

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 16

Alex POV:

When I suggest bringing the Rogue Pack here, to the White Mountain Pack, I watch the emotions that cross both Axton and Luca's faces closely as Nova slowly lowers herself back down waiting to see what is said. I see a mixture of surprise, hope and concern on the mens faces. Sitting back, Axton furrows his brows as he considers what I've said, while Luca turns his attention to his Alpha, his eyes glazed over as he mind links him.

"I think that's a good idea" Nova says quietly, making her brother and Axton both turn to her. "From my point of view, it brings more support to this pack, which after the stunt Bruno has just pulled will be a good thing. It also gives this pack an idea of the pack that their Beta is moving to if all goes ahead, it could increase their support in your move. Because, I have to admit they will be upset about losing you won't they Luca. Also, it gives my fathers pack an opportunity to see how you handle yourself and the pack members here, it could increase their support in you becoming their leader and rid them of any concerns they may have. Plus it gives you more choices for the future, it could be the start of a strong pack relationship."

"Do we address Luca and Sophies opportunity yet?" Axton asks me.

"I was going to address it soon, I am now planning on informing the rest of the packs at the Alpha meeting that Elder Martin has arranged. I suggest informing them once we return" I tell him. "I need to have a meeting with Sophie and Luca, I would also like to see what Kingsley made their pack grounds like and how he handled them, but I know it needs some thought put into my visit. I imagine a visit from the Alpha King may make them nervous."

"Actually, I believe they will be willing to meet you Alpha King" Luca interjects quietly. "Kingsley was well liked in that pack, they looked up to him as their leader, the way they view Sophie is the same. Many were very supportive in Kingsley's need to find Nova, they helped him tremendously from what Sophie has told me. I think, although many may be nervous, they will want to meet you and also others."

"Interesting" I murmur as I ponder over his words. "Well we will arrange speaking to the entirety of the pack once we have returned from the Alpha meeting. For now, I would like Sophie to bring the Rogue Pack warriors here, she is still this packs Beta female despite being in a transition of power at the moment. Do you think you could speak to her and arrange for their travel tomorrow?"

"We both will" Axton answers. "Our pack knows of Sophie's background as a rogue, our warriors know more due to the fight. But I believe it's time for everyone to know, Sophie is well liked in this pack despite the short time she has been here, she will be supported by many."

"That's good" I say in relief. "Jax and Nova, I will travel with you back to The Midnight Sky pack once we have finished at Bruno's pack tomorrow. We have lots to discuss and I would also like to speak to your mother Nova, do you think she will be up for it?" "Yes" she answers immediately. "The more she feels like she is helping and contributing, the stronger it will keep her. She is responding well with Laurence from what I've been told, but I'm anxious to see her again."

"Then we will speak with her before we leave for the Alpha meeting. Are there any questions?" I ask as I look around the room, taking in everybody's tired features.

Seeing them all shake their heads, I stand to dismiss them, "get some rest everybody, it's been a long few days. We need to be prepared for tomorrow. Jax, do you mind coming with me briefly?" I ask as I gesture towards the door.

"Of course" he answers before leaning down and kissing Nova's temple, whispering something quietly in her ear making her blush. Looking up at me, I shake my head, "I don't even want to know."

"Good thing I wasn't telling you then" he smirks back at me, the first time I've seen him show any emotion other than concern and anger since learning Mila has been taken.

"Good night everyone" I say quietly before we leave the room. Walking downstairs, I lead him outside and we begin walking down towards the training grounds.

"How are you holding up?" I ask him after a few moments of quiet.

With a sigh he shrugs, "as well as I can be. I have faith in Mila, but it doesn't stop me worrying. I know what Bruno did to her last time, I just hope he won't go down that path again."

"That's partly why I want to speak to you" I admit. "The messages he sent Mila, it seemed he still had a fondness for her, he believes he still has a claim on her as he referenced her as "my Mila" which does concern me."

"He doesn't like that he's lost her, he accepted the rejection because he knew he had no other choice" Jax agrees. "The man on the phone, and the man who messaged Mila sounded different don't you agree? On the phone he was openly taunting us and Mila, but the fact he actually did as she requested shows how serious he was about getting her back. But I wonder why that is!"

"He is mating Rebecca" I tell him, "my sources confirmed this to me weeks ago. But there is yet to be a date for her Luna ceremony which confuses me. He has been with her for a long time now, yet seems to be in no hurry to make her his Luna officially." "Her father is the Alpha of the Red Sun Pack isn't he" Jax says quietly. "I think it's about power once more, with their support it greatly boosts his numbers. Perhaps he is only using Rebecca. If his end game truly is to become the Alpha King of the South." "I did consider that, and to an extent I believe he is. Like you said, the support and added power he gets from having a close pack relation to The Red Sun Pack is tremendous. Perhaps he persuaded Rebecca to agree to have Mila as a breeder so that in the future he could take Mila as his Luna, once he no longer needs the help of Rebecca's home pack" I say as I voice my thoughts aloud.

"It does not excuse his treatment of Mila in their time together" Jax growls as his anger surges at the memories. "He f****d Rebecca in front of her, he openly flaunted her and insisted he would be making Rebecca his Luna which broke both Mila and Alia. Then he continued to cause her pain by sleeping with Rebecca once I took Mila from his pack."

"Sometimes you cant explain someone's behaviour or thinking when its that twisted" I sigh. "My thinking is he wanted the best of both worlds, he thought he could play everyone to get what he wanted. It's hard to read him from everything I've heard and know myself. It concerns me because even as Alpha King, at this point he is confusing the f**k out of me."

"Well it wont work" Jax snarls. "My sister cannot stand him, she wont forgive or forget what's happened and she certainly wont be giving up on Axton."

"That I don't doubt, she will be stronger this time" I chuckle as I think of the attitude I have seen from Mila over the last few days. "When we return to your pack tomorrow, we will speak to the witches. I have Ophelia speaking to some of our sources down south to see if there are any whispers of Mila or Bruno. Just..keep a level head yes?" I say to him. "That's what I'm good at" he replies with a confident smirk.

"I know, drives me mad" I chuckle as he laughs quietly. "We will talk more when we are back tomorrow, right now I need to sleep."

"Yes, I need to get back to Nova" Jax says as his eyes burn brightly at her name. "To get some rest" he adds on with a smirk. "Riiiiight" I laugh as he punches my shoulder lightly.

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Chapter 17

Jax POV:

Walking to the room Luca had readied for Nova and I, I feel slightly lighter after talking to Alex and hearing what is quietly taking place in the background. Knowing Ophelia she will be working efficiently to try and get even a sliver of information to help us find Mila. "I'm almost back in love" I link Nova as I begin walking up the pack house stairs.

Not getting a reply, I try not to frown at the thought she may have fallen asleep.

"The woman is allowed to rest Jax" Zeus grunts to me as I brush the thoughts away.

"I know, I felt guilty as soon as I felt annoyed" I snap back.

"I know you're on edge Jax, as am I" he snaps back at me.

"I know, I'm sorry" I say to him quietly as I take a few calming breaths. Staying calm and collected around everyone is at times challenging, it means when I'm alone my moods seem to be intensified as I allow myself to wallow in my feelings for a few private moments. Pushing the door of the suite open, I step inside the dimly lit room and glance around. Not seeing Nova, I pause until I hear the door close behind me.

Spinning round, I gasp as my eyes fall on my mate. She's standing there, freshly washed with not one bit of clothing on to cover herself.

"I've been waiting for you" she murmurs with a small smile as my eyes rake over her toned body. "I thought you might need to..de-stress."

"I do" I moan as I feel my hardened length pressing into my jean front. Coming to a stop in front of me she grasps my top and pulls me down as one hand moves up and wraps round my neck.

"I want to help you relax" she purrs in my ear as she pushes against me, urging me back towards the bed. Feeling the back of my legs hit the bed, she pushes me down firmly so I'm sat there gazing up at her. Standing between my legs, I admire her full breaths, her n*****s hard as the scent of her arousal floats though the air. Reaching a hand up I gently squeeze a n*****e before tracing my fingers lightly down her stomach then sliding them through her wet folds.

