

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

C 241 -250

Kaia POV

Before helping with the tidy up efforts first thing, I wanted to talk to Alora alone, I wanted to be the first to tell her that I had marked Hector.

Heading downstairs I have every intention of locating her, until I have an overwhelming need to enter Father's office.

Because that is how it will always be to me, Father's office.

It is mine now, I am the alpha...yet I can't seem to step over the threshold, instead lingering by the door and staring absentmindedly at his desk as memories of him sitting there come to me.

Lies, lies that ran so deep that they shaped my childhood...my adulthood. I don't want to be that kind of alpha, but maybe his DNA runs so deeply in me that I haven't got a choice. Maybe I am destined to be like him, I am his daughter after all.

"You're up, I expected you to sleep in until mid morning. Where's Hector?" Alora walks past me into the office as she moves towards Father's desk...she has no fear of touching it, or sitting at it now like I do. She won't be like him, he hadn't infected her. "Asleep." I respond, still not stepping over the threshold.

"Do you need something or are you going to stand there all day like a zombie. Go back to bed Kaia, Ezra and I are handling the tidy up...you need to rest. The Doctor said you were at the hospital all night..."

"I killed him..." I whisper out, but my words are not loud enough to stop her from talking.

"...you must be exhausted. I'll let you know if anything needs your attention."

"I killed him." I try again as she busies herself with paperwork amongst his desk, until she looks up at me, her eyes furrowing with uncertainty.

"What did you just say?"

With a deep breath I take a step forward, crossing the threshold, I won't be like him.

I won't be, because I have Alora...I have Hector.

I close the door behind me, ensuring our conversation remains confidential. As far as the pack is concerned their beloved Alpha Beckett died from complications in surgery and that is how it will remain.

Whilst at the hospital last night, surrounded by trauma and fatal injuries...I realised I couldn't keep this from Alora. She had a right to know...she needed to know the truth.

I won't be him, I won't let lies corrupt us.

"I killed him... Father. It was me."

"What are you talking about?"

"He was delirious when he woke up from surgery...or at least I thought he was, until I realised.." I start.

"Realised what?" She slowly places the documents down on the desk, before giving me her undivided attention.

"That his masked had slipped, his true identity was coming forward. Mother didn't die in childbirth Alora, he killed her when she confronted him, when she refused to believe his lie any longer." I take a step closer to her but she takes a step back. "What lie...what are you saying?"

Was this is, was this how I break my twin bond. With the truth. But I won't be like him, I refuse to be like him.

"That she didn't die in childbirth...she could feel you. She could sense that you were still alive, that you were missing from us.

She never once gave up on you. She was told you died in childbirth, but you didn't...and she knew it...that's when he killed her. She was leaving him, and taking me with her to find you.

He made the Clear Waters pack tell his lie until Samson's parents, the beta couple planned an uprising against him. That's when he sent me away, and attacked the pack... killing everyone." "He attacked the pack?" Her eyebrows furrow as she slowly perches against the desk.

"Yes, he killed them all to keep his lies."

"I don't understand..." She shakes her head, it will take her time to adjust, it took me time to adjust to the news.

"He..."

"No...I mean, why did you kill him. He could have faced trial, he would have been executed by the council for crimes against his own pack...a member of the council or not.

Why did you put it upon yourself to kill him, Kaia you adored him." Her words stun me for a moment, I had just informed her of our dark past and her main concern was me.

No, I wasn't of sound mind at the time but I don't regret doing what I did, he threatened her...he had already killed our Mother, I couldn't have him kill Alora if she didn't go along with his plans.

"He threatened you, said you would help him but I knew you wouldn't...you aren't tainted, I wanted to keep you safe."

"Tainted?" Her face grimaces slightly before standing fully up and closing that gap between us.

"We share the same blood Alora, but not the same childhood, I had been completely brainwashed by him, I didn't want you to fall into his trap. To one day find you missing...."

She holds my gaze before her lips move, her eyes darting to my neck.

"You marked Hector..." It wasn't a question, and her change in subject throws me slightly. Was she going to shun me now...not only for taking her parent's from her, but also making her reject her mate. And claiming Hector....

"I'm happy for you Kaia.." She walks up to me and places my hands in hers, before pulling me into an embrace.

"You deserve happiness Kaia, and don't tell yourself otherwise."

"You aren't mad?" I ask as I embrace her in return.

"Mad for what?"

"For being the reason you were taken away from Mother, for making you reject Than..." Her hand holds high in the air, cutting me off from my sentence.

"I made the choice to reject Than, I would have chosen you...this...us. You are not the reason I was taken from Mother at birth, that was all Beckett. How much has happened to you in my name Kaia, unimaginable things...I don't hold you one bit accountable, as I know you don't me." She was right, I don't blame her for the things that were done in her name, just as she doesn't blame me for taking necessary actions to protect her, to protect us. I will always protect us.

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Kaia POV

I didn't want to hand Alpha Marc over to the council, I didn't trust them enough to believe that their intentions were honourable, but Hector said it was the best option going forward.

I only agreed to it as long as I sat in the back of the van that transported our prisoner from the Nightshade Reformed back to the Council offices in the City next to the Dark Phantom pack.

For most part of the journey he was unconscious, my head doctor administering him a sedative that would wear off just before we reached the council building.

As Alpha Marc's eyes opened to find both Hector and I staring at him, his reaction wasn't what I thought it would be. I think he thought he would have been dead by now. Maybe that would have been the best option... "Where are you taking me?" He slurs as the sedative remains within his system.

