

## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta novel**

### **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 421**

Chapter 421

Mason

I couldn't keep my eyes open. After sex that good, all wanted to do was fall into a deep, hard sleep. Lanie's bare shoulder pressed mine, and the soft sound of her breathing mingled with Xander and Zane's. Mine was doing the same, I realized sleepily as I started drifting off. The four of us had synced up.

It felt good. Comfortable. Secure.

"Abba?"

My eyes flew wide open. I pushed up on my elbow, expecting to see Stella standing at the foot of the bed.

That was how close she sounded. The bedroom door was closed. We were all still alone.

Lanie sat up next with a small gasp. "Stella?"

Xander and Zane, on her other side, did the same. We all stared at each other. Stella's voice entered my

mind again. Her words echoed a bit, like a shout down a well.

"I've fed the twins and settled them in their room with some toys. I need to talk to all of you." Stella's voice

vibrated in my head, and by the way everyone else was reacting, I could tell they heard her, too.

Zane's shocked expression was almost comical, as was my brother's. Lanie didn't look that shocked, more like she was taken aback. As for myself, I was barely getting used to having a four-way mate bond with my mates. Having our daughter chime in without warning was enough to get me out of bed in a flash.

"Give us a few minutes, sweetheart," Lanie thought through the new link. "We'll be out."

The four of us shared looks.

“What the hell was that?” Xander muttered, pitching his voice low so it wouldn’t carry out of the bedroom.

Could Stella overhear us, anyway? She probably had enhanced hearing. Or, she could simply read all of

our minds even when she wasn’t using that brand-new link to talk to us. The feeling was unsettling, to say the

least.

Lanie shook her head and got out of the bed. “She’s a Celestial, Xander. I think the more open we are to

whatever happens, the better off we’re all going to be.

I’m going to jump in the shower before we go talk to her, though.”

Zane chuckled, lifting his arm to sniff under it. “I’d say we all should at least rinse off. Just because Stella

knows we’ve been making love, that doesn’t mean we all need to roll out of here smelling like it.”

Ja

Four adults in a bathroom would never be an ideal situation, even with the size of ours, but we all

managed to get to the shower and the sinks without tripping over one another. By the time we all got out into

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the living room, Stella had made us all mugs of sweet, spiced tea and laid out plates of the sliced birthday cake Gabriela had brought for her.

“This was nice, honey. Thank you.” Lanie hugged her with a small laugh. I must say, while I’m still getting used to the idea of you being all grown up, I can get used to this!”

Xander plucked a slice from the plate and bit into the thick frosting. “Me too.”

Stella beamed. “I’m glad. I didn’t want to overstep, but I could tell you all needed something sweet and

sugary.”

“The link,” I said as I took a plate and fork and sat with it in one of the recliners. “That’s new. How long have you been able to do that?”

“Mason, she probably always could,” Lanie murmured

Stella nodded and pressed her lips together. “Yes, that’s the truth, Abba. I just never did before because I didn’t want to freak you all out. But I still did, huh?”

“A little,” I admitted.

She sighed. “Unfortunately, Abba, I think there will be many times in the days ahead when we’re all going to feel a little uncomfortable with what I’m able to do. [SEARCH THE FindNøVEL.NET website on GøøGLE](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Even me. Knowing I’ve had these abilities for so long but never sharing them has always felt wrong, and i never want to hide anything from my parents again.”

Lanie hugged her again, her expression shadowed.

“I never want you to feel like you have to, honey.

Whatever you need to share with us, you should be able. Even if you think it will upset us, or make us

mad...or scare us.”

Stella nodded, looking solemn. She hadn’t taken a piece of cake or a mug of tea, but she waited until we

all had and sat before she addressed us.

“Mother, Daddy, Abba, Papa. For the past few hours, I’ve been feeling the fog clear away. At first, I wasn’ sure if what I was sensing was true, but now I’m convinced that what I’ve seen is the truth. The High Council has made their decision about what they’re going to do.” Stella looked at each of us in turn. Her voice was strong, without a tremble or a quiver. Her eyes shone brightly. “Now I know how we can stop them.”

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## Chapter 422

Xander

"Did they learn something from my mother?" My throat went tight at the idea that my mother was being used as a tool for the High Council...again. And again, without her knowledge.

Stella shook her head. "They're seeing through her eyes, but something inside her is fighting them. Even though she doesn't know about the third eye, her own strength and desire to stand on the side of right is working to obscure what they do see. They're not blocked. She's just refusing to look at things that she unconsciously senses would help them."

"We should just tell her what's going on," Mason said in a clipped tone. "Enough of this bulls hit with people keeping secrets."

"We can tell her, but only once we've made sure the High Council is set in their path. I can't stop them if

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we don't know what they're planning," Stella said sharply. Her tone softened. "Sorry, Abba. But it's just not that easy."

My brother's expression went tight, but he nodded.

"She's going to feel betrayed when she finds out that she's been the High Council's spy, but it's going to be worse when she realizes that we knew and just let her continue."

"There's no help for it," Stella said. "If Gabriela becomes aware of the third eye, that will alert the

High Council that she knows. They'll change their course, leaving us all blind. I've seen the ways this can go, Abba. Please, you must trust me."

Mason got up to pace. "I want to, Stella, but all of this is pretty hard to swallow."

"I know," she said with a sadness in her voice. "Believe me, I wish we could all just live without worrying

about this."

"We can," I said firmly. "Once we destroy the High Council. So how do we do that?"

"What have you seen?" Lanie asked.

Stella closed her eyes for a moment, her expression twisting. She opened her eyes. "Since they can't direct her to look at the things they want to see, they're getting frustrated. Because Gabriela is unconsciously

avoiding anything that would truly help them lay an attack, they're seeing only bits and pieces of what they want information about. They've decided to finally just act."

"What do they intend to do?" I asked.

"They're going to force a...well, kind of a back surge," Stella explained. "From the portal town. They've been

somehow accessing the power supplies in Standard, and they're planning to reverse the input back through all

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the lines. All the way back here, to Brightsky."

Zane gathered the empty plates from all of us and took them to the kitchenette. He put them in the sink with a clatter. He turned, his hands in fists at his hips.

"The bastards are going to kill every enclavian spider in the place," he said in a hard, angry voice. His wolf flashed in his eyes, and his lip curled as a growl escaped him.

Stella nodded. "That's the plan."

Lanie let out a soft moan. "Those poor things. They're intelligent! And empathic! It's not like they're going to kill a bunch of mindless bugs. They're planning to slaughter an entire society!"

"You really think the High Council gives a fuck about that, Lanie?" Mason said in a bitter snarl.

She shook her head. "No. They care about nothing but themselves and their quest for power. But we can't let them do this. It's wrong."

"Everything they do is wrong," I bit out around my own growl. My wolf paced, rising. "I used to be so damned proud to be the Constantine Alpha, but now, all I can think about is how ashamed I am to take any part in wolf society. So long as the High Council is in charge-".

"We're going to stop them," my brother cut in. "It isn't wolf-kind that's the problem, but a few power-hungry assholes who think they've got the right to decide for everyone else how to live."

"Or die," Zane said furiously.

Stella held out her hands, palms up. Small, sparkling orbs glittered, a soft glow emanating from them. They vanished after a few seconds, leaving behind a calming, soothing sensation. We were all still upset, so

she hadn't taken that away. But I, at least, had a much better sense of clarity and understanding.

"Once they reverse that power surge, the backflow kills the spiders. That leaves Brightsky without all

utilities," I said. "Lights, heating and cooling, water supply. Everything will shut down."

"We'll be completely at their mercy." Lanie's voice sounded strained.

"Brightsky has to have auxiliary backup sources, doesn't it?" Zane asked Xander. "Generators of some

kind? Solar sources, thermal, whatever?"

My brother snorted under his breath. "That would make sense, wouldn't it?"

"Standard controls every secondary source of power that Brightsky can utilize," Stella said. "Their

generators are set up only to provide emergency services, though, not to send power back to Brightsky.

When the spiders die, Standard's going to lose power, too. But they'll have their backup generators. The High Council's plan is that a team from Brightsky will have to go to Standard so they can re-rig the power

supply. When Brightsky is vulnerable, the High Council will attack." Search the FindNøvel.NET website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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## Chapter 423

Lanie

Being able to glimpse what Stella had been able to see about the High Council should have been more comforting, but knowing their plans made me so angry I had to get up and pace around the room.

Only when I paused to look at my mates' startled expressions did I realize that I'd been buzzing around the room like a bee. I consciously slowed myself. I hadn't even broken a sweat this time.

Xander punched a fist into his opposite palm. "We'll be ready for them!"

Stella shook her head. "Sorry, Daddy, but no. The High Council has way too many soldiers at their command. More even than you've ever known of.

They've spent their time these past months recruiting.

There aren't enough people in Brightsky who are combat trained."

Mason shook his head. "We were trying to work on that."

"No time for it now," Xander said.

"There won't be enough capable staff to fight and protect those not capable of fighting," Stella explained.

"Everyone in this place has some kind of talent," I said. "You're telling me that with all the different types of supernaturals in Brightsky, we can't protect ourselves?"

Xander also got up to pace, his steps measured and heavy as he walked. His expression had tightened and gone dark, and I could practically see his thoughts whirling, even if I couldn't hear them. If he wasn't my mate, the look on his face would have terrified me.

The High Council had no idea who they were messing with, and a fierce pride rose in my chest.

"Most of the people who live here in the enclave have never had to even think about fighting or defending themselves. They've been safe here for so long,"

Stella said. "In his own way, Malachi has been as detrimental to the enclave as the High Council was in

determining that they'd keep the truth about the Great Wars and the world at large hidden away from all of

you. By reassuring them over and over that they had no reason to fear, Malachi has made it almost impossible

for any of them to fight."

"What about a spell? The witches here should be able to come up with some kind of protection, right?"