"f**k Nova, you're so wet for me" I moan as I watch her lids flutter when I apply a slight pressure to her swollen nub. Suddenly she meets my eyes and gives me a cheeky smirk, stepping back she leans forward and efficiently undoes my trousers, pulling them down hard and releasing my shaft.

Dropping to her knees, I watch her every movement as I leak precum at the thought of what's to come. "This is about you" she tells me, before pumping my shaft slowly, her tongue flicking out to lick at my precum. Moving her head forward, she takes my entire

length in her mouth slowly as her other hand goes to massage my balls. Hollowing her cheeks, she begins to move up and down my shaft quicker and quicker, humming against my length as she swallows me whole.

"What a sight" I groan as I watch her movements. "So f*****g good."

"Stand up" she links me suddenly, as I feel her hands move to my ass urging me up. Doing as she says, I feel my heart rate quicken as I anticipate what she's going to demand.

Looking up at me through her long lashes as she continues sucking me in, she links me saying, "I know you're stressed. So take some of that and f**k me in the mouth, I want to feel you pounding into me, your shaft moving down my throat as you take what you need."

"f**k yes" I moan as I reach my hand to her hair and wrap it tight. Feeling her hands grasp my arse I begin to slowly f**k her mouth, increasing my speed as I feel her throat relax.

"Play with yourself" I tell her as I watch her hand move down to rub through her wet folds. "Quicker" I growl at her, watching as her movements become more frantic as she chases her release. Feeling her moan against my shaft as she draws nearer, has me grunting at each thrust of my hips. "f**k, that's it love" I moan as I feel my balls begin to tighten. "I want you to c*m with me."

"Jaxxx" she links me as her eyes begin to flutter closed, my breath hitches as her cheeks hollow out, sucking me in so I hold my place down her throat. Pulling off of me she groans out loud as she finds her release, her body shaking as I pump my shaft a couple of times before exploding all over her heaving chest with a loud moan.

Panting as we both come down from our high, I bend down to lift her from the floor. "Thanks babe" I murmur as I take in her flushed cheeks, "you sure know how to treat your Alpha well."

"I know you're worried, as we all are. I'd do anything to help you relax so you can continue thinking clearly" she tells me as she cups my cheek softly.

Kissing her forehead, I sit her on the bathroom side as I get a wash cloth and run it under some warm water. Walking back, I clean her up as she watches me with eyes filled with love. "Alex said Ophelia is talking to some of her sources down south, trying to see if there is anything being said about Mila or Bruno" I tell her quietly. "I think he just wanted to see where I was at."

"Of course he did, he's worried about you" she says softly. "You will soon have a lot of responsibility on your shoulders and the next few months will be extremely different to what you had planned I imagine. He's just looking out for you as his friend."

"Oh I know" I say with a small smile. "And I will be fine, its what I'm trained for, plus it was nice to be reassured by him. How do you think the other Alphas will react when he tells them his news?"

"I think many will be happy with him putting you forward as his candidate" Nova replies without hesitation. "There will be surprise at Alex stepping down, but with us knowing his reasoning its more than understandable."

"You do realise he wil be saying one of the reasons is our bond and what you are" I tell her as I carry her to the bed.

"I do" she replies slowly, "but I cant hide from it can I. I am what I am, and we just have to embrace it and see what good we can do."

"I love your attitude towards it all you know" I smile, proud of her positivity an determination, as we pull the duvet over us and I bring her close to my chest. "i know I can do this because I have you by my side." "And I have you" she whispers as her voice wobbles and I hear a small snuffle.

"Oh don't cry love" I whisper as I kiss her head, breathing in her delicious scent. "You know its times like this that your scent alone brings me peace, i think its even grown stronger since our bond fully developed." "Really?" She laughs.

"Really" I reply with a yawn. Hearing her yawn soon after, I close my eyes and enjoy some time with my mate. "Sleep my love."

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Chapter 18

Nova POV:

"Love its time to wake up" I hear Jaxs husky morning voice say as he gently brushes the hair from my face. "We have twenty minutes to get ready." "Ahhh" I groan, my body feeling heavy with sleep.

"I've got you coffee" he says with a deep chuckle as the delicious aroma reaches my nose. With a sleepy smile, I rub my eyes and force myself to sit up, shooting Jax a grateful smile. "You were out like a light, you need to make sure you're getting enough rest."

"I know" I yawn. "It's just been hectic hasn't it. And today..." I trail off as my worry for Mila hits me like a train. Grimacing as the memory of what happened makes me feel nauseous, I put the coffee down and make myself get up out of bed. Walking to the bathroom quickly, I ignore the confused look Jax is giving me and take some deep breaths before splashing some cold water on my face. Brushing my teeth and hair, I glance in the mirror and frown as I see the dark circles under my eyes.

"I look awful" I moan to Jax as I walk back through, picking up my coffee and taking a sip. "I really do look done in at the moment."

"You've had a lot on your plate Nova, and things aren't getting easier are they. But you look gorgeous, as always" he says quietly giving me a comforting hug.

"Ki? You ok this morning?" I ask her as she stretches slowly in my head.

"Hmm" she grunts. "Tired" is all she tells me before retreating back in my mind.

Frowning once more as I feel a bit taken aback by her bluntness, I see some clothes laid out and quickly pull them on. "These are Alice's" I state as I look at them on me, apart from being a little tight they fit me well. "Luca brought them" Jax shrugs.

"I didn't even hear him" I chuckle as I see Jax is also sporting one of Lucas tops.

"Like I said, you were out of it" he smirks as he heads into the bathroom. Sitting down on the bed, I busy myself by pulling my trainers on and doing the laces up quickly.

Sitting there, I realise Ki has been suspiciously quiet on me the last few days. Since meeting Jax she has been content to sit and listen to our conversations, happy to say her piece when she wants but also busying herself with talking to Zeus. But the last few days she has felt more withdrawn.

"Ki are you alright? You've gone quiet on me" I frown as I put my hair in a loose braid.

"I'm fine Nova, don't worry. You just have a lot to think about with Mila. But don't worry, I'm always here" she replies, her voice soothing me as I relax slightly at her words.

"You can have a run with Zeus later, how's that?" I ask her with a smile.

"You know I'll never say no to that wolf" she purrs back at me making me giggle aloud.

"Ready?" Jax asks as he appears from the bathroom. With a small nod, I take his out stretched hand and we begin our walk down to the waiting car.

"What is the Deep Forest Pack like?" I ask him as we wait for the others to join us.

"About as different from our pack as it can be" he frowns. "They are surrounded by the deep forest hence the name of the pack. Only men train, I know women are expected to keep the house running etc, something Mila didn't agree with and voiced it very early on. Bruno said it was just the way the pack has always been and it was effective. I also know that in that pack, your position or rank matters, if you're an omega then you're looked down on and so on. As for the actual pack grounds, its very impressive but also quite intimidating. Everything is guarded, you literally cant go anywhere without having eyes on you. You'll see what I mean when we get there."

"Mila wouldn't fit in there" I comment quietly.

"Not one bit" he agrees immediately. "She had a few days with Bruno before they went to his pack, as soon as they arrived she said that's when he began to change. He didn't like it when she mentioned making changes, no matter how big or small. Then of course, Rebecca was introduced to her and things changed dramatically."

Feeling tears form in my eyes, I bite my lip and look to the sky hoping they don't fall.

"Sorry" I whisper as I catch Jax's concerned gaze. "Its hard to think of what Mila went through, I'm sorry to say when she told me I felt bad but I didn't ask further as I was unsure if she would be happy discussing it. Then I thought she would tell me when she was ready and when she had no ties to him."

"She would have told you, but it's like you said. She didn't like to focus too much on what took place, my sister is all for thinking of the future" he says with a small smile.

Nodding I shake my head to rid myself of these tears. "So emotional" I chuckle. "Lack of sleep for you.'

Hearing my phone ring, I jump in surprise before fishing it out of my leggings pocket. "Laurence?" I ask anxiously as I answer.

