

Hybrid Aria

Chapter 21

Aria's POV

Running down the stairs and racing out the back, I saw Zane had set up a

huge jumping castle. It was a princess one with a huge slide and on the side a

climbing wall and a jumping pit. Christine was on it, bouncing around with

Lily and Amber. Seeing me walking towards them, she waved me over,

telling me to get in. I hadn't been on a jumping castle since I was a kid. The

jumping castle looked intimidating, an injury waiting to happen. As I went to

climb up, my legs were suddenly ripped from underneath me, making my

stomach drop and the air to leave my lungs before I was tackled, my body

bouncing in the air on the jumping castle. My legs stretched out in a not so

lady-like manner.

Looking over, I see it was Wendy. She was laughing hysterically at her actions, which nearly caused me to have a heart attack. The worst part though

was looking back out through the netting and seeing Zane, Reid, and Mitch

were laughing, sitting on the bench seat watching. Getting to my feet, I tackled Wendy onto the slide, and we both ended up rolling down before I

ended up landing on top of her on the grass. Jumping to my feet, I took off

running. Wendy started chasing me along with Lily and Amber, who jumped

off the castle to help her. When they failed to catch me, I heard Wendy's cracking bones as she dived into her wolf form. Her wolf was a light grey with a bluish tint to it. She had a white streak that went from her head to her tail, and she was big even in wolf form. Growling playfully, she ran at me, before lunging. I dropped to my knees, landing on my back, sliding along the grass. Wendy went straight over the top of me landing on her paws, spinning around. I stuck my tongue out at her before taking off heading straight towards where Reid, Zane, and Mitch were sitting. Darting behind her mate, I shoved him at her just as her wolf went to tackle me. Mitch landed on the grass with a loud thump. Lily and Amber both jumped on him, holding him down. Knowing Wendy couldn't climb on to the castle in her wolf form without popping it, I tried to sneak back to the jumping castle to catch my breath. Wendy, noticing my hesitation looking between the trees and the castle, chased me down, her fast on my heels running around the back of the jumping castle. I took off towards the trees when I heard a loud growl. Looking back towards everyone, Reid was taking off his shoes. Wendy's wolf collided with me, knocking me to the ground before she started playfully sniffing my face, telling me she won. Looking back over, I watched as Reid took his shirt off. Damn, that man is fine. Reid had a silly smirk on his face that turned into a devilish grin. Christine

mind linked me, her voice ringing loudly through the link. "I would run if I were you. The big bad Alpha is coming." I watched as everyone turned to look at the Alpha. He shook his head at Christine for dobbling him in. I watched as he started running towards me. I heard the sickening crack of his bones snapping mid-jump as he took his wolf form. Landing on the grass about 40 metres away, I stared at him. His wolf was more like the size of a bear, completely black, his shiny fur had not a patch of colour anywhere. Even in his wolf form, Ryder seemed to be smiling, baring his teeth. Jumping to my feet, I ran straight towards the trees. I could hear Ryder gaining on me, hear the twigs breaking under his giant paws. Running through the forest, everything became a blur. I felt free as the trees whipped past me, the branches hitting my skin. My adrenaline pumped with excitement as I weaved in and out when suddenly I hit a clearing. Nowhere to hide, I turned to the left, running along the tree line. Ryder still hadn't caught up. Using that to my advantage, I climbed a huge tree standing on the branch, I waited. A few seconds after knowing the branch would easily hold my weight, I got comfy on my branch, draping my legs over either side. Ryder came into my line of sight he was sniffing the ground. I placed my hand over my mouth to muffle my giggling. I watched as he kept running past then stopping after

losing my scent. Turning around, he was at the bottom of the tree I was hiding in.

I watched as he sniffed the tree before looking up, his gaze landing on me

straddling the branch. He tilted his head to the side. "Ryder can't climb, but I

can." Reid's voice coming through the mind link, my smile dropped. I looked

down before climbing another branch. Going back to his human form. I heard

him laugh, making my eyes dart back to him. Reid was standing there in all

his naked glory, smiling back at me. He started climbing the tree alarmingly

fast. I took off running along the branch before jumping to a nearby tree,

gripping the tree with my claws before I steadied myself. Looking at the

ground, I gasped. That's a long way down in my adrenaline rush I hadn't

realised how high I had actually climbed. Frozen on the tree, Reid jumped

over landing on the branch above me. "You can run, but you can't hide."

"Ha, that's what you think," I threw back at him before clenching my teeth. I

jumped off the branch the ground rushing towards me, making me let out a

high pitch squeal, my feet landing on the ground below. I was now looking

up at Reid who looked like he was about to have a heart attack at my little

stunt. I saw him mutter something under his breath but couldn't make out

what he was saying. I knew he would have to climb down. His human form

isn't sturdy enough to jump the thirty or forty metres to the ground.

