

## Chapter 81 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

The day had become long and emotionally exhausting. Luna Natalia was walking with her now, so she could go and have dinner with West. Not something that they'd even done during their Mate Bond of their own volition, only ever ate together when his parents had insisted on it or there had been a mating ball going on. Other than that, she always ate on her own or with Ella and her friends.

Oliver and someone she didn't know from Alpha Jayden's pack were walking behind them. He'd stated his name was Andrew. But other than that, he had said nothing. Stepped into the private dining room and the Luna had closed the door behind them, leaving both men outside. It was the Alphas private dining room, likely to be sound-proofed if the door was closed.

Though it had been open when she'd been in here for lunch with Alpha Jayden. Still didn't know what to make of that man.

West was already in the room, still wearing the same clothes as he'd been this morning and for the meeting with her sisters. Had not dressed up like Jayden had, either he didn't see a need to or didn't have the time. She didn't know which. She, too, had not changed and was still wearing the same peach coloured dress as when in the Luna's office that morning.

West was talking with T.J. when she arrived, they were now both looking at her, T.J. was frowning at her. "You look tired," he stated.

"Long day," she answered simply, and it had been, she understood that this had to be sorted out, but she had a lot going on too.

West walked right over to her, tilted her chin up to him and looked right down into her eyes. "Are you feeling alright Jo-anne, do you want me to get Patterson to come see you?"

Her skin was all hot and tingly where his fingers touched her skin, "He's already been twice now West. I'm just tired." she told him.

He nodded and let go of her chin "I'll try not to tax you too much."

"Alright." Jo-anne nodded, she would appreciate that, watched as he pulled out a chair for her, she sat down, and walked around the table to sit opposite her.

T.J. and the Luna she noticed walked to the other end of the room and sat down at the end of the table, West was clearly getting preferential treatment. But then he was the Alpha and she had been Mated to him before. He'd also not tried to Mark her, like Alpha

Jayden had. It was likely that the both of them didn't think he needed the same treatment.

She could feel Clova happy in her mind, sitting wagging her tail a little as she looked at West, pushed forward to show she was there, West smiled right at her, winked at her even "Hey Clova." she purred instantly for him, happy with his greeting of her, so damned loud too.

West chuckled "Guess she likes me."

"Mm. Volt as well." Jo-anne nodded. There was not much she could do about the noise, vibrating her chest, asked Clova to settle down a little, got the distinct impression she didn't want to but did after a minute.

"She's very cute, Volt says. He's excited right now."

"Is he under control?" Jo-anne asked worriedly. She knew what would happen if Volt got out, he'd call to Clova and Mate her is what, and she was too darn tired to deal with that.

"He's fine." West nodded at her.

That was a relief, she thought. Those two were exhausting when they Mated, she had no idea how West had been able to get up shower and continue on with his day, while she'd needed to sleep it off, probably something to do with his Alpha blood.

She did not really know what to say to him, they'd never really gotten along, and this was feeling awkward. Jo-anne knew there was no point in talking to the man. Trying to start a conversation with him in the past had gotten her nowhere. So she just sat there quietly and twiddled her thumbs in her lap.

Heard him sigh "Do you not have anything at all to say? Or perhaps want to ask me?"

Jo-anne shrugged "I know better West. You'll only talk to me if you so choose too."

Heard him sigh again, though this time sounded much heavier. "Is that why you never said a word to me, in Singapore or on the plane home?"

"Yes." she nodded at him "I know better."

"I thought you were ignoring me the whole time. So I didn't say anything either." he told her with a frown.

Jo-anne raised an eyebrow at him. "I also didn't want to incur your wrath either. You were already mad at me."

"I was," he acknowledged "I'm sorry about that. You confuse me a lot."

“Why?”

“That’s a little more difficult to explain.”

“Try me, I’m not stupid. I can understand quite a bit.”

“I know you are not stupid. Multiple degree’s, very bright. Top of all your class. All your classes if I recall correctly.”

“Yes, how’d you know that?” She frowned at him.

West smiled at her, that was going to be hard to get used to. He’d never smiled at her and had been doing that a lot of late. “I kept track of you. Did not interfere in your life. You had a right to be happy.”

“As do you West. It’s why I left.”

“Mm. We can discuss that later. But yes, I understand why you left, and you had every right to. I don’t blame you.”

“Thank you.”. It was good to hear him say that. That he didn’t blame her, that he now understood why she had left. “Why are we doing this West? We did not work out the first time. Why would you even consider it a second time?”

Saw him lean all the way back in his chair, looked more relaxed than he normally would around her. Looked at her for a long quiet moment “I guess we are going to do this now...it’s quite simple. I love you Jo-anne,” he stated simply.

She was frowning deeply now, though Clova was feeling very excited, Jo-anne was just very confused. It made no sense to her at all. He had not loved her before, that much she did know. Not once had he displayed even affection towards her.

“You look confused. I’m not surprised though, I was a right ass-hole, but I had my reasons. Let me explain them to you.”

“Do I want to hear them?” Jo-anne asked. She hadn’t wanted to get into this with him and had told him as much the last time she’d been in his office. Wanted to leave their past exactly as that, their past.

Dinner arrived, roast beef with all the trimmings, it smelled delicious and roused her appetite. West waited for the Omega to leave and close the door behind them. “It’s probably only going to confuse you even more, to be honest, but... you should know the reasons.” He was looking directly at her, watched him take a deep breath in almost looked like he was trying to mentally prepare himself she supposed.

“Jo-anne, I was always attracted to you, that was the problem. You were too young and it did not sit well with me, how we were Mated. How you looked that day. Horrified me actually, very hard for me to deal with, knowing I did that to you.” He shook his head and sounded very sad “I tried not to touch you, managed several months of not touching you at all. If you recall.”

She did recall, was just staring at him now. He had never once told her he’d been attracted to her.

“I know, this comes as a shock.” West nodded “I kept myself distant from you always. Stupid of me I now realise, but I thought. No, I knew, always knew deep down inside you were going to reject me when you turned 18. You asked often enough for me to reject you, for me to know that.”

“I did try West in that first year,” she stated flatly, and she had. His own mother could attest to that.

“I know,” he nodded again. “I am an ass-hole, I ignored it all. Felt like I had to. I had other issues going on as well. One’s that Terence can confirm, if you don’t believe me.”

Jo-anne glanced down the room at T.J., he and the Luna were chatting quietly while eating their dinner, though she was certain they were both listening to the conversation she and West were having. Returned her gaze to West “What were they?”

“Firstly, I never meant to hurt you...I’m sorry, for Alpha Ordering you all the time. I...I didn’t...couldn’t seem to not do that...it’s very confusing even now. I did not want to at the time, even argued with myself not to do it. As I came to our room to do it,” he sighed “Felt compelled to hurt you. I don’t understand it. T.J. always came to stop me, because I yelled at him down the mind-link that I was going to do it, that I needed him to come and stop me. Because I could not stop myself.” his eyes were on hers and he did look apologetic to her. Regretted it, she thought.

“I...I don’t understand West.”

“Neither do I, Jo-anne.” watched him rub his temples. “all I know is it seemed to only happen, after I had a run in with Karen in fact. Everytime I wanted to punish that woman, for some stupid, ridiculous demand she made upon my family. I was compelled to take my anger out on you...I am sorry. I don’t understand it myself, kind of felt like I was going crazy at times. Completely not myself at all.”

Jo-anne put her fork down. She’d been holding it this whole time but had not yet taken a single bite of food. Heath had said she’d sent West insane and now here he was talking about feeling like, he felt being Mated to her had made him crazy. Maybe Heath’s insane ramblings were not so insane. Heath had also told her that West was going to kill her, and he nearly had once. She frowned as thoughts buzzed around inside of her head.

“Do you want to hurt me now?”

“No. I would never hurt you.”

Jo-anne raised an eyebrow at him.

“Honestly, Jo-anne, I just want to mate the hell out of you. Like all the time.”

“That’s just the bond West.” she shook her head.

“Maybe so, but I have no desire to harm you at all.” he repeated himself.

“And all your Alpha Orders on me? What is that then?”

“Me being a possessive ass-hole still. Though I did not scent you out until the day Heath attacked you that first time, and it wasn’t strong, just.” he shrugged “you smelled nice to me and...”

“And?” if he was going to explain himself, he should explain everything at least.

“Then every day after that your scent, got stronger for me. I knew what you were to me a couple of weeks ago.”

She heard T.J. clear his voice and looked down at him, he was staring at West, something else was going on, something T.J. knew that she didn’t. She turned her eyes back to West.

He closed his eyes for a minute, drew in a breath and then looked right at her, “I’ve actually know a lot longer than that. Though I convinced myself otherwise.”

“How long? I wasn’t even around West, haven’t laid eyes on you in a decade.”

“Before you rejected me. I scented you out about a week before you turned 18.”

Her eyes were wide now, as she recalled the day she had left and rejected him. At times he’d almost seemed to have been pleading with her, she’d not understood him then at all. Just though he was still being possessive and didn’t want to feel the pain of the bond severing.

“You severed that bond, I felt it. I didn’t tell you anything, because you needed to get away from me, I was not good for you. I did not deserve you. I wanted you to be happy, Jo-anne, really truly happy, and I knew I could not give you that happiness...I would like the opportunity to try that now, though, seeing as the Goddess has granted me a chance to be with you. The way it should have been. the right way.”

“It might not work West, might just go right back to what it was.”

"I don't think it will, Jo-anne." he shook his head.

"Why?"

"Because Karen is dead. I only ever wanted to hurt you, when I wanted to hurt her...When I accepted you as a pack member, I actually felt a wave of relief wash over me. Kind of like a calming feeling fell over me. I don't have any desire to hurt you at all."

"Your orders then?"

"To keep you here in the pack, till the full moon. I'm very selfish, Jo-anne. I had to know if we would connect again. Although you rejected me, you had no idea what I was to you at the time. There could still be that connection on your end. I wanted to know if there was hope, I guess. I am a very selfish man, I know. You have no idea just how much of what went on around this pack at my command while I was mated to you. The people trailing you at a distance to make sure no-one ever had the chance to harm you."

"Anything else I should know about back then?" Jo-anne asked, frowning at him.

"Yes," he nodded, "any and every undesirable comment about you from any boy, and there were some not so nice things I can tell you." he sighed "I beat up many a teenage boy over you, in that first 6 months of our Mate Bond. Until they all learned it was a bad idea to even say so much as a harsh word or inappropriate thing about you." He shook his head looked a little angry. She got the feeling there were more than just a few.

"How is it I did not know about all this going on?"

West smiled softly at her "Threat of more punishment, if any of them ever said a word to you, about my behaviour."

"I don't understand you." She shook her head, never had back then. It was completely clear, still didn't now either.

"I don't understand my obsession to hurt you back then. But I did understand my need to protect you...Just couldn't protect you from myself and I did try. Terence can attest to that."

Jo-anne did not know what to say to him at all, did not really know what to make of this conversation. "West you never, not once..."

He cut her off. "I know, I never once did anything nice for you, I do regret that. But again, I did have my reasons."

"Then explain them to me."

"Pick one," he offered, to allow her to choose what she wanted to be explained.

Jo-anne thought about that for a long time. Out of everything he'd said. His possessiveness towards her over the past few weeks, explained a lot. His ordering of her back then, still confused her, but he couldn't even explain that himself, didn't understand it. The day she'd left and his very confused attitude towards her, angry and then almost pleading that was clearer to her now.

Though even now, Jo-anne didn't think she was likely to have cared if he'd told her the truth, back then, that he had scented her out as his Mate. She wouldn't have believed it in all likelihood. And rejected him anyway. Was in no state to be here or be his Mate.

"Last week, you were all over me, hands everywhere." she kept it at that, due to T.J. and his mother being in the room. They didn't need to know all the details of what had happened last time the two of them had wound up in bed.

Saw him smile and nod, likely thinking about it.

"Why did you never touch me like that, back when we were Mated to each other?"

"Because I believed you had the right to keep those things for yourself, to have those first experiences in that department, with someone you wanted to have them with. I did not have the right to take those things away from you. I did not deserve you...but our Bond drove my needs to have you...so I kept it as...I don't know, I guess as basic as sex as it could get. So that one day you could go off and experience the joys and pleasures with someone you chose, not someone you were forcibly mated to." he sighed. "does that help?"

"Did you even enjoy sex with me?" It was something she had always wondered about.

"Goddess yes. It was bloody hard not to touch you, not to have you every day. Clova and Volt, I wanted what they had. But I had no right to have it where you were concerned. You were too young and our Mate Bond...was not something that should have happened the way it did, now we at least know how it happened. I guess we have closure there, though I'm still not." he rubbed his temples "at all happy about how it happened."

"You know?" it was Luna Natalia sounded completely shocked.

"Yes we know, I'll disclose it later." West informed her.

Jo-anne's meal was cold, she had not eaten a single thing, was just trying to absorb what he had told her, it was not easy to do, "You were so cold, all the time."

"I know Jo-anne. I'm sorry about that. But I needed to be. I didn't want you falling for me. I couldn't do that to you. It was not right. I know this is a lot for you to take in, and



that it likely doesn't make sense to you. But everything I did, how I was. It was all to stop me from doing to you things that were not to be done to one so young. Then, when you started asking me to reject you, I felt it was the right thing to do. Though it probably just sounds like a bunch of excuses to you. And likely doesn't feel like the right thing to you."

"No, it doesn't." he was right about that "I wanted you to reject me West, because of the way you treated me."

Saw him sigh again, "A double-edged sword... I am sorry Jo-anne."

Jo-anne stood up and left. She needed to be on her own.

He'd broken her so completely and all because he thought it was the right way to deal with their situation. It had not been the right way.

She walked right to her room, didn't say a single word, there were currently no words to say. How was she supposed to feel about this information? She didn't know. She had already been emotionally exhausted before going to that dinner. Now with all this too, felt like her brain was going to explode. She couldn't handle it anymore, was at her limit and knew it.

Clova was even quite inside her mind. Pensive even, West had hurt Clova with his Alpha orders just as much as he had Jo-anne. She'd nearly lost her wolf altogether because of the way he treated her. Now he claimed he loved her. Did he even know what love was? It was unlikely they would ever work.

She lay down on her bed and hugged her pillow, it was too hard. But she somehow had to find a way through it all. She had two Mate's, neither of them seemed particularly appealing to her right at this minute.

## **Chapter 82 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

West watched as Jo-anne got up and left the dining room, walked away from him. He did not get up and follow her. She was upset and overwhelmed, it was very unlikely that she understood any of what he had said. He didn't even understand his compulsive need to Alpha Order her for the truth all of the time. Though that had seemed to have disappeared with her rejection of him.

Not a day he liked to recall, both he and Volt had been completely torn apart that day. They had known what she was to them, but she had had no idea at all. He'd not told her either. She had to leave him. He knew that even while trying to let her go he'd been arguing with her not to go in some way. Knew he'd not ever deserved her, right now though he wanted her, ached for the woman, a part of him knew he still didn't deserve her, never would in all likelihood.



Pushed his untouched plate away and sighed, no longer hungry at all. At least he had apologised and more than once. He had tried to explain it to her, it was all he could do. If he actually knew and understood that compulsion, it would be so much better. But he didn't, so he couldn't truly explain it to her.

He knew he was still going to have to talk to her about Karen and Heath. That man was still a sobbing mess in the cells, even though Karen's body had been removed now. Even with a fractured mind, his bond had been severed from her and it was killing him. Losing two Mate's was likely going to kill him.

West knew that Jo-anne still wanted to see the man and he would let her, but he would take her himself when she went, wanted to be there for her. The man was not in a good state and despite their blood bond being severed, she still looked at him as her father.

He had to console himself when she walked away from him, that at least he had told her how he felt, though it had completely shocked her. He knew, because of the look she had given him, had been one of complete disbelief, didn't know if he could ever get her to understand or believe him for that matter. It was a lot to take in.

West found his mother sitting across from him, in the very chair Jo-anne had just vacated and knew why she was staring at him. Sighed heavily, he'd yet to even talk to Jo-anne about what Karen had done to them: "It was Karen. She told Jo-anne. Probably knew she was going to die and just wanted to hurt her one last time." He shook his head, he didn't understand some people and their sick twisted needs to hurt others for no reason "Jo-anne killed her for it, directly after she heard."