"Good morning Luna" his cheery voice rings in my ear making me groan. "I thought you were a morning person..or was that just a ruse to meet our Alpha in the gym?" He teases as Jax throws me a wide smirk. "I'm blaming my lack of sleep" I grumble to our Beta as I narrow my eyes at Jax. "Why are you calling so early?"

"Sorry, Alpha said you would be up at this time. I wanted to run an idea past you, I've been to see Lizzie multiple times since you've been gone, but I've so far gone alone. She's

been perfectly fine with me, but I think she might benefit from someone else coming along, it might make her feel a little more relaxed despite her circumstances. I was wondering if I could take Naomi with me this morning? Perhaps seeing my pregnant mate may bring her some joy, natural instincts kind of thing."

Smiling at his thoughtfulness I quickly agree, "I love that idea Laurence. Perhaps also take Flo with you. She has some stories of me from when I was younger."

"I'll take Naomi with me, and run the idea past your mum about Florence joining us. I wouldn't want to overwhelm her. But I think she will be open to the idea, she expressed an interest in knowing more about you, she definitely wasn't told what Charles knew about you over the years" he says quietly at the end.

Blowing out a long breath, I sit down on the edge of a nearby wall. "What has she said to you?" I ask him nervously.

"Not too much, I haven't wanted to push her in your absence and I got the feeling once she knew you had to leave that her nerves increased somewhat. I've just been checking in and keeping her company, trying to make her feel like she is welcome here. I can tell she thinks she's partially to blame" he trails off.

"She stills puts herself at fault despite not being in control of her own mind. Do you think she expects there to be consequences?" I ask him as Jax sits next to me listening quietly.

"I think so yes" Laurence admits.

"Then we need to change that way of thinking" Jax says firmly as he takes the phone and puts it on speaker. "Hey Laurence." "Alpha" Laurence replies politely.

"I'm going to speak to Elder Martin when we get back later. "But I'm quite certain Lizzie hasn't caused any harm when in her own mind. I have an idea of what we can do, but I'm not going to speak to Lizzie about it until we have discussed it thoroughly. Just keep her relaxed and be there for her, Naomi will be great with her. Flo will also if Lizzie is comfortable. What has the doctor said?"

"The broken mate bond has hurt her, she's feeling the loss of her mate hard. But I know she is strong enough to get through it despite being human. As horrible as it is, the fact she was apart from Kingsley for so long is to thank for that. She will be ok, I have managed to get her to eat more, I've found small bites more frequently is better than large meals. All of yesterday I made sure to sit and eat with her" Laurence tells him proudly.

"You're a good man Laurence" I tell him softly.

"Thank you Luna" he replies happily. "I'll be in touch throughout the day, I'll be ready with the morning report from 12pm Alpha."

"Cheers mate" Jax says in relief, "speak soon."

Hanging up the phone he passes it wordlessly back to me as I look at him curiously.

"Your idea..?" I prompt him.

"There are a few methods to make her remember, its to decide which is most suitable for her mind right now" he explains as we see the others arrive.

"What do you think is best?" I ask him as we stand.

"I think you already know" he says giving me a look.

"Repressed memory therapy" I murmur softly.

"Or as I like to say" he says with a chuckle, "hypnosis."

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Chapter 19

Axton POV:

"Morning" I say to Jax and Nova who are already waiting for us outside. "Everybody ready?"

"Ready" they chorus as we begin getting into the two cars parked up for us. "Luca, I want you to start speaking to Alejandro and Mason, I need to ready a Beta and Gamma replacement. I trust your opinion and it matters that you agree in my replacement of you, just don't go into details, perhaps only mention the gamma position for now due to obvious reasons. But they are the two I have my eye on, any other names spring to mind for you?"

"There is Melissa, but she is not yet 18 which is a shame" he mutters, mentioning my previous Gammas younger sister. Fierce, intelligenet and dedicated are words I strongly associate with her, she excelled in training especially when Nova worked her hard. I know she saw potential in her.

"I did think that, perhaps we keep an eye on her and I have a think whilst I'm out. If memory serves me correctly she is 18 in two months" I tell him.

"7 weeks" Luca mutters as he nods in agreement.

"I definitely think we should then. Have a word with those two men anyway and then once I'm back we can discuss it further" I instruct him as he steps back allowing me to climb in.

"Good luck Alpha" he says quietly.

With a nod, I press the accelerator hard and we speed off down the drive once more. The drive to the Deep Forest Pack is a quiet one, Jax holds Nova close to his side where she promptly falls asleep, while Alex and Elder Martin drive in the other vehicle. "Are you ready for this?" I ask Jax once we are twenty minutes away.

"Yes" he replies calmly which I'm thankful for. "We may not be able to get Mila back but at least it feels like we are doing something about it. I'm not great at waiting" he admits which surprises me.

"Really?" I chuckle. "You always seem so patient when I've been around you."

"A front" he shrugs. "I'm good at controlling it, but doesn't mean I like waiting."

"I get that" I say after a moment. "I hope Mila is alright, I could barely sleep."

"Why?" He asks, his eyes shifting nervously to meet mine as he leans forward. "Please tell me you haven't felt.."

"No!" I shout making Nova startle slightly in her sleep. "No" I repeat with a whisper.

"Thank the goddess" he breaths as he sits back in his seat. "So we're going to be family huh.." he smirks trying to lift the mood.

"Weird how life works isn't it" I chuckle. "It makes sense though. I mean, of course I was upset with what transpired between Nova and myself at the end, its something I will always regret even knowing it wasn't my fault. But actually losing her to her fated mate wasn't as hard as I thought it may be, I think I always knew deep down we weren't meant to be. Plus with you being her mate, I was instantly relieved and happy for you both..perhaps that's because of you being Mila's sister even though I didn't know at the time." "I think you could be right" he says with a smile. "I'm happy you're with Mila, I may be the over protective big brother occasionally but from what I've known of you in the past and even from what Nova has said since being with her, I know you and Mila will be good together."

"Which makes me wonder what the hell the Moon Goddess was thinking when she fated her to Bruno" I grimace.

"To make changes" Nova yawns as she blearily opens her eyes. "That's what I think anyway."

"When did you wake up?" I ask surprised as Jax simply chuckles.

"When someone decided it would be a good time to shout" she shrugs throwing me a pointed glare in the mirror making me smile sheepishly.

"Sorry" I chuckle.

"Do you feel better?" Jax asks quietly as I see her smile sweetly up at him and nod in response.

Seeing the large black gates of the Deep Forest Pack appear through the darkness of the looming trees, I hear Rex snarling loudly in my head. Suddenly a thought comes to mind. "Nova?" I ask quietly, getting her attention. "Would you be able to help Rex and I while we are here?"

"Stay calm?" She asks, seemingly not surprised by my request.

"Err....yes" I reply as I see Jax nod in approval. "I know it's important we don't go in all guns blazing and I have to admit I'm a bit edge."

"Of course I'll help" she says with a small smile. "I was actually going to offer but didn't want to overstep, it still is taking some getting used to knowing I can actually influence people's emotions."

Seeing her frown, Jax is quick to comfort her. "It must be, but you know you will only change them or take advantage in times of need. If for example, someone asks for help such as Axton, I think it's perfectly fine love. Don't let it get to you." "You're right" she chuckles shaking her worries off.

"Plus it really kicked ass when you used your empath abilities on Charles" Jax smirks.

"I wish I'd seen that" I say with a cold smile.

"It was something" Jax growls lowly, looking in the mirror I see his eyes darken as he looks at Nova heatedly so I quickly look to the pack house looming in front of us.

"Let's get this over with" I snarl as I see Alex and Elder Martin exit the vehicle ahead of us.

"I'm right behind you Axton, I'm here to help. We all are" Nova says soothingly as I feel her and Jax following me.

"Good morning Beta Wilson" I hear Martin say as we join them. Looking the man over, I take in his multiple scars loitering the skin that is showing, his eyes dark and set back under some thick eyebrows. His stance is strong, like he's ready to react whatever the situation, but he stays calm as we approach.

"Good morning" he replies blunty, his voice deep yet strong. "Why do we have the pleasure of this visit?" He sneers as the few warriors either side of him snigger loudly.

"It's regarding your Alpha, is he here?" Martin asks, keeping his tone level and not giving anything away.

