

Chapter 91 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

It was clear to West that Belinda was no longer going to hide who she was any more, though the woman lay unconscious in his arms and had yet to hear Belinda's very loud claim, that she was her daughter or a royal princess, he was certain it wouldn't take long for her to come forward.

Belinda had just outed herself in front of Oliver, his top war general, his cell guard would have heard it and she had confronted Alpha Jayden. His man was now on his way to the pack hospital. West knew that both his men would not say anything at all. They knew Jo-anne had not grown up with Belinda in the Beta suite, with Heath else where in the pack, so it was to be kept quiet at this point.

Though whether Alpha Jayden would keep his mouth shut was another matter, but then again, the man was now under full threat if he so much as harmed Jo-anne. She would personally hunt him down, his whole bloodline, that was interesting in itself. She was a seer, he'd not known that, neither had T.J., the shocked expression on his face said it all.

Although Ella had been told she'd gotten a small dose, West now wondered just how powerful a seer the woman was. She had not used her foresight to see into Jayden, had tasted his blood, tested it maybe, had not liked what she'd seen in all likelihood. Wondered what it was in fact.

The three of them, West, T.J. and Belinda were all walking in silence, though West could see that Belinda was now walking with her son's arm around her shoulders, back to being a happy family now that the secret was out, he supposed.

West wondered when Belinda was going to come for him, to have a piece of him. She had just threatened Jayden in front of all for only attacking her daughter, and not just him his whole blood line. His past with Jo-anne was not good and she had been here for all of it. Likely the only reason she didn't come for him at the time was that no-one knew she was Jo-anne's mother and it would have outed her back then, but now?

"Belinda, about Jo-anne." might as well get it over with, so he would start the conversation.

"Let it go West," She turned to look at him "I know how you feel. I also know you could not stop yourself." she sighed heavily "I know a great deal more than you think. If my little girl has forgiven you," she smiled and reached out to touch Jo-anne's hair, "and I know she has, so have I. Just don't do it again. There are still somethings we will need to sit down and discuss, but not now."

"I won't ever again, I promise you that." and he wouldn't.

They were almost at the pack-house when she stopped walking and put her hand on both of them. He and T.J. stopped and looked at her. Her eyes were white now, she was seeing something.

“Not good.” she muttered, looked right at T.J. and West heard him sigh.

“How long, mother?”

“I don’t know,” she shook her head. “they still seem a bit confused, but the King’s seer’s they felt something, power and they are searching for it, thankfully at this time I don’t see them coming this way.” she turned and looked to West “I’ll let you know if she is in trouble.”

“Trouble?” he asked, now frowning.

“Yes. I believe the Kingdoms seer’s just felt a new and powerful Royal Aura, that they had no idea about. They are trying to track it, might take them some time. I won’t be high on their list. All my children were presented at birth, I never hid them, I do not ever present myself as a threat, don’t even think about them, keeps me off their radar, so to speak. I have several siblings in the human world, currently. You know I have like a dozen right.”

He did not know she had a dozen siblings. Knew the king and queen did have many children and grandchildren at that, but not living in the kingdom itself didn’t really concern him or make him look into it, unlikely to come across Royals out here.

“They do not know about Jo-anne and I made sure of that. Let’s just wait and see, it was only a brief roll of power, they might not be able to track it at all, gone before they felt it I’d say.”

“and this is trouble?”

She looked at Jo-anne. “Unfortunately, yes.”

“Because you didn’t declare her?” he knew all royals had to be presented to the kingdom.

“No, because of who she actually is. What she will be to them. I won’t have them get their hands on her West. I hid her for a very good reason. I did not abandon my child for no reason. She had to be protected and not just from her father, who is dead, by the way, killed that sick evil bastard myself.” she grated out, “but all the seer’s in the kingdom, Hendrick the most. She has to be hidden from them all.”

“Why may I ask?”

“Inside. This is not the time or the place for such a discussion.”

West just nodded, it likely needed to be behind closed doors.

Ella was standing on the first floor hall by the stairs waiting for them all. Just wearing pyjamas, very similar to Jo-anne's he noted, Belinda smiled right at her. "There is my daughter, who makes my son so very happy."

Saw Ella blush, and watched Belinda go over and hug her and then the two of them held a private mind-link conversation. When it was over, Ella was just staring at Belinda in what could only be described as shock. "now the four of you go and get some sleep, and West..."

"Yes Belinda."

"Things are not over, not even close. Heath, you have to let her deal with him, however she wants to. First thing in the morning, or tonight will only repeat itself, but on a level we can not contain."

"First thing," West nodded. "I was going to take her over anyway, I think he's dying."

Watched the woman nod her head. "Good, do it before breakfast, she might." turned and looked at Jo-anne for a solid minute. Her head tilted slightly. "throw up afterwards, oh and stop torturing the girl with your..." she chuckled "Naughty thoughts." and then she just turned and trotted up the stairs still chuckling to herself. It appeared she was back to the happy woman she had been before T.J. had confronted her about Jo-anne.

That was a very odd statement, torturing the girl with his naughty thoughts? He found both Ella and T.J. staring at him questioningly "I don't know.". He shrugged and shook his head. He did not understand her comment anymore than either of them. T.J. opened her door and they all filed in.

"What did mother say to you?" T.J. questioned her as soon as the door was closed.

"None ya business." but she was grinning at him "Now. let's get Jo-anne all cleaned up and some one tell me what the hell happened."

T.J. sat on the couch and let him and Ella wash Jo-anne's sweaty body down and redress her, while West tried to explain what he'd seen happen. West noted that the man kept his eyes averted the whole time, not that he wouldn't have seen her naked before, but now that she was his sister, he didn't look.

Though when West thought about it, the man had backed away from her and averted his eyes the day she'd come out of the bathroom in her towel, had put a shirt on her when she'd been bitten by Jester and had stood behind her in the Luna suite, very respectful of their sibling relationship. Not that she knew about it yet. That was a conversation still to be had.

West put Jo-anne into the bed and watched as Ella climbed right in next to her, a little shocked by the behaviour, as she slid right under the covers. "What? Jo-anne and I used to sleep next to each other all the time, stayed in my room with me most nights from when she was like 15." she told him then looked at T.J. "Terence come on." she pat the bed next to her, but the man didn't walk over, his eyes were on a piece of paper on the wall.

"What is this?" T.J. walked over to it.

West walked over as well, and frowned at it "Only one can be happy?" he turned and questioned Ella, it was her hand writing.

"Yeah, I guess we'll get to that tomorrow sometime. Let's just say our Jo-anne got a visit from Selena, the moon Goddess herself. She can tell you tomorrow, come on. It's late and I know we are all tired."

She was not wrong about that. West did not particularly relish sleeping in the jeans he was wearing, but was not about to strip himself naked and crawl into her bed. The minute she woke up, he'd have her and he knew it. Volt, it seemed, was in agreement and happy about the thought.

But he also was not going to sleep on that couch, slid into the bed next to her, propped himself up on one elbow and looked down at her, T.J. turned the lights out and slid right into the bed himself. On the other side of Ella, pulled her into his arms with a playful growl and West's eyes moved to them. They had better not, he thought, saw Ella whack him, but chuckle at the same time. Then made herself comfortable, snuggled right into the man's chest.

His eyes met T.J.'s, darkness did not hinder their eyesight, one of the perks of being a wolf. That they could see in the dark. It was a little weird the four of them in the one bed, but if that's the order of a Royal Princess, he couldn't refuse it, could try, he supposed, but the woman did outrank him, that and he didn't want to. He liked being in this bed with Jo-anne.

T.J. just shrugged at him and mind-linked him 'Just go with it, mother sees a lot more than we know I guess.'

'I'm guessing so...do you think she will tell us who Jo-anne's father is?'

'It's likely, given time. I'd be more worried about the King and Queen coming, and bringing their creepy ass seer's with them to this pack. There will be no secrets for anyone. They will hunt relentlessly for the truth of anything that catches their attention.'

West sighed 'Make everyone vomit?'

'Yes, some more than others, the pack will smell great.' he sounded amused.

‘So what do you make of Jayden and his illegitimate daughter?’

‘I don’t know, but I do know. That not claiming her means he does know about the child, has rejected her as his own.’

‘Idiot, she’s the Heir to his pack, why would one do that?’ He would never, even if it had been not from his Mate his child would still be his child.

‘Likely he thinks she’s got an unsuitable bloodline.’

‘Then the man should not have slept with her mother, unprotected.’ most Alpha’s and ranked members were careful of who they mated with, careful not to conceive a child with those that weren’t their Mates. It was odd.

West settled himself next to Jo-anne, and wondered what she would make of Jayden having a child with another, one he did not claim as his own, had abandoned. Might not go down so well with a woman who was found out in the snow and knows nothing of her own lineage.

Wondered what Jayden would do when she asked him about it, deny it or admit to it?

Slid his fingers down Jo-anne’s face, along her jaw, down her neck and down her arm, smiled at the sparks he felt in his fingers, copped a whack from T.J., snorted with laughter “Sorry.” he stated, but he really wasn’t, loved touching her, settled his arm across her waist, kissed her temple and closed his eyes, she would wake up and he would actually be there right next to her, felt happy about that, had wanted her to wake up next to him, the last two times he’d been here in this bed.

Hoped she wouldn’t get mad at him for it. It was approved by her mother, it seemed. And her brother was right across from them. Not that she knew this, of course. West wondered if Belinda knew the outcome of Jo-anne’s Mate Bond triangle. Did she know who Jo-anne was going to pick?

West woke before all of them. Jo-anne had rolled over in her sleep and she was now curled into Ella’s body, who was lying flat on her back. T.J. was asleep on his stomach next to her, one arm draped across Ella’s body, a hand curled around her waist.

Weird to say the least, considering he was as close to Jo-anne as one could get, his whole body pressed up against hers, with his arm around her, his hand cupped around her breast, wanted to leave it there, felt nice, she did fit perfectly in his hand, best not to though she had not made her choice yet, and as nice as it felt, T.J. would likely beat him over it. Slid his hand away slowly, trying not to wake her, heard a soft sigh come from her lips and smiled to himself.

Rolled all the way over onto his back, and found her rolling in her sleep, right over with him, watched as her hand slid right across his bare chest, sent hot sparks all over him.

It was a very nice feeling, and her head was resting on his chest, likely just their bond in effect but he was not going to deny it.

He Flicked his eyes to Ella as she stretched and then rolled over into T.J., the man's body reacted to hers on pure instinct, much the way Jo-anne's just had to his moving away. Saw T.J. roll onto his side and pull her into him. Why they weren't Mates he didn't know. But they would be in a year. He was happy about that.

Smiled to himself, happy for them as he lay and looked at his friend, who looked very comfortable with Ella, how the man had resisted all these years? He had no idea, he definitely had very good self-control, that was for sure.

Moved his eyes back to Jo-anne as her head moved on his chest, saw her lovely grey eyes with those tiny flecks of silver were open and looking up at him, seemed a little shocked to see him in her bed, or maybe it was more that she was curled around him who knew, "Shh." he point behind her before she could start talking and asking him questions as to why he was here in her bed.

Saw her roll slightly to look over her shoulder to see what he was pointing at, her shocked expression at seeing him turned to curiosity, when she saw the other two sleeping in the bed next to them and then turned her eyes back to his, questioningly.

West shrugged and mind-linked her so as not to wake the other two, 'Ordered by Belinda, all three of us, to be here when you woke up, said you'd need us.' he told her honestly. She'd not said that they had to be in her bed with her, per say but Ella had done that and he couldn't argue with her she was going to be a princess herself in one year. Goddess another bloody person in his pack that would be able to our rank him.

'Oh.' was her only response.

Watched her as she sat up carefully and turned to look at them. " They are so good together." she whispered to him as she sat cross legged and leaned back on him.

"Agreed." he answered her softly, wanted to touch her, she seemed so comfortable leaning on him right this minute, slid his arm around her waist casually and smiled at her when she looked down at his arm and then to him questioningly.

"Can't help myself." he chuckled softly by way of response. She was his Mate, and the woman he loved.

Saw her roll her eyes, figured she knew it was their bond in effect, then just looked back to the other two sleeping in her bed, then he watched her head snap around and look to the portrait, gasped and spun around, pounced clean on him, her hands covering his eyes. West burst out laughing, couldn't help himself, she was sitting right on his chest, trying to hide what he could only think of was the portrait of him and Volt from him. " Too

late..." he laughed "I already saw it last night." He reached up and removed her hands off his eyes, to look right up at her.

"What is it with you and your family? I can't keep anything a secret."

West shrugged "I guess not." Goddess he wanted to kiss her and if T.J. and Ella were not in this bed he'd yank her right onto his face and kiss the most delicate part of her until she was screaming with pleasure.

"Shut up you two, we're trying to sleep over here." he heard T.J. growl at them.

West looked at the man, found both he and Ella looking at them, saw Ella look right at Jo-anne and snort with laughter, "Any closer, Jo-anne, and you'll be on the man's face." She teased her friend.

His eyes moved back to Jo-anne, he still had hold of her hands too, grinned right up at her, as she registered just how she was sitting on him, straddling his chest and blushed beet red, then climbed off him quickly to his disappointment.

West had liked how she'd pounced right on to him. He let go of her hands, and chuckled, she only got redder, it was very cute, saw her bite that lower lip of hers and growled at her, couldn't bloody help himself, damn woman was begged to be kissed by him, it seemed. Saw her eyes go wide at him and released her lip instantly. She had not forgotten that he'd told her it was a turn on for him, it seemed.

Needed to think about something else, or T.J. and Ella were going to be dragging him off of her. Sat himself up and leaned on the headboard, stretched out his muscles and sighed when he realised she was watching him under her lashes, wanted her more than a bit. Shook it off, had to, they had other things to discuss and they weren't alone either.

"Jo-anne what do you recall about last night?" he asked her.

"Hmm," saw her frown now, "I was really hot, like... I felt I was almost on fire, even. Struggled to get cool." her frown deepened "went outside I think, um...growled at Oliver I think. Sorry."

"He's fine, what else?" he pushed her to think it through.

"Just...Hot." she shook her head. "And a really weird dream, I must have spiked a high fever."

"The dream?" West asked, trying to encourage her to talk through it. It appeared she didn't think it was real, he was going to have to correct her on that.

"What does it matter?" she shrugged, "Fever dreams mean nothing. Just a weird bunch of random subconscious stuff or hallucinations."

"Humour me." he reached out and pushed some of her hair behind her ear.

"Alright," she shook her head, seemed a bit confused as to why she needed to, but wasn't resistant to the idea "um," then she was giggling suddenly "Oh my, I had more power than you and Jayden," she pointed to him, then laughed out right "I made both of you bare your necks to me." covered her mouth with a hand "How funny."

She found it completely amusing. It seemed "Oh and I kicked this one man, clean across a clearing." turned and whacked Ella playfully "I was amazingly strong, you should have seen me, Like...T.J. strong, oh Ella it was so funny." then she shrugged "Gotta love those weird fever dreams."

He watched Ella smile and shake her head. The girl knew what had happened, West had told her everything bar that she was T.J.'s little sister.

"Jo-anne sweetheart," West drew her attention back to him. She was still smiling, amused by what she thought was a dream. "It was not a dream," he told her softly.

"W..What?" she looked more than confused now.

"Not a dream, you did all that."

"What no, how could I, make you the Alpha bare your neck to me?" she was frowning at him.

"Mm, that would be because you too, are an Alpha, it seems." he smiled at her, he'd let Belinda tell her who she really was. Probably would be the best thing if her own mother explained it to her.

"What? No I'm not." she shook her head.

"Yes you are." It was T.J. and he watched her turn to look at him.

"You're all nuts. I'm not an Alpha, I'm just me. A patrolman's daughter."

"Jo-anne, no." he gained her attention again "an orphan with an unknown lineage. You have Alpha blood."

Jo-anne was now just sitting staring at him, a deep frown on her lovely face, then she shook her head "You're all nuts." she stated "and I'm starving, come on Ella, lets go and shower and get dressed, I want food in my belly." turned and looked at T.J. "I need meaty goodness." then she just stood up grabbed Ella and yanked her up out of T.J.'s arms and hopped off the bed onto the floor, headed for the bathroom.

"Hey." T.J. called out after them.

Watched as the two of them turned and looked right at him, saw Ella burst out laughing “Oh come on Terence, you don’t think we haven’t showered together before, in the mud room after pack runs, get over it.”

West snorted as T.J. face palmed himself. West actually didn’t have a problem with it. Ella was Jo-anne’s best friend. Even after 10 years apart, nothing had changed in their relationship, not one bit. Chuckled at the image, it popped into his head, copped a solid punch in the arm from T.J. “That’s my woman.”

“And your sister.” West snort, then snapped his eyes to the closed bathroom door, realising what he had just said out loud, her wolf hearing could have picked up his words. “Sorry.” he muttered, the shower was running already, maybe she didn’t hear it.

“Ah don’t worry about it, Mother is likely to tell her soon, and if those seer’s come this way, it will be really soon, its just a matter of time now.” T.J. sat up.

“She seems fine to me, to you?”

T.J. just shrugged “That’s just Jo-Jo, you know, just getting over stuff.”

West nodded slowly “Just seems to accept everything thrown at her, shrugs it off and moves on.”

“Yep seems that way.” T.J got out of bed. “What do you suppose that list means?”

“Only she and Ella know, perhaps mother too.” he frowned. He was curious about it. Ella said they could deal with it today, but he knew that Jo-anne had other stuff to do first and before breakfast, according to Belinda.

Chapter 92 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

She turned the shower on after entering the bathroom, Ella sat on the toilet and Jo-anne asked her “Did it all really happen?” kept her voice quiet so as not to be heard over the running water. She didn’t really know what to make of it. Didn’t really actually believe them.

“Yes, and from what West told me, a bunch of people out there trying to contain you.”

“A bunch?”

“Hm, let me see. There was Jayden, West, your two guards, so Oliver and,” she shrugged, “I don’t know his name. Terence and Belinda.” she ticked off each one on her fingers as she named them all “so like 6 of them..., and the cell guard so 7 people.”

Jo-anne frowned and got in the shower 'Clova?'

'Mm'

'What do you make of last night?'

'Hot and fuzzy,' she yawned and stretched out inside Jo-anne's mind 'Hungry.'

'Me too.' Jo-anne agreed, she was starving hungry like she had gone running for miles and needed to refuel her body of energy. Washed herself quickly, stepped out of the shower and took the towel Ella handed her so she could get in.

"Ella did West and I?" she suddenly realised they had been in bed together.

Heard Ella laugh "No, not with Terence and I there."

"Thank the Goddess, cos honestly it's all a bit fuzzy in my head."

"I'd think you would know, likely he or Volt would have Marked you."

"Mm, I suppose so." She nodded, not that West had ever laid claim to her, not said Mine once, though he had told her he loved her. That was weird. "Why are we all in the same bed?" she asked.