"How and why?" his mother fished for more information.

"How, drugged us both, then..." he closed his eyes didn't even want to think about it. Felt her hand on his from across the table. Looked at her, saw concern and compassion in her "doused Jo-anne in heat pheromone's, a lot of them, until it send Volt into a mating frenzy. Why?" West shook his head. "I don't know, something about she'd seen Jo-anne kill Heath and wanted to get her out of their house and away from her Mate."

He saw his mother shake her head sadly. She too didn't understand it, it seemed. "I'm sorry son...you said she claimed she saw this."

"Mm." he nodded, and looked at T.J. he'd been there for that conversation.

"A vision I think she meant. It is what Heath says too. He saw Jo-Jo kill Karen and that's why he attacked her, to stop her from harming his Mate." T.J. was standing beside his mother. He shrugged, "A vicious circle."

"Guess Heath got that right in the end though, right." West sighed and rubbed his temples "She has now killed his mate and right before him."

“Do you think she will kill Heath son?”

“No.” West shook his head “I think Jo-anne, knew that she was dying, likely felt it. Her wolf would have known so she would have. Killed Karen for what she did to punish her. No real surprise there mother. Any wolf would do that. I however, don’t think that Karen was alone. There is no way she could pick up my unconscious body and get it to the human world. And upstairs into a second floor hotel room. So the question now becomes who else helped her.”

“I guess, we still have to get to the bottom of that then, son.”

“Heath may know.” T.J. stated “That crazy’ bastard’s ramblings, may not be so unfounded. We need to talk to him again.”

“Agreed, though from all accounts, he’s in no state to talk to anyone, a sobbing mess on the floor.”

“Yes, the death of his second Mate. He might not survive that at all.” his mother nodded.

“And to witness her death himself as he stated he would.” T.J. added.

“Perhaps if Karen hadn’t done this to us. It would never have happened.” West thought out loud, “Perhaps she set it off into motion. I can’t really see Jo-anne killing anyone, not without a real definite cause, and hearing Karen tell her what she had done to her, that day, likely tipped her completely over the edge, I’d say.”

“I was going to do it,” T.J. stated, “but Jo-Jo’s anger built so quickly, then she just snapped, did not like what she heard. The only thing she said afterwards, was to tell West all of it. That he needed to know.”

He watched his mother shake her head slowly, “Even when dying, that girl does not think about herself.” she sighed sadly it seemed, then looked right at West. “Try again West, her heart is full of forgiveness.”

“I don’t know, mother. Perhaps it’s just too much.”

“It is not. That girl would have been your Mate, gifted to you by the Goddess herself at 18, if things had been different West. If none of that had happened to the two of you. She would have been yours then, and I’m sure you two would have been very happy. We can fix this.”

It was a nice thought, not one he’d ever allowed himself to entertain. “But that is not what happened, mother. So it doesn’t matter. Our past can not be changed.”

“No, son it can not...but it can be forgiven, and our Jo-anne is big on forgiveness. Don’t give up yet. Try again with her, there is no rush.”

"There is also no point in dragging out the inevitable either, mother. Alpha Jayden is much more suited to Jo-anne than I am."

"But he is not going to give her what she wants. I can already see that. The man wants a Luna, yes. But one that will do as he tells her to, has already told her she's not likely to be able to paint anymore, once Mated to him. Would you stop her from doing that?"

"No, of course not. It's her passion."

"Then I suggest, West, you start there. Work that angle, I like the girl Westley always did, she'll make me a good daughter, and I'm certain the two of you will have the cutest little pups, for me to spoil."

West rolled his eyes and heard T.J. snort with laughter.

"Mother, you have a one-tracked mind."

"Yes, son I'm a Luna, and babies, mine and not mine, are my thing. Most Luna's love babies. She will be no different."

"I'm not going to just impregnate her if she chooses me mother." he shook his head. She certainly was obsessed with babies.

Saw her burst out laughing, "No son, I'm sure you will keep those paws all to yourself. Your father and I were pregnant with you within two full moons of our Marking and Mating. That man couldn't keep his paws to himself, still bloody can't. You will be no different."

West couldn't help but half smile at her, she was right on that front. Hadn't been able to keep his hands to himself, before she knew what he was to her. Could only imagine it would be harder if she did by some miracle choose him, shook his head and sighed, shifted his thoughts away from that "Terence here, will have a pup before I do."

"What, don't bring me into this."

West snorted "Oh and where is Ella right now?" he put the man on the spot.

"How would I know?" he said, but looked away, a smirk on his face.

"In your bed, I bet. Cole is still looking for her, I believe."

"That girl goes where she wants and does as she pleases." T.J. shrugged.

His mother smiled from one to the other, she was not stupid either, it seemed "You two will likely have pups at the same time." she chuckled and stood up.

"Oh no...West will likely get the first one." T.J. practically drawled out.

"Shut it Terence." West shot right at him.

Saw his mother again look from one to other, registered T.J.'s expression and turned right to West. "Spill it boy. I already know you slept with our Jo-anne."

"I did," he acknowledged, "that is all there is to it."

"Not only slept with her." T.J. snorted, fully amused.

"Shut it or I'll beat you."

"Like you'd win."

His mother was frowning right at him now. "Spit it out son, or I'll get your father to order it out of you."

"It's nothing. Let it go, mother."

"No..." she stared right at him with narrowed eyes "what did you do to that girl..." saw her eyes go really wide. He was going to kill T.J. His mother was a very intuitive woman and rarely missed hidden meanings "You didn't son?"

"I didn't what?" he asked her right back, as though he had no idea of what she was talking about.

"Knot her?" she gasped, leaning forward both hands on the table.

West sighed, he couldn't hide it from her, she would go and get his father and he would order it out of him because he would want to know as well. Bloody T.J. was also going to out him, he could tell by the look on the man's face, it was damned near ready to burst out of him.

"Yes, mother I did." he finally acknowledged her.

"Sweet Goddess, When? What date?"

"Stop planning mother."

"I'm not planning son," she told him as she leaned away from the table, but he could already see it in that tiny smile she was trying to hide.

His mother was bloody itching for a baby to spoil "What colour will you buy mother?" he asked, knowing if she was planning she would not be able to resist answering the question.

"Blue, of course, you'll have a." snapped her hand over her mouth and she was already chuckling outed herself instantly.

"Yes and your brain is not planning you say." West shook his head and rolled his eyes.

"Well son, maybe just a little." she held up her hand to him, her thumb and pointer finger an inch apart."

"Don't go getting your hopes up. It's unlikely to happen."

"Oh, I don't know. That Goddess of ours does love mischief."

West sighed "Loves to punish me mother is all."

She looked right at him. "You have to fight West. No grandchild of mine will be raised away from me."

He snorted right at her "All your grandchildren are being raised away from you."

"You know what I mean, your children." she waved him off. "Patterson could run a test on her quietly. He has her blood already."

"Enough, mother. I mean it." he didn't want Jo-anne being compelled to be stuck with him again. And if there was a child and she found out before she made her decision, he already knew she would not separate him from his child or her child from its father, her choice would be taken away from her.

"You're spoiling my dream West."

"Go let father put paws on you." he waved her out of the room and watched her go with a bounce in her step.

"Did you have to?" he turned his eyes on T.J.

"Yes, I'm on your side West. I don't want Jo-Jo leaving this pack, so I'm helping you, your mother, who now, has the most insistent bee in her bonnet, one that will never stop buzzing now, she's going to help you instead of sitting back and letting things fall as they may."

"It's Jo-anne's choice T.J." he reminded him.

"Yes it is, but she can still be charmed and swept off of her feet in the process of making a decision. You need to pull out all the stops and get your head in the game. I know your heart is in the game West, but your head is not. You're already starting to bottle your own feelings up."

"Don't think I don't want her, Terence, I just think it's not going to be me. Now that she has two Mates its..." he shrugged.

"Then start thinking it will be. Let's get you my little sister. You know she listens to me, I'll spend some time with her, chat casually, be your wing man, so to speak."

"You're nuts, do you know that? You're actively trying to help me into your sister's bed once again."

"I know, but I believe she is meant to be there." he watched the man shrug.

"We'll see Terence."

"Yes we will West." he nodded.

"Ella?" he questioned his friend.

"Exhausted pleasantly so. She crashed out good and proper." he was smiling big.

"And?"

"There will be no other, Cole is going to pitch a fit." he laughed.

"So she satisfied all of your needs. Then?" West smiled at his friend. This would be the first time for that.

"All of them and then some West. I won't be letting her go." he did sound very happy about that. West was happy for the man, "Cole is going to be an issue though."

"Deal with him, I approve of you and Ella." he got up and walked over and clapped the man on his back "Are you going to Mark her?"

"I don't know, she's got a Mate out there somewhere. I want to but might wait a bit."

"How long is a bit?" West wondered out loud.

T.J. shrugged, "A year I guess."

"You idiot. Just walk up there and claim the woman, I doubt she will say no."

"No, its not right." T.J. sighed "A year and if we're still together, she hasn't found her Mate, I will ask her. It's only right to give her the chance to find him."

"Alright." West nodded. He knew T.J. was just doing the right thing by her. "But just so you know, your Alpha approves your chosen Mate already. Have you told Silvia it's over?"

“Thanks West. And yes, first thing. As soon as Ella fell asleep, she was fine with it, told me she was actually with Derrick and had been going to come see me later on anyway. So its all good.”

West was glad there was not going to be any issues there. He did not want that for T.J. or Ella, he also knew Silvia was not serious about the packs Beta, she slept with others.

West headed for his suite, T.J. walked beside him, they were both headed for their rooms, it seemed. West had only gotten 3 and a half hours' sleep and he now doubted T.J. got that at all.

“Sleep well Terence.” he teased the man as he stepped up to his door,

“I will don't you worry.” T.J. grinned right at him.

“Don't starve the girl now either. She has to get out of bed and eat, you know.”

T.J. laughed “I have plenty of food in my suite.” he laughed and stepped into his suite.

West chuckled softly, at least one of them was happy at this moment. Headed for bed, needed to get some sleep. Did not know what to do about Jo-anne. Maybe a clear head from a good night's sleep would help him to think straight. To know what to do.

## **Chapter 83 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

She was up with the sun today, had slept like the dead it seemed. Felt a bit more like her normal self right this minute. Showered and dressed for the day. Pushed open all the curtains and opened all the windows in her room. It was already warm outside, unusual, mornings were usually cool and pleasant, as were the evenings, the perks of living in the mountains.

It was going to be one of the rare super hot days, it seemed. She stepped outside of her room to find Ricky and Ben right there, stood and stared at them for a moment before she remembered that everywhere she was going to go they would go to, it was going to be annoying.

“Breakfast Luna?” Ricky smiled right at her, seemed very happy to her.

“Yes Ricky.” she nodded “Do you have to call me that?” she questioned. It was a bit weird to hear it.

Saw him chuckle “Yes, and I do so enjoy it.” he waved for her to walk ahead of him.



Jo-anne had no idea what her schedule for today was, but figured the Luna would come and tell her, sat down to have breakfast, opted for a plate of cinnamon and blueberry waffles with fresh fruit and freshly whipped cream on the side. Sprinkled some powdered sugar over the top and then added a raspberry syrup too. Was starving, hungry it seemed. But she had not eaten dinner.

Both Ricky and Ben stood just off to the side of the table she was sitting at, wondered if they had had breakfast yet. Likely they would have, “eat boys.” she told them.

Both informed her they’d already eaten as she had suspected, but did see Ricky walk over and get coffee for himself. Seemed relaxed and comfortable watching over her. Knew it was early, most would be having a lazy day, but the Alpha and his Unit would be out training today. Looked at Ricky, it was Sunday. “No training for you today?” she queried.

“Not at this point, my duty as the Gamma comes first, Luna.”

“Oh, everyone else?”

“I believe West, Terence and Cole are all training right this minute.”

“Do I have any restrictions other than the Doc’s rest order?” she asked him, he would know.

“Not as far as I am aware. What would you like to do? I’m certain that West will allow you to do whatever your heart desires.”

She was looking at him now, raised eyebrows, that would be new, “Nothing, I was just curious is all.” she turned to eat her breakfast.

“Where is Ella? I thought I would have seen her yesterday. She’s not here this morning either.” looked right at him. “Did she find her mate?” was a bit worried. What if she’d found her Mate in someone from Pale Moon Pack, who was she to gift to Terence?

“Not as far as I am aware.” he commented, but said no more.

‘Ella.’ she tried to connect with her via the mind-link.

‘Hey girl, what are you up to?’

‘Breakfast, you?’

‘Coming down for breakfast now. See you in a minute. I’m glad you’re okay.’

“ Thanks, see you soon.”

Ella sank down in the chair next to her, a full plate of bacon, eggs, hash browns, toast and two apple danishes and a croissant already in her mouth, smiled right at her, then giggled softly “I’m starving.”

“Why?”

“Nothing.” but there was happiness in the woman, practically was radiating off of her “I hear you have two mates.”

“Don’t remind me...Why? I have no idea, more of a pain in the proverbial than I blessing.” she shook her head. “But I was hoping to talk to you about some stuff.”

“Sure.” she looked at Ricky and Ben “They going to be hanging around us all day?”

“Yes. Not a moment to myself since getting two Mates.” she sighed and shook her head.

Ella grinned at her, a little mischievously, before turning to eat her breakfast. ‘We could ditch them.’ she giggled down the mind-link.

‘I think I would get in so much trouble considering what happened, West would go nuts if I suddenly disappeared.’

‘Might end up tethered to him.’ Ella snorted ‘ Now, now, wouldn’t that be fun?’ she laughed.

‘For Clova, I imagine a lot of fun, would spend the whole time antagonising Volt.’ she snorted and felt Clova wag her tail. ‘Patterson has me on rest for today anyway.’

‘Hmm, well your room is sound proof, so is mine.’

They made their way to Jo-anne’s room and the second the door was closed, Ella grabbed on to her and was squealing with happiness. “Terence is amazing.”

Jo-anne stared at her. “You managed to get him?” she smiled, happy for her friend.

“I did, and oh my Goddess, Jo-anne. That man,” she flopped down on to the couch and sighed dreamily, “I’ve never felt so hungry, needy for a man or goddess that wanton ever. And afterwards...” she sighed “I slept like the dead.” she giggled “once I got to sleep, that was.”

Jo-anne laughed “Well it’s about bloody time.”

“He’s insatiable. I love it. Like he can’t get enough of me.” sighed again softly, this time. “now I understand you. Being exhausted after West.”

Jo-anne laughed softly "That good, huh?"

"Oh my Goddess, Jo-anne, he's a bloody lust-filled machine, that needs no rest." was practically drooling just thinking about it. Jo-anne smiled.

"Been there," she nodded, still smiling. "utter exhaustion follows. Well, it always did for me. West used to get up and go off to Alpha training even after hours of sex."

"Alpha blooded I guess." Ella grinned. "So have you and West since finding out he's your Mate?"

"What? No!"

"Why not? Imagine how much better it will be, now with all that smoking hot tingly Mate bond in full swing.

Jo-anne stared at her. Sex with West the last two times had actually been better than during their Bond and she knew that, but she had not even thought about it. And even now she didn't want to think about it. Also, it probably wasn't a good idea. Likely end up Marked by one of them. No, it was definitely not a good idea, or those two would kill each other. When the other found out, it would start a fight for sure.

"Not a good idea, but I have had to have a meal with both of them yesterday. Didn't really go down so well, they both just end up confusing me."

"Why, I thought Jayden would be all charm, confident and elegant. West well, that's, of course, going to confuse you. But explain it to me."

Jo-anne thought about it for a moment. "Jayden seems nice, and we do have a lot in common, both right into the arts. But I don't know, Clova doesn't seem to like him, doesn't want to interact with him and every time Loch, his wolf appears. Clova acts like he's a threat to us or those around us."

"And he's already tried to Mark you. Terence told me. He does not like the man, Jo-anne." she shook her head and stated "Something is off about him."