"You could have hurt yourself doing that."

"Don't you mean, you would hurt yourself if you tried that?" He shook his

head at me. Climbing down the tree while I watched his nice firm ass. I giggled to myself watching him swinging from branch to branch, like Tarzan.

"What are you laughing at?"

"The view," I called back. He smiled at me. Before hanging from a lower

branch by his arms, he let go landing on his feet in front of me. I stared at his

gorgeous body covered in sweat, his tanned skin shining in the sunlight. My

eyes running down his body to his V-line.

"Hey, my eyes are up here."

Rolling my eyes at him. I shoved him to the ground, making him land in the

dirt, and took off running towards the Pack house. I could hear him shifting

back into wolf form just as I broke through the tree line. Seeing his clothes

laying on the ground, I reached down and grabbed them, only leaving his

shoes. Zane and Mitch watched as I darted inside, locking the door behind

me. Everyone was standing inside the kitchen, watching amused. I knew Reid

wouldn't fit inside the door in wolf form, his shoulders were too wide. I watched as he breathed on the glass, I waved his clothes at him.

"He is going to kill you when he gets inside," said Christine.

"Has to find me first," I said, running through the kitchen door and towards

the foyer. I could hear everyone laughing behind me.

"Bring my clothes back, Aria." I ignored him walking up the stairs. I listened

as he Pack linked everyone asking for some clothes so he could shift back.

Everyone ignored him except Zane. "Can't get involved, boss man" I laughed

to myself, before hiding in his office. After a few minutes of him not being

able to get in. I heard him use his Alpha voice through the link demanding

clothes. He sounded annoyed.

Being cheeky, I knew mine would overrule his commands. "No one help him,

I'm trying to find somewhere to hide," I called back. I heard him growl annoyed.

"You're gonna regret that, Ari, when I get inside. I am going to punish you."

I laughed back at him. Deciding he would find me in his office, I ran back

downstairs and into the kitchen. Reid was no longer at the door.

"Where did he go?"

"I have no idea, but you better hope he doesn't find you," Mitch chuckled. I

heard banging. Looking through the window I see Ryder/Reid had jumped on

to the lower part of the roof. Whoops didn't think about the windows. I knew

as soon as he was out of sight of the kids he would shift back and climb

through a window. I looked at Zane for help, but he put his hands up.

"Don't look at me. I'm staying out of it."

Christine nodded towards the walk-in pantry. Just as she closed the door, I

heard Reid landing on the floor in one of the upstairs rooms.

Everyone darted out of the kitchen, leaving me in the pantry. It didn't take

long before the pantry doors were thrown open and a not happy Alpha was

staring down at me with his arms folded across his chest.

“I see you found some clothes,” I nervously giggled.

“I’m glad you’re enjoying yourself at my expense.” Reaching forward he

gripped my wrist, making me smack into his rock-hard chest before he threw

me over his shoulder.

“How very caveman of you.” He stormed out of the kitchen and past everyone, who were now sitting on the lounge in the games room. I could

hear Reid muttering to himself while I flailed around trying to make him put

me down.

He didn’t let me go, and much to my embarrassment as we were walking past

everyone, his hand slapped my arse. I flinched at the impact of his huge hand

coming down on my arse, making me hiss at the sting. Did he just spank me?

Zane smirked, shaking his head and waved at me. I, in turn, flipped him the

finger. Reid started climbing the stairs with me still half upside down over his

shoulder. On the plus side, I got a nice view of his ass. Returning the favour,

I slapped it. He grunted before slapping my arse even harder. “Do that again,

and you won’t be able to sit for a week.”

“You’re a brute, you know that?” I could feel the vibration of him laughing.

My belly was starting to hurt as his shoulder pressed into it. Just as I was

about to demand he put me down, he kicked the bedroom door open and

dumped me on the mattress, making me shriek. Reid stood looking down at

me.

“You think what you did was funny?” he asked, tilting his head to the side.

His lips turned up and into a menacing smile. Excitement ran through me. I

couldn't help the smile that crept onto my face as I nodded my head.

His

smile didn't waver, and it sent a chill down my spine. I laughed at his expression. I couldn't tell if he wanted to kiss me or kill me. He raised an

eyebrow at me and clicked his tongue. Gripping my ankle, he yanked me

towards the end of the bed.

Chapter 22

Aria's POV

Reid grabbed my other ankle and flipped me over so I was belly down on the

bed. I squirmed, trying to break his hold on my ankles. Reid growled at me

warningly before gripping my hips and pulling them towards him. My feet

were forced to the ground while the rest of my body was draped over the bed.