"Can't we use that, somehow?" Mason suggested.

Zane didn't pace. He sat back on the couch with his hands gripping his knees.

A sense of unease drifted to me through the mind link. Not the new one Stella had created, and not the

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mate bond, but through my private connection with him. When Zane thought of witches, he was afraid.

I wasn't sure he was even aware of that fear, but when he imagined the use of spells, even in Brightsky's defense, he flashed back to Rhiannon and being forced to succumb to the workings of her magic. He also remembered using magic to help me get inside the hybrid testing facility, and, even further back, the spell that had taken our memories, making me Katie. A spell had also hidden my hybrid self from me.

"Magic isn't always bad, love, "I thought to him.

I understood why he thought it was, but I had to believe it could also be used for good.

Zane looked at me with wide eyes. We shared a silent communication, unshared by anyone else. I tried to send him as much comfort as I could, but I could tell that he was still unsettled by the idea that we might have to rely on witches.

"I don't trust witches," Xander said to his brother.

Mason's expression got grim. "At this point, I'm not sure we have a choice."

"Magic can only do so much," Stella declared but with a tone of respect for her fathers. "It can protect, yes, but for a complex of this size, any protection spell will be limited. In order to cast bigger spells, there'd need to be a much greater advance warning, and



even then, you'd have to have so many spellcasters working together. Not every witch is even capable of that level of strength. That's why the spiders have become such an integral part of the enclave. They've had generations to adapt and grow. They've entwined themselves into the very fabric of the enclave. Their magic is so inherent in the structure and workings of Brightsky that nothing can truly replace them."

"We have to save them," I said fiercely, my heart breaking at the thought of all those small lives destroyed

I hadn't even known about them until a short time before, but the idea that the High Council could simply wipe them out...I shuddered and fell silent.

Tears pricked in my eyes, mingled anger and sorrow

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All I wanted was to live a peaceful life, and the High Council was making that impossible.

e, and the High Council was making that impossible.

"We have to save everyone," I added before anyone else could speak.

Stella stepped closer to me. "And we will, Mother. As soon as you leave."

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## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 424**

Chapter 424

Zane

Instantly, I stepped forward. "Yes. Get Lanie out of here."

"I'm not running," our Luna retorted fiercely.

"Brightsky is in danger because of us."

"This enclave is in danger because of your grandfather's arrogance," I told her firmly.

Stella nodded. "That's true, in part. Because Malachi kept everything under his own control without truly letting anyone else have any power to control things here, yes. But

it's also true that the four of you, me, and the twins, all are the reason why Brightsky is now in danger."

are."

Lanie gave her head a stubborn shake. "Which is why I'm not abandoning them! We stay and fight!"

Xander wrapped his arms around her and kissed her temple. "You leave the fighting to us, love."

Our Luna struggled out of his grip. "Don't you pull that Alpha card with me. I'm in this as much as you all

huh?"

Mason stepped up to put a hand on her shoulder. "We need to listen to Stella."

"Oh, so now you're ready to do whatever she says?"

Lanie snapped at him. "When it comes to sending me away, I guess she's making all kinds of sense now,

She whirled on the two Alphas who were standing together in a united front. She poked each of them in the chest. Hard. I had to hold back a laugh. None of this was funny, but even so, watching our Luna stand up to Xander and Mason was like watching a mouse face off with a pair of very pissed-off-looking lions.

"Think about it," Mason told her without flinching away from her touch, even when she poked him again.

He stared Lanie down without looking away. "If we leave the enclave, the High Council will be drawn away. They'll have no reason to do anything to the people here. It's us they want."

Stella raised her hands again to let those swirling, glittery orbs float up from her palms. I had no idea what they were, only that a sense of relief came along with them. I was able to understand the situation from multiple viewpoints all at once. It wasn't quite like being able to see every timeline and outcome, but I felt how hard it must be for our little girl to have to sift through everything to find the truth.

"And what if they're not?" Lanie asked in a small voice. It trembled, not with weakness, but with the force of her emotions. They poured out of her in slow, pulsing waves that I found hard to keep at bay. She turned toward Stella. "What if we run off and make it to safety, and everyone left behind here is destroyed the way they intend to kill the spiders?"

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“You’re forgetting something, love.” I stepped forward. “That hasn’t happened yet. The High Council made the decision to do it, which is what has let Stella figure out what steps we should take. Right?”

I looked at Stella, who nodded. I could tell that she was doing her best to let her mother figure it out on

her own. It was the only way Lanie would agree. If she believed it was the right choice.

“So you mean we could stop them? Before they hurt the spiders, before they cut the power to the

enclave?”

Lanie asked.

Stella nodded and put an arm around her mother’s shoulders. “I think so, Mother. That’s what I’m seeing.

Of course, every decision we make also changes the path ahead. But this is the one that leads to the best

outcome, at least for now.”

Lanie’s struggle was still clear on her face. She shrugged off Mason and Xander and hugged Stella.

Then she buzzed back and forth again, moving fast with her vampire speed. I felt a breeze as she passed.

I wanted to reach out and stop her, but I didn’t dare get in her way. She’d have bowled me over.

And I didn’t want to feel like I was forcing her into any decision.

The Alphas weren’t as generous. Both of them stepped in front of her at the same time. She ran straight

into them, almost knocking them out of the way. They were only able to stop her with sheer, brute strength.

Each of them grabbed her by an arm and held her in place as her feet kept moving for a few seconds until Search the FindNovel.net website on Google to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

she stopped.

They set her down.

There was a moment when it looked like she was going to fight them, or at least yell at them for getting in her way, but once more, Stella created those shimmering, soft orbs. We all stopped, paused, centered ourselves in our daughter's sphere of serenity. Earlier in the bedroom as we were falling asleep, I'd felt a sense of deep connection with my mates. Like we were all aligned and in tune.

That sensation was even stronger now, and this time, it included our daughter. We were more than a pack a family, a team. We were all joined in a way I couldn't truly describe...I just knew it was because of Stella.

"I've seen us prevail," she said now to us all. She grinned. "They're still tapping into Gabriela's third eye. Which means we can manipulate what she sees to our advantage. We can totally set up the High Council to

fail."

## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 425**

Chapter 425

Gabriela

The enclave's optometrist was a cyclops, which was a little surprising. Not only had I never met any of the

famous one-eyed clan, I'd never heard of one going into any kind of medicine.

The most I'd known about them was that they were mountain folk who kept to themselves.

"You're in good hands with Dr. Alonius," said the receptionist, a petite Fae with a cheerful smile. "He's been

part of Brightsky almost since it began. Have a seat. He'll be with you in just a few minutes."

"I've been putting this off," I said with an embarrassed smile. "I'm not sure why."

As I took a seat in the comfortable waiting chair, I felt the urge to run out of the office rising in me again.

It had taken everything I had to make the appointment in the first place, and now that I was here, all I could

think about was how horrible it would be if something bad happened to my eyes. No matter how I tried to tell myself it was foolishness, I couldn't stop myself from imagining, over and over, that when the doctor put the

lenses in front of my eyes to test my vision, the glass would break and shatter splinters into my eyeballs.

It was enough to make me run screaming from the waiting room. Only the pain in my head kept me in the

chair. I knew something was going on with my vision, and I didn't want to risk it being something important.

In the office, Dr. Alonius beamed a broad smile at me. His large eye, centered in the middle of his bald

forehead, shone with good humor through the single bifocal lens. I felt much more at ease.

"Go ahead, ask me," he said as he settled himself on a rolling stool. "Everyone wants to."

"I'm not sure...."

"Why does a man with only one eye go into optometry?" Dr. Alonius laughed with a hearty guffaw. "Well,

the answer, my friend, is that when you only have one, you want to be extra sure you take good care of it. I

decided I wanted to do the same for as many others as I could."

"You're making me feel a lot better," I admitted. "I've been having some weird anxiety about my eyes. I know an eye exam shouldn't hurt, and yet..."

"No fear. I've got you." Dr. Alonius scooted forward to begin the exam.

It wasn't the first time I'd had my eyes examined. Wolves don't tend to need glasses until we get much older, but a number of years ago I'd suddenly had a flare up of strange vision anomalies that felt very much like what had been going on lately. I told the doctor about them when he rolled his stool out of the way after he'd finished the exam.

"I can't see anything going on, so I can set your mind at ease about problems with your eyes themselves. As for needing a prescription, you've got superb vision, Gabriela. No need for glasses. Not even readers." The doctor tilted his head to study me. His expression was calm, but his brow furrowed in concern. "Have you seen

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## Chapter 425

the Brightsky medical staff about the headaches?" Search the FindNøVEL.net website on GøøGLE to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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"Should I?"

"If you're truly concerned, but..." He coughed lightly into his fist. "Look, it's a bit out of line for me even to say anything, so feel free to put me in my place. But is it possible you're having...anxiety attacks?"

My eyes went wide, and my eyebrows went up.

Way up. "Anything's possible."

"It's just that I know you and your family have had some hardships to deal with. All of that tension could lead to headaches and changes in your vision. I do want to relieve you, though. I can see nothing to worry about with your eyes themselves."

I was relieved, and let out a breath I'd been holding while I waited to hear the verdict on my vision. It

stuttered out of me on a flurry of soft giggles that grew louder, until I had to clap a hand over my mouth to

hold them back. After a moment, Dr. Alonius joined me. The two of us laughed hard for a minute more before

we tapered into a comfortable silence.

"That was unexpected," he said with another bright grin.

liked this man. He had a calming, easy demeanor and gentle way about him that was so different than

Orion had ever been. I blushed, realizing I'd been staring.

"I'll walk you out," Dr. Alonius said as he stood and offered me his hand.

I took it. His was so much bigger that it fully engulfed mine. He squeezed mine gently before letting it go.

"Maybe I should get your number," he said quietly as we stared at each other. "Just in case, I mean. Um, if any of these readings turn out to be...um... of concern. I could call you."

