

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 6

Mila POV:

"You've got this babe" I assure Axton as he watches the final warriors load up.

"We do" he says confidently. "We will have 50 warriors hanging 10 miles back in case anything goes south, but I'm hoping to hear what he has to say and come to a peaceful resolution for the sake of our pack members." "I'll be thinking of you" I say with a small smile, trying to keep my inner turmoil hidden beneath a fake show of bravery.

"And I you" he smiles before giving me a soft kiss. "When I get back Mila, I'll be making you mine" he whispers in my ear, making heat pool below yet at the same time my heart breaks from his words.

As they all drive off I wave until the last car is out of sight, before taking a few shaky breaths and pulling my phone out.

The message from the unknown number is still there, staring at me clear as day. "Mila, my gorgeous mate. If you think you have gotten away from me simply because I accepted your rejection then you're wrong. So very wrong. I've taken the White Mountain Pack, but their fate isn't in my hands...it's in yours. Come to me and I will hand the pack over to Axton with no harm caused. If you don't then expect every pup, parent, omega to gamma to be killed and it will all be because of you. I look forward to hearing from you, my Mila. It's been too long. B x"

"How could he?" I hear Alia whimper in my head. "How could he do this to us still?"

"Because he lost us Alia, you heard what Nova said. Alphas don't like to lose, and Bruno had just lost me to who he views as his biggest rival" I sigh.

Staring at my phone, my fingers hovering over the keyboard I bite back the tears that are threatening to fall. "You know what we have to do" I whisper to Alia as I feel her pain spread through me. "For everyone." "I do" she whispers back before retreating further into my mind.

"Bruno. Be at the town - Mounthausten, by the old church- in an hour and 45 minutes. I will be there, alone. I expect all of your warriors to have left the White Mountain Pack by this time. Don't think to play me."

As my finger hovers over the send button I bite back a sob and press it before I can second guess myself. Taking a few more deep breaths I look up and plaster on a smile as I make my way up to the office quickly. Printing off the paperwork that I need, I look around one final time before picking up my keys. Seeing Axtons phone still on the desk, I hesitate before quickly grabbing it and putting it in my jeans pocket. Closing the door softly I then make my way down to the garage. Sliding into my car, I reverse normally and make my way towards the pack gates where I see a waiting guard.

"Mila" he greets with a bow of his head. "I didn't realise you'd be following them?" He asks furrowing his brows.

"Oh I'm not" I chuckle waving my hand and forcing my self to look relaxed. "I'm off to get some supplies for Brea, here I've got the invoice and delivery note. Jax did say I would need those." Reaching over I grasp the paper from the passenger seat and hand them to him, proud that my hands don't tremble to give myself away.

"Ah she's got you on a supply run has she" the guard jokes as I chuckle along with him.

"Not this time, Jax asked me. I think we all know Brea deserves some time to relax after feeding the masses like she has recently, don't you agree?" I joke back. I'm careful to drop my brothers name in once again so the guard doesn't question me further and to prevent Brea at risk of being in trouble once they find out.

"Thoughtful of him" he comments before he hands them back to me. "Drive safe Mila" he smiles politely before tapping my car roof for me to continue.

As I reach the 5mile mark from the pack I finally let the tears fall from my eyes, guttural sobs tearing from me as I drive closer to my destination. After an hour of driving, my tears have finally stopped falling and I pull into a car park. Looking in the mirror I see my eyes are bloodshot and puffy, my face streaked with my makeup making me look horrific. Quickly grabbing some water from the spare bottle I have in my car, I wipe my face clean and sit back, holding Axtons phone tightly in my hand.

"Alia..?" I ask wanting to feel her presence for comfort, but instead I'm met with silence. My wolf so far back in my mind with her grief, that she can't make herself come forward to speak to me. "Oh Alia, I'm so sorry this is our life. I love you" I whisper to her as the sorrow I feel for her intensifies further.

Looking down I log in to Axtons phone and bring up the camera feed of the white mountain pack, scrolling through them all I see no warriors from Bruno's pack in view of the lenses. In fact I see no one on any of them until I reach the final camera, the dining hall. In there I see what looks to be the entire pack, all crammed in together, with pups crying and clinging on to their parents for dear life. Please tell me I've done the right thing I tell myself.

Looking up I bite my lip as I consider what to do next. Swallowing when I realise I have committed now and there is no going back, I quickly scribble a note and put it with the phone in the cars glove box.

Picking up my own I see another message from the unknown number, my heart sinks as I realise it's Bruno.

"I'll be there, we did as you requested now it's time you hold up your end of the bargain. B
x

Gasping as a sob threatens to escape I hold back my emotions and shakily put the phone back in my pocket. Seeing that I had 20 minutes to reach the town of Mounthausten I set off, driving in a daze until I see the large welcome sign indicating I've arrived. Slowly down to a snails pace, I make my way to the old church where I see a large group of SUVs waiting. As I park I feel the tears begin to drip down my face once again as my body begins to shake. After a moment, I hear the car door open and I'm roughly pulled

from my seat and set on my feet. Sobbing, I force myself to look up as the familiar scent washes over me, once it caused shivers even when I was disgusted, now it simply repulses me.

Meeting his dark brown eyes as he smirks at me, triumphantly, my heart breaks as I am once again eye-to-eye with Bruno.

Giving me a toothy smile, he chuckles before looking me over. "Ah...Mila"

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 7

Jax POV:

"Bruno, we will be there in 2 hours. We are requesting a peaceful meeting to discuss moving forward" I say to him, hanging up before he has the chance to reply. "Done" I growl as I feel Nova press her body into my side from where she's sat next to me.

Sitting back as I let the tingles from her touch relax me, I look to where Luca and Axton are sat in the front. Both are tense and silent as we begin our journey to their pack. While behind us we have Alex and Elder Martin.

"I see the rest of the pack" I hear Luca tell Axton making me lean forward. Peering over his shoulder to look at the camera feed, I see the men from Bruno's pack, herding the

white mountain pack members towards a part of the pack house. "They're taking them all to the dining hall" Luca says with confusion in his voice.

"Perhaps its to make them all be in one place while they speak with us" Nova suggest.

"I don't know if that's a good thing" Luca mutters as Axtons hands grip the steering wheel tightly.

"I knew I should have put the extra CCTV outside of the packhouse as well" Nova exclaims in frustration as she jogs her leg impatiently. "Why didn't I go with my gut?!"

"I did" Axton says with a growl. "I continued the installation after you left as it was a good idea, but with everything that's been happening, I haven't had chance to finish it. I've checked the regular cameras outside and they're all down."

"I know it's easy to stress and think of "what if" situations but I suggest we all just try and stay calm until we get there" Elder Martin says.

"Elder Martin is right, we can't do anything until we are there" Alex says although his voice is short, reflecting his anger at this situation.

For the next 20 minutes the car is tense. I can feel Nova taking deep breaths to ensure her walls stay strong so as not to get overwhelmed by the high level of emotions.

Resting a hand on her thigh she sends me a grateful smile, despite the nerves racking her body.

"g**t" I hear Axton roar as the car jerks and he veers in the road.

"Alpha?!" Luca exclaims reaching over and grasping the wheel as Axton manages to stomp on the break and bring the car to a jerky stop.

"Pack tether.s.snapped," he gasps as he holds over his heart for a moment.

"g**t" Luca mirrors, as he grasps his alphas shoulder in

"We need to get there before there are more" Axton growls as he straightens himself.

"Fine, but I'm driving" Luca tells him as Axton hesitantly nods and they jump out to swap places.