"To your council hearing, they will decide your fate..." I grumble from my seat.

"You aren't going to kill me?" His eyes move around the van, most likely trying to find a way out. There isn't a chance in hell that either Hector or me would let him escape, plus the sedative was also for the main reason.

"No, I believe in justice...unlike you it seems. But, you will tell them the truth, you will tell them what you know of the White Moon pack and how Alpha Clay has assisted you..." I let my aura roll off me, let it suffocate the air around him.

"You have no proof of that!" He grunts, as his upper lip sneers at me. Hector makes a move towards Marc, getting into his space threateningly. Just a little reminder of who holds the power now.

"Not yet, but we can attain it. You will tell them that Clay is corrupt and I will let you live." I offer out, my hands clapping together with this option for him.

"You, you will let me live?" His tone is sarcastic.

"I will let you go into exile, as long as I never see you again. As long as you stay out of our way, I will let you live."

As we reach the council building, the armed council soldiers take Marc away, handcuffing him and taking him through the same lift I was only in a few days ago.

As we enter that same board room, the same faces look up at me as I enter. However this time, I was a spectator, not on trial.

Alpha Clay's jaw tenses as soon as I take my seat next to Hector, I make a point of placing my finger onto Hector's next...directing their eyes to his mate mark. Letting them know we are now an unbreakable force. If they come for one of us, they come for both of us. That's both packs and both sets of warriors as well.

"Who is the one on the end?" I whisper into Hector's ear as my eyes flicker to the male sitting on the end of the panel. He was the only one smiling towards us both, a gentle nod in Hector's direction before Hector nods back.

"That is Alpha Zederick." Hector responds, my eyes remaining on the male that had been the only one to offer me some kind of support against Clay during my hearing.

He was the real Alpha Zederick.

I go to respond to Hector, my lips moving before I realise what he had just done... he had responded through the mind-link to me.

A knowing smirk lands on his mouth as he moves his face into the nook my neck and inhales my scent just as the room doors abruptly burst open.

Alpha Marc is escorted in with council soldiers, just as I had been, to stand before the council.

I could already see Alpha Clay's mind working, panicking, as he shifts uncomfortably in his makeshift throne.

"What is the meaning of this?" He barks out as his eyes fall upon both Hector and I.

"Alpha Marc you have been called before the Werewolf Council to be trialled for the kidnap of Alpha Kaia Glace, conspiring against the werewolf council and planning and executing the attack on the Nightshade Reformed pack. How do you plead?" Alpha Zederick shows Clay no mind as he starts reading out from the list of charges against Marc.

It's satisfying to watch Clay's reaction as he wasn't informed of Marc's arrest and trial.

"Conspiring against the werewolf council, how?" Clay snarls out, his eyes holding a murderous glare as he turns to Zederick who seems to have taken control of the situation.

"Evidence has been provided of Alpha Marc working with the White Moon pack to overthrow the council and take control of packs through dictatorship...is that correct?"

"Yes." Marc grunts out but not audible enough over the raucous noise that has just erupted in the room.

"Silence...Alpha Marc you need to speak up." Alpha Zederick demands as the noise in the room returns to silence.

"Yes, my plea is one of guilty."

"You are guilty?" Zederick eyebrows shoot up, he wasn't expecting Marc's guilty plea.

""Yes." Marc confirms as his eyes dart to me.

"And did you have any assistance, any help?" Zederick presses as he writes down notes.

Complete silence falls upon the room, all ears listening...you could hear a pin drop.

"Yes....I had help from Alpha Clay."

Gasps of shock fill the room, soon followed with raised fists and cries of corruption.

"Why you.." Alpha Clay stands, the palms of his hands slamming onto the desk as he growls at Marc.

"Guard's, arrest Alpha Clay." Zederick orders with ease.

""You can't arrest me.."

"Watch us." Another male on the council chimes out.

It's actually uncomfortable to watch. The guards arresting Clay against his will, as he continues to fight against them. They move him towards the door, just as the door closes his eyes fall upon Hector and I...a promise for revenge within them. "Order...order." Zederick shouts out again as chaos erupts within the room, Alpha's demanding to know what had happened, why a member of the council has been arrested when they were selected to keep their packs safe.

"Alpha Marc, I am going to sentence you..." Zederick ignores their roars, as he raises his voice above the noise.

"Wait!" My body has stood up before I have the chance to understand why on earth I am doing this. Why I am putting my neck on the line for a traitor, for a monster. ""Yes Alpha Kaia?"

"I told Alpha Marc that if he told the truth... that he would be given exile as punishment."

"The punishment of crimes against the council and our community have always been made very clear. Death..."

"I know, but I gave my word...and too many people have already died..." My tone is heavier now.

All eyes fall upon me as I remain standing, only Marc and I standing as the rest are seated. I can feel eyes burning into the back of my head...whispers of my actions. "Alpha Kaia..." Zederick starts but is cut off when the window smashes causing glass to shoot into the surrounding air.

Gun shots can be heard in the distance and I watch as Marc's body falls to the ground.

Complete mayhem erupts as I am knocked to the ground, my body crashing into fellow spectators that had been seated next to me.

At first, I thought I had also been shot at, until tingles erupt upon my skin.

"Stay down." Hector orders in my ear as his body covers mine. I remain pinned to the ground, under his weight.

Roars of anger ensue as armed soldiers rush to the window, their own guns being pointed aimlessly to the neighbouring rooftops.