I couldn't hold back my smile. "I'd like that."

With a spring in my step, I headed back home.

For the first time in what felt like an entire lifetime, it felt like I might actually have a good future ahead of

me. A home here in Brightsky.

Friends.

The possibility of something even more.

Happiness.

## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 426**

Chapter 426

Lanie

"What do you mean, we're going to say goodbye to the twins in front of Gabriela?" My jaw had dropped, gaping wide, and I shut it with a snap.

I clipped my tongue between my teeth and tasted blood, but that was a better flavor than the bitterness in my words.

"We have to make sure she hears us and sees us, so it's relayed to the High Council," Stella said.

I spoke to her in the tone of voice I'd used on the rare occasions when she'd thrown a temper tantrum. Calm, but firm, and clearly letting her know that I was disappointed in her. "I understand that part, Stella. But you're asking me to leave them behind?"

She'd quickly laid out the plan to us, but I was not convinced that it made sense. My mates seemed to believe that leaving the enclave was a good idea, and I was having a hard time getting behind that, too. Leaving Alaina and Isaac here though, while we ran off...I couldn't do that.

"Gabriela will stay with them." Stella said.

"Lanie, just hear her out," Zane began, but I made an angry gesture to make him go quiet.

"How can you even think I'd be okay with this?" I demanded of the three of them. Then, I turned to my daughter. "I don't like this, Stella.

You've grown up, but your brother and sister are little more than babies-" Search the FindNOvel.net website on Google to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"They're stronger and smarter than you give them credit for, Mother."

here!"

"Because they're hybrids!" I cried. "They're special. Like you. Which is exactly why we can't leave them

I crossed my arms over my belly and hugged myself tight. I shook my head, not meeting the eyes of any of my mates. I couldn't bear to look any of them in the face. "I swore when I rescued them from that cursed testing facility that I would never abandon them. They would never be alone like that ever again. I vowed to protect them and love them like they were my own, and that's what they are. They are my children as much as you are, Stella. And now, what you're asking... It's too much. I won't do it."

"They'll be safer here than anywhere else, Lanie. And we can't really fight with two children in tow. It's better if they remain behind." Mason tried to reach for me, but I shrugged myself out of his grip.

"My mother will take care of them, love,"

Xander said.

I ducked away from Xander's reach, too. I whirled on him. "Your mother is compromised!



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This entire plan revolves around that fact, which you seem to have conveniently or stupidly forgotten.

Whether she knows it or not, Gabriela is a tool for the High Council.

How can you ask me to trust her?"

"She would never hurt our children!" Xander snapped at me, sounding truly angry, probably because I'd called him stupid.

Oh, yeah? Well, so was I. I put my hands on my hips and stood my ground with him. "Of course she wouldn't, if she could help it. But what if she can't help it, Xander? What then?"

"Because I trust our daughter, something you were telling us to do not ten minutes ago!"

Xander growled.

"Mother. I know this is hard. If there was another way, I would offer it, but I've seen the various paths. The only ones that work are the ones in which we leave Alaina and Isaac here."

me?"

Tears filled my eyes. "How are they going to feel when I tell them I'm going away and not taking them with

Stella hesitated. "They'll be with their beloved Grammy. You can tell them we're going away to do grownup things. They'll understand."

"It will be a lie," I said.

Mason stepped closer but wasn't foolish enough to try and pull me against him. "It's not a lie. We will be doing grownup things."

I eyed him with a frown. "And Gabriela won't want to come with us? If we tell her the High Council is coming, she's not going to want to stay here if none of us are."

"We'll tell her that we're taking Stella away for her own protection. Because she's a Celestial and more important," Xander said.

life.”

“Compromised or not, I believe with my whole heart that my mother will protect our children with her very

“The High Council wants our children because they’re hybrids. What makes you think they’d just give th up?” I demanded.

Hubris.

The whisper tickled the back of my neck at the base of my skull. I instantly went on high alert, but nobody in the room had spoken or even used the mind link. Vaguely, from far off, I heard the sound of my name being called, but I stumbled forward and landed on my hands and knees...

On a soft carpet of pine needles.

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## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 427**

Chapter 427

Mason

“Katie!” The name flew out of my mouth before I realized what I was saying.

My Luna, my beloved mate, had crumpled to the floor. She curled onto her side with her knees to her

chest, like an infant in a crib.

Behind me, I heard Xander’s roar of surprise, but I was the first one to reach her. I threw myself onto the

floor at her side and slid my arm underneath her shoulders. When I pulled her onto my lap, she rolled bonelessly onto her back. Her arms and legs flopped. Her eyes were closed.

She wasn’t breathing.

“No, no, no...” I heard my own voice muttering and crying out. Through the mind link, I heard the same

coming from Zane and Xander.

I expected my brother and our Beta to be at my side, but neither of them joined me as I rocked my Katie in

my arms for a moment, desperate to see or feel any signs of life. She was limp and unresponsive. I probed her

mind through the link and got no response. I pressed my fingers to her pulse, but there was nothing.

She was not dead. I would not allow her to leave us this way. With a strangled cry, I slid her onto the floor

on her back so I could resuscitate her.

"Wait, Abba. No!" Stella cried when I tipped Katie's head back to clear her airway. "Stop!"

I was aware of Stella moving toward me, but I ignored her. I'd fight her off, if I had to, and if Xander or

Zane tried to get in my way, I'd fight them, too.

"I. Said. Stop." Stella's voice gonged like a bell.

"F uck that," I growled. "Katie's -"

A force that felt like a giant fist grabbed me by the back of my collar and hauled me to my feet.

It yanked me back and away from the woman on the floor. And then, by the void, it held me in place while I

fought it.

"You let me go right now," I demanded.

Stella hadn't moved an inch. Her hair had started softly floating up and around her, crackling with energy. A rainbow nimbus surrounded her. She held out one hand in my direction. The other toward Zane and

Xander, who were frozen in place.

"Not until you all three agree to leave her alone.

You can't help her right now." Search the Findnovel.net website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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"F uck that," I said again, this time under my breath.

The three of us stared at our Luna on the floor.

She hadn't moved. Stella knelt next to her and smoothed her hair off her face. The force holding me back

didn't break, not for a second, even when Stella didn't seem to be paying attention.

A chill shuddered through my spine at the enormity of that young woman's power. Yes, we'd all been told she had the abilities of every supernatural, but I'd never seen or felt anything like this. I shot a glance at my brother. He was grimacing.

"We have to fight her. I don't care if she's our daughter, we have to help Katie," said through the mind link.

"Her name, by the way, is Lanie," Xander thought fiercely at me. His wolf blazed in his eyes and voice, and his face rippled with the force of the beast trying to come to the surface.

"Both of you, knock it off. There are more important things right now!" Zane's snarl reached us both through the link.

In the face of three adult wolves fighting for control, anyone else would have run. Not Stella.

Our Celestial stood calmly, holding us back with no more effort than if we were toddlers throwing

tantrums.

"I can hear you plotting, but please, fathers.

Stop fighting. I don't want to have to hurt you, but I can't allow you to interfere right now."

Slowly, I stopped my struggle. Zane followed.

At last, Xander went quiet, too.

The three of us stood panting, our fists clenched. But none of us kept fighting to get to our Luna. Clearly, there was no point. Stella was far too strong.

Lanie...Goddess, I'd called her Katie, and the shock sent ripples of emotional pain straight to my heart. She'd been my Katie first, just as the woman standing over her had been the baby I'd been willing to raise as my own...even before I knew they both belonged to my brother,

My chest heaved. "Stella. Let us help your mother."

Stella shook her head. "She doesn't need our help. You need to leave her alone, at least for now."

Zane took a single step. When that worked, he took another until he knelt by our Luna's side. He stroked her hair back from her face.

"What's wrong with her?"

"The Moon Goddess has taken her," Stella said.

"When will she bring her back?" Zane demanded.

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Stella nodded, then paused, tilted her head and shook it slowly. She frowned. "I don't know."

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## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 428**

Chapter 428

Lanie

I was alone with the scent of the forest and what felt like a breeze across my face. The trees sang in low

murmurs as the wind passed through their branches. Peace, calm, serenity...

when was the last time I'd felt any of that? So long ago that I couldn't recall a time when I'd felt only

comfort. No anxiety.

“Moon Goddess?”

I reached for her and got only silence in return.

Slowly, I turned in a circle. I knew I had to be experiencing this in my own mind, and that she hadn't

transported me physically. I wore a soft gown of pale-green fabric, knotted at the shoulders. Around my waist,

a golden cord nipped the dress against my hips, and the hem was so long only the tips of my toes peeped out.

My hair cascaded down my back in ripples and waves.

I thought I must look something like a goddess, myself.

I wanted to run. To fight. To scream and argue.

I wanted answers. Safety. Knowledge.

But Goddesses don't answer to those they protect; I could only wait for her to show me what she wanted

me to see.

The Sun rose and set, and the Moon followed.

Years passed in the span of minutes. I walked through the trees and slowly became aware of Lily at my

side. My hand rested on her head, and I let her lead me.

In front of me, the trees parted to show me a meadow full of flowers. The sun shone brightly overhead.

Had I ever communicated with the Moon Goddess under the light of her sister Sun? I could only remember her

voice ever reaching me in the Moon's silver glow. Right now, the golden light beckoned me, and I went into the

meadow.

Lily snuffed in my hand and licked. Then she ran away. I reached for her, but then I let her go.

I knew there was something desperate happening to my body. Hands on me. Voices calling my name.

Katie, Lanie, Katie, Lanie.

Who was I?

Who had I ever been?

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Who would I become?

When I got into the meadow, the scent of flowers was like some sweet perfume that made my head spin. Dizzy, I sank onto a bed of soft grass while the flowers crushed underneath me and cast out even more glorious scents. I looked up at the sky and saw the sun, so bright I had to shield my eyes.

