everywhere, she plated up food and sat down to watch them all, she'd not really experienced any of this, had always been basically hidden away, not that she had been old enough, but West had never let her near a ball. It was interesting to watch as she saw Luna Natalia buzzing about giving out instructions, looked a little bit flushed from all her duties. Was standing just taking a breather and Jo-anne smiled at the woman, her hand was resting absently on her belly, rubbing it gently. Oh, she wondered how West would take the news of a baby brother or sister this late in life.

She saw Jo-anne sitting watching her, snapped her hand away from her stomach, Jo-anne raised an eyebrow at her and smiled. Watched as Luna Natalia walked over to her "Thank goodness Jo-anne, please help me I'm a bit tired today."

"What? Me why?" Jo-anne stared up at her.

"Because Jo-anne I did train you for a year, did I not." she sighed "And I could really use the help today."

"Have you told West?"

Luna Natalia shook her head, "Not even Damien yet, shh. Please help me, can you go and make sure the ball room is being set up correctly, I showed you that once right?"

"Um yeah you did, but it was like ages ago, I don't really."

Luna Natalia cut her off "You'll be fine." pulled her along to the foyer "Pack colours Jo-anne, in the correct order. That's all you need to know. Go, go, go." and she was shoved off in the direction of the ballroom.

Jo-anne sighed didn't she have daughters to do this for her, 3 of them, this ball was for them she remembered, why weren't they helping, she shook her head, it was not in her

to say no, when Luna Natalia had just confided in her that she was carrying Alpha Damien's child, smiled to herself West was likely going to be ticked off, already had 5 sisters, she hoped it was a boy. Would annoy him even further.

Walked into the ballroom, the omega's were in full swing getting tables set up and she stepped into help them and they seemed to just smile up at her and listen to her, without issue, she helped with the setting up of tables and the laying out of room according to the diagram on the wall. Made sure all the tables were set with the pack colours and in the correct order as instructed. Black, White and Grey in that order.

By dinner time the place was ready, she smiled at the room it would just need fresh flowers on the tables but she knew they would be cut on the day. Headed off, found Luna Natalia in the Alpha's office, knocked on the door, everyone in there looked at her she smiled and nodded to the room returned her attention to the Luna. "Luna I have done as you requested."

"Thank you sweetheart, truly appreciate your help."

"It's alright." she smiled right at her "Anything else I can help you with?"

"Not unless you're a fabulous cook."

Jo-anne snort "No, sorry."

"Then that is all." Luna Natalia smiled at her.

Jo-anne wandered off to find Ella, they were supposed to be having dinner and a movie night tonight.

## **Chapter 64 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

He and T.J. were standing on the top step out the front of the pack-house, waiting on the first of the packs to arrive for the mating ball. None other than Alpha Jayden of the Silver Moon Pack and he was hours early. West had known he would be. Watched the man step out of his Mercedes, dressed to the hilt, a full three piece suit, hair freshly cut and styled, clean shaven.

He looked right at West and smiled "Alpha Westley, good to see you again."

"Alpha Jayden are you well?" He did not think it was good to see him again, didn't want this man anywhere near Jo-anne.

"I am indeed." Jayden nodded "As requested 20 of my un-mated ranked members and highest warriors. Male and Female."

West nodded, it was his mothers doing only asking for ranked members and highest ranked warriors. Didn't like it but had no choice in it, she had been looking for Mates for her daughters, though they were pretty much already taken. Just a matter of those triplet Beta's turning up, it was pretty clear to everyone that the girls were fiercely attracted to them. So it was now just a standard Mating ball for all who attended.

"Welcome, I believe Luna Natalia, my mother has your room all ready for you. In the west wing of the pack-house."

Saw Alpha Jayden smirk, he knew West had made sure he was as far from Jo-anne's room as possible. "That's fine Westley. It won't hinder my keen sense of smell."

"I'm sure it won't. This way then." West walked inside to where his mother was waiting with half a dozen omega's to help carry luggage.

Watched as Alpha Jayden smiled at his mother "Luna Natalia, lovely to see you again."

"Thank you Alpha Jayden, I'll show you up to your room."

"I'd like to make a stop off first." his eyes moved to Wests "Where is the lovely Jo-anne? I have a gift for her."

West knew it was coming. The man wanted her and was going to try and get her. Lucky for West he already knew she was his Mate, didn't stop him being annoyed by this Alpha though. "I believe she is out currently, sorry Jayden."

"Oh, it can wait." he smiled. Turned away from West "Lead the way please Luna."

West already wanted to punch the man, right in his face. Had a gift for Jo-anne, should have known that the man was going to come fully prepared to charm her and try and seduce the woman.

Just have to wait it out, one more day. He knew Clova would not say no to Volt, so his battle was half way won. Jo-anne on the other hand, had been more than annoyed with him for allowing Volt free reign over Clova after the Pack run.

She had been warned about attending it. What Volt would be like. He'd even left it in her hands, to decide if she wanted to attend the Pack run, which she had done, knowing the risks. He'd had no intention of stopping Volt, if Clova wanted him so be it, and it had been Clova how had taunted Volt and start the game of hunt the prey. So their mating was technically Clova's doing. Though how fast she had been able to run had definitely excited Volt, she'd never been that fast before. His wolf liked it, had to actually chase her not just play with her.

Still Jo-anne had avoided him, saw him coming this morning and had actually turned and walked away from him, he'd not been intending on going over to her, had simply



been heading for the gym, and she'd been coming from the library it appeared, had turned around and gone right back in there.

He had left it alone, needed a work out, knew he was going to have to deal with Alpha Jayden today, and didn't want to, to be honest, so the gym had been his outlet for his frustrations.

Beta Leighton and his two identical siblings arrived along with their Alpha, all three of them were smiling, wearing almost identical clothing, Black slacks and short sleeved dress shirts, different shades of green all of them. "Alpha West, good to see you again." Beta Leighton stepped up and held his hand out.

West took it, a brief hand shake then he introduced his brothers Stephen and Dylan, they both greeted him warmly as well. "You three look very happy." West commented.

Leighton smiled "Well, we are about to claim our Goddess-Gifted Mates, where are they, I'd like to see Emma. Also introduce my brothers here to her sisters."

"Inside with my mother." and they were, had been hovering in the foyer since the announcement that Beta Leighton and his brothers were at the gate. "Follow me."

West walked inside, Emma, Dana and Anna were all standing together next to his mother. Emma was the first to move, shot off the mark as Leighton opened his arms to her, she was in them a second later, her wolf purring quite loudly, hugging into the man. Closed her eyes and looked so very happy.

Leighton slid his arms around her without any hesitation, a smile on his face, then he looked to her sisters "Girls this is Stephen and Dylan." both his brothers took a single step forward when he said their names. "they won't bite I assure you."

"Yes they will." Dana giggled at him and then turned her eyes on Dylan, walked across to him, looked up at him and tapped her neck, right on her mark spot "Right here." Dylan burst out laughing and yanked her into his arms, picked her up off the floor and buried his face into her neck and growled at her.

"Yes I will, the second the moon sets." which made Dana chuckle.

Anna was just standing there, she was the youngest of the three, also the shyest. She was looking at her Mate, Stephen. Biting her lip nervously. West had to admit, it was very cute to see his sister like that, he did actually like these boys, got a good feeling about them, and they were already an allied pack, he was happy about that as he knew was both his mother and father.

She stood there just watching her Mate, Stephen smiled at gently, crooked his finger at her and beckoned her over to him, West watched as Anna tilted her head a little and then shook it, stepped behind their mother.



“Are you so shy, you won’t come say hello?”

Anna blushed beet red, and pressed herself against her mother, Luna Natalia smiled, she knew her daughter was shy, she looked to Stephen “Do be patient.”

Stephen, still smiling his eyes still on Anna, “I have all the patience in the world, for my beautiful Mate.” the man did not seem bothered that his two brothers already had their Mates in their arms and he did not.

Anna slid her arms around her mother and hugged her “He called me beautiful.” she whispered.

Their mother smiled “He did, do you think he is handsome?” she asked Anna.

Anna nodded her head as it rested on their mothers shoulder “Very.” but she wouldn’t let go, it seemed.

It was not what West was expecting, thought she would be like Emma and Dana to be honest. Running for her Mate, she couldn’t take her eyes off of him though, but wouldn’t go near him, appeared curious by still shy.

“Are you the oldest?” West asked him curiously, it did seem to have more of an air of authority than the other two.

“I am.” he nodded to West “I am betting, my little Anna is the youngest.”

“She is.” West acknowledged

It was an interesting turn of events, Emma was with Leighton, Emma the oldest, Leighton apparently the youngest, Dana and Dylan both the middle born and then Anna and Stephen, the youngest to the oldest.

Stephen did not seem upset at all, more amused by Anna’s shyness towards him. Did not seem to want to push for her to come to him either. The rest of the day it was noted she was never far from him, but he couldn’t get a hand on her, not that he particularly tried to, offered her his hand once or twice, to which she just looked at it, but didn’t take it.

It was obvious he knew she was close by, but he never once tried to actually grab her for himself, just allowed her natural curiosity to be. It was nearing dinner time and the last of the Alpha’s had arrived, Alpha Anthony, with his group of invited guests, he was not an allied pack, not an enemy either. A neutral party. The woman standing next to him his Beta, she had been introduced to him.

Seemed to be attracted to Stephen, slid her eyes over him and sized him up as he sat with his brothers in the foyer, the girls were with Anna, had taken to trying to convince

her to go over to Stephen, he'd told them not to worry about it thought Anna was adorable. Was happy with her trailing him everywhere it seemed.

The minute she walked over towards him though, a massive snarl ripped out of Anna. Making the woman freeze in her tracks, it was an all Alpha-blooded snarl. There was no mistaking that, turned to find Anna's wolf Jade right on the surface "Mine." she suddenly snarled at the woman, then before anyone knew what was going to happen, she shot across the room full Alpha speed towards Stephen and sank her fangs right into the man.

Shocked everyone, Anna might be shy, but Jade would claim what was hers it seemed, Stephen slid his arms around her "Awe jealous my sweet. No need for that, I only want you."

West saw the man casually move her blonde hair to the side, exposing her neck to him, he looked right at West, who knew there was no stopping it. West didn't even try, neither did his mother or father who were seated in the room themselves watching their daughters with their Mates.

West just smiled and shrugged at the man. Stephen buried his fangs right into Anna's neck, right there for all to see and West saw his little sister melt right into the man, curling up in his lap. Both Marked by each other before the full moon was even here, still a full day away.

Heard his father chuckle, looked over to him, to see him shake his head at West "What can you do, Alpha females a law unto themselves."

The woman Beta Taylor, who had been walking over to Stephen, Anna's Mate. Shook her head and only then seemed to realised what was going on as she watched Emma and Anna stroll over and sit down on their Mates laps "Triplets?" she sounded a bit shocked.