Lifting myself up onto my elbows, he forced me back down. Pushing his

hand between my shoulder blades to hold me in place.

Reid then pushed his groin into me. I could feel the bulge of his erection

pressing against my ass. Stepping back a bit, he ran his other hand up my

thigh. Stopping at my shorts, his fingertips moving along my panty line between my legs teasingly, sending delightful shivers to my core.

Removing

his hand from beneath my shorts, he started rubbing my arse, making me

quiver everywhere he touched. I could feel my underwear becoming moist. I

pushed into his hand, shaking my ass at him.

His palm came down, connecting with my ass cheek. I could feel his handprint burning into my flesh. It stung, but it also turned me on even more.

Reid rubbed his hand over where he slapped. His hand then finding its way

back into my shorts, using his fingers, he pushed my panties to the side

before sliding his fingers between my wet lips. Reid bent over me; I could

feel his breath on my neck below my ear.

"You liked that?" he growled, before shoving his finger inside me, making

me moan out loud. Pulling his finger out slowly, he pushed another finger

inside me. My body quivered at his touch, becoming more aroused. I want

more.

Then his fingers were gone, his touch was gone. Rolling over, I looked up at

him. Reid's eyes were glazed over, telling me he was mind-linking someone.

The look on his face was pure rage. His eyebrows furrowed together. His

canines protruded. Hair was spreading across his arms. I watched as his nails

turned into claws. His breathing got deeper and faster. He was fighting himself for control. A terrifying growl ripped through him, vibrating through

his chest. I flinched and pulled away. His eyes darting to me. The glazed look

left instantly. His eyes softened. Reid walked towards the door.

Getting to my

feet, I went to follow him.

Just as I was about to ask what was going on, he spun around. His eyes

pinning me to the spot.

“You stay here, and don’t leave this room.”

“What’s going on Reid?”

“Nothing you need to know about. Just for once do as your bloody told.” He

walked out the door, pulling it closed behind him. I heard the latch click over.

He locked the door. Rolling my eyes at his abrupt change of mood. I don’t

know why he expects the door to keep me in. Maybe a deterrent, but it isn’t

Hybrid proof. Deciding to give him a head start at whatever was bothering

him, I opened my mind feeling for Wendy through the link. I could feel her

wolf. It was restless.

“Wendy, why has Reid locked me in the room? What is going on?”

Wendy didn’t answer straight away. I could tell she was trying to fight my

Alpha command.

“Wendy, do not make me ask again.” I could feel every fibre of her being

trying to shake off the command, but she wouldn’t be able to hold for much

longer. Her wolf was whining, wanting her to give into me, and she did.

“Why are you making me go against him? I can’t tell you; he doesn’t want

you involved.”

“Wendy, what is going on?” I emphasised every word. Saying them slowly,

forcing my Alpha command on her. I heard her wolf whimper through the

link, making me feel bad. I know it is painful for her trying to fight against

my will.

"Alpha David and his Pack are at the border." The words spilled out like

word vomit. I could hear cars leaving. Moving fast.

"What's happening then?"

"Alpha is going to warn him or..."

"Or what? Wendy-"

"Wipe them out. He sent all our warriors to the border."

I gasped shocked. The Blood Moon Pack would annihilate the Black Moon

Pack. They weren't big enough or trained enough to go against the Blood

Moon Pack. Why would David do this? It was suicide. I couldn't let Reid's

Pack slaughter everyone. I may not be a part of that Pack anymore, but I still

considered them to be family. As weird as it sounds, it is the only family we

have known. And a lot of the Pack members are good people. I also couldn't

let Reid kill Alpha David; he is Lily's father. But what can I do? I know Reid

will lose it if I command everyone to stand down. He would never forgive me

for taking his authority from him. I may be Luna, but this is rightfully his Pack.

Trying to think, I heard the door click unlocking. Lily walked in, tears running down her face. Wendy walked in behind her; her head was down.

"Lily, what's wrong?"

"Reid is going to hurt Uncle Michael," she sobbed. Damn it I was going to

kill Reid. That's if my idea doesn't get me killed first.

"No, Lily. I am going to fix this." Lily looked up at me hopeful. Quickly hugging her, I walked towards the door. Wendy gripped my arm, stopping me

as I walked out. "It's fine, Wendy. Don't warn the Alpha," I said, forcing my

Alpha command on her.

Wendy's shoulders slumped in defeat. "I'm sorry, but I can't have you warn

them, you know he will come after me." Wendy nodded her head. I felt terrible, Wendy was my best friend here. I hate causing her pain. I

hate

putting her in this position where she has been forced to choose between her

Alpha and her Luna.