"We're here" I hear Axton growl an hour and a half later as Luca pulls up the packhouse gates. Rolling the windows down the air feels heavy, the dark clouds above a symbol of

the somber mood. c*****g my head I frown. "It's quiet" I note as the car rolls down the long drive in to the territory.

Suddenly the car slams to a halt and Axton and Luca both leap from it, leaving the doors wide open and the engine running. Shooting me a shocked look Nova urgently motions for Laurence and I to move.

"Go" she shouts, before we quickly run after them. Skidding to a halt i take in the scene before me.

"Zak..?" Nova gasps as she reaches us. "Oh goddess."

In front of us is Zak, bent over with his hands and feet bound. Blood is pooled on the floor and his face is frozen in a scream, reflecting the pain of his last few moments.

"They killed him" Axton says horror at he stares at the body of his Gamma.

"Where are they?!" Luca asks as he looks around. Seeing we are half way to the packhouse, there are no signs of life around us.

"Ask some of the warriors to take Zak's body, we need to go further in. Something's not right" Axton says to Luca as he jogs back to the vehicles. Signalling for the car with the other warriors in to follow us, he jumps behind the wheel, waiting for us to get in before putting his foot down.

As we drive the extra few minutes down the drive I freeze as I begin to hear multiple heart beats. "I hear them" I tell Axton as he slows the car. Turning the final corner, the packhouse looms into view. Jumping out we cautiously approach. In front of us are all the remaining white mountain pack warriors, all have been bound and some have visible wounds to their bodies. Around them are 4 deep forest pack guards, each stood with multiple weapons trained on the warriors.

"Where is Bruno?" Axton asks as we approach. His eyes scan over his warriors as he attempts to mindlink them.

Sniffing the air I scent a trace of wolfsbane, "they won't be able to mindlink. I can scent wolfsbane, very faint but it's there."

"Alpha Bruno sends his regards" a guard says as he steps forward. His entire body covered in black, only revealing his dark green eyes.

"He's not here?" Alex asks stepping beside Axton.

"He's not" the guard repeats as Axton growls loudly.

"What the f**k is going on?" Axton snarls taking a step forward intimidatingly. "Why come here, take everybody and only kill one? Why did he do this? Where is he?"

"Alpha Bruno got what he came for, there was nothing else he needed" is all the guard says causing us to stiffen as we look between ourselves.

"I think they've left" Alex says looking around. Releasing his aura the guard doubles over as everybody bares their neck bar myself, Nova and Elder Martin.

"Tell me what he came for" Alex snarls as he grabs the man, digging his claws into his chest as he does so.

"We don't know" is all the guard says before he begins gasping for air.

"What the." Alex mutters as he drops him. Soon we hear gasping from other guards and lift our eyes to see the other three drop one by one. "Poison"

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 8

Jax POV:

With a loud snarl I step forward and rip the man's clothing.

Seeing the foaming at the mouth as he convulses, he draws his final shuddery breath before he stills. Kicking the dead guard to the side, Axton quickly rushes to the warriors with us all following close behind. "Are any of you harmed badly?" Axton asks them all as we frantically check them over.

"Wolfsbane, ones that resisted got some gashes" one says quietly as he struggles to stand. "They said if we fought back they would kill the women and pups, we had to step down. Are they ok, did anything happen to them?!" "I understand" Axton says looking around. "Do you know if there are more guards? We will find out just try and stay calm, you did well thinking of them and holding back.

Unfortunately sometimes the best way to protect is to not fight back."

"There were 3 other guards that remained" another warrior states.

"Luca go to the dining hall" Axton orders, "Alpha Jax can you please go with him?"

"Of course" I say and immediately follow my mates brother.

Alex nods his head at me as I pass him and Elder Martin in conversation, "I'll help here" is all he says.

Following Luca we step into the packhouse and immediately hear the muffled sounds of sobs and crying from the dining hall. Jogging round we stop as we take in the sight of the 3 dead guards outside the barricaded doors. "It doesn't make sense" I fume.

"It doesn't" Luca agrees as we both drag the guards to one side and work to remove the barricades. "Everybody!! It's Beta Luca outside, we are getting you out. Stay calm!" He shouts through the door as the sound of conversation immediately increases in volume. "Last one" I say to Luca as I lift with him. As Luca flings the doors open, I gasp as I take in the devastated looks on people's faces.

"Lukey" I hear a small girl cry as she rushes to embrace Luca.

"You're safe Dorothy, you're safe" he says as he scoops her off of the floor. "Is there anybody requiring medical attention?!"

"Just a few bruises" a woman mutters from nearby. "I think Angela needs checking, she was grabbed and pushed to the floor forcefully and she's with pup. There's no bleeding and another nurse has had a look but I think I need to take her for a scan to be sure." "Do it Natalia, when we know it's safe please" Luca says with a grateful nod. "I've asked Axton to notify the other warriors to approach us. If everybody could stay seated, we will get some food arranged for you all, your mates are anxiously waiting outside and the ones that were away will be here in the next 15 minutes. If you need anything, please come to me. I'm so glad you're all safe" he shouts around as they rush to thank us.

"Thank you Alpha" a young boy sobs to me from nearby. Crouching down I take his hand and ruffle his hair gently. "You've been so brave and everybody is so proud of you.

"Chin up little dude" I say as he leans in for a hug. "Thank you Alpha" his mum says emotionally.

"No need to thank me" I murmur.

"Jax, Luca, a word please" I hear Alex call from the foyer.

"Everybody stay calm, we are just going to have a check around" Luca calls in his gentle manner.

"Yes Alpha?" I ask as we arrive.

"Anything?" He asks Luca.

"Few bruises, one pregnant lady is going for a scan when its confirmed she's safe to go, other than that they re fine.

I've said we will get them some food and a drink" he says efficiently.

"Warrior, organise food and drink for them all please" Alex orders the nearest warrior we brought.

"Ok, so they haven't accessed the finances, you moved them to other accounts but you didn't get any notification to say they'd logged in or attempted to. No one is hurt, the only one killed was your Gamma. This is strange, apart from a bit of damage nothing else has happened I can see" Alex says.

"They got what they wanted?" Axton repeats furrowing his brows.

"I don't know" Luca sighs as he pinches the bridge of his nose. "We didn't have anything too valuable here."

"This isn't right" Axton growls pacing frantically.

"Have you let everyone at the midnight sky pack know that everybody is safe?" Luca asks Axton. "The remaining ones will be anxious to hear about their families."

"Not yet, can you call Mila Alpha Jax? I think I left my phone when we were in a rush" he says.

"Yeah" I reply quickly fishing my phone out and bringing it to my ear. Hearing it ring, but not be picked up, I quickly ring my ma.

"Jax? How did it go?" She asks worriedly as she picks up at the second ring.

"Everybody is fine, the Gamma is dead that's it. They left" I say bluntly.

"They left?!" She repeats in shock.

"Yes" I saw frowning. "Can you get Mila on the phone so Axton can speak to her please? I'll explain more when I can."

"Of course darling, give me two minutes I think she needed to catch up on some rest after what happened this morning. I haven't seen her but I'll go fetch her" ma explains.

"No worries" I reply. Passing the phone to Axton he raises it to his ear. "Ma has gone to wake her, she needed to sleep after this mornings ordeal" I explain to which he nods his understanding.

"We need to change all security passcodes, anything they could have taken information of. All information in the office needs to be checked, the safe needs to be checked and also all rooms" Axton says to Luca as he waits.

"Hi Amelia, yes fine thanks. Oh has she? I'll ask him" Axton says before turning to me.

"When is she due back from the supply run?" He asks.

"Supply run?" I ask in confusion. "I didn't send her on a supply run" I add. Hearing that his face turns white and the phone drops from his hand.