"Zederick...Marc?" Hector shouts out as I watch Zederick move, keeping low to the floor. Once he is close enough, he inspects Marc's lifeless body.

He turns Marc's head to check for a pulse, the gunshot wound in the middle of his forehead the confirmation I needed to know this had been an assassination attempt. The silver bullet being an instant kill.

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Hector POV

It had been a sniper on the roof of a neighbouring tower block that had executed Alpha Marc.

When the window smashed and I could hear gunshots in the distance, my immediate thought was that Kaia was the target.

This time, they had come for Marc. I have no doubt it was the White Moon pack.

Once the chaos had calmed down and the council soldiers had declared the area safe again, alphas demanded certainly of the future of the council, of an investigation of how it had become corrupted. My name was nominated to take on Alpha Clay's seat temporarily, and with an unanimous vote within the room...I was somehow declared a newly appointed member on the board of councillors.

I just wanted to get out of that room, get Kaia back to the Dark Phantom pack.

At least as a member of the council, information on the community would hit me first and although I will do anything in my power to stop information on Kaia being leaked...I know it is only a matter of time. If I am within the council, I can keep her as safe as she can be. Cut off threats before they reach her ears. Therefore I accepted the position.

As we pass the gates of the Dark Phantom pack, I can already feel the excitement of the pack members coming out to meet us. They can feel Kaia's link to them has completed..that she has marked me.

It's as I expected...as we both exit the vehicle outside the alpha house, the majority of the pack have congregated as they did when she returned to them with her amnesia.

Their necks are tilted in a sign of respect to their Alpha and Luna, but it is the smiles upon their faces that causes Kaia to feel emotional through the bond. I can feel every part of her now, feel every emotion. Every intention...

We still need a ceremony, that celebration of her becoming my Luna and our mate bond completing.

But as the marking is complete...perhaps a different kind of ceremony would be more in-tune with our recent developments...

There was one person I wanted to make amends with, one person I wanted to check up on before I did anything else...Rosa.

She had been so appalled by my marking Kaia without her consent, that she thought I had taken advantage of my mate. Forced myself upon her.

I need her to see the mark upon my neck...I need her to see that Kaia has in turn, marked me. That there has been no forcing, no abuse.

Heading towards the hospital I ask for Kaia to stay behind. She was keen to see Rosa as much as me, but this I needed to do myself, to do alone.

I needed to give Rosa my full attention, I needed to hush the excitement of the pack bond, of their voices sending me congratulations through the mind-link, I needed to put my block up.

As I enter Rosa's hospital room, I am shocked to find her no longer lying on the bed but sitting on the chair, in fact sitting in Orpheus' lap.

Her head resting against his chest as he reads a book to her.

As soon as I enter both of their faces turn to watch me....Orpheus' body stiffening as he prepares for her reaction.

Yes perhaps this was a mistake, I was clearly a trigger for her but she was still my pack member...still my responsibility. In truth, I hadn't expected Orpheus to make such progress with her and as I interrupt their private moment, I'm wishing I had spoken to the doctor first. Am I about to undo all of Orpheus' efforts...

"Alpha Hector, you are back." She croaks out, a lot more subdued than the last time I was in this room.

"Rosa...how are you feeling?" I keep my voice low, my wolf back and my aura small. I am not a threat to her.

Her eyes roam the length of me, her body tensing as Orpheus continues to draw circles with his thumb on her shoulder.

She seems to relax slightly before her eyes focus in on my neck. On my mark.

"She marked you..." She sits upright, her body angling towards me.

"Yes."

"Yes, I felt it through the pack bond. Is she here too?" She looks around me, to see if Kaia is behind me. Her body slumps back into her mate's lap when she realises her Luna hasn't come. "She is mad at me..." She sighs out with disappointment.

"No, none of us are mad at you Rosa."

My eyes glance to Orpheus who is watching our interaction carefully. I have no doubt he would fight me to keep Rosa safe, and that is the kind of mate she needs.

Whereas I know Kaia finds my possessiveness hard to deal with at times, Rosa needs that reminder...she needs to be shown what a mate bond should be like.

"You are protective of your Luna, that's what I expect from my pack members." I offer out, a small smile entering onto Rosa's lips before she tilts her neck in a sign of respect.

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Kaia POV

Yes I had been the Luna of the Dark Phantom pack since Hector had marked me, but being able to now feel the buzz of the pack bond running through my veins, warming my chest...is more than I thought it would ever be. From the day I arrived, a pregnant runaway, they accepted me as one of theirs.

Then when I returned, marked yet with no memory of my life before the amnesia, they once again showed me nothing but support and kindness.

I don't care what Hector says about the Amber Desert pack, this was without a doubt the pack he was destined to create and lead.

Speaking of which, as soon as I felt the guard pushing on my mind-link to announce visitors at the gates...I had a strange feeling I would be due a visit from Than's parents.

Medea couldn't help but meddle and it wouldn't be long before she gave her two cents on what I had done.

So when Hector's block was up, and the guard reports to his Luna instead...me. I granted permission, I wanted to give her a dressing down just as much as she felt I was over due one.

She exits the car, her nose already up in the air...already finding fault with something within this pack. But she forgets I have lived inside of hers, I know all of their faults...and this pack doesn't have any.

She is just bitter and twisted...never having wanted Hector to succeed. Still expecting him to be that 8 year old boy that had no choice but to move in after his mother died.

As if she was doing him a favour, when she was the one that ruined a happy family.

"Is that who I think it is?" Aubrey is peaking out of the sitting room curtains next to me, just as intrigued.