"He's away on business at the moment as I have already had to inform the council elders that visited previously" Wilson says in a bored tone.

"Ah...I see" Martin says as he looks to Alex for him to speak

"As you know, Alpha Bruno was asked to attend the council regarding the matter of breaking the bond with his fated mate Mila" Alex says, his eyes piercing into the men stood in front of him. "He didn't show, now..what I'm here to ask is, where your Alpha has taken Mila?" "You just said he didn't show" Wilson says with a frown.

"He didn't" Alex snaps. "He rang and accepted the rejection over the phone. He then proceeded to infiltrate The White Mountain Pack and take over in the absence of its Alpha, Beta and many warriors. He also killed their Gamma. But before we got to him, he made a deal with Mila to leave the pack unharmed if she went with him."

"Why would she care about that pack?" Wilson asks with a sneer.

"Because she is their true Luna, but you already know that Wilson don't you" Nova says c****g her head as she looks him clearly in the eyes, obviously sensing the lie emitting from him.

Seeing a flicker of recognition cross his features before he quickly makes his face unreadable, he shrugs before replying. "Just testing you. Yes we were aware of Mila finding her second chance mate, however it sounds like she made the decision to leave with our Alpha. I can assure you they are not here."

"We didn't think they were" Martin tells him. "Unfortunately for you, we have seen the messages and if you believe Bruno telling Mila that he would kill all members of the pack, children included, if she did not go with him isn't a threat...then I have some concerns." With that Wilson, shifts uncomfortably where he is stood, for the first time his confidence falters.

"Your pack seems quiet Beta" Alex comments as he looks around.

"Too quiet" I murmur as I look at the eyes of the men shifting between themselves nervously.

"It's early" is all Wilson says.

"I call bullshit" I snap as his eyes move to meet mine for the first time.

"Ah...the great Alpha Axton" he says mockingly. "I've heard all about you."

"I'm sure" I chuckle darkly. "Bruno isn't my biggest fan after all."

"Family rivalry ey" the Beta chuckles, his eyes dark with mischief as he stares me down, while everyone turns to look at me. Frozen in shock I simply open and close my mouth as I stare at the Beta in confusion. "I'm sorry, did you say family?" Jax asks with a frown.

"He's not my family" I growl as I feel my anger rise. Feeling Nova squeeze my shoulder, I relax immediately as she does as I had asked of her.

Wilson grins at me wildly before saying clearly, "I did say that, as he is in fact, family!"

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Chapter 20

Nova POV:

Seeing everyone still around me, I delve into the Beta's emotions once more.

"Is he lying?" Elder Martin links me without looking away from where he's studying Wilson. Looking deep, my confusion grows as I sense no deception coming from him, but I do sense inner turmoil. A mixture of anger and jealousy is burning deep within him. "He's not lying" I reply to Martin slowly, "but it doesn't mean Bruno isn't.."

Hearing a snarl escape Axton, I realise I had been so focused on Wilson I hadn't managed to keep Axton calm.

"You're lying" Axton growls loudly as he steps forward making Wilson smirk. "If that asshole was my family, I would know about it. I've had the displeasure of spending a lot of time with him in the past, we went through Alpha training together where we spent 2

years living nearby, we trained together and learnt together. Don't you think I would know if he was related to me?"

"Clearly not" Wilson says calmly as he watches Axton grow more angry.

"What do you know?" Jax asks stepping forward alongside Axton, while holding his hand out to stop Axton moving any closer to the Deep Forest Pack's Beta.

"I just know they're related, our Alpha made us all aware of it when he told us how Mila must have a thing for their family, I don't know their exact relation" he shrugs.

"I'm sorry, a thing?" Jax asks incredulously. "I don't believe you can say my sister having two fated mates from the supposed same family is simply her having a thing!"

"Fated?" Wilson repeats after a moment. "You're fated to Mila?" he asks Axton who snarls in response.

"She is MY mate, MY fated mate" he growls loudly as fur begins to sprout on his arms. "Your Alpha was so jealous, he forced her to leave me to save our pack."

"You didn't know she was Axton's fated mate did you" I realise as I see him ponder over how he should answer.

"But we mentioned Axton being her second chance mate and he didn't query it" Alex points out quietly.

Clearing his throat, Wilson shifts uncomfortably as he goes to speak. "I can confirm we didn't know they were fated mates, we were told Mila had found her second mate but from the way we were told we believed it to be a chosen mate."

"So Bruno spoke to you about them?" Alex asks intrigued.

"Yes" Wilson answers with a slow nod.

"What were you told?" Alex orders in his alpha tone.

"That she went running to his enemy, that she did it anger him and to cause tension between packs to show her upset at not being accepted as his only mate. He said he needed Rebecca and Mila for the good of the pack, but she refused and began bad mouthing him then began spreading lies, he made it known to us that she was using Axton to get back her rightful position as the Luna of our pack" Wilson answers despite his reluctance.

"You have got to be f*****g joking me?" Axton erupts as he stalks forward, pushing Jax's still outstretched arm out of the way. He makes a beeline for the Beta who is now looking unsure of himself as he watches Axton approach. "Mila is my fated mate, given to me by the goddess herself. She has been taken by that scum you call Alpha."

"Alpha Axton, stop" Alex snaps as his eyes also stare in anger at the Beta. "He was answering my alpha command, stand down and let's handle what we came for."

"Yes Alpha King" Axton says as he steps back slowly, welcoming the sense of calmness I push through him.

"Clearly you have not been told the truth by Alpha Bruno, and that is something we will address in due course. Back to the matter at hand Beta Wilson, were you aware of your Alphas plans regarding the White Mountain Pack and Mila?" Elder Martin asks, his voice deceptively calm.

"No" Beta Wilson snaps at him as he bristles with anger.

"Where is Alpha Bruno's soon to be Luna, Rebecca?" Martin asks next.

"Asleep" Wilson states as I immediately sense he's telling the truth.

"Lies" I chuckle as I see his eyes narrow in anger.

Seeing Wilson's eyes flash as his wolf comes to the surface, I can sense the battle he is having when addressing me. "You may not want to admit it Wilson, but I know for a fact your wolf is demanding you respect me. We aren't asking for much, only the truth." "I can't tell you about Luna Rebecca, I believed she was helping our Alpha. I'd like you all to leave now..please" he growls quietly as his eyes shift between us.

"Are you in danger?" Alex asks suddenly causing Wilson's eyes to widen in shock.

When he stays silent, Alex looks around with furrowed brows as he appears deep in thought. "Has Alpha Bruno been away from this pack much in recent months?"

"He has had matters to deal with off of pack grounds yes, however I cannot tell you more" Wilson replies moodily. "I will be happy to inform Alpha Bruno when he returns that you are wishing to speak to him."

With a cold laugh, Alex steps forward as his aura is fully released, making the men of the Deep Forest Pack submit immediately. "Your Alpha is very much aware that I wish to speak to him, he is aware that taking Mila in these circumstances will result in my anger, he has chosen to defy not only me but the council. Tell me Beta, are you aware that he will be facing consequences for his actions?"

"I am, especially after hearing what you have told me" Wilson replies through a clenched jaw, reluctant to speak but being forced to with the power of Alex's Alpha command. "But he doesn't care."

"He doesn't care" Alex replies with a sneer. "Well that doesn't matter to me, Alpha Bruno will soon regret his actions believe me. I wish to see some pack members while we are here, check in and see how they are doing with the seemingly common occurrence of your Alpha disappearing."

Seeing the hint of panic in the Betas eyes, I raise my brow at his reaction. "I don't think that's necessary" Wilson says quietly, his voice not as strong as it was earlier.

"I think its very necessary" Elder Martin interjects firmly. "I have many reasons to be concerned right now, as does your Alpha King, you dont want to refuse us do you?"

With a slight gesture of his head, Wilson has two of the warriors behind him move quickly inside.

"Nova, go with them" Alex orders me as Jax growls in reluctance. "She will be fine Jaxon, its not her you need to worry about right now."

Seeing the men hurrying off without waiting for me, I raise my voice and order "WAIT!" With that the two warriors immediately freeze in their movements as I leisurely walk over to them with a smug smile on my face. "H...how?" They splutter as I reach them.

