

Chapter 71 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

Pain ripped through him, as he watched Jo-anne collapse, was not close enough to catch her. T.J. was and did. He had heard her apologise to him, had been looking right at him, he had no idea what she was blaming herself for. Then she went down, and told T.J. to tell him all of it. Whatever had gone on in the cells, she wanted him to know about it.

Watched as her eyes closed and that was it, felt her sever from him, as her heart stopped. "No," he whispered, Volt was howling in pain inside his mind. He'd lost Clova once before. Did not want to lose her again, sadness and grief were rolling off his beast.

West reached out to touch her, now lifeless before him and his hands froze, midway to her, he couldn't let this happen had to do something "NO." he roared, his hands moved to her chest, he could get her back, he would get her back, he was not going to give up on her.

He would not sit idly by and do nothing, like the last time he had seen her like this, he would start CPR and she would come back to him yelled at T.J. who seemed just as frozen as he had been, "Get Patterson, the defib now." his Beta and best friend look just as grief stricken as he was. He could see it on the man's face, he'd just gotten her back in the pack, her his little sister and she was now dead before him.

There was a massive pain filled wolf's howl, ripping through the pack's territory. Long and mournful, only one other person in this pack would be in pain from her death. Belinda, she too, had felt Jo-Anne being severed from her. There was nothing he could do at this point for her. His eyes met T.J.'s, they both knew it was his mother.

West was doing everything he could to save Jo-anne and bring her back to them all.

T.J. hearing his mother's pain seemed to snap out of his stillness, sent him right into action and he was suddenly breathing for Jo-anne. West had to ignore the cracking of a rib as he continued to perform chest compression. Heard T.J. yell at her to breathe and to wake up. He sounded angry at her, angry that she had the hide to die on him. Anger would do him better in this situation than grief, and would keep him going.

Right now, although Volt had moved to the far reaches of his own mind, grieving the loss of his mate and trying to cope with the pain of it a 2nd time around. West was actively defying the Goddess herself. 'Goddess be damned. You will give her back to me.' he sent up to that woman. The goddess was not in his favour, never had been, it seemed. So he would defy her at will and damn the consequences.

"Where is Patterson?" he snapped, several minutes later, when the man had yet to turn up. Clearly, he knew it would take a good 15 to 20 minutes in a car to get here at top speed from the hospital and he'd have to run the last part. But dammit he didn't want to wait that long.

"He's coming another minute or so." T.J. told him and continued to breathe for her.

A scream ripped right out of her, West's eyes shot to her face, and her eyes were open. He stopped the compression's on her chest instantly, and shoved T.J. right out of the way, uncaring that he knew the man would want to see her as much as West himself did. "Jo-anne." he gasped as relief flooded through his entire body and felt Volt surge forward to look down at her as well, pulled her into his arms and hugged her to his body.

His name left her lips in a soft sigh, music to his ears. Then she asked about T.J. damned woman, obsessed with her brother, annoyed him. But at least she was alive, then her body went limp after hearing T.J.'s reply that he was right here.

West tilted her back away from his body and looked down at her, his eyes moved over her, could see the rise and fall of her chest, tuned his hearing to her and heard her heartbeat. She was unconscious but alright, alive and breathing.

Patterson finally arrived, carrying the defib machine, and wanted to check her over before they moved her. West put her down gently and waited. When the man nodded to indicate he was happy with what he saw, West picked her up and headed for the pack-house.

Felt the moon set and suddenly her scent was so very strong, flooding his nostrils, filled him with the scent of Rosewood, Cinnamon and Ylang Ylang, he breathed her in deep and growled "Mine." she was officially his mate. Now she just had to wake up and scent him. He could make her happy, he knew he could. Would do anything to make her happy, give her whatever she wanted, whenever she wanted it. Deny her nothing.

He was heading up the pack-house's front steps with her. He would take her to his suite and be right there when she woke up.

"Hospital West. She's still unwell."

West stopped walking and looked down at her, still unconscious in his arms, though he was carrying her bridal style and her head was resting on his shoulder, she looked like she was just sleeping after a long day. Patterson was right. He realised, she had just died and been resuscitated, would need to be in the hospital, looked at his pack doctor, and nodded as long as he got to be with her, it was alright. West knew the man was not about to separate him from her, not when he'd heard West and Volt claim her the second the moon had set.

Heard an angry snarl come from the front of the pack-house, turned and looked, saw Alpha Jayden "Put her down, don't you touch my Mate."

Volt shot forward and pulled her body close to theirs, a massively loud all Alpha snarl ripped right out of him at the thought of another trying to claim what was his. "She is my Mate." they snarled right back at him.

"The hell she is." Jayden roared right back.

Then she was pulled clean out of his arms, they were focused on Alpha Jayden, and they knew it was T.J. pulling her from them, to protect her from the ensuing battle that was likely about to rage. He and Alpha Jayden had already fought over her once in the pack-house hallway.

Now he understood why the man, had not backed off that day and why he'd stated he would be coming back today, he had likely scented her out as well.

West heard T.J. threaten Beta Ben as he headed towards him, saw the man hesitate, knew he would not be able to take on T.J. hardly anyone could, certainly not a Beta. Would have to be an Alpha and a strong one at that, likely only a pure blood, would be able to take him down, and he knew T.J. would stop at nothing to protect Jo-anne. He would willing, kill for her to protect her.

Heard T.J. state two mates, Volt snarled instantly he was not about to share Clova with anyone. Even encouraged the Beta to go and calm his Alpha down. West and Volt would fight for her, without a doubt. But knew better than to start it. It would be a battle to the death. Jayden seemed to understand this as well.

For although they were death staring at each other right this minute, neither had yet to move a muscle and start the fight. A battle only one would win, a battle that would see her likely reject the one to survive, for killing her other mate and not giving her the right to chose who she wanted.

His father, along with Jonathan, and the rest of his Alpha Unit were all suddenly coming out through the front doors of the pack-house behind Alpha Jayden. He knew T.J. had walked away with Jo-anne, she would not be safe during a battle, that if started would be uncontrollable and all over the place and likely have the pair of them fighting to mark her whether she was unconscious or not.

They were all stepping in between the two of them, like a barricade, to stop the fight. Volt snorted in anger and West encouraged him to back down, could feel his wolf's resistance to the idea, but receded back. Angry still at the thought that his Clova had been gifted another mate.

West had defied the goddess and brought her back. It could be punishment on her behalf, for his defiance and pretty much telling her to shove it. He had not cared about

the consequences, now he had one that could see her leave him for another. Nothing was ever in his favour.

Saw his mother, heard her ask what was going on.

“Jo-anne, it seems, has two mates.” West grated out.

“What?” she looked from West to Jayden and sighed heavily “Right everyone inside now. A sit down is needed.”

Saw Alpha Jayden turn and look at her, heard his father's wolf's angry snarl at the man, his wolf was still on the surface, he did not like the threat to his Mate and was letting him know it.

Saw Jayden's wolf finally recede, and then his eyes met West's and a smirk touched his face. “I have way more in common with her than you do.” he shot at West and then turned and walked into the pack-house.

It was a very truthful statement, he was probably also going to have a better report with Jo-anne, than West as well. ‘We’ve Mated her already, she let us, Mate us back, she’s ours.’ Volt snarled inside his mind.

‘Likely not going to be that easy, Volt. I hope it will be, but probably not.’ he sighed heavily right back and then followed everyone inside.

West realised he had absolutely no idea what was going on with his mating ball, who was mated off to whom, not even if his mother had shut it down or let it continue its course.

“Mother, the ball?” he queried as they walked towards his office.

“Still going, not too bad son. Lots of Pale Moon pack pairing up. Miranda, to it seems, though she bolted from her Mate. Shift and ran like the wind from him. At full Alpha Wolf speed.”

West raised an eyebrow. “Her Mate would be?”

“Alpha Anthony, and the man looked more than pissed about her reaction. Ripped his shirt clean off in the ballroom and shot after her, ready to shift the minute he was outside I guess. Likely he’s not going to take no for an answer. It will be one of those Alpha male, Alpha female showdowns, where they fight it out like all hell but will end up mated and happy. Just bloody Alpha-blooded dominance gets in the way.”

“I’m glad she found her Mate,” West acknowledged honestly. He’d seen the way the man had looked at her at dinner last night, seemed confused about her. Well, the man was in for a treat. He had a Mate who loved everything about sex, in all its forms.

“Jo-anne son?” she asked him, concerned now.

“Alive.” he murmured, he didn’t really want to think about the fact that she had actually died and been dead for several minutes.

He walked into his office, had completely forgotten that Maree and Marie were in there, stopped and looked at them sobbing uncontrollably on the floor, holding onto each other, looked at Oliver questioningly, who shrugged, “Started about 40 minutes ago.” he replied.

“I don’t have time to deal with them now. Take them home and have a guard detail put on them. I’ll deal with them tomorrow.”

“Yes Alpha.” he nodded and helped the two girls up. Seemed gentle in his approach, they both looked at West, sadness filled them completely and then they were walking away holding each other’s hand. He wondered what had happened to them? It almost looked like grief.

‘Terence, what happened in the cells?’

‘Jo-Jo killed Karen, West.’

West had been about to sit down in his chair, came to a complete standstill, shocked by T.J.’s words ‘What?’

‘Discuss it later. She’s dead, I assure you.’

‘Alright.’ he cut the link and finally sat down in his chair.

All eyes in the room were on him, his shock at T.J.’s words likely evident for all to see.

“Son is Jo-anne alright?” his mother asked.

“No, mother. She took a silver dagger to the chest, and died. T.J. and I had to resuscitate her. She is currently unconscious. Terence will stay with her.”

“She what?” Alpha Jayden sounded somewhat horrified.

“Died.” West repeated himself, not that he wanted to, but how could this man, who claimed to be her other mate, not have felt her death as he had done.”

“Who did it?” the man grated out.

“It has been taken care of. How did you not know?” West asked pointedly. If the man was here to claim her, then he knew what she was to him. He should have felt it, as West had. Didn’t look like it.

"I only actually knew, what she was when the moon set. I suspected last time I was here, due to my wolfs interest in her."

West raised an eyebrow "I already knew." he shot at the man.

"That doesn't mean that she will choose you, Westley. She's already rejected you once, I believe."

West simply nodded. He couldn't deny it. "We need rules," he stated flatly.

"Yes, Yes." his mother suddenly piped up, "rules do need to be laid down, if you were both of this pack, she could accept both of you, but that is not going to happen in this situation."

"No." both he and Jayden stated at the same time.

"She will have to choose one of you. Which means both of you can not Mark her at all till she does. You will both have to spend time with her. If she wakes up in time to scent you out, that is. If not, you're both going to have to wait for the next full moon to sort this out." she sighed and shook her head.

"I'm not leaving this pack and letting him be alone with her for a whole month." Jayden snapped.

West smiled right at him, she was his pack member and that was exactly what would happen. He leaned back in his chair, she would not make it a whole month without being pulled into his bed or him into hers. She'd already called out for him once, whose to say she wouldn't do it again and he would go every time, spend hours pleasuring her in all the ways he knew how.

Jayden was right to worry about that, West would spend that month explaining himself to her, trying to sort things out between the two of them, apologising for his past history with her, and trying to win her over so when the next full moon came she would be more likely to accept him.

"If she doesn't wake up in time...I'll have a suite prepared for you."

"I'll take the one across the hall from her room." Jayden stated flatly.

West leaned forward. "You can stay in the room you're in."

"Oh, and you think I trust you?"

"Enough," his mother sighed "Each of you can place a guard outside her room. Will that stop this bickering? I will speak to Jo-anne, Luna to Luna and what she wants is what will happen. Agree to it and be done with it. There will be no Alpha on Alpha fight again

in my pack-house, over the poor girl, who currently has no idea what is going on around her.”

West nodded “I’ll have Oliver on duty and when he’s not there,” he turned his eyes to Ricky “Gamma?”

“Of course Alpha.” Ricky nodded to him.

West looked right at Jayden.

“My Beta Ben, and one of my top warriors, Andrew as well.”

“Right.” West nodded and stood up “I’m going to go and check on Jo-anne.”

“I’ll go with you,” Jayden stated and stood up.

West could not stop him or even argue with him about it at this point.

Chapter 72 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

T.J. was standing next to Jo-anne’s bed, no surprise to West.

What had surprised West, was Belinda leaving the hospital as he was walking in. Her eyes met his and he’d sighed, she was still glassy eyed, trying not to cry. He could see it. Reached out to touch her arm ‘Why don’t you stay.’ he sent down the mind-link to her softly, it would let her know, that he did know the truth about who her mother was, but she had every right to stay and he wanted her to know that she could if she so chose to.

Belinda shook her head ‘I can’t, Westley.’ he saw the tears spill down her face, as she walked around him and then moved on down the hall to leave the hospital, likely to go home, though if she went in that state it would say a lot. Jonathan knew what had happened out there in the pack tonight.

But then again he would have known it was his own Mate howling in pain. It was also likely that so did both her daughters. How she was going to explain this to them all, he had no idea, not without admitting the truth to them. She might just stay out all night to try and pull herself together. He did not know what to do for her. Other than offer for her to stay here with her daughter.

“Who was that?” Jayden asked him. Her state had not been missed by him.

“My Beta’s mother,” West said simply. “A lot of the high-ranking pack members know Jo-anne. She spent most of her teenage years with the Delta’s daughter. They are very

close, almost like sisters I'd say. Therefore, she was around the previous Alpha Unit and their Mates all the time." it was the truth, she had spent a lot of her time with Ella.

West had walked into the Luna Suite of the packs hospital, Jayden had followed him in without hesitation, as had his Beta Ben. His eyes fell on her, she was still unconscious, it appeared. Had an IV line running fluids and another much smaller bag hanging from the hook of the IV pole as well, though that one was empty.

"What's in that?" West asked T.J. He knew the man would be all over it, know everything that was happening, or had happened to her since she'd been brought in 30 minutes ago.

"Hartman's Solution with 5% Glucose, I believe. A slow infusion, Patterson said he'd be running it at approximately 83ml an hour for the next 12 hours or until she wakes up."

"and the smaller bag?"

"Antibiotics, Cefazolin infusion as a precaution, just finished 5 minutes ago, and he said he will likely run another in 8 hours if she's still sleeping and hooked up to the IV. As a precaution. To be on the safe side."

"Has she woken up at all?"

"No." T.J. shook his head.

"What happened out at the cells?" he asked.

"We can discuss it later, West. Jo-Jo's health is more important."

West looked right at him with a frown, saw T.J.'s eyes move to Alpha Jayden and his Beta and then back to West. He understood, he was not willing to discuss it with Jayden right there. Something else must have happened or that power of hers he'd mentioned earlier, she'd likely used it. T.J. was not about to state what it was in front of Jayden. On a need to know basis, if she picked Jayden they would have the option to tell him or not. If she chose West, there was no need to tell him at all. It was not his concern.

"I'd like to know." Jayden said, turning to look at them both.

"In a nut shell. Her stepmother was the one who stabbed her, with a silver dagger. Jo-Jo wanted to know why. She insisted on going, there was not much by way of an answer. Jo-Jo snapped her neck in return. Its perfectly acceptable."

"No reason for the attack?" Jayden asked, didn't sound like he believed it.

West knew that T.J. was holding something back, had given Jayden the bare basic details, Jo-anne wouldn't have killed Karen for no reason at all. It was not in her, she was too gentle a soul. He was more than curious himself.

"No, her so-called father is also in the cells, likely that is the reason."

"What did he do?" Jayden frowned, clearly was not liking what he was hearing about her family.

"Attacked her himself." West stated flatly "We've yet to get a proper answer out of him, nothing that makes sense anyway. Gone insane, it seems."

Jayden was staring at him now, trying to decide, it seemed, if they were both telling the truth of the matter. Not many wolves go insane.

"You can go and see for yourself if you like." West offered, there was no harm in him seeing Heath the man's ramblings and the way he switched from a loving father to a psychotic raving lunatic would speak for itself. "I'll have my Delta take you up there."

"My father," T.J. interjected, "said his mind is fractured, from hurting the one he loves."

Jayden nodded "I've seen that before to be honest. But I would like to see this man and question him myself if that's alright with you?"

"Now or tomorrow?" West asked casually. He didn't care when it just meant that for at least over an hour he would get to spend time with Jo-anne without this man around.

Jayden frowned and looked at his watch, got his phone out and West knew right away he was checking to see how long he had before Jo-anne would no longer scent him. It wouldn't be until in the morning, just after 7am. He already knew this.

"Now will do. You will have your Delta tell me if she wakes up, right?"

"Yes, I will abide by the rules of scenting your Mate. It is her choice, so she must know you are also her Mate."

"Good, then I will go now. And see for myself."

West mind-linked Cole to meet up with Alpha Jayden and to take him to the cells, so he could see and speak with Heath for as long as the man liked, then looked at Jayden "Cole will meet you out front of the pack-house and walk you out there." walk because a 30 minute walk from the pack-house to the cells. More time for West to be alone with Jo-anne, even if she was unconscious.

"Good." he turned and left the room. Ben went with him, surprising West more than a bit.

Though if the roles were reversed, West did not think he would care that much about his Mate's insane father, he would want to be here, with his Mate. It should have been the man's natural instinct. Odd.

Waited until his Alpha hearing couldn't pick up their foot fall anymore "I wouldn't leave me alone him alone with her, he's got some faith I'm honest and true to my word."

"You are West." T.J. answered him "You and Jayden have known each other for a very long time. He knows this about you."

West nodded, he had known the man for nearly two decades.

Reached out and touched Jo-anne's hair. "Is she going to be alright?"

"Patterson thinks so. Did take her blood to run some tests."

"Probably a good idea," he nodded.

"West, Karen said something's, you need to know."

"Said something to make Jo-anne want to kill her, I imagine. She would not do that for no reason, it's not who she is," he stated.

"You are right on that." T.J. sighed heavily "her last words West, she wanted me to tell you what Karen said to her."

"Go ahead then."

T.J. was silent for a long minute.

