

Denied by Destiny: Trapped in the Shadows of the Mate Bond

C 231 - 239

Kaia POV

A wall, it's the only way I can describe it...a wall designed to create fear amongst my people.

They all look the same, all dressed the same, both the males and females.

Dressed in black.

Shadows...they look like shadows threatening the destruction of the Nightshade Reformed pack. They are neatly compacted amongst each other, with five rows standing together.

Not only do I want to know why they are here...but how the hell did they get here. Get so far to our borders without being detected.

Did they move through Shadow Rock territory... They must have done, only just missing the council guards...or was that the point. They hadn't been missed, they had been granted permission. A venomous roar erupts from Hector, who stands by my side. My eyes scan the row of emotionless faces until I find him.

Alpha Marc, the Alpha of the Shadow Rock pack, or he was.

A smirk falls upon his face as my eyes meet his, my mouth tasting sour at the mere thought of having given this monster the benefit of the doubt. For having trusted him over Hector. Hector's hand grips my hip possessively, his fingers crushing at my skin.

How had he managed to find such a number of followers to fight for him, these didn't look anything like the Shadow Rock pack members, these seemed...like something entirely different.

I watch him intently, cursing him internally for what he is about to do. Then his posture changes...he shifts and my eyes dart to the male next to him.

Why hadn't I noticed him first, he was the master here...the rest the puppets. All they were missing were strings.

I can't take my eyes off him, his dark blond hair blows into his eyes as the wind picks up. The breeze sending me the sea's reassuring scent.

Who was he...

"What do you want?" I roar out, the breeze carrying my voice as clouds start to thicken and darken in the sky above.

Eyes from up above were watching us now.

Marc whispers something at the man's side, the blond male nodding in confirmation.

"Where is Samson?" He shouts back towards me, his words shocking me...they didn't know. Marc had driven off as Samson carried me towards the car, he didn't wait to see if we got out. "Hector.." I mutter under my breath only for him to understand what I was thinking.

"I know."

"He's dead..." Hector shouts out, taking a long stride in front of me. He wasn't blocking me, but he was now ahead of me...prepared to take the brunt of their anger.

For me.

"By your hands?" The male shouts, I could see his hands fisting into balls even from this distance.

"He touched my mate, yes...by my hands." Hector replies, his body holding firm, not showing any regret.

His aura was dark, thick...just like the clouds above.

They stare at each other before the blond male turns, his hands animated as he barks out orders.

He was preparing to attack.

"Don't shift...whatever happens..don't shift." Hector whispers into my ear as he turns to face me.

"Why not?" I look over his shoulder, looking at the wall of fighters that had the potential to wipe us out for good.

"I think they have come to confirm it is you, they haven't seen you yet for themselves. They don't know for certain it is definitely you..."

"Surely Marc will have told them..." My eyes gaze back to the wall of muscle, as does Hector's before he turns back and strokes the side of my face. "He's called the cavalry but he isn't leading them...he isn't as trusted as he thinks he is. He isn't in charge..."

"In charge?"

"It's the White Moon pack Kaia..."

The White Moon pack...

My mind goes to the woman in the woods, the female that was poisoning herself to not be found by the White Moon pack, to not be found by her mate. The Alpha. The blond male standing at my borders.

But he has found us, found me.

So this is the man she was hiding from, this is the pack that she turned her back on. The back that would sacrifice me, to pay for their past sins. To honour the moon goddess.

They may be here for me but that isn't going to stop me fighting them.

"I can't let my people go to battle and not fight alongside them Hector. I can't promise I won't shift if that is what I need to do."

His eyes roam upon me, he expects me to submit to him...but I'm the alpha here.

"Fine, but you remain next to me."

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Kaia POV

A high pitched noise sounds from the wall of fighters, some kind of signal before they start chanting battle cries to one another.

Or to us...to intimidate us.

It was working, I look to my people...they were tired, they had fought enough for two lifetimes. They just wanted peace, they just want to live.

But surrender isn't an option, not if they want to protect their families, their friends.

They don't know my Father's sins, they don't know of the past. They just know of the Alpha that gave them a second chance, and for their sake I would keep up with the pretence.

"I haven't been the strong Alpha you deserve since my Father's passing. I've been too stuck in my own head, in trying to make sense of what had happened to me.

But, like my Father, I believe in you, I believe in the Nightshade Reformed pack.

We haven't settled here for any other reason than the lands reminded my Father of his mate's pack, of my Mother's pack.

But these fighters, these warriors, they won't let us surrender, they won't give you that second chance. They will kill you where you stand and move on to the families back in the central pack grounds. Not one of us will survive if we do not fight as a pack.