"Yes." he acknowledged her surprise, and watched her walk back over to Alpha Anthony who was also watching on.

His mother got up and showed the man and his wolves to their rooms, he was covered in tattoos, both arms and his neck, West didn't particularly like it, he was much older than west too nearly 40, and still un-mated. Though West had shaken hands with him, it was his father who Alpha Anthony had been jovial with shook hands and clapped his father on the back, they clearly knew each other, got along to it appeared.

5 un-mated Alpha's and their highest ranking un-mated members and warriors, were all here to see if his sisters were possibly their Mates, already even before the ball, his sister were taken.

Jo-anne he knew had every intention of going to the ball, he didn't want her too, but honestly it wasn't going to hurt, she was his Mate, he already knew that. He just didn't want any of those 5 Alpha's around her. Especially Alpha Jayden.

Ella currently had Jo-anne preoccupied else where in the pack, a high tea with her friends down at Cafe Moonlight, and then they would be having dinner in the pack's town as well, not in the pack-house. He'd seen to that with the help of T.J.

It had not escaped his attention that Jayden was lounging in the foyer most of the afternoon, waiting West believed for Jo-anne to come home. It would be a long wait. Though it did appear the man had made himself comfortable, was on his phone, attending to business it seemed. Didn't pay West the slightest bit of attention.

The night before the mating ball was always interesting to watch. Who's eyes were on who, who was interested in who, physically attracted to who. Then the wait and see as to who would pair up as Goddess-Gifted Mates or not.

West's attention was on Alpha Anthony, the man had a small pack 400 members only or there about, out near Portland, the Pale Moon Pack, they were big into making Wolfen strength alcoholic beverages. It was where his pack got all their wolfen loaded alcohol from Alpha Anthony's brand Pale Moon.

The man was talking with everyone, all the Alpha's knew him, guess they all bought wolfen loaded alcohol from him too, he seemed quite comfortable at dinner, didn't appear to be on the look out for his Mate, West wondered if the man had given up. He was 40. looked to the man's un-mated wolves and noticed just about all of them were covered in tattoos and piercings, looked very rough and tumble. They were very well built even the females, like tanks. Must train a lot, probably due to being a small pack, would need to be to defend themselves and keep their pack safe from larger packs.

Though it was unlikely the Pale Moon Pack was attacked much, for if it was destroyed where else would the local packs get there wolfen loaded alcohol, from what West knew of the man and his pack, he ran his brand to just about every pack on the western coast. Was a very wealthy man, more so than West was, though the man didn't seem to lord it over anyone.

Had arrived dressed very casually in faded ripped blue jeans and a red fitted tee-shirt, not expecting to find his mate it seemed, he'd never taken a chosen Mate either, probably waiting around for his Goddess-Gifted Mate. Most Alpha's would, made for better strength to their packs and better bloodlines and strength to their heir. For future leadership of their pack.

Wondered if the man would be interest in an alliance. Might discuss it with him before the mating ball tomorrow.

Heard Jo-anne and Ella return, his wolfen hearing picked up them laughing and chatting as they walked through the pack house. Saw Alpha Jayden's head tilt as well. The man had been keeping an ear out for her as well it seemed. His eyes moved to West's and he smirked right at him. It was obvious that he also knew, West knew she was back.

It would be very rude if West just got up to leave dinner, but not for Jayden and the man knew it too, had hosted these balls himself, West had even been to a few of them over the years. So he did not get up and make his way out to her.

West saw him mind-link to his Beta, and then the Beta excused himself T.J. was up instantly to join the man, Jayden laughed softly "Worried Westley."

"Not at all Jayden." West smirked back.

They had gained several people's attention at the table.

"I hope you don't mind if my Beta, brings Jo-anne the gift I brought for her."

"Go ahead." West shrugged, that man didn't know a thing about Jo-anne, or at least as far as West knew "I hope you didn't waste your money."

"I have plenty to waste West." he stared right at him.

She'll hate that statement, the girl had never spent a single cent of his pack's money. Even the car she had, had been old. Had not accepted the one his father had offered to buy her, a brand new BMW. Had in fact told him no, and had claimed Heath's old car for herself, didn't want anything at all from him or his family. The day she had left, she had left in that old 2006 Ford Explorer.

Even now the car she had was an old Jeep Wrangler two door soft top, a 2015 model. He would have to rectify that at some point, and get her a new one. Though he would much prefer she drove a nice car like his Levante, he doubted very much, she'd accept a Maserati for herself.

Though he would offer her one, there were some very nice ones out there, more suited to female drivers, might be able to get her a Ghibli or Grand Cabrio, if she didn't look at the price that was. Might just have to put his foot down, she should have the best of everything. He would deny her nothing.

West smiled to himself, let the man spend his money, West knew better, the girl would not accept something expensive, likely hand it right back or burn it. T.J. returned along with Jayden's Beta, 10 minutes later.

'A long tube of something.'

'Did she accept it?' he was curious about that.

'Hesitantly, but yes. Looked at me as if to get permission, it did not go unnoticed by his Beta, Ben.'

'Good. Find out what it is?'

'Sure thing, I'll check later.'

It was curious, a tube of something, interesting. T.J. would find out, it was unlikely Jo-anne would decline his request to see it. Unless she didn't want them to know what it was. It was always a possibility he guessed, and being a gift she may want to keep it to herself, he did not like that thought, at all.

## **Chapter 65 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

Opening her door, Jo-anne found a man standing before her, with T.J. standing just behind him off to his right "Can I help you?" escorted by the Pack Beta to her room. Goddess only knew why.

"Jo-anne, I am Alpha Jayden's Beta, Ben. He has asked me to give this to you. A gift from him."

Her eyes moved to the long tube he was holding in his hand. She did not know if she could or should accept this gift. West had gone ballistic and then started a fight with the man's Alpha the last time he was here. She did not want that to happen again.

Jo-anne's eyes moved to T.J., standing behind this man and bit her lip, knew he was here because West had likely sent him, glanced back at Beta Ben before her. "May I ask why he has sent me a gift?"

"Of course you may. Alpha Jayden is looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night at the mating ball." he smiled at her.

Her eyes widened a little. Was this man implying Alpha Jayden thought he was her Mate? If so, that was not going to go down so well with West. Not after all that had happened this week, between him and her. Between Volt and Clova. Just one kiss from Alpha Jayden had set him off.

Her eyes moved back to T.J. questioningly.

"Please, Jo-anne, accept this gift. Alpha Jayden wants you to have it. He is not at all concerned about your Alpha's reaction to it."

Jo-anne nodded, T.J. didn't seem to be here to stop her, just observing, it appeared. "Tell Alpha Jayden, thank you." She finally accepted the gift and stepped back to close her door.

"What is it?" Ella asked from where she sat on the couch.

"Probably an art print." Jo-anne answered as she looked at the tube. "It's how I send my prints when they're not framed."

"Well, open it."

Jo-anne sighed "What if it sets West off? He got into a fight with Alpha Jayden last time he was here, all because the man kissed me."

"What?" Ella was up off the couch and had hold of her upper arms. "Another Alpha kissed you, you didn't tell me that."

Jo-anne nodded, she hadn't told anyone, it had been her first kiss without Clova taking control. It was private to her. It had felt really nice too "Mm, set off an Alpha on Alpha fight out in the hallway. West saw it and was not happy about it."

"I bet he wasn't." Ella grinned at her. "He got an eye full of something he didn't like. Did you like it?" she sounded so excited.

Jo-anne smiled "I did, and you know West never kissed me, not once, during our Bond."

"That's because he was stupid. Wow, your first real kiss, huh!"

"Yeah, it took a long time." Jo-anne sighed, it had been very nice. West had kissed her a lot since then. That kiss in the hospital from him, soft and tender, had rivalled Alpha Jayden's easily. It had certainly gone on longer than her and Jayden's kiss too.

"Well, open it up. Let's see what it is?" Ella tapped the tube.

"Alright." Jo-anne sat down and opened it, pulled out the rolled print and opened it. "Sweet Goddess," she murmured, as she looked at it.

"What is it?" Ella asked, looking at it too.

"It's canyon art and, if I'm not mistaken, it's from Antelope Canyon. I went there once with my studies. I loved it out there. Very peaceful."

It was a beautiful photo. It stood 33 inches by 21 inches, it was full of colour. Purple to Pink, a wave-like rock formation, with a rose pink wall on the left side and then all golden and orange in the background.

"It's very pretty," Ella commented.

"It's beautiful, I have one similar, actually in storage. When my studio is built, I will hang it. It's my favourite art, that's not mine, of course."

"How'd he know?"

Jo-anne shook her head, "I don't know, maybe read my art bio." she got up and put it down on the bed, and then up ended the tube. A piece of paper fell out with the details. It was called Burning Twilight, from the Rocks In Lower Antelope Canyon, by Brant Campbell. She sat down and stared at it. He was the very photographer of her other canyon art print. It was clear to her, that Alpha Jayden had gone to a lot of trouble, to find her a gift that she would like.

"Do you like it?"

"I do, I really like it. No-one has ever given me something like this before. He must have gone to a lot of trouble." she bit her lip. Just knew it was going to cause trouble.

"Seems like it Jo-anne." Ella smiled right at her. "Maybe...he's the one."

Jo-anne turned her eyes on her friend questioningly "I don't know...I don't know him."

"He could be your Mate, you never know," she shrugged.

"Or could not be and just wants something else."

"Like you're going to give yourself to him!"

Jo-anne smiled at her. Ella knew her well. Jo-anne had wanted to wait for her Mate so he would be the only one to ever touch her. Technically, she supposed, after waking up next to West, he was her Mate and she'd never been with any other. So she guessed at this point that was what she'd done. "No I'm not. Not unless he's my Mate anyway."

"He could be."

Jo-anne sighed, it was nothing at this point. "Do you think he'll want it back if I'm not?"

"Not likely. A gift is a gift Jo-anne. Most Alpha's when they give a gift, they mean for it to stay with the recipient."

She sighed, West had never once bought her anything. Yet here was this stranger of an Alpha, who'd not only kissed her, but now given her a gift, might not even be her Mate.

"What do you think will happen if I'm not his Mate?"

Ella sighed now, "He'll leave Jo-anne. Most will wait for their Goddess-Gifted Mate. Most Alpha's won't take a chosen Mate. I'm sure he'd still want to pull you into his bed, but you'd be gone the minute his actual Mate turned up. Don't do anything stupid."

"I'm not that stupid."

"Sounds like you're thinking about it though."

"I guess I just never had any attention before. I don't know how to handle it, or what to make of it."

"Don't read too much into it, okay. Let tomorrow come and see what happens."

Jo-anne nodded her head, that was the only thing, she could think of to do herself anyway.