West turned to look at him and raised an eyebrow at the man, at his continued silence.

Watched T.J. close his eyes and bow his head slightly, take a long deep breath in and then release it slowly, before looking back at him. "It was Karen...who took Jo-Jo at 16. who took you. Drugged the pair of you, put you in that room with her...Apparently kept Jo-Jo in silver hand cuffs and dosed her up daily with Ketamine, constantly dosed up til she got you there, 3 full days..." he sighed and a wave of sadness rolled off of him.

"Then?" West could feel his anger rising.

He could tell from T.J.'s demeanour that he was not going to like what he heard, not at all. But he needed to hear it. It was the missing memories for both of them.

"Covered Jo-Jo in heat pheromone's, more than once...until Volt surfaced...went into a mating frenzy...I'm sorry West."

His eyes moved back to Jo-anne, as pain ripped through a new. The truth was finally out, they both knew it now. He was glad she didn't remember it. Glad he didn't for that matter. Could already hear Volt whining inside his mind at the thought of the pain he must have caused her and Clova, who had been so very young at the time.

"anything else?" he asked softly. He could not fix it or undo it. Couldn't even recall it, even now hearing it, still had no memory of it. He would love to go and punish that woman, but Jo-anne had beat him to it.

"Told Jo-Jo, she did it because she saw her kill Heath, like when she was 12."

West looked at him and frowned deeply "Saw what?"

"A vision, I guess, Heath said something similar, remember? That he saw Jo-Jo kill his Mate. Told her to her face she was going to kill her mummy, when I took her to see him that night."

West's brain was racing "She did kill Karen."

"And Heath watched. He did see it." T.J. nodded "Screamed in agony like all Mates would do."

"More than a little odd. That is for certain."

"Maybe they did see something...How? I don't know." T.J. sighed "But if they did..."

"Heath claimed she would die at my hands." West sighed, his eyes moved back to her as he wondered if that too would come to pass.

"Well that didn't happen now, did it?" T.J. corrected him. "It was at Karen's hands. You brought her back West. You saved her life, not killed her."

He had done that indeed, but it didn't mean that he wouldn't hurt her in the future either. "What else happened?"

"Power rolled right off of her, her whole body got really hot, I could feel the heat coming off of her in waves, and the angrier she got the hotter it felt. Her eyes West, though I didn't see them for myself, I saw the glow radiate off of her face, and Karen's eyes went very wide, it filled her with fear, poured out of her...those moons West down her back. It's not a tattoo, neither is mine for that matter."

West looked at him now with narrowed eyes. He was more than surprised by this revelation. He'd always thought the man had gone and gotten a tattoo, somewhere in the week after she had left, West had not been in a good state of mind that week, half raged and half lost, Volt and him constantly shifting to rip into any living animals that

they came across. Destroyed his room and was very unapproachable to all, even his parents had stayed away.

“She told Karen, right before she killed her. ‘Let me be the evil creature you think I am.’ Then just snapped her neck, used all her strength to do so. I’ve never seen her so angry West and her power, whatever it is. Very closely tied to her emotions.”

“I already figured that one out. Gets all glowy when angry or...wound up.” his mouth actually twitched at the thought of her and Clova’s eyes glowing up at him when they had been Mating each other.

T.J. whacked him up the side of his head.

West smiled ‘Sorry man, I know she’s...” he stopped speaking out loud and switched to the mind-link to keep their conversation private. ‘Your sister’ information that still remained between just the two of them and Belinda. ‘How’s your mum doing? I saw her on the way out.’

‘Not good to be honest with you. Came right in here and stared at her, tears poured out of her. Patterson was in here at the time. Not that she seemed to care in the moment. He did not miss it.” T.J. mind-linked him back.

‘He say anything?’

‘I think he already knew. Other than blinking in surprise at her being in the room, he just sighed heavily and said he would give us, a minute and then left the room’

‘Interesting.’

‘She’s been in this hospital many times before, West. Likely he’s run her blood before today. It would have, had markers that match any of us, could possibly have royal bloodline markers at that.’

‘I guess so.’ West nodded ‘might be able to tell us about her powers, that make her glow.’

‘Maybe...I’m willing to bet, my mother has all those answers, we just need to get her to talk to us. It might be a bit easier right now, she knows, you know I presume.’

‘Yes.’ West admitted ‘but I don’t think she will at this point. I told her she should stay. She told me she couldn’t and shook her head. Left crying.’

‘Not ready then. She knows West...that it all has to come out, it’s just a matter of when I imagine. Lets give her a bit more time before we push for it.’

'I'm not going to push for it, Terence. I don't care who her father is, I don't care about any power she holds, or doesn't hold, comes into it fully or not. I love her, regardless of her lineage.'

'Do you think Jayden will? Or do you think that man will want, demand to know? Powers are rare and sort after.'

'I don't know.' and West didn't know. He did, however, know that T.J. was right. Alpha's did love power and his Jo-anne did hold some. What it was, who knew? If it would manifest completely? Or if she could someday wield it? No-one knew that either. She didn't even know about it. That was the only thing he was certain of.

"I'll stay with her, Terence. If you want to go back and rest, your night has been as rough as mine," he spoke aloud.

"No, I'll stay until she wakes up. Need to for myself."

West was not actually surprised by this at all, knew the man was not about to leave her while she was unconscious and defenceless in a hospital bed. Grabbed them both a chair and they sat down as always, one on either side of her, to watch over her.

Chapter 73 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

Her eyes opened, the room was dimly lit. She felt the hot sting of her own tears the instant she woke up, recalled right away the moon Goddess's words. Stripped T.J. of his Mate, to be her protector.

Sat bolt up right in the bed, and found her eyes right on the man, whose life her birth had ruined "No." she sobbed, felt pain ripping through her heart, it was all her fault, her fault that he was alone. Tears fell from her eyes and she snapped her hands to the moons on her back. The mark of her protector, all her claws out.

Started screaming as she clawed at herself, at the mark on her back, trying to remove it, she had to get them off of her, had to find a way to rid herself of those moons, that mark that had ruined his life, "GET IT OFF ME." she screamed repeatedly.

His hands were on her, trying to stop her. She turned her claws on him, to his arm where his protector mark was and ripped at it, tore right through it, only to see his wound heal and the mark reappear, screamed at him "Get away from me." and then lashed out at him, trying to make him leave. He backed away and she turned her claws back on herself.

Found a pair of hands on her arms. "Calm down Jo-anne." It was West. She turned her eyes on him. "Get it off me." she screamed up at him, tears burning down her face as he

fought to stop her from ripping that mark off her back. She was fighting him with all she had. Her only thought was that she had to get it off her skin, rip it off, to free T.J. of his lonely sentence.

“Shh...Calm down Jo-anne.” he was stronger than she was and finally managed to get her to stop tearing at her skin, “What’s wrong?” he was asking her.

“Get it off me West. Get it off. Get it off. Get it off.” she yelled uncontrollably at him, pulling at her arms trying to get him to let go as he held on to her. Then turned on him. Pummelled him with her fists, the pain at what she had done to T.J., what her birth had done to him to great. Then she was just sobbing and clinging on to him, crying into his chest. His arms were around her, holding her tightly as she clung on.

It was all her fault, T.J. was going to be alone forever and all because she had been born. He had no Mate because of her. Would never have one as long as he was her protector. She had to get it removed, had to find away.

Could hear West shushing her and telling her it was going to be alright, but it wasn’t. He didn’t know the truth, she didn’t know how to fix this. Didn’t know what the moon Goddess meant, only one could be happy. Who was she talking about? When would that choice present itself? Who was the only one who could be happy? Would she even know when the choice presented itself? She had not heard the moon Goddess’s final words, they had been distorted and cut in and out, only gotten some of it.

Just sat there and held on to West, wrapped up in his arms, clinging to him for support and comfort. She had no-one else except T.J. and she could not even look at him right now, it was too painful. The moon Goddess had told her coming back would be hard, it would not be easy for her. It was not easy, it was gut wrenchingly painful. A living nightmare, how could she ever even look at him anymore, knowing what her birth had done to him?

The Goddess should have just let her die the day she was born, ignored that woman’s plea to protect her. It would have saved T.J. all of this pain, all of his loneliness. Not to think of the she-wolf that was supposed to be his Mate. It meant that she too, did not have a Mate either. Her one life, had destroyed two people’s happiness. It wasn’t right, it wasn’t fair. Why would the moon Goddess do such a thing? Just one tiny baby a few hours old, frozen in the snow could have saved them both the utter loneliness, that is now their lives.

Jo-anne didn’t want them to be lonely, she would never want that. T.J. deserved so much better, he deserved to have a Mate. Maybe that choice was him or her. Only one could be happy! Jo-anne already knew she would choose him, he’d suffered enough, she would not let him suffer anymore.

She could feel West’s hand in her hair, brushing it through her hair gently. He was trying to calm her down, to comfort her, and it was working. She was finally starting to calm

down. She just sat there and held onto him, her eyes closed, she didn't know how long for. Didn't care either, to be honest.

Something was tickling her nose and she turned her head and pressed her nose into his chest "You smell different." she said softly as she realised he smelled quite strongly, buried her face right into his chest and moved it around. Clova was suddenly up to help her smell him, took a deep breath in and sighed again, it smelled so nice, of oranges, cloves and ginger.

Reminded her of the full moon cookies that Luna Natalia makes for the pack's children, every time there was a pack celebration. Almost moaned out loud, it smelled so good, if there was a cookie she would bite right into it right this minute, she heard Clova start to purr softly, she even liked the scent of him.

"I'm your Mate." he murmured softly, sounded like he was smiling even.

Jo-anne's eyes snapped right open, and she lifted her head up to stare at him, felt Clova's purring increase inside her chest and then it was damned near deafening inside this room 'Mate.' she growled inside Jo-anne's mind.

He was looking right down at her, both he and Volt together. She knew they could hear her wolf, anyone in the room would, but didn't know what to say. They'd been Mated before, but it had not worked out very well, for either of them.

"West I..."

"It's alright, bit of a shock for you...It's not the only shock, you're about to get." he said and sighed heavily.

He was going to reject her, the way she had him. Tried to extract herself from his arms, in a bit of a panic, but he wouldn't let go.

"Shh, it's not what you think. You..." he sighed "Have another Mate...Two mates." he told her, sounding unhappy about it.

"W...What? How?" she stuttered, in shock at the news.

"It's Alpha Jayden, he is on his way now." she saw his eyes move from her to behind her. T.J. he was still in the room with them.

"He is." she heard T.J. state "I informed Cole to go and tell him, as per the rules."

"Rules?" Jo-anne asked, looking up at West more than confused. Not really understanding what was going on.

"Yes, rules. Two mates from two different packs, means Rules. Mother is going to come talk to you Luna to Luna."

"I'm not a Luna." she shook her head.

"Sweetheart, yes you are." he said softly, tucking some of her loose hair behind her ear gently.

Her eyes widened up at him, at the term of endearment, she did not know what to say to him at all. He was acting very differently towards her, she realised, gentle even. Caring it seemed. This was a side of West she'd never seen before. Had wanted to but had never gotten it.

"Now tell me, what is going on Jo-anne? You ripped into yourself, Why?"

Her eyes fell away from him, she knew Clova was healing her already, she could feel it, it was kind of like a pins and needles tingling sensation down her back. Turned her head and looked right at T.J., his eyes were on hers. Pain filled her heart and she turned her head away from him, shook her head, "I can't." she whispered, heard the pain in her own voice.

Felt West pull her gently back into his chest, and went willingly, leaned on him and breathed him in, she knew the scent of your Mate could calm you.

"When you are ready," he told her softly, "please don't hurt yourself again. I already lost you once tonight. I can't go through that again."

Jo-anne could hear the pain in his words, her death had caused him pain. She nodded her head. "Is it still there?"

"Is what still there?"

"My Moons, down my back," Jo-anne asked. She knew her own claws had ripped into it, maybe it wouldn't come back.

"Your tattoo?"

"There not tattoo's West." she sighed "I got them on my 18th birthday. It just appeared early in the morning."

There was silence from him now.

"That's when I got mine." T.J. added from where he stood across the other side of the room. "And yes Jo-Jo, they are still there."

She closed her eyes. "I'm sorry," she said, and felt more tears well in her eyes. Hated her moons right now, didn't want them there on her back, had to find a way to get them off of her, she had to make that right, make the right decision, so he could have a Mate.

"Shh, it's going to be alright." West was once again running his hand through her hair with soft gentle strokes trying to comfort her. She let him.

Clova was happy inside her mind. Jo-anne although very comfortable in his arms, was also quite confused about West being her Mate. She didn't really understand it. They'd definitely not worked the last time.

She heard the door to her room open, and felt as well as heard the heavy sigh, that came from West. Then he took a slow step back away from her. "Alpha Jayden, is here to see you." she felt his arms slide from around her, until just his hands were on her upper arms.

Jo-anne looked up at him, he didn't look at all happy, that was actually how she was used to seeing him. She nodded, and he stepped back, and she heard Clova whine inside her mind at the loss of contact with him.

"Could you give us the room!" she heard Alpha Jayden state, it didn't sound much like a question even though it was phrased that way, more of a demand, she realised.

"I'll be right outside. I won't go far, Jo-anne." West told her as he stepped away completely and then headed for the door.

"Take your Beta with you."

"Terence will go, only if Jo-anne wants him to." There was an angry edge to West's voice now, he was not one who liked to be told what to do, especially by another Alpha, whilst in his own pack.

She turned and saw both of them staring each other down, could now smell Alpha Jayden, Sandalwood, Eucalyptus and Musk. Heard Clova snort inside her mind, seemed more than a bit annoyed and frustrated to have two Mates.

She watched as T.J. stepped between her and the two of them, and sighed, knew it was because it was because he was her protector and they looked like they were about to get into a fight right here in this room where she was. He would put himself on the line to protect her.

"It's alright." she said "T.J. please go with West." it was hard enough, knowing that her birth had sentenced him to a life of loneliness, and having him now willingly step up to protect her, was starting to cause her a headache.

Saw both of them look at her, then nod and leave the room.

That left her alone with Alpha Jayden. He turned and looked at her, his eyes fell on her back and he frowned "What happened to you?"

"Nothing," she stated. Did not want to get into it with him. Didn't know him. She did know West and T.J. and it was about T.J., so was actually more comfortable telling them than this Alpha.

"If Westley hurt you."

Jo-anne felt Clova snarl angrily inside her mind. West would never physically hurt her, even she knew that. "No, West would never hurt me."

"Are you sure? You rejected him once already."

"For completely different reasons," Jo-anne told him. She had no idea what he knew about her and West's previous bond, in all likelihood not a great deal.

Alpha Jayden walked over to her and looked down at her. "Are you alright?"

She nodded, physically she was. Her back was now healed there was no more sensations, it had healed much quicker, she noted. His hand touched her face gently. "Mine." he growled softly down at her. His touch, she noted, did not hurt her. Had West relinquished all his orders on her or did her death nullify them?

Jo-anne bit her lip, she did not know what to say, Clova did not growl it back at all, swished her tail in her mind in annoyance at hearing him. She could smell him, as could Clova. They both understood that he was their Mate. Could the Goddess throw anything else at her right now? She hoped not.

"I don't expect you to say it back. I just wanted you to know, I want to claim you." he told her gently, his eyes were on hers, he had a smile on his face as he looked down at her "Did you like your gift?"

"Yes, it's beautiful," Jo-anne admitted.

"Good, I will give you everything you could ever want, Jo-anne. Love and cherish you." he told her.

"It's just a bit confusing for me," Jo-anne told him honestly.

"I understand." he nodded and stepped closer to her, then leaned down and kissed her. It was full of light tingles all over her lips where his met hers. His arms slid around her and he was pulling her into his body. Her eyes fluttered closed and she kissed him back. It was very nice. He'd been nice to her the last time he'd been here, asked her if she'd wanted him to kiss her, had told her he had wanted to, before he had even.

Clova, however, was not at all happy, and a snarl ripped right out of her and then her wolf yanked her from the man's kiss and pulled Jo-anne's body from his.

He was staring at her now, a frown on his face, clearly unhappy, she could tell, about Clova's reaction to him. Saw his wolf surface, his eyes glowed with the tell-tale green of his wolf. Felt Clova shoot to the surface and growl loudly at him, perceived it as a threat, his wolf's sudden appearance.

"He won't hurt you, his name is Loch, just curious is all."

Clova snorted right at them and receded away. Did not seem to want anything to do with his wolf at this time, was stalking around inside her mind, flicking her tail back and forth almost furiously. "Can he back away? Clova is nervous about him."

Jayden's frown deepened even more, but she saw his wolf recede. "He is her Mate, she should not growl at him like that," he told her flatly.

"I don't control her." Jo-anne stated, "Clova has a mind of her own," though they were usually on the same page about everything. Had been now for a very long time. Their time in therapy had not only allowed them to understand each other but unified them almost completely, their thoughts often were aligned.

"Most wolves do." Jayden nodded "But, please control her, don't let her do that again, we are her Mate. I am also an Alpha, and my wolf won't tolerate disrespect, especially from his Mate."

Jo-anne raised an eyebrow at him. Typical Alpha, she thought. They were all the same deep down. She said nothing at all. Clova however, was getting madder by the second. Jo-anne could feel it, was unable to stop her wolf's feelings, wouldn't even know where to begin, let alone deny her the right to feel how she wanted to. How she did.

Clova was standing inside her mind, staring at the man, that had just told her human counterpart to control her. She was very unhappy about that statement.

His eyes narrowed on her, it was likely he could feel her wolf's anger.

"Clova doesn't like your words," she told him honestly.

"Why?" he was frowning again.

Jo-anne shrugged, she was pretty certain her wolf didn't like his because she still liked Volt. Clova had purred for Volt and West, when he'd told them he was their Mate. Clova had been happy about it instantly. Jo-anne did not think telling this Alpha that was going to go down so well. So she kept it to herself.