"Oh yes." I moan out as I take in Medea's appearance...a white pant suit with high heels.

"You need to tell the Alpha they are here." Aubrey says through gritted teeth, worried about what might go down.

"Huh, please...I can handle Than's disgruntled parents."

"Luna.." Aubrey groans at me as I move into the hallway to open the front door. But I don't give her warning a second thought, I was going to enjoy this.

"Alpha Damon, Luna Medea...this is a surprise.."

"Is it?" I forgot how grating her voice was on my ears.

"Where is he?" She barks out, looking past me towards Hector's and mine's office.

"Alpha Hector? He is otherwise engaged at the moment, I'm sure if he knew you were visiting us....Is there something I can help with?"

"We can wait." Alpha Damon nods, as he follows his mate through the front door.

"Certainly, do sit down..." I'm over exaggerating my politeness, to the point of sarcasm. Damon has picked up on it, he always did. Medea just seems oblivious to my change in tone.

"Are you sure there isn't something I can help with..." My eyes dart to Aubrey standing by the curtains, she refuses to leave me. They both sit on the couch, Medea looking as if it pains her to sit in another alpha's house. I sit on the opposite couch, my body sitting forward...I'm not prepared to be sitting comfortably. "No, this is a family matter..."

"Well, I'd like to see if I can help...as Hector's mate and Luna..."

"Pardon?"

"We completed the bond only last night..." I smile out.

Her lips purse before she makes a strange expression, as if she is sucking on lemons. Before anger emerges in her demeanour.

"Let me get this straight...you deny my son of his Luna, yet take her other mate as her own."

I just knew she couldn't wait to try and jab that knife in.

"According to you, Than was only her mate...in fact from what I've been told you kicked Hector out of the hospital room when Alora was in the coma." I state out, my tone remaining super sweet.

"I bet you are loving this aren't you, seeing my boy in pain." I hold back on the need to roll my eyes.

"He accepted her rejection Medea, he wasn't willing to fight for her, fight to the death..."

"Why you.." She is up in a flash, her nails scratching along the length of my arm as she tries to yank me towards her.

Damon pulls her back, keeping her in check, which is a shame...I would have welcomed the excuse to fight her.

I don't look at my arm, I don't give her the satisfaction of her thinking it pains me...it does slightly as the wound starts dripping with blood. The bitch.

"What upsets you more, that you have lost your luna or the chance to secure the future of your blood line?" I sneer at them both, holding back the need to drain them of their energy.

"How could you be so cruel. I came to you without a pack, without a family and you took advantage of me." I shake my head in disgust as memories flood to me.

"Kaia..." Alpha Damon's tone is soft...perhaps holding remorse. Who knows.

"No Damon, I'm talking now. The ironic thing is that you were going to harvest my organs for another to bare your bloodline, when I was already pregnant with your sought after heir. You should have let me leave, you should have let me runaway...here I found solace yet you kept pushing, kept twisting everything. You both have an equal part in what has happened to Than...to me..."

I was done, they can leave...I won't give them an opportunity to meet with Hector.

Standing up, I start to walk away from them in the distance of the front door to kick them out when I stop and turn to Damon.

He has to hear this.

"You abandoned one child for the other. When you should have loved them both equally...should have treated them the same. You have no idea of the son you let go..."

A creak on the floorboards behind me makes my head turn around to find Hector frozen in the hallway, utterly perplexed by the unannounced arrival of his Father and Step Mother.

By his side is Alpha Orpheus.

"Orpheus...what are you doing here?" Medea's voice is sharp as her eyes almost burst out of their sockets.

"My mate is in this pack....what you are two doing here?" His eyes flash between Medea and me, before they fall upon my arm.

Hector hasn't realised, I think he is too stunned to have registered the slight scent of my blood.

"Now that is a question I am most curious about..." Hector growls as his eyes narrow and his hands clench.

"Than.." Medea starts but I cut her off.

"Than made his choice a long time ago, as did you both. If you want anyone to blame...look in the mirror. I won't discuss this any further. Alora is my twin sister, my beta...my responsibility." "She is a member of our family.."

"No, she is a member of our family now. She was taken from me, from my parents at birth.."

I had been thinking on Alora's adoption...not that I would blame the adopted parents that showed her nothing but love...but surely as the pack leaders, Damon and Medea would have researched her parentage...would have been informed of the situation of her birth. And if they weren't, then what kind of underhanded people are they dealing with. But this I have decided to keep to myself.

Medea just can't help herself...she takes a threatening stance towards me, my hand inadvertently touching the scratch marks I had already received.

"Are you sure Medea, I let you lay hands on me once...you won't get another chance."

My words seem to register with Hector as he sniffs the air, his eyes flashing with anger to my arm.

"You touched my Luna?" Hector is by my side in a flash, his hand ripping me to his side. His growl is unworldly, which is mirrored by his own Father.

"I'm sure.." Orpheus tries to diffuse the spiralling confrontation, but he doesn't understand the bad blood between us all.

"Get them out of here Orpheus before I make Than an orphan as well as mate-less." His threat even shakes me to my core, as his aura darkens.

Orpheus starts escorting them both out, until Damon stops and lets them continue ahead. He turns to look at Hector, his shoulders slumped slightly.

"Congratulations on finding your mate Hector..." I am left speechless by his words. Whether they are intended to ease the tension I don't know, but they fail in reducing Hector's threatening anger. If anything it only strengthens it.

"I don't know how you did it?" Hector murmurs as he picks my arm up and starts licking my arm. I swallow hard, I still wasn't used to such a show of affection in front of others. It still makes me weak at the knees.