"Axton?" I bark stepping closer, as his face fills with pain.

"Mila..she left"

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 9

Alex POV:

"Explain" I growl as Axton stands there, his pain and anguish clear in his eyes. When he doesn't move, Nova rushes forward and collects the phone, quickly bringing it to her ear.

"Amelia? Hi, yes. What's happened?" She asks, her voice calm as she places a hand on Jax's chest. Her eyes narrow at her mate warning him to not interrupt. "Ok, is there any sign of her anywhere? Ok, let me call you back. Have your phone handy." With that she ends the call. She puts the phone down and takes a breath. "Mila isn't on the pack grounds, she left shortly after we did."

"SHE WHAT?" Jax roars as his body begins to shake in anger.

"Don't" I growl at him, knowing his anger will get us nowhere. As his eyes flash to mine, I shake my head and soften my features slightly.

Taking a breath he holds his hand over his eyes as he looks into her eyes before nodding for her to continue. "I apologise" he says quietly.

"Mila wasn't in her room, nor anywhere else and your mum noticed her car had gone. Mila apparently showed the gate guard an invoice, saying you had told her to get some supplies. Your mother assumed she was resting because of what happened to her this morning, I imagine it would have drained her so didn't know to raise the alarm" Nova tells Jax before Axton surges into motion.

"Where did she say she was going?" He demands.

"She didn't" Nova replies, holding his gaze steadily as his chest heaves with his angry breaths.

"f**k" he exclaims before he starts pacing.

"Ok, so Mila has left pack grounds and Bruno and his men left here with nothing of note" I say calmly, hiding my rising concern for Mila. "I think that's too much of a coincidence don't you?"

"Yes" Axton growls, his eyes flashing as his wolf moves forward. "Nova can you call Amelia back, I left my phone and perhaps Mila thought to leave me a message..or something" he adds on slightly desperately.

"Good idea" I say. Stepping closer Nova holds the phone out, putting it on loud speaker as she calls Amelia.

"Jax?" Amelia asks, picking up almost immediately.

"Ma I need you to go to the office and find Alpha Axton's phone, he left it and Mila may have attempted to contact him" Jax says as Nova continues to rest her hand on his chest in silent support.

"I'm in here now, give me a minute" Amelia replies, we hear a soft rustling as she looks around the office. After a moment we hear her confused tone as she tells us apologetically, "I'm sorry Alpha Axton, I can't see any phones here that aren't the desk ones. Are you sure you left it?"

"Positive" Axton says furrowing his brows. Suddenly his eyes widen as he spins to Luca, "trace it" he orders.

"You have a tracker?" I ask him as he nods before speaking.

"Yes, Axel actually helped install an app we could use a week or two ago, for both Luca and myself" he explains.

"Good thinking" I say in approval. "Look, I think it's more than likely that Bruno has somehow gotten Mila."

With that both Jax and Axton growl loudly, "relax" Nova says soothingly as I see her eyes narrow slightly in what looks to be concentration.

"I'm helping them" is all she links me, noticing my inquisitive look.

"What we need is you both to not let this anger consume you" I warn both Jax and Axton as they noticeably calm down.

"Thank you" Axton mutters as he looks to Nova.

Not replying but offering them both a soft smile, our heads snap up as we hear Luca exclaim, "Mounthausten? Your phone is showing it's there. but we haven't been there in at least 2 years."

"Mila" Axton growls. "Luca, I need you to stay here. Have a complete check of the territory and ready a report, ensure Angela gets checked out at the hospital asap and I need you to start changing all security passcodes, you know the drill."

"Yes Alpha, here use my phone to trace yours. Find out Luna" he replies quietly, passing his phone to his Alpha, before jogging off towards the dining hall.

"I'm staying here" Elder Martin informs me. He had stayed silent through the exchange as he listened to the information. "I will help Luca and also report what has happened to the council. Alpha King, as soon as you're back we need a meeting."

"Definitely" I agree. "Let's go" I order the others as we quickly make our way to the waiting truck. "I'm not bringing anyone else, I don't want to draw attention to ourselves and we don't know what we are heading into" I say quietly as we reach the truck. Nova, Axton and Jax all nod in agreement of my words before jumping in silently.

As Nova takes the wheel, she quickly roars down the drive leaving dust heavy in the air behind us.

"Why would she have left?" Axton asks breaking the silence.

"Knowing my sister, she would have done it because she thought it was the right thing to do" Jax replies, his voice quiet but strong. "She's either with Bruno or come up with another plan." "Another plan?" Nova asks frowning her brows.

"I don't know" Jax sighs. "Wishful thinking."

"Why the f**k would she leave, knowing we asked her to stay because it would be safer?" Axton growls, his anger and concern for his mate causing his voice to rise.

"Because she's a Luna" I say to him. His eyes soften slightly at my words, but his leg continues to bounce, showing his anxiousness.

"I've only just found her" is all he says, his voice strained as he catches Nova's eye in the mirror.

"You're destined to be together Axton, don't let this get in your way" she tells him equally as quietly. "Bruno will get what's coming for him, he should never have attacked your pack." "He also defied the council and our peace treaties I organised" I snarl.

"Exactly, he's gone against his Alpha King" Nova points out.

"Or has he?" I ask pensively as I stare out the window, a new worry now heavy on my mind.

"We don't know what's gone on, just wait" I tell them after a few moments of tense silence. Seeing the Mounthausten welcome sign I look to Axton and ask, "where is it showing your phone is?" "Outside the church" he replies, studying the phone.

Hearing a sharp intake of breath from Jax, my eyes flash to his. "What is it?" I ask.

"It may be just a coincidence" he replies.

"Too many coincidences here, tell me" I instruct him.

Pursing his lips at my order he nods, slightly hesitantly.

Rolling his shoulders he tells us all.

"It's where Mila first met Bruno."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 10

Mila POV:

Opening my eyes slowly, I blink as the bright light assaults my vision. "Ahh...bright" I rasp, my voice straining as my throat feels as scratchy as sandpaper. I attempt to lift my hand to cover my eyes, but my arm feels heavy and with a pained grunt I let it fall back to my side. Leaving my eyes closed, I slump back into my seat in defeat as I try to organise my thoughts.

Taking a deep breath, my body stiffens as Bruno's once enticing scent hits my nostrils. "Sweetheart" I hear him murmur as a low growl escapes me in response. Hearing his deep chuckle, his large hand soon grasps my own in a soft but controlling grip. "A drink." he prompts as I feel a bottle bump against my lips. Pausing as I hesitate to accept his help, my need for something to soothe my throat soon overpowers my concerns and I take a few tentative sips. Feeling the coolness of the water, I sigh in relief before stiffening once more as I hear Bruno's deep chuckle again.

Forcing my eyes open, I soon find Bruno's dark eyes trained on me. "What did you do?" I whisper, snatching my hand from his as forcefully as I can manage in my now weakened state.

"You were upset, I gave you something to help" he shrugs before leaning back in his chair. His posture is relaxed and he is oozing confidence as he continues to observe me. "If you need more rest, we are 30 minutes away." "From the Deep Forest Pack?" I ask him quietly, suddenly realising I don't recognise the view from the car.

Quirking a brow in amusement, his lips curl upwards slightly as he replies, "no.. that would be too obvious I'm afraid. This is somewhere to keep you safe."

"Safe?" I scoff in disbelief. Frowning at him, I purse my lips before continuing, "the word safe doesn't go hand in hand with you when it comes to me."

Flashing me a small grin, he shrugs once more, showing me how little my comment affected him. His eyes then rake over me unashamedly as he takes in my appearance. "Can you stop?" I ask him quietly as I flinch back in my seat. Seeing this, he frowns as his eyes flicker upwards to meet mine again.