He sighed "Fine. She is probably confused about having two Mates. I am, however, not confused Jo-anne. I know what I want." His mouth was on hers suddenly and very aggressively this time, both his hands gripping her face to stop her from pulling away.

Her eyes widened in shock at his sudden change of attitude, his tongue pushed into her mouth, the second she gasped in shock, and Clova snarled instantly at him and the force he was using. Jo-anne suddenly found herself being shoved down on the bed. She tried to push him away. "Mine." he growled into her mouth, his mouth pulled from hers and was on her neck.

Clova snarled for real and her claws were out, but she found her hands pinned by his, used his Alpha strength to hold them down above her head. He was going to Mark her, she realised, and he was overpowering her and Clova using his wolf to do so "T.J." she screamed out in panic.

Alpha Jayden was much stronger than her and his mouth was moving over her mark spot, softening it for his bite to come. Then he was gone, ripped clean off of her and she was hauled up off the bed, felt the IV rip from her arm as she was quickly removed from the room she'd been in.

Found herself pinned to the wall, a body in front of hers, arms on either side of her, turned her eyes up to see who it was, everything had happened so quickly, to find Jonathan staring down at her, T.J.'s dad.

"You're alright Jo-anne, I have got you."

Her eyes moved back towards the room she'd been pulled from, it was very loud and aggressive, a full-blown Alpha on Alpha fight going on in there, heard more snarling and growling coming from somewhere behind Jonathan. She couldn't see, but knew it was West, she could smell his scent. Turned her eyes back to Jonathan. "T.J.'s fighting an Alpha." She was almost panicking at the thought of it. Why had she called out for him? So stupid of her.

"It's find Jo-anne, He's got Alpha blood to remember. Calm down, Terence can handle him, I assure you."

"He'll get hurt because of me."

"Terence will be just fine. I promise you. Just subduing Alpha Jayden, it'll all be fine. My boy can handle anyone." he sounded very proud of his son.

She could only nod, but still she worried. It had been her natural instinct to call out for T.J. for help, and now he was in that room fighting an Alpha wolf for her, she was going to have to learn not to call for him.

"I'll take her, Jonathan." it was Ricky.

"I have her, Rick." Jonathan told him rather curtly.

"I'm the Gamma, hand her over."

"You want to fight me about it? I have her. I will not allow harm to come to her, I assure you."

"She is my responsibility." Ricky snapped at him.

"Maybe so. But like I said" he growled, "I have her. Deal with it."

Goddess she didn't want the former Beta and the current Gamma to get into a fight. "Just stop it," she whispered, "all of you, just stop it." It was all too much. She didn't want anyone fighting over her.

Chapter 74 - Her Alpha's Orders

T.J. POV

Watching Jo-Jo wake up and then suddenly start tearing into her own back, screaming about getting her mark off of her back. Hurt him not just physically, because he could feel the injuries she was causing to herself, but also that the mark represented their connection to each other. Why would she wake up and scream for it to be removed?

He tried to calm her, like he'd always been able to do. To stop her from hurting herself, only to have her turn on him all claws out ripping at his mark on his arm, then screaming at him to get away from her, she meant it to, he could hear the pain in her voice.

This was the first time in his entire life, that Jo-Jo was rejecting him and his help. It hurt more than a lot, damned near unbearable. He didn't understand it.

West was already trying to stop her from hurting herself. She was not calming down, easily at all. She was beating West with quite a bit of force, screaming at him now to get it off of her. Something else had to be going on and he did not know what, but he needed to find out. To help her. He didn't want her not looking for him to help.

T.J. did not like seeing her like this, seeing her injure herself like that. It took some real effort on West's part to contain her and calm her down, get her to stop fighting him. Until she just sat there clinging on to him sobbing uncontrollably, so much pain rolling off of her, he could feel it. Like waves washing over him. He knew West could feel it too, had a pained expression on his face.

Mind-Linked to Cole, once she was calm, to have him tell Alpha Jayden she was awake. It was part of the rules that had been set down. Jayden had retired to his room quite easily, it seemed sitting here waiting for Jo-Jo to wake up was not his thing. Which was

odd because, what Mate leaves their unconscious Mate in the hospital and goes off to bed.

Gone off on the condition that he was notified the minute she woke up, so he could come down and she could scent him out. This was as close as it was going to get, he'd had bigger concerns upon her waking.

Watched her actually smell West and heard her sigh, rubbed her face right into the man's chest, his scent had finally hit her, now she was calm and able to register it. Typical Mate, constantly wanting to coat themselves in their Mates' scent. It was very cute to watch her. T.J. had heard it was the most amazing thing one could ever smell. He was still hoping that one day, he'd have the pleasure of doing that himself.

Saw West smile down at her reaction to his scent, real happiness on the man's face as she rubbed herself all over him, and then he told her. What he had wanted to tell her for a very long time. She looked up at him. T.J. couldn't see her face from here. But boy couldn't he hear Clova purring at the top of her lungs.

Her wolf was very happy to have both Volt and West looking down at her. But it was clear that Jo-Jo did not know what to say. T.J. thought that West could have been a bit more tactful, telling her it wasn't the only shock she was about to get, he should not have sighed heavily. Watched as she instantly tried to pull away from him, Clova stopped purring as well. They both thought West was going to reject them. The idiot needed more tact.

Jo-Jo was more than shocked to hear she had two Mates, and was, it seemed, very confused by the news. T.J. got to watch West actually be very loving towards her, and not care who saw it either. Called her sweetheart, heard it with his own two ears, the love in that one word, and touched her so gently.

Well, what do you know? It was as if the old West, before their Mate Bond, was back and standing right before him. The gentle and caring man full of charm and happiness. It was really nice to see. If he could sway her, the pack was going to see a whole new Alpha. T.J. could well imagine how happy he would be all the time.

He used to be a very fun person. Laughing all the time, he was even known to play a practical joke on his old man once in a while. Not often, but sometimes. The pack likely wouldn't know what to do. He smiled to himself.

She would not tell West why she'd hurt herself, her eyes had turned to meet his, and he saw so much pain in them as she looked at him, then she just turned away "I can't." those two small words so filled with anguish. What ever was going on, T.J. knew he was the focal point of it.

She clearly wanted that mark off her back, asked if it was still there. Then openly admitted to West that it was not a tattoo. The man's eyes shot to T.J.'s. He knew, T.J.

had one as well, was asking a silent question "That's when I got mine." T.J. acknowledged and then confirmed, for her that yes it was still on her back as was the one on his arm even though her claws had ripped through it, it was perfectly aligned and intact once more.

She had done a good job of ripping herself to pieces, in order to remove it from her back, but they were there still, as she healed, realigned just like his did. Meant to be there on her skin. It was their connection to each other.

T.J. quite liked that he and her were so very closely connected, especially now that the truth was out, and he knew without a doubt, with full certainty, she was his little sister. It was likely why he was always able to feel her.

West was once again holding her into his chest, letting his scent calm her, along with his gentle touch. T.J. knew the man had, had it in him. To actually love her, to show her that he loved her. It just took a bloody long time to happen. To bloody long for everyone's sake.

Turned as Alpha Jayden stepped into the room, saw him frown at Jo-Jo in Wests' arms, he clearly didn't like what he was seeing. Well, he'd better get used to it. Jo-Jo did look very comfortable in West's arms, they might have had a terrible past, but two years together, they had still formed a bond between them. It also really helped that Clova and Volt had always been insatiable with each other. Helped right this minute that Clova was very happy with her Goddess-Gifted Mate.

Practically demanded that West leave the room and then told him to take T.J. with him. Volt was instantly on the surface. Not even Lark was happy about that statement, he stepped between the two Alpha's and Jo-Jo as they stood staring each other down. It was likely only a matter of time before these two came to blows over Jo-Jo again.

He and West left the room when Jo-Jo said it was okay. It did not surprise T.J. to find both Ricky and Cole out in the hallway, or the previous Alpha and his unit for that matter, they were here to contain the two Alpha's who were about to have to vie for the woman's attention. Alpha's did not like to share, well unless they were brothers or twins. It was likely that both West and Jayden were going to get out of control at some point and it would take both units to separate them.

"Have you been here the whole time?" he heard West ask his father.

"Yes son," Alpha Damien nodded.

West didn't say anything at all, just walked over and sat down next to his father, who put a hand on his shoulder. "It'll be alright son."

West remained quiet.

T.J. was standing just outside the room, one step from the door, his father was leaning on the wall next to him. They'd not really spoken since he'd forced his mother to admit Jo-Jo was hers, didn't appear the man was ready to talk to him now either. Wondered if the man would ever talk to him again. They'd always been close, never even gone half a single day without some sort of conversation. But nothing since that day now. T.J. left it alone.

He was not actively listening to what was going on in the room between Jo-Jo and Jayden. It was her private business, saw Ricky stand up from his chair and his father as well. The both of them had their heads tilted slightly to the side, something was going on. It did not go unnoticed by West either.

Then they seemed to settle, something had drawn their Gamma ability's attention, both of them. T.J. frowned, even his own father was no longer lounging on the wall but standing at the ready.

T.J. could feel it shit was about to get very real, there was a great deal of tension building in the air around them. Damien suddenly had hands on West, as did his Delta and Cole, for that matter. They were all actively listening with their wolfs hearing, it seemed.

The second he heard her panicked scream, he was in the room, heard the fight out in the hallway as they were trying to contain West.

He could see Alpha Jayden had Jo-Jo pinned down and was getting ready to Mark her. Launched himself at the ass-hole. Lark, already pushing all his Alpha Wolf strength at T.J., grabbed that man and threw him clear across the room and then they were fighting. No wolf liked to be interrupted when Marking or Mating their Mate.

An Alpha Wolf, was even more aggressive, but there was no way in hell that Jo-Jo had accepted this man. Her panicked scream said it all. Alpha Jayden was trying to forcibly Mark her, to claim what he thought, was his.

No-one was ever going to touch his little sister in that manner.

He and Lark let the man have it, with all their power and royal Alpha blood boiling, hitting the man furiously as he hit back, Lark snapped their claws out and it was suddenly a deadly game of wolves in human form fighting it out. With all their claws slashing and ripping into each other.

When Jayden's wolf, Loch, shifted completely and went him Lark kicked it right in its head, he was much faster than Loch would ever be, then he shifted them to his big black wolf. He was a good foot and half taller than Loch was.

Snarled all Alpha aggression at his beast, it did no good. Jayden's beast was completely enraged about being stopped from Marking his Mate.

Then they were biting and tearing into each other, slamming up against walls and into the furniture that was in the room. Lark bit Loch on the back of his neck and threw him at the wall, watched as the wolf got up and shook it off, snarled right back at him and charged Lark again. Lark, being stronger and faster, leaped out of the way and Loch ran head first into the overturned bed, shook its head. Lark was already on him claws in his back trying to force Loch down to the ground. Make him submit, which would end the battle that was raging and tearing apart this room.

Loch was fighting with everything he had and they were rolling over each other, snarling and growling and biting at each other, then Loch was shooting for the door. Lark launched himself with every ounce of power he had to stop that wolf from getting out there. If he got out and saw Jo-Jo, his wolf would run for her, try and mark her in wolf form.

Not on their watch.

Lark smashed into Loch with the full force of his Royal Alpha blood line and the door to the suite buckled under the pressure, then it broke and they were out in the corridor, though Lark was the only one conscious thankfully. Loch was out cold and Jayden was shifted back. The man lay unconscious on the floor amid broken debris of the door and glass that was the window into the room. Unconscious just like his wolf.

Lark was standing over him still snarling down at the unconscious man, wanted more than to leave him unconscious, wanted a real piece of this man. T.J. had to talk his own wolf down. It took several minutes and before he walked away, swiped the man along his side, all claws out.

Made his way over to where Jo-Jo was and stared up at her, she was caged up against the wall a few feet away from the room, between his own father's arms. His entire body covering hers. Lark snarled at him, still angry and wanted the man out of the way.

Jonathan whacked Lark right in the face with a backhanded hit. "Enough Lark." He snapped.

Lark bared his teeth at the man and a low growl emitted from him, quite menacingly in fact.

Watched as Jonathan took a step back and allowed Lark to look up at Jo-Jo, she looked down at his wolf, sadness in her eyes and Lark huffed and rubbed himself against her, his little sister. He would protect her with everything he had, just the same as Ava and Sonja.

Then he just sat himself down right in front of her, not yet ready to relinquish control back to T.J., felt her hand on his head, patting him softly, seemed to help Lark calm down, his wolf looked up at her and she said "Thank you."

'Father I need pants.' he mind-linked his father.

'On it.' he nodded and headed off. It didn't take him long to return, Lark shifted them back and he pulled his pants on, turned to look at her. "Are you alright?"

"I am, but you're not." she pointed to his wounds.

T.J. knew he had many wounds, they would heal given time a few hours at most, probably not even that long. He nor Lark were greatly concerned by them right this minute. "They'll heal." he told her, but still she looked worried.

He turned to look at West, who was still being held down by nearly everyone. Volt was still actively fighting to be let free, T.J. could see it by the constant flickering of light and dark green in the man's eyes. It was clear to T.J. that Volt wanted to kill Jayden. Even though the man was unconscious and of no threat right this minute.

It was the fact that Jayden and his wolf had tried to Mark Jo-Jo against her will. They would not be standing for that, she had already been through that once before and it was still all fresh in their minds, only having found out the truth of the situation a few hours ago.

It was not something either one of them wanted for her again. Though Volt, on occasion had had to be subdued by T.J. himself in order for him not to Mark her over the past month.

This was not going too well, but everyone had been expecting a showdown of Alpha on Alpha. That was why they were all here, in the pack hospital outside her room. Prepared to step in and stop it.

T.J. sighed, walked over to West and Volt "Calm down." He told them "She's fine, go to her."

Saw Volts' eyes move to her, stared at her for a minute and then relinquished control. T.J. motioned for them all to let West up.

West stood, his eyes were still on Jo-Jo, heard a groan come from Jayden, turned his eyes towards the man, T.J. put a hand on West and pulled him away, across the hall to where Jo-Jo stood. Her scent would be able to calm him and his beast.

Left him standing there with her, to walk over and look down at Alpha Jayden, the man's eyes were open, moved to T.J.'s "Do that again and I will kill you." he stated with deadly intent, so the man would understand it was not to happen again. "Get Patterson to check him over." he called out to the nurses in the nursing station all standing up against the wall ready to run away if needed.

"Yes Beta." one of them answered him.

"I'll take Jo-Jo back to the pack-house with West, we'll deal with Jayden later." he muttered the last part. He'd broken the main rule, Luna Natalia was going to pitch a fit.

T.J. turned and walked back to Jo-Jo. West was just looking down at her, he had her hand in his. "Let's go you two, Alpha Jayden can explain himself and apologise with Luna Natalia in the room."

She might very well be requesting an Alpha oath out of the man to make certain he and his beast were contained and followed all her rules until Jo-Jo made her decision on who she wanted to be Mated to.

This night had really turned to shit.

Chapter 75 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

Seeing that unconscious bastard did nothing to quell his or Volt's anger over the fact that Alpha Jayden had tried to Mark Jo-anne against her will. He'd tried not to listen, to stay out of her and his conversation, but the minute both Ricky and his father had stood up, full attention with all their Gamma instincts alert. He'd known there was something wrong in that room.

Had tuned his wolf's hearing to the room. It was not a sound-proof room. What he'd heard was Alpha Jayden pretty much telling her to keep her wolf under control, that they would not tolerate disrespect. West frowned, he did not like hearing the way the man spoke to her, a Luna was always a bit of a challenge for an Alpha, especially before Marked and Mated, usually settled once that was done. But until then could be very frustrating and infuriating.

Especially an Alpha-blooded one, more than a handful. West was expecting a show down with her at some point. He'd seen her fire up a couple of times now, and that power T.J. had said had rolled off of her. He was not looking forward to being on the receiving end of that.

Alpha Jayden always seemed to be calm, cool and collected, it appeared to West that he was expecting Jo-anne to be submissive to him, also that her Wolf would be as well. The man had another thing coming. Jo-anne was becoming more defiant by the day. Without Heath's blood bond interrupting or dulling down who she was, she was now coming into her Alpha gene's and it would not surprise West if she, like T.J. thought, exploded with rage at some point. Though it did sound as though that was what had happened with Karen.

He tuned his hearing out the second he heard the man kiss her, could not hear that, anger was already filling him, found several sets of hands on him. Volt wanted to rip that man and his wolf apart for touching her. They'd not even kissed her yet, since she found

out they were her Mate. He'd wanted to but her abrupt awakening had been more of a concern to him and his wolf.

Trying to get into that room, to kill Alpha Jayden after he'd heard her panicked scream for T.J., had been his only thought, but there were so many bodies on him all using the wolves' strength against him, he had fought them till he was pinned down on the floor with his own father using his Alpha's Aura, flooding down at him to forcible keep his wolf inside of him.

They knew she was safe, had seen Jonathan come out of that room with her, the man had her around the waist completely off the ground and bolted her right out of the room. She was now pinned to the wall and he was using his whole body to shield her and protect her if things spilled out into the hallway.

Protecting her while T.J., his own son, was in that room taking on Alpha Jayden, West and Volt both wanted to be in that room, to have a piece of him, but there was too much Alpha Aura being, flooded down on him plus 4 body's all holding him down as well, he could not get up right this minute no matter how much he tried, he knew if his father was no flooding him with his aura they would have no hope of containing him or his beast.

Only calmed down after T.J. had been shifted back by Lark. Drawing his attention to Jo-anne, who was standing across the hall, a worried look on her face, he felt Volt recede and was allowed up finally. T.J. actually walked him over to her, like he needed be told twice to go to her. He wanted nothing more than to be near her.

Saw the slight reddening on her neck over her mark spot where that bastard had been getting ready to mark her. Was completely furious about it, but did not let her know it. He would not show her anger right now, she had enough going on, without having to deal with him in a rage.

He reached out and took her hand, "Everything will be alright." he told her softly, she didn't say anything back to him, just stood there, overwhelmed by it all he thought.