"I don't know Belinda told us we all had to be here when you woke up. I got in bed with you. Was not going to sleep on the floor," she shrugged, "The boys just followed. Well, I told Terence he had to, West." she smiled. "What can I say, he did tell you he loves you. Probably just wanted to be close to you."

"Why would West accept an order from Belinda?" she was just the previous Beta's Mate, it didn't make sense.

"Jo-anne, Belinda is Royalty, remember. If she gives West an order, he's actually compelled to do it. Not that the man had a problem with it." she laughed.

"I don't remember." Jo-anne frowned as she sat on the toilet.

"That is because you were unconscious when he carried you back."

"Oh." she frowned and really tried to recall what happened, it was all a bit fuzzy, but she did recall some things, getting really mad at Jayden. He'd tried to make her and Clova submit to him, and she'd, her eyes widened, yelled 'never' at him. Challenged him. West had actually dragged Jayden out of her way, saved Jayden from her, it seemed, and that man she kicked, groaned and put her head in her hands, his guard Andrew, she was going to have to go and apologise.

“What’s wrong?” Ella asked her as she got out of the shower,

Jo-anne handed her a towel. “I have to apologise to both of them. Jayden and Andrew.”

“Why, from what I heard, Jayden rolled his Alpha Aura at you and you and your Alpha Wolf responded in kind. You did not start it.”

“Still I shouldn’t have done that.” she shook her head.

“Don’t worry about it.” Ella told her as she dried off. “Alpha wolves are aggressive at the best of times. If Jayden doesn’t like it he can lump it, he started the fight with you. His own Mate, Jo-anne. He should be apologising to you.”

“But, I don’t get angry, it’s...not who I am, never was.” she sighed, didn’t want to be either. Liked being her happy creative self, didn’t want to go and get all Alpha moody. She did recall West’s two older sisters after getting their wolves, Brandy, two years older than her, a cranky alpha-blooded female from the minute she got her wolf, seemed to have this need to be in charge and in control of everything around her.

Then there was Casey, same age as she and Ella. That girl had wanted every single boy at schools’ attention, practically demanded it even from those who had girlfriends. Then, when she got it stalked away, just needed to be the centre of attention and demanded it.

Jo-anne did not want to be like that, she liked her quiet peaceful little life. She’d felt that Clova and her were different, had told Ella as much. Now it seemed this was the reason why, but why only now? That confused her. If they were an Alpha-blooded wolf why only now come into it?”

They stepped out of the bathroom, to find both West and T.J. sitting on the couch. Both of them looked up, Ella walked right over and sat her towel-clad body in T.J.’s lap, happy to be there. It was good to see he no longer declined the woman, had claimed her. Well, he was in for a real shock if she could make the right decision.

Saw Wests eyes wander down her body, a smile twitched his lips and a hot shiver shot right up her back, her eyes went wide, no this couldn’t happen with them right there “Out.” she snapped at all of them, ran over to the bedroom door and yanked it open “Out now.” and then she just turned and bolted back for the bathroom, and slammed the door shut behind her “not now.” she muttered to herself.

“Jo-Jo.”

“Get out T.J. please.” she begged him.

“Alright.” she heard him say, heard the concern didn’t sound like he wanted to.

Used her wolf's hearing, they all left, as far as she could tell, closed her eyes and waited. Nothing. "Bloody must look like a man woman." she muttered, emerged from the bathroom and saw her room was empty, sighed "Clova we gotta get this under control."

Heard Clova snort 'Good luck, we like it anyway.'

'Yeah, it's all pleasure, I get it Clova, but come on, the three of them could have been out there listening.'

Clova snorted at her 'Two of them, West and Volt, would have been in here helping us along.' sounded fully amused to Jo-anne.

'Likely would have Marked us Clova.'

'I don't care.' her wolf stretched inside her mind, stood up and shook herself 'Starving go feed us.'

Jo-anne sighed, bloody wolf wouldn't care, she got dressed and stepped out of her room to find both T.J. and West standing in the hallway waiting for her.

"Sorry." she muttered.

"That is not the first time I've seen that," West commented.

"Mm, let it go. I have a...medical condition." put her hand up to stop him, when he stepped towards her, instantly a worried look on his face. "It's nothing serious, just embarrassing to say the least. Let it go." it was the only way to describe her shivers, without telling him the truth. "I'm hungry, starving actually and I need food."

"No breakfast yet, we need to go and see Heath. I believe he is dying." West told her.

Snapped her eyes right to his "What?"

"Come on." he took her by the hand "We'll go there now."

Jo-anne just nodded as she allowed him to lead her down the hall, and felt a wave of sadness well inside of her. "West?" she asked softly "my sisters?"

"Let's get you out there first. You can visit and then I'll send for your sisters to see him too, alright."

"You promise me, you'll let them see him."

"I promise." He pulled her in close to him, felt his hand slip from hers and rest on the small of her back.

She walked quietly, uncertain as to what she would find, stopped walking about half way “I was at the cells last night.” she voiced out loud “I just wanted to see Heath.” her eyes turned up to look at him.

West nodded. “I would have let you. Jayden, on the other hand, was in the mood to Mark you and Claim you for himself. It was not a good situation. I believe I could have calmed you down by letting you see Heath. But an Alpha trying to calm an Alpha, or me trying to calm the two of you. Got messy.”

“Oh.”

“You, my dear, did not want to submit to him or his wolf.” he urged her to continue walking.

“I haven’t chosen either of you yet.” she muttered. This was not the first time Jayden had tried to take her without her permission.

“I know,” West replied.

She wondered why he and Volt hadn’t attempted to claim them yet. Jayden had twice now. It didn’t really matter, she supposed, perhaps he just wasn’t as needy as Jayden. Who knew?

Heath lay on a cot in the cell. She could see he’d been hurting himself, there were chunks of his own hair missing from his head and he had scratch marks on his face, he was tied down to that bed, and she knew it was just to restrain him from hurting himself.

Tears welled in her eyes at the state of him, a hand covered her own mouth, as a sob escaped her, he looked to be sleeping. She could see the shallow rise and fall of his chest. His naturally tanned skin was now yellowish, felt West’s hand rub her back. “I’m sorry Jo-anne, he started hurting himself after Karen’s death.”

“I did this to him.” she gasped, her eyes moving to West’s.

“No you didn’t.” he shook his head, his voice was soft. “you did not.”

“But look at him.”

“I know, he is sedated at the moment, but, Jo-anne, I do think it’s a good idea.”

“No.” she shook her head and turned to look at Heath. He’d been her father for 28 years, “Can I go in. If he’s sedated, please.” looked up to West almost pleadingly. She knew he would be against it.

Saw him sigh “Get the keys Terence.”

Her eyes moved back to Heath, he was broken, they'd already told her he'd gone insane, and she had seen it first hand herself. But still couldn't believe it. Stepped inside the cell when it was opened for her, she could see all the blood in here, dried and old. Likely her fathers, and likely caused by either T.J. or West or both of them after he had hurt her.

Sank down on the edge of the cot and looked at him, tears fell down her face as she brushed his hair away back up and over his head, the way he'd always worn it, swept back. His cheeks were sunken now and he had dark circles around his eyes, his lips were dried and cracked, his skin was sallow and sickly looking. This was not the man that had raised her.

Wondered where that man had gone, the real man. Before Karen. The man that had loved her so much, treated her like she was his precious child, that said she could do no wrong. Thanked the Goddess every day for giving her to him, would say it right in front of her sometimes, how lucky and blessed he was to have such a beautiful kind and caring daughter.

Where was that man now? What had happened to him? Leaned down hugged him, sobbed right into his chest "I love you daddy, I wish you would wake up and come back to me." just lay there and held him, she knew he could not feel her, or hear her, had been sedated to stop him from hurting himself "your daughters need you." she told him gently "All of us need you." she leaned back and looked down at him, touched his face gently "I wish you would come back to us."

saw a tear form at the corner of his eye and then roll down the man's cheek, sighed softly, reached out and wiped it away, maybe even sedated he could hear her. "I forgive you." She said softly and kissed his forehead and stood up, looked at West "Please call my sisters to come before it's too late."

Saw his eyes glaze over and after a minute looked right at her. "Cole will bring them now."

Jo-anne nodded, looked at Heath, it was probably the last time she was going to see him alive, turned and walked away "I want to go now." she whispered as she walked out of the cell and up the stairs. Her appetite was completely gone.

West and T.J. walked her all the way back to the pack-house and right into the pack-house dining room. She sat down, kind of felt all numb to be honest. Food was put in front of her, not that it mattered to her right this minute.

Looked at it and suddenly gagged, shot to her feet and ran for the nearest bin, heaved many times, but there was nothing in her stomach to throw up, felt a hand on her back and turned. Ella was right there. "Drink this."

She took the glass offered to her. It was just cold water, but it did make her feel better and her stomach cramping stopped, stood up. Found half the pack members in the dining room looking at her, including Alpha Jayden, she'd not even seen him when she had come in, he was frowning right at her.

"Ella I don't..."

"I know come on, up to my suite. You can spend the day with me. Your Mates, can deal with it, or deal with my Mate," she stated loudly for all to hear.

Walked Jo-anne out of the dining room, "Have something light sent up." she heard Ella tell someone, wasn't really paying attention, didn't really care right this minute. Had other things to worry about.

Sank down on the couch in the Beta's suite, "Heath is dying," she whispered softly, and felt Ella hug her. "I don't want him to die Ella." she sobbed into her friend.

Chapter 93 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

West did not like seeing Jo-anne that distressed, watching her with Heath, a man who had attacked her, tried to kill her, sobbing right into his chest. She'd already forgiven the man, he knew it. Didn't know why he'd done it, didn't seem to care at all about that either, not anymore.

She just didn't want the man to die, told him she loved him, even with their bond severed still loved the man, it seemed. Wanted him to come back to her, to her sisters too. There was nothing he could do about the man's condition. Even if by some miracle Belinda's words were true.

Heath was likely too far gone to come back and West had no idea, if he could ever trust the man after what he had done. Even if he did come back from this, he would likely have to stay in here or leave and go rogue. Neither choice Jo-anne was going to be happy with. Needed more thought on that if he pulled through.

She was so quiet on the walk back, it bothered him, reminded him of how she'd been once before, didn't like it at all, went wherever he directed her, mindlessly followed along, on autopilot mode, he thought. A part of her was not here right now, already grieving Heath he wondered.

Watched her heave for well over a minute and nothing came up. Ella took her away, her very loud statement about if he or Jayden didn't like it, they could deal with her Mate, only made him smile. T.J. too. Jayden looked a bit confused, she was un-marked and he had no idea she and T.J. had claimed each other yesterday, not his concern.

She touched T.J.'s chest and asked him to send up some breakfast. He kissed her temple and nodded, indicating that he would. West watched as Jayden realised who she'd been talking about, frowned even further, saw T.J. look right at the man, smirk right at him as he smacked Ella on the backside for all to see, eliciting a giggle from her as she walked away with Jo-anne, heading for the Beta's suite.

West turned to one of the omega's and asked them to please take some breakfast up for the two girls in the Beta Suite. Then turned with T.J. headed off after the two of them. It would not have escaped Jayden's attention that both he and T.J. were still in the same clothes as last night. West in just his jeans, still bare chested and bare footed. T.J. still in his jeans and tee-shirt also no shoes on.

Currently, Jo-anne was walking around without a guard at all, just Ella. Jayden's Beta was sitting with him at the breakfast table, his other man in the pack hospital. Jayden looked to be having reservations about his men being around Jo-anne. He now knew none of them would be able to contain her, not even he could.

It was also likely very clear to the man why T.J. was always around her now. Belinda's words to him had been very clear. He'd read Jo-anne's file, knew she was an orphan, this reveal of her bloodline was something he needed to think about. It was likely the man's brain was ticking like crazy.

Not only had he once again tried to claim Jo-anne, she'd voiced the word Never at him, in a unified form of her and her wolf. It was interesting, it was not a formal rejection, seeing as the man was still here, just a statement that she would not be submitting to his wolf, like they had wanted her too.

But now the man knew she held real power, a royal bloodline, he was likely to want her even more now, a princess for a Luna. Indeed, it would Rank that mans pack right up and likely grant him access to the Royals.

Not something West wanted for himself or this pack, he'd heard enough about the way Belinda had run from them, and those creepy seer's to know better. If Jayden wanted to rank his pack up he'd have them seer's all over him and his pack all the time. West was more than happy to claim nothing from the Royal family, hell if she wanted to renounce them he would let her, didn't need to go presenting his heir to them. Or any of his children, for that matter, if she chose him. Not with what Belinda had said last night about them wanting her.

Ella had already been warned by Belinda and accepted it. Jo-anne was yet to even know what she was, who she was. They were all going to have to sit down and discuss breaking the news to Jo-anne.

He showered and changed into slacks and a short sleeved dress shirt, found Ricky standing outside the Beta Suite, looked right at West and frowned but said nothing.

"Thank Terence, for not outing the two of you," West commented, saw the man's eyes widen slightly, ignored it. "Jo-anne's had a traumatic night and Heath is likely dying, she has seen him this morning. I want to know if she feels...hollow."

"Yes, Alpha," he stated all Gamma.

"Oh and Rick, I don't care. You love who you love, claim your Mate already." West stated as he walked off, shortened his name on purpose, to gain the man's full attention. Mostly, only Cole and Baden, his father, shortened his name.

Went downstairs grabbed food on his way to his office, no real surprise to find that man standing outside his office waiting to have a word with him.

Opened his office door and stepped in, held it open and then closed it behind Jayden, effectively shutting his Beta out of the conversation that they were about to have.

"I already told Ben everything."

"Including your daughter. How old is she?" West asked him.

Jayden said nothing and West waved him into a chair. "What do you want, Jayden?"

"You lied to me."

"I did not."

"Jo-anne's file is a lie." Jayden stated flatly.

"It is not, everything in it is the truth. Jayden."

"Then stuff is missing. For instance, Belinda, the former Beta's Mate, a Royal Princess, is her mother."

West looked right at him, as he chewed on his sandwich, he had seen this coming, "She did not raise Jo-anne, abandoned the girl at birth. For her own reasons."

"and they would be?"

West shrugged, "Her knowledge still. I don't know." West answered him. "As far as I know, no-one knows Jo-anne is her daughter. She outed herself last night, to threaten you." a small lie only.

Jayden was frowning at him now. "No-one? Then explain to me her and Terence your Beta's connection then."

West smiled "Weird isn't it," he acknowledged. "They have always been like that, right from the day he found her in the snow. Now I guess it kind of makes sense."

"You're not very forth coming West."

"Neither are you, Jayden. Your daughter?" he could play this game.

They sat staring at each other for a good solid minute.

"She's an Alpha-blooded Princess, West. That means a lot."

"Yes, I guess it does to those who crave power. And she damned near rejected you, could almost say she did, stated in front of all, she'd, they'd never submit to you." West smiled "I warned you, that you would push her into my arms, trying to claim her against her will."

"She did not reject me."

"Hm, guess we'll see. She does recall you trying to force her to submit. How do you think, she is going to feel about that? Twice you've done this now to her. Someone had to stop you, on both accounts, you are not even trying to let this be her choice anymore."

"She is my Mate. I will claim her West."

"She is also my Mate, Jayden. I will not give her up so easily, not to a man I believe wants her to be a submissive, or for the power it might bring you. Or to a man who won't let her do what she loves either."

"Her art, your referring to, I presume."

West raised an eyebrow at the man, he only addressed the easy one. Said nothing at all, he had been the one to bring up Jo-anne's bloodline and that it meant a lot to him.

"Luna's jobs are arduous and take up a lot of their time, and then theirs also the producing of Heirs."

"Only if poorly managed, are Luna's jobs arduous." West corrected him. "My mother spends about 4 hours a day in her office. That would leave Jo-anne plenty of time to paint, whenever she wants to. As far as I am concerned, she can spend all day painting." and he did want that for her, Ella would be more than capable of stepping in to help out with Luna duties. The two of them could share the roll if they so chose to.

"Then your mother is lax in her duties."

West smiled, he knew she was not lax and if she was here right this minute she would be ripping him a new one and tossing him out on his ass. Nothing got passed his mother. Not ever. Not even West's Bond, she'd known about that before he had.

"If there is nothing else, Jayden, I've got a dying man to attend to."

"That's a Luna's job West." he shot at him as if making a point. Likely had forgotten West's mother was in the hospital.

"Not when it is Jo-anne's father, it's not."

Jayden glared right at him. Then got up "just kill that man and be done with it. He's a danger to her."

"I won't kill him, not without Jo-anne's permission. That is the difference between you and I. I respect her wishes, you do not."

Watched as Jayden stalked out of the office and banged the door shut behind him. West sighed, the man was going to be a problem, seemed that now he knew what she was, he was going to be more determined. West was going to have to make sure he was watched properly, perhaps more guards on Jo-anne too.

West did not like the man's attitude, twice now he'd tried to claim her against her will. Even Volt was respecting her right to choose, surprised him more than a little.

'Hurt them once before' he heard his wolf inside his mind. 'we not do it again.'

West nodded, it seemed he and his wolf were now on the same page and of the same opinion much more often than not, nowadays. He'd not actually argued with his wolf in weeks, it was nice, to both be on the same page. Seems Jo-anne had fixed them.

T.J. strolled into his office, "Jayden looks pissed off." he laughed "What did the two of you have to say to each other?"

"Not a great deal. Just called me a liar about Jo-anne mostly. I called him one about his daughter."

"Did he answer you?"

"Nope didn't expect him to...don't worry about it. How is Jo-anne?"

"Upset about Heath, cried all over Ella up there, barely even noticed I was in the room. I see why mother wanted Ella there. It seems those two have trust between them."

West nodded, he already knew that "it's going to be bad when he dies, Terence."

"I know, but mother will be here to handle her if she loses it."

"Let's hope it doesn't come to that."

It was just before lunch when the cell guard mind-linked him to tell him Heath was vomiting up blood. West sighed heavily and got up to head out there, guess this was it. He would see before informing Jo-anne of anything.

By the time he got there, he found Heath sitting on the side of the bed. His restraints had been removed earlier in the morning after both Maree and Marie had been out to see him. West saw the man's eyes open and look right at him.

"Heath?" he questioned the man, who didn't appear to be on death's door anymore.

"I'm alright Alpha! How's Jo-anne?" he addressed him as he would have done once a very long time ago, interesting considering he was a rogue now. And then asked about how his daughter was. The man did sound tired, looked exhausted as well.

West did not know what to make of him. "Are you still a threat to her?"

"No!" he shook his head "I'm sorry, I...I can't really explain it, what happened...just after Jester bit her, just wanted to hurt her...felt, I don't know." he closed his eyes again "Compelled to hurt her I guess you could say."

West was frowning at the man now, his choice of words, compelled to hurt her, they'd been West's words, how he'd felt actually during their Mate Bond.

'Jo-anne's blood, I smell it.' Volt raised his head inside West's mind.

West looked at the fresh blood on the floor, what the man had been vomiting up he supposed, not a great deal. About a cup, maybe two, but his wolf was not wrong, it was her blood, none of it was Heath's.

