

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta novel

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Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 401

Chapter 401

Zane

I stared at this young adult woman but snapped my jaw shut to hide my surprise. She looked like Xander

more than ever, but I could see Lanie in her, too.

She'd gone off to school today in a blue and white dress with white tights and black shoes. Now she wore

a long skirt in a floral pattern. It was too long for her and dragged on the floor. Her shirt was of a different

pattern that didn't match. The sleeves were too short.

"We...hrmmm," the male teacher said. "Anita gave her some clothes from the lost and found."

The woman, who must have been Anita, added, "I'm sorry, but we didn't have any shoes or socks to fit her.

We did the best we could."

Stella chuckled softly as she lifted the hem of her borrowed skirt to show off what looked like paper

booties on her feet. They were the sort meant to go over shoes to keep them from dirtying a carpet. There was

some duct tape holding them on.

"It was quite an unexpected event," said Anita.

The world swam a little bit as I tried to take it all in.

"Did you know?" the male teacher asked. "Because I have to say, Mr. Constantine, if you did, it would've

been nice if you'd informed the school. Perhaps kept her home today?"

"She's not contagious," I said sharply.

Anita cleared her throat. "Of course not. Herb wasn't implying any such thing. We're just all a little taken

aback, that's all."

"Papa," Stella said quietly with a sideways glance at the man on one side of her, and the woman on the

other. "I'm dismissed from the school. I think we ought to go home now, don't you?"

Herb stepped up and said quickly and apologetically "Stella's always been a star student here, but I think you can see why she's no longer able to attend."

"Of course," I said automatically. "Thanks for taking such good care of her."

I'd been wondering if they were used to this sort of thing, but it was now clear this was out of the ordinary

even among a bunch of supernaturals.

"My other pups. Alaina and Isaac. Are they being dismissed, too?"

I braced myself for word that the twins had somehow hurtled into adulthood, too, or maybe just adolescence. A stage Stella had skipped, I thought a little wildly and pressed my lips together to hold back a

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spurt of inappropriate laughter. The less of a big deal I made out of this, the easier it would be, or so I hoped..

Anita shook her head. "The twins are in preschool art class right now. They're not...rather...ahem."

"Allie and Izzy are fine, Papa." Stella's eyes shone as she smiled and took my hand. She looked back at her former teachers. "Thank you both for everything. I'm sure I'll see you around."

Anita smiled. "You come back and see us anytime, Stella."

I had to trust my daughter that her siblings were, in fact, fine. She didn't say anything else as we left the school and started toward home. Her paper booties made a shushing noise with every step she took.

I couldn't stop myself from staring down at them peeking out from under her skirt. Something about the fact that they'd had to dress her in cast-off clothes and give her makeshift shoes really struck all of this home

for me.

Stella was truly no longer a child.

When we got around the corner and almost to the elevator, Stella finally spoke.

"I'm sorry to have shocked you this way, Papa. It was unavoidable." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

I stopped walking and turned to put my hands on her shoulders. I looked down into her face, which was so familiar but also so strange at the same time. This was more than the usual rapid growth young wolves went through. She looked like an adult and spoke like one, too. She'd been acting older than her age for a

while now, but this was something else altogether.

I didn't know what to think about it. "Stella, how did this happen? What's going on?"

Her smile did not falter or fade, but her eyes did cut around the corridor. She let them flick upward toward the spot where the ceiling met the wall. I glanced there, too, but didn't see anything other than a small, dark spot. It was one of those spiders that watched everything. Now that I knew about them, I could spot them

everywhere.

"I think we should get home first, before we talk about anything. I'm starving," she said cheerfully, rubbing

her stomach. "I missed snack time at school today."

"Sure. Let's get you home."

I was going to have to let my mates know what had happened to our daughter. What she had become.

Together, we'd have to figure out how it had happened...and more importantly, why.

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Chapter 402

Lanie

“Lanie...” Zane’s voice met me through the mind link, but it sounded like it was coming from very far away.

I’d been concentrating so hard on figuring out Braden’s emotions and also his thoughts about why he didn’t want me to share them with Malachi, that my own mate’s link to me was stretched thin to the point of breaking. I shook my head, staggering back a few steps.

“What’s wrong?” Charlotte asked at once, her voice thick with concern. She put a hand on my arm.

Greyson joined her on

faint or anything like that my other side. I realized they were both ready to catch me if I fell over. I didn’t feel

faint or anything like that, but I appreciated that they were there for me in case I did.

“You okay?” Braden asked evenly as his eyes met mine.

Was he trying to send me something? The way his
couldn’t read him, though.

yes narrowed told me that maybe he was. I still

“I’m fine. But Zane is calling for me. Can you all give me a minute so I can find out what he needs?”

“I’ll get you some water and a snack, Greyson offered.

Malachi snorted. “You need to build up your stamina granddaughter.”

I waved him off, something I knew would make him gnash his teeth. I wasn’t trying to get on my grandfather’s nerves or be disrespectful, but I also knew he wasn’t going to come after me for it. That was the privilege of being his blood.

“Zane?”

“Lanie, love...can you come home?”

I looked around this small training room and wrinkled my nose at how I could suddenly smell the overpowering stink of my own body odor. Charlotte pressed an opened bottle of water into my hand, while Greyson handed me an unwrapped protein bar.

hear.

Malachi and Braden were in the room’s other corner, heads bent together, murmuring words I couldn’t

“I’m kind of in the middle of something, honey. Is something wrong?” I took a long drink. My thirst and

hunger both roared to full life, and I eagerly gobbled the protein bar.

“Nothing’s wrong. But you should come home. It’s about Stella. I don’t want you to worry,” Zane thought quickly, as though he knew I’d hear that and instantly get nervous. “But this is something that would be better to share with you face to face. And you should be prepared that she looks a little different.”

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“I’ll be there in fifteen minutes. Where are Mason and Xander?”

“Still at the tech center, as far as I know. I haven’t reached out to them yet, but I will. I wanted to get in touch with you first. Are you still training with Malachi?”

“Yes.”

I looked over at my grandfather, who was still talking to Braden. The younger vampire looked a little upset, an emotion I could feel only faintly now that I wasn’t concentrating on him as hard. Out loud, I said, “I need to get home.”

Malachi turned with his hands on his hips. “Lanie, really. Your libidinous mate can wait his turn, can’t he? This is important. You don’t need to be at his beck and call.”

With a frown, tossed my empty water bottle in a trash can by the door. “That’s pretty rude of you to assume that my mate was only reaching out to me for something like that. I’m not at his beck and call. I’m in a partnership with all three of my mates, which means when they need me for something, I’ll do my best to give it to them. Maybe that’s something you could learn, too.”

“Ouch,” Charlotte murmured with a twist of her lips and a sideways look at my grandfather.

Malachi’s eyes blazed crimson as his lips skinned back over his curving fangs. “How very dare you!”

Braden put his hand on his lover’s arm. “Malachi.

Don’t.”

Malachi shook him off and crossed the room to me in the blink of an eye. His fingers gripped into my upper arms hard enough to make me wince. He pushed his face close to mine so I could see the swirling red

spirals in his eyes.

“All of this is for your own protection,” he hissed. “Do you think I gain joy from pushing you? Do you think this is how I’d like to spend my hours?”

I didn’t flinch. By the moon, he was a drama queen.

“Grandfather, please. It’s something about my child.

I’m sure you understand why that’s more important than any of this right now.”

Instantly, he stepped away from me. The red in his eyes faded. “You should have said so in the first place.”

“I shouldn’t have had to,” I told him. “I’m a grownup, and I have a life and responsibilities that you’ve never had. You fathered a child, Malachi, but you’ve never raised one. If my mate needs me to come home because our child needs me for something, for anything, then nothing else matters to me more than that.” [Search the FindNovel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

“Go,” he said. “But you should know, granddaughter, that until you understand your gifts and can use them, you’ll never be able to fully protect your children.”

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Chapter 403

Xander

A few minutes ago, Zane had called out to me through our mate bond link, but although I'd replied within a few seconds, he hadn't replied. Then he'd gone silent.

That was kind of weird, but I figured maybe he'd had something to tell me that could wait, or else he was busy and would reach out again in a few minutes.

Right now, I had to figure out what in the void was going on with all these missing files.

"Is anything else not where you'd expect it to be?" I asked as I leaned over Jordy's shoulder to look at his computer monitor. Scrolling lines of green text flowed along a black background. I couldn't make heads or

tails of it.

"The entire Brightsky system is all tied into our central hub here. It's backed up regularly, which means that even though I can't find that list on my hard drive, it should be accessible through one of the backups."

Jordy's fingers flew over the keys as he brought up a list of folders and files in multiple hard drives, external drives, and even some from a cloud server.

With every file he opened that didn't contain the backup he was looking for, he sounded more and more

frustrated when he replied.

"Nothing else is missing. Only the files pertaining to the resident list for Standard. And not all of them are gone, either. Only the ones from the past year." Jordy muttered a curse and sat back in his chair hard enough

to spin it around.

His brother pulled up a seat and started typing on his own keyboard, but he was having the same issues.

With a frustrated sigh, he also spun around and tossed his hands in the air. "I got nothing."

"Any other backups you might be forgetting about?" asked them both.

Jordy shook his head. "Me and Franco are the ones who set up this entire system. There isn't a backup

available that we don't know about. I've even checked the secret servers that nobody else has access to."

“And the files aren’t there, either? F uck,” I muttered.

“They might’ve been excluded from a backup to that server,” Franco said. “I’d bet my life that nobody could get into them, but they could’ve rewritten the commands to send a backup there. That’s the only thing I can

think of that makes sense.”

“None of it makes sense,” his brother said in a defeated voice. He looked up at me.

“Sorry. This is

extremely embarrassing.”

“Could be worse,” Franco said. “The resident list isn’t really that big of a deal. We can probably pull one

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together in an hour or so from other sources.”