"Stop?" he repeats leaning forward into my space.

"Looking me over as if I am some prized possession" I mumble as I turn my focus to the window.

With that I hear his loud laughter fill the vehicle, "surely me admiring you is better than anything else?"

"I'd rather not have had to see you again at all if I'm honest" I snap at him, without sparing him a glance.

"My, my...my Mila has gotten feisty" he chuckles, infuriating me further. "I have to say, meeting me outside of the church was a nice touch. It did make me reminisce I admit."

As he says that, images of last time I was here with Bruno flash through my mind. Having been at a friends, I was walking back to my car which I had left outside of the church. As I reached the car door, the delicious scent of freshly mown grass and pine trees had caused both Alia and myself to stand to attention. I remember standing and glancing around the car park desperately trying to catch a glimpse of another before I heard footsteps emerging from the side of the church. The feeling I had when Bruno appeared, his eyes immediately finding my own, was one of complete joy. He had come running over, wrapped his arms around me and spun me around as if I was in a fairy-tale. Looking at the man beside me, I can't help my face falling further as I realise how naive I had been, how impulsive and young. Despite it only happening less than a year ago, I feel I have matured quicker than I had planned because of him.

Seeing him watching my reaction, I quickly replace my sadness with anger before snarling "That wasn't the intention. Those few nice memories were buried a long time ago." "But they're still there" he points out, causing me to frown as he flashes a smug smile.

"I wish they weren't" I whisper before clearing my throat and changing the subject. "is everybody safe?"

"Yes" he replies shortly. "All my men are in vehicles around us, look behind and in front" he tells me gesturing with his thumb as I crane my neck to verify his words.

Breathing a sigh of relief, I turn back to watch the open fields we are passing by in a blur. Seeing us near a forest, the car begins to travel slower as we hit a more windy road.

After a few moments, I hear Bruno sigh rather dramatically.

Turning to him, I take in his frown, which I return when I ask

"what?"

"You aren't paying me much attention Mila" he says disapprovingly.

"You sound like a child complaining to his mother Bruno" I mock him as his lips narrow in response. As his posture stiffens, his face turns cold as he releases his aura. "I would show me some respect if I were you Mila, I am in charge now...is that clear? You're mine." "But I'm not anymore am I" I reply quietly, "it doesn't matter how much you try and force me to be, I am no longer your mate. Your chance disappeared as soon as you began treating me any less than I was worth."

I didn't want to break our bond" he tells me, "but I had to. I couldn't be wasting my time at the council building."

"That's your reason for breaking the bond?" I ask him in disbelief.

Chuckling he shakes his head, "no.. its the only reason you're going to get though. But it is nice to have you here, instead of with Axton" he smirks, disgust filling his features as he spits out my mates name. Feeling my lips tremble at the mention of my mate, I bite down on my lip hard to stop my upset from showing.

Seeing his eyes darken at my action, I immediately regret my decision. Releasing my lips I cower back from the growing hunger in his gaze.

"what are you planning with me?" I ask him, desperate to move his attention on.

"You'll be safe Mila, that's all you need to know" is his short reply as he sits back once more. I would suggest not fighting me, it would be in your best interest" he adds on, the warning clear in his tone as his face hardens.

Sitting back in defeat, I close my eyes as I rub my temples, trying to alleviate the pressure of a growing headache. Feeling for Alia in my mind, I hold back a sob as I realise I still cant reach her. The pain she is feeling and had to endure is too much for her still. "I'm here Alia" I whisper to her, hoping she's listening.

"Mila" I hear Bruno say, his voice quiet but sharp as my eyes fly open to meet his. "When you get here, stay close to me. You do as I say, and you don't ask questions...am I clear?"

When I say nothing., his eyes narrow as he slams his hand down in a fist on the seat beside him making me flinch." Am I clear?" he repeats with a growl, his eyes showing flecks of amber. Preston, is present. "Crystal" I mutter, not wanting to risk angering him further.

Seeing his body relax lightly, he forces a smile.

"That's good Mila, if you do as I say then you will have nothing to worry about" he tells me.

"But I do" I snap.

Smirking slightly he shrugs, his nonchalance angering me.

"Why are you so relaxed about this? Why break the bond only to force me to come with you? Why defy the council...for me?" I fire off questions, hoping to catch him off guard and to get some answers. Instead, I met by his lips curving into a large smile, "for you?"

"he repeats with a chuckle. "This isn't for you, you're just a nice bonus."

"A nice bonus?" I ask in disbelief once again.

"Yes" he grins. "I still remember everything about you Mila, your sweet taste, the way you murmured my name, screamed my name even."

"STOP" I shout as my face fills with horror. "Please tell me that's not the case Bruno. You don't get me like that Bruno.

Do you think I'm going to forget everything you put me through? Everything you said to me in the past isn't forgotten, what you did up until this morning isn't forgotten.

With that his smug smile doesn't even falter, you're here now Mila, things can change."

"I'm here now because I'm just part of a plan, a pawn in your game...of that I'm certain" I mutter.

"Ever so observant Mila" he grin, his eyes glinting with mischief, while he doesn't deny anything of what I said." Don't fight it Mila, if you do then everyone will only suffer more...

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 11

Jax POV:

Driving up to the front of the church, our attention is immediately drawn to Mila's BMW that has been parked under the oak tree near the front. "Mila's car...shit!" Axton exclaims before flinging the door open and jumping out before Nova stops our vehicle. Copying him, I leap after him and by the time he reaches Mila's car I'm close enough behind to catch the door as he pulls it open with force. Inhaling deeply, I catch the lingering scent of Bruno along with my sister's familiar scent. "Bruno was here, I can smell him" I snarl to Axton as my face contorts in fury.

"Jax search the other side" Alex orders me as he holds his phone up to his ear when he reaches us, "Nova have a look round the car park please" he adds on before stalking away to use his phone. Running to the other side, I slide into the passenger seat while Axton

rifles though the drivers side. "nothing here of note" he tells me in frustration as he then moves round to look in the boot.

Seeing the glove box, I immediately open it and my eyes fall on two phones along with some paper, all tucked under the drivers log book. Picking them up, I swiftly rise from the car seat and hold one out the Axton over the roof, "is this yours?" I check knowing the others to be my sisters.

"That's mine" he confirms as he reaches to take it from my hand. "She wanted us to be able to find her didnt she" he states as he opens the phone up for us to see it logged in to the camera of his pack still. "Did she know it could be traced?" I ask him.

"Yes, we spoke about how clever Axel is and I mentioned hers being done so I would stay sane, kind of as a joke but also serious. She laughed me off and said something about not wanting her brothers to know where she was all the time, then I told her Luca and I both had it on ours and she said she would think about it" he explains.

"Look through them" I tell him quietly as I also hand him Milas phone. Seeing movement out the corner of my eye, I look up to see Alex and Nova in quiet conversation as they both continue searching the rest of the car park. Looking back down, I shuffle through the papers in my hand. The first is the copy of the invoice used by Mila to leave the territory.

"That gate guard is going to be spoken to" I snarl angrily when I note the date of the invoice was more than two weeks prior.

"The guard wont have doubted your sister" Axton says absentmindedly as he scrolls through his phone.

"He still should have done his job properly" I quickly retort as I move to the next piece of paper.

"I'm not sticking up for him, he let my f*****g mate go" Axton is fast to snap back as he puts his phone in his back pocket. "Nothing on mine" he tells me before opening Mila's. As I look at the last two pieces of paper which are folded over, I notice one is addressed to Axton and the other to myself.