"You going to keep it?"

"Yes, if he doesn't ask for it back," she nodded.

"What do you think West will make of it?"

"I don't know?" Jo-anne shook her head, she knew that T.J. had been sent along with Beta Ben, it was clear to her Alpha Jayden was not about to get near her on his watch. The man and his wolf were clearly nuts, possessive over something that was no longer theirs, had a Mate out there, was going to be able to claim her tomorrow even.

She had no where to put it at the moment. So rolled it back up and put it back in the tube, till she could get it framed.

T.J. strolled into her room an hour later. Ella had gone home already. He sank down next to her. "What was it?"

She looked right at him, here it was. She'd not gone to bed solely because she knew this was going to happen. She'd actually kind of been expecting West himself, but no, the man had sent T.J. instead and she knew why, she was more likely to tell T.J. than West. Sighed softly.

"An art print."

"Art print?"

"Yes." she nodded.

"Of?"



“Why do you need to know T.J. are you curious yourself? Or is West pitching a fit?”

T.J. chuckled at her “He’s not pitching a fit. Is simply curious, but he didn’t think it was wise to come here himself. Volt...” he left it unsaid.

“They have to get over it T.J. You yourself told me he will find his Mate tomorrow. Why is he still like this?”

“Let it go Jo-Jo, the man...” he shrugged. “His wolf, it’s not likely to happen. So what was it of?”

She stared at him and shook her head, reminding herself that in 24 hours he’d be obsessed with another “It’s Canyon Art. Very pretty, I might add.”

“What is Canyon Art?”

“Well T.J., I suggest if you or West don’t know what it is, you go and tell him, to goggle it.”

T.J. sighed “Just show me Jo-Jo.”

“No. it’s the first gift I have ever received from a man. It’s my business. Or am I not allowed that privilege either?” she shot her question at him.

Saw him frown right at her now. He did not like her telling him no, it seemed. “West is not concerned about it, Jo-Jo, simply curious is all.”

“Well, it’s my gift and if I don’t want to tell our mighty Alpha” she said, sarcasm dripping, “then I don’t have to.”

“True.” T.J. nodded. “though you shouldn’t speak like that about your Alpha Jo-Jo, I am the Beta and if I choose to report such disrespect, you will be in his office for punishment.” He stood up “I’ll leave you to it...As for tomorrow.”

“I’m going T.J., I’ve never gotten to experience a mating ball. If West doesn’t like it! He can put another Alpha Order on me not to attend it. He won’t, however, like what he gets in return, I can guarantee it.”

“Are you threatening him, Jo-Jo?” she could hear the disapproval in his tone, and see it on his face.

“No, not at all.” and she wasn’t, but she could not live here if he was actively going to deny her the right to find her Mate and keep her locked up like this.

“Then what are you saying?”

“Just what I said T.J.” she shrugged.

She would leave is what, couldn't at this moment set foot outside of the pack's territory without it hurting her. But she could resolve that by going rogue. If he was going to deny her everything, she'd just leave, had the money now to do so. But she was not going to voice that out loud, she'd probably literally end up locked up somewhere. The man had way too many issues where she was concerned.

T.J. left her room with a frown on his face. He did not like her comment or lack of elaboration either. She had not told anyone her thoughts about this, but she couldn't live constantly confined by him. Better to leave. Surely she could find another pack, perhaps Alpha Jayden would allow her to move to his pack or perhaps she'd simply buy a plane ticket and go back to Seoul. That would be nice.

Jo-anne lay down on her bed and wondered what was going to happen. It was still just a waiting game for the moment.

## **Chapter 66 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

West was prowling around in his Alpha Suite, both Ricky and Cole were sitting watching him. He'd sent T.J. off to go and find out about that gift from Alpha Jayden, that he did not want Jo-anne accepting to be honest. He didn't want her accepting gifts from any man, but he could not stop her.

He couldn't even lay claim to her until tomorrow night, and the closer that the full moon got, the more anxious he was becoming. Their history was terrible. Although he knew he really did want her, would she accept him back? Could he sway her into giving him a second chance?

West also knew that he was going to have to sit down and try to explain to her, why he'd been the way he was, not an easy thing to do, not when he couldn't really understand it himself. Those compulsions he'd had to hurt her. He couldn't explain that, not even to himself. He'd been trying to figure out the best way to word it for days now, nothing seemed right, just sounded like a bunch of lame excuses to him. Probably would to her as well.

Ricky already knew what was going on. Being the Gamma, he'd actually already started noticing how connected he was feeling towards Jo-anne. He had walked into Wests' office 2 days ago and stared right at him, stated point blankly to his face “Jo-anne is confused and unhappy.”

West had looked at him and raised an eyebrow. Only T.J. knew the actual truth of the situation. His mother had hedged her bets, and even managed to get Jo-anne to pull a Luna Duty for her. To his surprise, she'd gone off and done it. This had made his

mother smile, she'd even hugged him. It had been her own way of confirming what she suspected he supposed. He'd heard his mother call her sweetheart, and Jo-anne hadn't seemed to object to it at all.

"Is she?" had been his only reply to Ricky.

"Yes, now as the Luna. She should be happy West. You need to sort this out."

"I can't, not until the full moon." West had answered him, effectively acknowledging she was to be the Luna.

"If you know, you should tell her."

"She doesn't know yet. Not till the full moon."

"And you think shocking her, is the best way to handle her?" He'd not been happy.

"No." West had explained to him "I think she has the right, to scent out her Mate on her own."

Ricky had not been able to argue with him about that. It was how it was done. You couldn't just walk up and claim a she-wolf any old time you liked. If they did not scent you back, they would not believe you and their wolf would certainly not accept you.

Though Clova was happy, it seemed, allowing Volt to mate her, when and where ever he felt like it, in human and wolf form, they still seemed very attracted to each other.

Jo-anne however, had the right to find out for herself, who her Mate was. Then he was going to have to convince her to give him a second chance, to prove to her he could be a better person this time around. Had to redeem himself, he knew.

A very long road, he was sure of it. It wasn't going to be the usual excited "Mate" growled at him, or her leaping into his arms, he knew that. In all likelihood she was just going to stand there and stare at him with a deep frown on her lovely face.

It was also likely that from his behaviour over the past month and his lack of shock, when Jo-anne scented him out and hunted him down, and he was going to let her find him. She was going to know, that he already knew she was his Mate. Explaining that was not going to be fun either.

Might just leave that one well enough alone, if she didn't ask. Considering he'd, over the past 10 years, had gone out hunting another Mate and stayed away from her altogether, thought he had convinced himself he'd been wrong about her long ago. Had wanted to be wrong about her.

So that Jo-anne could find a better person to be mated to, a person that could make her happy and move on past him. He had truly wanted that for her. Now he just wanted her and had no idea if she was going to outright reject him on the spot or give him another chance.

West was pretty certain that Clova was going to be alright with it. West was hoping that this would go in his favour.

Looked at his watch and frowned, how long did it take to ask one question? Though T.J. could just be down there hanging out with Jo-anne, he did seem very happy about finding out she was his little sister. Not that he or T.J. had been able to get near Belinda to talk to her about it. She was always with Jonathan or Ava or Sonja, never walked anywhere alone.

He had mind-linked her about Jo-anne's training, kept it light and casual, as though he did not know anything, that T.J. had not informed him of who Jo-anne's mother was. Belinda had agreed to start her training. It would start next week and then she had severed the mind-link. West had not pushed her, she was dealing with her own trauma from her past. Those memories of how Jo-anne was conceived and who her father was and what he'd done to her in all likelihood, how could she not be when T.J. had forced her to state the truth, not fun for her.

The suite door finally opened and T.J. walked in. West was looking right at him, asking the unspoken question.

"An art print."

"Of what?"

"I don't know. She wouldn't show me. It's her private business."

West sighed "You couldn't convince her?"

"No, and I wouldn't go down there and try. She...I don't know, ready to defy you on it. I guess you could say."

"Excuse me?"

"Stated you put an Alpha Order on her and you won't like the outcome."

West sighed again, just bloody great. She was still annoyed with him. "Anything else?"

"Not that you'll want to hear West. Best leave it alone. I think she's about had enough of your possessiveness over her."

So tomorrow was not going to go down well then, just great, was likely to just outright reject him on the spot. He did not want that, nor need it. It had hurt to blaze the first time around. How was he going to get through it a second time?

"You might want to rescind all those other orders you have on her!"

"What orders?" Ricky was suddenly on his feet, and glaring right at West.

"Never mind. I will rescind them, just not right now. I need her to stay put until the moon sets, then I'll take them off of her."

"You Alpha Ordered her again. Are you insane, Westley? Did you not learn from past mistakes?"

"I need her to stay here. They are in place to keep her here, is all."

Ricky was furious now. He could see the man practically vibrating with anger. "No wonder she is unhappy, West." he snapped, "Clean up your own mess. I will not help you." and then he turned and stalked out of the suite, slamming the door shut behind him.

To be expected, the Luna was his job after all.

Cole didn't say anything at all, just raised an eyebrow at him. Looked at T.J. then got up and strolled out after Ricky. No surprise there, those two were very close.

"That went well West." T.J. looked right at him.

"When did Ricky know about the last time and my orders?"

T.J. shrugged "Likely being the Gamma, he might have always known, just never go involved."

"Great, maybe he could have helped back then!"

"Maybe the man didn't know how."

West didn't know the answer to that one. Only Ricky would have those answers and if he wasn't willing to talk about it, he wouldn't if he'd known all this time and never said anything at all, wasn't likely to talk about it now. Though it was very clear that he was unhappy about how she was feeling at the moment. Not that he could go down there and talk to her or comfort her.

Being the Gamma, she might suspect that something else was going on. Ricky wouldn't out West. Ricky also knew she had the right to find out about her Mate on her own. He would let her scent out her own Mate.

It was a restless night in his suite, prowled around mostly, didn't sleep well when he tried, ended up going downstairs to his office to find work to do. There was plenty of it to do. He had emails to read and respond to. Contracts to go over, was still in there when the sun came up.

The moon was not going to set until 9:36pm. It was going to be a long day. He was tired, which only made him even more grumpy than usual. Ella had already told him she and Jo-anne, plus a few others were going to have a girly day and head for the spa in the Pack's town centre to relax and get ready for the mating ball.

West had already called ahead and put it on his own pack card. Whatever anyone in the group wanted, he'd be paying for it. It had shocked the woman, Fiona, on the other end of the line, but he'd ignored it. The whole pack would be shocked, he imagined, when they found out that he and Jo-anne were actually Goddess-Gifted Mates. Considering they had all been expecting him to banish her a month ago.

Only higher ranked members would be in attendance for this mating ball, though that would not stop any visiting pack members from scenting out someone else in his pack. If they were Mated to them. It just meant that only those higher ranked would be allowed in the ball room itself during the mating ball.