“Yeah. Do that for me, please. And can you get me a list of anyone who might have admin access to these

files?”

“It’s a short list,” Franco said. “You’re looking at two of the people on it. The other one is Malachi, and the

leadership council has a temporary access code they can use with permission.”

It wasn’t about the resident list but the fact that someone in Brightsky had thought that it was important enough to destroy...and that they’d done it long enough in advance that it definitely seemed deliberate.

“Xander!”

Zane’s voice filtered into my mind through the link again, and I paused to answer him.

“I’m in the middle of something,” I thought to him.

I knew I sounded a little irritated, but I didn’t want him to keep calling for me without being there when I

answered.

His voice was sharp. "I know, but this is important.

Are you with Mason? He's not answering me."

"I'm here," Mason thought to us both in the next second. "Sorry, I'm caught up in something, too. What do

you need, Zane?"

"Hold on for a second," I thought to them both and turned back to the tech twins. "I've got my Beta trying

to connect with me. I'll be right back."

The twin in red kept furiously typing away. His brother was doing the same at his own terminal. I took a

few steps away and turned my back so I could concentrate better on what my Beta was saying.

"Whatever's going on, put a hold on it for later. You both need to come home right now. I've already connected with Lanie, and she's on her way," Zane thought. "For some reason, she wasn't hearing me through

our bond."

That probably explained why he'd called out for me but then went silent.

Mason's voice rose through our link. "I'll finish up and be there as soon as I can. Xander, meet me by the

elevators?"

"Yeah. Be there in five," I thought.

Zane's voice reached us both again. "If either one of you can get in touch with Gabriela...she should be

here, too."

"I'm going to have to come back," I said to the twins,

"But you have my number. Call me or text as soon as you get those lists together."

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I dialed my mother's number as I left for the elevator to meet Mason, but my call went right to voicemail. I called again, thinking she might notice a second ring, but she didn't pick up this time, either. I sent her a text, but a small red exclamation mark showed up to let me know my message didn't get through.

"And you should know," Zane thought to us both.

"Stella is going to surprise you."

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Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 404

Chapter 404

Zane

"They're all on the way. I was finally able to get your mother through our mate link." I paused, looking at my now-adult daughter. "Can you still hear us when we talk through that?"

Stella had helped herself to some cut-up fruit from the fridge in the kitchenette. She paused in pouring

herself some hot water for tea, then nodded.

"I can hear everyone's thoughts. All the time. Even when I don't want to. But yours and Abba's and Daddy's and Mother's are indistinct when you're talking through the bond. I can hear you, but I usually can't decipher what you're saying. Which, honestly, I prefer."

Stella laughed, sounding a little embarrassed. She poured us both mugs of tea and sat at the table. I took the chair across from hers and pulled my mug closer to me, even though I really wanted something much

stronger than tea.

"That must be hard," I told her. "Hearing thoughts all the time."

She shrugged and frowned a little bit, and in that expression I saw very clearly the little girl she'd been.

This was going to take me some time to get used to...

and I had to wonder how hard this was for her. One minute to be a child, the next an adult in the span of

mere hours.

Could she hear what I was thinking just then?

"I try not to," she said aloud. "Sometimes, like just now, what you were thinking was so loud and so strong, and it was about me. I heard it before I could stop myself. But mostly, Papa, I try to be polite and not listen in."

"Has it always been like that for you?"

She nodded after a moment and lifted the mug to her lips. She winced at the heat, then pursed her lips and blew lightly. I could feel the cold breeze from all the way across the table, and I let out a mutter of

surprise.

Again, my daughter looked embarrassed as she set down the mug. "I can make things cold if I need them

to be. Or hot."

"Stella..." I trailed off, not really even sure what I meant to say. "You are extraordinary. I always knew that,

of course. That you're so special. But..."

"But now you can see it right in front of you, and you can't deny it or pretend it away. I understand. I'm sorry it's such a shock to you, Papa. I didn't mean for it to be." Stella paused, tilting her head as though she was listening. "They're almost here. Then I'll be able to tell you everything. I'd like to do it when we're all

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together, if you can be patient enough for that."

"Of course, I can. If that's what you need," I told her.

Stella smiled, but tears gleamed in her eyes. "That's why I had them call you first, Papa. Because I knew

you'd be able to wait without demanding everything from me right away. Daddy is going to be a little more

difficult, I think."

We both laughed at that, shaking our heads. She was right. Xander was going to flip his lid when he saw her. That was why I hadn't simply told him what happened through our mind link.

"He's got to see it for himself," I told her. "But he'll be okay. He's your father, Stella. He's going to love you,

no matter what. We all will. Were you worried about that?"

Her hesitation showed me that was true. She might be adult-sized with a grownup's maturity, but there was another glimpse of her childhood in that expression. A little girl's fears that something she'd done would

take away her parents' love.

"People don't like those who are different, Papa."

"Oh, Stella."

"The teachers at school didn't like me. They might have told you otherwise," she cut in with a sharp look at me. "But I could tell, even before I grew up, that they really didn't know what to make of me. I tried hard S~earch the F~indN~ovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

never to show them what I could do, but it was hard."

"We aren't people. We are your family. Your pack.

We'll stand by you no matter how big you get," I told her fiercely. A sudden thought slammed into me about supernaturals I'd heard about but hadn't yet met. I had to assume they were real, though, since all the others turned out to be. "Are you going to get any bigger?"

She burst into laughter. "Papa!"

"You could be part Giant, for all I know," I teased, but there was a real question in my voice.

Stella shook her head. "I promise not to outgrow you"

That hadn't answered my question about if she could get bigger or not, but I accepted it. We both chuckled a little bit. Then her head tilted again, and her eyes narrowed.

"They're here," she said.

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Chapter 405

Lanie

My vampire running skills were far from being perfected, and I'd had to slow down halfway home to catch my breath. I made it the rest of the way in decent time, though. Xander and Mason showed up outside our

door at the same time.

We greeted each other briefly with hugs and kisses, but then I pushed open the door. I was eager to get inside, terrified of what I might find.

In all the things I'd imagined, the sight that greeted me was not one of them.

"Hello, Mother." A willowy young woman with Xander's smile stood up from the table.

Zane had been sitting across from her, and he stood up, too. He didn't say anything, not even through our

mind link. He didn't look half as confused as our other two mates.

Xander's jaw dropped. "Huh?"

Mason took a few automatic steps forward, his fists up before he caught himself and put them back at

his sides. "Stella?"

"Mother, Daddy, Abba. It's really me."

"Did you get in touch with your mom?" Zane asked Xander.

"She didn't answer." Xander sounded full of wonder.

He crossed the room and took both of Stella's hands in his as he looked her up and down. "I can't believe

this."

She looked past him to me, and her expression creased. "Mother?"

"I'm here, baby." I flew to her and gathered her into a hug.

My arms might not have been used to the size of her but she could never outgrow the space in my heart.

Stella wept, and I joined in. Happy tears? Scared? It was hard to tell, but we rocked together as she held onto me as tightly as she ever had as an infant.

"I love you, Stella, my little star. My precious angel.

You could be a hundred feet tall, and you'd still be my little girl.

She laughed through her so bs. "Papa already asked if I was going to get to be the size of a Giant!"

I held her at arms' length and pretended to give her a stern look. "Well, are you?"

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Mason came up behind us. "Can anyone tell me what in the world is going on?"

"You told us she was going to surprise us, but I didn't expect this." Xander pinched the bridge of his nose.

"I need a drink," Mason said. "Whiskey, anyone?"

Xander raised a hand. "Me."

Zane did the same, and after a moment, so did I. A second after him, so did Stella.

"You might be taller," Xander told her, "but I'm not sure I'm ready for you to be tossing back shots."

Stella laughed and dipped her head. "Oh, Daddy."

"Oh, Daddy,' she says." Xander shook his head and crossed to the small bar cart to pour everyone a round.

"Like I'm the one being unreasonable!"

His words were strong, but his tone was teasing.

We all gathered around to toss back a single shot of whiskey, our newly grownup daughter included. This was a celebration, after all, even if the three parents weren't quite sure what it all meant.

Stella shuddered. "Ew. I think that's enough for me.

I'm sure you all have many questions. Mother...it might be best if you start off sharing what you already

know?"

Heat rushed into my face as my three mates turned to look at me. I swallowed hard. "About that..."

Xander frowned. "Lanie, was there something you weren't sharing with us?"

I knew he was thinking that it wouldn't have been the first time. I lifted my chin to meet his gaze squarely with mine. "I was trying to find out some more information and get some confirmation from my grandfather before I told you things that might not be true. I found a book..."

I wasn't sure what else to say. All three of my mates were glowering at me, and I supposed I couldn't blame them. "I'm sorry, my loves. I just didn't want to worry you if what I was reading turned out to be fiction. And then there was the power surge and everything else, and we all got distracted, and I guess I was just

trying to take things one step at a time."

"It's the only way to take things, sweetheart," Zane murmured.

"But we're supposed to take those steps together."

Xander sounded a little angry but a lot more disappointed, and that made me feel worse than if he'd

screamed at me.

Mason was the only one to come and put his arms around me. He pressed his forehead to my temple and both of us stared at the woman who'd once been our little girl...and

ours alone. Back in the days when I'd forgotten the rest of my life. When the three of us had been a little family all on our own.

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Chapter 405

Chapter 405

Xander and Zane loved Stella, but Mason had been her father before either of them even knew she

existed.

have.”

“I understand, love,” he thought to me privately.

“Where is this book? I want to read it?” Xander demanded.

“It disappeared,” I said.

“And it won’t come back,” Stella said. “Because you don’t need it anymore. I’ll answer any questions you

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Chapter 406

Mason

The five of us settled into our places in the living room. The last time Stella had sat in that chair, her legs dangled. Now her feet reached the floor. They were bare, and it occurred to me that we’d have to get her a

whole new wardrobe.