"You told Jo-anne, you saw her kill Karen. Explain that to me, Heath."

"I did see it. When Jester bit her, I saw her kill Karen. I didn't know the reason why, just saw her snap her neck."

"Do you know why now? You were here for that conversation." West wanted to know if he recalled things from when his mind was fractured.

Saw the man's eyes open, saw the pain in them as he nodded slowly. "I heard Karen, say the most horrible things...I'm sorry West, Alpha. I had no idea...if I had known I would have turned her in myself." saw a tear slip down the man's face. "I just wanted to protect my daughter, her virtue."

West nodded, he actually did understand that, always believed that's why the man led with the threat. Jo-anne could have become pregnant that day to West, and this man, her father at the time, had insisted on him taking responsibility.

"Rest, Heath, I'm uncertain as to what to do with you, I'll likely...have to put it before the elders. You know this right. If you want to come back to the pack, that is."

"Yes, I'll only come back if Jo-anne allows it. I know she'll take care of her sisters." he sighed "Can I see her? I need to apologise."

"That you do. But let's get you cleaned up and food into you. Can't have you dying of starvation now, can I?"

"That other man, that was here, her Mate. He'll want me dead, was an Alpha I think."

"He is and he does. But Jo-anne has two Mates right this minute and the other is abiding by her wishes for you not to die."

"Two?" he was frowning now, looking right at West. "Who's the other?" sounded more than nervous. Probably thought it was T.J.

"You're looking at him."

Saw the man's eyes go wide, "Goddess I'm gonna die." he muttered.

"Not if she picks me Heath." West smiled at the man, then he turned and left the cells, spoke with the guard, to organise a clean up of the cell, including the man himself, fresh clothing and food for him.

Walked himself up to the Beta suite, noted no Ricky there, knocked on the door and then let himself in. Both Ella and Jo-anne looked up at him, saw her nervously watching him, was waiting for bad news, he guessed, saw her hand reach out and grab on to Ella's

Walked over and sat on the coffee table, "Heath is alive, feeling better it seems."

"W..What?" she stammered.

"I went and saw him for myself. It does seem he's back to normal. I'd like to wait and see, before you go over and see him."

"He's really better?"

"Seems that way." West nodded at her. "I have some people cleaning him up, gotten a change of clothing for him and food to be taken over for him to eat. Now I'm not saying that I trust the man Jo-anne. But it does seem, he's no longer fractured anymore."

She was leaning forward now. "When can I see him?"

"I'd like to wait on that. Want to watch him closely, 24 hours at least."

"West?"

"I know you want to see him. I will take you over myself if he doesn't have an episode in 24 hours. I need to make sure it's safe, first." he explained to her.

She actually nodded "Alright...I understand."

"How are you feeling about what happened last night?"

"I don't know...still don't really believe I have Alpha Blood."

West smiled at her. "A lot to take in, I know." he stood up. "Just take your time and let it sink in. On that note, we do know who your mother is now. She's not ready to come talk to you yet, but she will given time. Please be patient with her. Been through a lot."

"Likely I was created against her will, I know. Figured that out myself already. I don't blame her West, I likely remind her of something she doesn't want to remember."

Such compassion for everyone, he leaned down and kissed the top of her head "I know that, just rest here with Ella, no need to see Jayden or I for anything today unless you want too."

He watched her nod "Can I tell my sisters?"

"Of course you can, they can go see him after the 24 hours as well." he smiled down at her, then left her there to be with Ella for the day.

Chapter 94 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

Jo-anne was really happy to hear that Heath was going to be alright, he had somehow managed to get better. She had nearly hugged West when he had told her the news. Had refrained herself from doing so, she had not made her choice yet. She also knew that he had been here to tell her as her Alpha, not her Mate.

She mind-linked to Maree and told her the good news, seemed really happy to hear it too. Was also happy to hear that if he was still better in 24 hours, West would allow her and Marie to go and see him. Heard her sister thank her for all she had done, to help them. Then, after a moment of silence, she heard her apologise for her own mother's actions against her.

Jo-anne sighed, it was not up to them to apologise for the things Karen had done, they had not been involved, but she did accept the apology from Maree, knew it would make the girl feel better in some small way.

She sat and drank a cup of tea, and thought about last night. Most of her memories were fuzzy but she understood that Alpha Jayden had tried to force her to submit to him and his wolf, knew that if they had he'd have Marked her. The man had given his word to her that he wouldn't do it again.

West had tried to stop him, whether that was because he wanted her for himself, or because it would stop her from being allowed to make her own choice, she didn't know. Knew that in some weird ass way she and Clova had become a united front, so to speak, and were one being at some point. Everything about them had been aligned, their emotions, their actions, their words. They had both lashed out and fought back together.

Alpha Jayden had broken his word, couldn't it seem, even give her a few days, had tried to Mark her, that first morning, when she'd barely even survived the night, had died and come back, been told she had two Mates and then there he was trying to take her choice away. And then again, last night it had literally only been 2 days and twice he'd tried to make her his. She did understand he was an Alpha Male, but it was still supposed to be her choice, not his.

Jo-anne did not actually believe either of them were the choice she had to make, so there was no rush on it as far as she was concerned, and two days was not enough time for her to make that choice.

Sat and stared into her tea cup as she gently swirled it around and watched as a few of the tiny tea leaves that had escaped the tea strainer moved about in there, swirled around in the water, zoned out a little trying not to think of anything other than how to free T.J. from being her protector.

Zoned out completely at one point, saw a whitish glow around the room and looked up thinking she was back with the Goddess. Perhaps she'd come to help again, provide more information. Saw Ella standing with T.J. and smiled, hadn't even heard him come into the room. Watched him slide his arms around her very swollen belly. She was pregnant and heavily so.

Shot to her feet, blinking rapidly, turned her eyes to Ella, who asked her what was wrong, looked at the girl, really looked at the girl, she was not pregnant, shook her head felt really weird, "It's nothing I think I just like day dreamed or something," she sank back down, but looked right at the girl and tilted her head.

"What?"

"Nothing is just silly day dreaming."

She had to talk to T.J., needed to see what he made of all this, sighed and got up looked down at Ella. "I have to go and tell T.J. and West about the Goddess stuff. They both saw me react when I woke up ripping into myself. I think I need to explain that."

"What did you see just now?"

"Hmm, see?"

"Yes, your eyes kinda went White like Belinda's did, when she peered into my mind."

"Really?"

"Yes, I think you can see, like she can. What did you see?"

Jo-anne smiled at the girl, "You very pregnant, I mean. Like out here." she held her arms out to indicate a very swollen belly. "T.J. was rubbing your belly. You two looked very happy."

Saw Ella chuckle, and shake her head, "well he did tell mother he'd get right on that the minute we were Marked and Mated. Guess he meant it." seemed happy about it, in fact. "Do you want me to come with you?"

Did Jo-anne? It would be nice to have someone there for moral support. "Sure might be good for T.J., he might need you when he hears what I have to tell him."

They walked down the stairs together. Ricky was trailing them, and she found West, T.J. and Cole in his office. The door stood open, knocked on it softly. He looked up from his desk and smiled at her gently, "Come in, Jo-anne, you don't have to knock."

She just nodded and walked into the room, looked at Cole and Ricky, bit her lip and asked them if she could have a moment alone with just West and T.J., "Of course Luna," Ricky nodded and the two of them walked out the room and closed the door, still called her that, a bit hard to get used to.

"What's wrong, Jo-anne?" West asked from behind his desk.

"Um, can I get you and T.J. to come and sit here? I have something to inform you and I don't know, what you'll think of it."

Actually saw West's whole body tense up. "No, it's not that West." she told him quickly, realising he thought she was about to reject him. "I haven't made that choice yet, I can't at this point. Need to tell..." her eyes moved to T.J. "T.J. about why I reacted the way I did when I woke up the other night."

Saw him visually relax, she sat herself in one of the single chairs and watched as Ella went and sat on the couch next to T.J. slipped her hand right into his, saw him smile at

her, and tears welled almost instantly, looked up at the ceiling for a minute to try and stop them falling, took a long deep breath in and let it out, slowly, felt West's hand touch hers gently

"Take your time, Jo-anne." he said softly.

She looked at him, so patient with her, not even once tried to mark her and she knew he was a possessive creature if ever there was one. He was definitely a very different person from before. She still saw shades of that man, but not in the past two days.

"West, did you rescind your orders on me or did my death null and void them?" she suddenly asked him, had wondered about it?

"I rescinded them all in the hospital after I found out you had two mates. Why?"

"Curious was all." she nodded. It was nice to hear he'd thought about it. "I'm sorry West."

"What for?" he asked curiously with a raised eyebrow.

"For what Karen did to you...I wish I could find away to go back in time and stop it. To save you from me."

"You did not do this to us, Jo-anne. I do not blame you for our past. I'm still confused as to how you can forgive me, for my misdeeds though."

Jo-anne shrugged "I have had therapy and talked it all out for years, in fact West. You and I, both of us, didn't want to be in that bond to each other, we both had our own issues to deal with over it, and we both dealt with it in our own way. I retreated into myself and you, well, were angry. I knew nothing of how demanding Karen was on you, or your family. I paid no attention to the woman at all. I'm sorry she was terrible to you and your family. Please don't think on it anymore, I don't really think about it anymore, don't need to. I'm not that same person anymore, and...I don't think you are either. You're different, I see that. Though prior to being my mate you were still."

"An ass-hole." he nodded "Sorry I just..."

"Knew what I was to you, so still possessive. I get it." she nodded and she did he'd always been like that, probably always would be.

"Please forgive yourself, I have forgiven you."

"I need to understand it, Jo-anne, before I could even begin to try and forgive myself."

"We can work on that," she nodded.

Turned her eyes to T.J., the man she'd actually come here to talk to, took a breath. "I'm sorry T.J. for your part in my life as well."

"Why on earth would you say that? I love you Jo-Jo." he was frowning at her, confused as to why she would be apologising to him.

"I know you do T.J., but...there is a reason why you do, and it's not fair to you."

"What's not fair?"

"That mark on your arm, and the one on my back, connects us." she sighed "When I died...I not only saw Selena the moon Goddess, she spoke to me. Actually said she had been waiting on me for some time, apparently. She told me, my birth mother asked for someone to protect me when I was born. You were chosen by the Goddess for that task."

"I'm fine with that Jo-Jo," he shrugged.

"I am not. I want you released from me, from being my protector."

"Why, Jo-Jo?" he frowned at her again.

"Because T.J.," felt tears well in her eyes again. "She had to strip you of your Goddess-Gifted Mate, to become my protector, You're Mate-less because of this."

"Why would she need to do that?" he shook his head.

"She told me to protect me fully, there could only be room in your heart for one. For you to protect me properly, there could be no other distraction. I guess."

"Well, that's just bullshit, Jo-Jo. I love you and I love Ella. So that is crap."

"It's what she told me T.J., then she gave me a choice to come back or not."

"Or not?" It was West.

She looked at him. "Yes, to come back or to die. My death, however, would still not give T.J. a Mate. I came back by choice...for T.J., to fix this, to get him a Mate. I did not come back to find myself a Mate or Mates, I came back for T.J." she looked at him a little apologetically, but it was the truth.

Her eyes moved back to T.J. "I have a choice to make and if I choose correctly, I can gift you a Mate. The Goddess told me I could pick someone for you and she would grant it, a true Goddess-Gifted Mate for you." She looked at Ella. "I already know it will be Ella. I'm pretty certain she was supposed to be your actual Mate and you hers. That's why you have always been so attracted to each other."

Saw T.J.'s eyes move to Ella, and she smiled up at him, he smiled down at her "Good choice." he nodded then turned back to look at her "But don't concern yourself with this Jo-Jo, I've already claimed Ella, in one year I will Mark and Mate the hell out of her."

She heard Ella giggle and saw the woman whack him on the arm. He grinned right at her.

"Still, I came back for you T.J. not for myself. But to help you. To stop this stupid thing that has ruined your life."

"I don't think it is stupid, Jo-Jo, and I assure you my heart has room for two."

She shook her head, "I will not allow you to be Mate-less, it is not right T.J. I will fix this."

"Only one can be happy." West said softly "That list in your room, is that what this is about?"

"Yes," she nodded and looked at him "That is what the Goddess told me. At this point, only one can be happy. My choice? Is to choose something and when I do, only one can be happy."

He was frowning at her now, "is your choice Jayden or I?"

"I honestly don't know what the choice is. She did not tell me, wouldn't. Told me I had to figure that part out on my own. The only thing she told me was that coming back to life, meant my life would no longer be easy, difficult in fact."

"Let it go Jo-Jo, I am happy. I have Ella and I will never let her go, ever."

"Don't you want to be able to scent her out, and to know she is your Goddess-Gifted Mate?"

"Everyone wants that Jo-Jo. But really, I have what I want. So you should just think about yourself for once. You never do, you know, not even when you were dying."

"That is not true."

"Bullshit, your last thoughts, your last words were. Tell West. You were dying, Jo-Jo, and all you could think of was to make sure that West knew what Karen did to him. So he could stop blaming himself. You were not thinking about yourself, not for a single second."

Jo-anne sighed softly "T.J. I came back.."

He cut her off. "I don't care why you came back, choose a different path now. Do you want to know what your death did for me?"

"What?" she asked, but didn't really want to know, just how much it would have hurt him, the pain he felt.

"It put Ella right in my bed. I resisted for all of about 15 minutes, your death made me realise I had this perfect creature right here in front of me, for the taking and I had ignored it at every turn. If Ella had been the one to die, I would have regretted my whole life Jo-Jo. So you have already given me the gift of what I want."

"It's not the same T.J., Chosen and Gifted are two very different things. What you feel if she is gifted to you, will be so much better, a thousand times better. I want that and not just for you. But for Ella too."

"I'm happy Jo-Jo, I assure you. Let it go and choose yourself. The choice is for you to choose yourself over everyone else. Because you are selfless, you never choose yourself. Not once have I ever seen you choose yourself."

"That is bullshit. I have, many times, chosen myself. I chose to try and gain my freedom once. Then I chose to reject West, I chose to leave this pack. I chose never to come back, I chose my career over my pack."

He was glaring at her now. "I can debate half of that easily, the choice is yourself and you know why. Because choosing yourself, your own happiness over others, is not who you are."

"T.J. were going in circles. Just accept this, I'm going to get you a Goddess-Gifted Mate, and when the time comes to make that choice, when or where or who or what it is, I will do it in a heartbeat, even if it's someone else's happiness over mine."

"And if I reject your choice?" he snapped.

Jo-anne shook her head. "It's not your choice to make T.J. you can not make my decision for me. It doesn't work that way."

"Then tell my Jo-Jo what do you want, what will make you happy?"

"Honestly...you being released as my protector, that is what will make me happy, truly happy. I love you T.J. but I will not sit back and let you have no Goddess-Gifted Mate. It's wrong. What she did to you, it's wrong and I told her I didn't want it, that I would never have wanted that, I would rather have died out there in the snow that day. Then to have you shackled to me and be Mate-less forever."

"Don't you dare ever say that to me." he snarled right at her all of a sudden.

"See, this is what I am talking about. Look at you. All riled up over a woman, whose not your Mate, is nothing to you at all, other than what she made you to me."

"You're my bloody sister." he roared at her, shooting to his feet "Don't you ever say you're nothing to me. Not ever." he was yelling at her so angrily.

Her eyes widened, as she stared at him, looked at the angry man in front of her, claiming she was his sister, "W..What?" she stammered, didn't understand why he would say something like that.

"You are my sister," he snapped. "So don't you ever tell me not to care about you, not to love you. Not to worry about you, it will never happen, I always will."

"Terence enough." West yelled at him.

"No West, its not enough, she needs to know the truth."

Jo-anne was staring from one to the other, they were yelling at each other now. She looked right at West. He seemed so angry with T.J. She'd never seen them be mad at each other like this before.

"Terence, that is enough. This is not the time."

Turned and looked right at T.J., he looked furiously mad, to be told not say anything, felt her heart tighten inside her chest, no this couldn't be true, it couldn't, how could she be his sister? Stood up slowly as she stared up at him, she wasn't his sister! found his eyes on her suddenly, shook her head, as pain filled her. "No." she whispered "No, if your...then I did this...to my own..."

"Jo-Jo, I'm sorry, calm down. I didn't mean to say it." she could hear it and see it in his facial expression, sorrow and regret, he'd spoken the truth. She was his sister.

West had told her they knew who her mother was, that she wasn't ready to come forward yet.

Put her hand up to cut him off, didn't want to hear any more. He was Mate-less because of her. Her own brother, she knew he was not lying, not with the way he was looking at her, not with the way he and West were arguing about it.

"My own brother...Mate-less, because of me." felt tears spill over and burn down her face, saw him reach out for her, backed away from him only to fall down in the chair behind her, shook her head "No." she stared up at him, her birth had ruin her own brothers life, it was to much.

Fled the room, ran all the way to her room, T.J.'s life ruined, her own brother's life ruined, all because she was born. She was shaking, looked down at her own hands, they were shaking uncontrollably.

Fell down on to her knees and sobbed, why was she ever born? What the hell for? Just pain. Her life it was just pain to all those around her. No-one could survive her, she hurt everybody, and didn't even know it, couldn't stop it.

Could see her hands glowing, turned them over and looked right at them. What the hell was she? Pain ripped right through her heart and she screamed with all she had and lashed out at the couch in front of her, saw it explode and debris go flying through the air.

Then just sobbed into her hands, as she knelt there on the floor, felt a pair of arms slide around her, she was pulled gently into his chest. It was West. She could smell him, latched on to him and just howled into his chest. She should have just died. It would have been better for everyone. Why couldn't she just die? Not at birth, not even when she'd tried to do it herself, not even when she'd been strangled with claws ripping into her neck, not even when a silver dagger sliced her own heart. Still she survived and for what? To cause pain to all those around her.

Chapter 95 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

West was ready to beat the living hell out of T.J., Jo-anne was telling him she had come back for no-one but him, had the choice to die or come back, and came back only because T.J. had been stripped of his Goddess-Gifted Mate, when she was born, to be her protector it was already killing her to know her life had done this to him.

You could see how much she hated this knowledge, when she had come back, she had ripped right into herself and him to try and get that mark off of her and him, so distressed the minute she had woken up about it, and now here he was compounding on her pain.

He had been completely shocked into silence at first, hearing that their own Goddess had stripped T.J. of his Mate for this to work, he'd been four when she'd been born and he'd already been granted a Mate, and their Goddess had stripped him of her, just to save Jo-anne's life, it was either very cruel or very needed.

Even he knew Jo-anne would never want that, told T.J. as much, told him she'd rather have died out there in the snow, than to have him Mate-less. No wonder she had reacted so violently upon waking up.

Had come back not to find her own Mate, the way she'd looked at him when she'd said it, so apologetically, she'd not wanted to hurt his feelings, didn't even care about her own happiness, was clearly ready to give everything up for T.J., bloody woman knew no bounds when she loved something.