She thought so too, hiding something maybe "He's honest with me though. To a point, I'm hearing things I don't particularly like. Trying to be up front with me, I suppose. But..."

"But?"

"He's quick to anger, and told me I have to keep Clova in check. I really don't like that. Clova is usually so gentle, placid even. But lately, I don't know, I feel a change in her. She even runs faster now."

"I did notice that on the pack run." Ella nodded. "But what do you mean by a change in her?"

"I don't know exactly, just feels...stronger, and is really quick to rise to a challenge from another wolf...I don't know, when she's in control she kind of feels like nothing can stop her. She was ready to take on Alpha Jayden yesterday. Like she really wanted to, wasn't even scared that she didn't have any training, of the opinion she could take him. West had to talk her down."

"West talked her down?"

"Yeah, Clova's all happy to have West and Volt as her Mate. Purrs for them all the time, rubbed herself all over him." she shook her head.

"Those two, Clova and Volt, were always hot for each other." Ella nodded. Didn't sound that surprised.

"Yeah. Now, as Goddess-Gifted Mates, goddess help me if they get out. They were insatiable back then, and exhausted me twice last week. I can only imagine what they will be like now." Felt Clova chortle inside her mind.

Ella laughed at her, "Won't be able to walk straight afterwards." she whacked Jo-anne's arm, thought it was completely hilarious it seemed, "So what about West? How's he been with you?"

Jo-anne sighed she was even more confused about him. "Told me he loves me." she shook her head.

"Sweet Goddess really, just like that?"

"Yes, I just kind of stared at him. Didn't know what to say."

"Mm. I get it though. You two were not good back then. That's why you left."

"Yeah," she sighed "I don't know what to do."

"I'd say give it more time. A decision like this, should not be taken lightly, take all the time in the world. Which ever one pushes you to hurry up, is not likely to be the right one. Or that's my opinion, anyway. If they love you, they won't want you to make a rushed decision."

"There's more Ella." Jo-anne sighed "Did T.J. tell you I died?"

"He didn't have to have. I knew you were going to. Broke my heart to see it. I made him promise me, that he wouldn't hurt Karen. He sent me away and told me to go and be

safe. I ran right to his room, didn't want to be alone when I got the news. Knew deep down neither would he, waited for him, to comfort him."

"How did you know?"

"Gut instinct," she shrugged, "not many can survive a silver dagger to the heart, I also know you. You'd never tell anyone if you were dying."

Jo-anne sighed "It was Karen, you know...who did that to West and I back then."

"Stupid bitch," she grated out, "But I hear you killed her."

Jo-anne nodded, "I did." sighed heavily "Ella..."

"What is it, Jo-anne?"

"I need your help, when I died..." she looked at her closest friend, so happy to finally be with T.J. where she belonged. Told her everything about T.J. and what the moon Goddess had told her, then sat and waited for her to react.

It was only a few minutes, "You're going to pick me, right?"

Jo-anne nodded " Yes, out of all of that. That is your one concern."

"I love him, Jo-anne, you know this. So let's get this sorted out and fix it. Get me pen and paper, let's write it all down, work out what your choices could possibly be and narrow down the odds a little if we can."

"You took it rather well," Jo-anne stated as she got the pen and paper.

"He's Mate-less, I'm Mate-less and I have only ever really wanted him and after having him..." she sighed "There will be no other. I only want him from now on...with how it felt to be with him. Maybe we were supposed to be Mates. Maybe I was the one stripped from him."

"That's actually what I thought," Jo-anne admitted with a nod "So let's get him gifted back to you."

"Agreed...though." she giggled, "the sex, fucking amazing even without the Mate Bond. I can't wait to go back to bed tonight."

"His room again?"

"Every night. I'll not sleep anywhere else and he so much as points at the door and tries to send me away. I'll kick him where it hurts and then get into his bed anyway. If he tries to drag me out well, I'll beat the living hell out of him. Till he has to pin me down to stop

it, and then,” she grinned, “well, I’m betting I can get him all hot and bothered and I’ll be staying put. Got one hell of a fight to get rid of me now.”

Jo-anne laughed. She loved the spirit of this woman. Willing to fight for T.J.

“ You know Jo-anne, what just occurred to me”. Ella looked at her after a while.

“What?”

“If you and West can sort all your stuff out, and you choose him. No pressure, of course. Choose only who is right for you. But say it's West you want. Then you would be the Luna and I would be the Beta's Mate. We're besties now. It would stay that way, we'd be together all the time.”

“Goddess, you'd have me drunk and in trouble all the time.” Jo-anne snorted every time she'd gone out here it had been with Ella and they'd gotten drunk each time.

“Right.” she grinned “A right spanking we'd both get.”

Jo-anne laughed “You're crazy, do you know that?”

“Ah come on, you gotta have one crazy friend. It might as well be me.”

The two of them sat and looked down the list they had written, titled it 'only one can be happy'. Ella insisted on putting both West and Jayden on there, even though Jo-anne didn't think that either of them were who she had to choose from. There was T.J. and Jo-anne on the list. Jo-anne put herself and Ella on the list and got a raised eyebrow from Ella.

“What? What if the choice is your happiness over mine? Who knows what it is?” then added to chose neither West or Jayden.

Ella sighed “What do you think she meant by that, if all is revealed, everyone can be happy?”

“I don't know, just that my once choice will affect a lot of people. Probably all of those on that list.”

“No clues to that either, mysterious woman, that Goddess of ours.”

“Yes, didn't even tell me who they were?”

“Well, she did warn you it was going to be difficult, it is by all appearance...would you really reject them both?”

Jo-anne looked right at her, thought about it and then nodded, "If I knew that choice would release T.J. Yes. It's my fault he's Mate-less. So, yes I would become Mate-less in his place if it would grant him a Mate. Though the Luna doesn't seem to think that is it. Something about she and the moon Goddess would know I'd choose T.J. in a heart beat. So not difficult."

"She's not wrong on that, Jo-anne. The two have always been weirdly connected, at least now we know why."

"Yeah, my birth ruined his life." she muttered.

"I don't think T.J. would see it that way and stop saying it's your fault. It's not. You didn't ask the moon Goddess to do that to him. Didn't the Goddess tell you, your birth mother asked for someone to protect you."

"Yes, but still."

"No. No butts, you did not ask for this. You did not do this to him. If you must blame someone. Blame your birth mother."

"No, I couldn't do that." Jo-anne shook her head "she likely had very good reasons. Wolves do not just abandon their pups without extreme circumstances."

"I guess not." Ella nodded "So it's a short list, but a list none the less." Watched as Ella got up and pinned it to the wall. Then she stood and looked at it, turned and looked at Jo-anne with a slight frown, then wrote Mother on that list.

That made Jo-anne frown. "I don't even know who that is."

"Perhaps that's the choice. To find out. The goddess did say if all was revealed. What if you have to find out who she is, your real mum? What if she had all the answers and then the choice is her or clearer to make?"

"Well, from what I understand, I was found out in the snow. No one knows who she is."

"Ah but she knows, maybe she will come forward."

"I doubt it, Ella, I'm 28. Why would she now after all this time?"

"Who knows why people do the things they do?"

Saw the woman's eyes glaze over and then she groaned when they cleared. "I'm being requested by my brother Cole to have a serious conversation." she sounded very sarcastic "Training is over apparently."

"Looking to find out where you were all day and night." Jo-anne teased her.



"Plus the night before." Ella laughed "I'd better go. He sounded pissed off to the max."

"Are you going to tell him?"

"I don't think Terence will want that. I'll discuss it with him before outing us to my brother. I'm out all the time. I can just tell him it was some rando warrior." she shrugged. Headed out the door, waved good bye and then was gone.

Jo-anne sat and stared at the list on the wall for a long time, difficult to say the least, shook if off talking about it had gotten her no closer to making a decision. Mind-Link the Luna, she had yet to hear about her schedule for the day, it was past breakfast time, way past and should have heard by now.

Frowned instantly when the link connected to the Luna could feel worry coming down the link, heard her voice, soft a bit sad, 'Lunch with West, dinner with Jayden Sweetheart.'

'Luna, what is wrong?' all her instincts were telling her something was wrong.

'Nothing...Just' felt pain come down the mind-link.

Shot to her feet 'where are you?'

'My room.'

Jo-anne was gone, banged out of her room, ran down the hall, all the way up the stairs as fast as she could, something was very wrong. She didn't even answer Ricky when he called out to her, went all the way to the Alpha suite where she knew the Luna lived, banged the door open. "Ricky, get Patterson now." she shot at him "Luna?" she called out.

"Jo-anne..."

Found Luna Natalia in her ensuite, holding a hand to her stomach, tears falling down the woman's face. "No," Jo-anne gasped, and rushed right over to her, put a hand on the Luna's hand. 'No! Where is Damien?'

"I haven't told him yet."

"Then you need to."

"No, it'll only hurt him." she shook her head and sobbed.

"Ricky get in here now." she yelled.

"Leave it, Jo-anne."

"No, you will be fine! I won't let this happen! Your baby will be strong and healthy, safe. I will not accept anything else."

Ricky was next to her. "Calm her. Put her in bed. Is Patterson coming?"

"Yes.". She stepped back so he could pick her up. Following as he carried her and put her. There had been spots of blood on the bathroom floor, the woman was sitting on the side of the tub in a towel. Not a good sign.

Mind-link to Damien 'Alpha, where are you?'

'What's wrong, Jo-anne?' he shot right back, picked up on her stress likely.

'Your Luna, come now, your suite.'

'Coming.' he shot right back.

It took all of 5 minutes for Damien to arrive. Hot on his heels was West and Patterson. She was standing holding the woman's hand, praying to the Goddess, that everything was alright and that the Luna's baby would be okay, that she was not going to lose her unborn pup. Ricky was doing his Gamma thing, keeping the woman calm. It was really weird to hear a southern drawl come from him, as he talked softly to the woman.

"What's going on?" Damien demanded.

Jo-anne stepped back so he could take her place. "She's pregnant," Jo-anne told him.

Saw Damien's eyes go wide and then he was on the bed next to her. He seemed to understand instantly, what was going on in this room.

"I'm sorry." she whispered to the Luna, but she had to tell him, tell Patterson, so he could help treat her.

"Pack hospital now." Damien snapped and picked his Mate clean up. Patterson agreed, they could find out more and treat, maybe even stop what was or could be a miscarriage.

Her eyes turned to West. He looked shocked by the news and saddened at the same time. As he watched his father disappear out the door with his mother and the pack doctor.

"I'm sorry West."

"Not your fault...how did you know?"

"That's not important, go and be with your mother."

## Chapter 84 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

He walked a very quiet Jo-anne back to the first floor, apologised and asked Ricky to escort her all the way back to her room, so that he could head for the pack's hospital. She just nodded and told him not to worry about it.

He now stood in the Luna suite of the hospital staring at his mother. It had been an hour of him and his father both prowling around, though he was concerned and saddened at the situation, his father was completely distressed and snapping at everyone with the exception of his Mate. His mother was already hooked up to an IV for precaution, Patterson had told them.

His father kept touching her face, and kissing her temple and telling her everything was going to be okay. Baden was there in the room, he was his mother's Gamma, though didn't seem to be needed. West's mother seemed to have resigned herself to the fact she was going to loose her pup. His father, however, was adamant it would turn out to be nothing, and their pup would be fine, a good strong pup like all their other pups.

Had actually pointed right at West at one point and stated strong like our first born, the hell our boy has been through and survived, you didn't loose him, you won't loose this one.

There had been blood tests run, to check hormone levels and an ultrasound was now being attended to.

His father was holding his mother's hand, as they sat and waited for Patterson to find out if the pup was there or not. Even he was holding his breath, the news about his mother was a shock, but he would not want her to loose her pup. Too much going on around the place, too much stress on her. Likely why this was happening, his life was causing his mother to much undue stress. They were supposed to have gone on a well-earned vacation yesterday but his mother and father had refused to leave for it.

Not with Jo-anne having two mates, and the trauma she had suffered, they had both decided to put it off until the girls' decision was made and they knew she was safe from harm. His thoughts were interrupted by the sound of a rapid fluttering coming from the machine, a heart beat. Relief filled him.

Saw tears burn down his mother's face, and his father let out the breath he'd been holding, just like West did himself, as the packs doctor had been trying to locate the fetus. Watched his father lean down and kiss her temple "I told you good and strong." she'd sobbed a little.

"Well, well, well, Luna." Patterson had suddenly chuckled. "twins I see," and pointed to the screen. Two tiny little fast heart beats could be seen.

His father had whooped with excitement, crazy bastard. His mother's hand had gone to her mouth, guess she didn't know that herself.

Patterson had advised that his mother be on bed rest for the next few days. She was 8 weeks pregnant, it seemed. Keeping that little secret to herself, she had giggled at his father and told him she was going to tell when they were away on holidays. She'd not told anyone, though she had then confessed that Jo-anne had picked it up before the mating ball, likely her Luna's instincts had seen something or twitched to let her know.

It had been an hour now and he was seated on the couch, did not really know what to make of this news. West did know that pups could be born at anytime in life. Wolves did live for hundreds of years. He'd just never expected to get a little brother or sister at this age, they'd stopped having pups 18 years ago after the triplets. A full litter was enough, seemed not now, didn't think it was planned though. A surprise to his mother, he thought absently.

"Are you alright son?" she interrupted his thoughts.

"Mm." he nodded, "just a little more than surprised I guess."

"Jo-anne and I can have our babies together." she smiled right at him.

West sighed, trust her to think of that, and they wouldn't be together months apart, "Enough of that." He shook his head and stood up. "Father, if you have her?"

"I do son, go and win that girl over. She really does belong here with us, you know."

West shook his head. Jo-anne was likely to have his mother and his father, not to mention T.J. all trying to convince her to take him back. Pushing at her, he sighed as he walked out of the hospital, it really did need to be her decision.

Walked into his office, he had to call his sisters and inform them of the news. Found his whole unit was sitting in his office, frowned right at Ricky, that man should have been down by Jo-anne's door to make sure she was safe. "Oliver's second in command. Henry is at the door."

"How is she?"

"Now that is a very hard question to answer and why I am here." he shook his head, seemed a bit confused.

"Try then." West stated as he sat behind his desk.

Saw his Gamma frown for a long time, look right at T.J. for a good 15 or 20 seconds and then shook his head again. "Came out of her room in a panic, bolted without warning right to your parents suite. Bloody fast on her feet West, I've never seen her run

that fast before. Not ever and she grew up here. Now I know the door would have been locked, right?"

West nodded. "It is likely, father has always had a thing about locking the door when she's alone. Though he doesn't much care for a locked door if he is in there. Protective thing."

"Well West, that door, she just banged right through it, felt very different to me when she hit that door, it didn't appear locked, she busted it, and didn't even break a sweat doing so...kind of felt like..." his eyes moved back to T.J. and he frowned again "I don't know it was weird."

It was likely that Ricky was feeling the Royal Alpha blood line, but was still confused about it, he hadn't quite put his finger on it as of yet. Was likely to at some point. But with Belinda not wanting it to be known, he nor T.J., for that matter, could tell the man.

"Interesting," he said with a nod. Not much else he could say. Turned his eyes to T.J., who shook his head ever so slightly.

"Your mother?"

"Appears to be alright," every one in the pack would know by now, that she was in the hospital "will have to stay in the Luna suite for monitoring today and likely tomorrow."

They were all looking at him expectantly now.

"Twins it is." he shook his head again. "Might just get her off my back." he doubted it though, not with her comment. "Is Jo-anne in her room now?"

"Yes still there, as far as I know. I'll go and relieve Henry now."

"Keep me apprised of her feelings, I don't want her stressed any more than she needs to be." and he did not.

"Sure. Though she did seem alright before that, kind of just back to her usual, I don't know the girl is an enigma at the best of times to me, West." he shook his head "sometimes it's like she is right in front of me and I can't feel her. Then she looks right at me and wham there she is. Almost like..." he shook his head, "can only be seen if she wants to be maybe."

Now that got his undivided attention. Neither he nor T.J. had been able to mind-link her in Singapore, even though they could see her, couldn't push into her mind at all. But the minute she had looked at him, registered he was there, he could mind-link to her.