I need you to fight, I need you to believe what you defend...that a pack is bigger than lands, even bigger than an alpha...it's the connection you have with one another, because you have chosen one another after joining as rogues.

The second and third generation will live in the comfort of being born into this pack, of knowing true belonging...that is what we fight for today. We are fighting for our future selves.

I know you are tired, I know you have fought so hard already. But I needed this from you, I need you all to dig deep and fight for your lives." I let my Alpha aura wash over the pack-link, not a threat to fight but a plea to have hope, to have faith in me. Yes we won't all survive this, but as long as we can protect what the pack stands for....then the wall of black in front of us will have lost no matter the outcome.

Within seconds of finishing my speech, the wall turns into a tsunami of warriors invading my lands. Half of them shift whilst running, my hands raising and pushing forward to unleash my own level of hell upon them.

They come thick and fast, their wolves' teeth snapping as we charge towards them. They won't get past, they can't.

I have innocent children in the central pack, I can't leave them to the same fate as the Clear Waters pack. This tsunami of fighters will not stop until every member of the Nightshade Reformed pack are extinct.

As I run into the throes of war, my eyes flicker to the blond alpha...coward, he wasn't even joining his fighters.

He was remaining on the sidelines with a select few standing behind him...Alpha Marc, watching by his side.

If I wasn't determined before, I am now.

I will get to them....they won't leave here unscathed.

Hector keeps to my side and I glance over to find Ezra doing the same with Alora, the Dark Phantom Alpha and Beta coming up with their own plan...that they get us both out of here no matter what. But I'm not leaving, not whilst there is a fight for my people. The lands...I don't care about...these lands mean nothing to me. It's the people, it's the people I need to protect. Wherever we are, as long as we are together... that is our pack.

They just keep coming, Hector pushing them back but the ones that slip past him I take out. I want to scream at him to stop trying to protect me, but I need him to have his mind on the target...and any division between us wouldn't help right now.

I've had to put my alpha block up, we are losing too many...I can't deal with the pain of their passing...the pain of the pack-link snapping with each death.

My eyes flicker to Alora as she shifts into her grey wolf, her wolf taking control. As soon as she shifts, two fighters come at her at once, and Ezra already has his hands full.

"Alora!" I scream through the pack-link to her as a man in his human form pulls her backwards onto him...her wolf wheezing as he squeezes into her ribs. I don't know if it is the pack bond or the twin bond, but I feel her pain radiate through me. No, we haven't come this far, I haven't gone through hell to lose her.

My wolf takes control, we both know we are faster in our wolf form than our human form.

My white fur whizzes past Hector just as his hand comes out to grab me back.

We race towards Alora, to aid her...lunging at the male who has pinned her on the floor, who has been restricting her breathing.

As soon as I knock him off her, I can hear her take a deep breath in, her wolf claiming that much needed air. I sink my teeth into his throat, taking him out.

I am about to take another male out when Ezra does the deed for me, with precision. As soon as he turns back to both Alora and me, his eyes shift into a mind-link...Hector.

That's when an eerie silence descends upon the battle.

All of the White Moon fighter's eyes..both in wolf form and human form, take on a ghostly white glaze.

All in unison, as if they are all being mind-linked at the same time. I turn to find Marc still standing next to the White Moon pack Alpha, his eyes locked in the same condition. All except for Marc...so it was a pack-link. New orders being delivered.

Then it cuts...and all eyes turn to me.

I had just saved Alora, but at a great cost to myself. I had just proven my true identity to the White Moon pack and its alpha.

Chapter 0233

Hector POV

My fingers slip through her white fur as she blurs past me.

I'm fighting three fighters off me that seem to be on some kind of steroids, on top of being the strongest warriors I have ever fought.

She has just done the one thing I asked her not to do...she has just shifted.

As soon as she has taken the male out that was all over Alora, another runs up behind her. I try to shout to her but one of the warriors reaches for my throat, cutting off my voice and I can't mind-link her.

I'm fighting this fight as well as watching my mate in my peripheral vision. My adrenaline is pumping through me at a colossal rate, I need to get to her...to stay by her side.

She has shifted now...she has just given them what they needed to step things up a gear. She has just shown them her true identity.

"Ezra.."

"Alpha?" Ezra responds to my mind-link but I have to cut it when the male holding my throat loosens his grip and becomes entranced by something.

I turn to find that all of the fighters have entered a pack wide mind-link...their eyes a silvery white...the colour of the moon.

Not wasting any time, their mind-link gives me an

opening to take him out. I take out the other two with a single hand, not messing around...I needed to get to my mate.