T.J. turned the pair of them away and gave them both a gentle push down the corridor. He knew the man was just trying to get him away from Alpha Jayden, as the man started to wake up and was using Jo-anne to help West go. Didn't really care at the moment, she was holding his hand willingly. Had quite the grip on it actually and she didn't even look back at Alpha Jayden.

Jo-anne was walking between the two of them, West still holding her hand, T.J. on the other side of her, a hand on the small of her back. Neither of them had gotten Patterson's permission for her to leave the hospital, but she would be safer in a room with a lockable door. West wanted to put her in his suite, but knew that would set off another argument with Jayden.

Thought about putting her in the Luna suite, but that too might cause an issue, considering she had not made her choice yet. And she was technically a Luna to both of them, he was going to have to leave her in her room on the first floor. At least it had 3 locks and was now a reinforced door. Jayden nor his wolf would be getting in that room quickly.

All three of them turned and looked to their left at the sound of furious mating, to see Alpha Anthony, pinning Miranda down on the ground, mating her furiously from behind.

"Don't look at that." West stated, actually turned her face away from it. She did not need to see that.

"But isn't that?" she was trying to look back at the two Alpha-blooded wolves "Miranda?"

"It is." West confirmed "Don't look and don't listen."

"But West?" he could hear her concern about what she saw and heard.

"He's her Mate. Let it go. They are both Alpha-blooded, fighting it out for dominance in their bond. She will be fine, once she submits to him." though it did sound as though it was very rough and very aggressive, he knew deep down Miranda was likely loving every second of it. Liked more than a little being dominated and all submissive in the bedroom, it was her pleasure.

"Are you sure?" she was still trying to look back, worried Miranda was in trouble and they were doing nothing to stop it. Saw T.J. Block her view of the two mating out in the open.

"Yes, I'm very sure. The man won't hurt his Mate and Miranda..."

T.J. whacked him up the back of the head, glaring at him 'Shut it.' he shot down the mind-link.

"Miranda what?" Jo-anne asked, looking now from him to T.J. and back.

"Like's it very rough," West sighed. He didn't want to discuss that with her, did not want to put that image of him and Miranda inside her head, but she did know that he and Miranda had been together.

"Oh," was all she said on the subject, Anthony and Miranda could still be heard mating even though they now could not be seen, it now appeared to have gone from aggression to pleasure finally, even he had to admit, he was relieved to hear that. Likely she was now Marked by her Alpha and head submitted to him.

Walked into the pack-house, it was nearly 2 in the morning. "I'm going to put you in your room, we'll talk about moving you when everyone is gone."

“Move me, where?” she sounded a bit nervous to him.

“To a more secure room. You’ll have guards from now on, Jo-anne. I won’t have Jayden attacking you like that again.”

“Alright.” she nodded up at him, didn’t sound like she wanted that either.

Surprised him a little that she didn’t argue “I’m sorry for what he did to you, he had no right to do that to you. We had an agreement and he has broken it now.”

“An agreement?” she asked, sounding curious as well as a little annoyed to his ear.

“Yes, you were unconscious at the time. Mother will give you all the details. The agreement was that neither of us would Mark you.”

“Oh.”

They reached her door and all three of them turned at the sound of Miranda yelling to be put down. Alpha Anthony had her tossed over his shoulder as he came up the stairs onto the first floor, butt ass naked as was Miranda, to take her to his room. He nodded to the three of them, uncaring about their nakedness.

Had a smirk on his face, seemed very happy about having found his Mate. Miranda looked right at them as he turned away down the hall, she was hitting him furiously, but there was a big smile on her face, happy it seemed, just putting on an act. West did note she was sporting a mark, pretty silver filigree adorned her neck.

Opened Jo-anne's door and ushered her inside “See she’s perfectly happy.” he smiled at her.

“Acting angry.” T.J. chuckled “Loving her new Mate it seems.”

Jo-anne shook her head, it appeared she did not understand the woman’s display or acting angry towards her Mate, frowned “I don’t get it.” she looked right at West as if asking him for an explanation about the girls behaviour.

He was not going to go into details about what Miranda like, in all likelihood, she was taunting her Mate to be punished by him. Something she would thoroughly enjoy. Looked like she was very happy in fact. At least the girl had found her Mate, her father would no longer be able to Mate her off to someone she did not like nor want to be mated to.

“Go and have a shower, Jo-anne. T.J. and I will wait and see you into bed. Then let you get some rest. I’d like you not to leave this room un-escorted. It is also very likely that mother will come right to your room at breakfast time, so the two of you can talk.”

Jo-anne looked from him to T.J. then, a little nervously back to West, he smiled right at her. "That's why T.J. is still here, go on you will be safe, Volt and I will keep our hands to ourselves...I promise." he reassured her.

She was still hesitant, but collected some clothes and headed to the bathroom, she did need a shower. Not only did she smell like Alpha Jayden, which he hated. Her hospital gown still had her blood on it, and her back and hair were also coated in her blood from her attack on herself. She needed to wash it all off.

Patterson could come here to the pack-house to check on her. He'd looked more than furious about her being injured once again on her first visit to the pack hospital this evening, had glared right at West when he'd arrived with Jayden to check on her.

Had snapped "What did I tell you, Alpha Westley?" his tone had been all anger.

"Well, I'd tell you to go and punch Karen, her stepmother. But she's dead and at Jo-anne's hands no less."

That had seemed to quell his anger. He'd nodded "About time, she started fighting back." then had walked away. It had made West realise she did need fight training, he was going to have to get her into it as soon as he could. If she chose him, that was.

T.J. was standing inside Jo-anne's room all quiet, looked pensive actually.

"You should let Patterson look at you T.J."

"I'm fine, it'll heal, is healing in fact."

"I know Terence, but."

"I heal faster than even you West. Let it go." he stated flatly.

Which T.J. did do. His royal blood line made him not just bigger and stronger but faster at healing as well. Already West noted that several of the not so deep wounds were just red welts, his wolf was already healing him and he'd likely be fine within the hour, maybe even less.

West looked at him, the man was not happy and he didn't think it was of because of Jayden, it was because Jo-anne had yelled at T.J. to get away from her when he'd been trying to help her, not something West had ever seen the woman do. Always latched onto him when in pain or need of comfort.

"I don't think she meant it Terence, just traumatised by the night's events."

T.J. nodded "I know but...I want to know why that reaction?"

“She’ll talk to you Terence, just give it a day, you know she will tell you everything, it’s the bond you have. We’ve all been through a lot today, we are all emotionally exhausted and hurting right now.”

T.J. could physically feel her pain as well, just as West had done today. Both of them had felt the pain of not just the blade to her chest, but the severing of their bonds to her as well. Not a good night at all.

They were both sitting on Jo-anne’s couch, she had been in that shower for nearly half an hour now, and West was starting to worry, though his hearing didn’t pick up any crying or muffled sobs.

When the water finally turned off, it took another 10 minutes for her to step out of the bathroom, she was wearing a tiny pair of pale purple silk shorts that barely covered her bottom, and a slightly darker purple singlet top. He couldn’t help it. His eyes wandered over her body, she looked amazing, her long hair was still damp, she’d only towel dried it, and her long legs were on display for him to look at. She was a lovely, a beautiful curve to her hips, one he loved to hold on to.

He stood up as she stepped out, Volt was suddenly purring, so damned loud it was vibrating his chest, he heard T.J. snort with amusement. This was not something his wolf did. Saw Jo-anne’s eyes go wide, he shrugged at her. “Volt is very happy to see you.” he told her truthfully and his beast was, “He would like to see Clova, if you would let him.” He could feel Volt pushing forward, wanting to see Clova his Goddess-Gifted Mate.

Saw her eyes change colour and then Clova was on the surface, then she was in his arms, allowed Volt to surface completely and he held her in his arms to his body. West warned him not to do anything stupid, but his beast it seemed just wanted to be close to his Mate, didn’t seem to have any interest in Marking or Mating her. A good thing considering what she’d just gone through. Likely why.

They were both purring at each other, cute the pair of them. He felt Volt voluntarily relinquish control back to West a few minutes later, saw Clova look up at him. He smiled down at Jo-anne’s wolf, and then watched as she rubbed her face on his chest a few times before giving Jo-anne back control.

She looked up at him, a bit nervous “They’re very cute.” West said softly as she slipped out of his arms and took a step back from him. “You should get some sleep.”

Jo-anne just stood there, kind of uncertain, looked from him to T.J. and back again, bit her lip and chewed on it, made him just want to kiss her. She needed to not do that. “Just say it, Jo-anne,” he encouraged.

“I don’t...really want to be alone.”

West knew it was not a good idea for him to stay, it would not bode well, the control he was maintaining would likely go out the window. "I can't stay Jo-anne, I'll likely seduce you." he told her honestly.

"Not on my watch." he heard T.J. mutter.

"Can you stay till I fall asleep?" she asked softly.

"I think that will be fine." West nodded.

He motioned for her to get into her bed. She went willingly. West actually tucked her in, and then climbed on to the bed next to her. Above the covers and lye down right next to her. He liked that Jo-anne didn't even shy away from him, he brushed a few loose strands of her hair from her face as he looked down at her.

T.J. was sitting on the other side of the bed. The man looked tense, he was ready to stop West and Volt as much as he had just done with Jayden. The man was going to protect her from everyone.

West made himself comfortable and watched her eyes close, it didn't take her long to fall asleep, physically and mentally exhausted, it was very nice to watch her roll into his chest as she drifted off completely. He knew it was their bond, but it brought joy to him, to see it.

He slid his arm around her and hugged her gently, did not want to get up and leave her, but knew he had to. He would Mate her if he woke up next to her. That much he did know about himself. Leaned down and kissed her forehead, it sent hot sparks along his lips, it was delightful to feel that with her again.

Took in a deep breath and just smelled her lovely scent and then forced himself to get up and out of her bed, careful not to wake her. He and T.J. stepped out of her room, Oliver was leaning on the wall, looked to him 'There will be no-one in or out Alpha that I don't know.'

"Thank you Oliver, you alright to stay now?" he questioned him. Oliver had been out hunting with West earlier, and took over the charge of Jo-anne's sisters once Karen was subdued.

"I'm good, slept while you waited for the Luna to wake up."

West nodded "Thank you." he said again and headed off up the stairs, he did like the way Oliver called Jo-anne the Luna.

"Thought I was going to have to drag your ass out of that room," T.J. commented as they headed up the stairs to the 4th floor.

“Volt and I are good. We will not do what Jayden did, I assure you Terence.”

“It’s not going to go in his favour, that is for sure. Clova growled at him more than once she’s not likely to take to him quickly, and seems Clova is still very happily attached to Volt. Also a good thing.”

“Yes I’m hoping so.” West nodded “Get some sleep, likely we’ll not get much.”

Chapter 76 - Her Alpha's Orders

T.J. POV

Lark was not happy leaving Alpha Jayden alone in the hospital, he had many injuries, and would not heal anywhere near as fast as T.J. would. His royal blood line helped him to heal very quickly. A perk of his royal blood line.

Alpha Jayden would likely have to spend the rest of the night in the pack hospital and Patterson would tend to the deeper wounds to help the man heal quicker, unless he was unimpressed about what he had done to Jo-Jo. The man seemed to have issues where her health was concerned.

He mind-linked to Oliver to let him know that they were taking Jo-Jo back to her room and told him what Jayden had done to her, that under no circumstances was he or any of the man's pack members allowed to be alone with her. In case they decided to take her against her will and leave the pack with her.

Oliver already knew what Jo-Jo was to West, had figured it out weeks ago, and the whole pack was likely to know by morning. Every one attending the mating ball had understood, even before the moon set, they all understood the minute West and Volt had roared in pain together, they all understood that their Alpha had found his Mate and she was severely injured. It was unmistakable.

Alpha Jayden had not responded to her pain at all. That was curious in itself. Considering how certain he was that she was going to be his. Hadn’t actually had any proof, no connection to her until the full moon had set, and that had been after all the shit had gone down.

The casual stroll from the pack hospital to the pack-house, a 20 minute walk at the pace West was setting, he was keeping it slow either to spend more time with Jo-Jo or because he didn’t want to tax her anymore. Her wounds were healed now, healed as fast as he did, it seemed.

It shocked T.J. to see Miranda and Alpha Anthony mating furiously out in the open, for all to see. He was a large tank of a man and Miranda was barely five foot six and very petite at that.

Though T.J. knew she was exceptionally fast on foot, like most Alpha's were, she had no trouble keeping up with West, it looked like Anthony had been hunting her all night and had finally managed to just pin her down.

T.J. knew that man, had been waiting for his Goddess-Gifted Mate for over 20 years, and from what he saw going on he was not taking no for an answer. Could hear West telling Jo-Jo not to look or listen, it was all Alpha aggression on both sides.

T.J., however, glanced at them and shook his head. Anthony was smiling, as he was Mating Miranda furiously, so was she actually. Clearly he had enjoyed his hunting of his Mate. Crazy bloody she-wolf had probably been running away on purpose just to antagonise her Mate and his wolf into a frenzy.

He'd heard from West just how rough the girl liked it, not to mention enjoyed being fully dominated in the bedroom. Well, by what he was seeing, she was going to get exactly that from her Mate. Knew the moment she'd been Marked as the whole tone of their mating changed, he shook his head.

Watching Volt and Clova together all happy and purring at each other was good to see. He did not want her leaving for another pack, he'd just gotten her as his real sister, and he could not be there to protect her if she went off to the Silver Moon pack with Alpha Jayden as her Mate. Though Jo-Jo still looked a bit worried about West being her Mate, no real surprise there though, considering their last bond. He'd have to come and talk to her, she'd told West she didn't want to discuss their past, but T.J. knew that West needed to explain things to her, he also wanted to apologise to her and try at least to allow her to see why he was the way he had been.

T.J. had noted West's whole attitude seemed to have changed towards her. Now she knew he was her Goddess-Gifted Mate. Openly told her Volt was happy, admitted he'd likely seduce her if he stayed. He was trying to make it very clear to her that he was interested in being her Mate. Didn't seem to be holding back at all. A good thing, he'd always kept himself closed off to her before, not now apparently.

He walked up the stairs with West, knew West was right that neither of them were going to get more than a few hours' sleep, it was already just after 3 in the morning and breakfast started at 6. They would both get up when Luna Natalia woke them up in all likelihood, when she was going down to see Jo-Jo.

T.J. pushed into his suite and walked into his bedroom, came to a complete halt. Ella, still in that bloody, tightly fitting white dress, was asleep in the middle of his bed, above the covers, but curled around one of his pillows 'Goddess help me' he sighed internally, if he woke her she was going to see him all covered in blood and likely freak out.

He'd had enough trouble with this young lady already at the mating ball, when Jo-Jo had pushed her right into him, the damned girl had been pressed right up against him from breasts to hip, not an inch of space between them and for once he'd allowed it, felt

her melt right into him, had even slid his arms around her and just enjoyed the feel of her body against his as they'd swayed on the dance floor.

His eyes slid over her sleeping body, up her long legs, over the curve of her hip to her tiny waist 'crap', he thought, he was getting turned on just looking at her and she still had all her clothes on, turned and walked across the room averting his eyes from her body and all its curves beckoning him to touch them.

Stepped into his bathroom, showered and dried off, took a minute to stare at himself in the mirror and mentally prepare himself to have to wake her and ask her to get out of his bed and leave his room, the look that he knew was going to come with it. He took a deep breath and stepped back into his bedroom.

Nearly groaned out loud as her soft blue eyes fell on him, she was half sitting up, bleary eyed and half asleep, bloody sexy as hell.

"Ella, why are you here?" he asked.

"You told me, to go and be safe. This was the safest place I could think of." she answered softly.

T.J. ran a hand over his face, she was going to be the death of him, watched her go to get up, put a hand out to stop her. "No, just stay there." he sighed and turned for his walk in, he was bloody naked under this towel and if she got her hands on him, he'd have her, couldn't do that.

Pulled on black pyjama bottoms and returned to his room, she was lying down again, her eyes were on him, dammit, she'd taken his warning to stay there and rolled it to her liking. She was totally eye fucking him, without shame at all. He had wanted this girl for a very long time, had managed to keep himself in check all the time.

Now here she was in his bed. He walked over to the foot of the bed and looked down at her. He was actually quite tired, maybe it would be alright. Though a part of him knew he could push through it to have his way with her. It was clear she wanted that right this minute. Sighed heavily and crawled up the bed towards her, lay down next to her. Pulled her back to his chest, "Just sleep." he growled at her "I'm tired," but allowed himself the pleasure of his body pressed right up against her.

"Alright." she sighed, sounded happy, wriggled a little in his arms to get comfortable, giggled a little when he growled at her.

"Stay still woman." he closed his eyes and relaxed. Oh, he was in real trouble in the morning and he knew it. Lark seemed fully amused by the turn of events. His wolf knew how attracted he was to Ella, had told him more than once he'd let him Mark the woman, liked her wolf Starling, could see himself happily Mating her.

But they weren't her Mate and T.J. didn't want to take that away from her, she should find her Mate and get to enjoy that, be truly happy with finding the one that would complete the other half of her soul.

T.J. could tell that she was already asleep, took less than five minutes in his arms for her to settle, so very comfortable with him in his bed, with his arms around her.

Breathed her in, she always smelled nice to him, kind of like watermelon dipped in dark chocolate, there was something else to her scent, but it eluded him. He'd never been able to figure it out, which was unusual his sense of smell was keen. But still it eluded him, he couldn't quite put his finger on it, it was in all likelihood, that unique smell that only her Goddess-Gifted Mate would smell.

It annoyed him to no end, that he couldn't figure it out. Couldn't smell her properly, wanted to. Tried to all the time.

Placed a soft kiss on her bare shoulder and groaned as his cock was twitching to life, how could his body react to just one touch like that, 'fuck' rolled away from her to lie on his back, his eyes moved back to her, there was no stopping it, his cock was getting hard, dammit, turned his eyes to the ceiling and tried to think about anything but the woman in the bed next to him, was going to need a cold shower, or likely a bloody ice bath.