It was a stupid thing to be worried about at a time like that, but I found it was easier to focus on the practical aspects of the situation to keep myself from disintegrating into a

spiral of confusion. Because if I didn't have something to focus on, I thought I might lose my s hit, just a little.

Not like my brother, though. Pulses of his Alpha energy kept swirling out of him. It felt like a rain of icy pebbles scattering over all of us. Our Luna and our Beta were doing their best to counteract him with warmth and soothing bursts of their own energy, but I also had to put in some of my own.

Alpha on Alpha-it was like two magnets touching the wrong ends. Every time I tried to help my brother get

himself under control, we sprang violently apart.

"Daddy." Stella's calm voice surrounded all of us like the lap of waves on a shore.

She held out her hands, palms up. Light suffused the air around her. The ends of her hair floated, crackling, as more light built its glow until it

when

encompassed Xander. His eyes were blazing with his wolf, but

Stella's light reached him, he closed them.

"Daddy," she repeated. "I have answers for every question. Everything is going to be all right."

Zane and I shared a look. How was she doing this?

Stella was the daughter of an Alpha and a strong Luna who'd been blessed with unique gifts, and all of us belonged to the Moon Goddess in ways we didn't fully understand. Was it possible that Stella had an Alpha and a Luna's powers, maybe even some of a Beta's?

That was the only way I could imagine her being able to surround all of us in this glowing blanket of

peace.

Lanie was the only one of us who didn't look confused by what our daughter was doing. Whatever she'd read in that vanishing book had given her the heads' up. I could see her mind turning as she watched Stella work her magic on her agitated father.

Magic, I thought to myself. That's what it had to be. Some kind of magic none of us had experienced

before.

Xander opened his eyes, fully calm. "Apologies, Stella

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I see now. I mean, I feel...hell, I'm not really sure what I mean. But I'm ready to listen to whatever

to tell us."

you have

Stella grinned. "Good. I'm ready to answer any of your questions. Mother has one. I can tell by the look on

her face."

"Was the book true, Stella?" Lanie's voice held a hint of tears but also something that sounded like hope. [Search the FindNøvel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

A little fear. Pride, too. "Do you have every ability of every supernatural to ever exist?"

Stella nodded, her expression solemn. "Yes."

Xander groaned and leaped off the couch to pace.

Zane's head fell back against the cushions. I just stared at our daughter and her mother as they held a

long, solid look between them. I didn't know what to do, say, or even feel.

"I am a Celestial," Stella said gently to us all. "That means I am part of everything, and everything is a part

of me."

"From birth," Lanie said faintly. "You've been able to do all of this since you were born.

Again, Stella nodded. "Celestials are born aware, into the infant bodies of their parents. I can't speak for any others, only myself, but...you wanted and needed me to be your baby, so that's what I remained. At least as long as I could. I did what I thought was best...

with the Celestial 'dream', so you would have some awareness. I never wanted to hurt or frighten you,

Mother!"

Lanie shook her head. "All of this must have been so hard for you. I'm only sorry you didn't feel like you

were able to tell us before now."

"There was so much you and my fathers had to face. I didn't want to add to that struggle," Stella said.

"Until now? What changed?" Xander asked.

Stella raised her hands again to bathe us all in her warmth and glowing light. I closed my eyes to bask in it, letting it take away my worries. I loved my daughter, but more than that, I trusted her. I had to.

"I tried to be your child for as long as I could. I wanted to do all of this slower, for your sakes, but there

isn't time for that anymore." Stella looked at each of us in turn. "Danger is coming."

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Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 407

Chapter 407

Lanie

My heart stopped when Stella revealed that she'd had to grow up so fast because there was danger. To my surprise, Xander laughed out loud. Considering how upset he'd been moments ago, this guffaw sounded

strange.

"Danger has been on its way for a'long da mned time daughter," he said with a shake of his head.

"I know that. But until now, all of you have been able to handle whatever came along." Stella's smile was

crooked. "You didn't need help from me." Search the FindNovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"And now we do?" Zane asked.

Stella looked at him. "It felt right, Papa. That's the best way for me to explain it. Mother was too worried about me to really pay attention to herself. It made her keep secrets from you. I couldn't be the reason for

that."

Another rush of guilt tangled all around my heart.

"You can't blame yourself for anything I chose to do, Stella. I was the one who decided not to tell my mates what I was discovering. Even though I had my reasons, it wasn't right, but it also wasn't your fault."

My daughter's eyes-so much like Malachi's-shone vividly green. I saw no sign of a wolf inside them, and a pang twisted inside me. As a Celestial, Stella was in fact everything. Why, then, did she have no wolf? It seemed like the part of her I could most identify with was missing.

Then again, I'd spent so much time lately focused on the parts of me that were not wolf... From low inside me, Lily whined. I imagined her rough tongue lapping at my face, something that, of course, could never happen since we would never occupy the same space at the same time. I could become her, and she was always a part of me.

"I'm not sure I'm getting this. You can do and be everything?" Zane asked slowly, his brow knitting.

"And you've always been able to?"

"She can choose her gifts," I told him when at first Stella didn't reply.

"So you can shift into a dragon?" Zane asked.

Stella nodded. "If I choose. Or a wolf. I can run as fast as a vampire and compel others with a vampire's charm. I can cast spells and make potions like the witches."

"And you can see the future," I said as I ran through everything I'd read in that book.

Xander let out a grumble. "Nobody can do that. The future isn't written in stone. Every choice we make shapes it."

Chapter 407

"True, Daddy. But Mother is also correct. I can see into the future. I can peel away time like the layers of

an onion and see....well, all the possibilities. It's so overwhelming, though." Stella drew in a hitching little

breath.

Xander went to her at once. He might be fighting his own rollercoaster of emotions, but I was so proud to

see my mate being such a good father. He put his arm around her shoulders until she leaned against him. He

kissed the top of her head.

"We're here to help you," he said.

Stella clung to him, pressing her face against his stomach. Her voice was muffled. "All the voices.

All the visions. It takes such effort to sort through it all. When I was small, I didn't have to. My mind

simply wasn't big enough for it. I could pretend not to understand what I was capable of, but that time is past.

I have to step up. I just don't know what to tell you all about the High Council."

Mason shot a look at me, then at Zane and Xander.

"What about them?"

"They're coming for us. It's been their plan for a long time. And I know you already know that," Stella said

before any of us could interrupt. "But they keep changing the plans. Every time I thought I had something

concrete to warn you about, they'd change it again. Until they make a full plan and put it into action, I simply

can't get a full read."

“So, we’ll just have to be ready for whatever those as sholes decide to throw at us,” Xander said grimly.

“I knew something like this was coming ever since we saw those pictures of Aldon.”

Stella nodded. “He’s still in the gray for me. He hasn’t yet decided the role he wants to play. His future is

fuzzy. When I look at him, it’s like he’s a stone on the bottom of a pond. I can see him, but he’s distorted.

I think he could turn on you, Daddy, if the right opportunity presents itself. Don’t trust him.”

“I never would,” Xander said.

“Don’t even talk to him for now. It’s too soon. If you do, it could prompt him to make his choice,” Stella

said. “And so far, there’s no guarantee that it will be the one that doesn’t lead to utter destruction.”

2/2

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 408

Chapter 408

Xander

I wasn’t used to taking orders from anyone, especially not my daughter.

“You want us to just ignore the fact that an Elder with ties to the High Council is lurking around the portal town to Brightsky?” I put my hands on my hips and shook my head. I tried not to sound upset, but there was

still a hard edge to my tone. “That doesn’t sound like a smart way to go about this, Stella.”

“Not ignore it. Just ignore him. For now, anyway. Just until I can get a clearer vision of what is to come,”

she added so serenely that it was like talking to a puff of clouds, a spring rain, a soft mattress...

“And stop adjusting me,” I told her sternly. “I can manage my emotions, even if none of you three think so.

Stella looked guilty and pressed her lips together with a frown. “I’m sorry, Daddy.”

“She’s better at it than I am,” Zane said with a proud grin. “And you do need help sometimes, Xander.”

“Not this time. All of this is-” I gestured around the room. “Hard. Weird. You can’t just smooth away the

rough edges because it’s uncomfortable to feel them, Stella. For me, or for you. You have to let me process all

of this, and if that means I’m a grouch, so be it.”

She looked thoughtful. “But it hurts your heart. I can feel that.”

“Yeah, well, I’m allowed to grieve a little for my little girl, right? That you grew up so fast without us having

the chance to see it?” I shook my head again.

I could feel Lanie’s Luna energy washing over me, but it was different than what Stella had been doing.

Lanie’s was more supportive, but opaque. I could still feel myself through it. It didn’t hide my feelings

away from me.

Stella’s frown deepened, and she looked confused.

“I’m sorry, Daddy! I never wanted to make any of you sad! That’s why I waited as long as I could. I just

couldn’t stay small any longer.”

Zane got up to put his arm around Stella’s shoulders

“Your Dad is an Alpha, sweetheart. He has to be strong. And you can’t be strong without big feelings.”

“But you can’t just take them away from me,” I said with a hard look at my Beta.

Lanie came up behind me and linked her arms around my waist. She pressed her face to my back. "It's

hard to feel you hurting, love. None of us wants that."

I put my hands over hers and pulled her around to the front of me so she could hug me. I kissed the top of her head and then looked at our daughter. "All of this is going to take time to get used to, that's all. But if I'm

1/2

Chapter 408

dulled, I'm no good to anyone. And I sure as hell can't keep you all safe."

"It doesn't fall only on you," Mason said. He also stepped up to hug Stella. Then he turned to grip my

shoulder. "We're all in this together."