He had many un-mated ranked members, his whole Alpha Unit was un-mated, though he suspected something was going on where Ricky and Cole were concerned, he'd left that one alone, those two would sort themselves out when they were ready. Cole's youngest brother and Ella, his sister, were both un-mated. T.J.'s two younger sisters, Ava and Sonja, were also un-mated and several of his most highly ranked warriors were also un-mated at this time. 45 of them, in fact male and female.

West was hoping that some of them would pair up tonight, find their Mates. It would make his pack stronger and happier. Though most within the pack were happy, there were just too many un-mated for his liking.

West had already snarled at his unit and his mother this morning and it was barely lunch time, his tension was running high. Alpha Jayden was lounging around in the foyer once more, his Beta Ben with him, chatting and laughing, didn't seem at all concerned about the up-coming full moon.

Waiting to speak with or see Jo-anne, West could only presume of the man. It was really starting to tick West off, he wanted to go over there and tell him she was his Mate and to back the fuck off. But refrained himself. Most of the other visiting pack members were wandering about just doing their own thing. A fair few of them were lazying about by the pool. It was a hot day and it was a good way to cool off.

Though West preferred the lake to the pool, more natural and no chemicals against his skin.

Every time he left his office, his eyes landed right on Alpha Jayden who smirked right at him, that man was so darn sure of himself. West knew the man's pack ran heavily into the arts, owned 3 art galleries and two museums, had an import export business for antiquities. He had way more in common with Jo-anne than West did. That bothered West a lot.

Even though West now understood that he had known this whole time, since she left him, that she was actually his Goddess-Gifted Mate, he did not like others thinking she was theirs and the man himself seemed to be very sure of himself. Had told West her would be back for this mating ball and here he was. Had brought her a gift and something she was into at that. Art.

It was not sitting well with West.

Alpha Jayden, who West had known for many years, seemed to be a laid back man, very calm and his pack liked him. He'd seen the man interact with his pack when visiting. They all liked and respected him. He was the complete opposite of West, who was very controlling, demanding and appeared angry and annoyed all the time. His pack members knew better than to come up to him without reason.

If the worst happened and she turned out to be Jayden's, she was likely to smile and go willingly with the man. West would have no hope of stopping her. You could not separate an Alpha from his Luna. It would be all out war. He would have to let her go.

But even Ricky felt her now. He reminded himself, she had to be his, he couldn't be so wrong about her. He wasn't wrong.

Her scent was so strong to him now she smelled like Rosewood and Cinnamon with a hint of Ylang Ylang thrown in. It was driving him nuts, every time she walked passed him, or he walked somewhere she had already walked, or been, he could smell her. She was lucky he hadn't yanked her into his office this morning when she'd been headed out with Ella and ripped her damned clothes off of her so he could bury his face between her thighs.

Damned woman and her not knowing, was nearly killing him.

## **Chapter 67 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

She was standing in Ella's room, her hair was lightly curled and pulled up, a few curls were framing her face, her make-up was done, a soft coral-coloured lipstick, with smokey grey eye shadow that had a nice sparkle to it, and grey eyeliner. All to match her light grey silk knee-length dress.



Her back was completely bare and her moons were on full display for everyone to see. It didn't bother her at all, she actually thought they were pretty and she quite liked having her back bare. Tonight was still hot. It could only be a good thing.

She was wearing heart shaped pink ruby halo drop earrings in a rose gold finish and was wearing a matching Halo pink ruby heart tennis bracelet, items she had purchased for herself, they went with her choice of lipstick, tying the outfit together. She was wearing grey pointed toe 3 inch stiletto's with a gold metal heel, to match her dress.

"Wow Jo-anne you look Beautiful." Ella smiled at her. "And tall."

Jo-anne smiled, yes those heels pushed her height up over the six feet mark just. "Thank you, now let me look at you." she turned from the mirror to look at Ella.

Who was wearing a white ruched body-con knee-length dress, with spaghetti straps, it accentuated all her curves, her long black hair was braided tightly from the left side around to the right side, one continuous braid and then hung in a long pony tail over her right shoulder, she was wearing light soft make up with pale pink lipstick and a glimmering golden eye shadow. White 3 inch stiletto's three white gold bangles and a white gold tear drop pendant that fell just shy of the top of her dress, drawing the eye to her breasts.

"Stunning Ella, T.J. won't be able to take his eyes off of you."

Ella smiled, "Do you think it will, sway him into my bed?"

"Well now, if I was him. You'd already be there." Jo-anne winked at her and they both laughed "Photos." Jo-anne grinned at her and got her camera out. "Make it sexy Ella, I'll send it to T.J."

Ella laughed "How about super innocent and all cutsie."

"How about a lollipop in that mouth of yours? Food for thought." Jo-anne grinned right at her.

Ella burst out laughing "You're terrible! But I love it."

"I'm trying to snag you the Beta. I know he wants you. The stubborn bastard is holding himself back. He told me he likes you." Jo-anne told Ella.

She took lots of photos of Ella and then a bunch of them together, even handed her camera over to Ella, who was insisting on snapping a few of just Jo-anne. She had really missed their friendship, a lot. Ella had always been the cheeky one.

Getting her to sneak out of the house, and she'd spent a lot of time in the Delta suite, Ella's parents never seemed to mind though. Jo-anne had been a giggly girl just like



Ella, but she had known when to say please and thank you. Knew how to behave and did so.

They walked down the stairs together, could already hear the music playing. The ball had started at 6 and it was nearly 7 now, neither of them worried about turning up early. Ella had been to over 20 mating balls and never found her Mate. She was not expecting to find anyone here tonight, she had come across most of these people at their own balls or ones thrown here. There was only one pack here she didn't know. The Pale Moon Pack. But still she didn't think she would find anyone.

Ella was simply going in the hope of catching T.J. and tonight Jo-anne had every intention of helping her friends catch each other, seeing as they both liked, really liked each other. It was very clear, not just to her but to many others in the pack, that the two wanted each other. Why T.J. hadn't claimed Ella yet, was beyond her. Kept his hands steadfastly to himself.

Jo-anne knew the man liked her, he'd admitted it, and the two of them were more than old enough to decide if they wanted to be chosen Mates. She didn't think that West would object to it. But maybe T.J.'s mother would.

They were walking through the pack-house foyer when Jo-anne heard her name. Both she and Ella turned to look to see who it was. Alpha Jayden was walking towards them. "Hello." she smiled at him.

"You look beautiful." he smiled right back at her "That is a very nice tattoo, very sexy."

Ella giggled softly, the man was all charm it seemed, dressed in a dark blue suit, with a black vest and a silver tie. "May I escort you two lovely ladies to the ball?" though he was addressing both of them, his eyes never left Jo-anne's as he walked towards them.

"I guess so." she nodded.

West would just have to deal with it. Alpha Jayden's smile widened a little and he stepped right up to her and Ella went to put a hand on the small of each of their backs. Jo-anne quickly stepped away, did not need him to know no man could touch her.

"I won't hurt you." he raised an eyebrow at her. His other hand was now on the small of Ella's back.

"It's not that Alpha Jayden." she shook her head.

"Then what?" he asked, his hand falling from Ella now.

Ella was also frowning at her now, mouthing 'what's wrong?' at her.

"It's nothing, I just prefer that you didn't touch me."

He frowned right at her, seemed more than a little unhappy. "If you're worried about your Alpha, I can handle him, I assure you."

"I don't want you and he to get into another fight." she did admit, but that was not the reason she had stepped away from him, but it was a good enough reason for him to believe "I can walk on my own." she grabbed Ella and pulled her in close to her, linking arms with her, so that Alpha Jayden could not get between them and not even accidentally touch her. Walked off and let him walk behind her and Ella.

They excused themselves and took their leave from him as soon as they walked into the ball room, "What's going on Jo-anne?" Ella asked as they made their way, away from him.

"It's nothing, Ella."

"That's bullshit." she stood with her hands on her hips staring at Jo-anne "Explain."

"I can't explain it, Ella."

"Yes you can." she stated flatly.

Jo-anne sighed, her eyes moved around the room, landed on West and he was looking right at her. "I can't" she looked back at her friend. "Let it go," she murmured.

"Fine but only for now." Ella frowned at her, had her eyes narrowed she knew something else was going on and was going to demand an explanation from her later.

"In coming." Jo-anne smiled, her eyes were on T.J. who was headed right this way, Cole was hot on the man's heels. Ella turned and smiled right at T.J. His eyes moved over her and lingered on the woman's curves, then he grabbed the both of them around their waists. "Dance with me."

Ella was grinning now. "Sure."

Jo-anne chuckled "I'll sit this one out."

"Nope, I will dance with the both of you." and then he pulled them onto the dance floor.

"Terence!"

"Bugger off Cole. I got me some orders to follow."

"Terence!"

"Speak to West, if you don't like it, Cole." T.J. shot at him. Cole glared right at him and then stalked off.

Then he was dancing with the pair of them, a hand in each of theirs, twirled the two of them around, spun them in towards him and then out away from him. It was really fun, she had no idea the man knew how to dance, let alone with two partners at once.

Ella and Jo-anne were laughing and having fun with him. He was very gentlemanly with them, never once did either of their bodies come into contact with his. No-one seemed to interfere, as both of them danced with T.J. one song after another for a good half an hour. Then the music changed to a slow song and Jo-anne pushed Ella right into him, made them come into body contact. "You take this one."

Ella smiled at her "My pleasure." and slid her arms around T.J.'s neck as Jo-anne walked away from the two of them so they could slow dance together. Shame she didn't bring her camera, it would make for a nice photo, she thought as she turned to watch them, T.J. was all dressed up in his official pack suit with Ella leaning her head on T.J.'s chest, her whole body was leaned right into his.

T.J.'s arms were around her waist and he looked very happy and comfortable. Why were they not Mate's. She couldn't figure it out. They looked so comfortable in each others arms, very relaxed and the girl fit neatly under his chin, like she was meant to be there.

Jo-anne felt a hand on her arm and turned to see who it was. Karen stood before her, why she was hear Jo-anne had no idea she was mated already and not highly ranked enough to be in the ball room herself today.

The woman's eyes were filled with anger as she stared up at Jo-anne, then there was pain searing right into her chest. "If I can't have a Mate, neither can you." she grated and then was gone.

Jo-anne staggered back a step as she felt Clova vanish from her, looked down at her chest. There was a blade buried in her just under her rib cage angled upwards. She gasped as she saw blood running down her [dress](#). Heard T.J. yell her name, as she fell down to the ground. People were staring at her, it hurt so much as she slumped on to her side. She heard a massive roar of pain rip through the ballroom from somewhere behind her, her hand touched the blade and she gasped in more pain as it burned her fingers. Silver.