He flicked his eyes back to her as she rolled over in her sleep and reached out for him "Terence?" her voice so soft and sleepy, looking for him, wondering where he had gone, her body pressed up against his side, and her hand slid across his chest.

Damn, it was getting painful, so much blood rushing to his cock, 'fuck' he didn't think he had ever been this hard in all his life, nothing was going to help him. "I'm a dead man." he muttered into the room.

Rolled right over and pressed himself against her, grabbed her hip and pulled her hard against his cock, heard her gasp, saw those gorgeous blue eyes open and move to his, then just crashed his mouth down onto hers, grinding himself against her, heard her moan and then her hands were all over him, sliding over his arms and around to his back up into his hair, her mouth eager on his and Goddess she was shoving him over and climbing on top of him, in less than a minute her whole body was on top of him.

T.J. grabbed both her hips and pulled her hard down on him, a moan ripped out of her, and then she was rocking furiously against him, then he was pulling up her dress until it was out of the way and fuck, the girl wasn't wearing any panties at all, his hands were on her bare ass, gripping her tightly.

Felt her hand slide down between them and shove his pants down to release his hard cock. "Fuck Ella, slow down," he gasped. As her hand stroked him.

"No." she moaned, "I want you Terence." her hand wrapped around his hard cock and then she lined herself up with the tip and before he could stop her, pushed herself down onto him.

"Fuck." he groaned. She was so tight, so freaking wet and hot for him, heard her gasp in pain as she tried to take him. He was bigger and thicker than most and not many could take all of him. She was pushing down to try and take him into her. "Stop, I'll hurt you." he could hear the hiss of pain that was coming from her as she tried to get what she wanted.

"No. I want it all Terence." she was pushing herself down hard as he tried to stop her, but Goddess it felt so good and she wanted all of him 'ah screw it.' gripped her hips. "This is going to hurt Ella." he warned her

"I don't care I can take you." she stared down at him.

Then he yanked her down hard as he thrust up into her, all the way in, one quick hard motion, he heard her scream, part pain and part pleasure, just lay there and held her in place. She felt so good, so freaking tight around him, heard her sigh softly as she adjusted to the size of him, and started to move slowly, holding her hips, keeping control. "Sit up Ella." he growled a few minutes later when she was moving with him, moaning softly all pleasure in those moans "I want to see all of you." and he did, watched as she pushed herself up so she was sitting on him, saw a flicker of pain cross her face as the change of position pushed him slightly deeper inside of her, then it passed

"Oh, Goddess Terence," she gasped down at him, all pleasure and desire in her voice as she looked down at him.

"Take it slow Ella." he encouraged her, as she started to move up and down.

"Oh it feels so good." she moaned and he watched as her head fell back and smiled, slid his hands up to find the zip on her dress and pulled it down, and then she was pulling off her own dress, stared right down at him "Touch me Terence." she begged.

His hands were on her, sliding up her sides as she moved up and down on him, taking all of him, long, slow, deep thrusts. Goddess he'd known it was going to be good. Cupped both her breasts, caressing them, teasing her hardened nipples, smelt her arousal thicken around him, she was perfect, everything about her body was freaking perfect. She fit him like a glove and his hands moulded around her breasts like they were made for touching her.

Watched her as she took him, started moving faster, gasping his name. Her hands suddenly on his waist and her eyes met his, she smiled down at him "Fucking perfect." He growled up at her, reached up, grabbed a fistful of her raven hair and brought her mouth to his, slid his other hand down her body and stroked firmly over her clit, she

cried out right into his mouth and suddenly picked up the pace, kept touching her rubbing her clit until she was riding him hard and fast he could feel it she was almost there.

“Terence,” she cried out, “I’m cumming.”

He growled loved hearing her telling him that. “Cum for me Ella.” his voice deep and husky, right in her ear, pinched her clit gently and a scream burst from her and she was there, cumming all around him. He rolled them over, he wasn’t even close to being done, he wanted more of her.

His mouth found her neck as he started to move, taking full control and rolling her through her orgasm and right into a second one, loved feeling her tight pussy, fluttering uncontrollably around his cock, loved hearing her scream his name, slid his hands down her body and grabbed her thighs and pulled them up “More Ella, I want more.” he told her in a deep desire filled growl, he didn’t want to stop.

“Yes.” she cried out, matching his thrusts eagerly now.

Goddess she was taking all of him and loving it, pushed her legs up until they were over his shoulders, pushed in deeper and harder, holding himself above her, watching her as he thrust faster and harder “Fuck.” he growled down at her, she was amazing, hearing her gasps and moans of pleasure urged him on to please her more, saw her hand curl in the sheets of his bed by her head and lost complete control, slammed in and out of her.

Taking what he had always wanted, he rode the high of her arousal all around him, drowned in her screams of pleasure as another orgasm ripped through her body. Then he was out of her and flipping her over, yanked her up onto all fours and thrusting back inside of her, harder and faster, his hands found hers, laced his fingers with hers as he raced towards his own orgasm, her body beneath his, thrusting just as hard back against him crying out his name as she came once more time for him, slammed himself home, buried deep inside of her as he cum hard, his seed milked out of him, every last drop by her tight pussy fluttering and clamping around him in waves of utter bliss.

Pressed her whole body down into the mattress and lay there on top of her. “Fuck Ella,” he groaned.

“Goddess Terence,” she gasped breathlessly, “You’re amazing.”

T.J. smiled and bit her playfully on her shoulder. “You’re fucking amazing.”

He was going to want to do this every damned day, might just have to go again in a minute. Growled deep and huskily into her neck, oh, hell he was definitely going to have her again, heard her chuckle some what breathlessly “Already?”

“Mm.” he knew he should let her rest but, hell, neither of them were getting any sleep for the rest of the night. “My needs run deep, Ella.” he sighed, hoped she would want to go again, wouldn’t push it, if she didn’t, he was a lot to handle and he’d not gone easy on her, likely wasn’t going to a second time either.

“Good.” she giggled, then was wriggling underneath him, until he was up and out of her, not what he wanted, he had been damn comfortable still inside of her. She rolled over and looked right up at him. “I want all of you Terence, I mean that.” slid a hand up his arm and across his shoulder around his neck and pulled his mouth down to hers.

He allowed himself to settle between her thighs, felt her legs wrap around him and growled softly into her mouth, grabbed her toned ass, pulled his mouth from hers and looked right into her blue eyes, could see the desire in them, “I can get very needy, aggressive even Ella. Tell me to stop if I get too much for you.”

“I can handle you. It’s all I’ve ever wanted, Terence. Just you.” she whispered as her body started moving against his.

“Cole is going to kill me.” he snorted, “Because you’re mine now.” his mouth found hers, he was never letting her go now. She would be in his bed always, pulled his mouth from hers and looked down at her a grin on his face. “Multiples baby, that’s what I want to give you.” and then his mouth was moving down her body, trailing hot kisses, over her breasts leaving deep dark love bites on her gorgeous breast, kissed and nipped his way down her body till he found her sweet wet pussy aching for the eating, buried his face right between her thighs, tasting every inch of her, till she was a twitching, gasping, then howling mess before him, begging for him, desperate for him to fill her completely.

Looked right down at her as he buried himself deep inside of her, she took him all, her whole body arched up to meet his thrust, and that cry of pleasure that came with it music to his ears, he was never going to stop wanting her, never going to tire of listening to her scream with pleasure.

Chapter 77 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

Jo-anne woke to find Luna Natalia sitting on the side of her bed, a hand on her shoulder. She looked around, knew West and T.J. had been in here when she’d fallen asleep. No longer here, he’d told her she’d likely wake up to his mother.

“Morning sweetheart.”

“Morning.” Jo-anne returned as she sat up in the bed.

“How are you feeling?”

“Honestly, I don’t know,” Jo-anne admitted to her.

She had a lot to take in; what Karen had told her, how it had been Karen who’d done that hideous thing to her and West. That she had been so angered by the woman’s tale, not just angry for herself, but for West too, so very angry she’d felt something bubble up inside her, so white hot and then suddenly she’d raged and snapped that woman’s neck. Killed her dead and right in front of her mate. She hadn’t even cared she’d done it at the time, did she care now? No, was the answer. She had orchestrated the whole thing, stood and watched, stated she had enjoyed watching, she was a terrible person. T.J. or West would have killed her for it, likely his mother and father as well.

Karen had also stabbed her, right through the chest with a silver dagger, all because she had some delusional belief that Jo-anne was going to kill Heath. Unlikely to happen, they may not be blood bonded anymore, but she still had all them memories of him as her dad. Still now, even after what he’d done, she didn’t want him to die. But was likely going to.

Then she had died, let go, to be with Clova forever with the moon goddess watching over them until she decided to allow them to be reborn, she guessed. Only to meet Selena herself, finding out T.J. was mateless because of her, because she had been born. So cruel.

Then woken up to find not just West was her Mate, but also Alpha Jayden, so confused about that. Then Alpha Jayden trying to Mark her against her will. It really was a lot for one person to absorb and it all happened in the space of just a few hours.

When she really thought about it, what her most pressing need was, it was T.J., she needed to make that right, had to figure out what choice and then make the right decision to free him of her, to give him a Mate. A choice she would actually get to make for him, it was obvious to her Ella was the choice. Now she had to figure out what the question was. Only one could be happy. One what? It was too vague, it was like a riddle, she supposed, this was not easy at all. She had been warned and accepted it anyway. To save T.J. a life of loneliness.

Jo-anne’s eyes fell away from the Luna, “I’m very confused and so much is going on.” she shook her head.

“I imagine so. But sweetheart, why do you look so very sad? A Mate is a good thing.”

Jo-anne didn’t look at her, it wasn’t having two Mates that was hurting her, it was T.J.’s fate that weighed heavily on her.

“Jo-anne, just tell me. Better to let it out, than hold it in.”

She knew the Luna was right, “I died.” she said softly.

"I know, but you're alright now. West and T.J. resuscitate you."

"No they didn't" she shook her slowly, "The moon Goddess sent me back."

"You saw Selena?" she sounded somewhat shocked.

Jo-anne finally lifted her eyes to meet Luna Natalia's, nodded her head, couldn't stop the tears from brimming at the pain she felt for him, "T.J. is mateless, always will be, because of me."

"Sweetheart, I'm sure that's not true," she offered, trying to console her.

"It is, she told me. To be my protector, she had to strip him of his mate." her tears fell down her cheeks and a sob escaped her "I don't want that." she cried suddenly, torrents of tears washing down her face, as sobs wracked her body once more.

Found herself in the Luna's arms, hugged the woman back and just sobbed into her for a long time. The Luna didn't try and stop her tears, just let her cry it all out, then looked down at her and sighed a little heavily "Okay, why did Selena send you back?"

"I begged her to give T.J. a Mate, to find a way."

"And?"

"And she said to me, coming back would not be easy for me, but if I made the right decision, the right choice, I could choose a Mate for him."

"Interesting. What's the choice you have to make?"

Jo-anne shook her head "I don't know, she wouldn't tell me. Only stated it would be hard and only one could be happy, but that my choice would affect many people," she sighed, "that maybe everyone could be happy, if everything was revealed. I don't understand what that means, it makes no sense to me."

"Not very helpful, but I guess it's all we have to go on. That it would have to be difficult in order for her to grant him a Mate after stripping him of one."

"Not even my death would have resolved it, still would have been Mateless. I came back Luna, not to be given a Mate, but for T.J. to fix this for him, I don't want him to be alone forever."

The Luna looked at her for a long time in silence, then sighed "Only one can be happy? That could mean either of your Mates."

"I don't think it's that." Jo-anne shook her head "only one of them will get me anyway, so that would mean only one of them would be happy anyway, too easy."

“So what then?”

“I don’t know...maybe I have to choose between me and T.J. only one of us can be happy.”

“No, I don’t think that is it either. Selena would know you, you’d choose T.J. in a millisecond.”

Jo-anne nodded, she would indeed choose T.J.

“Well sweetheart, we’ll have to think about that one then. See what we can come up with. It might take a few days.”

Jo-anne had no idea, when her choice would have to be made, or who or what it referred to. “I have to figure it out. I won’t let T.J. be Mateless.” she stated firmly.

“Alright.” the Luna nodded “I will help you as much as I can. But firstly sweetheart we have to sort out your two Mates, West or Jayden.”

Jo-anne didn’t really want to have to think about that right now, shook her head no, “T.J. has to come first.”

“What if that is the wrong choice? Selena would know you would put off your own happiness for T.J. a hard decision, might mean you have to choose yourself over him.”

“I don’t know Luna. I...I don’t know.” Jo-anne had no idea what she was supposed to do.

“Leave T.J. for the moment, the man is currently happy.” she smirked a little, “so let’s talk about your Mates, do you have a preference?”

“What? Um not really.” she admitted, her and West had not worked the first time and Alpha Jayden had tried to Mark her when she had not wanted him to, there was also that Clova was very happy with Volt and didn’t seem to like Loch, also that Jayden had chastised her and told her wolf to stay in line. Clova was a good wolf, always had been, didn’t need to be chastised. They may be her Mate too, but she had another. One that had done nothing but hug and hold her since she’d found out. It was too confusing.

“You might need to really think about it.”

Jo-anne was already thinking about it, it just wasn’t easy.

“So I have laid down some rules already, though Alpha Jayden has yet to see my wrath over trying to Mark you last night. You, Jo-anne get to make this decision, not West and not Jayden. Who you do not choose has to accept it and move on. Though from what I read last night of these situations in my library, when you do choose one, the other

should be released without any pain. So rejecting one for the other need not worry you, the other will be just fine.”

“Alright, that’s good to know. Anything else?”

“Yes, for your own safety during this time, there will be no being alone with either of them, a chaperone will be with you at all times.” she shook her head and huffed “Alpha wolves tend to be very possessive creatures...will want to claim what is theirs and getting you alone will likely be something they will both want to do, to seduce you into letting them Mark you.”

Jo-anne nodded, she knew they could be possessive, most Alpha’s were extremely protective, almost to the point of being overbearing, that thought stopped her. She frowned for a minute as she realised West had been like that for weeks now, looked right at the Luna. “How long as West known, what I was to him?”

“A few weeks, I believe.” she answered right away, no secret she guessed.

“Well that kind of explains a lot,” she murmured, thinking back to his instance on her being here, getting really angry when she told him she would leave, all the escorting around the pack by his top war general. Goddess, she was so bloody blind. When she thought about it, even Ella, Ava and Sonja had laughed when she stated she wasn’t his mate anymore, ‘could’ve fooled us.” they’d laughed.

“Yes it does.” the Luna chuckled “Though you have made him happy, he smiles quite a bit now, seen it on many occasions, even pack members are talking about him seeming happier.”

“When did you know?” she asked. She had not missed the Luna’s chuckle about it.

“Oh,” she waved her hand in the air “the moment he up ended his office desk when he realised you left to go to Korea. Flipped that desk clean over.” she laughed “nothing sets and Alpha off like the running away of his Mate,” she grinned, “I actually made Damien so mad he not only flipped his desk over, his wolf Tucker, picked it up and threw it out the window. What can I say, like father, like son.”

Jo-anne smiled. “What did you do?”

“Oh, I kissed another. I didn’t know he was my Mate, but he knew. Went ballistic apparently, they still make fun of him for it.”

“Did you get in trouble?”

“Oh, I was tethered to him for like a week, a very interesting week it was too.” she winked at Jo-anne seemed fully amused. “It was the week before my 18th birthday and the full moon was due just 2 days later. Used that tether to keep me away from boys.”

she snort, “didn’t stop me winking or throwing around lewd comments at the other boys, ticked him right off, but I did enjoy being punished by him.” she burst out laughing. “It was a very fun week for me. Apparently not so much for him.”

Jo-anne shook her head and chuckled softly.

“Well sweetheart, enough about me and Damien, back to you, West and Jayden. What do you think?”

Jo-anne sighed she didn’t know, Jayden was an unknown man to her, and she’d not been able to make West happy and she had tried to for that first year. But the Luna said he’d known for a few weeks now. She frowned, he’d Mated her only a week ago, He’d known then what she was to him. Bloody knotted her. Well, that did explain that she guessed, and his statement that he didn’t want to take it back.

“What?” the Luna suddenly asked.

“N...Nothing, don’t worry about it.”

“Spill it, I’m the Luna.”

“I don’t think you want to know,” she bit her lower lip.

“Ah, so you and West have...”

“Goddess, how does everyone just pick that, is it written on my face?”

Luna Natalia chuckled, “No it’s not. But I know you, you’re not the type of girl to sleep around, limits the options, connect the dots and” she shrugged, “When may I ask?”

“Last week, so after he knew, but I didn’t know.”

Again the Luna chuckled, “Cheeky son of mine, couldn’t keep his paws to himself. Very naughty. Do you want me to go and beat him for you?”

Jo-anne snorted “No, not in your condition.”

“Oh, you will learn, that’s the best time, can’t even get mad at you when you are with a pup.” she grinned right at her “So now where feeling better, let’s get you up and dressed. We’ll have breakfast and then see both your Mates. All visits with them will be in my office or the private dining room.”

“Alright,” and she did feel a bit better.

“We’ll lay down some proper rules to keep them under control.”

“You mean not kill each other.” Jo-anne sighed as she got out of bed.

“Yes.”

It was going to be a long day, she supposed. Wondered absently if the Luna had told Damien or West the happy news about her pup yet. Got dressed in a simple peach coloured summer dress and a pair of ballet flats. Stepped out of her room to find not just Luna Natalia waiting on her, but Beta Ben and Ricky, Wests Gamma. She looked from one to the other.

“It’s alright, you will be escorted everywhere, one person from each of your Alpha Mate’s pack, something both West and Jayden have agreed on already.” the Luna informed her.

“Luna.” Ricky bowed his head slightly to her, showing his respect.

“She’s not your Luna yet.” Beta Ben snapped at him, sounded very angry.

“Actually, Jo-anne was Mated to West before, and is and always will be a Luna Ranked wolf, so I may address her by her title, anytime I see fit.” Ricky shot back at him just as angry.