Now to hear T.J. yelling at her, that she was his sister, stunned her into silence. Didn't know what to make of it. This was not the time, nor the place for that conversation, let alone the way to announce it. West tried to get T.J. to realise what he was doing, what he'd said. If Jo-anne was already distressed over a man being Mate-less because of her, finding out that man was her actual brother, was only going to increase her pain and distress. Could the man not see that? Realise that?

West saw the moment that Jo-anne believed him, watched pain fill her even more. Saw T.J.'s realisation of what he'd done and that it was now too late to take it back. How his one angry moment had gotten away from him, his need to claim her as his actual sister had likely been eating away at him for years.

Now in this moment, his anger had gotten out of control and he had screamed it at her. He could see the man damn near panic as it dawned on him, that he'd only increased her pain and anguish over the situation, saw him try to apologise, saw the regret in the man, when he realised what he had actually done. But it was too late. He could not take it back.

Then she was up and gone, bolting from his office, at not just a run, but fled, at full Alpha Wolf speed. It still amazed him how fast she was. Tears had been running down her lovely face, as she left the three of them in his office.

"You stupid bastard." West had snarled at him, getting up "Why the hell would you tell her like that?" and then he too was gone from the room, following her scent, goddess only knew where she was going to go. Found both Ricky and Cole outside her bedroom door. Thankfully, she hadn't fled the damn pack in her distress.

"What the hell happened?" Ricky asked.

"Go and ask the pack Beta." West snapped and pushed into her room, the door never bloody locked still. Closed the door and was about to take a step forward, stopped and looked right at her. She was looking at her hands, and they were both glowing.

Then just screamed with all she had, as she turned her hands and hit the couch in front of her, the damned thing exploded and shards of it went flying all over the place, from what he'd read up on about creatures with silver eyes that glowed during the use of their power, it was likely from what he'd just witnessed she was part witch. They could harness powers to do all sorts of things.

She was kneeling on the floor sobbing into her hands now, likely all her distress at hearing T.J. who was her actual brother, was Mate-less and she blamed it on herself, because she was born of all things. Not something she had a choice in. Was now so over whelmed that she was unable to cope.

West could see that her whole body was shaking, it was too much for her to take in, she had too much going on at the moment, and this news, compounded on her. He walked

over to her, and knelt down right in front of her, not particularly worried about her using that power on him, she'd never actually hurt anyone. Wasn't who she was.

Slid his arms around her and pulled her sobbing body into his chest just to hold her, comfort her as best he could. Felt her cling on to him, crawled right into his lap. West sat himself down properly on the floor and just held onto her, as she cried, so much pain in her.

Blamed herself for T.J. being Mate-less, he knew it, knew it was also not her fault. She had not actively chosen this for him. Would never have. Now the guilt was going to eat her alive, she didn't want to live with this knowledge, came back to rectify it. To find a way to get him his Mate. Had been given a choice, she'd said, if she chose right, the Goddess would grant her the right to pick him a Mate and then the Goddess herself would grant it.

Jo-anne had said, that only one could be happy. His eyes moved to the list on the wall, as he brushed his hand through her hair. The people on the list; himself, Jayden, T.J., Ella and then the word Mother. That made him curious. She did not even know who her real mother was.

Maybe something else had been said by the goddess, something she'd not yet gotten around to telling them due to T.J. stupidity. Only she would know, unless she'd told Ella. That girl had come with her to the office, had smiled right up at T.J.

Ella already knew, he knew it. Jo-anne had confided in her, it was Ella's hand writing on that piece of paper, he sighed. Jo-anne had come back into a shit storm, her powers trying to emerge, her Alpha wolf trying to claw its way into full authority. T.J. Mate-less, Jayden had tried to forcibly Mark her and tried to force her to submit to him. And two Mates.

Now finding out T.J. was her brother, Jo-anne was not stupid, they'd told her already she was an Alpha-blooded wolf, so she would know or quickly figure out that Belinda was her mother, it was only a matter of time for that to dawn on her. And she was trying to figure out her two Mate's, had to choose between them.

West had no idea how she was coping with all of this. Could very well be the reason that her powers, which had laid dormant all this time, were emerging and at an increasingly rapid rate. She was likely an emotional mess on the inside, he'd seen that her powers were interconnected with her emotions, mostly when she was angry and loosing control of herself, did they spring forward.

But when he'd stepped into this room, the way it was just her hands glowing, she had been looking at them, turned them away from her, let it all out through her hands, nothing about her had been glowing at that time other than her hands, either she had some control of it or she just wanted to destroy something.

That scream that had ripped out of her, it had been filled with everything she was feeling, she'd lashed out with her hands and her powers had shot out of them, destroyed the object she'd been focused on. Then it was just gone. And she'd been sobbing. Had let it all out.

West sighed, he had to lessen the burdens on her somehow, take some of the pressure off of her. Did not like the thought of how distressed she was. Did not like seeing her or hearing her cry for that matter. Rested his chin on the top of her head and told her softly that it was going to be alright.

That he would do whatever he could to help her through this, and he did mean it, just wanted her to go back to being happy and smiling. Like she had been before she'd woken up, to this colossal mess that was now her life.

Didn't want to see anymore tears, or hear anymore crying. It was breaking his heart to know he at this minute. Hell, at every moment, could do nothing but just hold her in his arms, he couldn't fix it all for her, and he wanted to.

Not only was he her Mate, he was her Alpha and it was not just his desire and need, it was also his job to help her. To protect her, to keep her safe from harm. He'd not been able to do that ever. Not back then, not in the last month, not even now. He could not stop her from being in pain.

This pack. Her pack, caused her nothing but pain and trouble. He sighed sadly, no-one here deserved her, she loved everyone and she was always getting hurt for it. Even now Belinda was worried the Royals were going to come for her and take her away. She was not safe here. If they did come, he, West, would be powerless to stop them. If they wanted to take her away, they would just order him to hand her over. And he would have no choice but to do so.

Felt Volt snarl at him, knew he did not like what was coming, West stood up, taking her with him. Carried Jo-anne across the rubble-strewn room, realised it almost looked like their old room upstairs, put her down on the bed gently, she was kneeling before him now, her face was still tear streaked, her eyes red and puffy.

West touched her face gently, brushed her tears away as he tilted her face up to look at him, searched her pretty eyes for anything other than pain and sadness right this minute. Even looking up at him, one of her mates, there was nothing else.

Her guilt was eating her alive, it was going to consume her every waking moment and there would be no joy, no happiness, not for her here with him, not in this pack.

"I love you Jo-anne. So I do this, to help you."

West did not like Alpha Jayden's treatment of her at this point, but he'd never really seen the man inside his pack or out of it be anything but capable and respected. His

pack liked him, everyone liked him, West only didn't like him because he was now his rival where she was concerned.

'Cole get Alpha Jayden, bring him directly here now.'

'Yes Alpha.'

He'd heard from T.J. how much they had in common, how those two had talked about art and had gotten lost in it, how they had gone dancing and she'd laughed and smiled, been happy with the man as he had twirled her around on the dance floor, she really did like him on a deeper level. They were a better match than he was for her.

West had not been good to her back then, he had not deserved her, had broken her, hollowed her out and though she had told him she had forgiven him, wanted him to forgive himself, West doubted that he ever would, and looking down at her now, so sad, so distressed. She had to stay away from him, he had to get her away from this pack.

"You should choose Alpha Jayden, Jo-anne." he told her softly, "I'm not the one who can make you happy, or protect you. Don't choose me, you were right, it's not likely to work out between us, it didn't back then, it likely won't now."

Saw her eyes widen slightly as she took in what he was saying "I'll make your choice easy and bow out. No more confusion. Go with Jayden and be happy. He is just like you, all art and museums. The two of you fit together."

West's eyes moved to the door as it opened and Jayden walked in, his Beta following him, glanced at the destruction of the couch, said nothing, wolves could be furiously angry at the best of times, then his eyes moved to her and West and he frowned at West. Didn't like the way West was touching her, he supposed.

West did not care, he was letting go of the only woman he'd ever loved, the only woman he would love, there would be no other, he already knew that. T.J. and Ella's child would take over this pack one day.

Turned his eyes back to Jo-anne, saw tears there, brushed them away. "Don't be upset." he leaned down and kissed her softly "Just go and be happy, Jo-anne. I just want you to be happy. So I will not force you to make a choice between the two of your Mates. I love you enough, to let you go, so you can be happy."

Stepped away from her, felt Volt recede away to the dark recess of his mind, looked at Alpha Jayden "You harm one hair on her head. I will kill you and I will know, because my Beta will literally feel it."

West turned and walked out of the room. It was the only way he could reduce her burdens, one less thing for her to worry about right now. Saw both Ricky and Cole

standing staring at him, the door had not been closed. They had seen and heard what he'd said, Ricky looked a little on the sad side even.

"You may go. She does not need guards anymore from this pack."

"West?" Ricky reached out to touch his arm.

"No." he shook his head and walked away to his office. To be alone. There was no-one in here, he was alone. How it was supposed to be, how it had been for 10 long years, how it would be for many years to come.

Was probably just going to hand the pack over to T.J. the minute he and Ella produced an Heir in all likelihood, hell it would likely be sooner than that. Did not really know what he was going to do with his time then.

Likely work in Olympia, run his airline and be just that little bit closer to her, not that he would ever see her again. His parents would surely understand. They'd have to, and if they didn't, well, they could try and wrest control of the pack back from T.J. and reign for another 20 or 30 years until the twins were old enough to take over.

Turned as his office door banged open and slammed shut with such force it rattled in the hinges, a fuming T.J. was standing glaring at him.

"What the hell did you do?" he roared at West and then was across the room and shoving him up against the wall.

"I did what I had to, to help her, Terence." he stated simply.

"How the hell can I protect her from here, if she's hours away? I will never get to her in time to save her. If she's hurt or in trouble."

"She's going to find a way to release you, Terence, so it won't matter." and he knew she would.

"I don't want her to," he yelled right in West's face. "I want my sister in this pack. I just got her West. I don't want to loose her."

"Not your choice, Terence. If she goes, she's made her decision." He'd not rejected her, would never, had simply stepped back to allow her to leave him once more.

Got shoved even harder up against the wall, heard the plaster crack behind him "You just handed her over to him, told her to go, Ricky and Cole came upstairs and told me you did."

"I did bow out yes." West nodded "Jo-anne has too much going on, Terence. Too many choices to make, she is so upset, so distressed. I just want her to be happy. Jayden is

well suited to her. You said it yourself on more than one occasion, they get along really well. He can make her smile and laugh.”

“And you didn’t? I saw her myself, happy in that studio, not even built yet, and was already smiling about being in there. Smiling at you, you did that, made her happy. I’ve seen the way she is when you kiss her West, she loves you deep down.”

“It’s just the Mate Bond Terence.” he shook his head.

“I call bullshit...she did not know about the bond in the hospital. When you kissed her, she kissed you back, all melted into you, like she freaking belonged there. And how many times did you crawl into her bed? Once you told me she called for you. That too was before she knew about the Mate Bond. Don’t you tell me it’s just the Bond, it’s not. There is something real there and you know it...” he was shoving West even harder now. “You’re just scared, you will hurt her again.”

“Yes Terence, you’re right,” he admitted. “I’m freaking terrified inside, I’ll turn on her, its what I always did. There is a real possibility I’ll do it again. I don’t know why I did it, no one understands...I have a temper, she’s seen it, felt it, doesn’t need that again. What if I do lose it and try to hurt her again?”

“She’ll bloody kick your ass, is what! She’s stronger than you now and that power of hers, she will likely punish you with it...Maybe she needs to knock some magical powered sense into your brain.”

“You’re a fool, Terence. Still you try to convince me, to, Mate your sister, when you should be keeping me away from her at all costs.” he shoved Terence off him with all he could muster and snapped “Just let it go, I’m not good for her and you know it.” it hurt enough to let her go he was over being lectured about it.

“If you say it West,” T.J. glared at him.

“I don’t deserve her,” West stated flatly. It’s how he’d always felt, nothing had changed. Loved her but did not deserve her.

T.J.’s fist was in his face a second later, the full force of it. West staggered back several steps and just glared at the man, but he did not hit him back, this was a fight he could no longer even attempt to get into. He knew T.J. was looking for a full on punch-it, out fight but West could not do it wouldn’t last one minute against the man now.

Saw T.J.’s eyes go from anger to recognition in an instant, when Volt didn’t appear at the attack on him. Grabbed him by the shirt and yanked his face right into T.J.’s “Where is Volt?” he was peering hard into him.

West knew both T.J, and Lark were using their Alpha ability to sense out his wolf. "Gone." West stated flatly, "Deep recess of my mind, likely not coming back." he told him truthfully.

"You bloody fool," he roared at him, shaking him, "See what you did, killed your own wolf."

"Get off me Terence." he slashed at the man's hands, and stalked away from him to his desk, to sit himself down. He knew what he'd done. Had felt Volt leave him before he'd even left Jo-anne's room. He was the one who had to live with it, would live with it, a good self punishment for all his acts against the woman he loved.

No-one had ever punished him for being Mated to her. No one had punished him for hurting her with his alpha orders. No one even punished him for breaking her spirit. So it was time he did it to himself, live wolf-less and alone. That was his punishment, he had already accepted it. His punishment already granted by the Goddess, Volt was gone, so far down, West could barely register him at all, it was only a matter of time before he was gone altogether.

Chapter 96 - Her Alpha's Orders

Jo-anne POV

She was kneeling on the bed in her room, listening to West tell her, not to choose him.

Heard Clova whin in pain at his very words, felt the softness of his lips on hers, so very gentle as he kissed her goodbye, then watched as he stepped back and walked away from them. Clova's eyes followed him all the way out the door, she howled in pain inside of Jo-anne's mind as he stepped out of the room and then vanished from their sight.

Felt a hand on her arm, knew it was Jayden, had yet to even look at the man. She didn't really understand why would West tell her he loves her, and she heard it. So did Clova, for that matter. He really did mean it, then he just walked away from them. Gone.

Though he told her it would be best for her to go with Alpha Jayden, she didn't know if that was true. Didn't know how West could make that claim himself, how could he just make a decision for her...it wasn't right, he couldn't do that, could he?

Found her face turned away from the empty doorway, Jayden's hand on her chin, made to look at him. "It's time we go home, Jo-anne." He smiled down at her. He looked very happy, she was going with him, pleased actually. Did he not even care, that she was at this moment upset? Surely he could see it. She had been crying and upset, her eyes would be all puffy and she would likely look like a right mess.

"Let's get you all packed up, we can be home in our pack in just over 5 hours. You'll love it there, I promise." Saw his head turn "Ben, Jo-anne is mine now. Please pack her things, we'll be leaving shortly."

"Of course, Alpha."

Jo-anne turned to look at the man, Beta Ben, as he got her suitcase and opened it, opened her closet and started packing her clothes into it.

"Just the pretty stuff, Beta. No jeans or tee-shirts. My Luna will look like a Luna all the time, only beautiful dresses from now on."

Jo-anne frowned and looked back to Jayden, felt Clova's agitation and she retreated to the back of her mind. "I'm not ready to go... I have to finish my portrait... I need to sort somethings out with T.J." and she did. He'd told her he was her brother, a large shock and she needed to discuss this with him. How was it possible? Who her mother was?...my mother? If T.J. was her brother, then it was likely his mother, Belinda, was her mother. They had told her she had Alpha blood, and T.J.'s dad was a Beta, so that just left Belinda.

She shook her head. "I also need to see Heath."

"No you will not be, he tried to kill you. I will have West put him down. We will be leaving Jo-anne and presently," his eyes moved to the portrait of West and Volt "as for that." he waved his hand towards it, "Destroy it, you'll not be finishing it."

"Excuse me?" Jo-anne shot at him. She had worked hard on it and it was nearly finished. She shoved his hands off of her and got off of the bed. "It was commissioned by the Luna, I do not re-neg on my deals."

"I will not have you painting a portrait of your ex-mate. I will pay the monetary compensation, and you'll be released from the deal made." he told her flatly.

Jo-anne's eyes moved to the portrait and she felt Clova's pain renew at the sight of Volt in that picture, could feel pain wash over her own wolf, it was coming off of her in waves, as she stared at Volt through Jo-anne's eyes. Then she turned and fled away to the back of Jo-anne's mind.

Jo-anne clutched at her chest, her wolf's heart was breaking at the loss of her Mate. She moved her eyes to Alpha Jayden, who had walked over to his Beta to help him pack her things, as she stood and watched them, like it didn't matter what she wanted, like she was going to go with them regardless of what she wanted.

"I'm not going anywhere." She stated "Stop touching my things." This was so very wrong. She had not made her choice, she had not chosen either one of them. How was it one could walk away and the other tell her she was now his. It didn't work that way.

Jayden looked right at her. "Jo-anne, West has rejected you, I have not, your choice has been made for you."

"No it's not." She shook her head, as she thought about that.

Had West rejected her, she did not think so, he had told her he would make her choice easier, he had not rejected her at all, just told her to choose another, that he would accept this, that was all. "West did not reject me Jayden."

"I heard him tell you, to go with me. Told me to look after you, willingly gave you up."

Jo-anne shook her head "I don't care what either of you want. It is my choice, not yours and not his."

"Be reasonable, Jo-anne, he has left you. Now put your shoes on, we'll be leaving shortly."

'Will we?' She thought absently as her eyes moved about the room, all her things, he was only packing her clothes, nothing else, didn't seem to have any intention of taking her art supplies, sighed, he'd told her she wouldn't have time to paint, only in her spare time what little of it she would have. Guess he meant it.

Her eyes fell on that piece of paper on the wall. Only one can be happy. Well, right now Jayden was happy, she was not happy, Clova was not happy, West was not happy, knew instinctively Volt was not happy, his wolf had been obsessed with Clova, always, he'd always loved Clova.

Walked over and plucked that piece of paper off the wall, and read it, heard Selena's voice inside her mind, as it faded in and out right at the end, as she had been getting sent back 'you...Clova.' looked right at the list.

The pain that was coming off of Clova, was spreading through her body. Clova? It was Clova, the choice she had to make, not herself, not T.J., not either West or Jayden, not even Ella.

Her choice was to choose her wolf. She had once promised Clova never to cause her so much pain ever again, not since that day when she had hurt her, where she had laid dormant unable to come forward and be a part of her for a whole year after Jo-anne had tried to gain her freedom at 17.

She had nearly lost her once because of a very selfish choice, had not even thought about Clova back then, and now she could feel her wolf was in agony because Jo-anne, was so obsessed with saving T.J., that she had missed the one thing, the most important thing in her whole life, her sweet girl, Clova.

'Oh, my sweet girl. Don't you die, I will fix this. I can fix this.' got nothing but waves of pain from her wolf 'Clova.' she called out to her wolf inside her mind 'I hear you, I feel you.'

Turned and left her room, walked away from Alpha Jayden and his Beta, packing her things, but only the things he wanted her to take. He was not the one for Clova. She had never liked that man or his wolf, only ever wanted Volt, her Mate from before. She would accept no other. Jo-anne understood now, all this time. Although they had been separated, Clova loved Volt, she had Mated him for life, and she would take no other, would die without him. Well, Jo-anne was not going to lose her wolf, not again.