"She, however, seemed happy before that. Hanging out with Ella, had breakfast with her all smiles the two of them. They went back to her room to hang out even after breakfast."

West nodded and turned to Cole, "Found her, I see."

"In my parents' suite waiting for me. May I go." it was more of a statement than a question.

West waved him off, and watched as both Cole and Ricky walked out of his office together, like they always did.

West's eyes moved to T.J. "Broke the lock to the Alpha suite, didn't even try. I'm guessing she felt to Ricky like you would, when on a mission."

"Mm, I'd be willing to bet her eyes were glowing as well." T.J. nodded.

Saw the man's eyes glaze over for several minutes, looked right at West when they cleared. "I'm Jo-anne's new chaperone, Luna's order seeing as she can't and your father won't leave her side."

"Figured as much, you'd better go and inform Jayden." West snorted "He'll love that. Oh and Terence, we really do need to talk to your mother. Every day that is passing, Jo-anne is getting stronger and that glow," he sighed. They had been looking into it, narrowed the field down some what but still there were half a dozen magical creatures out there that had silver-glowing eyes. She could be anyone of them.

"It's definitely not from our side, you know that."

"Yes, so we need to know what her father was, what she is. More importantly, she needs to know. Has no control and will likely not until she knows and understands what it is."

"I'll try to speak with her West. But it's still..." he shrugged, "not good."

"Even if she just states what he was, not who. I don't care about the who. Just a single word will do Terence. If that helps her, we can't help Jo-anne unless we know how to."

T.J. nodded "You've got lunch with Jo-anne today. What are you thinking of doing?"

"I thought she and I could take a walk. I know she's supposed to be resting but being cooped up in that room, can't be good for her, nothing strenuous. The foundations for her studio have finally been laid and are set, I thought I would walk her over and let her see it."

"That is a good plan. Let her know she'll still be allowed to paint."

West nodded, watched as T.J. left the office, seemed happy to be going to inform Jayden he would be going everywhere Jo-anne went with the man.

Rubbed at both his temples, then got his phone out and started calling his sisters, one at a time, worked his way down them from oldest to youngest. Didn't even get a mixed reaction at all. Every one of them squealed in his ear in excitement and nearly deafened him. The triplets then just started giggling, like they all knew and had just been waiting for the news to be out.

Emma asked him how things were going with Jo-anne and he answered her honestly. She'd sighed softly and said "just take your time, big brother." advising him. His 18-year-old sister, bloody crazy, but he was not going to rush it, couldn't it was her decision to make. Even if she had not gotten two mates and it was just he and her. He would not be rushing her into Mating with him.

He looked at the clock. It was only just after 9 in the morning, it felt much later to him with all that had been going on. Going to be a long day, he thought to himself as he got up from his desk and walked to her room. Jayden's Beta glared right at him, West ignored it and knocked on her door.

She stood before him with a paint brush in her hand, her hair was twisted up in a knot on top of her head held in place with another paint brush, she was wearing jeans and a tee-shirt. He liked her like this, not an ounce of make-up on her either. He could hear music playing in the background. "Sorry to interrupt, I just wanted to say thank you. For helping mother, getting to her so quickly."

"Is she alright?" heard the concern in her voice.

"Yes," he nodded, "the bleeding has stopped, two strong heartbeats,"

"Really, twins?" she was smiling up at him now, all happy to hear this.

Goddess, she really was beautiful, couldn't help but smile down at her. "Yes apparently. Patterson says they look well situated and that it can sometimes be common for a woman to spot, but he thinks she is going to be just fine, stay in the Luna's suite all day for precaution. Maybe tomorrow."

"That's good West." she sounded genuinely relieved and happy to hear the update.

"How do you feel about the news?" she asked him, surprising him a little.

"Well, I'd better get brothers this time." he chuckled "I honestly don't think I can handle anymore little sisters." saw her laugh too. It was good to see her like this after all she'd been through. She seemed to have just bounced back like always. He was happy she was laughing with him, even at him almost. Happy he could make her happy like that.

"I just thought you'd like to know, sorry for interrupting your painting...See you at lunch?"



Watched her nod her head and he stepped back, she did seem better than after dinner, a good thing he hoped. She was resilient, that was for sure. He didn't know how she could be, something in her DNA he was betting.

## **Chapter 85 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV

Had been headed back to his office, but got a report from his cell guard that Heath had stopped sobbing and was now just lying on the floor in his cell staring at nothing, it seemed. He was likely dying. West knew he had to go and see the man, see the actual state of him for himself before allowing Jo-anne to go and see him. He'd not had a single episode of rage or hysteria, nothing psychotic was reported either.

He was going to allow Jo-anne to see the man if he was dying, something he knew that she wanted, couldn't deny her that, not anymore, and it did seem like this was going to be the end of him. How long it would actually take was another matter. He could last days or weeks or just let go and die in a matter of hours.

West leaned on the cell bars and looked down at the man before him. He was lying on the floor by the cell bars that attached to the cell his Mate had been in, one arm out stretched through the bars into that cell, as though he was trying to reach for the woman who was no longer there. Was quiet and just staring mindlessly into the empty space, it seemed.

"Heath?" West stated his name, got no reaction at all, not even a slight move of the head, his fingers in that cell next door didn't even twitch.

"Heath, Jo-anne wants to see you," West told him. This crazy man had been itching to see her, both the crazy one and the sane one, the side of him that wanted to hurt her and the side of him that apparently still loved her. Said her name in the hope of getting some sort of reaction.

Watched as the man's arm retracted from the other cell and he curled into a tight little ball, started rocking on the ground, sobbing all of a sudden. West sighed. Well, he'd gotten a reaction alright, though not what he was expecting at all. Not a good sign either.

As angry as he had been at this man. It was now clear to West he was utterly broken. Not even West could muster up any more anger. It seemed to have dissipated with the man's current state of mind. This poor creature before him was no longer Heath anymore, just a shell and very broken at that.

Didn't know if it was a good idea to bring Jo-anne here to see him, knew that she wanted to though, would have to give her the full state of his condition before he brought her in here, he guessed, turned to leave.

"I do love my little girl..." he heard the man whisper "I'm sorry I hurt her." he sobbed.

West closed his eyes, the man sounded so very sincere, "Do you think it's safe for her to come and see you?" his eyes moved back to the man. He hadn't moved at all, was still curled up in a tight ball on the floor.

"No..." was the answer he got "But...I want to."

Seems Heath was having a lucid moment. "Did you help Karen to hurt her?"

"No...I would never do that, to my little girl." and then the man was back to sobbing on the floor uncontrollably, saw him suddenly pull at his own hair, felt anger roll off of the man. And then West watched him rip a full chunk of hair out of his head, howled in the pain it caused him and then start pulling at more of his hair.

It was clear to West the man was about to seriously start injuring himself over all that had happened, did not want to stand and watch that. Turned and left, he did believe the man about not helping Karen. And the pain he was inflicting on himself right now with the knowledge he held that it had been his own mate, was also an indicator of his own grief over the matter.

He had been more than shocked when he'd heard it was Heath who had bitten her, and he knew T.J. had thought it didn't make any sense either. Just now, not only had he stated he knew nothing, but he had also told West it was not safe to bring Jo-anne anywhere near him. Wondered if he could get the man to renounce Jo-anne, severe that bond to her, he didn't think the man would.

Stopped outside the cells as another howl of pain came from the man, he sighed and looked at the guard, "Get some help in there, chain him up so that he can't hurt himself any further, no silver, he's dying already, I imagine. I need him alive long enough for Jo-anne to come and see him."

"Yes Alpha."

"Get a cot in there as well, and a blanket."

West walked back to his office, glanced out the window to look at where the art studio was to go, there were no workmen there. It was Sunday, everyone was off spending the day with their family, all he'd had was Alpha training today and that hadn't even gone to plan either. He'd not really been in the mood himself.

Had stood by and refereed Cole as he'd taken on T.J. the man had been an angry little ball, even without confirmation of where Ella was, he suspected as much and had tried to take it out of T.J. who'd thought it was more than amusing.

The two of them had gone toe to toe all morning, though both West and T.J. knew it was all Cole had, and T.J. had fought back. He had restrained himself and mostly defended himself. When West had finally called it, Cole had turned and stalked off, still pissed off completely. T.J. had nearly laughed.

Didn't seem all that bothered by the Delta trying to beat the living hell out of him. The only one here in the pack who could literally do that was Belinda, but it was a good workout T.J. had told him, and he did work up a sweat. West hadn't done a single thing, just called out time when Cole looked like he needed a break. Watched him stalk around and then, when he'd gotten his breath back, called a start again.

That man really didn't want Ella near T.J. at all. It was really going to be a problem and T.J. was going to have to deal with it, and soon. Likely could rip their unit apart the way it was going. West didn't want that, he had enough stuff to deal with at the moment, let alone having to talk Cole out of leaving or trying to convince his brother to take up the mantle if he couldn't.

Was sitting in his chair when T.J. strolled into his office, put a plate of food on West's desk, then sank down across from him. No-one had gotten breakfast. It seemed, as he to was holding a plate of food for himself, he'd been headed for his mother and father's suite just minutes after training had finished.

"Jayden is very unhappy with the new arrangement, but understood once I explained about the Luna's current condition. He even asked me to pass on his well wishes that she and the pup would remain healthy."

West nodded "I didn't think he'd be happy about it, not considering that you kicked the man's ass." he chuckled.

"Hmm. You put up more of a fight to be honest." T.J. shrugged.

"That's because we train together, and I know how you fight," West acknowledged.

"I'll try and talk to mother after lunch. She heard about your mum and went right to the pack hospital. I passed her on the stairs, she put a hand right in my face and I quote "Not now Terence, or so help me, I'll send you to the palace for a month." I left it alone." West saw T.J. visually shudder at just the thought of going and spending time at the palace.

"Why do you all hate that place so much?" he'd not been there yet. Would have to attend the up-coming annual Alpha meeting they held once a year. But that was still months away.

"Creepy seer's everywhere, witches with foresight, used to watch every move you make to protect the Royals, even from other Royals. They constantly stare at you, trying to peer inside your soul and mind, literally creeps me out. I still don't know how mother

ever got out of there, off the palace grounds and through the portal to this realm without them knowing, they see everything.”

West knew the place had seer’s everyone did. Even his father had told him just got to be honest and be of no threat to the Royals to keep yourself clear of them seers “Maybe because they look for threats, not for people to escape and run away.”

“Could very well be.” T.J. nodded

“Why’d she leave?”

“Her parents, I heard, were going to Mate her off to a male seer or something like that, a leader of the coven that the Royals rely on.” he shrugged “she doesn’t like talking about it. Just know that that man, still glares right at her, I’m guessing he wanted her and she did not.”

“Clearly,” West nodded.

“ The only other thing I know, is they had seen my dad as her Goddess-Gifted Mate and she’d heard they did not approve of the match. She ran right here to find what was hers and claim it. Still hates going home as much as I do.”

“Fair enough.”

“You don’t suppose that’s the man that took your mother, Jo-anne’s father?”

T.J. blinked at that, then frowned “No.” he shook his head. “Her family would have found her if she was there. They hunted, from what I heard, as much as father and this pack did. From my understanding, every single wolfen pack was searched too, used all the seer’s in the kingdom to search anyone and everyone including him. No-one knows where she was, only she does, I imagine.”

West nodded, that was likely the case. The woman may never tell and he couldn’t really blame her. Two years kidnapped and clearly mated against her will, she’d never have left Jonathan willingly.”

“West?”

“Yes Terence.” he looked right at the man now.

“I’m going to move Ella into my suite. Cole is definitely going to be an issue.”

West smiled, that was the understatement of the year, after what he had seen this morning. “You out muscle the man, Terence, and you out Rank him.”

“Still...I don't really want to get into a wolf on wolf fight with Ella's brother, and from the way he was this morning could very well happen.”

“Then just don't.”

“He's going to stop her, it's going to be a big issue.”

“Terence the man is only concerned about the Delta bloodline, he's got a brother who already has a boy, yes?”

“Yes, but traditionally.”

West sighed and shook his head “Terence, it is not going to be inherited down the line. That way and you and I both know it.”

T.J. nodded “Just thought, as the Alpha, I would prepare you, about the battle that is to come.”

“ You're an Alpha as well Terence, claim what you want. That being said. When should I be expecting shit to hit the fan?”

“After your lunch date with Jo-Jo. I have yet to tell Ella what I have decided.”

West snorted “I don't see her saying no.”

T.J. smiled right at him. “Neither do I...But” he shrugged, “I will not be have anyone else in my bed now, and I want her there every night from now on.”

“I seriously doubt you'd be able to get rid of her if you tried.”

T.J. laughed heartily “Likely to beat me senseless.”

“And you'd let her.” West shot back at him with a knowing smirk.

## **Chapter 86 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

Made her way back to her room, stood there and worried about her Luna, sent up another prayer to the moon Goddess, that the pup would survive, be healthy and strong. She did not want any harm to come to that baby, she knew how much the Luna loved all of her children. This one would be no different. Loved and cherished.

Stood in front of her canvas and looked at the portrait of West, her Alpha, her previous Mate, now her Goddess-Gifted Mate...that was a weird thought indeed. Though could feel Clova was happy to look at it. Liked looking at him, she and Volt had Mated often in

human form during their previous Mate Bond. Stood back and stared at it, at the empty space next to him and frowned.

'Volt go there.' Clova piped up and then shot an image of Volt into her mind's eye. He was standing looking right at them, big and imposing, a large black wolf with brilliant light green eyes, like the light green flecks that were in Wests. His fur had a bit of a cobalt shine in the moonlight. Even more so, in the daylight, she recalled, his wolf stood a good half a meter taller than Clove did.

Her eyes moved back to the canvas. It could actually work. It was a full-length portrait and his wolf standing next to him would look good. Nodded her head, It was also how some of the other packs Alpha and Luna's were displayed. 'Okay Clova, let's do this your way.' she smiled felt Clova very happy now, chuckled to herself 'you my sweet girl are crazy sometimes, but this is a good idea.'

Heard Clova chortle and felt her wag her tail some more as she settled down inside her mind to watch. Jo-anne put some music on, twisted her hair into a knot on top of her head, pushed a paintbrush through it to keep it in place and got out her palette and paints ready to start.

Sketched his wolf in roughly and then started to paint Volt. Clova was very happy in her mind as she watched Volt come to life in the [painting](#), snorted and corrected Jo-anne if she thought Jo-anne had made a mistake. She knew what her Alpha Wolf looked like and was going to make sure it was accurate. Seeing as she was [painting](#) from Clova's memory of him, Jo-anne listened to her and made the adjustments.

Was interrupted by a knock on the door, it was West to let her know that the Luna was alright and so were her pups, twins. She felt a wave of relief wash over her and asked him how he felt about it. There was going to be a 32 year age gap between him and his new siblings.

Laughed when he stated that they had better be boys. He couldn't deal with anymore sisters, couldn't help it, the poor man did have 5 younger sisters already. Hoped he would get what he wanted, but who knew? He'd then actually asked her about going to lunch with him. She'd said yes, it didn't seem all that wrong, though his revelation last night had shocked and confused her, she had let their past go a long time ago, forgiven him for it even.

When she thought about him, he did seem different over the past few weeks, and though she still had no idea of what to do about her two mates, it was only fair to get to know him as much as she was getting to know Jayden. So, she had made the choice to do so, that in itself could be the right choice. She had no idea. But she had also decided all choices she was given, regardless of if it was to do with them or not them, would have to be granted the opportunity to play out.

She still had to talk to T.J. but with the Luna in the hospital, it wasn't likely going to be today. So she would spend the day doing what she loved, [painting](#). Getting lost in it, and not thinking about either of them, when not out with one of them. Just to give her a break from the drama she now found was her life.

Was still [painting](#) when T.J. and West came to collect her for lunch. She had been so completely lost in her art that she had lost track of the time, was not even ready, looked down at herself. "Sorry, I will get changed quickly." she apologised to West.