I start running, then hell descends once more upon these lands.

They are coming again...thick and fast...but this time all heading into the same direction...all heading to Kaia.

A swarm of locusts heading into the direction of my mate.

I knew this was a ploy, a fucking ploy to make her reveal herself...they were toying with us, waiting for Kaia to shift...and we've bloody fallen for it.

It is no longer a battle to protect the pack lands, it is now a battle to keep them off her.

I battle my way through them, killing without a second thought...I can't have them take

my mate.

They'll have to kill me before they get to her.

The Nightshade Reformed warriors are also trying to get to their Alpha, as she has become encircled, with Alora and Ezra, by a constantly growing number of attackers.

"Ezra, get her out of there!" I demand through the mind-link.

Ezra and I had discussed an exit plan, him to get Alora out and me, Kaia...but right now, he'll need to be responsible for getting them both out.

I can't get to her, there are just too many.

""EZRA!" I roar again when he doesn't answer me.

"I'm trying, they aren't stopping...they just keep coming for her."

I start to make a dent into their numbers when I spot Alpha Marc running towards us in the distance, the pack's alpha remaining where he stands. At first I think he is racing towards her, but then I realise he is coming for me.

Kaia sees it too, sees the shift in his direction. He wants to take our mate bond out once and for all.

I am ready for him!

"Ezra, you get her out...no matter what." I command to my beta through the mind-link.

"Yes Alpha."

Her eyes dash to mine, concerned laced within them until she is knocked to the ground and I scream for her through the throng of fighters.

"Kaia!"

"Hector!" I hear her scream just as I am knocked to the ground by Alpha Marc.

"Nobody touch him, he's mine." Alpha Marc sneers as he pushes his fighters towards Kaia.

"You can't beat me." I growl out as I stand back on my feet, letting my alpha aura roll off me.

He was a big bastard and I would have to win this fight through agility rather than strength. I would need to wear him out with quick movements, and unpredictable hits on my part.

This would need to be a quick kill, Kaia was surrounded and out of time.

This male manipulated my mate, tried to turn her against me...used her amnesia for his

own gain.

I would rid the shifter world of him.

My movements are what I thought they would be, quick and deep hits.

He was slow in comparison to me, and each time I hit him...he took too long to turn around to prepare

for my next attack.

Blood trickles down his body and his breathing pants as I nearly have this beast on his

knees. That's when I hear Kaia's blood curdling scream for her sister.

My eyes turn to find Alora separated from Kaia and being carried away.

That's the opening Marc needed, that's when he shifts and his wolf sinks his teeth into my thigh, gnawing at my open flesh.

I jab his wolf in the snout, which causes him to release his sharp grip on me...my wolf taking control and shifting.

As soon as he does we see another pack in the distance...that start charging towards us.

The Amber Desert Warriors trying to get to Alora, their Luna, see them too.

But they don't change tactics...they keep their backs open...why aren't they turning to face this new threat. Then I realise why.

The new additions racing towards them were their pack members, their fellow warriors...and at

the front leading them was Than.

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Kaia POV

I can't get to him...I can't help him.

There are just too many...

I'm exhausted...we are exhausted. She wants to shift back, she needs the break but one poorly executed move and we will be executed ourselves. I won't let them take me, I'd rather die. Neverending, they just keep coming.

My adrenaline is so high that I can't feel any pain,

I'm just pushing my wolf to keep going, to not stop. But she is limping on her hind leg which I'm pretty certain is broken and we have a large slash across our side...causing blood to free fall. Each time it heals, it is reopened by a new pair of claws.

I can hear Alora whimpering in pain, she can't last much longer...

I shift back into human form as I watch Alpha Marc race towards Hector. I shout for him, trying to get to the two people I love most in the world...yet I can't get to either of them.

I hear him call for me before Marc collides into the males waiting to bounce on Hector and sends them towards me.

My eyes turn to Ezra in the hope that he will get her out but he is battling just as many, his injuries just as bad.

"Kaia..." Her voice whimpers through the mind-link, my heart stopping.

"Alora?"

"Kaia...I'm sorry."

"Alora no..." I scream back at her just as a fist hits her across the temple, blood and sweat whipping off her from impact.

They act fast, lifting her lifeless body off the ground

and racing back towards their Alpha, still watching from his viewing point.

I scream from desperation as I try reach for her, try to get to her.

Faith abandons me for a mere second when I see more fighters heading our way. More muscle without a scratch on them.

Unbelievable, there's just too many of them.

Then I realise that the Amber Desert warriors are raising their fists into the air...cheering. These were their pack members...and at the front was

their Alpha... Than.