"Mila wot have gone withut a plan" I hear Zeus pipe up from wheres he's been watching intently in my mind. "Our sister is clever and she knows Bruno better than any of us, she wont have gone in there not thinking of something I'm sure." "I hope youre right" I mutter to him. My thoughts are soon interrupted by Axton's angry outburst.

"f*****g BRUNO" Axton yells as he slams his fist down on the car roof. "When i get my hands on that fucker, he's going to regret everything he's done today and in the past" he snarls as his body begins to shake with Rex's need to shift. "Show me" I say to him calmly, aware that my simmering rage will do no good in this situation. Holding my hand out for the phone that he is still grasping tightly in his hand, I walk round to his side.

"The top messages" he spits out as he slams the phone onto my palm. Opening it up, I look through the short conversation with the unknown number. As I read the messages I can't stop the growls escaping me as my anger grows once more. "Jax? Love, are you ok?" I hear Novas soft, concerned voice ask me as she nears.

"She made a deal with him" I say through gritted teeth, "her for the pack.."

"f**k, I thought as much" Alex swears grimly.

"She gave herself up Alex" I snap, angered by his lack of frustration.

"Unfortunately, it's what many Lunas would do" he says quietly. "Especially new ones...she will have felt a duty to protect them, whether she has had her ceremony or been marked, she is the destined mate of the Alpha of the White Mountain Pack, as a result she wants to protect them. I was hoping my assumptions would be wrong, but I knew it was unlikely."

"Well you werent wrong" I snap at him.

"Jax.." Nova warns me. "Reel it in, you have a right to be angry, but not with Alex."

Snarling, I spin on my heels and look up only to be met with Axtons furious gaze, "hes got MY mate, YOUR sister!? We have to find them, and quickly!"

"What do the notes say?" Alex asks, directing our anger elsewhere. When I look back at Axton, I see him now tracing where Mila wrote his name with sadness filling his features.

With a grunt, I hold the note open and read it out aloud.

"Jax. I know you'll be angry with my decision, hurt that I defied your orders and upset that I have most likely put myself at risk once more. But I want to assure you that, whatever happens, I wont be blind any more. My eyes have been open to who Bruno truly is for a while now, and I wont have the matebond there to sway my emotions any longer. I am an Alphas daughter and I will behave as such. I had to do this to protect those that are innocent, what is one persons suffering to save that of many..? I love and appreciate everything you have done for me, and I'm sorry I'm putting you through this once again. But I need you to be the brilliant Alpha I know you to be, be there for my mate and for Ma and everyone else I could possibly name. Be safe, be strong and most importantly... Always remember that life moves on, when times get tough....look up to the stars. Love, Mila xx"

"That sounds like a goodbye" Nova whispers as her eyes fill with tears. Moving closer to me, she wraps her arms around my waist as i stay quiet and focus on keepin Zeus at bay by holding on to Nova tightly and breathing in his scent.

"And yours Axton?" Alex asks, his voice gentle as our attention turns to Milas mate. Taking a shaky breath he looks at me before reading it.

"She's really gone?" he asks brokenly as I nod slowly in response. With that his eyes drop, his hope dimishing as he pinches the bridge of his nose and takes a moment to control himself.

"Axton..?" Alex prompts quietly. Clearing his throat, he looks at the note and begins reading.

"Ax..my mate..I wish I'd gotten to spend more time with you and our pack, but the small amount of time we have had together has meant so much to me. It brought me hope, it reminded me that love can exist for me and that I am deserving of it, just as you are deserving of it. This was my decision, as the Luna of the White Mountain Pack, I did what I had to do to ensure the innocent in this would be safe. I'm sorry that my past has caught up with us, that's it's stopped us before we can properly begin our journey together, but I hope one day we can both be free of it. Until then, just know you will be in my thoughts and dreams each day and night. Chin up, kick some ass and do me proud. I'm looking forward to the day I can say this in person, I love you, Mila xx" "Damn" Axton sobs before crouching down with his head in his hands as his body shakes with silent cries.

Feeling Nova hesitate to let go of me, I gently remove her hands from my waist and nudge her towards Axton. "Go, he needs someone who knows him better right now" I link her while nodding firmly towards Axton. Rushing to his side, she wraps an arm round his shoulders and speaks to him quietly.

"Was there anything in those notes that would help us?" Alex asks us as we both turn away to give Axton some privacy. "When times get tough..look up to the stars? What did she mean by that?"

"I used to take her star gazing when she was a kid, it was a distraction from the pressure my dad put me under and it made her relax when she had to put up with petty girls in our pack" I explain with a sigh. "It's our thing" I shrug.

"Do you think she will contact us if she could?" He asks me.

"Definitely" I answer immediately. "This isn't ideal..at all. But I don't doubt Mila for a second, until we find her, she will hold her own."

"No doubt about that" Alex mutters. "The matebond is what weakened her before, she's right with that. This time she won't have rose tinted glasses on."

"There was nothing here" he tells me after a few moments of quiet thinking. "No clues, the scents that were left were all altered so I can only distinguish Bruno's and Milas. He

wasn't hiding which just shows he doesn't care that we know he took her, he knows we will be after him now. We need to discuss with Elder Martin as soon as we are back, what we should do moving forward."

"Do you know what he wanted Mila for?" I ask him.

Sensing Axton stand behind me, we turn to look at him as he grinds his teeth together. Lifting his eyes to meet ours he growls, "to get to me."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 12

Nova

POV:

As we all climb into the vehicle to head back, the mood is somber as we all process what has happened to Mila. "She's brave, she will handle this like a true Luna" Ki murmurs to me quietly as I look across at Jax. Seeing his eyes, full of sadness and concern for his sister, I feel my heart clench for my mate.

"Axton and Rex have suffered so much already, they will need our support" Ki then says to me. My eyes move from Jax to Axton, his body staying slumped in the passenger seat. His eyes that are looking out the window, are unfocused and bloodshot. Catching Alex's eye in the mirror, I purse my lips as he does the same. Both of us aware that the other men are suffering, but for once, we are unsure of what to say to better the situation.

"I understand why she did it" Alex links me suddenly. "Does that make me a bad person, for not being surprised?"

"I hope not, because as soon as I realised Bruno had left and Mila had also, I was fairly certain that was the case as well. It's probably something I would have done as silly as it may have been" I reply. Shifting my eyes between Jax and Axton, I continue, "they both need this time to process it, to be upset whilst they can. Because before we step out of the vehicle, I'm going to make sure they shake it off and focus on how to find Mila."

"They have to, they can't allow this to consume them. "Im not too worried about Jax..considering. He knows that to rectify the situation, he needs to act, he won't let his sister suffer longer than she has to. But Axton, as her mate, will feel this deeply. We need to make sure he controls his anger and upset, he needs to channel it into finding her" Alex tells me.

"I can help him" I assure him. "But I'm only going to if he allows me, I don't want to play with his emotions behind his back."

"He'll let you" Alex replies.

"How are you so sure?" I ask.

"Because you have always helped him" he tells me.

"What are you not telling us?" I link him after a few more minutes of silence. Seeing his eyes flash to look at me in surprise, I shrug slightly. "I can tell."

"Wait till we are with Elder Martin" he replies, "trust you to notice. But we have a lot to discuss anyway, this just adds to it."

"We still have the matter of Cedric and Charles's bunkers to figure out, as well as the witches that fled. Did they all disperse or just regroup? There's also my mum, Sophie still needs to shift and then Luca and Sophie have the Rogue Pack, never mind your replacement procedure taking place over the next few months" I ramble to him through the link.

"Like I said..a lot to discuss" he repeats quietly as his brows furrow while he thinks.