Found T.J. leaning right over her, pain filling his grey eyes "Jo-Jo." he gasped in horror, his eyes on hers.

"Don't touch it." she got out, trying to warn him it was silver.

She could hear Ella yelling for a doctor or a medic of any kind, could hear the panic in her voice.

Then West was looking down at her “Jo-anne.” he gasped, sounded like he was in pain. She looked at him, saw pain in his eyes just like T.J.

Moved her eyes back to T.J. “It’s alright, it doesn’t hurt that bad,” she whispered.

“Get it out of her West.” she heard him yell.

“She’ll bleed out Terence.” he shot back.

Then she felt that blade get yanked out of her and gasped in pain.

“Terence get...her...to the hospital...I can’t.” it was West. He sounded like he was in agony, barely able to produce words to her.

T.J. picked her up and they were moving out of the ballroom. She heard a massive roar of pain behind her. “T.J.”

“Hold on Jo-Jo.”

“It’s okay, it doesn’t hurt that much anymore.” and it didn’t. The pain was getting less by the minute. She could feel Clova now, but her wolf was fretting and panicking inside her mind. Tried to tell her it would be okay. It seemed hard to reach her, her wolf felt so far away, knew Clova was trying to heal her, but their connection seemed weakened.

“Stay awake Jo-Jo, don’t go to sleep.” he yelled at her.

But she was tired and was starting to feel cold. “Talk to me Jo-Jo, say anything.”

“Ella,” she sighed, “Wants you...just as much.” and then there was darkness.

The lights were very bright, T.J. was staring down at her. “Oh thank the goddess, Jo-Jo, you scared the hell out of me.”

“What happened?” she groaned, putting her hand to her chest “Arg.” pain touched her.

“Thankfully, the blade missed your heart. You’re going to be alright.”

“It hurts T.J.”

“I know and it will for a while. Who was it Jo-Jo?”

“Karen,” she answered, “my stepmother.”

“She’s a dead woman.” he snarled angrily.

“No T.J. don’t hurt her.”

His eyes met hers, he was furiously angry. "Don't you dare say that." he snapped at her "She bloody well tried to kill you."

"It's...I need to ask why."

"Your not going anywhere near her." he yelled at her and then he was gone, banged out of the room.

Jo-anne closed her eyes, her father and now her stepmother had both tried to kill her. It didn't make any sense, she had to find out why. Sat herself up, clutched at her chest. Felt a hand on her, she turned to see Ella sitting next to her bed. "Ella."

"I'm here Jo-anne."

"What's going on?"

"Man hunt. Well, she-wolf hunt I should say."

"I have to speak to her."

"No, you have to rest, that blade only just missed your heart, Jo-Anne, like by a millimetre."

"I'm fine."

"No you are not. Lay down." she stood and pushed her back down on the bed gently.

"Ella help me."

"When you're all healed up."

Jo-anne closed her eyes, Clova was lying inside her mind still in pain, they were dying. No-one knew it yet. But she did, so did Clova. She could sense her own wolf's sadness. She couldn't heal her, her head was down between her paws and she felt dull and lacklustre.

Forced herself up, shoved Ella's hand away from her, looked down at her blood-stained [dress](#), pulled the dressing off and looked at her skin. It was healed over a scar remain due to the blade being silver, one more to add to her body, she thought absently, but she knew something was still wrong inside of her.

'West' she linked to him 'don't kill her.' all she got back was rage and fury. There were no words, he severed the link.

"Ella help me, they'll take her to the cells."

“West will kill her, Jo-anne and so he should.”

“I need to understand before he does. Help me to stop him Ella, please.” she begged her.

Ella was staring at her. “You’ll stay right here. I will go and find Terence, only if you stay here.”

“Be quick about it, Ella.” Jo-anne nodded and lay back down. She was tired and knew why. There was no point telling anyone. It would only hurt them, better to just keep quiet. Let them think she was okay. Clova whined in her mind ‘Just rest my sweet girl, don’t fight it. We need the energy.’ she told her wolf.

## **Chapter 68 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

Watching Jo-anne walk into the ballroom with Ella and then Alpha Jayden right behind her, ticked him off instantly. He should have figured the man would have hunted her down to try and get her alone, though it did appear that Ella was escorting her and they left him by the bottom of the stairs, to make their way over to the drinks table, his eyes were on her the whole way.

She looked amazing, very elegant in that beautiful dress, it showed off her body perfectly but was also still very lady like. Fell all the way to her knees, and those stiletto’s she was wearing made her already long legs seem to go on forever.

She looked gorgeous in that soft grey colour, it matched her eyes. Her long cinnamon brown hair was pulled up and fell in big curls, he could see her back was bare, itched to touch her bare skin, glanced at the clock only just on 7pm, he still had to wait.

He could see she looked a bit on the nervous side talking with Ella, some sort of confrontation. He actually couldn’t hear it over the music, frustrating to say the least. Ella did not look happy with Jo-anne at all, then her eyes met his from across the room, though only briefly before turning back to Ella. Something had happened and it involved him, he would bet on it.

“Terence, go and dance with both Jo-anne and Ella. Keep her preoccupied.”

“Sure West, I’ll do my best to keep Alpha Jayden’s hands off of her.” and then he hopped down of the platform and headed across the floor towards the girls.

“West.” Cole snarled at him and then headed off after T.J.

“Let them dance, Cole. It won’t hurt her,” he commented. Cole was constantly worried about Ella. She had been in love with T.J. for a very long time, apparently. That’s what

Cole had told him that evening, and he didn't want his little sister's heart to be shattered, when T.J. found his mate. Didn't want Ella in the man's bed, to be heart broken and then dismissed when T.J. found his Goddess-Gifted Mate.

Had this dogged determination to keep them apart, she was his only little sister and he was protective of her. Though West noted that it never seemed to bother Cole when she dated or slept with any of the other wolves within the pack. Or visiting pack members either, only T.J. It was probably to do with Ella not caring about the others the way she did about T.J., he saw Cole stalk back towards him, actually glaring right at him. "Leave them." West told him.

"They're not Mates West."

"No they are not. But if he asked her to be, she would say yes and you know it."

"I won't allow it."

"It's not up to you." West looked right at him, pointedly so. It was up to T.J. and Ella and when T.J. finally caved into the girl and they approached him for approval, he would give it. It wasn't like T.J. didn't want to, and now that he had stopped tormenting West with Jo-anne, his attention was all on Ella. This might be the push he needs to get the man to make a move on Ella.

He could see the three of them laughing and dancing. It was good to see. His eyes moved to Alpha Jayden, who was frowning as he watched T.J. dance with the two of them. It was clear for all to see just how much they were enjoying dancing as a trio, might give the man second thoughts. Jayden did know about T.J.'s bloodline, most did.

His father caught his attention and West walked over to him, just wanted to see how things were going. His father had backed off completely on the hovering to let West run the pack, hadn't even been in his office in over a week now, a few mind-links only.

"Are you worried about Terence son?"

"No father," and he had no reason to be. Didn't even look over to where they were all dancing. No-one knew she was his little sister, it would likely stay that way always, unless Belinda wanted to talk about it, at this point she did not. She was here in the room watching her daughters. West's eyes found her she was actually watching T.J. and Jo-anne. He smiled and his father whacked him.

"What?" he frowned at him instantly.

"You were smiling."

"Was I? Hmm." he shrugged.

“What’s going on West you never smile, but yesterday you smiled at your sisters, and now here again.”

“I do smile father, you just don’t...” his hand shot to his chest and he staggered backwards away from his father as pain seared through him.

His father grabbed a hold of him. “West son, what is wrong?”

He heard T.J. yell “JO-JO.” something was wrong with her, he was down on his knees, Volt was howling in pain, inside his head. Then Volt surged forward and took control of him. A massive roar of pain ripped right out of him and then they were moving at full wolf speed to find her. Fell down on to his knees next to her, pain was ripping at him, she was dying, he and Volt could feel it. There was a silver dagger buried in her chest not far from her heart.

“Jo-anne,” he gasped. He couldn’t lose her again, there was blood pooling from the wound in her chest.

She looked right up at him, so much pain in those eyes of hers, then they turned back to T.J., jealousy struck him. Even when she was dying, T.J. had her undivided attention, always T.J., their sibling bond stronger than anything, even his to hers. She trusted T.J. with every fibre of her being.

Told T.J. it didn’t hurt, he knew that was because it was a silver dagger and it was killing her. He couldn’t take it out, it was already pooling blood. If he removed it, she would gush blood, T.J. didn’t seem to care, yanked the dagger out of her before West could stop him.

The second it was out, his pain intensified 10 fold, he was watching her die. Volt was howling in pain and then he was hunched over clutching at his chest. It was too much “Terence get” it was hard to even get words out, “her...” he gasped, trying to bear the searing pain in his chest “to the hospital...” he could feel their bond starting to severe, she was dying right before him and he couldn’t even muster up the strength to pick her up and race her to the packs hospital “I can’t” his own claws were digging into his chest, wanted nothing more than to rip his own heart out and stop himself from feeling the pain of losing her.

His hand was ripped away from his own chest, pain ripped out of him, both he and volt roared their agony out together, and then his body was slammed down on the floor and his hands were pushed up behind his back, he was pinned down, several bodies on him.

“Son, stop, collect yourself.”

“She’s dying.” he gasped “I can feel it.”



Heard his father swear at the realisation of what West was telling him, an Alpha could only be brought down like this by the loss of their Mate.

"Pull yourself together, she's not dead yet. Terence has her. Who did it?"

"I didn't see." he hadn't seen, had taken his eyes off of her, to talk to his father, she'd been with T.J. perfectly safe, how could this have happened? "there's a blade."

"I got it." Ricky stated "it's" using his wolf sense of smell, "concealed, the scent is masked..but there's more than Jo-anne's blood." he took another deep breath in "Its Karen's blood, her fucking stepmother."

Rage built inside of West and Volt at those words, it was so fast and he was shoving up off the ground regardless of how many had him held down, that fucking bitch was going to die "Get off me he roared." and they all let go. His fury would know no bounds. "Find her now." and then he was gone himself.

She couldn't have gotten far, they were hunting her, she would be on the run, linked to all border patrols to stop her at all cost, to link him without hesitation if any saw her. Sent warriors to her home. Her other children were there. He had warned her already, threatened her own children if she harmed Jo-anne, yet she still did it. Those girls would be in his office if they were not on the run.

Volt shifted them, he could move faster and his sense of smell was more heightened. She had cut herself on that blade, she was bleeding herself and it was a scent all wolves could detect, fresh blood.

It did not take long to find her. Thirty minutes and Volt was staring down her wolf, snarling right at her, she was on her own heading through the woods to the southern border, the furthest from the pack-house.

They heard Jo-anne's plea via the mind-link. More fury raged inside him at her request not to kill the woman. How could she say that, how could she ask him that, deny him his given right to kill this wolf, who'd stabbed her.