Their arrival gives us a small respite as the White Moon fighters split and charge towards Than and his warriors.

I push through, desperate to get to Alora, determined to take any wolf or human that stands in my way from retrieving my twin sister.

Shifting without a second thought, I leap over the male that has her cradled in his arms, confusion in his eyes as my white furred wolf, knocks him to the ground. He begs for his life just as my wolf takes out his neck, heartlessly. Hector was on the other side of the field now, locked in a battle with more fighters, he

must have killed Alpha Marc and moved on.

Ezra was still fighting a group of warriors single handedly.

Everyone was fighting.

Back in skin form, I pick Alora up off the ground. With one step I remember my broken leg, the excruciating pain as I put all weight on that leg causes me to fall face forward. An unconscious Alora tumbling back

down to the ground and out of my hands. Standing up, I go to pick her up again when my hair is snatched back...my eyes water as my hair is pulled from behind. His thick hand grabs my throat from behind, pulling my back into his chest as he successfully overpowers me.

I kick, I claw at him...but he is a beastly man and it sickens me that he is naked behind me.

I kick my heel into his groin, using the momentum

to jump over him and kick him in his lower back into the muddy ground.

With a grunt his leg back kicks me into my broken limb...my scream carrying on the wind as I hear a

snap and collapse to the ground...vomit threatening to rise up as the pain blinds me for a few seconds.

I crawl through the mud to my sister, my eyes darting back to Hector and Ezra.

Both were too far away....

"Kaia.." Alora's hand reaches out for me but I am too far away. He picks her up by her throat, her feet dangling off the ground as she claws at his hands to release her...as she struggles to breathe. "No!" I scream as I use my shoulder to take aim at his ribs, knocking him back onto the ground. It

works, he drops Alora and his attention is now back on me. Standing was becoming a problem for me now.

He manages to get hold of my ankle, pulling me towards him through the mud. I turn kicking him in the face, blood smearing up his nose.

I shimmy out of his hold, crawling backwards to give myself enough room to shift once more.

He shifts before me, his long black beastly snout in my face before I have had the chance to shift. His wolf's teeth crazing the skin on my face.

"Leave her alone." Alora jumps on the beast's back, her fingers jabbing into his eye's sockets, as he moves at a ferocious speed to get her off him.

She is thrown back on the ground, her head bouncing as her eyes flicker shut from the impact.

His claw rises, preparing to slash her where she lays.

I push myself off the ground, jumping between them to protect her... shielding her with my body, waiting for the painful slash of his claws when another wolf knocks him to the ground.

A sandy brown wolf...leaps in between us and takes a swipe at Marc.

This new wolf isn't as strong as the beastly wolf, he isn't going to win but he certainly puts up a good fight.

I'm trying my best to remain conscious. Because as soon as he has killed this wolf, he'll come back

for Alora and me.

I prepare to shift back into my wolf form when another wolf joins the fight, stopping the beast from killing the sandy brown wolf... Hector.

My Hector.

Both wolves work as a synchronised pair, working in unison as they attack Marc, not giving him a chance to attack back.

When the new wolf's flank is torn into, the fur side shifts to reveal Than.

He doesn't take his eyes off Marc's wolf, he waits for the final fatal blow and just as Marc starts to deliver it, Hector's wolf takes out both of his back legs...rendering him useless.

A pained moan erupts out of Marc, his wolf unable to finish what he started.

Marc shifts back into his human form, his eyes darting to me with disdain before he starts to crawl back towards the Alpha in the distance.

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Kaia POV

I fight that call to give in, to rest...I can't.

Fear of not waking up is what is keeping my eyes open.

I watch as Marc starts to crawl back towards the White Moon alpha, the coward who doesn't join his fighters, only commands them to their deaths. I have no respect for such a leader.

A few of my warriors move to Marc but I want him alive, he will provide valuable information and I will extract it from him.

"I want him alive." I order out from the mind-link as my warriors box him in. Hector's wolf preventing Marc from getting any further as he bites down on his foot and drags him towards my warriors.

Their numbers were dwindling thanks to the aid of the Amber Desert warriors, their arrival has given us the leverage we needed to potentially claim back this fight...but then I see the fighters still with the alpha of the White Moon pack, the ones that haven't been released on to us yet.

What are they waiting for, what was he waiting for.

My eyes lock with him, my jaw tensing as I challenge him to come and face me. Challenge him to end this fight once for all.

The corner of his lips curl up into a smirk as his hand raises up, and for a moment I think he is accepting my challenge...until a new set of fighters sent our way.