Looking at Jax, I see him also deep in thought, watching the passing trees in the darkness as we grow nearer to the White Mountain Pack. Sliding over, I lift his arm and wrap it round my shoulders, tucking myself under so I can rest my head on his chest. Feeling him lightly kiss my hair, I turn my gaze upwards and meet his green eyes. "You alright?" I ask him out loud.

Seeing his eyes soften as he gazes down at me he offers me a small smile acknowledging my care for him, "not really. I'm worried for Mila."

"We all are" I tell him, squeezing his hand. "But we have to work together to find her."

"I know" he murmurs, kissing my forehead. "Axton..how are you doing?" He asks.

"**" he snaps.

"Talk it out" I murmur.

"f*****g talk it out?" He then snaps at me, his eyes flashing to meet mine as his anger rolls out. "What good does talking it out do?"

"Axton.." Jax starts before I shoot him a warning glance and shake my head.

"Let me, he can be quick to anger at times" I link him. His eyes narrow slightly as I hold his gaze, before he relents and leans back with a sigh.

"Well we know you feel s**t because Mila isn't here, but what else?" I ask him, knowing that if I keep going he'll either blow and get it out his system, or relent and give in knowing the anger he's directing to us is unjustified.

"Are you my therapist now?" He growls in annoyance.

"Smartarse" I tell him, not backing down at his anger. "You're angry.." I note.

"Really?" He asks rolling his eyes.

"Really" I snap back. "I can deal with you being a t**t Axton, I know how you react to things remember. If you need to vent and take it out on me, then do so. But get on with it, the sooner you snap out of it, the sooner you will be useful in finding Mila." Hearing his breath hitch as his body tenses, Alex and Jax stiffen as they sense Axtons increasing anger. "Do I need to snap at you as well Rex?" I ask c*****g my head as I look at Axton in the mirror, seeing Rex prominent in his eyes. "Why are you baiting him?" Jax links me in shock.

"I'm not, he'll get over it" I tell him, my tone relaxed as I link him back.

Holding Axtons gaze, I see his lips curl upwards slightly. "You call me the smartarse" Axton says after a moment, his body relaxing as he holds my gaze.

Shrugging at him, I wait for him to continue. "Thank you" he says softly.

"Do you need to punch it out?" I ask him quirkng my brow. "You backed down kind of easily then..so I'm just checking" I muse as Jax and Alex both bite back a laugh.

"Don't tempt me" Axton mutters throwing them both a glare. "Somehow, fighting you doesn't fill me with excitement anymore. I'd rather not have my a*s kicked even worse than i used to."

"Good decision" Jax smirks.

"Luca always has to punch it out" I tell Jax who chuckles lightly at the thought.

"Has that always worked?" Alex asks curiously. "Push him until he relents?"

Biting out a short laugh I shake my head, "that or we sparred, either way it helped. But I've been thinking about it, perhaps it's because of what Kia and I are. Rex will know we are only concerned, that we want to help. I've always been a bit confused how an Alpha

wolf in particular is happy to back down when riled up, but with me being an empath as well it seems to make more sense."

"I think you're right" Alex agrees, "normally when an Alpha is poked they will be more angry. Unless they have a very level head at all times which many alphas think they do but they don't, they also have heightened emotions which can be hard to deal with. It would explain it, perhaps even unintentionally in the past you have helped calm him and others."

"Either way it works and I'm thankful, it's saved me from some potentially bad situations in the past" Axton sighs.

Feeling Kia's pride at their words I smirk at her, "someone's proud."

"As we should be" she replies. "You did good distracting them..well done" she adds on softly.

Looking at Alex in the mirror he flashes me a grateful smile. "When we get back, we will speak with Elder Martin. I want to visit the Deep Forest Pack before getting back to Ophelia tomorrow. I doubt Bruno or Mila will be there, but he needs to know that I will be following this up and my presence will be felt in his pack" Alex explains. Before any of us can ask him anything further he adds on, "you will all be travelling with me."

"Are you sure that's wise?" Jax asks, his brows furrowed as he takes in Alex's words. "I'm Milas sister, I demanded that their Alpha be contacted by the council..I don't know how well that went down. Then Axton is Milas new mate, if they're loyal to their Alpha then he won't be welcome."

"None of us will be welcome" Alex shrugs.

"You're their Alpha King" Jax points out.

"Doesn't mean I'll be welcome" Alex replies.

"What do you mean by that?" Axton asks, his attention now focused on Alex.

With a sigh Alex shrugs, rubbing his head with his free hand as he begins driving up to the pack house. "I said I'd wait till we were with Elder Martin, but to be honest I don't think Bruno sees me as his Alpha King any longer."

"He's rebelling?" Axtons asks as Alex's eyes flash to meet mine once again.

"He's not rebelling.." I whisper as the pieces begin to slot together.

"Not exactly how I'd put it no..but in a way yes" Alex says knowingly.

"Then what exactly?" Axton asks in confusion.

"He's causing a divide, north vs south..." I say slowly.

"I may be the current Alpha King of both the northern and southern packs" Alex acknowledges, "but for how long? How long until there could be two? His father was the first to suggest there be another..Bruno may think the same." Hearing Jax swear beside me, his body tenses as a loud growl escapes him. "He wants to control the south..."

With a sharp nod, Alex purses his lips before repeating "He wants to be the Alpha King of the South."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 13

Mila POV:

"We're here" Bruno announces, snapping me from my thoughts, as the car rolls to a gentle stop.

"Where is here?" I ask him quietly. Peering out the window I see we are parked in a clearing surrounded by thick forest. There are six log cabins, varying in size on one side surrounded by large burly men all dressed in black. Without answering, Bruno quickly opens his door and slides out, leaving me alone in the car where I can take a few calming breaths.

"Stay strong Mila, don't let them sense your nerves" I hear a soft voice whisper to me, making me immediately sob in relief. "Alia" I cry, "you're here."

"I'm always here Mila, I'm sorry I withdrew. The thought of being back with Bruno scared me. But now is not a time for us to be scared, it is a time to be strong and show them just who we are. Our pack needs us remember" she tells me with conviction in her voice.

"Hold your head up, stand proud and remember that we are a Luna, the Luna of the White Mountain Pack, and we are going to get home, to them and to our mate" she says encouragingly.

Feeling a renewed sense of hope in me, I look out the front of the vehicle where Bruno is busy talking to two other men. Grasping the door handle, I'm quite surprised when I realise its not locked, and with a slight grunt I climb out of my seat. Feeling my muscles protest at the movement, I stand up and stretch, attempting to alleviate the soreness of my muscles.

Taking a deep breath, I close my eyes and smile as the scent of forest after some fresh rain hits my senses.

"You look happy to be here" I hear Bruno state as he appears beside me.

"Correction. Happy to have some fresh air so I don't have to breathe in your scent in a claustrophobic vehicle any longer" I sneer back at him with a cold smile.

Flitting my eyes to Bruno's muscular form, I take in his amused smile as he notes my attitude change. Stepping forward, he leans in so close that his warm breath fans my ear, making my body shudder with disgust. "I'll have you know Mila the more you push me away and try to insult me, the more determined I'll be to wear you down. I love a good challenge and I have missed your defiance surprisingly" he whispers lowly in my ear. Keeping my stance relaxed, I don't allow him to see the disgust I feel inside from his words. Pursing my lips, I step back and simply look at him while shaking my head. Chuckling, he straightens himself, staring down at me as he does so, trying to gage my reaction. After a moment, he reaches out and grasps my arm roughly before he all but drags me towards a smaller cabin nearer the end. Quickly looking around, I note that each cabin has a group of 8-12 men outside, all covered in tattoos and scars showing their experiences at fighting. Their eyes focus on me as I am forced to cross the clearing. Narrowing my eyes, I hold my head tall and don't look away from their cold gazes. They will not see me cower away from them I tell myself.