For another few seconds I felt the push and pull of Stella's will against mine. It didn't feel like being compelled. For an instant I had the image of her toddler self looking at me through her fingers, playing

peek-a-b oo with my thoughts. Her eyes gleamed with a swirl of different colors. Gold, green, red, blue, violet. Search the (F)indNOVEL.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"I can't understand what it's like to have every single power at your command," I told her. "But I know it has

to be either the easiest thing in the world, or the hardest. And something tells me that it's not the easiest."

"I see every possibility," Stella said quietly with a hitch in her voice. "I see what happens if I make the

wrong choices...or allow them to be made. I'm still learning how to shut all of that out."

"So you're not infallible," Mason said.

Stella's eyebrows went up. "I never said that I was, Abba!"

Mason smiled at her. "Being gifted with every power to exist would seem to lend itself to never being

wrong or making a mistake. You've been worried about that, haven't you? Feeling like you can't let anyone down because you're not perfect."

A

"I'm sorry. It feels like I've made such a mess of all this. I tried so hard to do the right thing." Stella bowed

her head, and her shoulders went up and down with her heavy sigh.

Lanie hugged her. "Little star, nobody here expects you to know everything."

"But I'm a Celestial!" Stella cried.

"For all that, you're still our daughter. It's our job as your parents to do whatever we can to support you.

Even if you're a hundred million times more talented and capable than the three of us combined, we're

here for you. To help you up if you fall. To hold your hand.

To guide you through any darkness," Lanie said. "We love you."

"Even if I mess up?" Stella asked.

"Especially then," I told her.

2/2

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 409

Chapter 409

Lanie

I knew parenting would be hard, but I'd never imagined facing anything like this. I hugged Stella hard again. "This isn't exactly like helping you with your homework."

To my relief, she laughed. The sound of it rang round the room like a chorus of bells. Something in it lifted my spirits, not the way she'd been doing to manipulate her father's mood, but with clear and simple joy we all shared. In that moment, I had my own flash of the future, one in which all of us were all right.

No more danger. Only love and happiness.

"There's something else we need to discuss," I said to everyone. "Stella is now an adult, but we still have two toddlers. How will we explain all of this to Alaina and Isaac?"

Stella bit her lower lip. "They already know. We've all been bonded since birth...they're not Celestials, but they are hybrids. They're wiser than they seem."

Xander grunted. "Don't tell me they're going to stroll in here looking like thirty-year-olds instead of three-year-olds next."

Stella laughed. She went to him for a hug, leaning her head on his shoulder. "No, Daddy. They'll likely grow like wolf pups usually do. But they can talk and understand better than they've been acting like they could. They've stayed babies longer than they might have otherwise, but they probably won't keep maturing faster than normal."

"This is going to cause a stir around the enclave,"

Mason said seriously. "How should we handle it?"

Obviously, the teachers at the school know. Word will get out. We can't pretend you're still a child."

"Everyone knows I'm a hybrid. We'll have my great-grandfather explain this as a quirk of genetics,"

Stella said as though she'd already been thinking of the answer to this before he had even asked the question. "Nobody can know I'm a Celestial, but nobody will even guess. It's just not something anyone thinks about or would even believe."

"I can hardly believe it," Zane said.

Xander kissed the top of her head. "So...do we make an announcement? Or just let people come to us with questions?"

Stella's eyes narrowed, but I could see a swirl of colors in them. My mother's intuition told me that she

was running through multiple scenarios and outcomes in her mind, although I couldn't read her thoughts. Her lips moved with silent words. Her eyes opened, and she focused on all three of us.

1/3

Chapter 409

"We let people come to us. The residents of Brightsky, most of them, are going to view my rapid maturity as something akin to going through puberty. A natural process that is different for everyone, nothing to be ashamed of, but not necessarily anyone else's business," she said. "There will be some who ask, and all we have to say is that my hybrid traits combined to make this my natural state of growth."

"That makes the most sense to me," I told her. "But when female wolves reach their maturity, their

mothers and sisters often have a little celebration. I'd like to acknowledge that for you."

She beamed. "I'd love that, Mother."

"Spa day," I told her firmly with a look around the room at her fathers. "Girls only."

There were things that Stella would now have to learn.

She might be a Celestial, but she was still a woman.

"I got all the messages..." Gabriela came through the door into the living room and pulled up short with a

gasp.

"Hello, Grammy," Stella said.

Gabriela came to hug her at once. She cupped Stella's face in her hands, her eyes wide with wonder. "By

the Goddess. You look exactly like my grandmother," she marveled.

Xander's mother turned to the rest of us. "I take it this is the important news you were all banging on

about?

Don't tell me it was something else."

"No, Grammy," Stella said with a laugh. "It was about me. I grew up..."

"I see that," Gabriela said and stepped back to give her an up and down look. "You're beautiful. This is

amazing."

Stella put her fingertips to her temples as her eyes flared again. She blinked away the colors and smiled.

"I'm going to my room for a bit to let you all process this and to give my head a rest. So many feelings, thoughts.....fears....."

She gave Xander a pointed look, but her smile didn't fade.

"I love you all," she said and hugged each of us tightly before stepping back. "I know you have a lot to discuss and work through. And just so you know, I won't be listening in."

She laughed, shaking her head. "Even though you are all being so very, very loud." Search the Find Novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Go rest," I told her. "You've had a big day. We'll order in for dinner tonight and have some nice family time."

"That sounds lovely," she said and retreated to her room.

"So," Gabriela said after Stella had closed her door.

2/3

Chapter 409

"You'd

better tell me

me everything."

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 410

Chapter 410

Gabriela

I'd spent a restless night, tossing and turning. No matter what I tried, I couldn't find a way to get comfortable. My mind raced with everything my son and his mates had told me about Stella. And my dreams, when I slept long enough to have them, were full of strange images.

When I woke up, though, all of my tension and distress had faded away. Yes, the thought of my tiny granddaughter now being taller than me should seem odd, but I'd somehow gotten used to it.

I went into the kitchenette to help Lanie with the twins for breakfast, and I found Stella already pouring

them some cereal.

"Good morning," she greeted cheerfully.

She wore a dress I recognized as one of Lanie's, and she'd tied her hair up into a knot on the top of her head. Yesterday it had been all the way to her waist-it had grown as much as she had.

"We'll need to take you shopping," I said, eyeing her bare feet.

"Mother's shoes pinch me," Stella said, looking at her wiggling toes.

"We can see how a pair of mine feels. Good morning, little ones." I kissed Alaina and Isaac on their plump little cheeks. At least they were still little and would be for the expected amount of time.

Still little, but I quickly saw how much more mature they were. They spoke in complete sentences and

used a much bigger vocabulary. They were able to use their spoons to eat without slopping milk all over the

place.

Alaina saw me watching and giggled. She waved her spoon at me. "We're not as big as Stella yet, but I'm

glad we don't have to act like we're babies anymore. Search the FindNovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Right, Isaac?"

My little man nodded as he shoveled food into his mouth.

"You," I said with a sigh, "are very much like your daddy was when he was a pup. Slow down, please.*

"It's bad manners to gobble, you greedy thing," Alaina said. She turned shining eyes onto her bigger sister.

“Right, Stella?”

Stella ran her hand lovingly over her little sister’s hair.

“Yes. But it’s also bad manners to call names.”

Isaac swallowed his cereal. “Stella, will you take us to school today?”

1/3

Chapter 410

She looked at me. “I can do that. If that’s all right with Grammy.”

“Of course. I take it your parents are all still sleeping?”

Thadn’t heard a peep from their bedroom yet, but I’d woken later than usual.

“Daddy, Abba, and Papa went out this morning to let their wolves run. I’m not sure where Mother went.”

Stella smiled at me. “Did you sleep well?”

This gave me pause, and I studied her. “Eventually. I don’t suppose you had anything to do with that, did you, young lady?”

She looked caught out but not guilty. “All of us needed a good night’s sleep last night. To make it easier to face the morning.”

I poured myself a mug of coffee and leaned against the counter. “If you’re able to know everything we all need, how is it that you’re not sure where your mother went?”

I spoke without any intention at insults or accusations. I was truly curious. I had no idea how it all worked, and, I suspected, neither did my son or his mates. I wasn’t even certain Stella herself could know all of it, no matter how powerful she was.

Only a goddess could know everything, and not even a Celestial could compete with a goddess.

Could she?

Lanie

I figured it was going to be difficult to hide things from Stella, but that didn’t stop me from ducking out early this morning to visit a few boutiques. It might be impossible to surprise her, but I was going to do my best to show her that I was still here to take care

of her. When I got back with my arms full of packages, with more to be delivered later, I found her helping the twins with their school bags.

Gabriela helped me unload the goodies I'd brought.

"Stella is going to take the twins to school today. Are there any shoes in here?"

I pulled out a pair of blue ballet flats. With a grin, I said, "Will these do?"

"Mother!" Stella hugged me. "These are wonderful.

Thank you."

"I want to go to real school now," Alaina said with a pout. "Mama, can you tell them we don't need to be in

preschool anymore?"

"I'll talk to the school, my little love." I hugged and kissed her and tried to do the same for Isaac, who squirmed away.

"Yuck!" He scrubbed at his cheek.

2/3

Chapter 410

"I'm going to change into this." Stella held up a pale-blue maxi dress patterned with sunflowers. "I love it! Then I'll take you both to school, okay?"

She was back within minutes, looking so grownup and beautiful that my heart ached with pride. I did my best to shove away my worries. The Goddess surely was watching over my daughter. She just had to be.

"Oh, Mother." Stella paused at the doorway. "When I get back, there's something very important we need to

do together."

3/3

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 411

Chapter 411

Lanie

“So, it’s true. Myrna from the school called me to let me know all the gory details, but as she’s well-known to be a bit of a gossip, I had to admit I took most of it with a grain of salt.” Malachi tossed his head back with

laughter.

“Did you know this was a possibility?” I asked him sternly. “If you did, I could’ve used a heads up,

Grandfather.”