“Enough boys” Luna Natalia, chastised the both of them, slipped her arm through Jo-anne’s and walked her off to the second floor where her office was, and breakfast was waiting for them.

Jo-anne sat on the Luna’s couch in her office and watched her berate Alpha Jayden for his poor behaviour, and treatment of his Mate. His lack of respect for her other Mate and disappointment in his lack of respect for the woman who might or might not choose him as her Mate. Yelled at him about the fact that he had broken the agreement made to not mark her and allow Jo-anne to choose for herself, that it was unacceptable behaviour to take that choice away from her.

When she stated, if she was Jo-anne she would reject him for what he did, Jayden did not like it all and snarled right at her, which saw West get to his feet, but it was the massive growl that ripped out of Clova that drew everyone’s attention. Very loud and so very aggressive.

Clova not only surfaced so fast that it shocked Jo-anne, she shot herself between Jayden and the Luna. Felt Luna Natalia’s hand on her shoulder, but Clova was not going to back down. Unknownst to the whole room, her Luna was with pup and a threat to her was also a threat to her unborn pup.

Clova, it seemed, was having none of that, Alpha Jayden was staring right at her, his eyes more than wide, even Jo-anne could feel the heat rolling off of her, her anger was boiling inside them hot like white fire.

“Calm down sweetheart, I can handle an Alpha, Mated to one myself.”

“Back off.” Clova snarled right at Alpha Jayden, uncaring that he was one of her Mates. She did not like the threat he was posing. He took a step back. “Apologise.” she growled low and menacingly.

Saw his wolf, Loch, surface and snapped their hands down and all her claws were out and shew was suddenly ready to fight him. Jo-anne panicked, they had no fighting experience, that though did not seem to bother Clova, Jo-anne was getting the distinct impression Clova was of the opinion she could kill him and easily so.

“Shh...” it was West, he had stepped right between Clova and Loch, who was all on the surface now, unhappy about the threat she posed to him and his human counterpart.

West reached out towards her, both hands open in a non-threatening gesture. “Calm down Clova.” his voice was soft and gentle. “everything is okay.”

Clova looked right at him, growled right at him too.

“Shh..mothers alright, calm down Clova.”

Clova looked passed him to Jayden and glared right at him and his wolf, who after a moment receded and it was Jayden just watching her now. He seemed more than curious, Clova snorted angrily and then receded away to the back of Jo-anne’s mind. Jo-anne looked from West to Jayden. She was not going to apologise for Clova’s behaviour they did not know the whole truth. Turned to her Luna.

“Alpha Damien, should be in this room.”

“I’m fine sweetheart.”

“Please, Clova would be more comfortable if he was here now.”

“Alright.” she nodded.

Jo-anne watched as the Luna’s eyes glassed over for a moment, then returned to normal. “He’s on his way.”

West touched her arm gently. “Come sit back down.” he motioned her back to the couch.

Alpha Damien strolled into the office a few minutes later, smiled right at her and sat down next to her “What’s wrong my child?”

She frowned right at him, clearly he still didn’t know “I just...Clova wants you here. Trusts you.”

“Alright.” he nodded to her and then he made himself comfortable on the couch next to her.

She did not look at either West or Jayden, while rules were laid out, looked around the room at one point and realised T.J. was not here at all, frowned.

He was always around, always with West.

She could hear the two of them baiting each other over her, didn’t really care for it, stood up and walked out of the room, glanced down the hall in both directions looking for him. It was odd that he was not here.

“What’s wrong, Luna?” Ricky asked her.

“T.J.’s not here.” she told him.

“Sleeping still, I believe,” he answered her.

“Oh.” she guessed he’d had a long night, wouldn’t have gone to bed until after she had fallen asleep, didn’t like that he wasn’t here though, stepped away from the Luna’s office.

“Jo-anne sweetheart, where are you going?” it was Luna Natalia.

“Huh?” she turned to look at her and found four sets of eyes on her. “Oh,” she’d been more concerned about T.J. not being here that she’d actually forgotten for a moment she was supposed to be in that room. “You don’t need me in there. Let them argue without me, about the rules, I don’t care for it at all.” Then she turned and left, headed for her room, left them all in stunned silence.

Heard Ricky chuckle as he followed her.

Heard Beta Ben snap “its not funny.”

Jo-anne turned and looked at the two of them, sighed. “I don’t want either of you following me. Go away.”

“That is not going to happen.” Beta Ben stated flatly.

“I can order you to go away if you like.” she shot at him and his tone, and she actually could. She was a Luna ranked wolf, was technically still one apparently, and both her prospective Mate’s were Alpha’s, so still going to be one. Though the way the two of them were arguing, didn’t sit well with her, she hated the atmosphere like a quiet, peaceful lifestyle, which was what she’d had up until a month ago.

“Where is Oliver and his team?”

“Oliver was outside your room last night, so sleeping now.” Ricky informed her.

“I’m used to them. Don’t take offence, but I’d rather have them.” not only did his team not interact with her, they didn’t stand on top of her. Stood back and gave her space, unlike Ben and Ricky who were only two steps behind her.

“None taken Luna, and when I am not here, one of them will be.”

Jo-anne nodded and returned to her room, sank down on her couch. West and Jayden, she realised, were not her most pressing concern. She knew on a deeper level she should be feeling all lovey and smitten with one of them or both of them, but although she could smell them and recognise them as her Mates, her pull towards them was overlaid by her predicament with T.J., it was out weighing everything else.

If they didn’t like it, they could either lump it or reject her.

Chapter 78 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

His mother’s voice woke him and it was barely 8am. He dragged his tired ass out of his bed and stood under his shower, let the hot water just try and sooth him. Yesterday's events had nearly killed him, and now he had to deal with Jo-anne having a second Mate. He sighed, could his life get any harder?

He didn’t understand what he’d heard about why Karen had done that crap to them, she had heard it first hand, reacted as he would have, killed the woman. He was glad she was dead. But he had not wanted Jo-anne to do that. She was such a gentle soul, he’d never want her to have to do anything like that. Hoped she could handle the feeling afterwards.

He was used to killing other wolves, was his job to protect this pack, had been defending it from rogues, as well as other packs, since he had shifted at 16, fighting along side his father.

Like any Alpha would. But Jo-anne never had to do anything like that. He wondered if she was coping, hoped she was. He wanted to talk to her about everything Karen had said, but didn’t want to bring it up at the same time. They both now knew what she had gone through and he did not want her trying to relive it, he didn't want to relive it.

Sighed, turned the water off, got out, he would leave it for now. If she wanted to talk about it and brought it up, he would let her. Shaved and dressed in light grey slacks and a white short sleeve dress shirt. Fixed his hair, looked at it and wondered if she liked his new hair cut or if she would prefer it to go back to the standard short back and sides. He’d have to ask her at some point.

Was pulling on shoes when his mother linked him again, told him not to rush to go and have breakfast. Jo-anne was a bit upset asked him to leave it, right away, and severed the link. He did not like that he couldn't go down there and hold her, like he had done last night, but his mother was there and he knew she would not leave.

Was a bloody good Luna to this pack, still made daily visits to that young pregnant she-wolf who'd lost her Mate a month ago. Didn't lose the pup, which was good. His mother was there helping her through her time of grief, trying to bring her out of the house and get her to return to some semblance of normal pack life, though it could take a good while. She was not giving up.

He tried to mind-link T.J. and got a very abrupt 'not now.' reply from the man, then the link was severed. West nearly laughed. He could feel through the link, that the man was clearly not alone, though usually he'd just state give me like and throw a number of minutes at him. Interesting, he thought, wondered if he'd found something to sate his particular needs.

Grabbed food in the pack-house dining hall, breakfast would run til nearly 10 this morning, with all the other packs here, and those that were Mated off would likely sleep in, and want a late breakfast.

Ricky was at Jo-anne's door. He'd seen that when he had walked down the stairs, as was Beta Ben, he knew Jayden was still in the pack hospital. Patterson would alert him the minute he was released. He wondered how the man's Beta felt about it. He'd not been in the hospital last night, Jayden had gone alone.

Cole was sitting at his table looking more than pissed off about something. West sat down and sipped his double espresso, was likely going to need it to get through the day, looked right at his Delta, a raised eyebrow "Ella didn't come home last night." he practically snarled at West.

"T.J. was with Jo-anne and I all night, Cole. Maybe she found her Mate, with in the Pale Moon Pack," West commented.

Cole's glare did not ease, but he nodded and said nothing.

So Ella was not at home, hadn't gone home at all, T.J. did not want to be disturbed. Perhaps, finally, those two had come together. Cole was just going to have to deal with it, if that was the case. T.J. was a loyal man, to any she-wolf he dated. A one woman man at all times. He would make a good mate, even a good boyfriend. West would likely find out what was going on later when T.J. surfaced from his room.

Saw Alpha Anthony walk into the dining hall behind Miranda, had a hand on the back of her neck, looked to marching the girl towards breakfast, she looked somewhat annoyed as did he for that matter. Told her to have breakfast and handed her a plate.

She filled her plate and then turned and looked around the room, spotted him and Cole and walked over to his table to sit, Anthony raised an eyebrow. He likely had no idea it was just what she was used to doing. West didn't stop her.

Anthony sat first, pointed to his lap. "Here," he stated calmly.

"Why, I can sit on a chair by myself, or over there right next to West." she shot at him.

Anthony's eyes moved right to West's as his hand shot out and grabbed her, yanked her down onto his lap. "Eat," he told her.

West raised an eyebrow at the man. That was a bit much, he thought.

"She address's you, very informally Alpha Westley."

"Mm..." West nodded "probably because we've been seeing each other for the past two years, used to it." he answered honestly.

A snarl ripped out of the man, all possessive like even Miranda's eyes widened at the sound he made.

West shook his head, smiled "She is yours." he stated to the man, making sure Anthony knew West was not about to try and claim her for himself.

"You're fucking right she is."

West saw Miranda smirked now. As she ate, bloody woman was going to be a handful for her Mate, she was annoying him on purpose by coming here to sit at West's table, wanting to be punished by him, it seemed.

"I have also found my Mate." he told Anthony to ease the man's worries.

"What? Who?" Miranda gasped, sounded very excited.

"Jo-anne." he told her.

"Oh my goddess, West, that is great. I like her too." then she suddenly frowned up at him "Did you know before?"

He nodded as he drank the last of his espresso.

"That's why you left me weeks ago?"

"Yes," he nodded "When I scented her, I left you."

"You should have just told me." she huffed "I would have accepted him, I'm not mean West."

"Would you have gone back to your father's pack?" he countered, and he didn't think she would have kept his secret, either bloody woman was a chatterbox.

Watched her lean all the way back into her Mate, almost like she needed comfort from him. "No." she shook her head.

Saw Anthony frown at her reaction. West was definitely not wrong, something was really going on there, and not good, whatever it was. "Then best I didn't tell you hey. I think the man would have sent someone to collect you. Likely your brother."

Watched her visibly shudder with what looked like revolution, then muttered, as she buried herself into her Mates chest "I'm never going back."

"No you're not. You're my Luna, you will go home with me, I'll deal with your family later when we get home." slid his arms around her, she did appear to be upset, and his tone was calm and caring, though the look he gave West was a little on the worried and questioning side.

West shrugged and shook his head. He did not know. Miranda had not disclosed what was going on. Some of it, yes, but not the truth that much he was certain of. "Take good care of her Anthony, she'll make you mad, likes to be punished." he smirked at her.

"West!" she yelled at him, all indignant like.

"What just helping you out." he chuckled and saw her jaw nearly drop to the floor. Yes he was smiling and laughing, it was going to take his pack members some getting used to.

"Don't talk about my Mate that way." Anthony frowned at him.

West nodded 'My apologies, Miranda will make a great Luna. She is very sociable and my pack likes her. I'm sure yours will too. A good wolf she is. Congratulations on finding your Mate.'

"Thank you." Anthony nodded.

"I should go though. My Mate, unfortunately, has 2 Mates."

"No way." Miranda shot up at him.

"Yes, I have to..." he shook his head it was not going to be easy to win her over.

“West, let me talk to her, I’m sure I can sway her in your favour. You were a good man to me.”

West snort at her. “Was I? I don’t think so! Jo-anne and I have history.” he touched his neck, the scar from her previous bite, and saw Miranda’s eyes widen again.

“Oh.”

“Good luck Westley.” Alpha Anthony nodded, he understood the meaning, they both did. Mated and rejected once before by the woman. Then fated again to the same woman. It did not happen often. But he was dealing with it, though it would have been easier if the Goddess hadn’t seen fit to gift her to another as well. One that was more aligned to Jo-anne. Challenging him, West thought, to see if he actually did deserve her.

‘West my office, in 15 minutes please, son.’

‘Is she alright, mother?’

‘Better I got her to chuckle at least. Just going to have breakfast. I’ve linked Patterson. He’ll send Jayden now as well.’

‘Alright.’ West acknowledged

He stood 15 minutes later. “Well, it’s time to start fighting for what I want. Please excuse me. Miranda, congratulations, I do hope I will get an invite to your Luna ceremony and I would love to hear about you and Anthony’s first pup. I know mother would too.”

She blushed as Anthony stated “we’ll be working on that pup right away.”

“You’ll get her West, I know you will.” she smiled up at him.

“I hope so.” he nodded and walked away.

Walked into his mother’s office, Ricky and Ben were both standing outside of her office, one on each side of the door, no surprise. He saw her sitting on the couch, her hair was pulled up into a ponytail, made her look quite a bit younger than he knew she was. She was wearing a pastel coloured summer dress and flats, no make-up, he noted, she looked tired still, likely shouldn’t be out of her bed right this minute. He would have to have Patterson convince her bed rest would be a good idea.

He smiled gently at her, was happy to see her, as was Volt. She didn’t smile back, just kind of looked at him, appeared confused, whether it was because he was her Mate and she didn’t know how to feel about that or because she had two Mates he didn’t know. Jayden was not here yet, he noticed.

“How are you feeling?” West asked her, sitting in a chair across from her.

"Alright, I suppose," she answered softly, could at least look at him. Though she'd not really been all that shy in the last month, had looked right at him, right in the eyes many times. She didn't seem afraid of him, or weary even upon coming back, he was hoping that would go in his favour. She'd said she'd gotten past everything, had therapy and was all good. He was really hoping she was.

"Your wounds?"

"Healed."

"I'm glad, I still would like to know why you hurt yourself." and he did want to know. Didn't like at all that she had torn into herself.

"What? When?" his mother gasped, sounded more than horrified.

"When she woke up, mother tore into her own back, yelled at T.J. to go away." his eyes met Jo-anne's "No explanation yet." looked at her in the hope she would be forth coming, but she didn't.

"Oh, I understand." his mother seemed to calm down right away, looking at Jo-anne, whose eyes met hers. "Perfectly acceptable reaction I think."

"To what?" West prompted.

"Not your concern, son. If Jo-anne wishes to disclose it to you, she will."

West's eyes moved back to Jo-anne. She couldn't, it seemed, hold his gaze. He sighed, didn't like it at all, but it was very clear she had confided in his mother, so at least she was talking about it to someone. He didn't want her going all quiet and bottling it up, needed her to talk to someone. His mother was a good choice. Perhaps he could find out later. It did bother him though, and he knew it was bothering T.J. even more.

He stayed in that chair across from Jo-anne as they waited for Alpha Jayden to arrive. It didn't take much longer, appeared to be all healed from his fight with T.J. got his ass kicked by the Pack Beta. That must have been humiliating, West thought, somewhat amused.

He looked right at West, then at Jo-anne sitting opposite him. She did not smile at him either. His mother called the man right to her desk and demanded that he explain himself. It did not seem to West that Jayden wanted to do that. When he did, ticked her off to no end, that no Marking rule had already been in place, West had abided by it. So had Volt actually. His mother was expecting all her rules to be followed.

When she threatened to have him removed from the pack for being an arrogant, selfish ass-hole, his wolf had surfaced and snarled right at her, all Alpha aggression. West had

gotten to his feet instantly ready to stop the man, but Clova beat him to it, shot herself right between his mother and Jayden. Her eyes were really glowing now.

There were waves of heat pouring off of her, as she stood her ground and snarled right at Alpha Jayden, her Alpha Aura was also rolling off of her right at the man. Clova was fully pissed off. Only once had he seen Clova like this, but the threat to her own Luna seemed to set off all her Alpha instincts. This would be the first time Alpha Jayden was getting a good look at Clova, West imagined.

He'd only seen it once himself, when they'd tried to take on T.J., but this West thought was something else entirely. This was Clova in protection mode, not attack mode, seemed to be holding herself in place instead of just charging gun hoe into the fight.

Hearing Clova tell Jayden to "Back off." The man actually had the good sense to do so, he took a full step backward. It was clear he did not know what to expect from her, didn't know about her bloodline, but he was definitely getting a good dose of her Aura rolling at him, not that it was making him even in the slightest bow down, not the full force of it West supposed. If Jayden thought he was going to get a submissive Luna, he was only now just realising how very wrong he was.

"Apologise." Clova growled menacingly at him, then her claws were snapped out of her and West shot between the two of them. She was ready to actively fight Alpha Jayden, as she had been T.J. her claws had come out that day, dug into the ground, in fact, to give her leverage to shoot herself forward, at full wolf speed.

They had needed Belinda that day to calm her wolf down and bring an end to the conflict. West needed to bring an end to this right now. He didn't want her getting hurt and he was pretty darn sure Alpha Jayden, Mate or not, if Clova went him, would defend himself and injure her. West didn't know if he could bring Belinda into this. He had no idea if she was ready to be outed, to the room. Her Luna or her family seriously doubted it.

"Shh..." he would try and calm her first. He knew without a doubt that Clova would not harm Volt, and his wolf was of the same opinion, she might go West himself, but he doubted that she had rubbed herself all over him last night. Happy to see him as her Mate as much as Volt it appeared.