But also the Moon at the same time. So much smaller than her sister, and to some, less powerful. She guided and blessed the wolves and kept us from harm, while the Sun had the strength and power to give life...and take it away.

My back arched as a groan slipped out of me. Search The Findnovel.net website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In my mouth, I felt the sharpness of vampire fangs. They dented my bottom lip, piercing my own flesh until I tasted a hint of blood.

Vampires die in the sunshine without protection, and I had none.

"No," whispered the Moon Goddess. You have me."

Then I was floating, my toes barely grazing the ground and the grass and the crushed flowers.

The Moon and the Sun both bathed me in their lights. Silver and gold swirled around me.

From the Moon, I felt strength and power, as well as comfort. Assurance. Guidance.

From the Sun came ferocity, determination, and an edge of fear. A promise of punishment, if I did not obey. "I don't understand, Moon Goddess! Please, as your humble servant, I beg of you to help me understand."

I couldn't see her, but her voice filled my head with a chime like bells. Like the soft hush of waves rolling against a shore. Like a mother singing her babies to sleep.

"You are not only mine, child."

"I owe my allegiance to you!" I cried.

Her soft chuckle made me feel like I was wrapped in a warm blanket, being rocked like an infant.

"And I welcome it. But you have more than wolf inside you, and you must accept the blessings and restrictions of the sun, as well.

Accept who you are. Fully."

Above me, the sky turned to navy, sprinkled with glittering stars. The Moon and the Sun continued to shine. I felt like I could feel the earth turning beneath my feet, but I wasn't dizzy.

"Your daughter would not be a Celestial if she had not been born to you," the Moon Goddess said. "You created her, and you have raised her.

Now is the time to take her counsel. She is no longer a child."

"But Alaina and Isaac are. Don't they still need their mother?" I lifted my face to the skies, pleading to

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understand. "How can I leave them behind in the care of someone I can't trust?

Can you give me assurance that Gabriela won't let them come to harm?"

"You stand in the Sun, and you do not burn.

That alone should tell you enough."

I fell onto my hands and knees and pressed my face into the sweet smelling earth. A single word had



hung behind my closed eyes, illuminated like a neon sign.

TRUST

3/3

## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 429**

Chapter 429

Xander

“So, what happens if she doesn’t wake up?” I asked Stella.

“We don’t have time to keep messing around with this s hit,” Mason spat. “Stella, if you expect us not to fight you, then you have to tell us what we can do.”

“Gabriela could come back here at any second,”

Zane said quietly. “If she sees Lanie like this, won’t the High Council also see it? How will we be able to explain it to her without revealing everything?”

“This is a pretty terrible time for the Moon Goddess to put her in a f ucking coma,” I said with my fists clenched. I waited for lightning or something to strike me for my blasphemy.

I almost welcomed it. At least that would be something I could understand.

Something I could hate the Goddess for.

“She’s not in a coma. She’s walking in the world between,” Stella said after a moment. Her expression shadowed. “She’s having trouble returning.”

I growled. My wolf paced. He wanted to leap out of my skin. I wanted to let him. If I was my wolf, I wouldn’t have to deal with any of this.

No. I shook away that cowardice. An Alpha didn’t run. Not from a fight. Not from trouble.

And not from this.

“I was going to leave her as long as the Goddess wanted her, but...” Stella hesitated. Her shoulders bowed, and her head hung. “I’m sorry, fathers. I’m sorry for how hard this all is.”

Her head went up. Her eyes blazed with a swirl of colors, finally settling on a brilliant gold rimmed with silver. I'd never seen anything like it, and the sight had my blood running cold. I'd known our daughter was powerful, but in this moment, she didn't look...human.

"I will go alone," Stella said. "I will go to Standard to the High Council and let them take me. If they have me, they'll leave everyone else alone!"

Mason went to her at once and gathered her against his chest. "Never. I will never allow that, Stella, so you can stop with that nonsense right now."

"Have you seen what happens if you do that?"

Zane asked quietly.

"It doesn't matter. We won't let her face them alone," Mason snapped back at him. Search the FindNOvel.net website on Google to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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My brother had been there for Stella's first moments in this life. He'd been her father before either me or our Beta. She clung to him now, her face against his chest, while he stroked her hair. I couldn't see those

strange and wild eyes anymore. Right now, she looked like a scared young woman seeking comfort from her

father.

Which was exactly who she was. My heart twisted. She was our daughter, and there was no way we were ever going to let her face danger without us at her back.

"Stella, what happens if you go alone?" I asked, not because I didn't know, but because I wanted to force

her to say it out loud.

If she had to admit the future she saw along this path, I hoped she'd realize she couldn't take it. I even

sent up a prayer and an apology to the Moon Goddess. I begged her to take care of our Luna...and also our

Celestial.

Stella shook her head against Mason's chest, but then, after a few seconds, lifted her face.

Tears streaked it. Her silver and gold eyes had faded to their normal color, but I would never forget the sight of them.

"If I go there alone..."

"She dies, that's what happens," Mason snapped.

"She's a Celestial," I said quietly, holding her gaze with my own. "They wouldn't kill her. They'd find a way to use her, and that would be worse."

"You'd be safe... Brightsky would be safe..."

"For how long?" I challenged her.

"For as long as I made them!" she cried. "I'd make sure. I wouldn't do what they want unless they swore

not to hurt anyone here!"

"They'd use you to destroy everything else, Stella. What are our lives worth if the rest of the world suffers?"

How could we ever live knowing that we were only safe because everyone else wasn't?" I asked her.

Her expression twisted, and she pulled out of Mason's arms. She turned her back to us. Her head

again.

Mason spoke next. "You might have every power ever known. You may be able to change the tides

control the weather and whatever other talents exist that I don't even know about. But none of that mean

have to do any of this alone. Ever."

Stella heaved a sobbing gasp and faced us. "I want to make you all proud-"

“You do!” Mason assured her. “Always.”

Zane hugged her, then stepped back. “Of all the possible paths you can see, which is the one with the

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Chapter 429

best outcome? Is it still leaving the twins behind with Gabriela while we take you someplace else and lure the

High Council there?”

“Yes,” Stella said. “Many paths and many outcomes, but that is still the best one. I’ll go to the world. between and bring Mother home.”

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## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 430**

Chapter 430

Lanie

I’d been working with my grandfather and Charlotte to access my different traits. I’d mastered some of them and learned there might be some I’d never be able to control. But until I stood under the mutual glow of both the Moon and the Sun with the stars dancing between them, I hadn’t ever truly accepted that I was not wolf-kind.

I was a hybrid. Many pieces together in one vessel. The body that I’d left behind. The one I needed to return to so I could support my daughter.

For a second that might as well have been an eternity, I tipped my face up to the Sun.

It bathed me in its glow. I held out my arms, letting the golden light cover me all over.

I’d walked in the sunshine for my entire life without worry, not knowing I had vampire blood running in my veins. Not realizing how lucky I was that the Sun didn’t choose to fry me alive.

The future might be obscured to me. I couldn’t look ahead the way my daughter could and see every branching path. I couldn’t predict how my choices would influence what lay ahead.

But I could still make them.

I might never be able to do everything, but that would never again stop me from doing what I could.

"I think I understand, Moon Goddess. I have to trust in you. In Stella. But most of all, in myself."

The laughter of a Goddess is a blessing all its own. Hers rained over me, sparkling silver droplets I could feel as well as hear. I lifted my face to the sky again and danced in the light and laughter of the Goddess I'd been born to serve. I accepted her blessings...and also those of her sister, the Sun, who could have chosen at any moment in my life to end it, but who had allowed me to reach this place.

"Thank you, thank you!" I cried out into the skies. "I'm ready!"

With a rumble of thunder, storm clouds rolled across the sky. They covered up the stars first, dimming their light and then blinking them to darkness. Next, the Sun itself faded from blazing orange to soft, pale yellow. Then to white, and it, too, was gone. The Moon remained, but the clouds quickly covered up its silver sheen.

I was in darkness.

I couldn't see the path in front of me, but worse than that, I couldn't even feel it. I tapped a toe and felt something solid underneath it. I took a step, and suddenly, there was nothing to stand on. I teetered on the edge of the world.

With a scream, I pulled myself back from the edge. I couldn't tell if I had my eyes open or closed.

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## Chapter 430

Everything was darkness, either way.

If this was a test, I wasn't sure I was going to pass it

Time passed like the beat of a heart or the tick of a clock, but I couldn't tell if it was hours or minutes or years or eternities. I fought to stop myself from running, plunging over the abyss. I'd trusted the Goddess this far, and I'd accepted her will. I had to remain patient for whatever message she sent me next.

Slowly, I became aware of a dim glow. It looked really far away, like the light at the end of a tunnel. I blinked, realizing my eyes must have been open. They'd been open the entire time, waiting for something to

see.

The glow brightened. I could see the edge just beyond the tips of my bare toes. It looked like I stood on a cliff, but I had no idea how high it was, or what lay below it. I put my foot out, feeling nothing below it but air. An icy wind lifted my hair. If I lost my balance, I'd fall and plunge into that darkness.

I wasn't going to lose anything.

"Mother?" Stella's voice came to me from that light.

I took the first step. My heart seized as my body tensed, waiting to hurtle over the cliff edge. I still couldn't feel anything under the foot extended forward. The one behind me was still solid.

"Mother, follow my voice! You have to come back to us now!"

It took everything I had, every bit of willpower, to lift the foot remaining on the ground. I stepped forward again. Now there was nothing beneath me. I wasn't floating, but I wasn't falling, either. [Search The Findnovel.net website on Gøøgle](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"I'm coming, Stella!"

I took another step. Another. I walked on nothing but trust and hope. The power of my belief buoyed me up. The love I felt emanating from my daughter kept me moving.

The light grew brighter, and now it looked like a doorway. Stella stood just inside it. Behind her, over her shoulder, I could see our living room. My three mates.

My own body, sprawled on the ground like I was dead.