He pulled me into a hug, patting my back the way you would a child having a temper. I shrugged away from the embrace, which felt more annoying than comforting.

“There is so much I do not know about Celestials.

Enough to fill a book, I’d say.” He lifted an eyebrow at me. “Too bad the only textbook we know of went

missing/

crossed my arms over my chest with a sigh. “We aren’t here to talk about me or any book. Stella has

some things she wants to discuss with you.”

She hadn’t told me what she wanted to talk to him about, but then again, I hadn’t asked. That was something I was rapidly having to learn about being mother to a Celestial-she would tell me what she knew I

needed to know.

I had to trust her.

“I can hardly wait to hear all about it. Your transformation must have been magnificent. Myrna said you

stunned the entire school into silence.”

“It didn’t happen in front of the entire school,”

Stella replied with the same calm serenity she’d been displaying since yesterday.

For a moment, Malachi's expression flickered into shadows. Then it brightened as he spoke in a forcedly

cheerful voice.

"Stella, Stella, Stella. You've surprised us all once again. How many more surprises do you have in store?"

"If I told you," she said with a quirking smile, "they wouldn't be surprises."

Malachi took her into his arms and danced her around the living room of his villa. They laughed together as he spun her so fast that they became a blur. When they came to a stop, Stella shook her head and kissed his cheek. Her eyes flashed red for a moment, echoing what I'd seen his do. I had thought she looked like her father, but now I could see a lot of Malachi in her too, and not just the color of her eyes.

"She favors you," Malachi said, holding her at arms length. He chuckled her under the chin, and she

1/3

giggled, ducking away.

Sho

does?" I asked in surprise, and with a bit of joy, too.

"She has your grace," he noted as he circled around her. "Your poise. Your strength, I should also think. Her features belong to her father, aside from those eyes. But the rest of her is her mother almost entirely."

"She's entirely herself, no matter who she looks like," corrected him.

"With all the blessings of your Moon Goddess...along with many others. But both of you, come in. Enough chitter-chatter. You've come for a purpose. Can I offer some refreshment?"

"We aren't here for snacks, Malachi." Stella's voice was soft with laughter, but it had a bit of an edge. "There are some things we need to make clear."

"Oh, so now you're all grown up, you think you know it all, eh?" Malachi laughed and backed away with his/

hands up.

Stella didn't move. "I am a Celestial. I know whatever needs to be known."

His expression went from amused to solemn. Then his eyes narrowed, flashing crimson. His lips curled to

reveal his fangs. His gaze flicked to me.

“You can’t be that grownup if you had to bring along your mummy for support,” he shot at her, but there was a sense of inevitability in his tone. He sighed and waved a hand toward the couch. “You might as well

have a seat. Get this over with.”

Stella didn’t rise to his

attempt at an insult, and I was proud of her for that. I might not have had as many

years to raise her as I’d expected to have when I found out I was pregnant, but I was happy to see that at least

some of my lessons had landed.

We each took our seats. To my silent curiosity, my grandfather looked tense. He literally sat on the edge

of his seat. He linked his fingers together, palms pressing against each other, like he was trying hard to not

clench his hands into fists. Search the FindNovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

“I’ll get right to it,” my daughter began

many eyes, and I am not so easily

dece

“You may have everyone here in Brightsky fooled, but I see with

His eyes narrowed. “It’s no deceit to give everyone the illusion they crave, child. And yes, despite your size and your talents, you are still a child to me.”

Stella didn’t take the bait this time, either.

“Nevertheless, there’s no point in keeping up the pretense with me or my family.”

“Why is that?” he asked, leaning forward. “What is it that you’ve seen?”

“Hello? Anyone want to tell me what you’re talking about?” I demanded.

They both turned to me, and I realized something upsetting. In their battle of words, they’d both forgotten

2/3

I was there.

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 412

Chapter 412

Lanie

I tried not to be insulted by the way they were ignoring me. An Ancient and a Celestial certainly didn’t have to consult me on anything, even if I did have blessings from the Moon Goddess. Even so, I was her mother, and Stella had asked me to come along.

This back and forth between her and Malachi was leaving me in the dark. I waved a hand at them, trying

to catch their attention.

They finally both looked at me. Stella’s gaze was calm, but my grandfather looked cold and distant...and very, very much like an Ancient vampire. I focused on my child.

“What’s Malachi doing?” I asked her.

Stella sighed and looked at him. He gave her a familiar flick with his fingers for permission. She cleared

her throat.

“The leadership council is a farce. Brightsky is supposedly built up on the concept of equality, inclusion, and democracy, but the truth is-”

“I’m the only one in charge,” Malachi cut in. He stood abruptly. “It’s all me. Oh, I pretend to give the council a say in anything that has to do with running this enclave, because everyone likes to think they have input. But

in the end, I’m the only one with any real power.”

“They all turn to you for advice, and you allow them to believe you take their concerns and desires into consideration, when in fact you cast a veil over their minds any time they try to balk you.” Stella frowned and

shook her finger at him. “That’s quite rude, you know.”

Malachi rolled his eyes and leaned back in the chair.

He still looked tense but was relaxing at least a little bit. “It’s impossible for an Ancient to be rude, Stella

We do what we know must be done. This enclave cannot run under according to the desires and whimsies of group. We’d be overrun by our enemies within days if I didn’t keep a tight control over everything that goes on

inside these walls. It’s exhausting.”

I shook my head, digesting everything I’d just heard.

“I knew you were arrogant, but this is...”

“Please, don’t tell me it’s shocking,” he said. “You can’t possibly be truly stunned.”

“I’m disappointed,” I admitted. “You made such a big deal about how Brightsky is this wonderful place

where all kinds can mingle and have a say in what happens. After what we had to deal with from the wolf High

Council, it felt so much better to be in a place like this.”

1/2

He shrugged. “To you and everyone else who suffered injustice on the outside. What nobody seems to understand or at least wants to see is that the old saying is true: too many cooks do indeed spoil the broth.”

“Brightsky isn’t a pot of soup!”

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His lip curled. “No, but it is a cauldron, bubbling full of ingredients. Too much of this, not enough of that, a pinch here or there of something unexpected...salt can ruin a meal with having too much or not enough of it, and any community is the same. Everyone might think they want an equal say in how things run, but in the end, what they truly want is only to feel as though they were heard. So long as they have that, nothing else

matters.”

“He’s right. As long as the community is happy, it can succeed,” Stella murmured. She put her hand over mine, which had clenched into a fist on my knee.

“And the residents of Brightsky are happy, Mother. It runs smoothly.”

“Like an oiled set of gears,” Malachi put in proudly.

“At the end of the day, that is the goal,” Stella explained. [Search The Find_Novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

“So, what’s the problem then?” Malachi asked with an edge of both irritation and relief in his tone. “Are you planning on pulling away the curtain to review the big, bad wizard behind it? Should I prepare myself for the coronation when I take my crown as king?”

Sarcasm dripped from his tone so thickly I could almost see it.

“You could give her the respect she’d due,” I told him.

“Hear her out. I realize how hard it must be for you to give anyone that consideration.”

The bright tinkle of Stella’s laughter twinkled through the entire room, bright as the stars she’d been named for. That brightness filled me and made me want to laugh, too. She turned her glowing smile toward Malachi, and slowly, to my surprise, he smiled in return.

“Even when I can tell you’re using the powers of the Flora, I still find myself succumbing to it. Flower

nymphs,” he said to me. “You would

have heard of them. Known for their incessantly cheerful natures.

They can intoxicate you with joy.”

“That doesn’t sound like a bad thing,” I told him.

“Forgive me, Mother. I thought it would help with what I have to tell you next. Give a sort of buffer,”

Stella said.

Silence fell as we waited for her to speak.

“The wolf High Council has found a way to exploit Brightsky’s weakness.”

Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 413

Chapter 413

Lanie

Despite the Flora happiness my daughter had infused into me, my shock was hard and cold and more bitter than anything I'd ever tasted.

It lashed at me with the sting of a thousand whips before it subsided into a bearable weight. I couldn't help but wonder if Stella was helping me to bear it, and I hated feeling like my own child had to be strong for me. I vowed then and there that I would do my best to never make her carry me this way again.

There was an inevitability to this feeling as well, this discovery that those who'd meant to lead, guide, and protect our kind were working so very hard to hurt us.

It felt like what we'd been waiting to find out for sure for so long. I hated that, too, but I could hardly be truly surprised. I'd always known it was only a matter of time.

At least now, I hoped we'd get some answers.

"What weakness?" I managed to say.

"They can't have. Of course, they think they have,"

Malachi retorted at once. "But it's impossible for them to actually breach our defenses. Believe me, others

have tried with better methods than any the High Council could ever employ, and they've all failed."

Stella touched her fingertips to her temples and bowed her head. "I see many pathways, but despite the

many branches, each one leads to the same end.

The destruction of Brightsky. You can continue to deny it, or you can face it and save the enclave and all

those in it."

“What do you mean, exploiting the enclave’s weakness?” I held up a hand when Malachi began to speak. “Please. I want to hear what my daughter has to say. I believe and trust that she has insight into things you

might have blinded yourself to.”

Malachi sighed irritably. “Fine. Speak away, all-knowing Celestial.”

“They’ve managed to find a way to kill the spiders,”

Stella said.

I waited for his reaction, which was cold, hard, and icy silence. Confused, I turned back to my daughter.

“I don’t get it. What do spiders have to do with anything? Spider shifters?”

“Enclavian spiders,” Malachi said. “Empathic, telepathic, tiny little guardians to us all. Generation after generation, they’ve evolved to serve and support the enclave.”

1/2

“And now they are connected intrinsically to Brightsky in ways they were never meant to. Ways that have remained unknown to you all,” Stella explained.

Malachi’s eyebrow quirked. “Not to me.”

“To me, though,” I said. My heart pounded a little faster. “Forgive me for needing the crash course, but get me up to speed, please.”