Launched himself at her anyway, only to have another wolf slam into him and bite him, he turned to find Lark snarling at him 'Enough West, Jo-Jo's okay, she doesn't want her dead.' came down the mind-link from T.J.

Volt launched himself at Lark. How dare they stop him, how dare they attack him? He was the Alpha Wolf he had every right to exact punishment, including death on the wolf who would harm his Mate.

Lark defended himself only from Volt, did not further attack him till more wolves arrived. His fathers wolf, Tucker now stood between Volt and Lark to stop the fight that was going on.

Karen was force shifted back by command and she was dragged away kicking and screaming. It seemed she didn't think she'd done anything wrong. Volt was still snarling in rage.

T.J. shifted back and looked down at Volt, sighed "Release Volt, they don't want you to kill her yet, want's answers first, then you can kill her."

Volt snarled up at him.

T.J. stared down at him. "You don't think it didn't hurt me too, I yelled at her myself, come on Volt, shift, give West back."

Volt snapped his jaws right at him and then turned and stalked off, released control a few minutes later and shifted them back to West, stalked off to the back of his mind. Still furious, he had not killed that wolf. They were going to. Jo-anne was not going to stop him this time. It was his right.

"Where are her daughters?" he snarled.

"In your office with Oliver and his unit," his father replied, falling into step with him. "Son?"

"I don't want to talk about it." West shot right back as he headed for his office. If he went to see Jo-anne he was likely to tear strips off of her right this minute, and if he went to the cells he was definitely going to rip Karen's head off her body.

He stalked all the way to his office, T.J. he noted headed for the hospital once more. It was only 9pm, the moon had still not set yet. Both Maree and Marie were kneeling on the ground when he stalked into his office, heads bowed down, he yanked on a pair of pants from his closet and glared at the two of them.

His eyes moved to Oliver. "Where did you find them?"

"Watching T.V. in their home, I don't think they knew anything, had no idea why they were being hauled in Alpha."

His eyes fell back to the two girls, only 19 and 21 years old, they both reeked of fear and so they bloody well should. "Do you know, what your mother did tonight?" he grated out.

"No Alpha." Maree answered him.

"Tried to kill Jo-anne...stabbed her right in the chest." he snarled, hating having to voice those words out loud.

Saw both the girls look up at him finally, eyes very wide, completely shocked by his words.

"Two parents traitors now." the implication being that they were no longer to be trusted. They both knew this.

"Alpha, we did not have anything to do with it, we did not hurt Jo-anne." again it was Maree,

"Would you?" he snarled.

"No." they both shook their heads.

He stared down at them for a long minute. "Renounce them both, or go rogue." West stated flatly "I'll give you 1 hour to decide" turned his eyes to Oliver. "Don't let them out of your sight."

"Of course, Alpha."

## **Chapter 69 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

Jo-anne was out of her bed and heading down the hospital corridor, when she saw T.J. walking towards her, a frown on his face, clearly very unhappy with her being out of her bed. She put up a hand in front of her the moment his mouth opened, she could only imagine, to chastise her, stopping him from voicing his annoyance or concern. Which she didn't care.

"Don't try and stop me T.J., I want answers. Then you can do what you want with her, kill her. I won't stop you, I don't care anymore." and right that moment she didn't care, it was taking all her willpower and strength for her to be up and out of her bed.

"Do you mean that?" he asked, not believing her.

"Yes." she stated, that woman had hurt her wolf, Clova was fading fast, and once she was gone, Jo-anne knew she wouldn't last much longer herself. They were one now, and where her wolf went she would go. She would not live without her ever again.

Stopped and took a deep steadying breath in.

"You need to go back to bed, Jo-Jo."

"No. I want answers T.J. and I am going to get them. Right now."

He was standing in front of her blocking her path. She did not have the extra energy to try and shove past him. Needed what she had left for her stepmother.

“Jo-Jo you’re very unwell.” she could hear his worry, he was right, but it was clear that now that her pain had died off, he was not actually aware of how bad it really was.

“Yes,” she acknowledged, “and I will rest afterwards T.J. for a long time. Just get me to her.” she was staring right up at him, daring him to deny her.

He sighed “Alright, but then it’s right back here to the hospital, Jo-Jo.”

“Agreed.” she nodded without hesitation.

T.J. reached down and picked her clean up. Jo-Jo didn’t even care, just leaned into him, closed her eyes, the less energy she spent now. The longer she could hang on. He put her into a pack car, whose she did not know and drove away with her, heading for the cells she supposed.

“Jo-Jo?” he asked after a little while.

“I’m fine T.J. I promise, just very tired.” she lied to him. Did not open her eyes or look at him.

Felt the car pull up sometime later and he helped her out. “West is on his way, very unhappy you are here Jo-Jo and not in the hospital.”

“You told him?” she sighed “You shouldn’t have bothered. It’s not got anything to do with him.”

“Yes I should, Jo-Jo. There is more between the two of you than you know.”

He helped her walk down the cell stairs. She had one hand on the wall and he had an arm around her waist. She was not walking so well and she knew it. Her energy was draining quickly.

Saw Karen with her arms stretched up as she hung from the ceiling, her feet were flat on the floor and she was naked, and there was what looked like a bite mark that had not landed properly, looked like teeth marks had been dragged down her body, wolf teeth, and by the size of them either West or T.J. had taken her down and dragged her here.

She turned and looked at Heath in the very next cell. He was hanging in the same position, staring at his Mate, his eyes did not even move to her, did not even acknowledge that she was here.

“Let me in the cell T.J.”

He huffed but unlocked the door, to let her into the cell with Karen. Jo-anne stepped into the cell and looked at Karen, whose eyes had been on Heath, now turned to Jo-anne "Why?" she asked the woman. "What did I ever do to you?"

"I hate you. Is why? You're a murderous bitch, and I won't let you kill my Mate."

"I would never hurt Heath. I even stopped the Alpha and T.J. from killing him." It didn't make sense the man was still alive and she had never attempted to hurt him. The other way around, in fact.

"I saw you do it." Karen suddenly screamed at her and tried to kick her.

T.J. pulled Jo-anne back out of the way and she stumbled a little. He righted her and looked down at her worriedly.

Jo-anne ignored it and put a hand on him. His chest was still bare from his shift after hunting this woman, she supposed. Steadied herself and stood up properly. "I don't understand." and she did not, but she knew they were the same words that Heath had used 'I saw you do it.'

"I got you out of my house, and into the pack-house, and this is how you repay me."

"What, out of your house? Into the pack-house?"

"Yes." She snarled at her "who do you think you should thank for getting you mated off to that ass-hole of an Alpha."

Jo-anne's eyes widened, she heard a snarl rip out of T.J., pressed her hand against him to stop the attack on the woman she knew was coming. Anger was burning inside of her as much as it was him.

"You did that to me?"

"Yes. It was me, and it wasn't easy to do either. It took me days to get him alone, to dose him up and drag his ass to that hotel where I had you waiting."

"Why would you?" It made no sense.

"Because you, you little bitch, I won't let you hurt my Mate. You were going to kill him. I saw it when you were 12 years old, clear as a bell." Then she laughed "Let me enlighten you about that event. That eludes you both...I really did enjoy watching it." she sneered at her

Jo-anne just stood staring at her, she had no memory of it and she knew neither did West for that matter, but Karen was there, she'd set it all up, had stood or sat and watched.

"Enlighten me." Jo-anne whispered in an angry fury, she wanted to know and she knew so did West.

"Three days, I had you locked away in that room, silver cuffs to keep your psychotic wolf at bay, doses of Ketamine given to you daily, day after day, to keep you compliant. Then getting him alone, without him there." her eyes moved to T.J. "was hard to say the least, considering the two of them were looking for you everywhere." she laughed, "they had no hope, you were hours away and scent masked, wolf gone they were never going to find you, till I wanted you found."

"Finally, I got him, but still he resisted and wouldn't touch you, so I doused you in heat pheromones. He fucked you good and proper I tell you. But still didn't mark you though. I needed that, so more pheromones I threw on you, and kept throwing on to your body, until his wolf was in a complete mating frenzy, completely uncontrollable, his Marking you was inevitable after that, and your wolf returned his bite. Then I left. You would be out of my life, not my problem anymore, gone from my house, away from my Mate, he was finally safe from you."

"But no, you just had to come back, didn't you, and I knew you'd kill Heath, I had to kill you to stop it. You're an evil little bitch, Jo-Anne, and you don't deserve to live. You don't deserve a Mate or to be happy. Look at what you did to Heath. LOOK AT HIM." she screamed.

"I didn't do any of that." Jo-anne grated out, her anger on the surface now, having raised with every horrid word Karen had spoken over her horrid acts not just against her but the future Alpha of her own pack. "I have never hurt a single person bar myself, my Clova. NO-ONE." She screamed in fury, right back at the woman.

Her whole body was hot and her back was burning hot like it was on fire, saw Karen's eyes go very wide, as she stared at her now. Fear filled the woman. Jo-anne shot over to the woman and grabbed her face. "I didn't want them to kill you." she snarled right in Karen's face "Let me...be that evil creature you think I am." then spun the woman's head around in one hard quick snap and then she hung there limp, lifeless from that hook in the ceiling.

Heard Heath scream in the cell next to her, turned and stalked away out of the cell, up the stairs, and shoved out the door, felt her anger drain away and take her life with it, she was done and she knew it.

Saw West coming, running towards the cells "I'm sorry." she whispered, knew his hearing would pick up on her words 'It's all my fault.' and then collapsed down onto the ground, Clova was gone from her now, every thing was draining away rapidly, the last of her energy, strength used on that horrid woman, felt a pair of arms around her, lay her down on the ground.

“Jo-Jo.” T.J. was looking down at her, tears in his eyes. He now understood, knew it was too late, his expression was filled with sadness.

“Tell him T.J., all of it...West, tell him.” she sighed and allowed the darkness to fully claim her.

It was warm with a nice cool breeze in the air, brushing against her skin, there was a soft glow all around her, almost a white sparkly haze in the air. That air smelled so sweet and filled with the scent of night blooming jasmine. Jo-anne sat up, the grass under her hands felt soft and supple, like velvet almost. She was in a clearing, a small circular place, there was a lake to her left that sparkled in a brilliant crystal clear blue and it was dazzling to look at. Sparkled like there were a thousand stars floating on the surface.

There stood a lady by that lake. She was tall and willowy, wearing a long pale blue dress, and when she turned to look at Jo-anne, her long black hair looked lustrous and shone in the glow all around her, her skin was pale like the moon and she had the deepest darkest blue eyes that Jo-anne had ever seen, looking into them was like looking into the night sky, they too sparkled like the lake as though they were filled with a thousand stars.