"No need Jo-anne." he smiled down at her, his eyes wandered over her body, taking in her paint, stained jeans and tee-shirt "I kind of like you like this."

"What, I'm such a mess?"

"It's fine, just wash your hands up so not to get paint on your lunch, and we'll go. I thought we'd take a casual stroll if you don't mind?"

Jo-anne didn't mind actually, it would be nice, the day was warm and if she didn't have to change she could just go right back to [painting](#), when she came back here. "Alright. One sec." she nodded to him.

"Can I come in and see it?" he asked.

"No." she laughed and shook her head. "My secret now." she banged the door shut so he couldn't come in. He'd seen it before, but now that Volt was coming to life she could at least try to surprise him with it.

Stepped out into the hall a few minutes later, her hands all washed and cleaned, still in her jeans and tee-shirt. If he didn't mind, that was fine with her, it's how she normally dressed on any given day anyhow.

They stepped into the pack-house dining room and he handed her a pre-made lunch, a turkey and salad wrap, he also had one for himself and all those trailing them, both guards and T.J. too. Then he held open the door for her to walk outside. They ate while walking. "Where are we going?"

"The foundations for your art studio is laid. I thought you'd like to see it."

"What?" her eyes widened as she looked up at him completely shocked.

"You look surprised."

"I just thought you wouldn't continue with it right now, I guess."

"Why would I do that? You picked a lovely spot for it, and it's underway."



“Considering the situation West.”

Watched him just shrug “I will build it regardless. Display your artwork in it, even if you’re not here anymore.”

“Why would you do that?” she frowned up at him now, more than confused by that statement.

“Because I want to is all. I do hope if you leave, you will allow me to. We’ll obviously work out some sort of contract.”

That was an unusual thing to do. If she chose Jayden West should want to get rid of everything that reminded him of her, surely. She didn’t even know if the two packs would stay allied for that matter.

They walked all the way over to it, and there on a table was the design laid out for her to look at. West had already set this up, it seemed. Damien’s signature was on the bottom of the design “You’re dad designed this himself.”

“Yes, was very excited to give you the perfect place to work from. Even before he knew about you and I.” West turned the page and there was a computerised colour 3D print of how it would actually look when finished, the inside and the out.

She couldn’t help but smile “It’s beautiful.” there was so much natural lite with all the bi-folding glass doors all along the front. It was cement rendered and he’d even made it different colours down the sides and had a bright red roof, very artistic. “Why the outdoor stuff?” she pointed to the big deck and the chairs on it, then tapped the picture of the fire pit with its half a dozen chairs around it.

“I don’t know, you’d have to ask him that. But it’s all budgeted for, right down to the white-washed stones around that fire pit.”

“Well I love it.” she looked at the picture of the inside of the building, nearly drooled at the size of the bathtub, she did love a good soak in a bubble filled bath. “is it Jetted?” she asked with a grin.

“If not, we can make it jetted.” he smiled at her.

There was the polished concrete floor that she wanted to, and so many shelves on the north wall, with little paints and paint brushes, and there were tiny pallets and tiny little easels on those shelves even. She pointed the details out to West and chuckled “Look what he did.” It was so cute.

He was smiling right at her. “I’m glad you like it.” he then motioned for her to go up and actually walk around in the actual space.

She grinned right up at him now, and then did just that, could actually see herself here. Knew where her easel would go, where the teapot she would make tea in would sit and the variety of teas she would put in would go, smiled and couldn't stop. Turned and looked right at him, he was leaning on the table with the design on it, smiling right up at her.

"This is where I will make my tea." she told him and pretended to pour tea from a teapot into a cup, and then to pick up that cup and sip from it, saw him laugh softly at her antics and realised it actually felt nice to see him like that. Moved over to where she would set up her easel by the north wall and all the shelving and stood and pretended to paint "This is where I will paint."

Found a pair of arms around her waist and his chin on her shoulder, his voice soft in her ear "and this is where I'll stand and watch you paint." sounded like he was smiling and happy to her.

Felt her heart rate quicken, turned to look at him, he was smiling right at her "right there?" she questioned him, though did sound a little breathless even to her ear.

"I could get closer, but that might." he chuckled softly "Stop the [painting](#) you'll be doing." then he pecked her softly on the lips. "You might get distracted a lot."

She did not miss his meaning. "I'll lock the door." she snorted with laughter.

He laughed out right and it was so amazing to hear, a deep rumble of a laugh. She'd never seen him so happy, not since he was a teenager anyway. It was really good to see. Was just standing staring at him, couldn't help it. He'd never laughed like that around her, let alone at something she'd said "I need my camera." she murmured softly, wanted to capture this moment. His mother would never believe it. Hell she could hardly believe it herself and she was right here.

"You know, a locked door wont keep me out." he squeezed her just a little "I will...have the master key." he was grinning down at her and teasing her and she knew it.

"That's cheating." she laughed up at him.

"Just letting you know. No locked door will ever keep me from my Luna." his voice was suddenly deep and a little on the husky side.

"Oh." she bit her lip.

His hand touched her chin "Don't do that." he tugged gently until her lip was no longer in her mouth. "Makes me want to kiss the hell out of you." his thumb brushed over her lower lip and hot sparks seared her lip, nearly bit it again as her breath quickened, he was still looking at her mouth like he was going to kiss her.

Then he let go of her a little reluctantly "Let's walk before I take that kiss and get carried away." he commented softly, his voice still deep and husky.

Slipped his hand into hers, she pointed to where the door would go, that would lead out into the woods and he laughed "Out the back door it is." pulled her over to it and even pretended to open it and step aside to let her pass. She couldn't help but chuckle and then they were walking into the woods.

Along the very trail T.J. had walked her along. West walked her all the way to the stone bridge, his hand in hers the whole way, it did feel really nice to just get along with him, to know that he did seem to want to be with her, the things he said, things she'd never dreamed of ever hearing from him.

He walked right up onto that stone bridge and then suddenly stopped and picked her up, sat her down on the bridge's stone railing "This is my favourite place, to come and think." He told her "I sit, right where you're sitting." He smiled gently at her. She was almost eye to eye with him, she realised.

"You're very different West," she acknowledged to him. This was not the man she had been Mated to ten years ago.

"You make me feel different, Jo-anne, happy. I feel happy for the first time in a very long time." he tucked a loose strand of her hair behind her ear.

"I...I make you happy?" she asked, a little shocked, she'd never thought that would ever have been possible.

"Yes, I will not..." he tilted his head slightly and she knew he was trying to find the right words "Hold anything back, anymore."

She sat staring up at him, he was indeed very different. Very much that man he'd been before her. He was staring right down into her eyes as she looked up at him. "May I kiss you?" he asked softly, felt Clova raise her head and wag her tail a little.

Jo-anne did wonder what it would feel like, nodded her head. "Yes," she answered, just as softly.

Felt his hand slide along her jaw, hot sparks trailed his touch, his fingers brushed down her neck and then slid around to the nape of her neck, so very gentle was his touch, so very slow, his eyes never left hers "You're so beautiful." he whispered as he lowered his mouth to hers.

Pressed his lips against hers, soft and gentle, just like how he was touching her, the tip of his tongue slid along her lower lip and then his teeth nipped gently pulling at her lower lip. Her mouth opened and her eyes fluttered closed as his tongue tangled with

hers slow and soft, felt herself lean into him, both her hands found their way onto his chest and she kissed him back, it was hot and sensual.

Felt his other hand slide around her waist as he stepped closer to her, pulling her gently to him as well, heard Clova suddenly purring so very loudly that it was vibrating her chest.

West chuckled right into her mouth and it broke the kiss. Jo-anne blushed and chuckled right back "I'm sorry."

He slid both his arms around her and hugged her, then looked down at her, still fully amused "Don't ever be sorry for Clova. She's adorable."

"Thank you. I do love her so much."

West stepped back and popped her back on the ground. "Better step back before Volt takes full control." though he was still smiling. She knew it had not been Volt kissing her, his wolf was all Alpha aggression. That kiss had been all West, slow and sensual like the last time they'd been in bed together.

"Probably wise." she nodded, trying not to think about that last thought.

He slipped his hand into hers. "I should get you back. I do want to talk to you about something, but not out here."

"About?" she asked as they started to walk back.

She saw as his eyes move to the three men all standing at a distance watching them, she had completely forgotten that they were all there, saw both T.J. and Ricky smiling at her. Ben was not, she bit her lip and looked away. Never before had she been out in public kissing like that. Suddenly felt very embarrassed.

"Pack stuff. Heath for one." West said as his hand reached up and took her chin. "Don't do that." He tugged her lip from her mouth. "I really do find that not just cute, but one hell of a turn on."

"Sorry." she looked up at him and was a little shocked by his statement, so open for all to hear, changed the subject and resisted the urge to bite her lip again. "Is Heath alright?"

Saw West shake his head. "I don't think so. There is something, pack business we need to discuss. I'll probably let you see him tomorrow."

"Really?" she stopped walking and turned to face him.

"Yes," he nodded "Come on, we can discuss it later in private."

“Thank you West.” and she meant it. She knew it must be difficult for him to allow this, knew as the Alpha and as her Mate would likely desire nothing more than to kill Heath for what he had done to her. Hadn’t only because she had asked him not to.

West walked her all the way to her room, when she turned to look up at him to say thank you, she’d had a really nice time, found his mouth on hers, surprised her a little, it was firm but closed mouthed and only lasted a few seconds.

“Thank you Jo-anne, for giving me a chance.”

She nodded up at him. “Thank you. I had a nice time.” she admitted to him.

He smiled down at her, bowed his head slightly “That is all I want for us, to get to know each other properly and have a nice time doing so. I’ll see you later.”

Jo-anne nodded and stepped into her room.

She had not really expected anything like that from him, nor did she expect to have a nice time, thought it was going to be just as uncomfortable as last night. Had hoped it wouldn’t be and it hadn’t. Had been able to play with him out at her studio’s foundation. He was nothing like the West she had known before, that was clear to her, and the way he just talked to her so openly, he’d said he wouldn’t hold anything back and she now believed him, had not heard or picked up on one insincere inflection in anything he’d said.

Leaned on the closed door and touched her lips. The way he had kissed her, so soft and gentle, it was really nice. Goddess, shook her head. Pushed off the door and sighed. If Jayden was this charming, how was she supposed to choose between them?

Walked across the room and turned her music back on, swaying to the music gently as she got back into the zone to paint again. Brush in one hand, palette in the other, singing softly to herself, along with the words she knew.

## **Chapter 87 - Her Alpha's Orders**

T.J. POV

Watching his little sister muck around, acting out the things she was going to do, once the studio was built, was so cute, almost like he was getting to see her childlike wonder, something he’d not gotten to do. Not raised under the same roof. Made him smile. This was probably what she had been like, playing tea party.

To see West jump in and tease her, even play that game with her, was a big bloody shock. Not even T.J. knew the man had that in him. Knew he would be able to laugh and smile with her, but play like that? Even saw Ricky smiling and shaking his head, shocked him to it seemed.

This was a very good idea, for the both of them, it seemed, bringing Jo-Jo out here to her studio even though it was not finished. She could see it and loved it. Everyone could see how excited she was, even Beta Ben, who currently looked non to plussed at the sight of her and West getting along. Really getting along. Jayden did have competition the man was realising.

Even telling Jo-Jo he would stand and watch her paint, hold her while she was painting, showed her how much he was going to support her interests, letting her know that he was more than happy to allow her to continue to paint if she chose him. A good thing.

Beta Ben had rolled his eyes and muttered “bullshit.” under his breath, when West had told her he’d build it even if she wasn’t here, hang her art even. T.J. had a feeling he would and this studio would be the man's home. He’d likely leave the Alpha suite and never return to it if she chose Jayden.

They were all standing up on the treeline not allowed to interfere unless things got out of hand, but T.J. had the distinct feeling Volt would be on his best behaviour. He needed West to be able to win Jo-Jo over. Clova was already in. It was their human counterparts that needed to be fixed and so far so good, from what he was seeing.

Ricky was smiling at them now, “ They’re actually good together.” he commented quietly to T.J.

“Yes.” T.J. agreed, as they trailed the two of them walking hand in hand through the woods. T.J. stopped both Ricky and Ben a little way down the path. He knew West was going to stop on that bridge, not that he had ever seen the man bring anyone out here, he knew where West was taking Jo-Jo.

Actually stood and watched his best friend kissing his little sister. It wasn’t the first time, found Ricky's hand gripping his arm all of a sudden, his head was tilted and his Gamma instincts were clearly turned on. Saw the man turn and smile right at him. She was enjoying it by the look on Ricky’s face.

This did not really surprise T.J. He’d seen them in the hospital, but this was the first time Ricky had seen it. West was not holding anything back, was now, it seemed, telling her everything he felt, told her how she made him feel. It was good. Could only be good, and by Ricky’s happy demeanour, it was not just he who thought so too.

Then to tell her he was going to let her see Heath, a bonus. T.J. already knew West thought the man was dying. He had even provided the man with a bed. He’d had to be restrained but that was only done to stop him from hurting himself. She would understand that. He and West would both be there when she visited Heath. It was likely that she was going to be upset about his condition.

Sat in the chair in front of Wests desk and smiled right at him. “I think that went very well.”

"I hope so." the man nodded.

"What's the matter, West? Ricky was even smiling most of the time."

"Do you think I should have not brought Heath up?" he was frowning, already second guessing himself.

"No. a good little bonus at the end of your date."

"I don't know." he shook his head "Maybe I should have just left it and then brought her here to discuss it separately. It might seem I'm using Heath to help my cause."

"It might. But so what? You would have gone to her and told her anyway, so it's going to seem that way regardless. To your way of thinking."

Watched as West rubbed his temples, "I don't want to push her into choosing me, I want her to actually want to choose me."

"It's still early West, give it time, today was a good day. She was smiling, laughing and happy. As were you for that matter." he stood up and stretched, rolled all of his muscles. "Well West, I have to go break my woman out of house arrest." He smiled

"Goddess, did Cole ground a 28 year old woman?"

"Yes, and I believe the man is sitting staring at her, watching her every move, totally under his watchful eye."

"Did she tell him where she was?"

"Nope, but I'm about to. She's my woman now." he grinned.

"Go get her Terence. Just don't kill our Delta now." he snorted at him.

"Na, I can just sit on the man or hold him down. Why Ella packs." he shrugged and walked out the office.

Made his way up the stairs, right to the Delta's suite where Ella lived with her parents on the 3rd floor and rapped on the door. He'd not told her of any of his plans yet. Had simply stated to just sit and wait he'd deal with Cole when the time was right.

Ella opened the door. "Terence." she smiled right at him "What brings you here?"

He nearly laughed at her, she likely knew exactly why he was here and was playing dumb for Cole's sake, but her tone was all seductive like, damned woman tickled his funny bone to no end. "Time to go Ella." he reached out and slipped his hand into hers, stepped into the Delta suite and saw Cole get up from his seat on the couch his eyes



went from their hands to T.J.'s eyes, and he was now glaring at him. Everything he thought and had been snarling about during training this morning was confirmed.

T.J. raised an eyebrow at him as he walked Ella through their living room to the door that was her bedroom, knew which one it was had been in here a million times growing up. Gave her a gentle kiss right on the temple in front of Cole. "Go and pack Ella, you'll be moving in with me today."

Saw those beautiful light blue eyes of hers light up with happiness, and that smile that touched her lips, Goddess he'd never get used to seeing her look at him like that. Made his heart thunder inside his chest, so beautiful. Gave her a gentle nudge into her room before he ripped her clothes clean off and have her right in front of her brother.

"Terence." it was a very angry sounding Cole.

T.J. turned to look at the man leaned on the wall across from Ella's bedroom door so he could see her too. "Ella and I have decided to be together. Cole."

"No." he shook his head "She can't, she is not your Mate."

"In one year, I will Mark and Mate her. If she does not find her Mate."

"The hell you will." he got snarled at.

Ella, however, was suddenly standing in her doorway staring at him. A hand on her heart and tears in her eyes "Really?" she looked like the happiest creature in the world, yet there was a tinge of nervousness in that one word.