"Did what?" Damon watches Hector clean my wound.

"Left Mum. Because I don't care what you claimed at the time...what you still claim..you loved her more than you will ever let on. I was there, I was present...you can't turn off that kind of love."

Damon's eyes dart to the front door, Medea and Orpheus arguing by the car...her ears not on our conversation.

"I could never give Kaia up, I could never deny our love."

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Hector POV

6 Months Later

Kaia's emotions have been all over the place of late and I know why...today is the day that she is shutting down the Nightshade Reformed pack and relocating all pack members to the Clear Waters pack lands.

The entire pack, starting anew.

Together we had made the decision that this would be the best option going forward. But not a decision we made lightly.

I have been on the council for the last 6 months and the neighbouring Alphas to the Nightshade Reformed packs are trying to call me out for corruption, trying to taint Kaia's successes. Claiming I was using my position on the council in her favour. It's not true, we found documents that Beckett had signed the ownership of the land over to Kaia...documents that she had signed before his operation.

But the council questioned the legality of the documents, wishing to investigate things further. Which is the last thing we wanted. So together, Kaia and I decided the best option would be to move the entire pack back into her childhood pack. The pack she does fully own...and nobody can ever dispute that.

Even though she is the Alpha of the Clear Waters pack...she has decided to give Alora the opportunity to lead the pack as the Beta. Give her the chance to get to know the pack she never did as a child.

No matter how much I have tried to discuss the topic with Kaia, she is determined to move in with me at the Dark Phantom pack, as my Luna.

Long term I am expecting us to make more changes but for now, it is important to get the pack members off the disputed land...and get them to the safety of the Clear Waters pack.

Lands that were never attacked by outsiders...and I think that is why Kaia has become so internally conflicted recently. She is agreeable to the move yet also is not willing to return to the lands herself...because of the truth she knows.

Even though I have ensured all the killed pack members have been given an appropriate burial and the buildings have been restored...certain memories are hard to move on from.

Heading upstairs, I find her talking to herself as she is packing her final bits before we leave. Her emotions through the bond where a mixture of sadness to be separating from Alora, concern that she was making the right choice...and happiness to be returning home with

me.

Wanting to ease her concerns, I wrap my arms around her as she folds clothes on the bed.

"Everything will be okay...as long as we are together." I left my body envelope her as my lips nibble on her neck.

"I know...Its just.."

"You will miss your twin...I get it. But she has Ezra to help her."

As soon as we made the decision, it didn't take long for Ezra to request permission to join Alora at the Clear Waters pack. I would lose my Beta, but it felt like the right decision going forward.

They had a close connection with one another and although Kaia hasn't noticed it, I have.

A pull to one another..

Kaia wriggles out of my hold, becoming more flustered as her skin feels clammy to touch. She moves away from me, towards the ensuite...I can feel her need to be away from me through the mate bond...something I have never felt before... "What's going on?" I stop her movement by gripping onto her elbow.

"Nothing..." She responds, unable to meet my eyes.

"Kaia?"

My wolf pushes forward, alert signals ringing off at her odd behaviour. Except for her above warm body temperature, she seemed to be well.

Her heart rate quickens, my wolf growls in my head from the change in rhythm...she was hiding something.

Placing my thumb under her chin, I lift her face up so her eyes have no choice but to meet mine. I can feel my wolf peering out from my eyes, as he looks deep into her soul. "What is it, what's wrong?" I press.

Then I hear it...

Another heart beat...it was fast and it certainly wasn't hers.

I intensify my hearing, a smile forming upon my face...three little heart beats.

"You're pregnant, why didn't you tell me?" It makes sense now, why she hasn't been shifting recently.

"Because I was worried..." Her face drops back down as she sighs out.

"Worried about telling me?"

"No, worried it might happen again..."

My smile softens as her eyes glisten with anguish...she meant her miscarriage. Pain registers in my chest that she had been going through this alone without telling me...

"No more secrets, you tell me anything and everything. I'm sure the babies..."

"Babies?" Her eyes look back up at me in complete shock.

"There are three little heart beats. Did you not know?"

"No...I just...I knew I was late but.."

"Kaia, have you not been to the Doctor?" I try to hold back the annoyance from my wolf, these were his pups too. It was one thing for her not to tell me yet, but to now seek medical support...

"As soon as we are back at the Dark Phantom pack, we are seeing the Doctor!"

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I place the scan picture of the triplets on pride position on my desk, Kaia sitting neatly on my lap. My head doctor has given her a full bill of health, except for a few additional vitamins needed for Kaia, the pregnancy seemed to be a strong one. The image of Kaia's face when seeing the triplets on the scan monitor will forever be burned into my memory.

Two boys and one girl...

"You didn't tell Alora?" I say as I touch the scan picture again, I can't seem to put it down.

"No, I will...she has enough on her plate at the moment..."

"Kaia, this is happy news...she will be happy."

"I know she will, just let her settle in first."

I don't press any further, Kaia will tell Alora when she is ready.

A knock on the door, has me picking the scan picture up again and placing it in the top drawer of my desk. I recognised his knock now and although I trust him... he might inadvertently mention something to a family member...and I'm not ready for the general outside world to know about Kaia's pregnancy. "Enter!" I announce to Alpha Orpheus, my hands gripping Kaia tightly around her hips. If she found my possessiveness of her hard to take before...she's got a wake up call coming now that that she is pregnant.