"As our Alpha King said gentlemen, its not me that he needs to worry about" I whisper menacingly before pushing them forwards indicating they can move.

"Scout the place, if you need assistance then mind link us, we will be there immediately" Alex links me. "I asked you because people will underestimate you, but also because people may feel more comfortable speaking to you rather than these angry men out here." "I understand, keep an eye on Jax and Axton for me though" I reply as I step into the quiet pack house.

Seeing the men shift uncomfortably, their postures stiff while they watch me look around the entrance hall of the pack house, I c**k my head listening carefully for any sign of movement around me. "It certainly is awfully quiet around here gentlemen, our earlier observations were correct" I murmur as their eyes widen at my comment. "Perhaps you could give me a tour of your pack house and I'll have a chat with people along the way."

"Are you allowed to do that? It's not an official visit is it?" One of the men asks nervously.

"Elder Martin and your Alpha King requested an audience with your Alpha, yet he's not here, I suggest doing as I've asked as I'm only following orders myself" I tell them sharply, my tone not giving them room for argument. "Now..shall we start?"

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 21

Nova POV:

"Of course Luna" the same man replies.

"And your names men.?" I ask as they begin leading me towards the back of the pack house.

"My name is Jack, and this is Donald" he replies. "In there we have the kitchen" he gestures as he walks past.

Seeing them hurry to continue, I pause and push the door open. Seeing one older lady by a large fridge, I walk over slowly. "Good morning" I say softly making her startle suddenly.

"Sorry" I whisper. "I didn't mean to scare you, I'm Luna Nova of the Midnight Sky Pack, we are visiting with the Alpha King. I'm just having a tour of the pack house and thought I'd introduce myself." Looking at her as she turns to face me, I see the tired lines on her face as well as her eyes that look haunted, her hair limp and dull as it falls down her back in a simple ponytail. "Good morning Luna" she rasps as she slowly moves closer to me.

"You having a busy morning preparing for the pack?" I ask with a chuckle as I glance behind me to see Jack and Donald both stood in the doorway with their arms crossed intimidatingly.

With a nervous laugh she nods her head, her eyes flitting to the men before she looks back down at the floor. "Its always busy when you work In the kitchen" she whispers.

"Of course" I murmur realising her unease at speaking with me "Well I best leave you to get on, it was a pleasure meeting you. I'm sorry I didn't catch your name?"

"Francesca" she says softly as her eyes look up at me briefly.

"Francesca" I repeat quietly. "Take care."

With a small nod, she turns quickly and continues with the work she was busying herself with before I interrupted her.

Looking around the kitchen, I take in the spotless sides and empty sink, the hob burning with a couple of pans but that's all. With raised brows I look at the men who avoid my gaze, "move on men" I order loudly as they both jump back into action upon hearing my sharp tone.

They proceed to show me the rest of the downstairs of the pack house, introducing me to a couple of omegas on the way who are all quiet yet polite in their passing conversations. Walking upstairs, I note the door leading to the offices is locked along with the corridor opposite.

"These are only for ones in ranked positions" Donald explains gruffly. "We don't have clearance."

"Of course" I murmur as I study the two men walking in front of me. "Could I see your nursery?" Seeing the nervous look pass between them, I speak again.

"It wasn't really a request" I snap releasing my aura slightly, not giving them any chance to argue as they submit to me.

"This way" Jack mutters, leading me back downstairs and out of a side door. Looking to my right, I see the others stood to one side in silence while the Beta stands watching them. Seeing Jax look up at me, I offer him a small smile as I link him. "Not everyone is here, only one cook in the kitchen, the place was spotless and looked like it wasn't used much at all. A lot of upstairs is locked and these men don't have clearance, I'm on my way too the nursery now."

"Ok, look after yourself" he replies with quiet concern.

"I always do, perhaps ask about their warriors" I tell him as I give him a little wave.

"It's this building here" Donald tells me as we reach a large grey block building with dark doors leading inside. Seeing a few women walking down the road along with their pups, I smile at the men as I walk past them and in to the reception. Looking through the doors leading to the different rooms, I see a few pups already here, but instead of being met with the joyous sound of their tinkling laughs, see them sat quietly. Many are playing in silence, while some are simply sat staring out the window looking into the dark forest in front of them.

Hearing the doors open, I turn and see a young woman and her two pups enter. Meeting my gaze, her eyes widen in surprise before she looks at Jack and Donald nervously.

"Good morning" I chime trying to sound friendly and relaxed, despite my rising anger. Introducing myself to them, the lady smiles slightly as I drop down in front of her pups. "And who do we have here?" I ask softly.

Seeing them glance at their mum, she speaks up, "I'm Mathilda, and these are my pups Jonas and Evie."

Sending them a reassuring smile, I reach out and bop their noses slightly. "Well you two are absolutely adorable" I wink as Evie giggles quietly. "Are you excited for nursery today?"

With that question, their smiles falter slightly before Jonas steels his face and clears his throat, "we are Luna. I'm going to see my friend Tobias."

"Oh that sounds wonderful, well I hope you both have a great day and you enjoy seeing Tobias. Friends are amazing aren't they. Be good for your mum" I giggle as they smile sheepishly up at her.

Standing slowly so as to not scare them, I smile warmly at the mother who suddenly has tears in her eyes. "Are you alright?" I ask quietly.

Her smile falters slightly before she nods and replies, "yes, I'm still getting used to leaving my pups. Mother jitters and all."

Chuckling at her, her shoulders relax slightly as she once again glances at the men with me.

"Don't react" | link her quietly as she bends down to kiss her children, pausing slightly at my mind link, she soon continues with her goodbyes. "Are you safe here?"

"For now..yes" she replies nervously as she avoids looking at me.

"Are the pups?" I ask next.

"Yes, they will be fine" she replies, her answer more confident this time as the pups hang up their bags.

"Not everybody is here are they?" I ask her.

"I cant say" she replies, her voice wobbly through the link. "I physically cant say."

"You're under an Alpha command" I note as her mouth thins slightly.

"Well its been lovely seeing you all, you pups enjoy today" I say out loud in a soft reassuring voice.

"And you Luna, safe travels" Mathilda replies quietly.

"If you need help.I'm from the Midnight Sky Pack, you can contact me at any time" I link her as I smile and with a small wave walk back outside.

Breathing in the fresh air as I step out, my face immediately darkens now I'm no longer in the company of other pack members. "Is there anywhere else you'd like to go Luna?" Donald reluctantly asks.

"I think I've seen enough" I reply coldly as I storm over to my anxiously waiting mate

I take Jaxs outstretched hand and welcome his warmth as he holds me close, aware of the fact he cam feel my sadness and anger I'm experiencing because of our bond.

"What did you find?" Alex links me as we stand in silence.

"Lack of pack members is evident, I met some omegas who were quiet yet polite. They seemed nervous around me as did the lady from the kitchen, she was reluctant to speak and commented that its always busy in the kitchen, but all evidence points to the contrary. I also went to the pack nursery, there were quite a few pups there but they weren't happy...no laughter" i tell him quietly.

"Ok" he growls as he turns to speak to Elder Martin, gesturing for them to walk away to converse quietly.

Looking round Jax, I see Wilson watching them with concern etched across his face while Axton stands looking lost in thought. After a few moments, Alex and Martin return, both of their faces looking grave as they walk up to Beta Wilson.

"As you know, we are holding an emergency Alpha meeting tomorrow, are you able to reach Alpha Bruno?" Martin asks calmly.

"He will contact me if necessary" Wilson says in a low growl.

"So that's a no" Jax snaps at him.

"No..I cannot reach him" Wilson says as his angry glare turns to Jax.

"Well then I expect you to be there instead" Alex says, interrupting the two mens stare off. "It is a meeting that concerns all packs and therefore I am requesting you be the representative."

"I can't leave the pack" Wilson says, his voice sounding concerned.

"In this case, I can assure you that you can" Alex snaps, not happy with Wilson's resistance. "It's a direct order from your Alpha King and Council, Beta, so I suggest you be there."