"Yes Ella," he smiled right at her. "Go pack now." he told her softly. Saw her brush the tears away as they slipped down her face, he could actually see love in her eyes now. Made his heart swell.

"I will not let you do this." Cole snapped, interrupting their moment. Stalked towards Ella's room, to stop her from packing, T.J. guessed.

T.J. put a hand on the man. "Cole, I love her. You know this, do not get between Ella and I anymore."

"She's not your Mate Terence. What if you find you're Mate? What is that going to do to her?" he yelled at T.J. yanking himself from T.J.'s grip and staring at him angrily.

"I doubt I will Cole. And I am not actively going to look either. I want Ella and no-one else, so deal with it."

"You can't just choose a Mate, it has to go through the Alpha."



"I am an Alpha Cole. Do you forget this just because I am happy playing at being the Beta?"

Saw the man glare right at him. "You're not the Alpha of this Pack." he grated out.

"And who do you think will take over if Jo-anne leaves and West steps down?"

Saw the man's eyes go very wide at this news. Seems no-one here understood their Alpha at all. "Will you still protest and keep me from my Luna?" there was an edge to his words, he could feel Ella's eyes upon him. Though he knew she was still packing. This had caught her off guard as well.

"Till that happens, if it happens. You're not the pack Alpha and you just can't claim what you want without his approval."

T.J. smiled right at the man. "It's already approved by our Alpha," he informed Cole.

Saw Ella in the doorway now. "Really?"

"Yes, go finish packing Ella." he nodded to her "Everything is fine, if your brother here, has a real issue with this. Let him bring it up formally, in front of West, my parents, your parents and you." his eyes moved right back to Cole "The real reason must be stated." T.J. did not think that Cole was ready to do that.

But let's see if he would? The real reason wouldn't just affect Cole, but Ricky as well. Those two thought they were hiding their relationship from everyone. However, they all travelled together and he and West were dead certain as to what was going on, whether anyone else in the pack knew, who knew. They were very careful, and had been their entire lives, very discreet, though why T.J. didn't know. West was not going to object, it might shock a few pack members, but it would be accepted and approved of. West was actually very open-minded about sexuality.

"Terence, I can not let this happen. Put an end to it or I will!"

"Go ahead." T.J. called his bluff.

"Your mother and your grandparents, the King and Queen, will never allow it."

T.J. snorted "Really why is that?"

"Royal bloodline to protect."

"Hmm. I guess you don't know. My mother ran away from them, the King and Queen, because they wanted to Mate her off to a man of their choosing, not her Goddess-Gifted Mate."

Cole was glaring at him now, "Your mother will never allow it then."

"We'll see, call that meeting Cole or I will do it for you." he was starting to get royally ticked off at this man's instance.

T.J. did not fear his mother, she had her own secrets to protect, going head to head with her over Ella, he knew she would back down first rather than be outed as Jo-anne's biological mother to his father, who was going to be right in the room. He was 100% certain she would not challenge him on this matter.

Saw Cole take a swing at him, wrong move. He was already getting more than annoyed with him. T.J. moved out of the way, grabbed his wrist and twisted it up behind his back, shoved him up against the wall and held him there.

Heard Ella's panicked gasp. She didn't want them fighting. He knew that "Pack Ella, we'll do this the official way now. I assure you it will be approved."

"Get off me." Cole snarled at him.

T.J. leaned on him, Lark lent him just enough power to keep Cole and his wolf pinned to the wall, "Do you really want to take me on for real Cole? You know you can't win. Not even West can beat me, you know this." he sighed. He didn't want to hurt the man.

"She's my little sister Terence. Don't do this to her. You have to know how she feels about you?"

"Yes, the same way I feel about her." the man was still so insistent he was not going to let this go, was still trying to fight his way off the wall too.

Mind-linked to West 'Alpha a formal meeting is needed. My family, Ella's family. Cole will be stating the reason why?'

'Are you sure, Terence?'

'Yes, the man is in fight mode. Lets just do it officially.'

'Alright...might get ugly.'

'Yes I understand.'

'I'll call it now.' West shut the mind-link.

It was reopened a moment later and T.J. felt Ella, both her parents, Ian and Maria, plus Cole be linked in, then his parents, Belinda and Jonathan, could feel all their attention being given to their Alpha.

'I hear by request all linked in, to be in my office for an official Mating meeting of Chosen Mates. 15 minutes, there will be no exception. If you do not attend, it will be taken as a matter of disrespect and punishment will be dealt out. This matter will no longer concern you and your opinion will not count in anyway. No further actions on your behalf will be heard after the decision has been finalised.' the multilined mind-link severed.

T.J. released Cole and stepped back. "you have about 5 minutes to rescind your complaint to West in person, then the meeting happens regardless."

Cole was glaring right at T.J., looked more than pissed off in fact, then he just turned and stalked out of the suite, banged the door shut behind him. T.J. sighed and shook his head, the man just had to push too hard. He turned and looked at Ella. "Sorry Ella." he'd hoped he'd been able to talk the man into it. But it was never going to happen.

She stood and shook her head "Always going to come down to this, I guess." then she just sighed and closed her suitcase. Put it on the floor. "I have so much stuff, Terence."

"Just bring clothes for now, we can move you at leisure after the meeting." he smiled gently at her, held out his hand to her "Now come here you." he growled softly at her, they were alone finally.

She grinned right at him, had not missed his tone, practically jumped into his arms and kissed him "You wanna? In my room I've never in here."

T.J. laughed "Oh baby. 15 minutes is not even close to enough time for what I want to do to you."

She giggled "I bet I could do something to you in 15 minutes to make you happy." she was grinning at him.

T.J. growled right at her "Don't tempt me woman, we can't miss our own mating meeting. You, however, can do all you want to me tonight. I promise."

She hugged him "I'm gonna." she sucked his lower lip into her mouth real hard and then slid her lips off it in a smacking sound "yummy."

T.J. shoved her hard up against the wall and kissed her hard "Damn you woman." his voice was all husky. He knew what she meant, ground his body up against hers. "I'll repay in kind," he whispered in her ear, grabbed her ass and rocked his hips against hers, heard her moan softly. Then he yanked himself away from her before they did miss their own meeting. "Temptress," he growled as he pulled her out of the suite and headed down the stairs to Wests office. She was giggling at him.

"You love it." she squeezed his ass.

And he did love it. She was a bloody Vixen, and was going to get everything she ever wanted, when they went to bed tonight. Might just have to tie her down and let her drown in the pleasure he could give her. Smirked to himself, he hadn't even asked her if she liked that kind of thing. He would thoroughly enjoy it though. Spend hours touching her. Hearing her gasp and moan, cry out and scream, begging him to stop, only to have him continue until she was exhausted and sated completely.

He saw Ricky and Cole on the first floor landing holding a mind-link conversation and wondered if Ricky was trying to talk him out of it. Continued on to West's office, dropped himself on to the couch and sat Ella right in his lap, a full display of what was going on for all those that would walk through the door.

West just smiled at the two of them. Said nothing.

Her parents arrived first. Both Ian and Maria looked right at the two of them. Her mother snorted and shook her head, "Got him I see dear." didn't seem to object at all.

"Yep." Ella smiled right at her mother,

Ian sighed "Where is Cole?"

"Not here yet." West replied "He is the one voicing the objection."

"Of course he is." Ian answered, shaking his head.

Jonathan and Belinda arrived next. His mother glared right at him but said nothing. His father just shook his head, said nothing at this point.

Cole was the last to enter the room. Glared right at T.J. and Ella in his lap. Closed the door and walked across the room.

"Voice your objection Cole." West got right to the point.

"They are not Mates." he snapped.

"No, they are not Cole. But they are both without a Mate and are old enough to choose a Mate. So that's not the reason. I don't think. Certainly not enough for me to reject the pairing."

"West, I have talked to you about this before," Cole stated flatly.

"No, you told me you didn't want them together because Terence might find his Mate and Ella would get hurt."

"That's correct."

“That’s not good enough, Cole. If they both want to Mark and Mate each other, and my understanding is that they both do.” West turned to look at he and Ella with a raised eyebrow.

“Yes.” He and Ella stated together.

Watched, West turn back to Cole. “Then Cole, unless you can come up with a legitimate concern that affects the pack itself. I’m going to allow it if 50% of the parents agree. So do you have another reason?”

Everyone was looking at Cole now. He looked more than unhappy. “Ella needs to produce the next Delta heir for you West.” he finally snapped “I won’t be having any children.”

Saw Maria blink in surprise “What? Why not son?”

Cole’s jaw was ticking.

T.J. sighed heavily “Cole, you have a brother that already has a child. That child can be the Delta heir. Why must it be Ella?”

“To keep her away from you.” he shot right at T.J. The man was so angry about this.

Ella got up off his lap and walked over to her brother. “That’s not fair to me Cole.” she said softly, “I know you want to protect me, but I love Terence, always have. Please don’t object any further.”

“What if he finds his Mate Ella?”

“I am his Mate. From now on till always.” she told him firmly.

“I don’t like it, Ella, a lot can happen in a year. You could get your heart broken.”

“No I won’t.” she shook her head “I trust Terence has made his mind up.”

T.J. stood “And I have. I’d like a formal Mating agreement, Alpha Westley. 1 year, Ella and I will Mark and Mate, 1 year from today. We will live together until then.”

West looked right at him “I accept your request, Beta Terence, Ella?”

“I agree with the condition Alpha Westley.” she smiled right at T.J and then she walked over and slid her arms around him as if to confirm how happy she was with the decision.

West looked at Ella’s parents. “Ian, Maria, do you object?”

"No." they both shook their heads. That made T.J. fill with relief. He'd never really known what they thought about it, seems he did hold some concern about it.

"Jonathan, Belinda, do you have any objections?"

His father looked at Ella, smiled and shook his head. "No, I like the girl."

His mother was staring right at him, he did know she would prefer Goddess-Gifted Mates for all her children. He stared right back at her, it was just a formality at this point. West had gotten the numbers needed to declare it. He watched her eyes move to Ella.

He could feel Ella getting nervous. He slid his arm around her and pulled her right into his side. "Mother, I want this. I would prefer to have your blessing, but I do not need it." he sighed. He knew Ella would also like to have her approval, even though she had not voiced it.

Watched as his mother walked right up to Ella, and tilted the girl's face up to look down at her and his complete shock, saw her eyes go completely white, like a seer's, put both her hands on Ella's face. His mother was a seer. He had no idea. Felt Ella shudder, yes it was a creepy ass sensation to have one stare into your soul and dig through your mind.

Everyone in the room seemed completely shocked bar his father. She stood for about a solid minute as she held Ella's gaze, felt her body convulse "Bin." he snapped at West, his hand out as Ella's hand shot to her mouth and she gagged, a natural response, West tossed him the empty bin and T.J. put it in her hands, watched as the poor girl heaved the contents of her stomach right up.

"Approved." Belinda nodded "Child, you do realise every child you have with Terence, must be presented to the Royal seer's. What you got just now, was a small dose of what they will get."

He saw Ella's eyes move right to him. T.J. nodded to her, unfortunately it was not something they could avoid at this point. "You and I will go with them," he reassured her.

Saw her turn back to his mother. "Yes Belinda," she nodded.

"Then I foresee no problem with the union, Alpha Westley."

"Then I grant the Mating Agreement. Cole, I will accept your brother's child as the next Delta heir, you should go and inform him of your choice not to have children in the future." and waved the man out of his office, he went without issue.

"Mother?"

"Another time Terence, please...I'm dealing with a lot right now." he watched her walk away, his father walked right over to him and hugged him. "took you long enough, son, to claim what you want."

"Sorry about that."

"Ah, son. Everything happens for a reason...everything." then he looked at Ella. "Welcome daughter. I'd hug you but..." he indicated the bin full of vomit she was still holding.

"I'm sorry I couldn't,"

"Don't be." his father waved it off "Terence still throws up too." he smirked right at T.J. and then simply strolled out the office after his Mate.

Ella's parents stood smiling at them both, Maria walked over and hugged both of them regardless of the bin. "I'll help her pack son. I'll be expecting grand babies very soon. Lots of them too."

"Mum," he heard Ella exclaim, and sounded a wee bit embarrassed. T.J. didn't think anything could embarrass the woman. Seemed he was wrong.

"I'll get on that the minute we are Marked and Mated, I assure you Maria."

Ella's eyes turned to his really wide now. "What do you want to wait until I'm old and wrinkly?" T.J. teased her.

Saw her snort and shake her head.

"You don't have to wait til then, son, now is fine with me. Come on sweetie, I'll help you pack. Do you mind if I help her move in?"

He was a little shocked that she didn't want them to wait, kind of liked the idea, left it for now. There was no rush. "Not at all, Maria." he smiled at Ella, kissed her temple "Go on up I'll come up soon."

She nodded and left with her parents. They closed the door behind them.

"You saved Cole's backside."

"Ah, I didn't want to do it this way. He's not ready for everyone to know."

"Doesn't look like it," West acknowledged.

"But now he knows, both you and I know about him and Ricky," T.J. commented.

“Yeah, we might have to bring them both in.”

“Ricky’s got Hayden’s kids to fall back on. It’ll be fine.” T.J. nodded and smiled right at West. “Thanks.”

“Get, go be with her. Just don’t forget your chaperone duties with Jo-anne.”

T.J. looked right at the man. “Do you really think I am going to leave Jayden, alone with my little sister?” he shook his head. That was completely absurd, he headed off upstairs to go be with Ella.

## **Chapter 88 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV

She opened the door to a very smiley T.J. She’d already heard from Ella, that T.J. had started the Chosen Mates process, that West had approved it without hesitation at all. She was so very excited, and was in the process of moving all of her things into his room, her mother helping her.

“Well now T.J.” she grinned right up at him. So happy for him and Ella. “You’ve had an eventful day I hear.” she waved him into her room.

He laughed “It was a lovely day, Jo-Jo.” then his smile was gone and he was all Beta. “Are you ready to go to dinner?”

“Yes,” she nodded.

“Do you want to wear that?” he asked, indicating her jeans and tee-shirt.

“Oh, I probably should change.”

He shrugged “I don’t care. West didn’t care, wear whatever you like Jo-Jo, what ever makes you comfortable.”

“I’ll put something else on.” she had been going to change for West, but he’d told her not to bother. Jayden might be another story. “Don’t you tell West about that.” she indicated the portrait, she’d been working on all day. It was coming along in leaps and bounds and would be finished in a day or two now. She was really happy with it.

Grabbed a dress from her closet, her white one with the little blue flowers.

“Not that one.” T.J. pulled it from her hands and threw it on the bed.

“Why not?” she frowned up at him.



"You wore that the day you came home. West saw you in that. Any other dress." he commented.

Jo-anne shook her head. "It's just a dress T.J." grabbed another and waved it at him "This one okay?" she muttered.

"It's not just a dress, it's the one he saw you in for the first time since you left. Keep that just for his eyes only, Jo-Jo. And yes that one is fine." he nodded to the one in her hand.

"I need more room in my closet." she sighed as she looked at the wrinkles on the side of it and frowned.

"Pick West, Jo-Jo and you'll have a closet as big as this room to fill up." he stated, walking over to the portrait. She left him there to get changed in the bathroom. "It's the day of the Alliance meetings, you were happy that day," he called out to her.

"Yes, got me the magic shot, as requested from his..." had been about to say Mate, but that was not the case. "Well, Miranda, and his mother." she called right back.

When she stepped out, looked over at him he was still looking at it. "You wouldn't happen to know what he was smiling about, would you? Looks really happy in those photos I took."

Saw his eyes move towards her "Yes I do. That for two days you'd been stalking him. Amused him to no end."

"What?" she frowned. He'd not known.

"Awe come on Jo-Jo, do you really think the Alpha, wouldn't notice someone stalking him days on end?" he shook his head and chuckled "Silly woman, I even knew, we just let you."

"And here I was thinking I'd been so sneaky." she whacked him on the arm.

"Not where we are concerned, he and I were both curious about your behaviour, much clearer now." saw him pointing to the portrait. "Has his mother seen it yet?"

"Yes, cheeky Luna, let herself in and saw it, but that was before Volt was in it. So shush, I only put him in it today, a secret. How is she?"