"Orpheus...I didn't know you were here today?" Kaia greets him warmly.

Orpheus had needed to return to the Red Thorn pack a while ago, and has been visiting Rosa frequently. She was out of the hospital now and back at home with her family.

"Just a flying visit to speak with you both.."

"Oh?"

"Rosa has agreed to join me at my pack, for me to mark her and for her become my luna!" Orpheus informs us as he rubs the back of his tattoo covered neck.

"That's great news Orpheus." I offer out only to be met with Kaia's hard stare.

"What if she isn't ready?" Kaia's voice enters my mind, her bottom lip going in between her teeth. She was fiercely protective of Rosa, and always will be.

"Orpheus is a good man Kaia, he will look after her." I respond back encouragingly.

"She'll be safe with me Kaia, I make you that promise." Orpheus takes a step forward, his back held high...the usual thin cigar sitting behind his ear. He had shown up for Rosa, been with her throughout. I could tell he didn't want to return to the Red Thorn pack without her, but he had no choice. Local conflict that his father had created years ago was coming back to bite them.

"Do I have your permission?" He looks to us both.

"You don't need our permission Orpheus.." Kaia starts, she was right.

As mates, Orpheus and Rosa could determine themselves which pack they lived in. But Orpheus was a man of honour, unlike his Father.

"But you have our blessings." Kaia finishes with a gentle nod.

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Hector POV

6 years later

"What about these ones Daddy?"

"Yes Josie, Mummy will love those. What else did you find?" I ask Josephina as we are picking wild flowers in the meadow for Kaia.

Tomorrow is our anniversary of when Kaia marked me and each year, I ask her to marry me. She hasn't said yes yet, but now the children are older they can aid me with my yearly ritual. She can't say no to the children, surely.

"Jaxon and Jace, if I can't see you, you can't see me!" I growl out to the boys as they have run off, hiding in the overgrown meadow.

My concern for their whereabouts is as their Father, not as their Alpha. If the border's hadn't been untouched for the past six years, I would have thrown my alpha command on them.

The shifter community has been the safest it has ever been but I know better than to get comfortable, to get complacent.

I know the White Moon pack is still out there...still planning on taking my mate. The stillness of the past 6 years isn't a sign it has debanded, it is a sign they are planning

something new... the white wolf has been in existence for centuries, as has the White Moon pack. To them 6 years is nothing...no time at all.

The main concern now is that the white wolf has children...my children. Each border patrol I organise, each pack meeting I plan...it is with the desire to keep my mate and children safe.

"How about this daisy...Mummy like's daisies."

I hear giggling close by, the boys as always looking to jump out at their sister to try and scare her. But there isn't a lot that scares Josie.

"I can hear you.." She tuts, scowling at the long grass behind me... pinpointing their location easily. More giggles ensue before they start wrestling playfully with one another. Out of the three of them, she was the one I was most worried about.

My research seems to have shown a pattern of the white wolf only existing at one time. Kaia's mother died when she was a child, years before her wolf would have come to her.

When the time came, Kaia was given the white wolf as were her female ancestors before her. It is clear by the research that it is always the female gene the white wolf presents itself in.

The first born always having been a female. Yet we have already broken that tradition as Jaxon was first, then Jace...followed by Josie.

"Ow get off me." I hear Jace groan at Jaxon before he comes out of hiding, his knee bleeding.

"Dad...Jaxon hurt me." Jace moans as he hobbles over to his sister and me. It's always fun and games until one of them gets hurt.

"Alpha?"

""Yes Riley?"

"Alpha Orpheus and Rosa have just entered the gates." Riley mind-links me to inform me of some guests. Rosa had been Luna of the Red Thorn pack for some time, but even now, my beta, Riley struggles to call her by her title. I suppose she will always be his little sister. "We are coming back." I respond before cutting the mind-link and picking up the bunch of flowers.

"Jaxon." I warn out only for him to now come out of hiding, head hung low.

"It really hurts." Jace blows on his knee, Jaxon rolling his eyes at his brother's reaction.

"Here, I have a plaster in my bag." Josie reaches for her small unicorn bag before pulling out a plaster and placing it on her brother's knee.

"That will help for now, but we will need to clean it when we get to the house." She orders before placing her hand within mine as she always does.

As soon as we enter the house Josie cries out to Kaia, informing her that Jaxon hurt Jace as per usual. With a clicked tongue Kaia comes running into the hallway before rolling her eyes at the bunch of flowers in my hand. She had been avoiding me all day, like she does, every year on this exact date.

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"Really?" She clicks her tongue as she checks Jace's knee, only for a high pitched screaming Cleo to run into the hallway and launch herself at my middle son.

Cleo is Orpheus' and Rosa's daughter and because she is often here, she treats this house like her own. The triplets love having her over, she is only 4 and enjoys the attention they give her. "Mummy, Daddy wants you to marry him..." Josie states walking past as she holds Cleo's hand.

This has completely backfired. It's not quite the cute question we had planned and this was already going more south than last year.

Last year I got the children matching T-shirts...which had printed on them "Mummy marry us?"...I've not seen those T-shirts ever again.

"There's a saying Josie darling, if it isn't broke, don't fix it." Kaia tries to follow her daughter towards the kitchen but I don't let her. I grip onto her hip pulling her closer into me...letting my senses fully inhale her intoxicating scent. "Marry me?" I growl out teasingly.

"We've spoken about this..."

"No, we haven't actually. You just skirt around the issue."

"Hector..." She groans out in my hold, her body trying to fight the urge to not succumb to my lustful desire.