Running down the stairs and out the front door, I ran towards the tree line.

The border was half an hour away by car. I could run there in a quarter of the

time. Then I just have to convince them to go back to the Pack house and try

not to kill or be killed by one of Alpha David's Pack warriors, and hope they

are still in human form so I can speak with them.

Sprinting through the forest, I came to a hill. I could see the convoy of SUV's

driving along the dirt road below. Cutting straight across through the trees, I

raced across the paddocks, overtaking them. I remained hidden in the tree

line. I ran towards the city. Reid must have felt my heart rate picking up,

sensing I was up to something because I could feel Wendy whimpering not

giving in to his commands and threats. I felt him trying to force a link between us, but I just pushed back harder. Running faster, I came to the edge

of the city, heading east towards the border. The sun was starting to go down.

I knew by the time I reached the border, it would be dark. Running through

the streets, I slowed down a bit. I knew the border couldn't be too far from here. The streets were starting to look seedier. The north side was what I used to call the posh area. The street I was currently running down definitely wasn't part of the north side. Some of the houses were burnt out, and there was rubbish strewn across the streets. Lawns overgrown, gardens completely overgrown with weeds. There was even a burnt-out van on the corner of the street. Running to the end of the street, I looked for a street sign. Melrose street. I was already over the border. I hadn't realised I had crossed over it. Which meant they would know I have crossed the border already. Slowing to a stop, I waited. I listened to the noises trying to pick up any movement. It didn't take long before I heard the ferocious growls of my former Pack members. The street was completely dark now. The broken streetlights didn't offer any light. No light from any of the abandoned houses. The only light came from the moon. It was a full moon tonight, making it seem eerier than normal, or maybe it was the fact I am standing in an abandoned street. When the first wolf stepped out in front of me, I could tell it was a Pack warrior by its size. They send warriors when they sense a threat. The only problem was, I am no threat to them. I just want to talk, and hurting one of them was only going to cause a war. When another 2 wolves stepped out, I placed my hands in the air, surrendering. Falling to my knees, I watched them circle around me. The

biggest one, a grey one, came up to me, baring its teeth. Growling in my face,
I stared it down, making sure not to move suddenly. He pushed me with
his nose, trying to get a reaction out of me.
“I’m not here to fight. I just need to speak to Alpha David.”
The wolves all growled, stepping closer. Closing in on me, they must think
I’m threatening the Alpha. This wasn’t working, I couldn’t talk to them.
I
wasn’t a Pack member. I didn’t understand what they were saying.
“I’m not
here to start anything. I just need to talk to my stepfather.” The last word
rolled off my tongue, leaving a sour taste in my mouth. But it seemed to get
the attention. The grey wolf stopped in front of me. My heart rate slowed
down, and I listened as theirs did too. I could hear their breathing. Hear their
blood moving throughout their bodies. I calmed my mind, trying to come up
with a way to get them to understand.
“What do you think? Should we take her to the Alpha?”
“Call for Michael, he will know what to do with her.” Glancing behind me, I
looked to see who was talking. But it was only the three wolves in the street.
No one in human form except myself.
“Call Michael. He can verify who I am. My name is Aria,” I pleaded.
“How did she know what we were mind-linking?” asked the red wolf, who
was standing behind me.
I looked at the grey one, he stepped forward right into my face.
“Can you hear us?”
I nodded my head. I could hear them but couldn’t push the link back. I don’t

know how, but right now I didn't care. I just needed to get to Alpha David. I

waited as they linked Michael.

"Follow us," the grey wolf demanded.

I followed them all the way to the Pack house. I knew Alpha Reid wouldn't

be far off the border. I just needed to find out what Alpha David wanted and

try to create an arrangement with him. To try and stop this war that will come

if he tries to challenge Reid.

Walking up the Pack house driveway, I was hit with a sense of déjà vu. The

last time I was here, I was running from the place not trying to break into it.

The Pack house looked the same, still an oversized farmhouse.

Standing up

on top of the porch was Michael. He had a distressed look on his face.

He

was standing next to Alpha David. Alpha David had his arms folded across

his bare chest, the only clothing he had on was a pair of jeans. He looked

intimidating.

I wanted to run, but I wasn't that scared, weak girl anymore. I refuse to run

from him. If anything he should be begging at my feet. I know what I'm capable of now and I know who I am. I'm not going to let him walk all over

me anymore. I'm doing this for Lily, for his Pack. I know he is a crazy bastard, but I also know he doesn't want his Pack killed.

Alpha David wore a smirk on his face, dropping his arms to his side.