My wolf takes control, this was him answering my challenge in his own way. My wolf not liking his response.

I shift once again, my white fur now covered in blood, as my body body fights against the call to shift...I bite down on my tongue to suppress the pain that shoots into my hind leg with my shift.

I scan the field, Hector was assisting a group of my warriors in keeping Marc under our control. Ezra was trying to get to Alora, as was Than.

It was a new surge of a tsunami running towards us, it won't take them long to kill us...we've been fighting for too long whereas they were untouched.

Fear for my pack hits me before I refuse to believe that this was it. We can still win this.

My wolf, keeping her eye on the cowardly alpha, pushes me back as she uses what little energy we have left. I can sense what she is trying to do, she is trying to locate the energy source not just for one person, but for the entire army of enemies on this field. She's pushed me back too far away to take control back from her, she can't attack them all at once...it is too many. We've only ever used it on one person at a time.

I can hear Hector's wolf growl in the near distance, he must feel her intentions through the bond...and judging by the way his wolf is now trying to get to us...he wants to stop us.

I've never harnessed such power, but she manages it...she finds each level of energy source and starts pulling on it... their energy flowing into us.

One by one they drop down to the ground...one by one I feel their energy hitting me instead as I suck it out of them like a vampire.

Within moments they have conceded, surrendered. They are outnumbered and now begging for their lives.

My eyes turn to the borders to find the White Moon alpha gone, he has left them to their deaths.

The Nightshade Reformed and the Amber Desert warriors take control...killing all those that remain. The threat was too dire to let them survive.

My body is still shaking at the level of energy coursing through me, that when Hector touches me his hand flinches away. I hadn't even realised I had shifted back...that my skin was too hot to touch.

My eyes dart to Than who has scooped Alora up in his arms and is racing back towards the alpha house.

"We will finish up here... go...check on her." Hector's voice calls to me.

I race back to the alpha house, desperate to help my sister. Whilst running, I update the head doctor as best I can, they were about to have an influx of patients, their beta likely to be one of them. The central pack grounds is a ghost town in comparison to the border, doors are locked, curtains are closed. I can hear some levels of screaming as they must think I am bringing the fight this way. I burst through the front door, my adrenaline leading me as I find Than gently laying Alora down on the couch in the sitting room.

As he lays her down, the back of his hand strokes her across her face...some kind of déjà vu hitting me again.

But it isn't déjà vu, it is different...

"Kaia?" His voice calls out to me as he notices me watching him, yet his hands...his paws remain all over her.

It's like a white noise in my mind...I can't think, I'm trapped between the white noise and pain returning to me as my energy levels start to deplete.

Then the white noise blankets across my entire mind...like a white sheet has been laid down. A blinding light causing me to slam my eyes shut and my hands to clutch my head into my hands.

Chapter 0236

Kaia POV

The white noise turns into something else...flashbacks.

My entire life was flashing before me, not because I was on the brink of death but because my amnesia was leaving me.

I was remembering everything, and it was painful.

"Kaia...what is it, what's wrong?" I feel Alora cling to my side suddenly, her voice a panicked tone.

"Get the Doctor...quick."

"No...I don't need the doctor." I pant out as the seering pain continues. It's too much all at once, my mind can't cope with it. I feel as if my head is being split open... Until, it suddenly stops...and I am back.

Like a plug has been switched on, as if nothing was ever the matter. My memory returning to me as if it never left.

I can feel my heart pounding in my chest as my eyes dart around the room.

"Alora.." He reaches for her, he reaches to get her away from me. As if I would be a danger to her.

That déjà vu, it wasn't déjà vu...it was somekind of warning.

Some kind of memory.

"Get away from her!" A demonic growl emits from me, as I pull her behind me.

"I'm not going to hurt her.." He has the audacity to scoff out.

"No, you just take what you want Than don't you. You just do what you want, to hell with others, to hell with me."

""What?"

It was as if my brain couldn't quite put all the puzzle pieces together, I remembered something but it wasn't fitting together.

"Kaia?" I hear Hector's voice coming from behind as I clutch at my head again. The memories of what he did to me, of what he is capable of.

He had taken advantage of me, he had taken advantage of the mate bond we once shared.

I can see it all clearly now, as if it only happened yesterday. Not only did he pretend to love me to save her, but he used me to try and create a child. A child I lost when I ran away.

It was like something from a different lifetime, because it was.

I hate him...I can't ever be in the same room as him, I can never see him again. He needs to die.

I lunge at him, attacking him as I hold his throat within my deathly grip.

"Get off me.." He pants under my hold as he squirms beneath me.

"You're a monster." I seethe out before hands pull me off him from behind.