"I can keep a secret. You'd be surprised at all I know and can't talk about." he headed for the door. "The Luna is good, I hear, did you happen to pray for her Jo-Jo? like all those little animals you used to as a child. All those animals you saved with your prayers."

"Yes, of course I did. Why?" she frowned up at him now.

“No reason,” he smiled.

“No T.J.” she closed her door and walked with him down the hall “are you saying my prayers today were answered by the Goddess?”

“Yes, well, something like that.” he nodded.

That made her frown a little bit confused. Did it make sense to her? She thought back to her childhood. A lot of, them little animals, birds mostly had all as far as T.J. or Heath had been concerned, would die. But they never had. Most of them had healed up within a day or two and could be released. Maybe the Goddess did listen to her.

T.J. walked her all the way to the private dining room again and Alpha Jayden was there waiting on her. Smiled at her, slid his eyes over her and nodded as though he approved of her appearance, then walked over to her, she felt Clova snort and turn away, but no aggression, “Hello Jo-anne.” his hand moved up to her hair and then it was loose down her back and he handed her the paintbrush that had still been holding her hair up.

“Oh, sorry. I was painting all afternoon.” she smiled.

“That’s alright, but if you can’t afford proper hair ties or clips, I can rectify that for you easily.” he waved her into a chair.

Jo-anne sat “No, it’s fine, I just use a paintbrush sometimes, is all. I actually have plenty of money, my art sells for quite a nice price. Good for both the pack and myself.”

“Fair enough,” he commented and went and sat across from her “I thought we could talk about ourselves tonight, we kind of got a bit lost in the arts yesterday.”

Jo-anne smiled that they had, she noted T.J. take a seat, two chairs away sat and pulled out his phone, looked casual and relaxed, but knew he’d jump into action if something happened. “That might be a good idea. Get to know each other a bit better.”

“Good, I’d actually like to ask you about West?” Jayden stated “You’re previous Mate Bond actually.”

That grabbed her attention. “Why? It’s in the past.” didn’t see why he needed to know.

“Yes it is. But I believe you were underage at the time. I would like some clarification on the matter.” he nodded.

She frowned at him. “My Mate Bond to West, is not of your concern, it is his and my business.” she did not want to discuss it with him. Understood why he might have some concerns, but it was a long time ago and over long before he became her Mate.

“Agreed it is both your and his business, but as your Mate, I do have the right to know.”

"You're only my Mate if I choose you to be." she corrected him, wasn't trying to offend him, just reminding him she had not yet chosen.

"Incorrect. I am your Mate until you make a decision, between he and I. So could you please tell me about it?"

"And if I don't want to?" she folded her arms across her chest. He was being so very insistent, didn't think that he needed to know at this point. If she chose him it was likely she would tell him at some point, but she was not about to go and disclose her and West's history to the man who did not need to know, if she didn't choose him and told him, he'd have that knowledge to hold over West and her for always.

"I only want to understand is all. I'm not about to go using the information to try and get you to choose me, I just want to know that he did not force you into that bond."

"He did not force me into our Mate Bond." she clarified to him. No, that had been her stepmother, who forced them both. From her understanding of Karen's words, West and his wolf had resisted and fought against it themselves.

"Then why did you reject him?" he was watching her with narrowed eyes, trying to read her, she thought.

"Again, that is my and West's personal business, Jayden. If you are unhappy that I don't want to talk about it, I can't help that. What I can tell you is that West did not force me into it. I did not force him into it either. We have dealt with it, discussed it even. I was well passed it before finding out he was my Goddess-Gifted Mate. I will be giving him the same chance you are getting."

He was frowning now. Was he trying to get her to think about their past? Perhaps this was his way of trying to sway her. She didn't know him well enough to know if he would or wouldn't use that knowledge against his rival.

She did know that any Alpha would use all at their disposal to help sway their Mate to their side, to get them to choose themselves instead of the other.

"It will be me, Jo-anne, you will choose me."

"I have not chosen you yet. You seem to think that I will though."

"Yes I do. You rejected West once before. It is likely that you will again Jo-anne. That is all." he shrugged.

"So you are going to use my previous relationship with West, against him to sway me. You said you wouldn't do that." heard T.J. snort and saw Jayden glare at him before returning his eyes to her.

"No I'm not, let's leave it for now," he commented as their meal arrived and was laid before her. "one of my favourite entree's I hope you'll like it. Barbeque Spanish baby octopus. I've organised with the chef here a variety of dishes for you to try.

"Thank you." she nodded. She was happy to try anything once, though didn't particularly like eating baby anything, didn't sit well with her. But she would at least try it. Knowing that he had gone to a lot of trouble and was likely just trying to showcase his pack and their preferences, it did back right onto the ocean.

"Do you eat seafood all the time?" she asked.

"Yes, at least once a day, I quite like it." he nodded "You?"

"I don't mind seafood, but it was never a staple around here growing up," she answered him.

"Do you have a favourite seafood dish then?"

She thought about that for a moment. "Maybe seared salmon with a lemon and garlic butter sauce on a bed of wild rice."

"I could have that made for you on a regular basis." Jayden smiled "What is your favourite food?"

"Roast pork with all the trimmings."

"Typical wolf..." he chuckled "I'll broaden your taste buds, that's for certain."

"I lived in Seattle for the last 10 years. I have eaten many weird and wonderful things, but somethings just remind you of home is all. Heath used to cook a roast pork dinner once a week when I was growing up, family tradition I guess you could say." It was a nice memory. It had even continued after he'd met Karen, and after her sisters were born. Every Wednesday night, a nice memory of the family she'd once had.

"Well, I'm certain, that can be arranged as well. Jo-anne I will give you whatever you want. Know this, you will want for nothing as my Luna. I will spoil you rotten. Shopping trips, to get you dresses and clothes appropriate for a Luna to wear and comfortable clothes, we'll travel and see many nice cities. Go on long fun vacations wherever you want to go. Spend days enjoying each others company as well. I will get you a car of your choosing too."

"I have a car now. I quite like it, fits all I need in it."

"Oh, I did not know, what is it, may I ask?"

She smiled. "Of course you can, it's a jeep wrangler."

He burst out laughing, "Oh, Jo-anne. That is not a car for a Luna." he waved it off. "We will pick you up something nice on the way home. I quite prefer Mercedes myself and I know there are some lovely ones that would make for a nice suitable care for a Luna."

There it was again, she thought, his reference to her being his, "Why do you always say it like that, when we go home? Like I've made my decision already?"

"Don't take it the wrong way, it's just my way of letting you know I want you is all. No pressure, of course, though I do like how it sounds. When we go home," he practically purred it out all soft and slow.

The next course arrived. Oysters kilpatric, 5 of them on her plate, this she'd had before, quite liked it and ate without issue. "What do you like to do Jayden, when not filling your Alpha duties?"

Watched as his eyes slid right over her and she knew what he was thinking "Other than the obvious." she half smiled.

He chuckled softly "I don't mind going dancing, do you like dancing?"

"I do actually. Used to hang out with my human friends and go dance clubbing all the time."

"Good. My pack has two dance clubs, one for ranked members and one for regular members." he nodded.

"Why separate?"

"My father set that up, you'd have to ask him." he smiled and shrugged "I go to both. I'm not fussed about the separation."

"Do you have many she-wolves in your pack, that you've bedded?"

"I won't lie to you. There are a few. But it is to be expected I am an Alpha Jo-anne I have needs."

She did not doubt that "I just thought you'd sate them outside your pack, so no issues with them when you bring your Mate home." she shrugged.

"There will be no issues, I assure you, everyone will be informed of who you are and respect will be given, demanded. If any fall out of line, I will banish them for you."

"You'd turn a she-wolf rogue for disrespecting me?" That was not right. That would put their lives in danger.

"If I thought she was a threat to you, yes." he nodded "So now that you've brought up the subject, may I enquire about your lovers?"

"Just West." she confirmed.

"No one else at all. Its been a long time since you were with him."

"Just West." she nodded was not going to tell him it was just a week ago. Didn't think that would go down so well. Picked up the wine glass on the table and sipped it. It was a nice fruity wine. She liked it.

"This is nice." she commented, trying to change the subject.

"Thank you. I thought you might like it." he smiled right at her. Seemed to get that she didn't want to talk about it anymore.

Their main meal arrived and Jayden changed the topic, told her not only did he like dancing, that he actually enjoyed walking around in his museums, relaxed him, found it therapeutic when stressed out. Was happy to take her on a private tour of all his art galleries and museums. It was a nice thought to be honest. They were things she enjoyed doing.

After dinner, he took her dancing, down at Maxi's had booked the place just for the two of them for an hour apparently, and she got to dance with him. He was all smiles and full of charm as he waltzed her around the floor, samba danced with her too. That was fun, the man could indeed dance and it was nice she had lots of fun, could feel her reservations about him melting away as he stood with her in the middle of the dance floor, slow dancing with her.

Jo-anne liked that it was just the two of them, just him. Actually, his wolf, Loch, was not present and so it didn't seem to bother Clova, her wolf was just lying in her mind, her head on her paws, said nothing at all about Jayden being so close to her and touching her while they had danced. She could actually see them getting along even. No anger at all from him tonight. A little annoyance, but that had passed quickly.

"Times up." Jayden sighed softly, looking down at her "the crowds coming in". He stepped them off the dance floor and they headed back to the pack-house. He walked her all the way to her door. Tilted her chin up "This was really nice. I know we could be good together, and it is what I want, Jo-anne. Don't doubt that for a single second." then his lips pressed to her forehead "I will not kiss you how I want to, it might incite Loch's possessiveness." he chuckled "Good night."

"Good night." she nodded and he walked away.

Found herself under T.J.'s gaze. "What?" she muttered. She was confused herself, it was complicated having two mates, and she knew T.J. would want her to pick West they were friends.

"Nothing." he said finally, "Get some sleep Jo-Jo." and then he walked away.

She sighed and retired to her room. A part of her had really not expected to end up having a nice time with Jayden, but then again they had gotten along yesterday too. Yes, the butt heads, but he was an Alpha and they were used to getting what they wanted.

She was more confused now than before though.

West had been all charm and fun. Smiling and laughing with her, and then that kiss, she sighed. He'd never kissed her like that before, so soft and gentle, all passion.

Then there was Jayden so much in common with him, everything in fact, only his anger bothered her, but everything else was a match.

She flopped down on her bed and huffed. She had no idea what to do. She didn't know, lay there and tried to feel out what she wanted. She knew Clova was all for West, but Jayden was more like her, she did not know why the goddess made people choose, one mate was more than enough, "Why two?" she muttered some time later and got up to head for the shower.

Crazy goddess loved playing games with her wolves, it seemed.

She stepped into the shower and stood there. She was about to get out when a hot shiver shot up her back, reminded herself to stay focused and not call for West, felt it roll through her body goddess it was amazing and so strong today. She was sitting on the shower floor with her head tilted back and her eyes closed just letting herself calm down after wards even Clova was all stretched out.

'This is going to shock whoever we pick.' she muttered.

Heard Clova snort and chortle 'They'll have to deal with it.'

Jo-anne finally got up off the floor. 'Yes they will,' she thought as she dried off and put pyjamas on, wondering how long they would be able to hide it from them. Crawled into her bed tired yet happy.

## **Chapter 89 - Her Alpha's Orders**

Jo-anne POV



She woke up and was so very hot. What the hell, she knew the pack-house had centralised air conditioning, kicked off all the sheets and practically fell out of her bed, wiped her hand over her face, she was lathered in sweat, made her way to the window, what the hell it was open and the night breeze was cool.

Leaned on the window but she felt like she was on fire, saw what looked like a heat haze around her, took a step back and stumbled a little, felt like she was falling over but wasn't, took a deep breath and fanned her face with her hands.

Heard a howl of pain coming from somewhere and frowned, closed her eyes to try and refocus on centring herself, felt for Clova, she to was up and restlessly stalking around inside her mind 'Clova?' she asked her wolf finally feeling steady on her feet, headed for the bathroom to drink down some cold water.

'Hot.' Clova snarled right at her.

'Me too.' Jo-anne groaned back, holding on to the edge of the sink. 'too hot.' she looked at herself in the mirror and gasped. Her eyes were all silver and they were glowing, shook her head. She must be seeing something, hallucinations due to the fever she was clearly running. She looked again at her eyes, still glowing, splashed cold water on her face and looked again. Still they were glowing. It was unnatural 'Were sick.' she told Clova.

'No...not sick, Hot need...' felt Clova shake herself inside Jo-anne's mind, felt her wolf push forward to look at themselves in the mirror, heard another howl of pain. It wasn't Clova, but she could hear it, and was now using her wolf's hearing to pick it up.

'Heath.' they both said at the same time.

Their eyes met in the mirror and, as one, they knew, he was going to die. Too much pain in him. Needed to see him, had to get to him, turned and left the bathroom, stumbled and fell over "What is wrong with us?" Jo-anne asked Clova. Her wolf surely had to know.

'Hot and fuzzy.' was all she got back as they picked themselves up off the floor, made their way to the door, pulled on it. It wouldn't open, glared right at it, all the bloody locks West had installed, cursed at them and turned them one at a time, then yanked the door open, stumbled out into the hallway.

So freaking hot, and her eyesight was being affected by the heat, she snarled at a pair of hands on her, turned to find Oliver looking at her with a very wide eyed expression on his face.

"I'm hot. I'm going outside." she shot at him, saw him just nod, after he stood her up. Put one hand on the wall for support still felt dizzy and like she was going to fall down with every step she was taking.



Blinked several times as her vision blurred in and out of focus, shook her head and staggered down the stairs clutching at the railing for balance, felt her feet slip and a hand landed on her arm, snarled right at it again, they didn't want help, they didn't want anyone around them right now. Needed to go, to be alone.

Made it outside into the cool night air and just stood there for a full minute, breathing in the cold air, was fanning herself still too hot. Then that pained howl, they turned and were off running for the cells. They knew where he was, locked up and in pain. Their only thought now was to get to Heath. He needed them.

She was standing before the cell guard, one hand wiping the sweat from her brow, glaring at the man. "Let us in." they said, They could feel sweat covering their whole body, when he just stood there staring at her without saying anything repeat themselves "Let us see him."

"Not without the Alpha's approval, Jo-anne. I'm sorry." he informed her.

They snarled right at him and saw him take a weary step back away from them.

"Jo-anne." a deep voice called her name, a commanding tone even. They turned their head, Alpha Jayden was looking right at her. A snarl ripped from them, and their eyes moved to the man standing next to him West, stood there staring at her as well.

The two guards, who'd been outside their room, she could see behind them as well, not that far away and still making their way towards the cell, snorted, hadn't been able to keep up, it seemed. Both of them had reached out to their Alpha's, snarled at all of them, didn't care for them to be here with them, shook their head and turned back to the cell, their head tilted to one side. They could hear Heath inside, thrashing about down in his cell. Something was wrong with him.

"Jo-anne come here." Alpha Jayden.

"I wouldn't do that. That is not Jo-anne." it was West.

"Jo-anne." Alpha Jayden snapped and she felt it, his Alpha Aura rolled right at her. He was trying to make her do what he wanted.

They growled low and deep, that was very offensive to them. They turned all the way around and stared right at the man. "You did not just push us." they snarled and felt so much more heat inside of them "You want to play." They screamed at him. A surge of anger shot through them at his actions against them.

"No, Jo-anne don't." it was West and their eyes moved right to him. He was shaking his head at her, they snarled right at him.

"Come here and calm down now." Alpha Jayden. He was using his aura on them again, trying to make her do what he wanted again.

"You want to play with us...Let's play." they roared at him and threw all they had at him, all the heat inside of them, pushed it at him along with their aura, rolled it right back at him, see how he liked getting a taste of his own medicine. Saw his completely shocked expression as he was forced back several steps, and his neck was bared to her.

Stood there and stared right back at that man, who dared to roll his aura at them, no more would they be pushed around, no more would they not rise to meet the challenge, watched as his wolf came to the surface and snarled right at them.

"Submit." he and his wolf roared right back at them.

"Never." they growled right back.