Found Alpha Jayden right in front of her "Where are you going, you're my Luna."

"No, I'm not. My wolf will never accept you."

"I will make her," he snapped, sounded very angry.

"Really?" Jo-anne stared right at him, from what she recalled, he could not make her last night, it was unlikely he could make her now. She too was an Alpha wolf, and one that, as far as she could figure out, was likely of Royal blood, and something else, she had exploded that couch in her room. It was very unlikely anyone could make her do anything she didn't want to anymore.

Felt heat start to build inside her body, wondered if she could draw on it at will, reached for it and felt her hands grow hot. Looked right at Jayden. "What if my wolf is dead, would you accept a wolf-less Luna?" Even without Clova it did seem she could draw on that power inside of her, it was white hot and burning as anger built inside her, at this man's constant need to take what was not his "You'd force me, like you tried to in the hospital and then again just last night."

"Yes if necessary. I don't want to Jo-anne, but I am your Mate, I will not be taking no for an answer, West rejected you. You belong to me now." he told her matter of factly.

Felt a hand grab her hair from behind and pull her head to the side, it was Ben his Beta, and she knew it because the second his hand was on her she saw Jayden's fangs elongate "You are mine."

"I wouldn't." she shot at him. "you won't like what you'll get in return." she grated out, felt heat behind her eyes, knew they were glowing, could see it reflected in his own eyes. Then Clova was surging forward all aggression, and they were one, united together against this man. "Not yours. We reject you as our Mate." they spoke together.

Saw anger flare in him, his wolf snarled at them and then lunged forward to Mark them against their will, brought their hands up full of heat and opened them right at him, and watched him go flying backwards down the hallway, flung away from her by the power she had contained in them.

Turned and looked at his Beta. Oh this man, they really wanted a piece of him for trying to help that Alpha take her by force, even after they had rejected him, spun their whole body around and snapped the flat of her palm into the centre of his chest, with all her Alpha wolf strength, and he went stumbling backwards down the hallway, watch a blood burst from him lips and then he slumped down on to the floor, looked up at her his eyes more than wide, did not attempt to get up and come at her. Knew better it seemed.

Turned to see Alpha Jayden and his wolf staring right at them.

“Do you want to play with us? Or leave alive?” they asked him menacingly. They had not been allowed to play with him last night, but right now there was no-one around to stop them. Felt both she and Clova pull on that power inside of them as they watched him get up and stalk towards her, sighed this was the man he was, would take what he wanted even when it was not his.

Felt something else pull at her as she stared at the man, felt really weird all of a sudden as she wondered just who he really was deep down inside, then as he charged at her, felt a tingling all over her body, like some one was walking over her grave, shuddered at the itchy and weirdness of it, then it was like he was moving in slow motion.

Saw a white haze fall over the man that was rushing towards her, shot forward to meet him, slammed her hands onto the sides of his head and shoved all their aura down on to him till he was kneeling before her “Show me who you are!” they stated and a flood of images filled her mind, there was a young beautiful, fair skinned girl with long blonde hair, smiling up at Jayden, his Mate, then them Mating, he’d spend hours with her, barely 18 young and beautiful she was, saw the girl wake up in his bed and smile right up at him lovingly, reached out for him, loved him already. Only to be devastated as he stood by the bed they had shared, smiled nastily down at her and reject her for being useless to him. Had marched her out of the room and walked away from her uncaring.

They saw the devastation, and heart break, felt all her pain swallow her up, completely broken by her Mate, how he had used her body for his own pleasure a whole day and night, only to reject her. Watched as she walked empty and soulless away from the pack-house, uncaring she was still naked, she had no wolf, was wolf-less, why he’d rejected her.

But then something was calling to her, it too was full of sadness, a poignant song of loneliness and heartache, calling to her, followed it, tracked that sad sweet voice beckoning her, a sad ballad in her mind all the way to the ocean that backed right onto his pack, no longer hers, she did not want to be here anymore, walked into the ocean and never came out.

Gripped Jayden’s face tighter and dug deeper, pushed harder, there was more. She saw her, a beautiful creature, swimming freely in the ocean, a siren. Her first shift brought on by utter heartache. The man never knew what he had, thought she was wolf-less and useless to him, when in fact she was a weapon of woman, a siren, not

something to be messed with ever. They were deadly and precise in the nature of their attacks. What a fool he was.

Flashed forward saw another woman, who he treated just the same, her long red hair and big blue eyes filled with pain as he to reject her a night after Mating. He'd never Marked either, didn't think they were worthy of his bite, dug deeper, a child, a beautiful little girl, so full of life and vitality, her mother's pain hidden behind a smile that never truly reached her eyes.

He held them hostage inside his pack, had not laid claim to the child, and the woman he had rejected forced to stay, refused her to leave, so cruel he was to not want either but would not let them go, saw her try to leave many times, run and tried to get away. Could not, she was hunted down and dragged back, his own child terrified of him and the cruelty he displayed towards her mother.

Released the fowl man before her, there was blood dripping from his nose and where her claws had been dug into him to dig deeper into his mind, "you're hideous." she told him as he fell all the way down on to his hands, watched as one hand moved to his stomach and clutched at it, groaned in pain and then heaved and started to vomit.

His eyes moved right to her, once he stopped vomiting, she could see shock in them, at what she had done to him. She too was more than a little surprised, but then again she had seen Ella and T.J. heavily pregnant earlier that day, and Ella had told her she thought she must be able to see, just like Belinda did.

Well, it turns out she was more like her mother than anyone knew, "You can not, ever have what does not belong to you." they told him.

"I will have what is mine." Jayden snarled up at her.

"No you won't." they squatted right down next to him looked him right in the eyes "We belong to Volt. Oh and that daughter of yours, I wish with all my heart and soul, she is freed from you, her mother too. I pray to the goddess herself, that when you get home they have escaped your cruelty, that they find a new pack, one that will protect them from you."

She stood up and heard him suddenly cry out in pain, and saw him clutch at his chest, screamed at her "What did you do?"

"Oh," she looked down at him "When I pray for something to the goddess, and truly mean it, she grants it." laughed softly "did you just loose your child." interesting she thought "Jayden one more thing. That first Mate of yours, not wolfless,. She holds more power than I do, just hadn't come into it yet. Good luck surviving her. When she comes for you, this pack will not be coming to your aid any longer. Our alliance is severed."

" You can't do that. You are nothing. West rejected you, remember."

They snorted down at him and stalked away. "We are the Luna, you just wait and see." stalked herself all the way down the hall, down the stairs. Saw several pack members stop and then back away from them.

Marched themselves all the way over to the Alpha's office, it was locked, snarled right at the door, 'our mate is in there.' Clova growled.

'Then go and get him, Clova.'

They took a single step back from the door and looked down at their hands, smirked to themselves, felt that heat pulled it towards them and turned it on the door, with an angry roar, and the thing blew clean off its hinges and landed in the middle of the room.

Stalked slowly into the room, fists balled at their sides, as their eyes met West's, he was standing at his desk staring right at them. They caught movement to their right, turned and looked, saw T.J.. He looked tense. "We'll deal with you later brother, stay out of this.", saw the man raise both hands in a surrender gesture.

Turned their eyes back to West, stalked across the room, right across the door she had blown in, watched him step out from behind his desk, looked more than concerned as he watched her. For himself she did not know.

"How dare you. Take my choice away from me." They snarled right at him.

"I was just."

"Shut up." they roared at him, uncaring he was their Alpha, saw his neck bare to her fully, snorted "Now who holds the power."

Saw his frown.

"I do not choose Jayden, I do not choose you, West. I do not choose myself or even T.J., I chose Clova. And she wants Volt."

"He's gone." West stated softly, sadly.

They felt pure rage bubble up within them at this knowledge, snapped their hands on to his face and yanked his face right down to her and screamed "Volt, get your ass out here." demanding his presence with all her power rolling at them, a full Royal Alpha Wolf demanding her mate return to her at once.

Saw his wolf emerge, an angry snarl at the pain she had caused him by forcing him to come forward from the depths of his humans mind.

"How dare you leave Clova, I should beat you senseless." Jo-anne snarled up at his wolf.

Saw Volt all on the surface in full control, didn't much like the threat against him, she supposed, pulled himself from her hands and stood himself to his full height and looked down at her, Alpha wolf to Alpha wolf, a low growl emitted from him, though it didn't sound as threatening as she would have thought.

Jo-anne receded away, to allow Clova to claim what she'd always wanted. Jo-anne would deal with West another time. The dumb ass thought this was going to win her. He had some explaining to do, but she wanted Clova to be happy, and Volt had always made her wolf happy. Even now she could feel Clova's joy at seeing her Mate.

"Wait, don't Mark her." was yelled at them. Clova turned to see who dared to stop her from claiming what was her right, and found Belinda before them. "Claim and Mate, but do not Mark yet. West and Volt are still tainted by your blood my child."

Even Jo-anne was frowning inside her mind at this news. Didn't really understand the woman's words, made no sense to her. 'Claim Volt, Clova, get what is your.' felt Clova turn back to Volt, who was still on the surface, had yet to relinquish control back to West.

"Mine." Volt growled softly, right down at her before Clova could even lay claim to him, then snapped his hands out and yanked her body against his.

"Mine." Clova growled right back at him, and all Clova's sadness and stress of the day seemed to just be melted away as she leaned into him, filled with comfort and joy, happiness at being in his arms once again, knowing she would remain there forever. Was purring softly for him a second later.

'We'll wait for you and West, Jo-Jo.'

Jo-anne snorted at her wolf and rolled her eyes 'like I believe you on that.'

Heard her own wolf chortle right back at her, and then receded back to allow Jo-anne control once more, looked up to find Volt still on the surface "Mine too." he growled softly down at her, then touched his forehead to hers, before receding away leaving West looking down at her.

Jo-anne peeled herself from his arms and his body. "I'm still mad at you." she muttered as she brushed his hands away from him and stepped away as well.

Found Belinda suddenly right in front of her, "I'm sorry my child, I have to know."

"Know what?" she frowned up at the woman, who was a good 2 inches taller than her.

Felt the woman's hands on the side of her face, saw her eyes go white as she stated "Show me."

Clova shot forward in her mind, and they were united as one, felt all of their body get white hot, glared at the woman before her, their supposed mother, she was trying to pry inside their mind snarled "Not going to happen." and saw the woman stumble back several steps, very wide-eyed, "Don't ever do that." they told her with a shake of their head "we don't like it, it hurts."

"You can resist...you stopped me!" the woman sounded completely shocked. "No one has ever resisted before...I need to know, did you use your ability? Did you see like a seer?" she stepped back over and grabbed onto their arm " Please, I must know."

"Yes. Jayden is a hideous man...West I have severed our alliance with his pack, eject that man."

"My pleasure, Luna." it was T.J. who answered her and she watched as he left the room,

"Oh Jayden, where are you?" he called out loudly, his voice full of taunt.

Nearly laughed at him and his tone, but kept her attention on the woman before her, "Why is it important to know this?"

"Because, the King's seer's will feel it, they'll be coming for you and soon." Watched as the woman's eyes glazed over white again, for several minutes, looked right at her when they returned to their natural grey colour, "They are preparing to come now. They'll be here in a day." she frowned deeply "It's not enough time, I have to hide you. Now that the seers have you, they will hunt you with a vengeance."

"What did I ever do to them?" Jo-anne muttered as Clova fully receded. The woman was not a threat to them.

"Nothing, Jo-anne. We really do need to sit down and talk, but... I have yet to tell my family everything so..."

"Tell them, don't tell them. That is up to you. I will not say anything."

"Then you know, who I am...to you!" she asked, seemed a bit hesitant.

"T.J. screamed it at me a little while ago." Jo-anne nodded, she was still yet to absorb it properly, would likely need more than a minute, but here she was her own actual birth mother standing right in front of her, how she was supposed to feel about that she didn't know, didn't blame the woman, there was more to her birth than she knew considering T.J., Ava and Sonja were all Jonathan's and she was not, if she was she'd have been raised with them. "I don't expect you to claim me, I also don't blame you for leaving me. You likely had your reasons." she'd already come to that conclusion.

"I didn't want to leave you, Jo-anne. But I had to hide you from the King's seer's. Leaving you inside this pack abandoned as I did, I knew that Luna Natalia, would bleed you into another's bloodline. This would hide you from the seers...I'm sorry, it was the best I could think of at the time. I was young and in pain myself. But I always kept you close, had to...selfish and heartless of me, I know."

Jo-anne sighed "Who is my father?"

Saw the woman actually visually shudder and step back "I...I" she was shaking her head "I can't." and then she was gone, left the office in a rush, tears falling down her face.

"She's not ready yet Jo-anne, give her some time, there is trauma there." West told her softly.

Jo-anne turned and looked right at him, huffed in annoyance. She was more than annoyed with him and his behaviour today. Noted he was not smiling either for that matter, "only one can be happy" she told him.

"That's a lie." He shrugged, "Volt, is more than happy and Clova?" he questioned.

"Happy." Jo-anne nodded.

"So, that's two that are happy," West commented.

She frowned up at him, he was right, Clova was the right choice, she brushed his hand away from her face, when he touched her, "Still mad at you...Who tells someone, they love them and then walks the hell away from them."

Saw him sigh "An idiot I guess."

"Damned near lost your wolf. As did I, you fool. You ever do it again, and you'll bow down to us and have to beg for forgiveness for days, weeks, bloody months."

Saw him smile "That's the Alpha blood in you, challenging me."

"I will win West." she waved her hand at the door on the floor, to make a point.

"I would let you." He shrugged "Can I ask, what happen with Jayden? to piss you right off."

"Well, after you just handed me over to him," she snapped, "he tried to take what was not his, even after we rejected him. Lucky I didn't kill him." she muttered, looking down at her hands. Probably could she realised, wondered if she could have exploded him just like that couch?

"You wouldn't kill him, you're too sweet." he smiled down at her.

Jo-anne raised an eyebrow at him. "All charm now I see," turned and walked away. "I'm hungry, I need food." marched herself out of his office, seems using that power of hers made her ravenous.

Chapter 97 - Her Alpha's Orders

Belinda POV

Belinda had been sitting in her suite on the 3rd floor that she and her Mate Jonathon and their two daughters, Ava and Sonja, still lived in. Drinking a cup of tea, simple and black just how she liked it. Well, she was actually nursing it, had yet to even take a sip.

She had spoken the words she'd longed to all her life, last night. In front of not just Terence, but West, Oliver, his war general as well, had not even thought about it at all.

Jo-anne had really needed her, and that bastard, Alpha Jayden, had tried once again to claim what was not his, had tried to make her little girl submit to him, she had heard him tell her to submit. It was not the reason West had mind-linked her about, he'd thought that Jo-anne was about to lose all control, unleash her power on someone.

Belinda had thought that it was going to be West or Terence himself. She hadn't known at the time, who it had been aimed at. Not until she had gone running out there in her silk pyjamas, something Jonathan loved to buy her, told her he loved the feel of it. But all her power and rage was aimed at Alpha Jayden, her hearing had picked up what was going on before she had seen it.

She could also see Terence headed in that direction in front of her, smiled he was so fast, took after her on that front, he was the only one able to catch her on foot, still couldn't get her wolf, felt Wren, chortle inside her mind, liked being faster than Lark.

Jo-anne she saw, was all glowing, and the heat that was pouring off of the girl, was rolling out of her in waves. Those eyes of hers were all silver, just like him. Belinda had to remind herself, that her daughter was nothing like the sick evil bastard that was her father. But when she was like this, all anger and aggression, she could not help but be reminded of that man. His eyes had always glowed like that.

She'd watched as Terence pulled Jo-anne out of the way, knew it would only aggravate the situation, but was then surprised that her daughter didn't try to take on her son, had told him to move. Wouldn't it seem hurt him, that was good.

Put herself right next to the girl, touched her face and drew her attention. Belinda had never actively severed her parental connection to Jo-anne, useful it was in gaining her undivided attention. The girl was drawn to her, likely didn't understand why, but was drawn to her none the less, and this is what allowed her to calm the situation completely.

Too much power, it was burning to be released, been suppressed as Belinda expected, by the blood bond to Heath and when West had severed it. That power was now running unchecked and itching to be released. Anchored to Jo-anne's emotions, her anger it seemed, not that she had been an angry child, well mannered and polite, happy and caring.

Without Heath's blood to suppress her natural genealogy, the Alpha blood from both her parents was running hot in her veins. Belinda had always known, that at some point, she would spiral out of control and into an Alpha rage, and there it was.

Now today, her head had whipped up and the cup had fallen from her fingers. She felt it. A seer using their ability, so very strong, pushing hard to get what they wanted, stood with her hands trembling slightly. She knew that she would not be the only one to detect it.

The royal seer's, ever watchful for anything that could pose as a threat to the King and his bloodline, or could be used to aid them, in their duties, they would all see it or feel it, sense it maybe. It might take them a minute or two, seeing as how far away they were. But Belinda knew they would report it to Hendrick, the royal Warlock and leader of their coven.

Hendrick would use a location spell to track where the vibrations, the use of a seers abilities caused, came from. He would latch right on to it and track it right here to this very pack if it was Jo-anne.

She left the suite the minute she felt it stop, had been frozen to the spot the whole time. She could feel it being used, was now praying it wasn't Jo-anne, that there was a seer near by the pack, that had caused the sensations, she felt. Like a bunch of tiny spiders running over her whole body, hated it in fact, but was now used to it.

Something she had hidden from her own family, till she had come of age and gotten Wren, her wolf. Wren had reacted to it quite violently. Force shifted her the first few times they had felt it, without warning, and ran about banging into things trying to quell the sensation. There had been no warning and she'd been shifted regardless of where they had been, and Hendrick had seen it and realised she was a royal-blooded wolven seer, something they'd been trying to create in the Royal bloodline for generations.

Had taken a shine to her instantly, wanted to help her enhance her gift, he'd told her parents and of course, they'd allowed it. Belinda herself had hated those lessons with him, and had hated those seers of his coven too. Although they were relatively harmless unless you were a designated threat to the royal family, that was.

At 17 years old, Hendrick had taken a single drop of her blood to test it, for the power she held, to see how strong she would become. He had seen something he'd liked, and had also seen something he did not like at all.

Had seen her Goddess-Gifted Mate, a Beta to a pack that would take her right out of the kingdom and away from him. Not what he had wanted. Belinda had heard him talking to her parents quietly about her blood and how special it was. The first of her kind, a true wolven seer with royal blood, and that if they would approve a mating alliance between him and her, their children would have blood that would enhance all the seers in the kingdom.

Referred to the children that they would have as bleeders and his only concern was keeping her away from her Goddess-Gifted Mate, a Beta to the Eclipsed Moon Pack, in the human realm. A pack that would come to the yearly Alpha meeting just a week before she turned 18, and seeing as she did have the ability of foresight, there was a very good possibility that Belinda would see him and know what he was to her.