"This is where you'll be staying" Bruno grunts as we reach the already open door. With a slight push, I'm forced inside as Bruno follows close behind, snapping the door shut. Turning around, I keep my eyes on him as he moves smoothly to the fridge, retrieving two cold drinks before passing me one. Taking it, I check the lid hasn't been opened previously before sighing and quickly opening it.

Studying Bruno over the bottle as I gulp it down, I cant deny the fact that he is an attractive Alpha. His dark brown curls frame his sun kissed face, his dark eyes are surrounded by long lashes and his strong cheekbones and two dimples still appear when he cracks a rare smile. But unfortunately that's where the attractiveness ends, his eyes no longer have the ability to take my breath away. His smile no longer makes my knees weak, and his scent now strikes me as repulsive instead of irresistible. "What are you thinking?" Bruno asks me with a rare grin as I realise he's caught me staring.

"That it's a shame you aren't as attractive as your appearance suggests. Outside you're a typical handsome Alpha, but really you're just a cold heartless Alpha in a shell of muscle and tattoos" I shrug at him.

"Was that a compliment?" he asks coming to stand beside me.

"Just a fact" I snap back.

Ignoring my rudeness, he steps past me into the open kitchen and living room. "This is your new home, you'll have food brought to you so you can cook your meals. There is a bedroom back there and a bathroom. If you behave you can go and use the small patio at the back, but you will have a guard with you at all times when you are outside the cabin" he tells me while lifting his finger to point to a set of double doors facing the forest.

Taking a quick walk round I note the cabin is kitted out, not overly fancy but it has everything I could possibly need for staying in the middle of a forest. The kitchen is surprisingly light and the living room has two sofas facing a TV unit. My eyes pass over the room slowly before they focus on what is in the corner. A small pile of yoga blocks and a mat are there along with a water bottle and a music player.

Furrowing my brows in confusion I look at Bruno who simply shrugs, looking slightly awkward. "I remember you like yoga, I thought it may help you pass the time, maybe this time together it can be easier for the both of us."

Gulping I take a step back, "What's going on?"

When he doesn't reply, I press further. "I mean why are you suddenly interested in making sure I have something here I can find enjoyable. Why put me somewhere like this? Why take me in the first place?"

"So many questions" Bruno sighs.

"Answer me Bruno" I snap. "Tell me the truth for once..it's about time you did."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 14

He growls as he slumps down on the sofa, for the first time I notice his eyes are heavy with tiredness, his shoulders hunched as he taps his knee nervously. This is a side of Bruno I have never seen before, in the past he was harsh, blunt and didn't care about how I or anyone else felt. I suffered through insults and betrayal pains, being openly humiliated when he paraded his chosen Luna, Rebecca, in front of me. He told his pack

members I was nothing more than a simple breeder. "You're confusing me" I admit when he doesn't move to speak. "You didn't want me Bruno, why force this?"

"Because I know I need you, for what I can't tell you just yet. But you should never have left me" he growls.

"Why should I have stayed? Why should I have to put up with you betraying our bond and breaking Alia and myself down?" I ask incredulously.

"Because I was your mate" he snaps at me. "You are mine."

"I was, and you still treated me that way" I yell at him, my patience thinning as tiredness creeps up on me. Where is Rebecca? What about her true mate? Because from what you've just said, Rebecca belongs to her true mate, and I now belong to Axton." "Not here" he replies bluntly. "You aren't Axton's Mila, you're mine. You are here to help me achieve what I have been working towards for years. You are my link."

"Are you going to hurt me Bruno?" I ask him quietly.

"No" he grunts as his head falls in his hands. "You infuriated me before, the bond was messing with my head and making me doubt myself. I was constantly battling my wolf and my heart. I realised when you left how harsh I had been, I regretted it. I shouldn't have gone about it the way that I did, I certainly didn't do the correct thing in keeping you around. But then I found out you had Axton as your second chance, a man I cannot stand. One who will twist your mind and make you hate me further, I couldn't have that, I knew I needed to get you back."

"Why f**k someone right before accepting my rejection Bruno? Why not just move on with Rebecca happily?" I snarl. "You caused me so much agony, and you have no idea what danger you put me in the other evening. I had to go into battle and fight in only human form, Alia took my pain, if I hadn't fought strongly then I could easily have died that night."

"You were fighting?" he asks slowly as surprise flits across his features. "I thought Jax would have avoided you being involved in that, F**k."

"You heard me, and of course I f*****g fought Bruno. I'm an Alpha's daughter. I would never sit back and expect everyone to treat me any different because of that" I growl. "Why decide to hurt me when you had slowed down over the last few weeks to only behave the way you did.?"

"Because I felt you with Axton" he shouts. "I felt it and it f*****g hurt. I know I had no right to take that out on you. When you were at my pack, I was stuck between you and Rebecca, it was difficult and I admit I reacted badly...extremely badly. I took my frustrations out on you. But to know you were with another and that other was Axton of all people, I hated it."

"You enjoyed seeing me in pain, you liked the fact you could make me scream from your actions with Rebecca..don't lie to me. I saw the sick smile on your face when you f****d that b***h in front of me" I scream as tears stream down my face at the unwanted memory. "I find it hard to imagine you regret it and this is some type of change of heart."

After that, there is silence between us as my words settle. "It does hurt though doesn't it Bruno" I whisper. "Yet that was nothing, I kissed him, that's all. Now imagine the pain I endured."

I know" he sighs, his face dropping as my words hit home, but still he does not apologise.

"I won't forget what you've done Bruno" I say after a moment as he simply nods in acceptance. "I'm not sure what this version of Bruno is right now, it's certainly not one I recognise. But one thing I can say is you have still not apologised despite showing some recognition of your actions. You forced me to come, and you hate my new mate. I don't think you have good intentions for me."

"I know Mila. I'm not going to hurt you, not if you help me. Just do as I say and for your own sake...behave" he growls to me as he stalks forward, his dark eyes boring into mine. Leaning forward, he takes a deep breath of my scent before moaning slightly. "As irresistible as ever, I'll be back in the morning, things will be clearer then" he murmurs before moving back and opening the door, leaving without another word.

"What the hell" I whisper to myself as my skin crawls from his words. Going over what he said, I end up stumped. Confused at his intentions and his reasoning, my thoughts no clearer than they were this morning. For the first time I had seen a glimpse of regret he has from his actions, but I had no more understanding as to why he behaved the way he did. Although since taking me he has warned me I need to behave, and I definitely take that seriously, he has also said he won't hurt me. Yet when I was his mate, it seemed like he would go out of his way to do just that when he should have been treasuring me as his fated, overjoyed that the moon Goddess paired Axton and myself.

Stumbling through to the bedroom, my body suddenly extremely lethargic as the events of today finally catch up to me, I fall on the bed without taking the time to look around the room.

My last thought before darkness finally takes over is what the f**k is going on...?

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 15

Jax POV:

"So..no Luna" a grim faced Luca states as we all walk into Axton's office where he's sat waiting for us.

"No" Axton replies bluntly, his eyes heavy with worry as he passes him Mila's phone and the note addressed to him. "Look through these, it's got everything you need to know."

"Reports on the table Alpha" Luca tells him quietly, his concerned gaze taking in the tight stance of his leader. "I've handled everything."

With a silent nod, Axton lowers himself on the chair and begins reading over what Luca has readied for him.

Hearing the door open, I look to see Elder Martin enter. "Alex filled me in already at the car park" he tells us as I go to speak. "I've sent out notice of an emergency Alpha Meeting, two days from now, all are expected to attend." "Bruno won't" I mutter.