He

started walking down the steps. He never took his eyes off me. I could hear a

low warning growl coming from him as he walked towards me. I stood straighter, not breaking my gaze, refusing to look away. When I didn't

submit, the rest of the Pack started circling around us, growling at me threateningly. Michael didn't move off the porch, he just stared at me, trying to warn me with his eyes. He looked petrified not of me but for me. What the hell have I just walked into?

Chapter 23

Aria's POV

Watching David, I noticed he didn't look shocked to see me. I then realised this was his plan all along. I realised I was his bargaining tool, his way to get Reid to comply. I was Reid's weakness. If something happens to me, it weakens him, and he can get Lily back. Too busy watching David trying to think of a way to convince him to sort this out amicably, I didn't hear the person sneaking up behind me until I felt the sting of the needle as it pierced my neck. The burning sensation bled into my skin, burning my insides like fire consuming my body. I gripped my neck, trying to get the pain to lessen, trying to stop it from spreading. Turning around, I see no one behind me but my former Pack members and a syringe at my feet containing gold liquid concentrated wolfsbane. I felt my surroundings start to spin as fire consumed my veins, overtaking all my senses. I could feel myself burning up. I screamed in agony, trying to stop the burn. My legs collapsed under me. My body felt heavy, I was losing to

the pain. For the first time in my life, I welcomed the darkness, praying I

would pass out so the pain would end.

I could feel my body falling, my head hitting the soil, but I didn't even feel it.

All I could feel was wolfsbane burning through every cell in my body. I smiled when I felt everything getting darker, my surroundings starting to dim.

Michael's words came back to me. "This stuff will even put you on your

arse." He was right. If I weren't in so much pain, I would have laughed at the

fact it did exactly what he said it would.... I thanked the Moon Goddess as I

finally slipped away into the darkness of oblivion.

Reid's POV

Torn between going to fight beside my Pack and staying and protecting Aria

and Lily, I reluctantly left. I had a Pack to protect. We raced through the

winding back roads towards the city. The trees blurring into one at the speed

we were moving. Alpha David crossed the line, and now there is no going

back, I will finally rid the earth of that scum who dared torture my woman.

Aria can't hate me for protecting my Pack... our Pack. I was doing this for

her, for Lily, and for us. Driving towards the border, the city came into view.

We were only a few kilometres out. The only thing surrounding us were trees

and farmland. Just as we hit the outskirts of the city, I felt a cold wave of a

feeling I couldn't recognise rush over my skin. Ryder instantly tensed and

tried to lurch forward.

“What is it?” I ask him. He pushed underneath my skin forcefully. Hair spreading across my arms, my claws extending tearing the leather seat.

“Aria is getting away from us,” I heard him snarl at me in reply. No, Aria was

at home where I ordered her to stay. She wouldn’t defy me; she wouldn’t

betray my trust like this. I locked her in, the door was sealed, and wolf proof.

The glass on the windows is even impenetrable. Mind-linking Wendy, I felt

her push back, trying to ignore the link. Furious that she tried to ignore my

call, I shoved back forcing her to accept the link. I could hear her groan as I

pushed through the tether. Mitch, who was in the front seat driving, whimpered at me, feeling his mate’s pain come through the bond.

Wendy let

go and stopped trying to shove me out, knowing it’s a battle she can’t win.

“Where is Aria?” I demand. Wendy didn’t answer. Mitch tried to get her to

answer by asking the same question I just did. I could see his grip tightening

on the steering wheel, his knuckles turning white. Wendy whimpered from

the pressure of her mate.

“I ca...can’t,” she stuttered almost breathlessly. Aria has done this; she is the

only one who is strong enough to bind someone against me. Her tricks don’t

work on me, but the rest of the Pack is defenceless against her commands.

But I also know she wouldn’t force that burden, that pain to go against an

Alpha on Lily. Linking Lily, I could finally get answers.

“Lily, where is your sister?” Lily didn’t resist, meaning Aria hadn’t

commanded her to keep quiet.

I heard Mitch let out a breath when I dropped the link to Wendy.

"She went to speak to the Alpha, um, my dad." Lily sounded unsure on the

last word like she hadn't used the word before. I growled, pissed off that she

disobeyed me. I felt Lily cower through the link, she doesn't understand I'm

not angry at her. Cutting the link, Mitch looked at me through the rear-view

mirror.

"Speed up, Aria is heading to the border." Mitch nodded before putting his

foot down, overtaking everyone like they were standing still.

Jumping out of the car before the car even stopped as we reached the border,

Dominic, one of my warriors, came up to me. "They all retreated about 5

minutes ago, Boss."

"Where is the Alpha?"

"Don't know. He never showed up here. Only their warriors showed up, but

they left. What do you want to do, Alpha?"