Blowing out a long breath, Wilson grinds his teeth together as he mulls over his response. "Fine" he huffs, "I will be there."

"Good, on that note we will take our leave. Thank you for having us today" Alex says politely as he begins to walk back towards our vehicles. "Oh and Wilson...if your Alpha does contact you, I have a message for him. Tell him, his lies will catch up with him eventually...not all dreams are worth it, after all the higher you climb, the harder you can fall."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 22

Jax POV:

"We will stop in about 25 minutes, as soon as we are at the nearby town. Lets reconvene there before we go our separate ways. I have a vehicle of 5 warriors coming to meet Alpha Axton so he is not travelling back by himself" Alex tells us all.

"I can look after myself" Axton growls as he paces beside us.

"I know" Alex says calmly. "But I wouldn't be doing my job as Alpha King if I didn't consider the risks, after everything that has happened I think travelling with others is a good idea."

"You're right" Axton sighs as he pauses his pacing and runs a hand through his short hair. "Thank you."

With a nod, Alex stands up and with a firm rap of his knuckles on our car bonnet, he turns while saying "follow us, stay close."

Jumping in the vehicle, I'm once again hit by a strong wave of Novas sadness as she stares back at the eerily quiet pack grounds. "Come here love" I whisper holding my arms out as we take our seats. "That was tough huh?"

"Yes" she says with a shaky breath. "But those pups....oh Jax it was heartbreaking" she cries as she finally succumbs to tears.

"What happened?" Axton asks in concern as he begins to follow Alex's vehicle.

"They were all in their play rooms, just playing...silently.

There were no tears, no happiness, no laughter, nothing.

They were broken shells, and they're only pups" she sobs. "I spoke to a young mum, Mathilda, and her two pups. I asked if they were excited for nursery and they hesitated, then the eldest, a young boy stepped up and said he was excited to see his friend. He knew he had to answer and not give anything away that would suggest they weren't looking forward to it. It was so sad."

"Poor pups" I say quietly as I feel my stomach clench at the thought of sad pups. "It was vastly different to when I last visited, even as I drove up last time, you couldn't miss the wolves running through the trees keeping watch as I approached. There used to be pack members littered about everywhere, but we barely saw any."

"It's clear Bruno has been lying to his Beta" Axton growls as he jogs his knee anxiously.

"He definitely is" Nova whispers. "It's weird, when I read Wilson's emotions I could sense jealousy."

"Jealousy?" I repeat as I try to think over the way he handled himself.

"Yes" she sighs. "But for the life of me I can't think why he would have felt that, it's a frustrating feeling people's emotions but not always knowing the reason behind them feeling that sort of way."

"It's more than what we knew before though Nova" I tell her with pride clear in my voice. "You handled yourself brilliantly there, as always."

"You have to say that" she chuckles quietly.

"But I mean it" I say nudging her lightly as she offers me a small smile. With a little sigh, I turn to see Axton glance at me in the mirror. "How are you holding up?" I ask him, referring to the potential bomb that was dropped on him.

"I'm in two minds, I was angry at first and most likely a bit defensive. I don't want to think I'm related to that fucker" he admits slowly. "But then I realised Bruno has lied so much, to his own pack. Who knows if it's even true or he's just trying to f**k with me." "Is there anyone you can speak to about it?" I ask him.

"My mother" he replies quietly. "I'll speak to her once I'm back, I'm not leaving that to simmer."

"That's a good idea" Nova comments. "Just remember to hear her out Axton, don't react just listen."

Tensing as I feel like he may take offense to Nova reminding him, I'm pleasantly surprised when he chuckles instead. "Already planning on Luca being with me don't worry."

Relaxing I chuckle as well, stopping when I see them both look at me curiously. "Sorry, I forget you know each other so well. It's quite amusing to see you deal with one another like that."

"Does it make you feel uncomfortable?" Axton asks hesitantly. "Because I don't mean for that at all."

"No" I reply quickly shaking my head. "Its natural, you spent years together and you weren't just chosen mates you began as friends. Trust me, I know its nothing more than that, Nova is all mine." I say with a wink causing my mate to blush a rosy pink while Axton laughs for the first time in a while.

"I don't need to be reminded man, but I'm glad" Axton grins.

"Both Luca and Nova are extremely good at reading me, I struggled when I was younger with my anger. I reacted without taking a minute to think it over, trust me it has gotten much better over the years. But I know Nova means no harm by her comments, she's just helping" he shrugs.

"Sorry love" I murmur to Nova as she simply waves me off.

"Its fine honestly, you're pretty good at not being a jealous a*s" she winks.

"Because I trust you," I reply simply.

"Guardian Wolves never betray their mates, once bonded that's us for life. Also our unique bond gives me no sense of doubt when it comes to Ki and Nova" Zeus tells me happily. "Even when Ki is being quiet on me." Hearing that I pause as confusion hits me, "Ki is being quiet on you?"

"Yeah, she says she's tired. I thought maybe coming into her true powers drained her and then losing Drake etc may be the reason. I'm here when she needs me, and Nova also promised us a run later" he replies casually. "Did she now?" I ask in amusement. "Well what she says goes I suppose."

"Exactly" Zeus replies smugly.

Seeing Alex indicate to pull into a small rest spot, we pull in slowly behind him. "Axton, whatever happens.. we know you're nothing like Bruno" I tell him as we go to climb out.

Seeing his shoulder relax as his head drops slightly, he offers me a grateful smile, "that means a lot, thank you..both of you."

"Now lets see what's next, hopefully Ophelia has heard something about Mila" I tell them, moving the subject back to my main reason to worry.

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 23

Nova POV:

"Well." Alex starts with an unreadable expression on his face. "That was not what I expected."

"What did you expect?" Jax asks with a frown.

"A false sense of calm among them, a pack believing they were strong and not in the wrong, one that looked up to their alpha. If anything I expected more aggression" Alex states. "Did you ask about the warriors?" I ask them.

"Yes" Jax replies. "They said they were busy running training camps in other parts of the territory, and then they have border patrols running as normal. But nothing struck me as normal during that visit." "Why didn't we push more?" Axton growls.

"Because, Bruno is clearly playing a bigger game. His Beta definitely didn't know the complete truth, and when we asked if he was safe he didn't answer. Doesn't that strike you as a pack that is simply following orders with no understanding?" Alex explains to Axton with raised brows.

Also, if we push too far we don't know how it could affect Mila. I know you're anxious to get her back, but we don't want to risk her more in the process."

"True" he says quietly as he looks deep in thought.

"What do you think is happening?" He asks Alex after a moment.

"My best guess..he's been slowly moving the pack over the last few months. The majority of warriors were definitely not there. I mean that pack is incredibly hostile normally and their warrior presence would be sensed as soon as you've passed over their territory lines. My visits never go smoothly there, but then again Bruno has always been there so that will be why. I need to speak to Rebecca, I'm going to contact her home pack and speak to her father" Alex tells us.

"That was a pack that is suffering greatly, no one was happy" I interject quietly.

"That is what I'm going to address at the Alpha meeting"

Alex nods. "I want Wilson there so he is aware of the severity of the level of concern I have for the pack members.

"Were they scared?" Jax asks me next.

"Yes they were, definitely. But I've been thinking as well, they seemed lost... like they've been forgotten" I murmur. "I should have asked more but with Jack and Donald there no one was forthcoming with their opinions and I didn't want to make them too uncomfortable."

"I spoke with Ophelia" Alex says, swiftly moving on as all our eyes snap to look at him. "Why didn't you start with that?" Jax asks in disbelief.

"Because my mind was on how fvcked up this all is" Alex snaps at him. "None of this is normal, none of it is a typical response is it? Yes Bruno taking Mila could have been seen in its own right as a fvcked up but relatively expected thing to occur considering what he like. But alongside his attitude to us, his lack of physical presence in his own pack and the lies...its fvcked up!"

With a heavy sigh Jax nods his head in acceptance as he purses his lips. "It makes sense" he says quietly. "But what did Ophelia have to say?"

"That there is a lot of movement near the Dark Moon Pack that borders the Red Sun Pack, Rebecca's home pack.