"Why won't you marry me?" I say through the mind-link, so little children's ears are unable to hear my yearly rejection.

"It's not about you...you know that. I've been married before and it was a disaster."

"This is different."

"Exactly...so let's not change it." She places a kiss on my lips before escaping me.

I walk towards my office where Orpheus and Rosa are already waiting for me.

"Alpha, Luna...what a pleasure." Rosa has special permission of free movement in and out of this pack, her family are still based here and her brother is the Beta. Often she comes on her own with Cleo, but Orpheus makes a point of asking Riley to pick them up...or liaise between our warriors.

He maintains his promise of keeping her safe.

"Well, we have news." Rosa looks behind her as Kaia enters and closes the door, leaving Aubrey to entertain the triplets and Cleo for a short while.

"News?" Kaia's ears perk up, as she moves to stand by me.

Never liking her to stand next to me as I sit, I pull her into my lap, my hands still to this day needing to touch her in some way.

"We are expecting." Rosa cries out in excitement looking up at Orpheus. Their eyes hold each other's before Orpheus winks at her, a proud smile forming upon his face.

"That;s amazing congratulations." Kaia jumps out of my lap, racing to Rosa and pulling her into an embrace.

I stand up, offering my hand out to Orpheus passing on my own congratulations.

"Does Cleo know? The triplets will be so happy, our family is getting bigger." Kaia beams out, her hand touching Rosa's stomach.

Kaia's and Rosa's relationship was extremely close, they bonded from the word go and that has never changed.

Yes, Alora was Kaia's twin sister, but Rosa also held a special place in Kaia's heart.

"We must celebrate..." Kaia moves out of the room soon returning with a bottle of champagne.

With the door open we can hear Cleo telling the triplets that she is going to be a big sister. As the bottle of champagne pops, the triplets rush into the room wrapping their arms around Rosa and Orpheus.

The boys were extremely fond of the alpha, who has made an effort to be in the triplet's lives from the day they were born. In the past six years, he is the only member of that extended family we have heard from.... The end.

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

Hello my pack members,

Denied by Destiny: Trapped in the Shadows of the Mate Bond has now been completed. The second book based around the next generation will start immediately after this book...no need to find it on goodnovel, it will appear here with new chapters. The new book will be based around Josie and will be called Denied by Destiny: Stepping out from the Shadows.

Thank you for your patience as I revisited chapters (a lot) to make this book the best it can be. I am new to this way of writing, which I love, and sometimes need to pull myself back and review... Thank you for being on the journey with me and for remembering that I have only been doing this for a year now.

One day I started reading shifter romances and thought, I would love to write one... that was only a little over a year ago and have learnt so much already. So I am really excited to see what the next few years bring.

As I have been concentrating on Denied by Destiny, I have been unable to update Pierce's and Libby's story which I will now start to update - thank you for bearing with me. This is under the Legacy of the Alpha King saga and separate to Denied by Destiny collection. Thank you to those of you that reached out to give their support, you are more appreciated than you will ever know.

As we move into the next story, reviews are extremely helpful but please do not mark me down for 1 - 2 chapters per a day. That is what is expected from GN authors and I push out as many as I can for you. If you know me, I love leaving you with the suspense of cliff hangers. But I try not to leave you hanging for too long.

Lots of love.

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

Book 2 - Denied by Destiny: Stepping out from the Shadows

Prologue

3 years ago

-Josie-

"This won't work." My lack of confidence in Maya's plan is making me want to return back to the taxi.

"It will, just don't look the bouncers in the eyes." One of Maya's friend states to me as she pulls me into her, preventing me from escaping into the taxi that was preparing to drive away.

What was I thinking, why do I always trust Maya. We were supposed to be on one of our regular girls camping trips, that was always my go to excuse for spending a night away from home. I haven't been camping since I was 14, instead trading my hiking boots for high heels.

Usually we had no problems getting into an over 18s club, mainly because the rest of the girls were over 18...but the over 25s night felt like a hard push, even for Maya.

Maya and the girls were from Uncle Jude's pack, there would be no chance in hell of me getting away with this with my friend's from my family pack. Not only did I have eyes on me the entire time, my brothers had a way of spoiling any fun when it came to alcohol and dressing provocatively.

"Shit...he's not meant to be on tonight." Maya groans as she looks past the long queue to the staff managing the door.

"That's it, I'm leaving." I declare loudly pulling my short hem down and making my way back to the taxi rank.

Looks like a solo night of camping for me. Dad made sure I packed everything in the back of Maya's car, so for keeping up with appearances purposes...I am fully kitted out to go camping.

"Not a chance.." Maya growls at me as she yanks me back into the queue, causing me to spin on my high heels and lose my balance.

I'm expecting a domino effect...of me knocking the entire row of girls over when strong arms steady me instead.

"Excuse me." I gasp out as I look up to find deep brown brooding eyes staring back at me.

Deep brown eyes that take my breath away.

"Ooh that might actually work. Excuse me gents, each of us need to pair up.." I hear Maya taking charge in the background but my eyes can't tear themselves away from the delicious eyes that continue to stare into mine.

"Your friend seems to have an issues with the staff on tonight." His low voice somehow has the ability to send small vibrations coursing through me.

I am also suddenly very aware of his strong grip on my hips.

I manage to tear my eyes away from his, travelling them down to his lips..where they linger for a fraction too long. A smirk entering onto his lips, yes I must seem rather amusing right now.

What is the matter with me.