"Stay alert, they have your Luna." Dominic growled in reply. I tried to reach

out to Aria but got no reply. Trying to come up with a plan with Zane, we had

no idea where the Pack house was having never been there. We knew it

wouldn't be anywhere in a populated area. Most Pack houses were away

from the human population and near bushland so we could let our wolves out.

So, it's probably on the outskirts of the city. Dominic brought some maps of

the city so we could search for secluded areas of the east side.

Unfolding the

maps, I sprawled them out on the car bonnet. The only place big enough and secluded enough was the bushland along the railway tracks. It was backed onto a wildlife reserve. I know that is where I would build a Pack house if it was me.

Suddenly feeling like I was being skinned alive, I fell to the ground panting.

My body felt like it was being doused in acid. Ryder pushed forward, forcing me to shift. My clothes tearing as I took my wolf form.

“Aria,” snarled Ryder. Jumping over the border, I could feel him trying to run

towards her until I suddenly felt cold, my body going numb, my vision blurred. Pushing forward I regained control, forcing us to shift back.

Zane

was right behind me. Clutching his stomach he shakily handed me some shorts.

“We can feel her, Alpha, make it stop.” he pleaded before collapsing next to me.

Sitting up, I look around to find all my men on the ground, shaking and writhing in agony. How is this possible? The bond only works on me.

Ryder

was pacing in the back of my mind, anxious. Reaching out to Aria, I feel

nothing through the bond, no connection at all. Which could only mean two

things: she has passed out or she is dead. I knew she wasn’t dead; I would

feel that. The thought alone was painful like my soul ripping out of me, so I

knew she was still alive. But the question was how she affected my entire Pack.

“Lycan Blood. She is our rightful queen. They were all bonded the moment you marked her,” growled Ryder. My body felt weak; I shakily stood and put the blue shorts on before collapsing to the ground again. We just had to ride it out. Once she was completely out, the pain would end, I hoped.

Aria's POV

“Now what do we do with her?”

“We use her to get my daughter back. Alpha Reid will come for her. If he

wants her he will hand Lily over.”

“He will kill the entire Pack. This is insane even for you. You're willing to

risk everyone?”

I could hear whispers. Alpha David was talking with someone. Slowly opening my eyes, I stay as still as possible to not alert them that I'm awake. I

was in Alpha David's office. I could see shelves of books and a desk that had

papers and maps all over it. I was placed on the brown leather sofa in the

centre of the room. I could see Michael with his back to me, talking to the

Alpha who was seated at his desk.

My throat felt incredibly dry. I felt like I had a major hangover. My head was

pounding against my skull. Testing out my limbs, I realised I could move my

legs and arms. I was weak, but I had feeling back. That wasn't the only

feeling I had though. Hunger. I was ravenous. I needed blood. I could hear

four heartbeats in the room. My own standing out above everyone else's

thumping loudly in my chest against my ribs. I knew two belonged to the

Alpha and the Beta, but the fourth person must be behind me somewhere. I

could feel my fangs breaking painfully through my gums, my mouth filling

with the metallic taste of my own blood.

"You hear that? She is waking," said the mystery person behind me.

Looking

over in the Alpha direction, I hear him stand up. Michael made eye contact

with me.

"That's impossible, she should have been out for hours," he stated.

"Dose her again before she regains her strength," ordered the Alpha through

the mind link to the person behind me. Obviously, he forgot I can hear them,

or maybe his Pack members forgot to mention that detail. I heard the person

behind me start walking towards the back of the sofa. Just as his hand reached over to inject me, I gripped his wrist, pulling him over the sofa making him land on the floor.

Sitting up, I still had hold of his wrist that was gripping the syringe. I squeezed his wrist, making him cry out and drop it. I saw the Alpha and

Michael about to lurch forward to stop me as I ripped the man towards me,

sinking my teeth into his neck. I drank voraciously, draining him in a few

seconds before rolling his body off me and onto the floor, his lifeless eyes

peering up at us in shock.

I grabbed the syringe that had fallen at my feet, twirling it between my fingers, admiring the poison that just knocked me out cold. I heard shuffling

as the Alpha went to try to stop me from attacking first, but I had no intentions to fight; it would end in their deaths. I sat back on the couch, getting comfortable.

"I understand it now, why you did it," I said clearly. The Alpha stopped.

Looking up at him, he looked confused. Michael wore the same expression, trying to figure out what I was talking about. I observed the Alpha. He didn't look the same. I no longer feared him. He looked rather normal in his blue denim jeans and a black t-shirt. I could tell he lost weight, his eyes were dark with sleep deprivation, He looked like he aged ten years since I last saw him at the diner.