Her mother and father had discussed it at length, and she had stood quietly and listened with her wolfs hearing, from a darkened stairwell just down the hallway, the omega's stairwell. It had been late at night and no-one was around to see her there.

She was of no threat to her parents and therefore, had gone undetected by the royal seers, had heard them discussing the mating alliance with Hendrick, discussing the children that they would have. The first born to be taken away from her, told died during childbirth so that they could test the baby's ability to be a bleeder, the a second child, she would get to keep, but any others would be taken away told died as well. Hendrick would be trying to produce a whole litter of bleeders.

Her heart had nearly broken that night, that her own parents could and would do this to her, their own child. She'd been informed the very next day at breakfast in front of all her siblings of her Mating to Hendrick.

Her parents had pretended to be so proud of her, told her that Hendrick had already foreseen that he was her Goddess-Gifted Mate, and that the moment she turned 18 they would Mark and Mate each other. It was all a lie.

They'd been so excited by the news, not the excitement of a gifted mate for their daughter, but for the bleeders she would have and be taken away from her. Belinda had sat there looked up at Hendrick, who had been smiling right along with her parents. He'd already taken a liking to her not that she had ever once reciprocated, had shrugged him off and told him it was inappropriate.

Belinda knew she had to get out and leave, had to find the Eclipsed Moon Pack and run as fast as she could for her Goddess-Gifted Mate, get him to Mark and Mate her, before Hendrick or her family caught her. It was the only thing that could save her.

The children she would have with her Goddess-Gifted Mate would all just be normal wolves. That was what she wanted, so no harm would come to them. She did not want to be Marked or Mated by Hendrick.

It took a lot to find the Eclipsed Moon Pack. It seemed her parents had removed it from the ledger, or Hendrick had used Magic to conceal it, so that if by some chance she did find out and foresaw him and the pack symbol, she could not find it. Hated them for this.

They were not only willing to sacrifice her true happiness, they were selling her off to a man who did not love her, only wanted her for the children they would have, so he could make himself more powerful.

It had sickened her and Belinda had used every ounce of her seer's ability to try and locate this pack, that her Goddess-Gifted Mate belonged to. The week before the big Alpha meeting, her parents had come to her and told her, that to fully celebrate her Mate Bond with Hendrick, they wanted to surprise her with a trip away, to the winter palace, where she would be pampered and could have anything her heart desired.

So that when she came back, she would be well rested for her Marking and Mating. Belinda had just wanted to throw up at hearing this, had smiled and acted all happy and excited, but deep inside she was revolted by their actions. She knew that he would be here in a week and that her parents were just sending her away, to the other end of the kingdom, just to keep them apart.

Belinda had resorted to sneaking into her father's office, not something anyone would ever do for fear of death as punishment, but it was all she had left was about to be shipped away in a day. Snuck into his office very late at night, the house dark and nearly everyone sleeping, just a few roaming guards.

Kept clearly in her mind, she did not want to hurt her family, meant no harm to them, to keep them royal seers away from her and what she was doing. Had spent the past year, pretending she was happy about Hendrick being her Mate. Ate meals with him, took walks with him in the garden, spent time with him whenever he asked to or her parents asked her too. But had shied away from his intentions and affections.

Knew he did not mean it, and she did not want it. Belinda had played the shy virgin card, and asked him to wait till the Goddess gifted her to him and he to her. How they were going to convince her of that at 18 she didn't know. Probably some spell or drug, she thought disgusted and repulsed by the idea.

Hendrick had no choice but to keep his hands to himself. He could not force her, she was a royal princess and underage. If she, at any point, voiced he was a threat to her, he would come under his own seer's scrutiny, and she would decline the mating alliance. She had not done this already solely because she had been desperately searching for her Goddess-Gifted Mate without their knowledge and had wanted it to stay that way.

In her father's office, she had searched through all of the pack acceptance letters, and there it had been, the Eclipsed Moon Pack, a black circle with white spidery veins of

light coming out from around the edges, and his name, not something she had known, Beta Jonathan James had been written right there under Alpha Damien Carlton.

When Belinda had touched his name and focused on it, she saw him for the first time. He was tall and handsome, brown hair a little longish, but it suited him, he had big brown eyes like liquid chocolate, his lips not too thin. Already she could imagine kissing them, his jaw square and cute dimple in his chin, his skin darkly tanned and he was big and strong, muscled to the hilt. Tears had welled in her eyes, her Mate, gifted to her by Selena, herself so perfect, so handsome. Everything she wanted in a Mate.

She had left her father's office, strolled outside into the royal grounds, ready to flee the kingdom, took nothing with her, walked about the gardens in the middle of the night. Something she had been doing this now on a regular basis for 6 months. She always knew if she was going to run, it would need to be in the middle of the night, so she had started night walking, so it would not seem unusual to the palace guards to see her out in the wee hours of night.

She had strolled around the gardens, picked a flower here or there, and smiled at the guards as she passed them, asked how they were, how their mates were, seemingly normal conversation, with each and everyone, gave them nothing to be concerned about, or needed to report.

Then, the second, it was clear, had bolted from the palace.

Still no threat to her family, unseen by the seer's as she'd run for her Mate, and his pack, only a day away once through the portal to the human realm, but she did not stop for anyone, ran the whole way. She was fast, faster than any regular wolf, ran right through the Eclipsed Moon Pack's border, knowing full well that her father and Hendrick were close behind her now, maybe only an hour, probably even less. She could feel her father's fury as he ran after her hunting her, angry with her disobedience.

Belinda did not stop, knowing any unauthorised entry to a pack would bring not only the Alpha but his whole unit right to her, including the packs Beta, her Mate Jonathan. Her only thought was Jonathan and getting to him, he would save her. She knew this. Saw him coming along with the Alpha and his unit, had screamed his name, shocking him completely.

They had never seen her before, even though they would have attended other Alpha meetings in the kingdom, there were no underage wolves allowed, she'd never laid eyes on him until this very minute, not in the flesh.

She ran right at him, stopped directly in front of him. "I'm your Mate, please Mark me." she begged him "Trust me, help me." she'd thrown herself right at him, wrapping her arms and legs around him, was not going to let go.

Heard him chuckle and tell her "There is no rush if you are." did not sound the slightest bit worried about a perfectly strange girl clinging onto him.

"My father is going to Mate me off, and hide me from you." she'd told him urgently.

"Your father?"

"Yes, the wolven King, Sebastian. His seers foresaw you. Please, he's not far behind me. Please," she had begged him, looking right into his big brown eyes.

He'd stared at her for maybe all of 20 seconds and then just snapped his fangs into her neck and claimed her, had trusted her, she had Marked him right back, and then kissed him and murmured Mate me right now. She had no experience in the matter, did not care, he was her Mate and she knew he would not hurt her.

They had Mated right there on the spot, up against the nearest tree and the Alpha and the rest of his unit had walked off to greet the King who was coming.

Her father had been furious to find her completely naked with Jonathan Marked by him, and still being Mating right there for him to see and hear, and she had really enjoyed it, goddess that man was a dream in bed, right from their first time still till now.

Hendrick had raged at the King that day for not keeping her locked up and then had just vanished into thin air, leaving the King to deal with her, not that he had, he'd glared right at her as Jonathan had mated her, she'd smiled right at him, beaten him at his own game and then he had turned and stalked off out of the pack.

Belinda had only ever returned to the kingdom and her parents when she had to, still to this very day Hendrick glared right at her, still angry over 30 years later that she had gotten away from him. However, he could not intervene in her life or harm her Mate, in anyway, it would be considered a threat to the King's own bloodline.

Belinda dragged herself away from her memories and bolted down the stairs, saw Alpha Jayden the vomit near him as he struggled to pick himself up off the floor, saw his Beta injured down the other end of the hall. Her little girl so strong, had defeated both of them, it seemed. Was only a little bit shocked by West's office door completely blown off its hinges. She held more power than just foresight.

She shot into West's office, tracking her daughters' scent, saw both Volt and Clova on the surface, "Wait, don't Mark her." she yelled at them, "Claim, Mate, but don't Mark not yet. West and Volt still tainted by your blood, my child." she tried to explain as best she could, in short order to stop them from Marking each other.

Watched as both wolves laid claim to each other and then thankfully listened to her, and just stand in each others arms, saw Volt her Alpha Wolf, verbally lay claim to Jo-anne as well, touched his head to hers as a mark of love and respect, sighed with relief.

Walked over to Jo-anne and put her hands on either side of her head, she had to know, what she'd done. See it for herself, feel it through the woman, to try and figure out how long it would take for the ripple of vibrations to reach the seer's, to reach Hendrick.

Pushed hard, but there was so much resistance, Jo-anne did not want to be seen into it seemed, pushed harder and heard her and Clova speak as one "Not going to happen." and felt the power rolled right at her, made her stagger back, stood staring at the girl more than shocked.

Felt them together as one being, not two separate minds but one, their thoughts perfectly aligned and attuned with each other. All of her Alpha gene's, royal and warlock all pulled together as one. Nothing and no one was getting into their mind without actual permission. Had the distinct feeling he, her father, was way more powerful than Hendrick was.

No-one had ever been able to stop Belinda from seeing before. She could use her ability at will, see a lot with it, but her own child now fully realised, was even stronger than she was. This was what they would want, the blood of one so very strong, her blood to enhance their own powers to see better with.

Grabbed her daughter asked her instead, about the use of her ability, had she seen with it "Yes" had been the answer.

Belinda had to now tell her the truth about the kingdom's seers, they would feel it and would be coming for her. It was likely only a matter of time now. Used her own foresight ability to see what they in the kingdom, were doing, were likely to do.

Oh yes they had felt it, felt one look right at her, shuddered as she saw Hendrick's eyes peer right at her, he'd felt her checking using her ability and had latched right on to it, he would know it was her, knew what she felt like, after all he'd been the one to train her, teach her.

Saw him look right at her, felt his amusement as she looked right back at him. "I'm coming for what is mine", he told her. They had a day to hide Jo-anne, it would only take a day to get here. She needed to think about it but didn't really have the time.

Belinda was shocked to hear that Jo-anne knew who she was, that she was her mother, not so surprised that it was Terence who had told her. The man yearned to protect his little sister. She explained as briefly and quickly as she could about the threat that the kingdom's seers posed to her.

Explained to her about hiding her as a baby, apologised for the way it had been done, admitted she had been young and in pain, and she had been, 2 years of agony at that bastard's hands, but couldn't send her own child away to another pack, couldn't keep her for herself, but also couldn't have her far away at the same time. She had been both heartless and selfish where her own daughter was concerned.

Visually shuddered with pure revolution when Jo-anne asked who her father was, couldn't bring herself to even say the man's name. Just the thought of him pierced pain through her, shook her head. Did not want her own child to ever know of that evil callous bastard. Left the Alpha office and ran back to her suite.

It didn't take Jonathan long, to burst into the room and wrap his arms around her. Bloody man was so attuned to her emotions, he always knew when she was upset and distressed, always came running to comfort her. Never failed to come for her, wrap her up in his big strong arms and pull her right into his chest. Belinda hugged into him and breathed him in, tried to push it all down and away.

That evil bastard was dead, he could not hurt her anymore. She was safe, had made it back to her pack, to her beautiful Mate, Jonathan. He'd never stopped loving her, not for a single second, not even when he'd thought she'd been dead. Two whole years the man had never so much as entertained the idea of another. Loved only her, as she did him.

Chapter 98 - Her Alpha's Orders

West POV

West couldn't believe it, didn't want to take his eyes off of her not for a single second, she might bloody vanish from his sight, or he might wake up from a dream. It had hurt when she'd stated she had not chosen him. He'd not really expected her to, wanted her to with all that was in him, but their past, so very bad and he was the cause of it.

But then, to hear her state, she chose Clova and Clova wanted Volt. It meant that she was going to be staying, but he no longer had Volt. Would she leave him because of this? Was amazed by how the two of them had forced his wolf back to the surface, from the dark depths of his mind, barely reachable to himself.

Chastised his wolf for leaving them, nearly made him laugh. When they threatened to beat him senseless for leaving, it had not been their fault. He had made the choice for them to go with Jayden. Volt had not liked it, but he too, on some deeper level, knew this pack had caused her so much harm. And neither he nor West had been able to protect her, and felt partially responsible for failing her too.

They walked behind her as she stalked out of his office, followed her all the way to the pack-house dining room, didn't like that they were not allowed to Mark her, but Belinda's words had been full of urgency and panic, she knew who and what Jo-anne really was.

Had said, she had tainted blood, and that it was inside of him and Volt still, that had brought to their mind Heath who had suddenly turned on Jo-anne after his wolf had bitten her, gone completely insane it seemed. But now after he'd vomited blood, her blood at that, he seemed fine and back to normal.

Belinda had told them she was willing to bet Jo-anne could heal the man. How she had done it, he did not know, but that man had thrown up only her blood. If her blood was tainted and that was the reason for his behaviour, then maybe there was a reason behind his own behaviour towards her all those years ago. He hoped so. He did not want to go back to hurting her.

Though a small part of him knew she would not take it anymore, her Alpha Wolf would hit back, and he was actually really glad to know that, that she would not put up with any shit from him, if he reverted back to how he had been when they'd previously been mated, he still worried he would want to hurt her the way he had back then, needed to talk to Belinda about it, but the woman was distressed at just the thought of the girls father. It would take more time.

Watched as Jo-anne loaded up a plate full of food, she was starving hungry by the look of it. He to, got lunch and sat down next to her. Volt, it seemed, was very happy to have Clova as his Mate again, was sitting watching Jo-anne the whole time, kept making West look at her, seems his wolf didn't want to not look at her.

Jo-anne turned and looked right at him, glared at him actually. They knew she was still mad at West, but his wolf's happiness was bleeding through into him as well. He smiled at her couldn't help it. Knew she had every right to be mad at him too, but if he was truly honest with himself, he didn't really care, was just glad she had picked him. Well, her wolf had chosen his.

All he cared about was that Jo-anne was here to stay. Her wolf had wanted his and Jo-anne had allowed it, they had even brought his wolf back to him. They were amazing in everything they did. From her art, so very talented, he was proud of her skills and couldn't wait to get that studio finished for her, to see her in there painting, lost in it. Happy.

To her soul, so kind and caring, always thinking of others before herself, desperate to save T.J., allowed Clova what she wanted over her own preference. She was so very forgiving and loving, only found out about her mother today and already told her she didn't expect her to claim her, that it was up to her if she wanted to tell her family, that she would not tell them either. That she did not blame her for abandoning her.

She understood that she had her own reasons.

His Jo-anne was all heart, how she could be like this he had no idea. She was beautiful inside and out.

"Why are you staring at me?" Jo-anne asked him, around a mouthful of food, seemed annoyed that they couldn't stop looking at her.

"Volt and I want to," he replied simply, then smiled at her "You're all messy, do you know that." watched as she rolled her eyes, uncaring, and he chuckled softly. "I like it

when you're all messy." He told her and he did, this was her, no make up, no pretty clothes, just Jo-anne all natural and she was the most beautiful creature he'd ever laid eyes on.

She raised an eyebrow at him, questioningly "You trying to sweet talk me into forgiving you?"

"Maybe," he smiled. "I don't know myself to be honest, just." he shrugged, and reached out and took her hand in his "We want to be wherever you are right now." It was the truth.

"You're nuts." she told him, but she did not make him let go of her hand, let him hold it right there in front of everyone in the dining room. He liked that. Didn't even care if it was Clova making her do it. Their fingers were laced together and resting on the table between them for everyone to see, while they ate.

"Would you come with me to see mother in person after lunch, she will be very excited by this news," he chuckled again "Can't wait to get you back into Luna training, actually." he recalled her telling him as much a few weeks ago.

"How is your mother doing?"

"Good," West nodded, "She can come back to the pack-house tomorrow, I believe, Patterson just wants to make sure she is alright before releasing her. Father is all over the place." he shook his head, "running about getting her every little thing she wants."

"And you wouldn't do that?" she enquired of him.

West smiled now, she was thinking about him and her having a child, it seemed, but he answered her honestly "I have no idea, to be honest. Never thought I'd have a pup of my own. Figured Terence's child would take over some day...though now." his mind wandered just a little as his eyes slid over her, then shook his head, sighed a little, he had a confession to make. He might as well bite the bullet, so to speak. She was already mad at him, might as well get all the mad out.

Leaned right over to her, pressed his lips softly against her ear "I did Knot you...You could be with my pup right now for all we know." he couldn't keep the huskiness out of his voice.

"What?" she turned and looked right at him. "No West." she shook her head "I saw Patterson remember." saw her suddenly bite her lip.

Wanted to kiss her but knew better, used his thumb to pull that lip out, took a deep breath and nodded "You did, but...I had already mind-linked the man to not give you what you wanted...before you get really mad, it was the only way to contain Volt from Marking you that day. Terence even had to hold us with his Aura to help stop Volt."

Watched as Jo-anne absorb the news and frowned at him for a full minute, "You are crazy, do you know that. What if I was," she hissed at him, "and I went with Jayden?"

"But you didn't."

"I could have, you did shove me at him, remember."

"I am crazy." West acknowledged "Are you really so mad about it though?" He didn't think so, not about stopping her from taking the morning after pill, but yes, still about the walking away from her.

Watched her sit and stare at him with narrowed eyes, seemed to be actually thinking about it, then shook her head. "No, not mad. Annoyed with you and your bloody possessiveness, your need to control me and contain me, yes."

"I will try to be less of that for you." and he would try but...whether he could or not was another matter, but he would try to do this for her.

"We'll see." she shook her head as if she too did not believe him.

They finished their lunch and when he stood up he refused to let go of her hand, made her shake her head as she looked down at their hands, leaned right over to her, tilted her chin up and growled for all to hear "Mine, and I'm never letting go now."

He saw Jo-anne's eyes widen up at him. He'd not claimed her ever. This would be the first time she'd ever heard that word from him, touched his mouth to hers in a soft gentle kiss for all his pack members to see. "Come on, let's go and tell mother and father." he smiled and walked them out of the dining room still holding her hand.

As they stepped out of the pack-house front door heading for the pack hospital, they both saw his whole unit, T.J. clearly in charge and Oliver and his unit preparing to escort Jayden and his Beta from the pack. His Beta didn't look so healthy, Jayden just looked pissed off as his eyes landed on Jo-anne. If the man was spoiling for a fight over her, he'd get one.

"Alpha, Luna." T.J. acknowledged the both of them, smiled right at him, seemed happy that Jo-anne had put him in his place and wasn't going anywhere, his sister, here where he wanted her. "Apparently he." his jabbed a thumb towards Jayden "still has a man in the hospital."

"I'll allow him to stay and recover, then send him back the minute he is well enough to be released." his eyes met Jayden's "You attacked Jo-anne, one too many times Jayden." He shook his head. The man had no self control it seemed.

"You didn't want her, she is mine to claim." he shot back.