"Come back to us, Mother!"

Step after step, I followed her voice and the light.

2/2

## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 431**

Chapter 431

Gabriela

I hadn't had this much spring in my step since long before Orion and I had been mated and had Xander.

It was like I was looking at the world through brand-new eyes. Colors were brighter. Crisper, bolder,

fresher.

I stopped short with a small cry of surprise as the realization hit me.

That's just what I needed. A fresh start. My own life.

The chance to pursue new friendships...or more, if the chance came up. Of course I loved my family, but Stella was now an adult. The twins were going to full-time school. My grandchildren didn't need me, and my

grownup children might simply have to adjust to living on their own, too. Search The FindNøVEL.net website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Wasn't it time I lived my own life? Yes, there were still trials and tribulations ahead of us, but I could still

be there for my family without living in the same space.

It was long past time for my son and his three mates to have their own as well. Our living quarters were luxurious and four times the size of the cabin we'd all managed to survive, but that didn't mean we had to keep

living this way forever.

I stopped by the Housing and Responsibilities office to check for possible openings. Malachi had simply provided us with our original quarters, so I'd never been here before. The elderly witch at the desk waved a small wand over a parchment to reveal words that looked like they'd been typed with an old-fashioned typewriter. Such a strange combination of magic and technology...only in Brightsky, I thought with a laugh.

"Something small. A studio would be fine," I told her.

"I don't even need a stove. I'm looking forward to having all my meals cooked by someone else. But...

ahem...I'd like a queen-sized bed."

The witch slanted me a knowing gaze. She chuckled,

"I think we have something coming open at the end of the week. It's on a high level, though. Above ground.

Those are usually our less desirable units. Would that be all right?"

"If that's what's available, that will be fine. Are you able to look up the list of open responsibilities for me, too? I'd like to start giving back to the community." I took a deep breath, thinking about how I'd tell the rest of

the family of my plans to move out and take work in Brightsky.

"I can help you with that." Again, she waved her wand, this time to reveal a different list. "We've got many

open positions, depending on your qualifications."

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She waved the wand again, this time turning the words to face me so I'd be able to read them without twisting my head. For a moment, a flash obscured the words. My head ached. I took a step back from the desk, blinking. The words had gone blurry.

I blinked again to clear my vision while the old witch looked on curiously. I could read the list, but the

letters looked kind of scrambled. I could read some of the words easily-daycare, kitchens, retail. Other words

in the list weren't so easy to read.

"You don't have to decide right now, dearie. The list changes often, as people decide to switch things up.

Like you," she said with a kind chuckle. "How about I put your name down for the new living quarters, and

you can get yourself settled in there before you go taking up a new job, eh?"

"That sounds perfect. Thank you."

"My pleasure, dearie. That's how we work here at Brightsky. Together."



I thanked her again and set off once more for the apartment that would only be home for another week or so. I was a little disappointed about my weird vision thing, but at the same time, maybe it would be a good

reason for me to call Dr. Alonius. I even thumbed his number into my phone before bursting into

self-conscious giggles and putting my phone away. It was too soon.

I pushed open the door to the Constantine quarters and pulled up short at the sound of voices coming

from Alaina and Isaac's room. Something told me to hold back and listen before joining them.

"...but you'll be good for Grammy, won't you? We won't be gone for long. We'll be back before you know it."

Lanie's voice sounded soothing. I heard the twins murmuring in reply.

Gone?

"Hello?" I called out and went to their door.

All of them turned to stare at me...everyone except

Stella. She wasn't there. A coldness washed over me

"Grammy!" Alaina cried and ran to take my hands.

"Mama and the fathers are going on a trip, but we get to stay home with you!"

I met my son's gaze. "Is that so?"

"Mom, why don't we go into the other room," Xander said with a smile that didn't reach his eyes. "We have some important things to tell you."

## **Mated to the Alpha and His Beta Chapter 432**

Chapter 432

Gabriela

I warmed my hands around a mug of hot tea, but I didn't want to take even a single sip. Xander had explained to me, quickly, that he and his mates would be leaving with Stella, but the twins and I would stay

behind.

"You might have asked me first," I said in a low voice. "Rather than simply springing this on me. No

warning."

"We have to move on this now, Mom. Sorry, but you're our only option. We have to get Stella out of here for

her protection. She's far more powerful than the twins and far more at risk from the High Council."

At those words, a pain sliced into my heart. "The High Council. When will they ever stop causing us so

much trouble? Is it so much to ask that they simply leave us alone? Never mind." I waved a hand for silence,

my voice rasping. "I know the answer to that. Probably more than any of you."

I didn't want to feel such disappointment that my plans were being struck to the ground before I even had

the chance to put them into action. I didn't want this selfishness. With a heavy sigh, I put my face in my hands.

"Where is Stella?"

Mason stepped up to answer that question. "Right now, she's in the temple of the Moon Goddess,

preparing herself."

"A Celestial needs to make offerings to a Goddess?" asked.

Lanie had been talking to the twins, but now she appeared with a bag slung over her arm. "Even a

Celestial can use as much protection as she can get.

Gabriela, I know this is hard. We wouldn't ask you to do this if we had any other choice."

"Where are you going?" I studied the mug. The steam wafted up, bathing my face. My vision blurred again.

This time from tears.

Xander cleared his throat and took the seat next to mine. He pushed the mug out of the way to press both of my hands between his. He waited until I looked into his eyes, but although his mouth opened, he still didn't

speak.

"You have your father's eyes. Did I ever tell you that?

Not the color, or even the shape. It's the look in them Xander. Orion looked at me that way every time he

asked me to do something he knew I wouldn't want to do I shook my head and pulled my hands from my son's grip. "I never thought to see my own son looking at me the same way."

"We're taking her to Fallen Crest," he said.

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I couldn't hold back my gasp of shock. "That's..."

My words stuck in my throat. I pushed away from the table and got up to face all four of them. They were talking to each other through their damned mind link.

I could sense it. I wrapped my arms around me against the sudden chill.

"Fallen Crest is the dead city," I told them. "Nobody goes there. It was forbidden by the High Council ages

ago-

"As if we give a single tiny fuck about what the High Council wants," Lanie said.

I shot her a look so fierce she winced. "It was forbidden by every High Council or Leadership Court or

Noble Senate of every single supernatural kind that has such a governing body. Every. Single. One. It's the only

thing that everyone has ever agreed on in totality.

You can't go there."

"We have to. It's where Stella says she will be safe,"

Lanie shot back at me with her wolf blazing in her eyes.

"By the Moon and the stars above, how? The Moon Goddess herself abandoned Fallen Crest. It's nothing

but a wasteland, inhabited only by the dead, and if you go there..." I stabbed my finger at each one of them. "You'll all be dead, too. You might as well simply slice off your own heads right here and now. Save me the heartache of wondering what has happened to you."

"Mom. Don't be hysterical," Xander began, but I whirled on him.

"You watch your mouth," I snapped. "Your father used to speak to me that way, and I didn't put up with it, from him. I tolerated a lot, but never that."

Zane got up from the table to take away my unused mug. He poured it into the sink. When he turned back

around, his gaze was sympathetic but strong.

"Lanie's had a vision from the Moon Goddess, and Stella has confirmed that Fallen Crest is where we have to go. There's more than our lives at stake. If we can't get Stella safe from the High Council, the entire world is in jeopardy. If you take a minute to think about it!" he said, "I know you'll be able to see that. Because you know them. You know what they're willing to do."

The tension in the air between all five of us popped like a balloon stuck with a pin. And, like a stuck balloon, I deflated. I sat back at the table with my hands folded. The life I'd imagined only an hour ago would have to be put on hold for the greater good.

It wasn't the first time I'd changed my life to help save the world...but by the Goddess, I prayed it would be the last.

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## Read Chapter 433 -

### Chapter 433

#### Chapter 433 Lanie

My heart ached at the way we'd had to treat Xander's mother, but there was no other way for it to go. We'd had to dance a careful ballet of the truth interwoven with half-truths and semi-truths. Our choreography skirted outright lies, but just barely.

She had to know where we were going so the High Council would follow, and she had to be convinced that staying was the best protection for the twins. We also had to convince her that we couldn't tell Malachi or anyone else.

"He wouldn't let us go," I told her. "Not alone. And Stella was very clear. It has to be the five of us only. Nobody else."

Gabriela had put the twins to bed while we finished quickly packing. Stella had not returned, and although I suspected Gabriela didn't really believe she was paying homage to the Moon Goddess in her temple, she also didn't keep pressing us for more details. Now, Xander's mother finished spreading peanut butter and jelly on some bread to make sandwiches we could take with us. I hadn't had the heart to tell her we didn't need them.

"If he doesn't stop you from leaving before you get out the front gates, he'll figure out you've gone before you make it to the portal town," she said.

Her knife moved over the bread, adding more layers. Her hands were steady. They'd been shaking a few minutes ago.

"We have a safe route through Standard," I told her carefully. "Through the maintenance tunnels."

There was no way for us to know if she was transmitting our words to the High Council through the scrying device. Every word we said and every item we chose to take with us had to be specific and purposeful. We wanted them to know where we were going, what route we were taking, and what time we planned to leave. Like everything else, some of what we said was true. The rest of it...we didn't even fully know.

The Moon Goddess had convinced me to place my trust in Stella and also my own instincts, and so that's what I was determined to do. It wasn't easy. I had to keep taking slow, deep breaths while at the same time keep my expression from giving away my

anxiety to Gabriela. I also had to show some nervousness, because there was no way I'd be able to convince her that I wasn't worried at all.

This dance had so many steps, and I hadn't practiced them nearly enough. I felt way too clumsy to be performing it. All I could do was keep stepping, even if it was over an abyss.