Now I just felt sorry for him. I knew I shouldn't, but I couldn't help it. He was a monster to us for years, but now I see a broken man, not someone to be feared.

"What are you talking about, Aria?" asked David, crossing his arms over his chest he leaned back sitting on the edge of the desk.

"I'm talking about why you hated Lily and me. Why you abandoned your own pup." The Alpha bared his teeth at me and growled. "I understand it now. I know a wolf goes crazy without their mate. I understand what it does to them. I don't agree with your actions, but I do understand," I told him.

"You know nothing, Aria. Don't pretend you know anything. I just want my daughter back."

"You mean the daughter you dumped in my lap to raise? The daughter you pretended you didn't have? That daughter?"

"Watch it, girl,"

"No, you're right. I don't know what it's like to lose a mate. But I understand why you are the way you are. Most wolves kill themselves after they lose

their mate, or they go mad. You went mad with anger and blamed her.
When

you should have put all the anger you had into loving her.”

“Aria, shut up,” warned Michael. Looking back over at the Alpha, his
face

was red with anger, veins sticking out along his arms like he was a
ticking

time bomb. But that no longer scared me.

“Listen to Michael, Aria. You know nothing of what you’re talking
about.

You can’t sympathise with me.”

“You think I don’t know what it’s like to lose her? You lost your mate. I

LOST MY FUCKING MOTHER,” I screamed. “I was thirteen, and you
threw Lily in my lap. I couldn’t even attend her funeral because you
were too

gutless to be around your own daughter. Mum’s flesh and blood. You
didn’t

just lose her. I lost her too. Then I lost my childhood. I threw
everything

away to raise her. ME, not you. I took care of her, and now you expect
me to

hand her over to you.”

“She is my daughter, Aria.”

“Yes, you’re right, she is, but she doesn’t know you. She knows only
to fear

you. You spent so much time hating her, but did you ever think of what
Mum

would have wanted? I know she wouldn’t have wanted you to
abandon her

flesh and blood. She would have wanted you to be the father you
promised

her you would be. Now after six fucking years you want to claim her
back.”

Alpha David walked back to his desk and took a seat. He knew I was
right.

Lily doesn’t know him the way she should, and he doesn’t know her.

“So,

what do you suggest then, Aria? You think you're calling the shots?

You

think you have all the answers?" Michael relaxed a bit before sitting on the

edge of the desk. I sat back understanding the Alpha was willing to compromise.

Looking at the clock, it was a little after 8pm. The Blood Moon Pack was

already at the border, but why haven't they crossed over yet? Reid would

know I'm here by now.

"I am only here because of Lily. Despite the hell you have put her through,

she still feared Reid was going to kill you. She wanted me to stop this.

You

and I still have unfinished business, but for now, this is about Lily, so I suggest you prove you deserve to be a part of her life. Maybe visit, get to

know her, but she remains a part of my Pack." The Alpha growled at me

about to disagree and argue back. I held my finger up at him, motioning him

to let me finish.

"When she turns 18, we let her decide if she wants to take over the Black

Moon Pack. For now, until I can trust you, you can get to know her and then

maybe down the track if Lily decides she wants you in her life we can sort

out custody agreements."

"Shared custody, she is my daughter,"

"Listen to her, Alpha. She has a point. You can't just rip Aria away from Lily

and expect Lily to be okay with that. Aria is all she has ever known."

The Alpha seemed to think about it. I heard Michael start to mind link him

and blocked him out, giving them some privacy to speak. Pushing through the bond, I could tell Reid was close.

“Reid you there?”

“Where the fuck are you, Aria? Do you have any idea of the damage you have caused?”

“Calm down, I’m with Alpha David. I will be back at the border soon.” I could tell he was using the bond to find my location.

“No, I’m coming to get you. Tell David to tell his warriors to let us through or it will be a bloodbath.”

“Just wait there, I will be there soon,” I argued back.

“No, you went against me. This could have been avoided, but you had to defy

me. I’m coming to get you, and that’s final.” He cut off the mind link. I could

feel his anger pouring through the link.

“Reid is on his way. Tell your warriors to stand down.” They both stopped

talking and looked at me. Alpha David raised an eyebrow at me. “I tried to

stop him, but he is coming anyway. Tell them to stand down. I don’t want our people hurt.”

“Our people?”

“Yes, I might not be a part of this Pack anymore, but they are still family to me, despite what you may think. I don’t wish any harm to anyone here.

Please.”

“Very well. I will tell them to let them through, and as for Lily, we have a deal for now.”

I smiled, genuinely excited for Lily. She may just get the father she wanted,

after all. I always had that hope for her that this monster would eventually come to his senses and see what a great little girl she was and how much like Mum she is.