Clova did not look like she was going to back down or settle though, raised his hands up, palms facing her, a non-threatening gesture "Calm down Clova." He kept his voice soft and gentle, though the growl he copped bothered him a little, Volt did not attempt to surface, they both knew it was not them she was mad at.

When she finally did recede and give Jo-anne back control, she looked from him to Jayden and then just turned to his mother, dismissing the both of them nor apologising for her wolf either told his mother Alpha Damien needed to be in the room. That

surprised him more than a little. Told his mother Clova would be more comfortable if he was here.

Nothing else was said until his father turned up, he walked right into the office, smiled at his Mate and then walked right over to the couch and sat down next to Jo-anne and smiled at her, so familiar in the way he addressed her. They had a good relationship, West realised. She had been gone from this pack for 10 years, but still had a proper Alpha, pack member relationship with his father, respect given, he noted on both sides.

West had never asked his father about their meetings, or how often he saw her in the city. Likely more than he thought. West had tried to stay away and ignore it for the most part. But now it seemed, there was still a good firm pack bond between them.

Though West now knew that Jo-anne had been through therapy and it had been his mother and father who had organised it, he had no idea, what kind of relationship was between the three of them. He should probably find out, he thought. Likely it was a very good one, with the way her wolf had reacted to protect his mother and then to request his father.

Jo-anne had also assisted his mother with her Luna duties when asked to do so, and she had done it willingly, he believed. Now Jo-anne was requesting that his father be in the room, Clova more comfortable. Perhaps the three of them were very closely bonded, seemed almost to be a family bond.

West knew both his parents had always liked Jo-anne, but had never really paid any attention to their actual interactions or the relationship between them when she had been his Mate previously. He really was an ass-hole and not just to her, it seemed.

West thought it was a good idea that he would get to spend time with Jo-anne, a private dinner. Jayden did not. His mother offered both of them a meal alone with her, well a chaperoned meal.

West smirked "I don't need a chaperone, I'm not the one who tried to claim her by force."

"I lost control." Jayden snapped at him. "You would to, if she smelled like another."

"She did smell like you, when I took her back to her room, yet I didn't try to take her choice away from her. Just you did that."

"I'm an Alpha and I want what is mine." he shot back.

"She's not yours unless she chooses to be. So far, all I've seen and heard is Clova, doesn't like you at all." West smirked at the man, and it was all he'd seen. Clova was more than happy with Volt though.

“Well, Jo-anne rejected you once before, Westley, she’s likely to just do it again now, isn’t she, so likely to be mine and not yours.”

West’s jaw tightened, he couldn’t get into a fight with this man, but wanted to punch him right in his face, didn’t, it was the truth. She had rejected him and he was worried that she would again, how could he not be? He was an ass-hole, though he was trying to show her he’d changed, could be the kind gentle man she deserved.

“That was a completely different situation, to now.” he grated out.

“Yeah, she was underage at the time. How’d you manage that, by force, Westley?” Jayden smirked right back at him.

“Enough.” his mother snapped at the two of them. They were heading for a full-blown fight and she knew it. “This is not about either of you. And right this minute, neither one of you are showing your Mate a side she might like. Just two egotistical Alpha’s who are being selfish and not even considering her feelings in the matter. Only concerned with pointing out each other’s flaws to her.”

West sighed, she was right, but the man irked him in more ways than one. Looked at Jo-anne, frowned, she didn’t even look like she was listening, appeared to be zoned out, thinking Goddess only knew what.

His mother was right, he was constantly not putting his best foot forward, just reminding her of what Alpha Jayden had done to her and she didn’t need that, already knew what he’d done, wasn’t likely to forget it in a hurry. Considering she’d had to scream out for help to stop it.

He apologised to his mother for his behaviour, noted Alpha Jayden huffed in annoyance and then also apologised. No Alpha likes to apologise, their word was law, and their actions generally un-challengeable, unless in another’s Pack, which he currently was.

West also noted that the man had yet to even apologise to Jo-anne for his actions against her. That was interesting, it’s the first thing he should have done considering she was supposed to be his Mate. Perhaps Jayden was just a charming and laid back man when around others, but this was his true personality. West never put a front on, all his allied packs got the same stern, surly attitude, he was who he was and they just had to deal with it. He knew how to be fair and make a good deal. Was just up front and no nonsense about what he wanted.

When Jo-anne got up and just walked out of the room unannounced, everyone stopped talking and watched her, still seemed to be in her own world to West. She opened the door to the office and stepped out the door, then looked down the hallway, looking for someone or something. Then asked Ricky where T.J. was.

West simply shook his head, those two were so very connected, it didn't really shock him that she was looking for the man. The reaction to him last night obviously passed and now she wanted to see him and likely talk to him about it. It did surprise him a little that she turned to leave altogether though.

His mother questioned her and the look on her face said it all. She had not been here in this room, had indeed been else where, thinking about something else altogether. West sighed, whatever had made her rip into herself last night and shove T.J. away, was bothering her as much as it was T.J., it was clear to him that was what she was thinking about seeing as she asked where the man was.

Not even having two Mate's to sort out seemed more important to her.

Told them as much, she didn't think she needed to be in the room with them while he and Jayden argued it out, then she just turned and walked away down the hall, away from both him and Jayden, backing up her statement.

"Is she honestly just leaving, just like that?" Jayden snapped irritation clear in his voice with her walking away.

West smiled, found it a little funny to be honest, the girl really just did do as she pleased. Ten years on her own, definitely had changed her. "Yes, it's what she does, her own thing."

Jayden may think he was the better match for her, but he did not know her at all. In the past month, West though annoyed with her and had been angered by her himself, had learned she would do as she pleased regardless of consequences, didn't even seem to think about them at all. Just went about doing what she wanted when she wanted to, and was shocked by others' opinions or reactions. Like she didn't expect them to have one at all.

Ten years away from pack life, she was completely used to making her own decisions and not having to report or request permission. If she wanted something, thought about doing something, just got up and did it.

"She needs to come back in here and pick one of us," Alpha Jayden stated flatly.

"There's no rush." West returned, as he watched the man closely.

"Not for you, you're in your own pack. I have to be away from mine, until she makes a decision."

"You can't rush these things, Alpha Jayden." his mother informed him, 'and if you are going to try to do so, you'll likely find yourself rejected."

Alpha Jayden was staring at his mother now. "She won't go back to Westley. Once rejected, always rejected," he snapped.

"I don't know about that," his father interjected with a laugh "I've seen, right here in this pack, wolves reject each other, only to regret it and be drawn back together and end up Mated once more. Can't live without their Mate sometimes. Just need to talk it out mostly."

"Only rarely does that happen." Jayden sounded more annoyed than before "I need this sorted out so I can take her home."

West sighed "I think you are too sure of yourself, Mother, I think Jo-anne should be allowed to have breakfast on her own or with her friends, then lunch and dinner with each of us respectively. What she does with her time between meals should also be up to her. If she wishes to spend that time with either of us to get to know us, we should allow that. A chaperone I believe is a good idea. In case Alpha Jayden decides to just take her against her will. Let me know what Jo-anne wants to do. I am happy to let her choose for herself." He turned to leave his mother's office.

"Oh and you think, acting all, like your okay with this is going to win her?" Jayden bit out. He'd not missed the fact that West once again had stated he wasn't to be trusted around their Mate.

West smiled right at him "You don't know her like I do. She's had a lot going on since she got back. Needs time to think about things, you will just push her away. So be my guest Jayden. I'll stand by and wait for her, with my arms wide open."

"You're an ass-hole at the best of times, Westley. She knows this already."

"Ah, yes she does." West nodded, "but at least she already knows this about me. If I so choose to be, I can be a perfectly charming gentleman."

"So what, your going to act all charming to try and win her?"

"Isn't that what you're doing?" West smiled. "Act charming. I too can play your game. Only I'm not actually playing. Jo-anne is the only one, who can bring out my softer side and I'm going to let her see that. Good luck keeping up your charade. I don't think you're as charming as you always make out you are." he told the man. Calling him on his act, that he had seen up until now.

Then he turned and left his mother's office.

West did no longer believe that Alpha Jayden was the laid back man he'd always shown other packs that he was. There was another side to the man no-one saw, well likely his pack, but they all showed respect to him. West now wondered if the man was a brute

who only acted all polite, laid back and charming when away from his pack or had visitors on his pack. It was possible.

Chapter 79 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

She tried to focus on anything but T.J. and his fate, but it was really hard to do. She tried to go for a walk but found that this was not allowed, apparently, Dr Patterson had come and seen her this morning, checked her over and even pushed a bolus dose of cefazolin, sat and talked with her for the 5 minutes that he pushed the antibiotic into her. Explained to her that he wanted her to have minimal activity over the next two days at least, that he would come here to the room to check on her in the morning and afternoon.

Then, after disposing of the empty syringe into a sharps container he had brought with him, looked right at her. "No more Jo-anne, my heart can't take it. I hate seeing you injured."

"I don't mean to get injured," she told him, and she didn't.

"I know." he'd nodded "So promise me, no going anywhere on your own for now."

She'd snorted at him "Did you not see my guards out there?"

"I did, no sneaking out with Ella." he teased her.

She'd giggled, they had done that a bit when they were 14 and 15. "I won't." she promised him.

"Good, now rest up. I'll want to check your blood work again tomorrow, just to be certain there are no traces of silver left. It does look clear right now, but I want to be absolutely certain. I did not like missing anything yesterday. Made me feel incompetent."

"What did you miss?" Jo-anne asked.

There is a very tiny scar on your heart, that blade nicked your heart. I missed it. I'm sorry."

"Not much you could have done about it." Jo-anne was pretty certain she was supposed to have died, not many got to visit with the moon Goddess herself, or an offer to come back.

"I'm sorry my child," he'd acknowledged again before leaving.

He'd obviously told the guards on the way out of her room, because Ricky had turned her around and told her "Get back to bed, you have to rest." and pushed her back into her room, gently so, then closed her door. So no walk to clear her head.

Jo-anne just stayed in her room, she wasn't all that tired, but did what she was told to do, lay on her bed and stared at the ceiling, trying to figure out how to fix everything her birth had caused. Tried to connect with T.J. a few times, but got the impression the man was sleeping, so left it alone.

Jo-anne knew that his night had been just as traumatic as hers. He'd have felt every injury to her, as well as the pain of her death, she supposed. Poor bastard had suffered a lot for her and he needn't do that anymore. It was not what she wanted for him.

Did not know if she should tell him or not, likely break his heart, but then again it might also free him of his worry about Ella, might allow him to choose her as his Mate on his own. Jo-anne was dead certain that Ella would say yes, nil hesitation. Those two were attracted to each other like they were Mates, just didn't have the bond. Why Cole was getting in the way of them, she couldn't fathom. T.J. would treat her like the princess she would become the moment he marked her.

Sat up and frowned, what if Ella actually was his Mate, his actual Mate, the one the Goddess had stripped him of, got out of bed and prowled around, now that would make their attraction to each other, make way more sense. If she could fix it? Could make the right choice, what ever that meant? She was going to choose Ella for him anyway.

They were the right choice for each other, the only person she would even consider granting T.J. after hearing him talk about her, not a doubt in her mind about that. She really did have to fix this and soon, probably going to have to tell T.J. at this rate, she needed someone to talk to about all this stuff in her head.

What he would think about it or make of it she didn't know. Ella, she knew, would be all over her, eager to help her find out what the moon Goddess had meant and get to the right choice. She was definitely going to have to talk to T.J. had to tell him the truth, regardless of how much it hurt him to hear it, he had a right to know as well.

Jo-anne didn't think that T.J. would object to Ella becoming his Mate, and the Goddess did say she would grant it. So not a chosen Mate, but a Goddess-Gifted Mate, that's got to make him feel better on some level. Surely. The bad news, then the good news.

She was not going to like having the conversation, that much Jo-anne did know, might need the Luna with her, to help her get through it, hated saying those words out loud, that it was her fault. He was Mateless, why had the goddess even granted her one? She frowned. She recalled the Goddess telling her she had so much heart in her, so much forgiveness, and was just like her mother.

Though who her mother was, who knew? abandon and unwanted it seemed, for whatever reason, hadn't even had the chance to ask who her mother was. Too late now. Jo-anne shook her head. Well, she'd never had one before, and not likely to have one in the future either. So it didn't really matter.

Jo-anne guessed the woman had her reasons. It was likely something very terrible. She didn't know any she-wolf that would give up their child, an actual shudder ran through her body, poor woman likely had a horrid tale to tell, and Jo-anne did not want to think about that, let the woman be in peace. Hopefully she had been able to move on. Find a way to get through whatever it was and be happy. That was all that really mattered.

Jo-anne had nice memories of Heath talking about Jo-anne his first Mate, the woman she'd always believed was her mother, worked in the packs armoury along side her own father, who had been the head of that department. Heath had told her, was going to take over from her own father till she had passed away.

Had lots of good memories of how Heath talked about the woman. Jo-anne had always believed that her mother would have loved her, because Heath had always told her how much she would have, how she'd be proud of the young girl she'd grown into. She had never doubted it, not for a single second.

Even now knowing that she didn't have parents, that T.J. had found her in the snow, she would not dishonour the woman she had grown up believing to be her mother or the memories Heath had shared with her. Named after Heath's first mate even, it was a nice thought, a mother who would have loved her

Luna Natalia collected her from her room to go and have lunch with Alpha Jayden. Apparently, some schedule had been worked out for her to get to know him and West. Why West she didn't know, already knew that man, why the Goddess would pair her with him officially as a Goddess-Gifted Mate was a bit confusing, considering their past history. Though he had seemed different last night, actually when she thought about it on more than one occasion he'd been different with her over the past few weeks.

Shook it off.

Clearly, the Goddess had decided not to make her life easy. That was for sure, would be hard to come back, and it was. She had certainly not lied to her or deceived her in anyway. Had told her with complete honesty, it would be difficult and not easy. Left the choice up to her even, and Jo-anne had chosen to come back. Needed to, not even for herself, had come back to figure out a way to help T.J.

Was walked into the private dining room, Alpha Jayden was standing by the table, wearing a three-piece suit, his hair all nicely done. Not how he'd looked this morning. Fancied himself up, she realised. He smiled right at her, and she felt annoyance roll right off of her wolf, seemed still annoyed with the man.

Luna Natalia sat herself down in a chair next to Jo-anne. She did not mind at all, was kind of thankful for the woman being here, didn't really want to be alone with him herself, still felt weary of him and his attempt to Mark her last night. Didn't sit well with her or Clova.

Though she could tell by the look he gave Luna Natalia he was not happy about her being there in the room. Or sitting right next to Jo-anne.

"Hello, Jo-anne."

"Alpha Jayden." she acknowledged him formally. Did not want to be informal with him after last night.

"Please you may call me Jayden, I am your Mate."

Jo-anne nodded but didn't say anything, as she sat herself down.

He sat directly across from her. "Firstly I would like to apologise, for last night, my behaviour was...rude and unacceptable."

"It was," Jo-anne agreed simply.

He frowned right at her "That is not an acceptance of my apology."

"No, it's not." she nodded. If he could not actually say the words 'I'm sorry', she would not actively say she accepted it.

Saw what she thought was a flicker of anger cross his face, but then it was gone, didn't particularly like seeing that, turned to her Luna.

"Jo-anne." Jayden's voice, very stern to the ear.

She turned and looked at him questioningly.

"The Luna is not actually here, just a chaperone. Do not acknowledge her."

That raised her eyebrows, this Alpha was used to having his own way and being the centre of attention, it seemed. Turned back to Luna Natalia "Where's T.J.?" she asked and could feel anger rolling off of Alpha Jayden at her lack of what she could only think was the following of his order. She had, had enough of Alpha's ordering her around and if West was going to be like this too, thinking he could order her about as well, he too would get the same reaction. She was done with that.

"What is it with you and the Beta? Are you two fucking?" he snapped, his anger showing fully.

Brought her eyes back to the man. "What if we are?" she questioned him. Everyone always just presumed that.

"It bloody stops now, is what! You are my Mate, not the Beta's." he retorted.

Turned her eyes back to her, Luna looking for the answer to her question.

Watched the woman's eyes glaze over, frown and then a moment later return to normal "On his way. Though he appears unhappy about it," she snorted, put her hand to her mouth and covered a chuckle.

"I'll accept the blame, for waking him." Jo-anne told her, though that chuckle and the smirk on her face this morning, Jo-anne was thinking the man had not been alone. Oops. But he would forgive her, always did in the end.

"Are you always this rude?" Alpha Jayden grated out.

"No, actually I'm not. But your sudden rise to anger bothers me. And I'd like to have the Packs Beta as security around me where you're concerned, to be totally honest with you." she explained to him.

He was frowning at her now. "You don't trust me!" sounded annoyed.

"Not after what you did last night, no." she admitted truthfully.

His frown deepened. "It won't happen again. I did apologise."

"You did." Jo-anne acknowledged. "Doesn't mean you won't do it again."

"I will not do it again. The choice is yours, I believe, who you choose."

"Mm." she wondered what would happen if she chose neither of them. She had been alone for a long time now, didn't mind it, just Clova for company. Perhaps that was the right choice, she did not need to be in another Mate Bond with an overbearing Mate. Already done that once, didn't particularly relish the idea of doing it again. Heard Clova snort in her mind and got the impression neither did she.

"Would it help if I gave you my word as an Alpha?"

"I don't know, is your word good. I don't know you."

"Why are you being so difficult?" he muttered.

Jo-anne smiled at him "To see what you're really like. I know you'll come in here all dressed up." she indicated to his clothes and hair, "all charm and try to sway me with

your good looks and that smile of yours, be all flirty and funny, but that's not the real you. That's you just trying to get what you want, to make me choose you."

He was staring at her now, more than shocked.

She had spent years in therapy, understanding herself, understanding her wolf. She knew not everyone was who they said they were. Most weren't, in fact, most only showed their true selves when uncomfortable and couldn't hide it. Pushed to the point of not being able to hold onto their mask anymore. She had been just like that.

"Want to know what I learned in the last 5 minutes?"