Hector's hands engage around my chest, as I fight against him. Dead, I want him dead.

I might not be able to kill him with my hands but I can kill him.

I search for him through the wolf bond, because I understand now.

I am a gift from the moon goddess, I can feel each and every one of them as if I were an alpha of their pack. It didn't matter if I wasn't their alpha or not, I could feel their energy all the same. She creates my line to keep them in check, to stop them abusing others with less strength...our human cousins. I can take any of them down with a click of my finger as it were, I have that ability.

I search for him and find his energy source, determined to make him suffer, make him pay.

It works, I can feel his energy shifting into me..his body becoming weak before my very eyes.

"I...what is going on..." He breathes out as he examines his hands before collapsing onto his knees, Alora joining him by his side.

She competes him, tries to reassure him he will be okay...but then it clicks, she has put the puzzle piece together.

"Stop." She mutters out as she holds his face within her hands but I don't listen.

"Please, stop..." She is louder this time, her face looking up at me but I continue, there is something satisfying in watching the blood drain from his face.

"Kaia...stop, you are going to kill him." She pleads.

"It's what he deserves." I fight against Hector's hold but he is unrelenting in it.

"Kaia, think about this." He whispers into my ear yet he makes no attempt to stop me.

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Hector POV

Marc is captured and Kaia's warriors are moving him into the cells. Ezra and I are watching the last few attackers being taken down before we feel ready to announce the battle has been won in our favour. Kaia's gift had completely switched the battle, saving us all. But something felt wrong...off through the mate bond.

"Ezra, I need to check on Kaia...can you.."

"Keep an eye on Marc, yes. Go Alpha, I'll report if anything changes." My beta confirms as he follows the warriors to the cells.

I was covered in a dried mixture of blood and mud as I hastily walk towards the alpha house.

Pack members were starting to peer out from their safe places, their loved ones returning to them.

The ones that didn't, heart felt tears of loss can be heard across the central pack grounds.

As soon as I enter the alpha house, I feel it...my wolf on high alert as he feels Kaia's pain.

Not just physical but mental pain...it's like an onslaught of emotions surging through the bond.

"Kaia?" I move towards her, my hand within a reaching distance when she lunges herself at Than..straddling him on the floor and holding his throat within her hands.

"Get off me." He pants under her grip trying to release her hold on him.

"You're a monster!" She seethes out and everything becomes crystal clear...she has remembered everything, her memory has returned to her.

I don't know what has happened in the short space that she was away from me, but all I know is she is suffering.

I pull her off him, placing a strong grip around her chest. She fights against my hold at first until she abruptly stops, her concentration levels switching and I know what she is about to do. Alora begs, pleads with her sister as Than drops to the floor. Alora screams for her to stop, and Kaia continues; stating that he deserves this.

She wasn't wrong.

But she was exhausted and we still didn't know the long term effects of her taking energy away from others.

"Kaia, think about this." I whisper lowly into her ear, my concern not on Than's life but on the damage it might cause Kaia.

She isn't a cold blooded murderer. She thinks she needs this now...but she will come to regret this.

"Kaia...stop." I growl as I tighten my hold on her.

She goes slack in my arms, her body readjusting...taking on board my warning.

"Make your choice Alora, because you can't have us both!"

"Kaia...I.."

"We will never be happy, not if he is in your life. So you need to decide...are you leaving with him, or staying with me?"

Alora's eyes flicker to me but I stand firmly by Kaia's side.

"You've survived one rejection, you can survive another." She snarls out as she follows Alora's eyes to me.

It hits harder than I thought it would, her anger, her feeling of betrayal.

"Why you..." Than takes a threatening step towards Kaia but I am on him instantly, knocking him to the ground. His energy starts to leave him again as I pin him on the ground, Kaia was taking his energy again. "Choose Alora...him or me!" Kaia screams out, as Than starts to lose consciousness.

"You...I choose you."

Her words knock the air out of Than's lungs as he gasps for oxygen.

"Alora, no.." He breathes out under my weight.

"Do it, Alora, do it now and I'll let him live." Kaia points to the ground, her finger shaking with anger.

"I, Alora Glace, Beta of the Nightshade Reformed pack reject you Than Sable, Alpha of the Amber Desert pack as my mate. I also reject my title as Luna of the Amber Desert pack." Alora declares through broken sobs. "Accept it." Kaia growls at Than.

"No..."

"Accept it." She screams out as I hold him still beneath me.

"Accept it, or your pack is mine." I quietly seethe through my tensed draw, because if she kills him, as she is threatening to do...his pack will be mine.