Saw West put a hand to the man and his wolf told him to "Back off, you don't know what she is, that is not the Jo-anne we know."

"She will submit to me, I am her Mate." he yanked himself from West's grip and stalked towards them. "You will submit to me woman," and rolled their Alpha Aura right at her as they moved closer.

They cracked their neck and snapped their hands down. All their claws were out now "You submit wolf. You are nothing compared to us, unified as one."

Closed their eyes and felt it. Yes they were one, she and Clova, all their thoughts aligned perfectly, all their feelings and emotions together, they were as of one being, not separate. One unified creature and together their power, white hot and boiling to the surface, it wanted out of them.

Opened their eyes and locked on the man stalking towards her. "Come and get us." Then they shot forward to give him all they had, all they were, snarled as they missed their prey, it was flung out of the way, before they could get their claw into it. Rage ripped right through them as she slid to a stop, used one clawed hand to grab the ground and spin themselves around to find where their prey had gone.

Took a hit from behind and tumbled across the ground. There was massive growling and snarling now, as a man stood before her one of her guards, all his claws were out. Roared at him and saw him not just bare his neck, stumble back and then fall to the ground on all fours. He was nothing compared to them.

Got themselves up off of the ground and stared down at him, put their foot right into him with all the force and will they could muster and watched as that man went flying across the small clearing and into a tree, then fell down to the ground unconscious.

Whipped her head around at a howl of pain “Heath.” they both cried out together, but there were two standing between them and what they wanted.

“Jo-anne, please calm down.” It was West.

“Don’t ask her, you fool. Make her.” it was Jayden.

They laughed right at him softly “Come play with us.” they taunted Jayden “I want to play, don’t you?”

Saw him shoot towards them and it was then they were yanked away from him, yet again, spun away, shook their head and looked for what had denied her. T.J. was standing staring at them. “Calm down little one, I’m right here.”

Snarled right at him, moved her eyes to the man that was their prey, a man they were going to get a piece of. Found T.J. moved right in front of him, blocking them. “You won’t hurt me.”

Growled right at him, but he was right. He was not even close to what they wanted “Move.” she snarled right at him.

“No.” he stated firmly “Calm down.”

Screamed right at him they did, all their frustrations at being denied yet again what they wanted. Their prey so close yet denied by all.

Felt a hand touch their face softly, gently “Shh...my child...Calm yourselves.”

Their eyes moved to the woman. Belinda stood before her, was looking right into their eyes. A look of sadness in her eyes “I want,” they gasped.

“Shh...I know so much power...it’s hard to contain...shh...listen and relax, I can help you... I will help you understand.”

“So hot,” they stated, but already could feel that heat draining away from them.

“I know.” Belinda ran her hand through their hair and pulled her into a gentle hug “Shh my child...let go, I have you now.”

Their anger was draining away from them, just like the last time she’d been so angry, leaned into Belinda “We don’t want to...” felt Clova fall away from her and separate to settle back into her mind “Hurt anyone.” Jo-anne could feel darkness swallowing her now. “I’m sorry.” she whispered right before it claimed her completely.

## **Chapter 90 - Her Alpha's Orders**

West POV.

He was woken by Oliver 'Alpha.'

'Mm what?' he muttered still tired.

'Something is wrong with your Luna.'

That snapped him wide awake, sat bolt up right 'What?'

'All lathered in a heavy sweat, eyes all glowing, is stumbling around stating she feels all hot wants to go outside. Is going out side.'

West was up and out of bed looking for pants 'Is she hot?'

'Oh yeah, radiating off of her like a furnace, heading downstairs for outside.'

'Stay with her, I'll be only a few minutes behind, I stress Oliver, I wouldn't touch her.'

'Yeah I got that already, even trying to help her stand up she growled at me.'

'Stay with her.'

His pants were on, didn't bother with anything else, banged on T.J.'s door 'Get out of bed, Jo-anne is about to explode.' he shot down the mind-link knowing full well, he was 100% certain he was interrupting his Beta with his new Mate. But had no choice, was gonna need the man 'Sorry.' he shot at T.J. a second later as he headed down stairs.

They knew it was coming, without Heath's blood to suppress her Royal Alpha genes, and what ever the hell else she was it was only a matter of time, before this happened. Alpha Jayden he saw was also coming, still pulling clothes on himself as he came down the hall.

"What the hell is going on West?"

"Your guess is as good as mine Jayden." He shot at the man as he hit the stairs for the ground floor.

'on the move alpha.' Oliver linked him, West picked up the pace and could see her sprinting away towards the cells, could feel Volts anxiousness at what was going on, sprinted after her.

She was running at full Alpha wolf speed he noted, neither he nor Jayden were going to catch her, damned royal blood in her made her fast like her mother and brother.

"West?"

“Just run Jayden.” he shot at the man, didn’t have the time to explain anything to him right this second, she got there ahead of them, they’d both passed Oliver and Andrew her guards for the night.

‘West?’

‘Cells.’ he shot right back to T.J.

‘What the...’ the link was severed, the man would not be far behind, could out run anyone with exception to his mothers wolf. Made West now wonder if he could out run Jo-anne, it was possible, but he’d seen just how fast she was on two feet now. Maybe not. Might have to pit them against each other at some point and see.

He put his hand on Jayden and halted them a good distance away he could see those moons all down her back were all glowing, even under the tiny blue singlet top she was wearing there was a definite glow.

Oliver was not wrong either, she was indeed hot, heat was radiating off of her in waves it seemed, he could feel it from all the way back here, kind of looked like there was a heat haze around her, like on super hot days and you could see the heat coming up of the roads when driving your car.

“Don’t do anything stupid Jayden, neither of us know what she is.” He tried to keep Jayden in check.

To hear her words Let us in, Let us see him. She’d never referred to herself and Clova as us before and her voice was a little weird, like they were talking as one, both of them together, only usually done when orders were being given or the claiming of ones Mate, other than that, it was one or the other.

“Jo-anne.” he heard Jayden yell and try to command her attention, the idiot was going to start a fight, and West knew he was not going to be able to stop it. Had taken Belinda he last time.

Saw her turn and was not surprised by the full glow of her eyes, it was bright like neon, saw her snarl as she looked right at Jayden. Looked to him and snarled at him as well, her eyes moved over everyone in the area. All that were here watching her, assessing the threat he wondered, must not have perceived one, turned away from them all, had something else on her mind.

West tuned his hearing into the cells, as she tilted her head, to hear what she was hearing, Heath was in there thrashing about, hurting himself probably as he lay chained to that bed.

He warned Jayden, when the man tried to command her to come to him even told him that it wasn’t the Jo-anne they knew and she was not, this was all her fathers bloodline

he imagined and that man, was powerful he was certain of it. Wondered if he to was an Alpha of some sort.

Jayden did not listen to him and stupidly rolled his Alpha Aura right at her, not even West would do that right this minute, who knew what kind of response it would elicit from an already pissed off Alpha blooded wolf.

It didn't seem to effect her at all, just pissed her off even further it seemed. Turned to stare right at the man. "you did not just push me?"

'push me' West thought, if she thought his Alpha Aura was just a push at her, that was not a good thing, even the guard behind her had bared his neck to Jayden's Aura as it had been rolled at her, West even heard the man gasp in pain, it had not been a push it was likely the full dose of he mans Aura and she had not even so much as flinched.

"You want to play." she'd roared at the man.

"No Jo-anne, don't." West had called out to her, she would hurt herself if she hurt one of her Mates, when she settled down and came back to normal, she would be devastated completely, and if she killed him, it would likely rip her apart.

She looked right at him, so he knew she'd heard his words, a good thing but the snarl he got meant she was not going to listen to him.

Stupid man next to him just couldn't let it go, no Alpha like being challenged, and she was his Mate and actively defying him, it was clear she did not want to listen, wasn't going to do as she was told, but still that man was going to try and force his will on her.

'Belinda.' he reached out for her mother

'What?'

'Cells now, Jo-anne has lost all control.'

'What?'

'I'm sorry I can't reach her at all.'

'Coming West.' the link was severed

Watched as she screamed and all her Royal Alpha Aura poured out of her, he and Volt snarled and shot out of the way, to late though had gotten hit by it, bared their own neck to her. Damned near bowed down to her, staggered another step away and was released from her aura. Jayden how ever copped the full force of it, the man was forced back several steps and his neck bared to her as well.

It was all going to shit, West watched as the mans wolf surfaced, felt Volt rise at the threat it posed to his Mate 'don't' West warned him 'she will see us as not different to him. Right now I think.'

'He harms Clova I'll kill him.' Volt snarled right back.

Loch and Jayden ordering her to submit, was the most stupidest thing he'd ever seen, no-one not even Jayden knew what she was yet he and his wolf were going to challenge her. When it was perfectly clear she'd already out muscled him and his wolf with her Aura.

West already knew that Jo-anne had Royal blood, but it was now very likely that so did Jayden, he would not have missed it. Royals had a very distinctive feeling to them when they asserted themselves, and no-one other than another Royal could resist them.

Jayden had gotten a good dose of her aura, he now knew his Mate had Royal blood, likely wanted it for himself even more, the power it would bring to his offspring would be great. Likely why he and his wolf were now fighting for her to submit.

Heard her say 'never' and knew she meant it, warned Jayden, stepped over to him and put a hand on him to try and get him to see sense of the situation. The fool how ever did not listen and stalked off towards her, demanding that she will submit to him, he was going to die if T.J. and Belinda didn't get their asses out here soon.

Watched her crack her neck, never seen her do that before, she was all fight it seemed, saw both her hands snap down and her claws protrude from her fingers not all at once either, one after the other such a menacing sight, she, they had full control over their body and that was a display of their control. Likely a warning to Jayden, but he was to concerned with his need to make her submit to him to realise he was about to get into a battle he could not win.

To hear Jo-anne tell Jayden's wolf to submit to her, shocked him a little. Clova was always happy to be dominated by Volt at all times. Then to hear her state he was 'nothing compared to us, unified as one.' scared even West more than a little he had to admit.

Unified as one, two minds together as one, in complete sync and it did appear that way he realised, but who the hell had that much control, and to hold it for so long.

'Clova special, beautiful.' Volt snorted at him as though he had always known this.

West could not disagree with Volt, watched her close her eyes and sigh as thought she finally understood herself, then when they opened, she smiled right at Jayden quite menacingly "Come and get us." and then she shot forward to get the man herself.

West was already on the move, the minute she had smiled at him, knocked the stupid man out of her path, crash tackled him to the ground “Enough Jayden she will kill you, Royal blooded did you not feel that.”

“Mine, not yours, I will claim what is mine, that power is mine, I will not give it up to you.”

“It is not your choice you idiot.” he snarled at Jayden “Get a bloody hold of yourself or die. That’s your choice here. I will not get between the two of you again, she’ll kill you and I’ll claim her.”

Saw Jayden glare right at West, and finally back down.

Turned to face her only to see Andrew go flying through the air, and be slammed into a tree, fall unconscious to the ground, a howl of pain came from the cells behind him and her head whipped around so fast. All this was over Heath yet again that man.

“Jo-anne please calm down.” he tried to calm her, kept his voice calm and gentle, trying to reach her was about to tell her she could see Heath, knew it would likely calm the situation only to have Jayden interrupt him. The man had no patience at all it seemed.

“Don’t ask her you fool, make her.”

Watched the man incite her rage even further, she laughed evilly if ever there was one to be heard “Come play with me.” her anger and taunting words aim directly at Jayden “I want to play with you.”

West sighed there was no stopping it, he was literally powerless to stop her, he was an Alpha but she was a Royal Blooded Alpha, Jayden signed his own death certificate the second his wolf shot off the mark to accept the challenge, he would not get involved or they would all likely die.

Watched as T.J. finally arrived at full Alpha wolf speed, reached out and yanked her away from the oncoming wolf, she was not expecting it, was flung away from them all and T.J. put himself between her and Jayden his aura was rolling out of him at Jayden, forcing his wolf to back down, it didn’t take long.

“Calm down little one...I’m right here.” his voice was soft and caring full of love West realised.

Saw her snarl at him “You won’t hurt me.”

“Move.” she snapped at him, at least this time she did appear to not want to hurt him, had been utterly devastated the last time, she’d not likely do it again.

“No. Calm down.”



Then she was screaming right at him, saw the mans body stiffen her aura was rolling out of her and he was likely feeling it, Jayden bare his neck at the feel of it yet again.

Saw Belinda step up to her, reach out and touch her face “Shh...my child, Calm yourselves.” her own mother, the only one who could calm her last time.

“I want.” watched as Jo-anne’s whole body turned to the woman, goddess how had he never known, they looked so much alike. The same grey eyes, the same cinnamon brown hair, the same skin tone, she was all her mother, glanced at T.J. he looked relieved to see his mother. Wondered how he felt about Jo-anne’s aura, his neck had not bared but his whole body at stiffened, had he been fighting it and how much effort had that taken.

Jayden was now standing watching, he saw them man recognise the likeness.

“Shh...i know so much power, its hard to contain...Shh...”

Jo-anne just stood, her arms were hanging at her sides like she was in some kind of trance even “listen and relax...” her claws retracted “I can help you...i will help you understand.”

“So hot.” he heard Jo-anne say softly.

“I know.” Belinda smiled gently down at her own daughter, ran a hand through the girls sweat drenched hair, she was covered from head to toe in sweat, she had meant it when she had said she was hot, her whole body was hot and burning up it seemed, it could be felt from metres away.

Watched as Belinda put her arms around Jo-anne and hugged her, saw actual tears fall from her eyes as she closed them and held her daughter for the first time as a mother “Shh my child...I have you now.” she sighed softly, claiming the child she had given up at birth.

“I don’t want...to hurt anyone.” he heard Jo-anne say “I’m sorry.” she whispered and then passed out completely in Belinda’s arms just like the last time.

West walked over to her as she knelt down to the ground and lay her daughter down “This is not good West.” she sighed “I had hoped, she would not be like him.” she was brushing sweaty hair off of Jo-anne’s face.

They all heard a pained howl come from the cells, West sighed “It’s always heath.” he muttered as he hunkered down “thank you for coming.”

“Sedate that man, he is the catalyst. When she wakes up bring her right here to see him.” her eyes moved to West “She needs to fix him, he’s broken.”

“Insane.” West sighed.

“My little girl can fix him. I’m certain of it, been saving things all her life, without even knowing she was doing it.”

“Alright.” he was in agreement and he had been going to let her see him today anyway.

“Terence my boy.” she turned to look at him “Now what did I tell you about getting in front of your little sister?”

T.J. chuckled “Awe come on mum, my little sister would never hurt me.”

“You have some faith boy. Get that from your father you do.”

“Ah shucks mum.” he laughed.

“Now. Who is the idiot that had the hide.” she stated as she stood up and looked right at Jayden “To attack my child. A Royal bloody Princess.” she emphasised the last three words, already knew by the way she was stalking over to that man.

Watched T.J. snort and step out of the way “and you thought I was bad. Good luck Alpha Jayden.”

T.J. walked right over and stood next to West as he watched Belinda stare the man down, he could not challenge her, it would bring the whole royal army down on his pack.

Her hand was on his face, just one claw protruded from her pointer finger and she scratched his face with it, saw the man flinch, then watched as Belinda leaned forward and licked that blood off of his face.

“Now I have you.” she closed her eyes “Hm.” shook her head slightly “You ever bring harm to my little girl, I will hunt you down myself. I know your blood now. And I’ll not just hunt you, your entire blood line, right down too...” she laughed “Your bastard daughter, you don’t claim to.”

Saw the mans eyes go wide, that was news to everyone, West wondered if the man knew himself that he had an illegitimate daughter out there. Then she let go of him.

“West, pick up my baby and take her back to her bed please.”

“Of course Belinda.” he knelt down and picked Jo-anne up, settled her with the help of T.J. against his chest “You will also stay with her the night, she will need comfort when she wakes up.”

“No, that is unacceptable.” it was Alpha Jayden.

“Terence son, you to will stay, I’ll call your Mate as well, the three of you will be there when she wakes up.”

“Yes mother.”

“Come now.” she turned to Jayden “You might want to get your broken man to the pack hospital, he’s bleeding internally.”