She was so beautiful, it was almost hard to look at her, but also a warmth and loving feeling radiated off of her, and when she smiled softly at Jo-anne, she almost felt like she was home, that this was where she belonged. “Jo-Jo, I have been waiting for you.” her voice so soft and loving, beckoned her “Come here my child.”

Jo-anne stood, felt so drawn to the woman, walked over to her by the lake, felt more eyes than just this woman on her, turned her head as she walked towards her, to the dark forest that surrounded the small clearing and saw a pair of Green Silver eyes glowing in the darkness of the forest, watching her.

“She won’t harm you.”

“I know,” Jo-anne nodded, she recognised the eyes of her wolf Clova, so beautiful.

“Where am I?”

“In my world, child. We need to talk, you and I.”

“Who are you?”

“Who do you think I am?” she smiled at Jo-anne.

Jo-anne looked around her once more, looked at the woman, the way she practically glowed, had an aura of power around her, but felt so kind and gentle, and thought about the words she had used so far “Selena, the moon goddess.” she couldn’t possibly be anyone else.

"A bright mind you have."

"Why am I here?"

"To give you a choice, to go back. But it won't be easy, very difficult and hard, to say the least, for you to go back."

"What do you mean?" Jo-anne asked with a frown.

"Do you want to go back? Lets address that first."

Jo-anne turned her eyes to her wolf. She could see Clova on the edge of the woods now, she was so beautiful, smiled right at her wolf. "Can I pat her?"

"If you like," Selena waved her hand and Clova walked over to stand before Jo-anne.

She'd never before been able to pat her own wolf, had always wanted to, knelt down on the ground before her wolf and reached out, ran her hands over her wolf's face as she smiled at her, up over her ears and gave them a little scratch behind her ears. Clova stepped forward and rubbed herself along Jo-anne's body and then sat beside her. "You're so beautiful Clova." Jo-anne told her. Not many got the privilege to pat their own wolf.

"Do you know what her markings are for?"

"Yes, it's your protector's mark. One for you and your wolf and one for the man destined to always protect you. I granted him to you when you were born."

"Why?"

"At your mother's request," she answered, simply.

"My mother?"

"Hm," she said, "But we are not here to talk about her."

"T.J. is my protector, always had been." she thought aloud.

"Yes."

Jo-anne sighed. There was something touching her chest. She looked down, but saw nothing. "Why has he not found his Mate yet?" Jo-anne suddenly asked, he was a good man, and he and Ella were so good together.

"You might not like the answer to that, my child."



Jo-anne turned her eyes to the moon goddess and said firmly "I can handle it." she had already handled a lot in her life, what was one more thing?

"I had to strip him of his Mate, to make him your protector, he had to be able to solely focus on you and no-one else. Only you and to do this it requires him to have no Mate."

Jo-anne's eyes widened as she stared at the woman, tears welled in her eyes as her heart suddenly ached terribly for T.J. it wasn't fair. She did not want that for him. "Release him," she suddenly begged, and clutched at the moon goddess "I don't need him. Let him find his Mate."

"Without him, Jo-Jo, you would have died, hours after you were born."

"Then you should have let me die." she whispered, completely heartbroken for T.J. how could she let him stay attached to her, knowing he would never have a Mate as the consequence. "If I die right now, will he get a Mate?"

"No, what's done is done."

"NO!" she yelled. "I don't believe that." tears spilled down her face and she fell to her knees, as she looked up at the moon goddess "Please, I know you can grant him one. Please," she begged her.

Saw her look right down at her, say nothing, only shake her head slowly in a no gesture.

"What will? I know you can find a way, I believe you can find away. It's what you do." Jo-anne grabbed at the woman's dress and pleaded with her "I will do anything."

Watched through her tears as Selena turned and stared off into the lake, waved her hand as though she was moving something about and then, felt like it was a long time. Seemed that she was considering or thinking it over, then she nodded her head and dropped her arm.

Turned to look down at Jo-anne "Alright Jo-Jo, I will give you a choice, it will not be easy to make. If you chose correctly. Make the right decision. I will grant you, the right to gift Terence a Mate...But only if you go back and only if you make the right choice."

"I will go back." Jo-anne stated without hesitation and got up off the ground, "What is the choice I must make?"

"Ah, now that, you must figure out on your own Jo-Jo. Let's just say...only one of you can be happy at this point in time. Perhaps if all can be revealed, everyone can be happy."

"Every one?"

“Yes, your choice will not just affect you but many around you. Difficult it will be. Are you ready to go back, Jo-Jo?”

“Yes, for T.J. I will go back.” she nodded.

Selena laughed softly, tilted Jo-anne’s face up to hers. “ You are indeed special my child, so much heart in you, so much forgiveness. You are all your mother.” then she leaned down and kissed her on the forehead.

“You’ll release T.J., won’t you?” Jo-anne called out to her as she felt herself flung back fast into darkness that surrounded the place.

“You.” the goddess’s voice came to her from far away and faded in and out “yes.” she was rushing away from her but hadn’t gotten the woman’s word “Clova.” and then she was gone. The world nothing but a tiny speck in the distance.

Pain was searing at her chest, a heavy crushing weight on her chest, she screamed as she felt her ribs crack under that pressure, her eyes snapped opened. Two dark green eyes peered down at her, a slight glow in them, West and Volt looking down at her. She would know those eyes anywhere.

“Jo-anne,” he sounded so relieved to see her looking up at him.

“West.” she sighed his name, “T.J.?” she asked, had to know where he was.

“Right here.” she heard T.J.’s voice.

She was so tired, could already feel darkness pulling at the edges of her vision again, felt a pair of arms slide around her, knew it was West, leaned into him. She was back, she could fix it, had to fix it. Then darkness claimed her.

## **Chapter 70 - Her Alpha's Orders**

T.J POV

Trying to talk Volt down along with West, was no easy fete. They were devastated and filled with rage over what had happened. Jo-Jo and Clova being their Mates and not only had she been attacked, but with a silver blade, right to the chest. They had felt her pain, and she’d not even yet learned what they were to her.

T.J. knew they felt that they were losing them, and before she knew what they were to her. He was trying to convince them she was okay, the bleeding had stopped. Clova was healing her now the dagger was out. He still felt on edge himself, she was still in pain, he could feel it.

But Jo-Jo was awake and talking. It had to be a good sign. He was not surprised that Volt had tried to kill Karen's wolf, not after the attack on Jo-Jo for no apparent reason.

It did surprise T.J. that he could not smell Karen's wolf, that woman had scent masked herself. In the hope of getting away, it seemed. It was very unlikely the border patrols would have been able to stop her, not being able to smell her coming, and if she had gotten passed them, they would have notified West anyway, and that man would have had every available warrior on the hunt for her so he could kill her himself.

He was also not surprised that Volt had gone Lark, for stopping him from getting his revenge. As the Alpha Wolf, he had the right to kill her, and as her Mate, he had the need to kill this woman. Lark defend himself only, not wanting to get into a full blown Alpha fight with him. Neither of them needed to be fighting right now.

They were both in pain over Jo-Jo's state. T.J. knew West and Volt's would be greater than his, but he was in just as much pain over her near death. His heart still ached, with every beat it took, wanted as likely as much as West did, to be right there in that hospital with her.

It took Tucker to stop the battle between them and T.J.'s own father, used all his Beta aura to force Karen's wolf to shift her back, she had no choice in the matter. Was dragged away yelling she only did what she had to do, that it was all Jo-anne's fault, she had to be punished for her crimes against Heath.

T.J. sighed, the woman was clearly as insane as Heath was, Jo-Jo had done nothing to Heath, he had attacked her, the girl had been gone from this pack for the past 10 years, had left peacefully in a state of indifference, had only come back because West had made her. Then Jester had attacked her, out of the blue, and then Heath himself had tried to kill her. There was no way Jo-Jo had done anything to Heath.

T.J. returned to the hospital, knowing West wasn't yet ready to face Jo-Jo. His anger and fury still attached to him, he would not trust himself to go near her in that state, not when it was Karen he was furious with, it might bleed to Jo-Jo as it had done all them years ago. Every time he had been angry with Karen in the past he had taken it out on Jo-Jo. No more would he allow himself to do that.

T.J. was horrified by the sight of Jo-Jo walking down the hospital corridor. Ella had mind-linked him already to tell him she was trying to get up and out of bed, wanting to go to the cells, had begged him to find West and convince him not to kill Karen on Jo-Jo's behalf, that she was coming to help.

T.J. had told Ella to go back to the pack-house, not to get involved, not to be amongst the fighting West and Volt would tear into anything between him and Karen's wolf. He did not want her near Volt on a rampage. To go and be safe. She told him not to get hurt in return and then agreed to go somewhere safe.

Now here was Jo-Jo up and walking. He could see that Patterson was standing not too far outside of the Luna's suite, with his arms out protectively, his staff behind him, protecting them from whatever she had done, likely her Alpha Aura had rolled right off of her and at them when they had tried to stop her, he could see her eyes were glowing around the outta edges.

It more than shocked him to hear her say he could kill Karen, that she did not care. As long as she got to get answers from the woman first. He did want to kill her and he knew West would as well.

T.J. could see that she was very weak, should not be out of her hospital bed, likely should be sedated for recovery, had to stop and actively breathe. He felt pain in his chest, maybe she wasn't okay like he thought she was. She told him yes she was very unwell but would rest after talking to Karen. He agreed to take her, and she actually agreed to come back to the hospital directly afterwards.

Picked her up, she was clearly in no state to be walking around. Exhausted completely and he knew she was still in pain, because he could feel it himself, had a mild constant chest pain, that was likely from the silver blade that had run, her through, her body was still reacting to the injury even though it had been removed and the bleeding had stopped.

T.J. knew without a doubt that she was not going to let this go, he had to take her, even against all his instincts which were telling him he should be making her get back in that bed. West was going to be fully pissed off, but she would go on her own if she had to. Her mind was made up and that glow in her eyes said it all. She was very angry this time.

Thankfully, he knew nobody in the pack locked their cars on pack territory, most just left the keys in the ignition, no one was going to steal something, when they could just borrow or ask and get a yes. Most pack members happy to help others out. Even West's Maserati sat in his garage with the keys in the ignition. Saved time having to go get them in an emergency.

T.J. put her in the front passenger seat of the first car he came across, and drove out to the cells. Her eyes were closed the whole way, she looked very pale, he didn't like it at all, could feel himself getting agitated over her condition, it had to be worse than she was letting on.

Linked to West, 'West get to the cells. Jo-Jo is about to have it out with Karen. I couldn't stop her all glowing, she is very unwell.'

'Dammit Terence, she needs to be in the hospital.' he shot right back.

'I know West, but she is rolling power off of her. Even Patterson was standing in front of his staff, protecting them from her. I don't think anything is going to stop her. I'm also

thinking that maybe...with what I am feeling in this car, it was not her Alpha Aura she rolled at them, I'm not feeling that, it's something else.'