"I, Alpha Than Sable of the Amber Desert pack accept your rejection and reject you in return." Than groans out.

"I accept." Alora gasps as her face grimaces in pain. Both are left sobbing, both are left broken.

"Good, now get off my lands and take your warriors with you." Kaia roars, before her eyes lock on me with just as much anger whirling in them.

Denied by Destiny: Trapped in the Shadows of the Mate Bond

Kaia POV

I'd give them a chance to say goodbye at least, they may have broken the mate bond but I'll grant them their final words to one another. I just don't want to be around to see it.

I was heading towards the cells, my warriors had informed me that Marc was being held there and he was gaining consciousness again. This would be my stop before the medical centre to see what help my team needed there.

"What just happened?" Hector's hand grips at my elbow as he pulls me back having caught up with me.

"She made her choice." I grunt pulling my arm out of his hold.

"And what, you would have let her go if she picked him?" His eyebrows raise, not believing I would have continued with my own threat.

"Yes, if that was what she really wanted Hector, I would have honoured that. She can do better, I know she can do better. He is a monster Hector, and I wouldn't have been able to watch her be with him. Watch him drain her."

"I don't believe you, you wouldn't have let her go..."

"Well it's a good thing then that she didn't let me down. I've got to go..." I start walking again, Hector by my side.

"I'm coming with you..."

"Hector, I'm going to the cells..." I sigh out, maybe it would be better if he wasn't present for this.

"I know where you are going, remember I'm your mate. It's hazy at times...but I can feel your intentions."

"Hector."

"If you are going, then so am I." He growls out, his jaw tensing, his tone not as playful anymore.

I stop in my tracks, turning to face him. My adrenaline was depleting but it was still there, still pumping through my system...keeping that burning rage of anger from simmering over.

"I remember everything Hector, everything..." my hands clench into balls by my side, I remembered everything.

How Than and his pack had treated me, how I found Alora laying in the hospital bed before running, how Hector was my second chance mate but only recognised his bond with Alora...but there were things I had done too that I didn't want to remember.... "You need to see the doctor." Hector cups the sides of my face within his hands, both of his thumbs drawing lines across my lips.

"I will, once I have taken care of Marc."

I continue to the cells, my warriors moving aside as I step in to find him on the floor, unable to move.

"You should get that seen to.." I snarl as I walk towards him.

This man has been the plague in my life since I relocated to the Nightshade Reformed pack. He manipulated me against Hector, tried to use my lack of memory against me, used a lie about knowing my parents to get him on side.

But I remember him now, I remember from the first time I met him, to the time he found me on the cliff tops...

The cliff tops...

"Out, everybody out!" I demand to my warriors who all hesitantly obey my command.

I turn to find Hector the only one left in the cells except for Marc and myself. He quirks an eyebrow at me, daring me to suggest that he should join them.

Instead he steps back, out of sight, into the shadows created in these poorly lit cells, hidden but not gone.

I won't have any secrets from him now.

Very well.

"You are going to tell me everything you know about the White Moon pack and what they want." I snarl out, letting my aura suffocate this already suffocating cell room.

"Go to hell..." He spits out on the cell floor, blood landing on my bare feet. A rumble emits from the watching shadows.

I had been in such a hurry to get here that I only threw on the closest clothes available, but forgot about footwear.

"You are going to tell me everything..." My words are slow, yet loud.

"What, and then you'll let me live?" He scoffs sarcastically.

"Oh no, Alpha Marc...I never promised that. You see, I remember everything now, I remember how you claimed Hector was the one that pushed me into the waters, how you took advantage of my naivety. How you have done nothing but conspire against this pack from the moment we settled here.

How it was you...wasn't it...you that pushed me, pushed me into the waters."

"What?" Hector roars from the shadows as he kicks his foot off the wall and now stands beside me.

"I just did what you didn't have the balls to do." He laughs out like a mad man.

"And what was that?" I snarl out at him.

"To kill yourself."

"Why would I kill myself?"

"Because you killed your father, you found out what he did to your mother, to your pack. so you took revenge. We aren't so different Kaia, that's why you would have been ideal by my side."

The roar that escapes Hector is deafening as he makes a step towards him, but this time I pull him back.

"My father died in complications during surgery, I even have the doctor confirming such."

Marc's eyes hold mine, holding my defiant stare. Nothing else would be discussed, nothing else would be told to my pack.

"You are going to tell me everything you know about the White Moon pack and it's alpha."

""You'll have to torture me..."

"If you insist."

"You don't have the balls, just like on the cliff tops..."

"You keep saying that...as if I need to use my hands to torture you...but I have my own ways Marc."

