

Hunter's P.O.V.

I wasn't mad that Jayce and Jax didn't wish me Happy Birthday, after all we had other things on our minds and it had even slipped my mind for a moment. Jason and Justin had wished me a Happy Birthday when I linked them, even though I think I scared the shit out of them by doing it.

Mom had not mentioned it as she was talking to Jax and when I heard her remark to him I panicked. She sounded pissed off and I knew how she reacts when she is like that.

I didn't blame the rest of the family as I never told them my birthday was coming up, but it surprised me that Mom had not mentioned it to any of them. When Pops and Papa walked in singing I wasn't sure what to do, cry because they did remember or yell for them to stop before I would turn deaf.

I opted with crying as I needed to let some of my emotions out of my system and crying was the fastest and easiest way. Justice is very unhappy with Mom and if I had not put up my walls she would have given Mom a piece of her mind, but I want to have all the information before I say anything.

"Surprise" I hear behind me and as I turn I see my friends standing there with Max holding a cake. There are little candles on top of it and they are all lit up. I smile as Max gently puts the cake on the coffee table, "Happy Birthday, Princess." He says as he pulls me into his arms.

Emma and Ella are the next to pull me in for a hug and as I look over their shoulders I see that they are already packed for our trip. Matt pulls me out of their arms saying it is his turn to hug the birthday girl and after that I get a hug from Victor.

Max tells me that Uncle Luke is with Mom and Dad at which I just shrug my shoulders, I didn't tell them what happened in Dad's office and I decide not to ruin my private party by telling them now.

"You will get your presents when Jason and Justin are here." Emma says and I get a feeling that their presents are connected somehow. I just smile at her and tell her that all of them being here is more important than any gift.

"Does that mean I get to keep the laptop?" Papa asks and Pops smacks him on his head as a reply. I giggle as I watch the two of them and then I remember I forgot to tell them we will be leaving in the morning, so I tell them to be ready and they tell me they are already packed.

"Your Mom told us what happened, so we already knew you wanted to leave in the morning. Emma and Ella, the two of you will be staying with us tonight." Pops says. "Yes, sir." They reply and they are lucky they are far enough away from him, because I think he would have smacked them on the head.

"Emma. Ella." I hear him growl and a huge grin forms on their faces, "Kidding, Pops." Ella says and by the look on Max's face I can tell he doesn't understand what is going on.

"Max, those two have spent more time here than in their own home and Pops got fed up with the "Sir" pretty quickly. They were instructed to call him Pops just as I do." Seeing the twinkle in his eyes makes me regret telling him.

"Does that mean if I call him sir every chance I get, I get to call him Pops too?" Max asks while he keeps looking at me and before Pops can say anything Ella opens her yap, "No, you get to call him Prince Pops."

I burst out in laughter at the look on Max's face and as I turn towards Pops I start laughing even harder, both of them look dumbfounded at Ella. Papa starts hiccupping and Matt is rolling on the floor as Victor holds on to his stomach.

We eat the cake as we talk about our trip to Three Mountain Pack, Ella and Emma have not finished their first classes yet and they will be doing those as the three of us will start on the second classes.

I tell them to do it while we travel as I will be going through the information Elder Edward send me and I hope that by the time this trip is over I will have answers for the five of us. Not that I would mind just exploring my Mates bodies or them exploring mine.

It is just after five in the afternoon when Max tells me that Uncle Luke's team has arrived and I follow him down the stairs and to the front door to welcome them. The one thing I had hoped to avoid was running in to Mom and Dad, but there was no such luck for me.

I walk past them and ask Uncle Luke to introduce me to his team, which he does without asking any questions. I tell his team where we are going and why, I also tell them that there has been a change in the plans and that we will be leaving in the morning.

"Not a problem, Your Highness. We can still get a good night sleep before hitting the road again." John, his second in command, says and I ask Matt and Victor to show them where they will be spending the night. "After that show them to the dining-room so they can get some dinner, we will meet up there."

Before anyone can say anything I walk away to the gardens and through the mind-link I tell Jax and Jayce I need some time alone, "*Just make sure you are on time for dinner, Princess.*" Jayce answers.

I slowly walk around the gardens as I let my thoughts run through my head; my Mates, my Mom, the secret, my Dad. It all passes my mind and even though I still don't like they didn't tell me I know they did it because of the way they were raised. What I can't wrap my head around is Mom not telling me at least a part of what she suspected.

She could have done the same thing Pops did without revealing who, but she chose to act as if she was helping me find out who it was and I think that that is what hurts the most. Mom knows me better than anyone and she knew this would not go away easily.

I am not a vindictive person, but I can hold a grudge for a long time and Mom is very aware of that. Her not telling

me baffles me and it confuses me to no end, it actually annoys the hell out of me.

Did she think I would just forget about it? Did she think I would just act as if she didn't betray me? The longer I think about it the more questions I have, and I feel myself getting dizzy, I quickly link Jax to alert him.

Jax's P.O.V.

I grab Jayce as I run out of his office, and I know he will follow me without asking questions. Max follows us as we run past him and his Uncle, but he also keeps quiet and I think he knows he won't get an answer even if he asked.

I remember the last time this happened, so I am not in a total panic as I follow her scent into the gardens. Vincent links me that he found her unconscious, and I ask him where they are, which isn't too far, thank Goddess.

Jayce speeds up as he sees Vincent holding Hunter in his arms and I know none of us will ever let her leave on her own again if she is in a state like today. We will not let anything happen to her and when I hear Jayce curse, I know she hurt herself.

Jayce takes off towards the infirmary and as I look at her face, I can see that there is blood coming from a cut on her face, but for some reason Justice is not healing her. Mom and Dad are waiting for us at the infirmary and Mom's face pales as she sees the blood on Hunter's face.

Doc opens the door to one of the exam rooms and Jayce walks in to place Hunter on the bed, I am right behind him as I keep my eyes on our Princess. Mom tries to follow us inside, but Jayce growls at her before he closes the door in front of her.

Papa links me that he is outside and I tell Jayce I will ask Papa if he knows why Justice isn't healing her. He nods his head, but he doesn't take his eyes off her and I would be standing right next to him if I didn't need some answers.

After I close the door I turn towards Papa and I see that everyone is looking from me to the door. "Papa, can you think of a reason why Justice isn't healing her? She linked me that she was starting to get dizzy and I guess she collapsed after that, probably hitting her head." I say and I hear Mom crying.

"It probably means Justice is trying to help her make sense of her thoughts and the injury is not big enough for her to divide her attention." Papa says and I understand what he means with it.

Mom tries to walk towards the room, but I stop her dead in her tracks, "Don't. We both know why this happened and I am not sure if she wants you in there right now. I don't care if this hurts your feelings, Mom, but right now Hunter is my main priority.

Until she says it is okay you are not going anywhere near her, am I making myself clear?" All of them stare at me and I know that most of them don't understand what is going on, but I just don't care. Dad is staring daggers at

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me and I know he wants to object.

"Dad, don't say a word. Not unless you want all hell to break lose." I growl before I walk back into the room and explain to Doc and Jayce why Justice is not healing her. Doc tells me the injury is minor and won't leave a scar.



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