"How will you stop the enclave's security systems from alerting your grandfather that you're leaving?" Gabriela asked. She folded waxed paper around the stack of sandwiches and tucked them into a tote bag. She lifted it, hefting its weight, and put it on the table with a laugh. "I haven't made this many PB&Js since Xander was going through puberty. He and Zane ate me out of house and home. My two boys."

Her voice cracked, and I went to her. I didn't think she'd let me hug her, but she did. I held her tightly, hoping we were doing the right thing.

Gabriela extricated herself from me. She cleared her throat and wiped at her eyes. "The twins will be safe here. I'll take care of them."

"I know you will. And when we come back-" Search the (Find)Novel.net website on Google to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Don't," she said firmly around a tremor in her voice. "Just don't, Lanie. I can't bear to hear a promise you can't make. Not in good conscience. Accepting that promise means I'm letting you lie to me, and I can't have that."

I nodded after a moment. She was right. We both hated it, but looking into her eyes, I saw that she also understood it.

"Lanie," Xander said from the doorway. "Mom. We have to get going. Stella will be waiting."

We hadn't told his mother that Stella could speak to us through a new mind link. That was one piece of information we didn't want the High Council to suspect. We did, however, want them to be on alert that we were heading out.

"Take these," Gabriela said, handing him the tote.

When he peeked inside, surprise and pleasure wreathed themselves across his face in a broad smile. I'd never seen my Alpha smile that way before. It lifted my heart and broke it at the same time. It was the grin of a boy whose mother had made sure he had everything he could possibly want or need.

It faded quickly, replaced with a sterner expression. He hugged his mother and kissed her cheek. "Thanks, Ma."

Mason and Zane bustled through the doorway. Each had a backpack slung over one shoulder. That was all we were taking with us one small bag each. According to Stella, we would find whatever else we needed along the way.

According to Gabriela, it might be all we needed for the rest of our lives.

## Chapter 434

### Chapter 434 Zane

The four of us moved as silently and quickly as we could along the quiet corridors of Brightsky. At this time of night, not many residents were around. Every time a new light cast its glow ahead of us, showing us the way, my heart felt like it was being stabbed.

We hadn't even kissed the twins goodbye. They were sleeping when we left, and Lanie had thought it would be better not to wake them. She said we'd see them again before we knew it, and I wanted to believe her.

The spiders were still alive, and although their tiny lives were not the only ones we hoped to save, knowing they were still here reminded me over and over again of that one reason why we were leaving. Stella was waiting for us. Not in the Temple of the Moon, but deep down in the caverns that housed the steam baths and pearl farms. We all took the stairs to avoid running into anyone in the elevators who might question what was feeling more and more like an escape...like we were running from. Not running to.

I hated all of this, but I'd been shoving my emotions down so I could focus on making sure my Alphas and our Luna were taken care of. Mason and Xander were shifting into soldier mode, and that triggered me into full-on Beta. Watching their backs. Anticipating their needs, their every move. Over all of us, Lanie spread her Luna love and light.

Down and down we went. By the time we got to the bottom, even the spiders' light had gone more dim as fewer of them guided our way. I drew in a long, deep breath of dank air as we came out into the stone alcove Stella had sent us directions for using our mind link.

She waited quietly on the other side of the alcove. Her hands were linked neatly in front of her, and she stood perfectly still. I'd been carrying the backpack Lanie had packed for her, and she took it from me with a soft smile.

"Thank you, Papa." She slung it over her shoulders and hitched it into place. "Are we ready? We'll have to move quickly. You told Grammy we were leaving through the tunnels in Standard?" "Yes," Xander said.

"Then they'll be gathering there to stop us. We won't have much time after they realize we've actually bypassed them. But they know we're heading for Fallen Crest, so I expect them to be on our trail within the day. Let's go." Stella turned toward a small opening in the stone wall.

We followed her, walking in single file. Stella, then Lanie, then Xander. The corridor was so narrow that my shoulders brushed it on each side and Xander, with his massively broad frame, almost had to walk sideways. Mason brought up the rear. We weren't expecting any trouble yet, but I was ready for it, just in case.

We came out into a large cavern with a soaring ceiling. It reminded me a lot of the one Greyson had taken me flying in. That felt like a lifetime ago. This one had a set of stone steps carved into it that led upward, curving around a series of columns carved with oversized designs. Huge faces. Wings, tails. I saw wolves, too.

Just as we got to the bottom of the stairway, Stella paused and turned to face us. "I don't want you to worry about going up the stairs. I won't let any of you fall. I'll tether us, using the powers of the Oreads. Mountain nymphs."

I looked up and up. "Ugh. Wolves aren't meant for heights."

Stella laughed gently. I laughed with her, surprised that there could be any humor around us right now. She took the first step. Lanie followed. When they made it up the first five or six steps, Xander went after them. That left me.

It wasn't as bad as I thought it might be, even though there was no railing and the sheer drop was high enough that, if the tether Stella talked about failed, we'd all fall to a painful, broken death. "One step at a time, love." Lanie's voice slipped into my mind through our group mind link. "Keep moving upward and onward. We'll make it."

"I'll keep us safe," Stella thought, her voice smooth and steady.

When we finally got to the stop, all of us except Stella were breathing heavily. I paused to look over the side, feeling the pull of gravity tempting me to tumble head over heels. An answering pull kept me in place, safely beyond the edge. Stella's tether.

She was already moving on, our Luna following. It was my turn to go, but I took one last look down into the depths of the cavern below. Then I turned back and took those steps, one at a time. We'd made it this far... But we had a lot farther to go.

As we approached a dimly lit doorway a few feet away, Stella paused. She pitched her voice low. "We need to move faster. They've decided not to wait for us at the tunnel exit in Standard. They're coming for us now."

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## Chapter 435

### Chapter 435 Mason

I might not have ever had a pack under my command, but that didn't make me any less of an Alpha than my brother. The instant Stella told us the High Council was planning to infiltrate the tunnels, the two of us got into position, flanking our pack. Zane also instantly moved into Beta mode between us.

We might be the Alphas, but we were under the command of a Celestial. We all turned to face her. She was concentrating hard, her eyes narrowed and expression twisted.

"I thought there'd be more time before they moved," she muttered. "Something has changed. Give me a minute to Seek."

"What's she talking about?" I thought to Lanie through our mate link.

Our Luna shook her head, her eyes focused with laser precision on our daughter. "I don't know. Give her a minute."

"What does Seek mean?" I thought to them all.

Even though we were all using the mind link, it still sounded like we were all whispering.

"To Seek is to send out my mind ahead of me," Stella said aloud. "Like a scout. It's not telepathy. It's more like a projection of myself, while my body stays here. Mother, you were Seeking when the Goddess called you into the forest, but I can do it on purpose."

"And do it so well," Lanie said aloud with a smile, proud smile. "Do you need us to do anything for you while you Seek?"

Stella shook her head. "I'll need a minute or two. I want to see where they are and what they're doing."

Her eyes went white, but hazy, like they were full of clouds. Her lashes fluttered. A soft sigh puffed out from between her lips, and then, just like that, she was back with us.

"Can we stop them from coming through the tunnels?" Xander asked. "Keep them out of Brightsky?"

She nodded, her expression grim, but her eyes alight. "I can make them think they've encountered a rockslide, blocking them. It won't keep them forever, but once they figure out it was fake, they'll understand that they were tricked. They'll retreat..."

She paused, that white cloud going over her gaze again. It lasted only a few blinks this time. She focused on us.

"They'll go back to Standard and regroup. They'll figure out we're still heading to Fallen Crest. They'll make their way there, maybe on our trail or maybe in another fashion, but it won't matter. We will still get there before them."

"Is that what you've seen for certain?" Lanie asked.

"Everything I see is a possibility, but this is the outcome I see as the end to many different choices. That means it's the one we should expect, unless something else drastically changes." Stella sighed, her shoulders hunching for a moment. "I have so many talents, and sometimes, they work against each other."

"You're still learning," Lanie told her, an arm around her shoulders and offering Stella a mother's comfort.

Stella leaned against her. "Thanks, Mama."

Lanie kissed her cheek. "Come on, now. What's next? We're here. We've got you."

Stella drew in a breath and straightened. Her shoulders squared. "They're moving through the tunnels, intending to meet us where they assume they'll intercept us. I'm going to send out a mirage just beyond it. It will look, feel, and sound like a rockfall. It will send them back out the way they came in. It buys us some time. Maybe an extra half a day. No more."

"We better get moving then," Xander said.

Zane cleared his throat. "What's the benefit in sending a mirage? Couldn't you actually collapse the tunnels? If not on top of them, at least enough to block them for real?"

"Blocking the tunnels would prevent anyone in Brightsky from escaping through those tunnels. In the end, it would possibly be worse for them. Just in case they need a way out," Stella explained, but hesitantly. "And, I've seen a path in which I collapse the tunnels. It doesn't end with triumph for us. I don't know why. I can't always see the reasons."

"And you don't have to," Lanie assured her.

"All right. This will take a moment." Stella took several steps away from us.

She closed her eyes tight, her entire face squinching. Her fists clenched at her sides before her arms rose, palms up. Her fingers twitched, curling and flexing, as her hands moved. I'd seen her make orbs before, but this time she looked more like she was working with her hands.

"She's weaving something," Lanie said after a moment. "Or knitting? Something like that."

"Only it's not with yarn or cord," Zane murmured.

Xander shook his head in amazement. "She's doing it with their minds."

The three of us looked at each other, and all of us laughed incredulously. For some reason, I thought I'd hear them screaming or something, but we hadn't yet reached the entrance to the tunnels. All I heard was my mates' soft chuckles and the drip of water from the cavern ceiling. Search the Find Novel.net website on Google to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Stella opened her eyes.

"It's done," she said in a voice thick with a sound like gravel crunching under heavy feet. "Now. We run."