Denied by Destiny: Trapped in the Shadows of the Mate Bond

Kaia POV

By the time I leave the hospital the moon was shining brightly in the sky. Her ethereal beauty glowing across my pack lands, making it look like the most innocent of places.

You wouldn't have thought a deathly battle had erupted only a few hours ago. It's astonishing that we were able to keep them away from the central buildings, away from those who wouldn't be able to fight back.

Hector and I had extracted some information from Marc, but it appears he wasn't entrusted with that much information on the White Moon pack. Not as much as we thought he would have been anyway. And what he did tell us, we already knew.

He planned to forcibly mark me, Hector having done so completely ruined his initial plans.

He was going to claim the lands back for himself and use it to take over the adjoining packs...he wanted power.

Once I had given him an heir, he would have killed me and sacrificed me back to the moon, he would have let the White Moon pack carry out their wishes with me.

He was unconscious in the cells by the time we had finished with him, Hector wanted to snap his neck but I needed the council to hear what had happened, I needed them to know of the threat we still face. And, how they had been so blinded by his actions...a few on the council even helping him.

The head doctor checked me over and was satisfied once my wolf healing was kicking in to let me help with minor injuries. Not that he could refuse me really, I was his alpha after all.

Exhausted, I head back to a quiet alpha house. I expected to find Alora sobbing on the sofa but when I walk upstairs to find her asleep in her bed, a level of relief washes over me. I thought she would have gone after him...I thought she would have regretted her choice. Maybe I was cruel in making her decide, making her choose between us. But he had been the one to put the wheels in motion long before I had even set eyes on him.

I can't witness her with him, I just can't be part of that. If she had chosen him, I think I would have let her go. But I wouldn't have seen her again, I couldn't condone what she would have gone back to. Which would have broken my heart. I had gone from envying her when I was Than's wife, to loving her and wanting to keep her safe.

Closing her door quietly, I move towards my room finding Hector on the bed working on his laptop.

As soon as I walk in that pull to him heightens and I can't let my anger overrule it, not again. I let it take me, succumb to the pull to him. Because this male won't let me down, this male won't use me for his own gain.

"I thought you'd be asleep." I murmur as soon as my head hits the pillow. I really needed to shower but I was just too exhausted.

"Not a chance, my wolf wouldn't let me sleep knowing you were at the hospital." He places his laptop down and pulls me into him.

"The borders are secure, the pack is safe..." I had played every detail out in my head but there was one thing I have tried to understand, how did Than know we were in trouble.

"How did Than know, how did he get to us in time?"

"Ezra contacted the Dark Phantom pack to send a high alert for the borders. Riley received the call, Orpheus was with him at the time.." Hector murmurs as he inhales my scent at my neck. "Orpheus?"

"Yes, he must have informed Than. Raised the alarm."

I nod, that would make sense. Orpheus was still at the Dark Phantom pack with Rosa...he would have informed Than immediately.

Something, I'll need to remember for the future, to be careful what I say around him. I'm sure he could be trusted, but Medea was cousins with Orpheus's father..they had a family connection.

I reluctantly move myself off the bed, walking into the ensuite and turning the shower on. As soon as I step into the hot running water, I suddenly feel cold. Memories that I would choose to forget coming back to me. Everything. "Are you okay?" His lips nibble at my ear, his comforting arms wrapping around me.

"So are you staying in my room now?" I turn my head back slightly with a raised eyebrow.

"After you jumped me in the car..."

"I jumped you?"

"Oh yes."

"Hhmm keep dreaming.." I moan out as he starts to kiss my mate mark. Maybe I did jump him but he was the one that pulled me over to him.

"I remember everything Hector...everything." I sigh out as I turn to him, placing my hand upon his bare chest.

"I'm sorry." He grips me closer to him, my body pressed up against him.

""What for?"

"For everything, for not seeing the bond between us, for letting my anger at Than take precedence over us. For making you leave."

"Looking back, I needed to leave for my own sanity. I needed to find my father, because if I didn't I would have spent the rest of my life waiting for him, waiting for him to tell me to return to him. I would never have known the truth if I hadn't of left. I also couldn't keep fighting against the mate bond you had with another..."

"I need you to listen to me, the mate bond I had in the past was nothing...nothing compared to what we have. The day Beckett died...we had rejected one another. We both

knew I was far deeper in love with you than I had ever been with her. You are my everything Kaia." "Hector.."

"No, you need to understand. I kept things from you, the past because I didn't want to see you go through the same pains again, reliving everything. I wanted you to be more than that, be more than what had happened to you. Because you are Kaia, you are everything and more."