'I'm on my way.' he sighed. They both knew she was half wolf, half something else, likely some sort of magical being from what he was getting off her now. Even with her eyes closed there was heat pouring off of her in waves, and there was a slight glow along the closed line of her eyelids, her eyes were still glowing, her power, whatever it was, still activated.

Though she did not want West to know just how bad it was, the silly girl was pushing herself to the limits, likely using whatever power she had to muster the strength to be out here, to do this. She still had no idea what West was to her, so she had not wanted him to know, but of course West needed to know he was her Mate.

The waves of heat coming off of her were rolling through the air in the car. It was not particularly affecting him in anyway, he could just sense it, feel it. It was not aimed at him and he was glad of it, didn't relish the idea of whatever she could do being shot at him. If this was her resting in an angry state, what would it be like in a full blow awake fury?

Listening to Karen's absurd story, about Jo-Jo being a murderous bitch, filled him with even more anger, and even more when he heard the woman state she had seen her do it. Well, how was that possible? Heath was still alive, right this very minute, the insane man was in the cell right next to her. Alive and breathing, staring right at her, his Mate he was not dead. Hell it was Jo-Jo that was keeping him alive at this time.

If it had been up to he or West, that son of a bitch would be dead already. Wouldn't have survived two minutes alone with either of them.

Then, to hear Karen actually voice, it was her who had Mated West and Jo-Jo. His fury was all on the surface. Even Lark was ready to rip her head off, this woman had hurt his sister and their best friend, ripped a viscous snarl right out of the two of them. West had always hated this woman.

She had been the bane of his existence the whole time West had been Mated to Jo-Jo, and she was now openly admitting she'd been the one to do it to them. This woman knew she was going to die.

Wanted one last chance to hurt Jo-Jo, likely West as well. She had taken great pleasure in lording herself over West for that two-year period, constantly throwing the Wolfen council in his face, to get what she wanted, every time she was denied something from him or his parents. This greedy little bitch had done this to them on purpose, to get ranked up and live it up on unlimited pack funds.

Oh, she was going to die, West was going to relish ripping her head off, had wanted a reason to do it for years now. And there was no better reason than hurting Jo-Jo, harming her, harming her own future Alpha at the time.

The woman's stupid reasoning, went back to the absurd notion, that Jo-Jo would kill Heath, had believed this since the girl was 12 years old. Karen was an evil woman, had even laughed and stated she had enjoyed watching as she'd thrown heat pheromone on Jo-Jo time after time to incited Volt into mating frenzy with a newly shifted 16 year old girl, T.J. knew Jo-Jo had never had a boyfriend. It would have been her first time.

It was no wonder that Jo-Jo had been in the state she had been in when West had woken up and laid eyes on her, this sick deranged woman, had incited his Alpha Wolf, into a mating frenzy with such a young girl. T.J. was truly glad that neither of them actually had memories of it, they did not need that, it would likely have caused so much mental trauma to both of them that he doubted either would be able to get past it.

The silver hand cuffs, explained the scars on her wrists, and why her wolf had not fought back, to get free or stop what was happening, but she must have taken them off Jo-Jo at some point, there was no way Jo-Jo could have marked West without Clova present. Ketamine, not an easy drug to get a hold of. No wonder they had no memory of it. This bitch was definitely going to die.

When Jo-Jo suddenly screamed all rage and fury, waves of heat rolled right off her twice as hot and twice as fast, and even from where he stood slightly behind her, he knew her eyes were full on glowing, he could see the sudden bright light radiating from her face. Watched Karen's eyes go really wide. Oh, the poor woman had no idea what Jo-Jo was, no idea of the actual power she held. It was clear right at this moment to T.J. it was a lot of power.

Jo-Jo held actual real power, and her anger was tapping right into that power, just like it had done, when she'd slammed her bedroom door and splintered it, just like she had that day outside the cells, when she had turned on him herself. Not just her Alpha Aura had rolled off of her, had started glowing in all her anger. It was clear her emotions triggered a dormant side to her, one none of them knew about. Well, there was likely one in this pack who actually knew.

Shocked him completely when Jo-Jo told Karen "Let me be the evil creature you think I am," then violently snapped her neck. He felt the Alpha wolf in her right at that moment, used the strength of all her wolf to do that. He'd never seen her hurt a living thing in his entire life, thought life was precious, in all its forms. Not anymore, it seemed.

She stalked out of the cells and only got three steps out. "I'm sorry," he heard her whisper as she looked right at West who was running towards them, "It's all my fault." and then down she went.



T.J. could feel his heart breaking, this was it. She was not unwell, she was dying, and had held herself together in order to get answers, kept herself strong enough to get those answers, she'd told him she was tired and she had been, kept it all in. For one last conversation, the use of her power, tapped into it somehow all to keep herself alive just to find out the truth.

Her eyes had glowed all the way here, whatever power she had, she used all of it to get here, to get those answers, to the questions that neither she nor West had ever been able to explain.

T.J. caught her and lay her down on the ground, looked down at her, tears falling from his own eyes, he'd only just gotten her as a sister, finally given the truth and now she was leaving him. It hurt so bad on so many levels, he'd not been able to protect her, hadn't been able to stop Karen. Didn't even know it was coming, the danger to her, from her own family.

Her last words "Tell him T.J., all of it...West, tell him."

West was already here to hear her last words, pain ripped out of him as he knelt on the other side of her, as her eyes closed and her heart stopped beating, even in her dying moment, she did not think of herself. Wanted West to know, it was not his fault what had happened to them, that it was Karen, who had done that to them. Bloody woman, didn't even think about herself, even when she was dying.

What and who the hell was she? So much concern for others, but none for herself, not even in the face of death. She'd known she was dying and didn't tell a single soul. Didn't want anyone to concern themselves with it.

T.J. was kneeling, staring at her lifeless body, moved his eyes to West, the man had his hands out stretched as if to touch her, but seemed frozen in place. Broken, T.J. thought, he had seen this once before, when she was just 17. It was shock. Though whether he would survive it this time, knowing exactly what she was to him, was another matter, he'd not known last time.

"No!" he heard West whisper, so much pain in his voice. Then he was up on his knees, his hands on her chest. "NO." he roared in a defiant tone as he started chest compression's, trying to bring her back to life. "Get Patterson." he yelled at T.J. "The defib now."

It was the pained howl in the distance, that drew T.J. from his stillness, gained his full attention, knew instinctively it was his mother, she'd just felt the severing from her own child and it was causing her pain.

'Patterson, bring the Defib now, to the cells' he shot down the mind-link.

'Already coming, like 5 minutes. Knew she was going to crash.'

'Double time it, now.' he roared down at the man. If he'd known she was going to crash, why the hell wasn't he here already?

T.J. couldn't do anything for his mother's pain. Probably no-one could, no-one even knew about their connection. He knew that West had registered the pained howl, had looked right at him for a moment, before refocusing on Jo-Jo.

T.J. didn't know if it would work, due to that she had taken a silver dagger to her chest. Had likely taken the tiniest of nicks to her heart, not something that had been picked up in the ultrasound examination of her wound when he'd rushed her to the packs hospital, the bleeding had appeared to have stopped.

A slow and painful death, it was no wonder he had a dull ache in his heart the whole time, but she'd held on long enough to get answers. So bloody strong. He leaned over her body and breathed for her, she was strong, she would get through this. She would survive, had to. Neither he nor West were likely to get through her death in one piece.

T.J. would breathe for her while West tried to pump blood around her body to sustain her, to try and bring her back, neither one of them willing to give up on her. Neither one of them would let her leave them again.

"Wake up Jo-Jo." he yelled at her, "Breathe damn you."

They were still performing CPR minutes later. "Where is Patterson?" West snapped at him.

"He's coming, another minute or so."

Then a scream ripped right out of Jo-Jo and her eyes were open, she was breathing. West shoved T.J. right out of the way, to look down at her himself "Jo-anne." he gasped, relief evident in that one word. Then he was pulling her into his arms, holding on to her, into his chest. His eyes were closed.

"West." she sighed softly "T.J.?" he heard her ask.

Couldn't help but smile as she asked about him, "Right here," he told her, and then watched her go limp in West's arms, the man looked down at her worriedly.

But he could see her breathing, and knew that both of them were listening for her heartbeat. It was there. West's eyes moved to T.J.'s and he saw the relief in them. "We need to get her inside."

"Agreed."

Patterson finally arrived, "Wait, let me check her over first."



West lay her back down, so Patterson could do a full set of obs, then let West pick her up again. They were all walking together. West turned for the pack-house with her, only to have Patterson stop him with a hand on his arm. "Hospital West, she is still unwell."

West looked down at her, seemed a bit conflicted to T.J., the man probably wanted to take her up to his suite. That's where she belonged technically. Looked at Patterson and was about to turn and head there when Alpha Jayden stepped outside the pack-house and snarled right at all of them.

"Put her down, don't you touch my Mate."

West and Volt snarled right back, very loud, very aggressive, pulling her to their body "She is my Mate."

"The hell she is." Jayden roared at him.

T.J. saw Volt surface fully and then Jayden's wolf as well, yanked Jo-Jo from West's grip, knew there was about to be an Alpha on Alpha fight over the unconscious woman in West's arms. Putting her in danger after they had just gotten her back.

Opened a multi lined mind-link 'Father, Damien, Alpha unit. West and Jayden, both appear to be Jo-Jo's mates, likely to fight it out, front of the pack-house, now." he shot down to them all.

Heard all of them reply, several swears and several affirmatives. The swears no other than his own father and Damien.

Knew they were coming, and fast. These two had come to blows over Jo-Jo once already. It made sense now, T.J. thought. Alpha Jayden had likely scented her out the last time he was here, counts for why he'd been all over her, and for why she'd allowed it, something inside of her likely recognised the connection to him. It was the same thing with her and West, why she couldn't resist him either.

He saw Beta Ben, start walking towards him, "Don't do it Beta, I have royal blood. You will not win." T.J. knew the man was about to come and try and retrieve what he thought was his Alpha's Mate.

Saw the man hesitate, look to his own Alpha, who was still focused on West, "Two mate's." T.J. stated loudly for all to hear, hoping both Jayden and West would have the common sense to back off. "It'll likely be her choice, you need to calm your Alpha."

Heard Ben swear and saw him walk towards his Alpha.

T.J. turned and headed for the pack hospital, leaving them there to fight it out if they so desired to. He would not intervene, knew how strong West actually was, had to be able

to take T.J. himself on, on the odd occasion, the man could take a beating and give one at that.

T.J. had bigger things to deal with, like getting Jo-Jo to the hospital for monitoring as per Patterson's request. She was still unwell, had bloody died and been brought back. Needed to be in the hospital.