He turned to me. “The spiders control the lights, the heat, the water. All of the utilities. They are the eyes and ears of the enclave, our silent servants, keeping everything running to perfection. They light the paths we

walk.”

“If you’ve ever wondered how you find your way from one place to another, it’s usually because of the spiders helping you without you being aware of it,”

Stella said. “But there’s more to it than that. Over the years, they’ve also grown more powerful. Their telepathy and psychokinetic powers are linked, not only to the spiders that live in Brightsky, but they’re starting to connect with their distant relatives in other enclaves.”

“I’ve never even seen a spider here...” I began.

Malachi laughed. "They're tiny. You wouldn't see any one of them unless they want you to."

"Or you need them to," Stella said. "And the wolf High Council has found a way to hurt them. To kill them,

actually."

I was putting the pieces together, one at a time. Far more slowly than my brilliant daughter would be able to, but I was doing the best I could...and, it seemed like I was doing it better than my grandfather.

"The lights. The power surges. That was from the spiders being killed?" I asked her. Search the Find_Novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Stella nodded solemnly. "I haven't been able to see exactly how they did it, because the spiders

themselves don't know. But they're frightened, and that alone should tell you of the danger. I can tell you one

thing, however. The only way that anyone or anything could bring harm to those spiders is if they also have

access to Brightsky."

"Someone on the inside is feeding the High Council information," Malachi said in a voice as dark and co

and deep as the void. "That's the only explanation.

Stella nodded. "Yes. And while I haven't been able to find out how they killed the spiders, I can tell exactly how they got the information they could use to do it."

Malachi's eyes blazed crimson, and I felt a similar glow in my own eyes. Not my wolf, but my vampire side,

reacting. Stella's gaze swirled with multiple flashes of color.

"You know who their source is?" Malachi asked.

Again, Stella nodded. "Yes. It's Gabriela."

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Chapter 414

Lanie

didat physically stagger back, but everything made me tweet and turned white Lity howled Red consumed my vision as my vampire and wolf selves fought for control, and there was more inside me too parts of me I never felt before Didn't know how to

New elements of myself were trying to rise and take over

Stella raised a hand toward me. She didn't say anything, but instantly, I felt the relief of being settled back inside myself. Me, Lanie, Luna and mate to Xander, Mason, and Zane Mother to Stella, Alaina, and Isaac

Granddaughter to Malachi Servant to the Moon Goddess,

"Thank you," I said to my daughter

She nodded. 'It's shocking news, I know'

"Gabriela," Malachi said with a snarl. She will have to be killed of course"

"No," Stella replied in her same calm voice. She has no idea that she is the one providing the High

Council with their information."

I couldn't stay sitting. I had to move. I paced the floor at half double speed and for my muscles

responding with a groan. Not at the effort of moving that much faster than normal, but with the restraint of

stopping myself from buzzing around the room like an angry wasp.

"If she's a spy, how can she not know that about herself?" Lasked, spinning to a stop on one heel to face

Stella.

"She's not a spy, exactly. But they are using her."

Stella touched her fingertips to her temple again, this time only for a second or so.

“She hasn’t been around as much. She’s been suspicious of me. Things have been different with her

said to Malachi. “I should have known something like this!” Search The Find novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Stella shook her head. “How could you have? All you’ve been told since we got here was how SONID Brightsky is.”

Malachi’s expression twisted. “And it is. Or at least, it has been at least until you all arrived. Stingiga

spy, no less!”

“I told you, she’s not a spy. She’s a victim of the High Council’s intrigues as much as anyone they have ever used for their own gain. Perhaps more, because, unlike her husband, Gabriela did not choose “Stolia looked at Malachi, then at me. No Fiora joy came out of her this time. Only a calm and steady tooling of truth. ‘Gabriela has found friends and a life here in the enclave. That’s a good thing for her. Something she

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and frankly, deserved.”

I paused before answering. “How much do you know about your grandfather, Orion, and what he did?”

Stella smiled gently. “I know everything I need to know about everything, Mother.”

“So you’ve pointed out,” Malachi said. “But what your mother wants to know is, exactly what do you know,

so she doesn’t have to find a way to be nice about telling you that your father’s father was a villain.”

“I know of his betrayal,” Stella told me. “I also know what you have not yet learned, and that’s about his

deal with the High Council.”

1-

"I know about him and his plans for the hybrids," I began, but Stella shook her head.

"Orion Constantine worked toward his own interests for a long time before any of what you know about

him came to pass. He offered what did not belong to him in his pursuit of power," she said. "He gave them his

wife."

I paced again, more slowly this time. I wracked my brain trying to recall anything Xander's mother had

ever told me about the High Council, its plans, Orion's part in them, and also her own. It all felt as though it

had happened to me so long ago. I was having a hard time recalling even how long we'd been at Brightsky.

Weeks? Months? Surely, we could not even have been here for a year yet.

"Time passes differently here," my daughter said aloud, although she had to be reacting to the onslaught

of my increasingly louder thoughts.

Malachi whipped his head to stare at her. "What are you telling her that for?"

"Because she deserves to understand everything, and I'm doing my best to put it all together," Stella

retorted in a harsh tone unlike her previous cool calm.

To me, she said, "I don't mean it's like time travel or anything like that. It's just that here in the enclave,

separated from the outside world, it's easy to drift along without a solid knowledge of the passing of time. You shouldn't feel badly about it, Mother. It's the same for everyone here, but for us in particular."

"No bills to pay, no real responsibilities, every need of desire catered to," I said with a look at my grandfather. "The privilege of being the king's granddaughter, right? Keep us content but stupid?"

“That’s ridiculous,” Malachi said. “If anything, all I’ve done since you got here was try to help you become better. And how am I repaid? You brought a snake into my henhouse! What choice have you given me, Lanie, but to throw you all out at once?”

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Chapter 415

Lanie

“No!” Stella’s command rang throughout the villa like a clap of thunder.

It was enough to stop my grandfather in his tracks. He took a couple of steps back, a hand on his chest. He looked so astounded and affronted that I couldn’t help myself. I burst into a loud round of guffaws.

“She’s stronger than you are,” I told him proudly.

Malachi’s lip curled. “She wouldn’t even be a Celestial if it weren’t for me.”

“The moment you reveal to the High Council that you know their game, you push them to attack. And

you’re not ready to face that,” Stella said. “Are you ready to listen to me?”

“I need a drink.” Malachi strode to his bar cart and poured himself a tall glass of red fluid from a carafe.

He drained it quickly and poured another.

took my seat again on the couch. “Tell us everything we need to know, honey.”

Stella linked her fingers together in front of her and bowed her head for a moment. I was learning to tell

what was going on with her. How she needed moments to process the information in her mind.

It took only a few seconds, but I had a feeling she’d worked through an almost infinite number of

connections and scenarios before she looked back to me

In that moment, my heart ached for the burdens my daughter faced. Yet, there was no denying my pride

and my awe. Stella hadn't been on this earth very long, but she'd already made such a difference.

"Yes, yes, get on with it," Malachi said in a bored tone.

Stella didn't seem to take offense, although I did on her behalf. My grandfather was a really arrogant pain in the ass sometimes, and that was saying something, considering the Alpha males I was mated to.

"Gabriela was never on the side of the High Council, no matter what her husband did or wanted. They all knew it, and, even though they were hell bent on keeping the knowledge of any other supernaturals away from- their next generation, they had connections with witch kind." Stella crossed to the bar cart and poured herself a drink from the jug of water.

She also got one for me, which she pressed into my hand. "Drink, Mother."

I hadn't realized how thirsty I was until she said something, and I chugged the water down. Stella sat next to me on the couch again. She heaved a heavy sigh, and put my arm around her shoulders.

done.

"Take your time, honey," I told her, even though I was desperate to discover what the High Council had searched the FindNOvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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"After the Great Wars, the High Council knew it was possible for them to lose control again, no matter

how hard they clung to it. No matter what atrocities they planned or put into place. They wanted a failsafe.

Some guarantee of protection, and of course they couldn't request it from the Moon Goddess.

Everything they did was performed outside of her light.” Stella finished her water and put the glass on the

coffee table.

“And Orion offered them Gabriela as that protection? How?” I asked her.

“Because they knew that Gabriela would be on any side that opposed them. They had a powerful warlock

integrate her with a third eye,” Stella said.

Malachi actually gasped. “That’s-

“Don’t say impossible,” I cut in. “You’ve been declaring that nothing she tells us is possible when clearly,

all of it is.”

Stella smiled at me. “He has a reason to be incredulous. Integrating a third eye into anyone, much less an

unknowing and likely unwilling subject is a task even the most powerful warlocks and witches would struggle

with.”

“Yet, they managed,” Malachi said.

She nodded. “They killed the warlock, immediately after, and the High Council members who found him

are also dead. So there’s nobody alive who can remove it from her.”

“What does the third eye do? I assume you’re not talking about an actual eye,” I added, thinking that surely

I’d have seen it if Gabriela had another eye on her face.

“It’s internal, yes. It allows anyone who has a scrying tool connected to it to see what the third eye sees.

“A mirror, a crystal ball, a pool of water. Even a glass of wine can be a scrying tool,” Malachi said, sin

was obvious I didn’t know what she was talking about.

For once, he didn't sound smug or patronizing about it.

"Exactly," Stella said.

"So, they can see whatever Gabriela is seeing by looking at this scrying tool?"

"Which gives them access to most anything here in Brightsky," my grandfather added.

"Of course, Gabriela

hasn't been given permission to visit any of our heavier secured areas..."

"But she could see the spiders," Stella said. "And so far, that's been enough. If they manage to kill enough

of them, they'll be able to do whatever else they want."

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Chapter 416

Lanie

"Is there any way for us to close that third eye?" I asked Malachi and Stella at the same time.