"I did want her, always have. I just thought she was dealing with too much and wanted to lessen her burdens, her choices to make, so to speak. Unlike you. Tried to Mark her even after she rejected you did you not." he spat out at the man, turned and walked on tugging Jo-anne with him. He got the distinct impression that Jayden would try again if she was in his presence for an extended period of time.

Called over his shoulder, "Oh Terence, you did remind Jayden, of our Luna's order to sever the alliance, didn't you?"

Heard his Beta, his best friend, his Luna's brother, laugh "Oh yes, with great pleasure." seems T.J. liked the man even less than West himself. Made him wonder if Belinda had shared what she'd seen, or if it was just that Jayden had simply tried to claim her against her will, pissing the man, her brother, off.

"Thank you." he smiled to himself.

Sounded like T.J. was really enjoying ejecting Alpha Jayden from the pack.

West was curious as to what Belinda had seen in the man, and now what Jo-anne had seen in him too. She had told Belinda, all of them he was hideous, obviously had seen something she didn't like, would like to know what they were, but...not his business. They were no longer aligned pack wise, but they were not actually enemies unless Jo-anne wanted that, did she? He wondered, looked down at her. She'd not said anything to Jayden, had not really looked at him at all.

"Do you want Jayden's pack to just be severed or are they an enemy to us?"

"Severed is fine, he'll likely not live long anyway, not when his first Mate comes for him." she sighed softly, "and I thought our past was terrible, at least you didn't do that to me." she murmured. But did not elaborate.

West pulled her gently into him, slid his arm around her, and hugged her to his side, "If it's what you want, I will do it."

"No, West. It's likely his previous Mate or Mates, one of them will take over. If it's his first one, she'll make a fierce ally. Let's just wait and see what happens. His pack is not bad, just him I guess."

"Mate's?" he was shocked. The man had never showed up here with a Mate.

"Mmm, has had two of them, rejected the both of them," he heard sadness touch her, something else he'd done made her sad. She suddenly stopped walking, and he watched her eyes glaze over and go white. That was going to get some taking used to.

Almost a full minute before she returned, "Everything alright?"

Jo-anne actually smiled up at him Yes, actually we'll be...I'll be accepting two new pack members. You will grant it." she practically demanded of him.

"Whatever you want, Jo-anne, you can accept them. You are an Alpha, and the Luna you can accept anyone you like." he smiled down at her. She had likely yet to realise she actually held more power than him. Leaned down and kissed the top of her head "My Princess can have anything she wants."

Saw her shudder "Don't call me that. I'm no princess."

"Technically..."

"Don't West, I don't like it." she cut him off.

"Alright." he nodded, he'd much prefer to call her by her name anyway, or her title as his Luna, liked how it rolled off his tongue, how he could purr it right out all seductive and sensual. Continued to the hospital, walked her right into the Luna suite, still holding her hand.

He saw both his mother and father look at the two of them, his mother's eyes moved from their hands to each of them. He saw hope in her eyes, he would not keep her waiting. "Mother, father, I present to you. The Luna, Jo-anne Carlton." smiled the whole time he said it.

His mother was out of her bed in a flash, ran right across the room and hugged the girl tightly to her as she looked up at him. "I knew you could do it son."

watched as his mother stepped back and smiled at Jo-anne, she looked so very happy to have her as his Luna, hugged Jo-anne again before releasing her. "What happened to you?" she asked, pushing her hands through Jo-anne's, messy hair, trying to neaten it he thought.

"Or has my son?..."

"Mother No." he shook his head, not that he didn't want to, but he was certain she was not ready for that, not after stating she'd not chosen him.

Jo-anne smiled at her a little. "Hard to explain I guess, but I had a bit of a run in with Jayden and his Beta."

"It's all good mother." West chuckled as he watched his mother turn Jo-anne around, searching for wounds, like she had done him after he'd gone missing, but wasn't missing. Hmm, still hadn't figured that one out. Likely it was Jo-anne and some sort of ability, she'd used unwittingly. "Jo-anne is...Special, she can handle herself it seems."

Turned his eyes to his father, who had now gotten up and was walking across the room, "Son, was I informed correctly? Our Jo-anne here, kicked in your office door."

West smiled "Yes you did," though whether it was pure wolf strength or a bit of her that glowed he didn't know, likely both "Clean off its hinges, will have to get that fixed." he nodded.

"A good strong Luna you have, the pack will benefit greatly."

"I'm not fussed about that, father. I just my Luna to be happy is all." he was looking at her and she turned and looked up at him.

"We'll likely get there, but for now, I'm still very annoyed at you."

"That is fine. You can be annoyed, or angry, as long as you like. As long as you are ours, Mine and Volts, we do not care."

"Why are you annoyed sweetheart?" it was his mother. "You've chosen your Mate, you should be happy."

"Clova is very happy...West and I," she shook her head "I will not deny Clova her Mate."

Saw his mother frowning. "So your choice, the answer was Clova?"

Obviously, his mother also knew what was going on. Jo-anne must have confided in her as well as Ella. At least she'd had someone she could talk to, trusted her Luna, and his mother had told him nothing at all, kept Jo-anne's confidence.

"It was, and I nearly lost her all over again when West left us and tried to make me go with Jayden." she muttered, still sounded very annoyed by that.

"He did what?" his mother's head snapped to him. Her eyes were full of anger. Oh, he was in for a verbal berating at some point. "Are you so stupid, son?"

West sighed, "Mother, it has been a long hard day for everyone, lots of things have happened, that you are likely unaware of yet. Let it go please, you may yell at me later. Aren't you supposed to be staying calm?" he reminded her.

"Oh, we're going to sit down and talk about your behaviour and you will listen to me or I'll be the one beating you." she was pointing a manicured finger at him, like she always did, when berating him.

West just nodded at her, he would have to sit and listen, though he was pretty sure he would just zone out like he did every other time and think about something else. Something that smelled perfect to him, was standing right next to him, in fact. Was brought back to the room, when she hit him "You're not listening to me already."

“Sorry, my mind was else where.” he admitted, his eyes moved to Jo-anne, it was likely his mind would be else where a lot for a long while. T.J. was going to have to step into those Alpha shoes of his, while West sorted out his relationship and he was going to, he was not going to let her get away from him, he would find away to get them to a happy place, so not just their wolves could be happy, but so could they.

“I just thought I’d come and share the good news with you in person. We’ll let you get your rest, mother.”

“The Luna’s Ceremony West?”

“On the next full moon, as would be expected.” he nodded.

“Good. I will not let you screw that up, son.”

“I will give Jo-anne, whatever she wants in regards to that,” and he would, shower her with everything her heart desired, regardless of the cost.

“Yes you will. I will sit and discuss it. Plan it myself and you will deny me or her nothing.” she was staring up at him all Luna. She had wanted to plan this for a long time. He could well imagine it was already planned inside that mind of hers.

“Agreed, spoil her rotten together we will, mother.”

Saw his mother’s smile of approval, then she stepped over and hugged him. “That’s a good Alpha, wanting everything for his Luna, I knew you were still in there somewhere, West. It’s good to see you, have you back.” then she let him go and waved them out of the room.

They walked most of the way in silence. “West?”

“Yes Jo-anne.”

“I don’t need anything fancy,” she sounded concerned to him. “please don’t waste the packs money on me.”

“ Your ceremony will be big and lavish, like it is supposed to be. Somehow I don’t think you are going to be able to convince mother otherwise.”

“ It’s not something you should do. Spend all that money on me.”

“Jo-anne, a Luna’s ceremony is not a waste of money. Besides, if everything goes well and I’m hoping it will, it will be more than just your Luna Ceremony too.”

Her grey eyes turned on him. “What are you talking about?”

"We can discuss that in private. There is something else I want for this pack and I think it's time I sorted that out." he smiled down at her, "but I want that just between you and I for now, so we can discuss it later when we're alone."

"You're being very cryptic, West. I've had enough of that to be honest. The moon Goddess just about did my head in." she was frowning up at him.

"I will explain everything to you, I promise you just not out in public." he reassured her.

Smiled at his unit, who were all sitting in his office when they walked in, he did note the door was up off the floor and leaning against the wall "Your Luna, gentlemen." he announced Jo-anne to them formally.

"Luna." they all smiled right at her, all of them looked happy, he noted.

"You don't have to do that everywhere we go." she looked up at him, frowning again.

"Why would I not? You are my Mate, my Luna and the only woman I have ever, and will ever love. I will announce you proudly everywhere I go." he smiled and he would, every time, he would never stop telling her he loved her, not until she believed it. And then he'd probably still tell her all the time anyway.

Walked over to his desk and sat down, tugged her down onto his lap. She was a little resistant to it, but didn't really get much choice. "Terence, I think you will need to step up to Alpha for a few days, Jo-anne and I will..." he smiled "need some time to get reacquainted."

Saw her turn those grey eyes on him, glaring right at him, so darn cute "What?" he chuckled. "We need to sit and talk, do we not?"

Heard her mutter "That's not what you implied." and folded her arms across her chest.

"Terence?" he ignored her annoyance. It had been a double meaning, held her tight to his lap when she struggled to get up off him, felt Volt pushing forward, saw she noted it, saw Clova rise to the surface and settle down against his chest.

"Sure thing, West."

"Ricky, Cole. You're Alpha for the next few days, Terence...Cole. Be nice to the man, no grief." he was starting to loose his battle against Volt and his need to hold his mate who was rubbing her head on his chest. It was very cute.

"Yes, Alpha," he heard both of them say.

Was about to relinquish full control to his wolf when he heard Ricky "Alpha?"

West looked at him, both he and Volt together. Volt, a little annoyed, his mate was on his lap and snuggling into him, tightened his arms around her, they heard her purr softly and settle into him.

“Cole and I.”

He and Volt could actually see the pair of them were sporting silver filigree, had finally Marked each other. “I can see, it’s about time the two of you came together.” He smiled at them.

They both still resided in their family suites, had never taken a suite of their own, likely trying to keep their secret still. “You two should go up stairs and pick a suite together, somewhere near Terence and I please. That would be good for all of us as a sold unit.”

“We do have a request,” it was Cole.

“Ask,” he nodded.

“It’s not a nice thing, to bring up but...the next child to be orphaned due to unforeseen circumstances, we’d like to take on as our own.”

It wasn’t something nice to think about, he was right on that, but it did unfortunately happen from time to time. “Alright.” he nodded.

‘Your mother has that covered West.’ he heard Jo-anne’s voice inside his mind as he finally relinquished full control to his wolf so he could spend time with Clova.

Chapter 99 - Her Alpha's Orders

T.J. POV

Watching the door to the Alpha’s office blow clean off its hinges and go flying across the room, he knew it was going to be Jo-anne and Clova in a fully pissed-off rage about to enter the room. It did not surprise him that her eyes were glowing pure silver either.

To see those eyes turned on him for even a moment, he knew he was no match for her in this mode. Not likely there would be many that could bring a fully ticked off Jo-Jo and Clova down, loved how she was really becoming her true self.

They were able to protect themselves now, he well imagined, he’d felt not too long ago that someone was hurting her, pulling on her hair, had refused to get up and go help her, knew deep down she could handle it herself, wanted her too. Needed her too.

She didn’t want him to be her protector anymore, it was painful for her, to have him always running to her aid at each and every instance of pain she felt. It was hard for him to ignore it, damned near killing him on the inside. But he had felt her through his

connection to her that she was not afraid, was angry and getting angrier by the minute. Knew she was going to handle it on her own, had to let her. It would be what she wanted, what she needed.

He'd raised his hands up in surrender when she'd told him she would deal with him later. Hopefully, when she was calmed down, he knew it was going to be about him outing her as his sister and making her feel ten times worse about the whole Mate-less situation.

Watching them confront West about walking away from them, taking her choice away from them, even telling him that they did not choose him or Jayden, shocked him completely. Felt dread spread through him, knowing it would be the final nail in West's coffin, he'd never survive it not without his wolf.

But then, to state she was choosing Clova, to allow her wolf to make the choice as to who was their Mate, had his heart calming down instantly. He knew both their wolves were insanely crazy for each other, even without their Mate Bond intact, they couldn't keep from each other. If Clova and Volt were together it would only be a matter of time before West and Jo-anne would sort things out. It was a relief.

Though he already knew that Volt had left West, he had sensed it when he'd wanted to beat the living hell out of the man for bowing out and sending her to Jayden. Would likely have killed him over it. He was damned lucky Volt wasn't there to get into that fight with him.

Watched on with shocked eyes as the two of them outright commanded Volt to get his ass back here, they were not going to take no for an answer, it seemed. Screamed right in his face about the hide of him leaving them. T.J. nearly laughed as the power of the two of them out weighed everyone in this very room, including himself.

His little Jo-Jo was not so tiny and helpless anymore, a strong woman in full control. She was going to be a royal pain in the ass. He smiled to himself at that thought. She was a royal. His little Jo-Jo, his little sister, fully realised and kicking ass was going to be fun to watch. Oh, he was willing to bet she was going to be just as stubborn and painful as his own mother when she wanted to be.

Hearing Jo-Jo state she had severed the pack's alliance with Alpha Jayden's pack and then ask for him to be ejected, made his day. Something about that man, just ticked him off, and he was itching to get his hands on him, as was Lark "With pleasure Luna." he'd grinned, as he addressed her with her full title and then stalked out of the office, left her with his mother and West. Whatever was about to go down in there he could find out later.

Rolled his shoulders, cracked his neck from side to side "Oh Jayden, where are you?" he called out loudly, tauntingly, as he headed up the stairs.

Mind-link to Ricky and Cole as he climbed the stairs to the first floor 'Clova has chosen Volt. We're ejecting Jayden, get your butts out of bed and down here.' he had no idea if they were in bed, but when they had rushed off to tell him of what West had done, giving up Jo-anne to Jayden. Cole's hand had been on Ricky's back the whole time, their Gamma had looked devastated to be losing the Luna. She was his job and now she had been leaving, at least Cole would be there for him. It was clear at that moment he was trying to help his Mate through the pain. Even Ella saw it, he imagined.

T.J. had known the pair of them had been upstairs still, it was where he'd left them when he snarled his disapproval at hearing the news, he'd slammed out of his suite, where he had been with Ella, who'd been trying to tell him everything would be okay and the Jo-Jo would forgive him. He knew she would, he was just mad at himself for yelling at her the way he had.

He found Jayden on the first floor down by Jo-Jo's door, helping his Beta up off the floor, saw the vomit and wondered if Jo-Jo was just like his mother. She'd said Jayden was a hideous man. If she could see and had used that ability on him, he would not have been expecting it, nor would he likely have been able to stop her. Bet that would have shocked him more than a bit.

T.J. could see that Ben was having trouble getting up off the ground even with Jayden trying to help him. The man was seriously injured, which made T.J. smile even bigger. It seems he was right. His little Jo-Jo had been fully realised and had likely punched that man with all her Royal Alpha Wolf strength. Oh, he was so proud of her.

"Lookie what I found." he called out down the hall.

Saw Jayden look up at him from down the hallway, saw his wolf surface at the threat T.J. was posing to them. He laughed right at Loch. He and Lark had already beaten them once before. "Yes, let your wolf out to play." T.J. cracked his neck and felt Lark push forward. They spoke together "You can go peacefully or not." they stated as they walked down the hallway.

Saw Loch back down at the two of them "Peacefully." Jayden stated, holding up a hand when T.J. was only a room away 'My Beta is injured.'

"Did he happen to lay a hand on my little sister?" T.J. asked, as Lark moved back.

Neither of them answered him, but he saw Ben's eyes looking right at him, fear was in them. The answer was yes. "Perhaps I should return that favour."

"We're leaving Beta, back off." Jayden stood to his full height, his Alpha Aura rolled out of him and right at T.J.

Felt Lark snort inside his mind 'Is that all he's got?' sounded fully amused to T.J.

'Shall we?' T.J. asked his wolf.

Felt Lark stand up inside his mind, shake himself out 'Lets show this bastard, what a real Alpha Wolf feels like.'

Felt Lark push all the way forward and rolled his full Royal Alpha Aura at the man and his Beta, with all they had, Ben gasped in pain and fell down on the ground, his neck fully bared to them in a matter of a second.

Jayden stumbled back several steps. His neck stretched painfully to them as he fought against them with all he and his wolf had. "Bow down." He and Lark growled at the man with full royal authority and watched with full satisfaction as the man dropped down on to his knees under their command, his wolf Loch snarled at them and both T.J. and Lark laughed.

He held that man and his wolf down with their power until Loch was forced down and away and Jayden was left on all fours. His head lowered towards the ground, he heard pain coming from him as he was forced to bow before a Beta.

Thought it was completely amusing to see, as did Lark, they were only Beta ranked here in this pack, but only a full-blooded royal could bring them down, or refuse them their authority. This was not something they ever did, but today it seemed appropriate, these two had harmed his little sister or tried to, and as his mother had stated, a bloody royal princess. It was his right, as it was Larks, to punish any that would harm his bloodline or try to.

Wondered briefly if the royal seers would recognise the threat to a royal even though they did not know of her, he finally released the two of them after a full minute and watched both of them visually sag when he lifted his power off them.

"You're lucky, it was me and not my mother Jayden. She may yet come for you. If she feels you are a threat to Jo-Jo or Jo-Jo tells her you tried to harm her...did you not hear her warning last night?"

"West bowed out. She is mine to Mark and claim." Jayden picked himself up off the floor. "Mine."

"No she is not. It was her choice still to make. Did she choose you?"

The man was standing glaring at him now.

"No she did not. She belongs to this pack now. Is now our Luna." he smiled right at Jayden "Clova and Volt have claimed each other. I was asked to eject you from this pack by the Luna...called you hideous in fact."

Heard two shocked gasps from behind him, he knew it was Ricky and Cole, they had finally arrived to assist him, not that he would really need it.

"The alliance between this pack and yours was also severed by the Luna, Alpha Westley agrees to this. It is official, get up, get your shit, and get the hell out of MY PACK." he yelled the last two words.

"You talk like it's your pack, you're just the Beta Terence, the 2nd in command." Jayden shot at him.

"Because I choose to be, I have no need to be in charge, I am not some power-hungry creature like you. But I am more than happy to use my Alpha blood, to throw your ass out, if you need me to...Ricky, Cole, go and get Ben up seems to be having real issues over there, drag that man if you have to, to their room so they can pack their shit and leave."

"Yes Alpha." he heard the both of them say, acknowledging his true blood title.

"Now, Jayden. You can walk or I will walk you." he grated out, and T.J. would walk that man, his aura rolling at him the whole time if need be. Jayden did not miss his meaning and stalked off down the hall towards the other end of the pack house, passed right by T.J. glared at him.

"This pack is harbouring an unknown royal, Terence." He shot at him as he banged into his room.

"Yes, and you breathe a word of it. Mother will come for you, your entire bloodline, right down to that daughter of yours if I recall correctly."

"I don't care about that brat, useless to me."

T.J. couldn't believe this man. How could one reject their own child and call them useless? She was in all likelihood just a small child, it was beyond him. Ticked him off. He'd lost Jo-Jo as a baby and though back then, had never known what she was to him, had loved her always. He could see that though his mother had given her up, she had never stopped loving her either.