"It's rude to eavesdrop." I centre my balance back, pushing away that coldness that settles over me from the lack of his touch as I take a step back.

He and his friends were definitely not humans, only werewolves had such rich auras and dominant demeanours.

"What pack are you from?" I ask, running my hands down my curves to readjust my dress, the warmth of his stare burning into me.

"Shh this is a human club." His eyes flash to that of his wolf as I catch him watching me. His deep brown eyes bleed out to a silver colour, his wolf peering out.

Mesmerising.

I lean back as his face moves closer to mine, the corner of his mouth curling up again into that amused smirk. I was fixated by this male, and I think he knows it. Maya walks over to us, gripping my wrist and pushing my hand closer to this male's. He looks down at my hand that is forcibly brushed against his.

"You owe us a round for this." One of his friends continues to tease at Maya, who was born for such flirtacious scenarios and always came out the victor.

"Get lost. We are doing you a favour."

"How's that now?"

"You're entering with the hottest females here tonight. Josie, you good?" Her eyes flash to me as I am the only one not holding my partner's hand. If I didn't find this brooding stranger so alluring I would be bright red with embarrassment from Maya making a small scene. "Can't we just go.." I give Maya and pinned look, a silent plea for us to leave before we get turned away by the staff.

"No.." She gives me that defiant glare, the one that lets me know I am playing with the big girls now and one of them.

As the queue starts moving in front of us, I take a deep breath in and grab my mystery man's hand. As soon as my fingers entwine around his I take a step forward, letting that level of confidence wash over me...I was the daughter of two alphas after all. Something odd happens, as soon as he concedes defeat and wraps his fingers around mine...an explosion of tingles erupt across my hand.

Gasping, I look down to find him also staring at our entwined hands.

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I was so entranced by that sensation that I didn't even give the bouncers a second glance...and I was inside the club without realising I had stepped inside.

"Nicely pulled off if I do say so myself. Thank you lads." Maya confidently smiles as the other girls break away from their pretend dates, heading in the direction of the bar.

I remain rooted to the spot, my body continuing to be mesmerised by his touch.

As soon as I break away, I regret it instantly...shaking my head in disbelief already deciding to order two drinks to break me out of this mental state of haziness. I've had crushes before..but this was borderline obsessive.

"Where are you going?" His hands grip my elbow pulling me back to him, those sparks returning once more.

"To get a drink."

His eyes roam over me, a hungry look in his eyes...like a predator and for once I'm quite excited to be the prey.

He walks me over to a quieter bar in the VIP section. I lean up against it, trying to act cool...as if I belong here in this club for over 25s. That I belong in this VIP section.

I find my friends in the distance, the group of males continuing to follow them around as they move from the bar to the seating area. Maya was right, they were the hottest girls here tonight, and judging by the jealous eyes of the other females in the club, the men we walked in with were the catch of the night.

"And for your friend?" I turn my head to find a female behind the bar only having eyes for my mystery man. Her expression turning to a resting bitch face when she glances briefly at me.

"Vodka orange." I grunt out, a level of jealousy hitting me.

This was absurd I had only just met with him, why did I think I had a right to dibs on him.

She spills my drink slightly as she passes it to me on the bar top as her eyes scowl into mine...stylish, real stylish of her.

He then places my hand back in his and walks me over to the dance floor, just as a R&B song fills the sound systems.

His hand snakes around my lower back as he takes a step closer into me, those eyes looking down at me from his great height. That hunger remaining in them.

My eyes dart to my friends that were eyeing me from their table, Maya giving me a triumph smile.

His closeness is incredibly intoxicating, not that I am all innocent...my hips are moving with perfect rhythm to the beat of the song.

His lips are by my temple, his breath fanning against my eyelashes. I look up, my heart thudding loudly within my chest as he bends his body down slightly before his lips crash into mine, claiming them.

I've never been kissed before. I always thought my first kiss would be soft, slow...but this was beyond my wildest dreams.

He had a thirst, a hunger...he was a master as he plunge his tongue within my mouth to taste every inch of me.

He wasn't a boy trying to be a man, he was a man...and he kissed like one.

I let my body sink into his, letting him control the kiss. Something deep within me told me I could trust him.

A commotion breaks our lips apart, my lungs grasping for much needed air. I search the club for potential danger to witness Maya being dragged to her feet by Uncle Jude's beta, Edmund.

The club's security staff rush over to aid the girls, before they realise who it is and start requesting to see ID's. Uncle Jude had connections with this club, Edmund most likely a regular in the accounts office.

"How many years are you under 25?" My hot kisser pulls me to the side, which works perfectly in hiding me from Edmund. Without my wolf yet, and not being a pack member, he won't be able to feel my exact location until he spots me. So hiding aside and being towered over works in my favour.

"A few..." My eyes cast off Maya before returning to my mystery man.

"What's your name?" I ask him as my hand lifts up to stroke the side of his face, only for him to catch it within his and lower it, shaking his head.

"Oh no, you don't get out of that one so easily. How many...5?"

That would make me 20, so no.

I look up at him with a slight apologetic look within my eyes.

"Fuck more?"

"9.."

""You're 16?"

"Age doesn't matter.." I take a step closer into him, trying to recreate that energetic buzz between us.

"Oh believe me...when I'm 26 and you are 16...that does matter."

I was the top of my class, I was the top female in my pack in combat training for my age....I have never felt young or not enough until this very moment. Almost sensing my deflated emotions, the pad of his thumb hooks under my chin, as he tilts my head up to look him in the eyes.

"I'm just too old for you."