Malachi frowned. "Without the one who cast the original spell? I have no idea. But then, I'm not a witch."

"Can you ask someone? There are, witches here," I said.

Stella frowned. "Only Braden and Charlotte know that the leadership council has no true power. If we go to any witch-kind for help with this, Malachi would have to reveal that everything he's bragged about is nothing

more than a farce. Besides, it would probably kill her."

"If she has to die to protect Brightsky, then she has to die," Malachi stated harshly.

Stella shook her head. "She doesn't have to die, and I can't allow you to even attempt her murder."

I thought for sure my grandfather would fight her about this, or at least pop off with some nasty

comment, but all he did was narrow his eyes at her.

I turned to Stella. "Can we block it, then? There must be shields or spells that would work without hurting

her. She might not even have to be aware of it."

"Mother, you of all people should know that casting a spell on someone to hide a part of their nature can

only hurt them in the end."

"It's already been hidden from her, hasn't it? You said she doesn't know," I reminded her.

"She means the harm would come in having her find out," Malachi said. "So long as they can use her,

Gabriela is a liability to the entire enclave."

Stella got up from the couch and spun in a slow circle.

She wasn't moving fast enough to bell the hem of her dress out around her ankles, but it did, and I

laughed a little to myself. As a little girl she'd often done the same thing, "like a princess." I enjoyed that

glimpse of her childhood, but I didn't cling to it. If there was one thing I'd learned, it was that holding onto the past was never going to lead to a better future.

"Actually, Malachi, she is our asset," Stella said as she slowed, stopped, and faced him.

Again, his eyes narrowed. He leaned back in his chair and steepled his fingertips under his chin. His lips pursed as his brow furrowed.

"How so?" he asked.

"The High Council can only see what she sees in the moment. They can't control her or make her go to

look at things they want her to see. But we can. At least, we can control what and who she has access to.

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It would be simple enough to make sure they only see a carefully curated view of what goes on here," she

explained.

"If they have to watch through this third eye using a scrying tool, how do we know that they'd be watching

at the right time?" I asked.

"They'll have someone watching all the time," Malachi said dismissively. "They would never leave their tool unmonitored, even when she's sleeping.

it."

"So they must have seen you, as you are now," I said to Stella.

She nodded. "Yes. They know I've grown. They'll know I'm a Celestial, too, since you've talked to her about

"If they know so much, what are they waiting for?"

I asked her. "Why haven't they launched an all-out attack on the enclave already?"

"Brightsky was not their priority until recently." Stella paused and looked guilty. "When I was still a child, they didn't care as much about me, either. Their concerns were the hybrid testing facility."

"But now you've grown up, and they've seen it. Which means they'll be trying to get their hands on you.

Which puts all of us in danger," Malachi snapped.

I thought of what Xander and Mason had told me when we were alone in bed after we first discovered our daughter was now an adult. They'd told me all about what they'd found out about the pictures of the newcomers to Brightsky's portal town, and also about the missing records and purposefully bricked phone.

All of it made sense now.

"Did the High Council send Aldon to Standard to keep an eye on things, or to infiltrate us somehow?" |

questioned.

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“It’s still cloudy,” Stella said. “Which means he has not yet decided for himself which path

take.”

“Will feeding Gabriela this curated information help push him into a decision?” I asked her.

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“Yes.” SEARCH THE FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Malachi’s laugh was harsh. “How can you be so sure?”

“Need I remind you,” Stella said, “exactly who I am?”

She rolled her eyes and looked so much like him that I wasn’t sure if she was flat-out imitating him of

simply had inherited his mannerisms along with the color of his eyes.

“Daddy and Abba don’t need to bother going over any more security protocols with Charlotte. What we

need to focus on now is making sure that Gabriela begins feeding the High Council exactly what we want

them to find out.”

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Chapter 417

Chapter 417

Gabriela

I'd been happy enough when Lenora rang me to see if I'd have lunch with her, but I'd been waiting during the entire meal for her to question me about what had happened with Stella. So far, she hadn't said a word. Finally, I decided I couldn't stand it any longer.

"Sometimes, wolf pups have a double doubling." The words shot out of me without me fully knowing why I said them. It wasn't true, and I couldn't be sure Lenora knew that.

I'd just lied to her face. It felt terrible, but also like the only choice I could make.

Lenora's eyebrows rose, and her teacup stopped halfway to her lips. She put the cup down without drinking. "Oh, my. That sounds like quite the surprise."

"You heard about it, didn't you? What happened at the school. I'm sure the rumors are flying." My laugh, rasped in my throat without much humor. Heat blazed in my cheeks.

My friend leaned forward with a look of concern. "I wasn't going to ask you about it. But if you want to talk

about it..."

Oh, I did, didn't I? I needed to unburden myself to someone about my worries, but I didn't dare.

I couldn't reveal that my granddaughter was a Celestial, not without also having to explain what that

meant. It would have to be enough just to start a rumor of my own.

"It's very rare, but as I'm sure you also know, Stella is a hybrid."

"I'd heard. I don't know much about hybrids,"

Lenora admitted with a gentle smile. "But here in Brightsky, we welcome everyone as equals."

A burst of relief flooded me. I hadn't really been afraid my friend would somehow reject my granddaughter,

but it was still good to be assured of it. Lenora and I had experienced a lot together all those years past. It was

good to feel like I could trust her.

She's a Celestial.

The words fought to come out, and I held them back by gritting my teeth.

“Gab? You look upset.” Lenora reached to pat my hand. “Is this double doubling, this rare thing...harmful?”

“No, nothing like that. Shocking, that’s all. One minute she was a little girl, and now she’s a lovely young woman. Time flies the older we get,” I said with a rueful laugh. “But this is too fast.”

“What’s done can’t be undone. She has her family around her to support her. I’m sure she’ll be able to weather this change without too much trouble. As will you.” Lenora tilted her head to give me a curious look.

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“And I hope you know, I’m here for you. Whatever you need.”

For the next hour, we chatted about other Brightsky gossip. Lenora relieved my mind that the news about Stella had spread, but nobody was saying anything unkind. In an enclave open to anyone, a child who grew into an adult within hours wasn’t even close to being the most scandalous event.

We parted ways with a hug, and for me, a much lighter heart. On the way back to our quarters, I thought I’d stop off and pick up a few things for Stella. Her mother had bought her an entire new wardrobe, but I had

some ideas about other things she might need.

A birthday cake, for one. How many had she missed? I wasn’t even sure she could count them, or if she’d really be able to ever name her accurate age again. Would she continue to age, or would she stay forever

locked into the appearance of a young woman, never going gray or getting wrinkles?

all.”

“Moon Goddess,” I murmured to myself as I looked over the bakery case at the cakes for sale. “Guide us

For a moment, my vision swam. Doubled.

Quadrupled. I closed my eyes tight and pressed my fingers to the spot between my eyes. The small flare

of pain there faded under the pressure, and when I opened my eyes, my vision was fine.

I'd been meaning to check in with an enclave eye doctor for the past few weeks but had been putting off

the appointment. I knew my vanity wasn't going to help me, but I hated even the thought of needing cheater

glasses for reading.

So far, I'd been able to ignore the small issues with my sight, but I had to admit they were getting more

frequent.

"That one," I said to the clerk, pointing at the tall chocolate cake festooned with pastel flowers. "Please

write, 'Happy Birthday, Little

Star' on it." Search the FindNovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

I paid for the cake and carried the box with me toward home. Wanting to avoid crowds so I could get it back as fast as possible, I decided to take a different route home. Just as I turned the corner to a new hallway I'd never used, the lights got so bright it was like a flash of lightning. Then, the hallway plunged into darkness.

At home, I put the cake on the table and cursed myself for dropping it. It could be salvaged, but the icing was smeared along the inside of the lid. I definitely needed to make that appointment with the eye doctor. The flash of light and dark hadn't been the lamps along the way, but my own eyes.

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Chapter 418

Chapter 418

Zane

"We'll be gone for hours," Stella said as she led her twin siblings by the hand toward the front door.

"Stella's going to take us to see the pearl farms!

And they said we can open our own clams to find pearls!" Alaina bubbled with energy.

Her brother made a face. "I want to go see the training grounds. Stella, you promised."

"We'll see everything you two want. Now that you're big enough," she said with a wink at me.

The twins hadn't grown much bigger in size, but the difference in their behavior had been astounding. As

soon as they'd gone and shut the door behind them, I felt Lanie come up behind me. She wrapped her arms

around my waist.

"I think she meant that as a hint," my Luna said. "Should I feel weird that our child is giving us some 'alone

time'?"

I turned her around to hug her from the front.

"Of all the things going on right now that are weird, that's probably the least of them."

"Mmm." She pushed up onto her tiptoes to offer her mouth for me to kiss.

When it deepened, our tongues stroking, she let out a pleased murmur. She pulled away a bit to look up

into my face. Her smile was still one of the most beautiful things I'd ever seen.

"I love you," I told her.

"Love you, too. My Zane." She cupped my cheek and let her fingers trace the line of my jaw and then down

over my throat. They pressed lightly to the throb of my pulse, beating faster from her touch.

My cock was throbbing, too. "Goddess, it's been too long since I tasted you."

"Well..." She looked around with a coy smile.

"We do have the place to ourselves."

I kissed her again, parting her lips with my tongue again. She tasted like sweet honey and fresh [SEAR*ch the FindNøvel.NET website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

strawberries. My cock strained against the front of my jeans.

When she put her hand on it, cupping my dick through the denim, I let out a small, strangled moan. Lanie laughed into our kiss. Her hand rubbed me slowly.

"You know, we never got to finish our conversation that last time...about how much you liked me being on

top." She got up on her tiptoes again to nibble at my neck

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touch of her teeth on my skin sent tingles shuddering all through me. My hands fit to her hips. I

pulled her against me and ground my cock against her belly.

yours to command as you so choose, Luna." I meant to sound teasing, but the words came out low, husky, and strained with lust.