Coincidentally the Alpha of the Dark Moon Pack is her cousin" Alex says coldly. "I believe she has more involvement in this than we thought, or perhaps her father does. Now what we need to figure out is if it is Bruno's doing or theirs. They're normally good at staying under the radar, they're successful but not enough for everyone to watch them, they don't get involved in too much pack drama and there are very little rumours about them that do the rounds."

"So do you think Mila will be there?" Axton asks hopefully.

"No" Alex replies slowly. "Ophelia also caught wind of some private building taking place in neutral territory deep in the heart of the Oxferks area. About 50 miles north of Red Sun Pack. Some travelling wolves have mentioned it over the last few months when they stopped in a local diner where one of Ophelia's sources work. It's a good place to pick up or over hear random facts."

"And you think this is something to do with Mila?" Axton asks in confusion.

"I have a good feeling about it yes" Alex agrees. "Now, I know what you're going to say. Lets go there now, but... have a plan in place already. Or actually Ophelia does, I'm asking you to wait until the end of tomorrow once we have got the Alpha meeting finished with."

"Why?" Axton growls, "I need to find my mate."

"I know" Alex says calmly as he steps closer to Axton. "But we need to ensure that we don't risk tomorrow. It is of the utmost importance that we see as many Alphas there as possible, especially of the southern territories. If Mila is there and we are able to extract her before the meeting, it could ruin everything. We dont know if Mila has learnt anything since being away from us, if she had for example heard names of those involved then I would imagine once they've learnt she has escaped, they would not come. It may even speed up whatever is going on that we aren't aware of. We ve seen it before with Novas grandfather, taking the time to gain information can be valuable."

"I HATE this" Axton growls.

"Look, for now, please trust in your Luna Queen when she says she has a plan" Alex says seriously, his eye full of confidence for his mate. "Alpha Axton, I need you to speak to your mother. Find out if its true you're related to Bruno so we can nip the shock or the lies in the bud early...yes?"

With a deep sigh, Axton nods as his face hardens. "I hope I'm not" he mutters moodily. "I'm going to speak to her once I get back, that way I can fill you in tomorrow."

"Good" Alex replies in relief. "Keep an open mind."

"I've been warned already" Axton mutters rolling his eyes. "I am an Alpha you know."

"We are aware, but you have been through a lot. I'm surprised you're not reacting more extreme to be honest" Nova tells him quietly.

"And I know you haven't been able to rest much, its easy to react in anger when you're tired" Alex adds on.

"Trust me, our Alpha King would know" Jax mutters under his breath as Axton smirks slightly before replying.

"What good is that going to do" he says quietly. "doesn't get me any closer to Mila."

"Good you're using your head" Martin says in approval from where he has been quietly watching. "Your warriors are arriving Alpha Axton. If you need to call anyone after speaking to your mother then do so, but I'm sure your Beta will be just the person you need. Let us head back to the Midnight Sky pack before I go on to the council buildings, we will see you tomorrow anyway."

"Yes Elder" Axton replies with a bow of his head.

"Tomorrow it is, if you hear anything..."

"Then I will contact you immediately" Alex finishes quietly for him. "Drive safe."

With a silent wave, Axton jumps into his car by a door that one of his warriors has open for him, and the cars move away slowly.

"Lets go back then" I say quietly, my voice sombre as the memories of the children's downcast faces come to mind.

"Yes lets" Alex says eagerly, rubbing his hands together in anticipation.

"Do I want to ask?" Jax asks with a quiet huff as he eyes

Alex curiously.

"Its time to discuss what you need to do Jax" he says with a wide smirk. "After all your path to becoming the next Alpha King starts tomorrow."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 24

Mila POV:

Waking with a start, I sit bolt upright in my bed as it takes a moment for my eyes to focus. Looking around the room, still swathed in darkness, I stand up from the bed and stumble

to the high window. Pulling back the curtains I shriek when my eyes immediately meet a pair of dark brown ones staring in. "GET AWAY" I yell in a panic as I rush to close the curtains again to the low grumble of the mans laughter following.

Tip-toeing to the bedroom door, I peer round and cock my head listening closely. Not hearing anyone else within the cabin, I take a deep inhale and once that confirms I'm alone, I pad through to the kitchen making sure not to look out of the small window I pass on the way.

Opening the fridge, I see it fully stocked and pause momentarily taking it all in. Inside the shelves are full to burst with all different kinds of meat, fresh fruit and vegetables and plenty of dairy foods. Looking at the amount of food in there, I realise Bruno doesn't plan for me to be moving elsewhere anytime soon, even with the typically large appetite I have due to being a wolf, the amount of food in there will easily last me the week.

Sighing, I begin pulling everything I'd need for a large omelette out before making a coffee and beginning cooking. Knowing I had no idea what was to come, I needed to make sure I kept healthy and strong, especially for Alia. I will never allow Bruno to weaken us again.

Halfway through breakfast, my sharp senses pick up on muffled voices nearing the cabin. Pausing, so I can listen closely, I close my eyes and focus. "Meeting tomorrow afternoon..." ...surprise them.."

"She will be here by this evening and we can proceed then." this I can tell is Bruno's voice, hearing him near the cabin, my eyes fly open and I quickly pick up my cutlery continuing to eat. Looking down, I study my omelette as I methodically cut it and take small bites.

Racking my brain as I try to think of what meeting it may be, I come up blank. Realising it most likely has something to do with Bruno's plans, I decide to not question him and see if I can hear anything else of worth during my time here. With the mention of a woman coming, my body goes cold at the assumption it will be Rebecca. Remembering the malicious smirks she would direct towards me, and the way her eyes brightened whenever she saw me in pain I growl lightly just as the front door swings open. "And what's got you so angry at this time of morning?" Bruno asks in amusement as he sits down in the chair opposite me.

"Wouldn't you like to know" I reply back snarkily for him only to chuckle, his eyes bright with intrigue.

"I see you've made yourself at home" he comments as he takes in what little food I have left on my plate.

Shrugging, I don't grace him with a reply, instead I continue to eat until my plate is empty. Once finished, I lean back as take a sip of my coffee, looking across at Bruno where I sense a more positive energy surrounding him today.

"May I get some fresh air today?" I ask as my gaze moves to the beams of morning sunlight filtering through the trees above. "I can't be cooped up like this constantly Bruno."

"Ooo I like it when you say my name" he smirks making me simply roll my eyes in response. "Yes, I will accompany you for a walk this afternoon, we can walk around here and if you wish to eat outside I can join you."

Pausing as that wasn't exactly what I had in mind, I quickly weigh up my options. Going outside was necessary, for my well being but also so I can take more details of where I am currently being held. In my dazed state of arrival yesterday, I hadn't taken in anything but the fact we were in a clearing in a forest. "Ok" I quietly reply.

"You want to do both?" He asks in slight surprise.

"Wolves need fresh air, of course I want to be outside. Don't take it as I want to be in your company" I reply coldly.

"That's more like the Mila I know" he chuckles. "Tomorrow I have something important to discuss with you, I require your cooperation in something important" he starts as I look at him curiously.

"Or else?" I ask slowly.

"I think you know" he grins as he cracks his knuckles.

"And there's the Bruno I know" I sneer back at him.

"The one and only" he smirks. "I have some guests arriving later today, they will be wanting to see you so make sure you're presentable. I'll have some clothes brought to you after dinner. Is there anything you need as I will be busy until this afternoon?" "Nothing that I think you will agree to so...no" I huff as I cross my arms angrily, my heart aching as the thought of Mate lingers in my mind. "Am I allowed to train?"

"Train" he laughs. "Why would you feel the urge to train Mila? You have your yoga equipment, if you wish to do some this morning then I am more than happy to ask Harry to oversee you for a short 30 minutes."

"Is this your way of buttering me up to try ensure I cooperate?" I ask him bluntly.

"Yes" he admits immediately, "like I said Mila I don't wish to hurt you if it can be helped. Just take what I'm offering for now, it will be a lot easier on both of us. Trust me."

"But I don't Bruno, I have absolutely no reason to trust you" I scoff. "Is Harry the one who was peeping in my bedroom window this morning?"

"Excuse me?" He bellows as his eyes jump to meet mine.