## Chapter 436

### Chapter 436 Xander

Wolves can run for a long time at a steady pace. Long, loping strides. Measured breathing. We're built for long distance travel in our wolf forms, but even in our human shapes, we're pretty good at it. Even so, by the time we were seven miles away from Brightsky, the frozen tundra and equally frigid air was taking its toll. We might have shifted into our wolves, but that would have meant leaving our backpacks behind, and none of us were ready to do that. We'd eventually have to return to our human bodies, and we'd be naked in the Alaskan wilderness. Not ideal.

"We're going to have to camp here for the night," Mason said, looking up at the sky.

So far, even though it felt like the middle of the night, the sun hadn't gone down. No moon had risen, either. I couldn't tell what time of year or day it was.

"How long have we been at Brightsky?" I asked Lanie as she set down her pack with a sigh.

She shook her head. "I don't know, my love. I've lost track of everything."

"Same here." I pulled her close for a hug and kissed the top of her head as we watched Stella giving Zane and Mason orders about how to set up camp. "No tents. No sleeping bags. Nothing to build a fire with."

"Stella will take care of everything. Besides, you've had survival training, haven't you?" Lanie teased lightly, nudging me in the side with her elbow.

"Yeah, sure. My father had us doing drills from the time I was weaned. We always had some preparation, though."

"We have her." She tipped her chin toward our daughter.

"I'll need something to use for the fire," Stella told us all when Lanie and I joined the rest of the group. "I can light it, but I can't make anything out of thin air. Any transmutations need to have a source to change from."

"We packed light, the way you said. I have this." Lanie offered a popsicle stick picture frame the twins had made her in preschool. "I want to keep the photo, but I guess you can have the frame." "Perfect," Stella said with a grin. "I'll make sure they replace it with another one."

We watched her break the frame into small pieces. She put them on the ground and concentrated. The sticks grew larger, into a stack of firewood. She looked at us proudly. "Bravo," Mason said.

"Thanks, Abba."

"But what about tomorrow night?" Zane looked around the bare tundra. "Those sandwiches aren't going to last long. We can't keep using things we brought with us to change into what we need, either." Stella hesitated, then knelt next to the pile of wood. She studied it in silence for a moment or so, then murmured a few words. It caught fire and was soon burning briskly. She gestured for us to gather around it. It was a little awkward, sitting in our bulky winter gear, but it also felt good to take a break. Search the FindNøvel.net website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"We aren't going to walk the entire way. That would take us forever, first of all, and also, as you pointed out, Papa, we aren't really prepared. I just wanted to get us as far away from Brightsky as we could to start." Stella waved a hand over the fire, which blazed to even greater light.

It cast a dancing orange, red, and gold glow over her face. Her expression was solemn. She drew her knees to her chest and rested her chin on them.

"I've been in touch with some friends," she said finally.

Lanie sat up straight. "What kind of friends? Why don't I know about them?"

"We've never met in person. I've only been able to connect with them through a kin link," Stella explained. "Because I'm a Celestial, I could make one with them even though I'm not...umm..." "Stella," I said sternly. "I think it's time you came clean. Who are these friends, and what, exactly, are they supposed to do for us?"

"Slitherkin," she said softly, almost like she was worried we would scold her.

Zane's eyebrows rose. "What the hell are Slitherkin?"

"It sounds like snakes," Lanie said with a frown. "Stella, please tell me that you are not talking about snakes."

"Snow snakes," she said apologetically. "They're not like us. Shifters, I mean. They never take human form. They're more like the enclavian spiders than they are like people. They live deep beneath the permafrost. They're what created the original tunnels and caverns under Brightsky. Malachi chased them off in order to take over their territory so he could build the enclave."

"That sounds rude," Lanie said, pursing her lips.

"They weren't happy about it, that's for sure. But don't worry, Mother," Stella said hastily. "I've been in contact with them, and they're willing to help us get to Fallen Crest. Mostly willing. Okay," she admitted. "I've had to use some strong mind power to get them to even agree to come meet us. But I'm pretty sure they won't try to hurt us. Or kill us."

"Pretty sure?" I demanded.

Stella gave me a sheepish grin. "...yes?"

## Chapter 437

### Chapter 437 Zane

Discovering that the High Council had lied to us all for decades about the existence of other supernaturals had been shocking. Learning that the world was also full of monsters just about laid me out flat. I still couldn't believe it, not even after riding on the back of a giant freaking worm miles underground.

The Slitherkin weren't really worms. Not snakes, either. They were something totally unique, a hive mind race that grew as big as blue whales but that somehow had managed to escape the eyes of the world. There weren't even any rumors about them. No sightings.

"They're not Bigfoot, Papa," Stella said in a low voice as I leaned against the wall of the tunnel in which we'd be spending the night. She must have read my thoughts. She laughed and leaned against me. "The Slitherkin are real."

"So long as they've decided we aren't the enemy," I told her. "Those things have massive teeth."

"Sure, to bore through rock and dirt. Not to eat wolves." She laughed again.

She sounded tired.

"We should get some rest. You hardly slept at all last night, and I know how hard it must have been to wrangle those things all day." I nodded toward the empty end of the tunnel. The Slitherkin that had helped us were gone, at least for now.

Stella yawned, hiding her mouth behind her hand. "They have so many voices, speaking all at once. They're easily distracted. And, they don't like being so close to the surface, so we're lucky they consented to taking us anywhere."

"It was fast, I'll give them that." Xander handed her the last half of a peanut butter sandwich.

"And safe from the High Council seeing us," Lanie added.

The High Council had no idea the Slitherkin even existed. It seemed like a sweet irony. The creatures that helped us were hidden from the council by its own ignorance. If only they hadn't been so determined to hide away and keep the real knowledge of the world hidden from us, they might have learned so much. Instead, they'd chosen to stagnate.

Unfortunately for us, the wriggly monsters weren't able to take us all around the world. Their habit was relatively small, especially since they'd been avoiding the enclave for years. They'd been able to get us closer to the ocean, though. We had a few miles' walk tomorrow on the surface, and then we'd be at the water. Search the FindNovel.net website on Google to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

From there, Stella had promised us a boat ride.

We weren't going to build a fire in the tunnel. The smoke could easily collect against the stone walls and ceiling and end up suffocating us. Instead, we huddled into a group.

"At least it's warm," Lanie murmured, resting her head on my shoulder. "Okay, warm is an overstatement. It's not freezing."

I moved so I could put my arm around her, letting her rest on my chest. Xander and Mason were side by side with Xander next to me. They were discussing Alpha tactics in low tones. Stella leaned against her mother.

"Tell us what to expect, Stella." Lanie's voice sounded thick and syrupy with sleepiness. She yawned, which triggered one from me, and one by one, from everyone else.

Stella's was the last to finish, and she let out a small yip at the end of it that made me chuckle. Xander had just yawned in exactly the same way. So had Mason. It must be an inherited family trait.

"I've booked us passage on a small private yacht," Stella began.

Lanie's laugh interrupted her. "Why, out of all the things I've seen you do, is this the one I can hardly believe?"

"It was one of the hardest to manage," Stella admitted. "I had to manipulate actual data and deal with human money. The only thing supernatural about it was the fact I used troll talents to hack into the banking system and make the reservations."

"I should lecture you about breaking rules, but I'm too tired. And frankly, too proud," Lanie told her.

Xander leaned around me to look at his daughter. "Who's going to be sailing this yacht? I've never even been on a boat."

"The rental comes with a captain." She hesitated. "He's human."

We all fell silent at that.

"He won't survive," Mason said quietly.

Stella twisted to look at him. "I'll do my best to make sure he does."

"He won't be able to get within a few miles of the island," Mason continued.

Xander and I shared a look. So did Lanie. It was clear the three of us didn't know as much about Fallen Crest as Mason did. That was no surprise, since before Stella told us where we were going, I'd never even heard of the place.

"Wait," Lanie said hesitantly. "Fallen Crest is on an island?"

Stella shook her head. "Fallen Crest is the island."

## Chapter 438

### Chapter 438 Lanie

It felt like I hadn't slept a single minute, but Zane was shaking me gently, and everyone else was on their feet as I blinked my eyes open. It took me a few seconds to orient myself.

Right, we were in a tunnel bored by gigantic snow snakes that communicated with my daughter through their minds.

Just another day for the Constantine pack.

Zane helped me to my feet. I stood with a groan. My bones all creaked. I had to pop my neck and back as I put my hands on my hips, twisting side to side and hearing all my vertebrae popping. Run, Lily whined in my mind.

The fact she was using actual language told me how desperate she was to be free. I soothed her the best I could, but the flash of her in my gaze was soon echoed with similar flashes from my three mates. All of us were in need of some wolf time.

Stella had a strange look on her face. Concerned, I put my hands on her shoulders. I turned her to look into my eyes.

"Stella, my little love? What's wrong?" It was silly to call her by the old nickname when she was taller than I was, but I wasn't ready to give it up yet.

At first, she shook her head and tried to cut her gaze from mine. Firmly, I held her until she looked at me again. Her eyes swam with many colors and sometimes looked cloudy or foggy, but in this moment, her gaze was absolutely clear.

"I don't feel my wolf," she whispered. Her frown deepened. "I can touch every talent, skill or trait that exists, so why can't I feel my wolf?"

Without a real camp, no fire, no food, no way even to wash up, we didn't have much to do to get moving. What I did have to do was be there for my daughter when she needed me. I took Stella's hand and drew her quietly a bit farther down the tunnel, away from the section where her fathers were chatting.

"What if I don't have one?" Stella fretted.



I hugged her. "You're the daughter of wolves. Your wolf is inside you. She might simply be shy."

Stella pulled away with a frown. "Does that happen to people a lot? They get shy wolves who don't make themselves known?"

"You grew up very fast," I reminded her. "Your wolf might not have had the time to grow up as fast as you did. You have the ability to pull from any of your multiple traits. Maybe some of them are hiding your wolf for some reason."

She pursed her lips. "I'm afraid she'll never reveal herself to me."