"No, I doubt he will. But I am intrigued to see if everyone else does. His support is strong in the south wether that be by choice is to be determined, if he is planning what I think then this could give us an indication of how much support he has" Martin says calmly. "To become an Alpha King in his own right" I murmur.

"I fear so" Martin sighs, not surprised by us knowing his assumption. "His father was the first to propose the idea of a North and South divide. But we as the council didn't believe it to be the correct course of action, Alex has done a brilliant job at keeping unity, it is a tricky part of being Alpha King, and he has personally supported a few packs in matters over the past few years. It was part of his aim during his time as Alpha King, to increase pack relations." "Did any other packs agree with Bruno's father at the time?" Nova asks curiously.

"At the time, no. But that was almost 20 years ago now, times have changed" Elder Martin says sadly. "I believe you being here is for a reason, unfortunately a Guardian Wolf is there to help and they always appear in times of great need. I doubt your grandfather was the only obstacle you will face Nova."

"We will face" I interject quietly as Nova smiles at me gratefully.

"One step at a time" she whispers as her eyes flicker to Luca who offers a supportive smile.

"I agree you need to visit the Deep Forest Pack, you are to make a peaceful entrance and not cause any reason to fight. Express your concern and state what their Alpha has done, I don't believe they are aware but it may do the pack some good to know Bruno is doing a

few extra curricular activities" Martin explains calmly. "I also have a personal request for for Luna Nova here."

"To take a reading of people's emotions, get a feel of pack members and to see when there is deceit in the air?" She asks as he chuckles at her.

"You got me" he shrugs as he holds her gaze.

"Because I was already planning to" she smirks. "I want to make this clear though, I do not intend to change people's emotions other than when necessary. It's something I'm struggling with, bending people true feelings, shaping them to suit me, but I will when the time is needed. I am happy to take a reading though, to gain more understanding."

"That is something I can agree with" Martin says with a smile. "Thank you."

"So what of Mila?" Axton asks as he comes to stand near us.

"Why don't we speak to the witches, perhaps they have some information which will help" I muse. "It's worth a try isn't it. I just wish Mila had spoken to me before making this decision."

"Jax.." Nova whispers, her hand resting over her heart as she feels my pain through the bond. "In the little time she had, I doubt we would have managed to come up with something to save the people of this pack without causing more harm. What Mila has done is incredibly brave, but we will get her back."

"I know" I sigh as I pinch the bridge of my nose, keeping the emotions at bay.

"He promised to leave the White Mountain Pack if Mila went with him. Mila knew we were going there so arranged to meet him away from the pack, leaving our members safe here" Axtons informs the Elder as Martins face stays expressionless while looking at the messages Luca shows him on the phone, not allowing us to see his reaction.

"I have to admit..I'm surprised Bruno kept to his side of the deal" I growl. "Bruno is not someone who values his agreements, as we all know. So why this time?"

"To save face" Alex replies. "It was already a bold move, he managed to seize control of the White Mountain Pack for a short time without any suspicion. I know it would have been different if the pack was all together but it was still a bold move. He taunted us on the phone earlier, he was enjoying himself, enjoying being the one in control. Especially because it involved a direct link to Axton I imagine. But I believe he was desperate to get Mila if he went to this length."

"If he'd attacked more forcefully he would have gained more attention" I acknowledge.

"We need to go to the Deep Forest Pack in the morning" Alex tells Elder Martin.

"Then do" Martin tells him. "But be back within the day, you need to all prepare for the Alpha meeting."

"What will be said at the council meeting?" Nova asks as she leans into me.

"I'm going to announce Ophelia and mine's decision about stepping down, I will also formally announce my decision to put Jax forward as a candidate, I think it's time to also explain the mark of the crown. It may help change a few opinions of those in the south if we are correct in what Bruno is hoping to achieve" Alex explains.

"And what about Mila?" Axton growls, his form stiff and intimidating as he stands by the window. "What about my mate? The witches cannot be our only plan."

"A mate being taken by a vengeful ex first mate isn't unusual, I'm afraid it has happened before despite our efforts to avoid it. But this is different" Martin says slowly. "Why?" Axton growls as he steps in.

"Because he did it so blatantly in front of the council" Martin explains. "He knew I was here, he knew his Alpha King was here as well as who else was in our company. So in taking Mila he has moved against the council and his King." "So what do we do?" Nova asks once again.

"We see who comes to the alpha meeting, if there are any no shows from the southern packs without a viable reason then it can be quite clear who is siding with Bruno" Martin continues. "We will also gauge the Alpha's reactions to our news." "Do we tell them what has happened to Mila?" Jax asks, his hand reaching for mine as he holds it for silent support. Sending a rush of love down the bond, I see his shoulders visibly relax as he lets out a long breath.

"Yes" Elder Martin says, his eyes meeting each of ours as he answers confidently. "It was known to us, and many others, that Mila wanted the bond to break. For him to follow her wishes then force her to go with him, it is essentially an act of war." "Then why don't we attack the Deep Forest Pack?" Axton snarls.

With that Nova clears her throat softly before speaking, "May I?" She asks looking between Martin and Alex for confirmation to answer. As they both nod she turns her gentle gaze to Axton.

"Multiple reasons, ones I'm sure you're aware of as well. I doubt you would have even suggested that if you weren't suffering right now, it's clouding your judgement and that is understandable" she says softly. "None of us are that knowledgeable on the Deep Forest Pack other than Elder Martin and Alex perhaps, of course there are many rumours but as

you know, they became an increasingly private pack in the last few years. Spending little time in the northern territory from what you have told me in the past. We don't know what we would be going in to, we also can be fairly certain Mila isn't there. Now I don't know about you..but I have a feeling if Bruno is as horrible as suggested, the pack members of his may also be suffering. Why attack if the innocent could be hurt. Going for a visit first is the right thing to do, gain some understanding and scout the pack out. I don't believe attacking them is the smartest reaction right now."

With a deep sigh Axton sits, studying Novas face long after she stops speaking, making me rather tense beside her. "Relax" she links me.

"Why do you have to be right all the time" Axton grunts as his eyes shift to Luca.

"Annoying right" his Beta says rolling his eyes at his sister, before shooting her a grateful smile when Axtons attention has moved on.

"Do you think Mila is going to be ok?" Axton asks us.

With a tight smile, Nova nods her head slowly. "You know full well I won't promise something I'm not certain of. But what I will say is that woman is intelligent, brave and a quick thinker. It's not an ideal situation for her, and I don't know what Bruno's intentions are with her. But I'm certain she will handle it like a true Luna and work to make contact with us as soon as she can."

"I hope you're right" Axton sighs.

"My sister is a fighter" I tell him, proud that my voice stays strong as I speak of her. "She grew up with three brothers, and she can hold her own. I don't believe she would have gone into this without thinking the possibilities through."

"So when do we travel to the Deep Forest Pack?" Nova asks as she moves to stand.

"We will leave at 5am" Alex answers looking at the clock above his head. "We have to go first thing so as not to give them any more time and to ensure we are all back quickly."

"Yes I need to be back here for the pack members" Axton says. "I have been away far too much already and I don't see that changing any time soon."

"Which is why I have a suggestion" Alex mentions quietly.

"That being?" Axton asks curiously.

"You need Luca right now, you need his support and his quick thinking by your side" Alex explains slowly. "You're all aware of what we have asked of Sophie and Luca, I believe

what I'm going to suggest will help strengthen this pack for the time being but also help show the Rogue Pack what Luca is truly capable of."

"What are you suggesting?" Luca asks.

"Bring them here" Alex says simply.