Lanie took me by the hand and led me to our bedroom. Her eyes gleamed with our mutual passion as she pushed me gently to stand next to the bed. She put her hands on her hips.

"Take off your clothes for me," she ordered in a whisper. "Let me see that beautiful body."

She sounded like Xander when she spoke, all commanding and demanding, and it sent waves of desire

coursing through me. I gladly complied. First, I pulled my T-shirt over my head and tossed it to the floor, only to

see her stern look.

“Sorry, Ma’am.” I grinned sheepishly and folded it to place neatly on the chair.

Lanie crossed her arms. “The jeans, Beta.

They’re hiding that beautiful cock. I want to see it. Now.”

Her voice deepened into a growl that dried my mouth. I put my fingers on the button and unsnapped it,

then slowly inched the zipper down. I put my hands on my hips to slide the denim down, but I made sure to do

it teasingly.

Slowly. Giving her the show I sensed that she wanted-the one I wanted to give her.

I wanted to give my Luna anything she desired.

When I stood naked in front of her, Lanie murmured her approval. “Turn around.”

I did. She moved behind me to run her hands up my back. Her nails dug into my skin. I closed my eyes but

didn’t try to hold back my moan.

Her hands spun me to face her. She gripped me at the base and slid her palm up the shaft to palm t

head. “This beautiful cock belongs to me.”

“All yours,” I agreed as I looked into her eyes.

Gently, she pushed me onto the bed. She slipped out of her dress and panties, tossing them to the floor. Lanie straddled me, my cock in her fist so she could guide me inside her.

I thought she might ride me hard. Fuck me fiercely. But my Luna moved slowly, deliberately. Our

lovemaking lasted forever. As the pleasure built, we moved together in perfect sync.

Her head fell back, her long, loose curls tickling the tops of my thighs as she ground herself against me. I

let her take the lead and watched the flush of her arousal travel up her chest and throat.

She cried out my name when she came, and when I felt her pussy tighten around me, clenching with the

strength of her orgasm, I came, too.

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Lanie collapsed on top of me. She breathed into my ear. "Our Alphas will be back soon. I think we should have something nice ready for them.

What do

you

think?"

"Your wish, my love, is my command."

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Chapter 419

Mason

I grunted as I hefted the weights and then set them down. Over the past few days, all the work Xander and I had been doing had been set aside. Useless.

Unnecessary. That put us right back where we'd been before...and for me, that was bored out of my fucking mind.

Sure, danger loomed on the horizon, but when hadn't it? It felt like I'd spent my entire life waiting for something to happen, being held back from what I knew was coming. I was fucking sick of it.

Working out helped to keep the frustration at bay, but I could only

refused to do a single more thing other than collapse.

I

for so long before my body

only ceilin

So, that's what I did, in a big, sweaty heap on the mats. I stared at the and listened to the heave and grunt of everyone else working out around me. Search The FindNøvel.NET website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Xander kicked my foot. "Bro. You ready to head back to the apartment?"

"Yeah. Let's go." I let him help me up.

We by pas sed the gym shower and headed for home.

We didn't talk on the way back. There didn't seem to be much to say.

If I was wrung out from the past couple of hours, my brother had to be twice as tired, both in his body and his mind. After all, it was his mother who'd turned out to be a spy for the High Council. Worse, she somehow was totally unaware of it, which meant that none of us could let her know that we did.

This was all kinds of f ucked.

I'd been doing my best not to give any hints, but it had been da mned hard over the past week not to question Gabriela about her every move. She hadn't seemed to be acting suspiciously, but she did seem quieter than usual. She'd had a nice little party for Stella to commemorate all the birthdays she'd missed, but that was the last time she'd really spent time with us.

I could tell it was weighing on her son, even if he wasn't sharing anything with the rest of us. Xander was trying too hard to be strong. I'd thought about asking Stella to work on him, but Lanie had guessed my plan and talked me out of it. She told me we needed to respect Xander's distance from us so he could manage his

own emotions.

I knew she was right...all the same, I'd spent my life resenting my brother and a lot less time wanting the best for him. I hated doing anything, or rather, not doing something that I felt could help him.

He put a hand on my arm before we went through the front door to our place. "Listen. Lknow we're not

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supposed to be bothering with any of the security s hit anymore, but it doesn't feel right to wait around with our thumbs up our as s es. You feel the same way, right? It's not just me."

"Nah. I'm bored as f uck, man." I lowered my voice.

Since learning about the spiders and the High

Council's ability to see through Gabriela's eyes, I was trying to be careful about what I said out loud.

"We're Alphas," Xander said. "We're not meant for all this waiting and watching bu lls hit."

I laughed and lightly punched his shoulder. "We could go for a run. Colt's still pretty tired from the last time, but I'm sure I could convince him..."

The door to our apartment opened to reveal our Luna.

"What are you two doing standing out here?"

Over her shoulder, I spotted Zane. Both of them had wide grins and the giddy attitude of kids waiting to open their New Moon Festival gifts. When Xander and I went into the living room, he stopped so short I nearly

ran into him.

"What's all this?" he said with a low, amused chuckle

I looked at the table, set with a fancy cloth and dishes.

Candles. "It's the middle of the day."

"We have the place to ourselves until after dinner," Lanie said as she came toward us.

She wore a sheer nightgown that clung to her curves.

It showed off the dusky hints of her nipples and the shadowy thatch between her thighs. Her curls were piled high with a few hanging down to tempt me into thinking what it would be like to spiral them around my

fingers.

“Do you like what you see?” Lanie asked.

My co ck certainly did. It was already thickening.

When I watched Zane come up behind her and kiss her shoulder, bared by the neckline of the nightgown,

got even harder.

“I figured you two would be all tuckered out,” Xander said around a growl, “I sensed you were making love

earlier.”

“Lucky for you,” Zane said, gesturing at his first Alpha. “We’re ready for more.”

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Chapter 420

Xander

There was no rule that none of us could make love to our Luna alone. That would have to be, ever and always, her choice. So when I was down in the gym and felt my Beta’s rush of arousal, along with our Luna’s answering desire, I carefully shut out that part of our link to give them the privacy I would have appreciated if I was the one alone with her in bed.

When I saw the dinner the two of them had laid out for us, our Luna’s carefully chosen outfit, and our Beta’s wide grin, my co ck got hard. More than that, my heart twisted. I loved the two of them more than I’d ever thought I’d be capable of loving anyone.

“You know,” I said, crossing to them both. “I used to think I understood what it meant to want someone.

But until this moment, I’m not sure I ever really did.”

Both of them put their arms around me. Lanie pressed her lips against mine, her tongue tangling with my tongue. I tasted Zane in that kiss, and that was more than fine with me. When she nibbled at my jaw and then my neck, I pulled her closer and buried my face against her hair.

"We've set up the bathroom for you to take nice, hot showers," she murmured into my ear. "You and Mason go get cleaned up. Then we'll eat. After how hard the two of you have been working out, you need your

strength."

"If we only have a few hours before the kids and Gabriela come back," my brother said from behind me, "then I vote we shower fast and eat faster."

As it turned out, we did shower fast, but the three of us lingered over that meal. Our Luna and our Beta had made sure to order every one of our favorites.

We indulged in every bite, feeding each other from our forks and fingers. Lanie slipped from lap to lap, tipping our glasses of rich, red wine into our mouths and laughing when the crimson liquid dribbled onto her

nightgown.

"Oh, my," she said with fake concern. "I might have to take this off."

She was on Mason's lap when she said this, and he growled. His hands found her breasts. Her nipples were hard through the see-through fabric, stained with red. The spilled wine made the fabric cling to her body, riper than any fruit on the table.

With a low roar of desire, I stood and swept the tabletop clean so her other Alpha could lift her onto it. Lanie arched as he pushed her nightgown up over her hips. Her three mates all stopped to admire her beauty.

We'd sated our bellies, but we were going to make a better meal of her.

1/2

Chapter 420

Lanie

I would never get my fill of these three men. I wanted to shout out my words of love to them, but all I could do was moan and cry out as Mason centered his lips over my already throbbing clit. Zane and I had made love mere hours ago, but I was ready for more.

Always, always ready for more.

"Mason!" I cried as he lapped at my pussy in slow, leisurely strokes of his tongue.

I tried to writhe, but Zane and Xander were at each of my shoulders, holding me in place. Xander took a steak knife and slipped it into the neckline of my gown, slitting the fabric about an inch. Zane took it and tore it free, leaving me gloriously naked and ready for every single kiss.

Xander found my mouth. Zane's hands caressed my breasts, and his tongue roamed over my nipples. He sensed and joined Mason's rhythm on my clit, and the two of them sucked my flesh in tandem.

I cried Xander's name in a hoarse, pleading voice. "I need your cock!"

He gave it to me. It filled my mouth as I felt Mason slide inside my pussy. His cock stretched me, and I wrapped my legs around his hips to pull him deeper inside me. Deep as he could go.

My orgasm flowed through me like ripples of water, a rushing stream. No, a river. A waterfall.

I became aware of both my Alphas disengaging.

Xander lifted me. Carried me to our big bed, where we all tumbled down. Our lovemaking continued. [Search the FindNovel.net website](http://SearchtheFindNovel.net) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Together, we lost ourselves in the pleasures of our bodies. It was more than sex. That, any one of us

could have found with any other body.

This was a joining of our hearts, minds, souls. I heard a humming through our mate bond as the four of us reached a final, gasping climax.

Ecstasy consumed me, and I gave myself up to every blessed clench and release of my muscles. For a moment, it was as though I hovered above our quartet, looking down. And then I was back in my body, in a sweaty pile of male flesh, and we all had to wriggle around to get comfortable...and this, too, was a blessing.

The comfort we found in each other.

Death might come for us, but nothing would ever be able to take away our love.