He ignored her question, "I will tell you anything you want to know about me, Jo-anne, and in return I would expect the same."

T.J. strolled into the room and she turned her eyes on him, his hair was wet still, showered quickly, and it was tied back with two of his own dreadlocks. He was wearing just jeans and a tee-shirt, still barefooted.

"What Jo-Jo, I was sleeping, finally."

Heard the Luna snort, smiled herself. "Nothing, thank you for waking up for me." he had probably been with a she-wolf.

"It's alright Jo-Jo." he nodded and sank down in the chair next to her.

Saw Alpha Jayden frown, also unhappy with this turn of events. "Will you have all these people in here, when you and West sit down?"

Heard T.J. snort, fully amused by the man's annoyance.

"Yes, if that makes you happy. Though I know West. A grumpy possessive man, arrogant even. I know what to expect from him."

A young female omega showed up with their lunch, blinked at seeing T.J. apologised to him for not having a meal. He waved her off and told her not to worry about it.

"Don't mind me, act like I'm not here," T.J. stated as he leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes. Made himself comfortable to nap it seemed.

She looked at Alpha Jayden he still looked unhappy.

Jo-anne picked up her fork, to start eating her lunch, Cajun Lobster Tails, with steamed vegetables on the side. Looked and smelled delicious, told her he'd order the meal for her, thought she might like a taste of the things they ate in his pack. It was as delicious as it smelled.

She found it interesting to talk to him once he calmed himself down, he was happy to discuss art with her, quite freely, and he was knowledgeable when she questioned him about art topics. He told her he owned not just art galleries but a couple of museums and an antiques business. That was really interesting to her. She could and did actually hold a conversation with him, enjoyed talking to him, they even managed to have a laugh and get along.

Her personal interests were aligned with his, it seemed, that shocked her. She had not been expecting that at all. Jo-anne asked him about the art he had given her, how he'd known what to get her.

Told her he'd simply done his research, that her human portfolio had all the information he needed to purchase her the perfect gift, she'd smiled at him.

"Well, thank you. I really do love it. It will go perfectly with the one I already own."

"I'm glad you love it. And I'm certain you'll be able to decorate our pack-house wonderfully, by purchasing fantastic artworks."

"I'm certain you've already done that." Jo-anne chuckled.

"I'm happy for you to change it to your liking," he smiled right at her, did not deny he'd already done so. "May I walk you back to your room?" he asked. Their meal had actually ended nearly an hour ago. They'd been talking about art for a long time, it was really nice.

"I'd like that." she nodded.

Not only Ricky and Ben walked with them, so did the Luna and T.J.

"Are you working on anything right now?" Jayden asked her as they walked back.

"Yes," she nodded.

"May I see it?"

"I'd prefer not," she answered. Did not think it would go down so well with him, seeing as it was a portrait of West. And she was not ready to have him in her room either.

"Then can I ask what it is of?"

"It's a portrait."

"Ah, that is what you do," he nodded.

"It is. And it is what I would like to continue doing as well." she told him, didn't see a problem with it, he was into the arts.

"With all your Luna duties, you may find it hard to find the time," he commented casually.

"Really, so as your Luna, you wouldn't want me to use my given talent?" she questioned him instantly.

"You would be allowed to paint in your free time," he shrugged.

Jo-anne frowned at him. "In my free time?"

"Yes Jo-anne, a Luna has many duties, their lives are very busy, realistically, I'd prefer you use your translation skills rather than your art skills. Would be more beneficial to the pack."

"Mm."

"I'm not saying that you can't paint. It's just unrealistic of you, to think you would be able to do that full time. I'm just trying to be honest with you. Then, once we have a pup, well," he smiled, "you'll be even more busy." he bid her farewell and walked off down the hallway.

Jo-anne frown at that, saw Luna Natalia frown as well, as she leaned on the wall across the hall from her room. T.J. was there, his eyes closed. The man was obviously still tired.

She watched him walk down the hallway, did not much like that he thought her artistic skills could just be dismissed. Surely, as heavily into the arts as he was, he would want her to continue, or encourage it at least. Sighed, wondered if she should ask if he would build her a studio, that would tell her a lot about what he actually expected of her.

"Jo-anne." Luna Natalia

"Mm." she turned her eyes to the woman.

"Dinner with West is at 6. I'll pick you for it."

"Alright." she nodded.

"Does there always need to be a meal involved?"

"Not if you don't want there to be. But today please have dinner with West. We can discuss other options afterwards."

“Alright.”

“Now go and rest as per Patterson’s instructions.”

Jo-anne stepped inside her room, sighed. She did have a lot in common with Jayden, but was he just being charming? The first 5 minutes had shown her his temper. He was quick to anger, it seemed. She already knew he didn’t like to be disrespected, had told her that last night, and even wanted her to control Clova, who actually stayed out of there so called Date. Had stay in the back of her mind.

She’d never had to control Clova, she was a happy wolf, or always had been, though she did not seem comfortable around Alpha Jayden. Did not know him, Jo-anne figured, had snarled at the man and his wolf more than once now.

Though Clova had receded to the back of her mind to allow Jo-anne to have lunch with the man she had been listening just not participating. Thankfully, neither had his wolf Loch, probably a good idea for now.

Chapter 80 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

T.J. strolled into his office and sat down in the chair in front of West’s desk. “Might have a problem, Jo-anne and Jayden do actually get along, really well, West.”

“I knew they would, Terence.” West sighed, there was not much he could do about it.

“The man, however, did not like having me at his lunch with her,” he smiled.

“It’s what she wanted. Doesn’t trust him, mother already told me.” West nodded “Find anything else out.”

“Hmm, sounds like he expects her to get pregnant right away and give up her art career. Jo-Jo didn’t seem impressed. Jayden told her he’d rather use her language skills, tried to reason it out as just being honest with her.”

“Idiot.” West snort “he’s never seen, the woman paint, gets completely lost in her art, makes her happy.”

“You should use that.”

“I’m not going to use it. The art studio is already under way and honestly, Terence, after watching her paint, even for the short time I did.” he smiled, “I’d never take that away from her, kind of like the idea of...” shook his head “let’s not go there.”

T.J. chuckled “Yes, let’s not considering that’s my little sister your talking about.”

West sighed "If I can sway her Terence, who am I going to talk to, about her? It was always you."

"I know, we'll just lay down some new ground rules, I guess. Though, it's not like I haven't heard it all before." he shook his head and then stood up "I'm going back to bed, didn't get much sleep."

West smirked "Ella's missing. According to Cole, you wouldn't happen to know where she is now, would you?"

"Nope." T.J. walked out of the office. West did not miss the smile in the man's voice, about bloody time. Yelled after him to sleep well, heard the man laugh and then returned to his work.

He'd had a busy morning seeing off all the other packs Alpha's, had lost 3 female warriors to the Pale Moon Pack, and gained two of Alpha Anthony's female warriors, both those women covered in tattoos and piercings. He was not a fan but was going to have to deal with it. Alpha Anthony himself had not only gained a Luna but gained and lost quite a few pack members. Not being affiliated, his pack members rarely came into contact with the packs that West knew, a good thing for the man. Might be able to get an alliance out of him, would look into it. Miranda would be able to help sway the man if West couldn't. This was practically her home away from home.

West had seen all three of his sisters were happy, all Marked by their Mates, all excited to be going off to their new pack even Anna. The alliance with their pack had been renewed, his father had worked on the contract himself, West had not even tried to argue about it, they were his daughters and although West was the Alpha, it was his father's right.

The new alliance did have West's seal of approval and held his signature, to state that he, as the Alpha, was happy with it. His father had thrown in some ridiculous clause, obviously his mother's influence, that when the girls were with pups they were to come home every month for 4 days so that they could enjoy the experience of becoming grandparents as much as the boys' parents got to. It was not the same with his other sisters.

His mother had actually cried, upset to see her babies leave the pack and go live else where. It was just he and his parents here now. She was going to be at him to choose a Mate if Jo-anne rejected him again. Felt Volt snort 'Clova loves me.' and it did seem that way to West, but he and Volt both knew that he had never treated Jo-anne right, and that needed to be rectified. Not to mention discussed and apologised for.

Whether Jo-anne could accept it, believe it was another matter still, West could only say he was sorry, truly mean it, which he did. Hope she could accept it. It was of great concern to him at this point.

Jo-anne also now knew, that he'd known for a few weeks that she was his Mate, his mother had told her. Not something he'd approved of, he'd wanted to tell her that himself, but she'd asked apparently and his mother had been honest with her about it. His mother was not dumb, he'd left Miranda and moved into the Alpha suite within a week of bringing her home, spoke volumes to his mother, he guessed.

He'd given Alpha Jayden Jo-anne's file, it was and always had been devoid of their Mate Bond, due to how it had happened and now that he knew the actual truth and so did she, he was still not going to put it in there for all to read. He still did not really know what to make of it, and wanted to talk to her about it.

There had to be others involved, there was no way that one little woman could have hauled his unconscious body out of the pack's territory and to a hotel in the human world by herself. He suspected Heath was in on it, but why would the man do it? It still didn't make sense at all and that poor insane bastard, did not make sense anymore. Since his Mate's death last night he'd been nothing but a sobbing mess. West had given the order to bring him down from the hook. The man was curled up on the floor apparently.

That though brought West to the mans daughters, he had yet to deal with them, knew Jo-anne was not going to like that he had told them to renounce Heath or go rogue. It was going to put another strain on them and their bond likely. Sighed and got up, he was going to have to deal with it.

It was pack business on the bright side, Jayden didn't get a say in him going and talking to her about it. The only perk he had with being one of her Mates, was that if there was pack business that involved her, Jayden couldn't stop him from going to see her or turning up to interfere with it.

Walked out of his office and directly to her room. Beta Ben asked him what he wanted, West technically did not have to answer the man, he was only there to make sure that West didn't go inside the room alone. But answered the man's question.

"To talk to a pack member, she was attacked last night, I as her Alpha, have the right to discuss this with her."

"You must have a chaperone at all times." he had the audacity to snap back at him.

West smiled, "Only for dates, I do believe." a nice little loophole.

Saw the man's eyes glaze over and knew he was reporting to his Alpha. West's intent to see her didn't care. "How is she doing?" he asked Ricky.

"Confused Alpha."

"Expected." he nodded and knocked on the door.

Jo-anne answered the door and looked a bit surprised to see him. "Alpha?"

"West is fine, Jo-anne. I just need to talk to you about Heath's...your sisters."

"Are they in trouble?" he could already hear the concern.

"Perhaps, I need to speak with them, thought you would want to be there for that."

"Patterson said I have to rest in my room a few days."

Ah, he'd nearly forgotten that "I'll have them brought here to you then if you think you're up for it."

She nodded, "How bad is it West."

"Potentially very bad," he sighed,

West saw more than concern, outright worry and a bit of fear mixed in "It's why I would like you there. I'll have them brought up now. It has to be dealt with promptly."

"Alright." she nodded a little solemnly.

"Rest up, I'll come back when they get here."

It took only 30 minutes for the two girls to arrive at the pack-house. Both of them looked red-eyed and scared. Female rogues didn't have the easiest lives, if they could find a way to survive it. West was pretty certain that Jo-anne was going to argue against it, for that very reason.

He motioned for them to follow him, walked all the way to Jo-anne's room, mind-linked his mother to attend. She was the Luna and would want to be there for this, arrived only a minute after he did, frowned at the two girls. Knew it was Karen who had attacked Jo-anne, that Heath had also attacked her.

This was an official traitor to the Pack meeting. Not something that was often done.

They all stepped into Jo-anne's room, not much room for all of them to sit. Pointed to the ground before the couch and both her sisters knelt, knew what he wanted. Saw Jo-anne bite her lip, she knew what this was. Pack laws were drummed into you in school, even held exams on them to make sure that they were all understood.

Waved his mother to the couch, Jo-anne was not going to sit. West could tell from her nervousness, to restless. He sat, just wanted her to be apart of what was going on here, looked right at her.

“Jo-anne, you are aware that both Heath and Karen have now tried to kill you. Both of them are now considered traitors to the pack. For attacking you, my Mate.”

She nodded and he heard both girls gasp and saw them look from him to Jo-anne and back, shock on their faces. The news had not made it to them yet, due to being under house arrest.

“Goddess gifted as of the full moon last night.” he informed them.

“Congratulations Alpha.” Maree nodded.

“You’re both aware that your mother tried to kill Jo-anne, I informed you last night.”

“ Yes.” they both nodded.

“What you don’t know.”

“West, please don’t,” Jo-anne interrupted him. He looked over to her she was shaking her head at him.

“I have to Jo-anne, so that they understand the severity of the situation.” he told her gently “I will not pass judgement without your input, I promise you this.”

She was just staring at him.

He returned his attention to her sisters, “Maree, Marie, your mother’s actions...” he sighed, hated having to say this himself didn’t like the memory of it. “Jo-anne actually died. Terence and I resuscitated her.”

Saw both of their eyes go very wide and turned to look at her, completely shocked. They knew nothing and he knew it. Even saw tears forming in both their eyes. “Both your parents are now considered to be traitors to this Pack now. I gave you a choice last night, renounce your parents. Well, Heath, Karen, your mother is dead as she should be for attacking a Luna Ranked wolf.” he chose his words carefully. He did not want to continually lay claim to her, she had not made up her mind, had only said it earlier so these two girls understood the dire situation they found themselves in. “or go rogue.”

“No.” Jo-anne gasped, “Please West, don’t do that.” she was suddenly standing right in front of them, her hands together begging him “I don’t want that.”

West sighed, this was what he expected of her, too much heart and love in this woman for everyone, even those who harmed her. “Let them choose.” he told her softly, reached out for her hands only to have her take a step back shaking her head.

“I don’t want to loose them, they’re all I have left West.” tears were spilling down her lovely face.

If she only knew, they were not all she had left. She had a brother, two actual blood-related sisters and a mother all inside this pack. Not that he could tell her that. Did not even know if she would ever be told the truth, he wanted her to know, but couldn't tell her. It would hurt T.J.'s mother, her mother and likely her whole family.

"I understand Jo-anne, but the laws state..."

"Make an exception please, I beg of you." she cried, watched as she dropped down on to her knees before him to actually beg.

Sighed and stood up, picked her up off the floor, put her back on her feet and looked down at her. "Shh, they can stay if they renounce Heath, you know this."

"But he's their father, he loves them, really loves them." she was still begging. Staring right up at him, so much sadness in those pretty eyes of hers, it was really hard to look at her like this.

"He was supposed to love you too, Jo-anne, and look what he did to you."

"He's no threat West. The girls aren't going to hurt me." she pleaded with him.

His eyes turned to the girls kneeling on the floor. They were watching the two of them. They had said they would not hurt her. He could Alpha order it, he supposed. Order them to stay away from her, but that might hurt Jo-anne too.

"Then what do you suppose I do, Jo-anne?" he asked, turning his eyes back to hers.

"I don't know." she shook her head slowly.

He sighed once more, he was the Alpha and he had to do what the pack laws stated, "Girls, will you renounce Heath as your kin?"

Jo-anne was gripping his arm tightly, pleading for him not to do it with her eyes as she looked right up into his.

"Yes," they both stated sadly.

"Good." he nodded "That's all I needed to hear. Then saw them going to do it and stopped them. "You don't need to. I will grant Jo-anne's wish for you not to have to do that. Knowing you would have is enough. That being said, your father is likely going to have to be put down at some point. The man is in agony and completely insane." his eyes moved to Jo-anne " You know this, it's what is best for him."

watched her shake her head, still not willing to give him up.

"I want to see him West, before I have to make that decision, to talk to him, please."

"It's not a good idea, Jo-anne, not today at least. He's in mourning over his Mate's death, which I also want to talk to you about, likely tomorrow or the day after."

Watched her nod, "Probably a good idea. Did T.J. tell you?"

"Yes," and he did actually feel sad, knew it was conveyed to her, felt her hold on him change to gentle and saw sadness reflect in her own eyes.

"Girls, you may go. No harm will come to you, be good pack members."

"Yes Alpha." they both nodded and stood up. He saw them both look at Jo-anne.

She let go of his arm and stepped over to them, hugged them both, and saw them hug her back. "I'm sorry about your mum."

"I'm sorry she hurt you." Marie sobbed "I don't understand why."

"Go home, I'll come and check on you in a day or two," she told them.

Was still expecting to be here in a day or two. That was nice to hear, hadn't made her decision yet, watched the two girls leave the room, not just like their mother, it seemed, after all, he would be having them monitored for a while to make sure. Was glad they would renounce their bloodline, would have made them if Jo-anne wasn't so upset about it. If she wasn't his Mate probably would have turned them rogue regardless of her wishes.

"Thank you West." she turned back to him.

"It's alright, you've been through enough. I just needed them to understand how serious this is, they know the pack laws, and I needed to know, that they aren't going to come after you for Karen's death."

"Are you going to tell them it was me?"

"Is that what you want?" he asked in return.

She shook her head. "I think they would understand, but only if the whole truth came out. I don't want them to know that."

"What whole truth?" his mother finally spoke for the first time.

He looked at her. "We'll discuss that with you when Jo-anne and I have talked about it."

"Alright." his mother didn't seem to push the subject, thankfully. Got up and walked over to the portrait of him, "It's coming along good, why so much space here?"

"It's where Miranda was going to go," she shrugged. "Guess I will have to start it over."

"Leave it for now," his mother stated and turned to face her. "Might be able to put yourself there instead." Then she turned to West. "Come on son, let's allow Jo-anne to rest now."

West nodded "I'll see you at dinner."

Watched her nod, he noted she said nothing at all about the portrait and his mother's comments about it. Didn't push it, though he did like the idea, it however was not the pack's tradition. But it could go nicely in their suite if she chose him. Right above the fireplace mantle.

Walked out with his mother, walked her back to her office.

"You did good, son."

"I'm just trying to show her I care about her and what she wants is all."

"I think it conveyed nicely. She's getting to see another side of you. One I think she'll like."

"I hope so." he nodded "I'll see you at dinner."