Here was a man who had a child, the heir to his own pack no less, and he'd shunned her by the sounds of it. Perhaps that is what Jo-Jo saw.

"Then perhaps, we'll take that brat in, raise her here. Bleed her into...Oh say Ricky or Cole here. I'm sure they want a child to raise."

Jayden's eyes shot to him now, there was utter fury in them, so on a deeper level the man did care what happened to the heir to his pack. "You ever touch my child, It'll start a war."

“Then you’ll keep your mouth shut now, won’t you? I’m sure mother can track that child at will, is a royal seer herself, as I’m sure you’re aware by now. And a damned good one.” He had no idea about that but the threat should be good enough to shut him up.

“I could see us with a daughter.” it was Ricky. “Cole, what do you think about us having a little girl?”

“Sure. We’re never going to get one naturally. Bleeding one to us, sounds good to me.”

T.J. nearly laughed, they were either playing along with his words or actually really meant it. Turned to look at the pair of them, they were both standing in the doorway, both had silver filigree on their necks, Marked each other apparently.

Smiled right at them “About bloody time you two did that.” and watched as Ricky’s mouth quirked up in a smile as he looked at Cole. Touched the man’s hair and pushed a loose strand of his hair back, ah so it was all out, no more hiding from anything or anyone. Good.

It must have happened in the last 10 minutes or so, Likely after Ricky lost his Luna to protect, perhaps made the two of them realise life was too short not to claim what was theirs.

It did not take long for Jayden to pack. Ben, on the other hand, was really struggling, likely had a broken breast plate and several broken ribs from the way he kept clutching at the centre of his chest.

“Andrew is still in the hospital.” Jayden shot at T.J. as he moved Ben to sit down and complete his Beta’s packing for him.

“Not my problem.” he mind-linked to Oliver and requested the man and his team to meet them out the front so that they could escort Jayden and his Beta from the pack.

“An enemy in your pack hospital?” Jayden snapped.

“I didn’t say we were enemies Jayden, just no longer allies. Unless, of course, you want a pack with 5 royal-blooded alpha wolves in it as an enemy! Do you?”

Got glared at by Jayden yet again, but the man said nothing at all, just slammed Ben’s suitcase shut and zipped it up.

Ricky and Cole helped Ben get to his feet and though they were no longer allies, did not man handle him roughly. It was clear he was really struggling with the hit he had taken, had not said a word the whole time, had not even tried to defend his own Alpha for that matter, was just trying to manage his own pain, likely letting his wolf try and heal him.

Oliver and his 5 man unit were all standing outside waiting as requested. Two cars were pulled up out the front as well, so they could escort Jayden from the pack.

Saw West come out of the pack-house, with Jo-Jo his hand in hers. It was nice to see. She did still look annoyed with him, Clova had been the one to make their choice, it was likely Jo-Jo still had something to think about or maybe reservations. But West looked more than happy, he was smiling for all to see.

Reminded him that Jayden still had a man in the pack hospital and got the response that he would send him back the minute the pack doctor was happy to release him, likely order a human taxi to pick him up and send him back to Jayden and have the man pay for it on the other end.

Watched as the two of them headed off towards the pack hospital, he knew it was to tell the Luna, the good news. Luna Natalia was going to be very happy, likely start planning what those two would need in their nursery. Goddess West was never going to hear the end of it, until there was an heir in Jo-Jo. And the fact that she was also pregnant herself was likely going to want them to be pregnant together. Crazy Luna that they had, obsessed with babies she was.

Had already mind-linked him once to find out about he and Ella, she'd heard on her own and wanted to know when they would be producing a pup himself. He'd laughed and told her not for at least a year and a bit, not until after they Mark and Mate in one year's time, she'd huffed in annoyance at him. Likely looking to be pregnant with someone like she had been with his mother and the Gamma and Delta's Mates of her own Alpha's unit.

T.J. wondered how Jo-Jo would feel about that, saw the cars off and turned to Ricky and Cole. "Guess you two missed all the fun while Marking." He knew there had not been enough time for them to Mate, likely he had interrupted that part when he'd told them to get their asses out of bed.

"Seems that way." Ricky nodded "What the hell happened?"

"Come on, let's go inside." T.J. commented, flicked them both on their necks, right on their Mark spot to be exact "Why'd you guys wait so long?"

"How'd you even know?" Cole asked him as they walked into the pack-house.

"Come on, the four of us travel together all the time, you don't think West and I actually believe, you two are out checking the surroundings for threats every time you tell us that's what you're doing now, do you?" he shook his head "Or when you both suddenly leave pack territory in the middle of the night, that West or I don't feel that." he snorted "We've known for a while, though always curious as to why you never just claimed each other." he looked to both of the questioningly.

They said nothing, he would not push them, had their own reasons. "Help me with this." he indicated the office door, now on the floor.

"What the hell happened?" Cole asked, seemed shocked.

"Jo-Jo kicked it in, fully pissed off Alpha rage." he told them.

"What?" they were both staring at him now.

"Like I said, you missed a lot. Jo-Jo has alpha blood. West bowed out, as you already know, from being her Mate, some crap about she had too much to deal with. Wanted to lessen her burdens. I nearly bloody killed him. Lost his wolf over it." saw both their eyes go wide "something went down between Jo-Jo, Jayden and Ben. I'm still not clear on that yet, but pissed her off real good, stalked in here kicked in the door, all eyes glowing and yelled at West. She did not choose him, or Jayden. Chose Clova and her wolf wanted Volt, who'd already left West. They outright demand, with all their Alpha aura rolling at him, that Volt get his ass back here. It worked. Clova and Volt lay claim to each other. Mother came in here all freaked out, yelling about them not Marking each other, goddess only knows why. She saw something, I guess, that's all I know. I left the room to deal with Jayden."

"Bloody hell." Ricky stood staring at him. "Alpha blooded." his mind was ticking T.J. could see it now, "Hang on, Jayden said we were harbouring an unknown royal, from the royals."

"Yes and we are." he nodded.

"No," he saw Ricky's eyes go wide "Jo-anne is a royal, your little sister!"

"Shit, well, that explains a lot about the two of you." Cole murmured.

"Yes and Yes." T.J. answered them "The royals are also on their way a day at the most, mother says."

"Does your dad know?" Ricky asked.

"I don't know, if not, mother will have to tell him," he shrugged.

"How?" Ricky asked. His brain was still ticking.

"Long story, not mine to tell. I also don't know it all either."

They were all sitting in the office when West and Jo-Jo returned to the office, watched as West sat Jo-Jo in his lap. She still looked annoyed to T.J. but sat there, likely to please her wolf, he thought. He saw Clova push forward and lean into West, rub herself on him. Her choice had been to make her wolf happy. Only one could be happy.

That thought made him frown a little. Did that mean that Jo-Jo wasn't happy? He sighed internally, only time would tell. They had been Mated before and she had tried. West was different now, she'd seen it for herself, but it was clear she had been unhappy today with him walking away from her and Clova.

They might still have a long way to go yet. Only time would tell, in all likelihood, they would have to survive the royals first before sorting themselves out. They were only a day away, his mother had protected Jo-Jo, allowed her to be bled into another and not once had the royal seers picked up on her because of it. Now she was bled to no one and they had felt her.

He was frowning at the woman, well at Clova who was on the surface, as was Volt, he now realised, they were happily sitting in the Alpha's chair cuddling each other, crazy wolves, even when their bond had been severed they were still attached to each other and happily mating each other in wolf form.

Frowned deeper, Jo-Jo's bond with Heath was severed but she too, was still attached to the man. Something else was going on, only his mother would know what though.

Chapter 100 - Her Alpha's Orders

Belinda POV

Jonathan had made her a new cup of tea, he was sitting on the lounge watching her, while she paced back and forth around their living room, he'd asked her twice now what was going on. But how did she tell the man she loved, she'd had a child with another, not by her own choice, but still she loved that child.

That her daughter was now in danger from her own family, that Hendrick was coming, as he stated 'for what is mine.', the child he had wanted to have with her, a child he could bleed dry to increase his own power.

Warlocks were all power crazy sons of bitches. He was no different to the one that kidnapped her 30 years ago. That man had wanted Jo-anne for the very same reason, to be bled dry to enhance his own power just like Hendrick.

She'd never really talked about that two years, not to anyone. Jonathan knew the bare basics. She'd had nightmares when she'd come back and he'd had to comfort her some nights more than others.

All Belinda had told him was that a powerful warlock had taken her, removed their Mate Bond and forced his own Mark on her and that for two years she had belonged to him, till she had found a way to kill him and escape to come back home. He understood what "belonging to him." had meant. She'd never wanted to be there and made sure that he knew that.

But that was all the detail she'd gone into, didn't want to think about him or that place, her time there, shuddered and shook it off, was still happy to never have to recant it to anyone. Though her instincts were now telling her she was going to have to, that Mark on Jo-anne and Terence, the girls father had that Mark too.

"Honey, calm down, whatever it is. It's going to be fine."

Belinda turned and looked right at him, her Goddess-Gifted Mate, who had only ever loved her, since the day she'd barrelled into his life and practically demanded he Mark and Mate her. Loved him so much, didn't want to hurt him, with the truth of Jo-anne, sighed "Hendrick is coming." she finally told him, saw him frown instantly. "A day at the most."

"Why?" he asked.

"Saw something he wants, so did his seer's." she turned and walked away from him, stilled as she felt all those creepy invisible spiders run all over her skin. Her vision went white and she shuddered, felt the cup drop from her hands, heard it smash on the floor, they didn't have a day. He was here and not that far away, an hour away at most. He had used some sort of magic portal to bring everyone through, felt him looking right at her, laughing at her fear.

Bolted from their suite. "Stay here." she yelled to him, knew though he could feel her fear and panic through their bond. He would stay put, he knew she'd had a vision, seen it many times before, hardly ever was she wrong.

Ran right into the Alpha's office. "The royals are here West."

"What?" T.J. replied "That's not possible."

"It is, Hendrick opened a portal, they're coming for Jo-anne." her eyes moved to her daughter. The girl barely knew anything at all. "One hour at most." she ran right over to Jo-anne "I'm sorry child, I don't have that much time to explain everything to you." grabbed her hand to take her from the room, found West's hand right on her arm, halting her.

"Don't take her away from me Belinda, I just got her back."

Her eyes moved to his apologetically "I'm sorry West, if she stays here, they will take her away."

Felt Jo-anne pull herself from the grip she had on her, "I'm not going anywhere."

"Jo-anne please, we have to go now." she begged her. Reaching out for her again,

"No, I can't separate Clova from her Mate and I won't, just tell me what is going on, or I am not going anywhere."

"We don't have time."

"Please make the time, state what is going on. I will not leave Volt."

Belinda looked around the room, looked right at West. "Watch the northern border, be vigilant, that's where Hendrick will be coming from, and he's bringing my parents and 4 seers with him."

Saw him nod and his eyes glaze over, likely alerting his border patrol to the situation.

Looked back at Jo-anne, this is not the way she should find out about anything about herself. Took a deep breath "When I left you. I knew that Luna Natalia would bleed you into another bloodline. I knew this would hide you from the Royals, from Hendrick specifically. He's their most powerful warlock. He wants you and now without Heath's blood in you. Tainting your blood. All of your royal blood, and your father's blood runs unchecked and pure through your veins. Last night you asserted yourself completely and they felt something...but today when you used your seer's gift, something you got from me, I wasn't sure if you would get that, I prayed not, but..." she shook her head, "I should have known, now everyone of them seers including Hendrick, their coven leader, felt it."

"So?" she sounded confused.

"So my child. Hendrick is now coming for you, your blood more specifically. In its purest form, it will enhance his and all his seer's abilities, to see better. You see every time one of them drinks your blood they will be able to see clearer, it is difficult to explain it." she sighed, could probably let the girl see it for herself, but now was not the time. "He is coming right now, told me to claim what is his."

"I don't belong to him." Jo-anne frowned at her now.

"No you don't. But in his eyes, technically, you still belong to no one."

"Excuse me." West and Volt shot at her together. She knew his wolf had claimed hers. But that would not be enough in Hendricks eyes.

"In their eyes, Hendrick and my fathers, at that. Until Jo-anne is Marked and Mated she belongs to no-one. But, West you can't Mark her yet. You marked her once before, your wolf bit her all over, if I recall correctly." saw the man's jaw tighten. She wasn't trying to remind him of that time. Just explain the basic information "while she was tainted by Heath's blood, you can't Mark her again until that tainted blood is out of you. I don't really have the time to get into all the details, but I will. Just please trust me, on this." saw him frowning again, much more deeply.

Belinda knew that he had changed after Marking Jo-anne when she was 16. He was just lucky that she had not come of age and been 18 or he'd likely have ended up like Heath fractured and desperately trying to kill her, at every out burst of anger. Her being underage had likely saved them both. Though she knew they were both tortured by their past.

She had not been able to do anything about it lest she reveal Jo-anne's true identity. She herself had tried to save him once, damned near killed him. It was not her who could save him, likely only Jo-anne had that ability. She'd saved Heath, she could save West too, it was just a matter of time, explaining it to her and trying to get her to focus on it.

Her eyes moved back to Jo-anne "Please, I have to hide you, there is no other way. Hendrick will either bleed you dry or forcibly Mark and Mate you to produce children with you. So that he can bleed them dry."

Saw Jo-anne's eyes go very wide. "I'm sorry, it's the reason I hid you, in the first place, a terrible fate has always awaited you. Your own father, he wanted you, for the same reason. It's why I killed him, to protect you. It's why I asked our moon Goddess to protect you." her eyes moved right to Terence. "I'm sorry son, she chose you for this task. I love the choice and I hate the choice at the same time." and she did.

"It's fine mother." he smiled at her. Never cared about it.

"No. its not T.J., it made you Mate-less." Jo-anne shot at him, unhappy about this.

"It's fine Jo-Jo, I have Ella now."

"Jo-anne, he always will have Ella, I have already foreseen it. She loves him, their bond is good and strong. Do not worry about Terence. He is fine, and he is happy and will always be." she tried to reassure the girl.

"That is not the point."

"No, the point is, I have to hide you once again, Jo-anne. I can't literally hide you. Once Hendrick and his seers are here in the pack, they'll sniff out your royal bloodline and fast, but I can re-taint your blood. Bleed you to another, so when they taste your blood to test it and they will."

"I hate to interrupt, Belinda, your family is here coming across the border now."

"No, it's too quick." she shook her head.

"I got this mother," Terence walked across the room "you just need Jo-Jo bled to another blood line, that is all, right."

“Yes, but not you, definitely not West.”

Watched as Terence nodded, then grabbed Jo-anne’s hand and pulled her towards the door.

“Son?”

“I know who, West get the pack Blade.” he called over his shoulder.

Belinda was walking behind her son. “I’m sorry Jo-anne, we can undo it once they are gone.”

“Will my blood hurt this person?” she asked as she was pulled along by Terence up the stairs of the pack-house.

“No, not in its purest form, and we only need to bleed them to you, not you to them anyway, so don’t worry about it...Terence, where are you taking her?” she asked her son as they climbed from the first to the second floor.

“Where she has always belonged.” he answered her simply.

“What?...” and then it dawned on her a moment later as they hit the 3rd floor, he was taking Jo-anne to her suite with Jonathan, he was taking her right to his own father. “No, Terence stop. He doesn’t know.”

“Well, he’s going to find out mother, in short order from Hendrick, right? Better you do it this way.”

“T.J. wait, if your mother doesn’t want this, find another.” Jo-anne pleaded with him, sounded worried about her and Jonathan’s relationship, even now she was concerned more about a mother who had abandoned her than being saved from Hendrick.

“There is no time, Jo-Jo.” he told her as he pushed into their suite.

Jonathon was sitting looking at everyone piling into the room. She bit her lip nervously, she’d never told him about Jo-anne, Goddess she prayed he would not hate her for this, watched as he stood up, looked from her to Terence, their son, then to Jo-anne, who stood right next to him as West stepped into the room and closed the door behind him.

“Father, I need you to accept Jo-Jo as your daughter and she has to accept you as her father.”

Belinda watched as Jonathan look to the girl and then to Belinda herself, “Alright, is it pressing?”

Belinda nodded to him. “Hendrick is here already.”

“20 minutes for them to walk from the border to here at most.” West spoke up.

Belinda touched Jo-anne’s arm. “Please do this. It is the only way to save you.”

“What will happen? When they test me, my blood?” Jo-anne asked her, could hear the worry. She knew what had happened to Heath.

She would not lie to her, “One of two things, the one testing your blood could become fractured like Heath did, or...they could die, depending on how much blood they take from you to test.”

“What?...I don’t want that.” she saw Jo-anne’s eyes go wide in horror.

“I’m sorry Jo-anne, it’s you or them, I can’t loose you, I won’t.” her eyes moved to Terence and she nodded, saw him pull Jo-anne right up to Jonathan. “Father?”

“I accept the girl as my daughter.”

“West please don’t.” Jo-anne begged up at him “someone could die because of this.”

“I’m sorry Jo-anne, to save your life I have to.” he told her gently.

“I won’t accept him.” Jo-anne suddenly yelled at all of them.

Belinda knew the girl had to actually accept this, want this. It would never work if she rejected it. “Please Jo-anne, I know you have been through a lot lately, that I was never there for you, but please, they are going to kill you, bleed you dry in a matter of days.”

“Jo-anne honey.” it was Jonathan. “allow me to save your life, bring you into this family, where you have always belonged.” watched as he reached out and touched her face “So like your mother, I would love to be your father, I should have been.” he told her softly.

“I don’t want to hurt anyone.” Jo-anne was looking up at him.

“It will hurt everyone if you are taken away from us. Terence here will likely be in agony every minute you are in their hands. West and Volt, it will break them to loose their Mate. Belinda, myself even. Your two sisters, even likely Heath, he is still bonded to you honey. You will hurt all of us, if you don’t do this.”

“Jo-Jo, you’ll let them kill Clova if you choose not to do this.” T.J. tilted the girl's face to his, looked down at her. He knew her better than anyone.

Belinda watched as Jo-anne closed her eyes. That was the one she could never hurt, not again. Clova was a deal breaker.

"Alright." she said softly after a moment.

"West, please hurry."

Watched as West cut Jonathan's out-stretched hand, "Do you, Jo-anne Carlton, accept Jonathan James as your father?"

Saw Jo-anne look at West, look at Jonathan, he smiled right down at her. "I want this Jo-Jo, please."

Saw the girl's eyes widen at the use of her name, the one Terence had given her right here in this suite, right before Jonathan himself. "I accept you as my father, Jonathan James." leaned down and pressed her mouth to his palm. Saw the girl's eyes white over and knew she was seeing something of Jonathan, what Belinda did not know.

Looked up at him when it passed, tears in her eyes and watched as Jonathan enfolded her into his arms and hugged her, looked right at Belinda and smiled "Where she's always belonged."

Felt tears well in her eyes, somehow he knew, still loved her, even looked like he loved her daughter to another.