"You heard me, I opened my curtains and was met with some brown eyes, I knew they weren't yours" I mutter.

"That bastard" he growls before slamming his fist on the table and storming out the cabin, the door slamming shut behind him as his good mood evaporates.

"As polite as ever" I grumble while taking my dirty plate to the sink and rinsing everything clean. Sighing I pour myself a glass of apple juice and then take a seat on the sofa, thinking through what Bruno had said. Suddenly there is a loud roar from outside and I shoot up off the sofa, recognising it as belonging to Bruno. Yet this time, his anger didn't seem to be directed towards me.

Running to the window in the bedroom, I pull the curtains open and gasp in surprise as I see Bruno's slamming the man I assume to be Harry into the ground, where blood is pouring from a large gash on his chest while his eyes roll back as he passes out. "You do not EVER touch Mila, don't forget why we are here.

She CANNOT come to harm" Bruno seethes as he turns his furious glare on the men who are gathering around him. "If I see your hungry eyes on her I will not hesitate to do worse than I have today with Harry, all of you may consider this your warning!" Spinning slowly, his blood splattered face looks to me, his brown eyes taking in my surprise. Taking a shaky step back, I feel the bed hit the back of my legs and I sit down in shock, staring at the wall below the high window where I can no longer see my ex mate. "I just need to stay alive and out of harms way as long as possible" I mutter to myself. "I can do this."

"We can do this Mila" I hear Alia murmur quietly to me.

"You're back" I breathe in relief as tears fall down my face.

"I am" she says confidently. "Its time to show that man, he is no longer our Alpha."

The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse?

Chapter 25

Nova POV:

"Luna" Laurence says with a bow as he greets us on return.

"How are you?"

"Tired," I chuckle, "but I'll be fine."

"You look tired" he says quietly before frowning and backtracking. "I mean. don't, you don't."

"Laurence" I chuckle. "I do, and I don't mind you stating the obvious. At least you didn't say I looked awful" I wink as we walk inside.

"You said my mate looks awful?" Jax growls as he appears by my side.

"NO!" Laurence shouts, his eyes wide with panic. "All I said was she looks tired."

"Bad thing to say to a she-wolf Laurence" Jax snaps as I look at him in shock.

"Jax! He didn't insult me, I'm the one that said I was tired and he agreed. My goodness," I exclaim. "I made a joke saying at least he didn't say I looked awful!"

"Oh" Jax says looking sheepish.

"Protective a*s" Laurence mutters as Jax growls lunging for him playfully before we all erupt into quiet laughter.

"Anyway" Laurence starts as reach the office door. "I've filed all our daily reports, I've checked in on the wounded who are still hospitalised and I'm pleased to say that in the next 48 hours all will be returning home. The funerals for the fallen are going to be held tonight, I couldn't leave it any longer and all families have agreed it is time for the burning to mark the end of mourning. Everybody will be meeting outside at 8pm, the families all wished to do it once darkness has fallen."

"Thank you Laurence" Jax says with a sad smile. "I'm going to make personal visits this afternoon to all the families, I will also address the pack about what has happened with Mila. They deserve an explanation as to why I suddenly departed and will have to tomorrow also.

Was everybody ok with me not being here?"

"They were fine" Laurence says with a shrug. "Of course people wondered where you were, but both myself and our Luna Mother made it clear you would address the subject on your return and that it was an urgent matter."

"And how is my ma?" Jax asks with worry across his handsome face.

With a small frown, Laurence sighs before replying. "On the surface, you would think she is perfectly normal. But I know for a fact she has been keeping herself extremely busy, I don't think she has got much sleep recently. I saw her taking a walk in the garden at 2:30am, she looked sad."

"Oh Amelia" I whisper as concern floods through me. "She's lost her matebond and her daughter, I imagine she's feeling a bit overwhelmed at the moment." "Naomi and Alice have been there with her, they've not broached the subject too much but they have helped her with work" Laurence explains quietly.

"The company will help" Jax says. "I'll ask her to accompany me this afternoon, perhaps you get some rest Nova before this evenings burnings?"

"I think I might have to" I frown. "I'm sorry, I wanted to come with you and visit the families."

"They will want their Luna rested and feeling well" he assures me gently. "You can see them tonight love."

"If you're sure" I whisper, guilt flooding through me.

Seeing Laurence flinch, Jax and I both raise our brows in question. Realising we noticed, he rubs the back of his neck before chuckling quietly. "Mindlink from Naomi, I tell you. hormones are no joke" he grimaces.

"How are her and Alice?" I ask.

"Brilliant, pups are growing perfectly and Theo has been busy preparing our baby rooms while we have time" he smiles.

"Oh I can't wait to see" I exclaim happily.

"So I see Elder Martin and our Alpha King are still here?"

Laurence asks.

"Yes" Jax replies. "Alex and Ophelia will be staying until tomorrow, we can all travel to the Alpha meeting together that way. Elder Martin will be travelling back tonight, I

believe he's just checking in with Sophie and organising for her to travel to the White Mountain Pack."

"Can I just say. They have been extremely helpful and respectful while staying here" Laurence comments. "They've come to some training sessions and actually included a few new methods which we have never considered, they also were intrigued with our methods of training. They've also helped in the kitchens, and on border patrols."

"They didn't have to do that" Jax exclaims.

"They weren't invasive Alpha, they were respectful and just offering their help. They did it before Sophie even suggested it" Laurence shrugs. "They seem to be accustomed to being around other pack members more."

"Well that's a good thing" I smile. "I'll have to find Sophie before she heads back. Is she any closer to shifting?"

"Her wolf said at the full moon, the power of the moon will help her shift" he excitedly tells us.

"Brilliant" I say in relief as another yawn escapes me.

"Go to bed love" Jax says with a little chuckle. "I'll come wake you for dinner."

"Thanks," I whisper as I stand up and quickly drop a kiss on his forehead.

"Luna..I'll walk with you. Give Alpha time to organise the things he has to do before tonight" Laurence smiles as he holds the door open for me.

"I feel like I could sleep for days" I chuckle as I stifle another yawn. "Sorry, it's so rude of me."

Waving me off he simple chuckles as we reach Jax and I's room, "can I speak to you in private quickly?" He asks quietly as he glances around.

"Of course" I say looking at him in confusion as I open the door and gesture for him to go in. Walking in I lead us to the sofa and sit down with a sigh. "So what can I help you with?"

"So you know how i am the Beta" he says slowly as I simply nod at his statement. "Since you and Jax's true bond was completed during the fight, I've been more sympathetic to how you're feeling."

"Oh well that's nice" I say with a giggle. "But you don't need to worry about how I'm feeling."

"No you misunderstood Luna" he says shaking his head.

Sympathetic as in I can sense your feelings, as if I'm linked to you in a way. I know it's normal for myself and our Gammas to protect the Luna with our lives, we would do anything for you. But when you're angry I can literally sense it, when you're upset I can as well and when also when you're happy. I can't put the context behind the feelings don't worry" he says with an awkward smile as I flush deeply.

"And this has only come on since the fight?" I ask him slowly.

"Yes" he responds quietly. "It took me a while to figure out, but when you said you're so tired it all makes sense. I've been feeling overwhelmingly tired, but I'm physically not, I know it's not my own feeling and can separate it. I know Gammas are linked to the Luna normally, but when I asked Theo and Flo they both said they weren't, they just have a family bond with you."

"Interesting" I muse.

"But that's not exactly why I want to talk in private, but you must know I'm privileged to have that bond with our Luna" he says with a proud smile.

"So what is it you want to talk about?" I ask him again.

"I've also been feeling incredibly hungry alongside your tiredness" he says slowly.

"Sorry for my appetite?" I ask in confusion.

"No" he shakes his head as he flushes slightly. Sensing his nerves, I reach out my hand to grasp his.

"Laurence....what's wrong? Just say it." I say gently.

Taking a deep breath, he looks at me before speaking, "if Jax and you have spoken about this and decided to speak to me about it at a later date, then I apologise for asking."

"Ok..." I say with a frown.

He smiles slightly before his next question makes me freeze in shock, "Luna....are you pregnant?"