I wasn't sure exactly what to say. Knowing a Celestial could use any power or talent that existed still didn't quite explain to me how it worked. What it meant. And I had no idea why it would mean Stella's wolf wouldn't have shown itself to her already.

"Can you shift into other forms? A dragon, for example?" I asked her.

"Not here," she said, looking around the tunnel.

I laughed softly and pulled her against my side. "Of course, you shouldn't do it here. But could you, outside, if you wanted to?"

"Yes. I haven't done it, but I think I could. But... Mother, it's not the same. I'm not a dragon shifter, even if I could take the form of a dragon. I don't have a dragon inside me. Not the way I should have a wolf." She sighed and scrubbed at her face with both hands. "I wish there was someone who could help me figure out how all of this is meant to work."

I checked my three mates to see if they were looking for us, but all of the men were still talking. I turned back to my daughter. "When all of this is over, we'll find someone. Something. Whatever it takes, okay? I promise you."

"It will be over soon." Stella's voice rasped and scratched. Her gaze went far away and cloudy, then cleared abruptly. She focused on me. "We should get moving. The yacht is docked and waiting for us. We have to make it through the human town to get to it." S~earch the (Find)NOvel.net website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"We'd better get moving, then." I paused, holding her for a moment longer. My heart ached at the sadness I saw battling with other emotions on my daughter's expression. She was doing her best to project confidence, but I saw the truth.

Celestial or no, my Stella was hurting.

"I mean it, little star. I'm here to help you carry whatever burdens weigh you down. We will get through this together."

Both of us cried a little bit, clinging to each other. I pressed my cheek to hers. Then I wiped away her tears and gave her a firm look.

"One step forward. Then the next," I reminded her.

She nodded. "I know. But...it's hard, Mother. Being the only one. I might not be alone, but I am lonely."

"Are you two ready?" Xander called from behind us, making us both turn.

She looked past me toward her father. "Yes. Let's go."

And then, although I wanted to hug her again, Stella marched away from me.

## Chapter 439

### Chapter 439 Xander

We moved through the human town, all of us tense and alert, but nobody there gave us any trouble. The port town attracted a lot of tourists, so even a small pack of supernaturals didn't seem out of place. None of us even turned a head as we stopped in a cafe to pick up some breakfast.

"I'm ready to eat the table. Isn't there some kind of magic Stella can cast to stop us from being hungry?" I growled under my breath to Lanie as she and I waited to pick up our order. "She could feed us, but it would only be an illusion. Better to wait for real food, love."

Lanie laughed, but her voice sounded a little strained. Her eyes kept finding our daughter, who was waiting to the side with her other fathers. I could see the worry etching lines in Lanie's face, and I wanted to ask her what she and Stella had talked about earlier. It would have to wait until we were alone.

The server showed up with our paper bags of food. Stella stepped up and mimed swiping a credit card through the machine at the cash register. Even though I'd seen her doing amazing things, I was still not sure this was going to work...until it did.

"Wow," the server said, blinking. Her grin spread across her entire face. "Thanks for the tip." SEARCH the Find novel.net website on Gøøgle to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

We bustled out of there with our food, all of us eagerly tearing open the foil around our breakfast burritos and gobbling while we walked toward the docks where we'd board the yacht. "Human towns smell...different," Stella said, wrinkling her nose. She'd only nibbled at her burrito.

I scented the air, letting my wolf rise a bit. "I smell grease and breakfast meat. And coffee. And yeah. Humans. The smell kind of stale, like they could use a good, hard, run. How are we doing on time?" "We'll be there on time," she said, barely pausing even though her vision went that weird cloudy gray that looked like it should make it hard for her to see where she was going.

I took the last bite of my burrito and crumpled the foil to toss into a nearby garbage can. I could see the water ahead of us.

Stella handed me her burrito. "I don't want this. Will you eat it?"

"You need to eat something," I scolded her, but didn't push it. I took the burrito and bit into it.

Ahead of us, Lanie walked between Zane and Mason. Stella had assured us the human town offered us no dangers, but we weren't taking any chances. We wanted to get through here as fast as we could without attracting attention.

"Anything from the High Council?" I kept my voice pitched low.

Stella nodded. "They figured out the tunnel block was an illusion. They've taken some time to mount their forces. They're calling in everyone who wasn't with them already. It will take them some time to catch up to us."

"But they will," I said.

"We'll be at Fallen Crest with time to prepare for them. But, Daddy...we will have to fight."

"I know that, sweetheart." I finished the last of the burrito and tossed the garbage in another nearby can. We'd reached the edge of town. The sidewalk led beyond the row of shops and restaurants toward the docks.

She looked at me. "There will be so many of them."

Leaving Lanie, Zane, and Mason to keep walking ahead of us, I stopped and tugged Stella's sleeve to make her pause. "Are you seeing something bad? Something you should tell us?"

She hesitated. "There are so many branches, Daddy. And we don't win at the end of every one of them. I'm doing my best to keep us on the paths that lead to our victory, but...everything we do could change the future. I mean, everything and anything."

I wasn't really sure I understood what that meant. I didn't have visions. I'd never been touched by the Moon Goddess in that way. For me, reality was what I could touch. Punch. Kick. What I could fight with my fists, not with my mind.

"Look. There's the yacht." Stella pointed. I was happy to see the grin spread across her cheeks. "It's called The Eclipse. That's why I booked this one. It was the only one that had a moon name." "Great," I said, but my enthusiasm didn't match hers.

I watched her as she ran up ahead to push herself between Zane and Lanie, so she could link arms with her mother. They bent their heads together, laughing as Stella pointed out the yacht. I could hear her telling Lanie about the name, too.

I wasn't as excited. It might have been the only boat that had a moon name, but that didn't seem to me like the good omen my daughter obviously thought it was.

After all, an eclipse is when one celestial body blocks the light of another one and makes it go dark.

## Chapter 440

### Chapter 440 Gabriela

My son and his mates, along with Stella, had left two days ago, and I could no longer hide their absence from Malachi. The Ancient vampire finally showed up at the door to our quarters, and he'd brought Braden with him.

"They're not here," I said.

Malachi scowled. "I know that. I came to make you tell me where they went. I can't have my granddaughter floating around out there, unsafe and unprotected."

"She's hardly unprotected, Malachi. She's with her mates and her daughter. I shouldn't have to remind you what Stella is capable of."

In seconds, faster than I could blink or take a breath, he'd crossed the room to grab me. His fangs descended as he bent me back, aiming for my throat. My wolf was on the surface in an instant, snarling. "Malachi!" Braden snapped. "Back the fuck off of her."

We were seconds away from going to battle.

"The children," Braden reminded us. "Both of you. Stand down."

I was caught in Malachi's grip of Ancient vampire strength. His fangs, scant inches from my throat. It would take so little for him to tear out my jugular vein. I'd bleed out in moments. "The children," I told him as I forced my wolf to retreat.

With a snarl that sounded almost wolflike, Malachi let me go and turned his back on me. He moved like a flash, back and forth, before coming to a halt. His eyes shone crimson.

"You are more of a fool than I ever thought you could be," he said. "Do you know your son is certainly on his way to certain death?"

I lifted my chin. "My son is an adult, and an Alpha. He is doing what he feels is right to protect his family. I'm here to do the same for my grandpups."

"Where did they go? Don't make me rip it out of your mind, Gabriela. It will leave you worse off than you already are."

"What does that mean?"

"Never mind," Braden said, stepping between us. "Where did they go?"

"Fallen Crest," I said.

Malachi staggered back. Actually staggered, like I'd hit him. I wish I had.

"The one place you can't go," I told him with a thin grin.

Not because it was forbidden. Somehow, I doubted Malachi would honor any injunction, even if he'd made it himself. Malachi could not go to Fallen Crest, because the residents of the dead city would be desperate to consume his vampire energy as one of the few ways they could experience what it felt like to be alive again. Even an Ancient wouldn't be able to stand against them.

Without a word, Malachi spun away out of the room. Braden paused in the doorway. "Sorry about that. I'll see if I can talk some sense into him."

Then he left, too. I followed, scanning the hallway. But then, something stopped me from looking at anything.

I couldn't see.

Nothing, not even darkness. I blinked and blinked, but I couldn't clear my vision. I could hear the twins babbling to themselves in their room, so I held back my cry of alarm. [SEARCH the Find Novel.net website on Gøøgle](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"I won't show you," I muttered, not sure where the words were coming from. "I won't. Show. I won't show you."

A sharp pain stabbed me between the eyes, hard enough to force a yelp out of me. I clamped my lips closed against another rising moan. I didn't want the pups to hear me. They would worry. They were my responsibility. I had to protect them.

I fumbled with my pocket, feeling for my phone. This time, my soft cry was of relief as I found it and pulled it out. I couldn't see the screen to dial the number, but I was able to swipe it. I heard a click as the facial recognition kicked in.

"Call Dr. Alonius," I ordered it, praying the voice recognition would also work.

Hot tears sprang from my eyes at the sound of the phone ringing. Then, the brisk male tones in a voice I shouldn't find so familiar yet somehow, did. Like I'd known him my entire life and any lives I'd lived before this one. Maybe all the ones I'd have when this one ended.

I heard my own voice describing the problems in shaky, broken tones. I was barely finished when he broke in to interrupt.

"I'll be there right away."

And he was. Not ten minutes passed before the knock came at the door. I'd been standing frozen, scared to move in case I stumbled into something and hurt myself or alerted the twins to my problem. "Come in!" I called, hoping it was him and not Malachi or someone else.

"Gabriela." The doctor's warm tones greeted me only moments before his hand rested on my shoulder. "Tell me what's going on."

I fumbled the words, keeping my voice low. Not really sure what to say.

"I don't know what's wrong," I said.

I felt myself enfolded in a strong, warm embrace. Instant comfort flooded me. I wasn't sure if my eyes were open or closed as I pressed my face against a strong, broad chest. "I've got you," he said. "I'm here. You're safe with me."