It didn't take long before we heard cars pulling up in the driveway. Following David and Michael out we made our way through the Pack house. It hadn't changed much. I had so many horrid memories here, but it was home for so long it just felt familiar, comfortable in a way. Which is absurd, but it was home. It's where I lived with my mother for 6 years, where some of my earliest memories were. This place will always feel familiar.

Once outside, five black SUVs were parked out the front. Men piled out of the cars, standing alongside the vehicles. Reid stepped out of the one that was parked in front of the stairs. He only had blue shorts on, and his chest was bare. He was covered in dirt and sweat. Meeting his eyes, I went to walk down to him when I noticed him glaring directly at me. I froze on the step.

He was furious. My heart skipped a beat when I heard him speak. "Aria, get in the fucking car." I was frozen. I didn't react which just pissed him off even more. Marching forward, he gripped my arm, ripping me towards him, making me stumble into him. I heard Michael growl at him behind me at his forceful grip.

Reid shoved me towards the open rear door. "Get in the car NOW!" he shouted at me, making me flinch. Alpha David came down the stairs and extended his hand to Reid in a polite gesture, trying to diffuse the situation,

but Reid just spun on his heel and punched him breaking his nose making David stumble back falling onto the steps.

Chapter 24

Aria's POV

The only sound was a collective gasp from everyone who was present. I held my breath when I saw David scramble back to his feet. He dusted himself off before rubbing his already bruising jaw. Michael's eyes flicked to my horrified ones, begging me to do something before this got out of hand. But I didn't have to, the most shocking thing happened when David clenched his jaw and walked back up the stairs and inside the house. Everyone kind of looked around confused by the Alpha just walking away from a fight. No one was more surprised than Alpha Reid. "What? You are just going to walk away and be a coward?" Alpha David just kept walking ignoring Reid. Michael quickly followed behind. For the first time ever, I was actually proud of the way he handled himself. He didn't give in to his anger, he just simply got up and walked away not wanting to risk the agreement we have come up with. Maybe he really is going to try and right his wrongs. Looking around, my former Pack members eyes quickly darted away from the scene and they went back to patrolling, leaving just the Blood Moon Pack

standing around. I must have missed an order through their Pack link since there were no threatening growls or any attacks from anyone. Reid's Pack looked tense like they were expecting retaliation, but there wasn't any. They all simply walked off like we weren't intruding on their land. Walking over I went to place my hand on Reid's arm. He spun around so quickly and gripped my wrist before I made contact. His eyes burned with anger. If looks could kill, I would be a pile of dust by now. I wasn't sure if he was more pissed that David turned his back on him or my escape. I think it was a mixture of both. Difference is if I walk away, he will chase after me. So instead, I calmly relaxed in his death grip. When I didn't pull away, Reid started dragging me towards the open rear door. Once we were close enough, he shoved me inside. I landed on the seat, my legs still hanging out the door. I moved to the other side of the car just as Reid sat down. He didn't say anything, but when I went to turn and place my feet on the ground, he gripped my ankle and yanked me towards him until I was half on his lap with one leg draped over him the other awkwardly bent next to him. Reid didn't let go. I watched the fall and rise of his chest while he tried to calm himself and his wolf down. After a few minutes I tried to remove my leg that he gripped and was forcibly

pulled back to the same position. When I heard a growl emit from him,
I
froze my movements and watched him warily. I could feel his hot
breath on
my neck.
Being around him is like walking on eggshells. My leg was starting to
cramp
from the position I was sitting in. Deciding to move, I sat in the middle
seat
trying to find a more comfortable position, when Reid suddenly pulled
me
completely onto his lap, so I was straddling him.
He dropped his head into the crook of my neck and started inhaling
my scent.
His strong arms wrapped around my waist, he started to relax after a
few
minutes. I had to hold back a moan when he started sucking on my
mark, my
eyes rolled into the back of my head just from his touch. Pulling away
slightly, I looked around embarrassed. Zane was driving back to the
Pack
house but was paying no attention to us in the back seat. I tried to hop
off his
lap when his fingers dug painfully into my waist.
“You will not leave again without my permission. Do you understand?”
His
deep gravelly voice spoke just below my ear near my neck. I tried to
get off
his lap by pushing off his chest with my hands, but his strength was
unrelenting as he held me in place with one arm, his other hand
snaked out
and gripped my chin forcing me to look at him.
“Do you understand?” he asked. His intense gaze made me gulp
nervously.
His eyes hardened when I didn’t answer his grip on my chin
tightening. I

quickly nodded my head, not trusting my voice not to break if I answered out loud. He let my chin go and his grip on my waist loosened. I climbed off of him and scooted as far as the seat would allow away from him. Reid turned his body so he could watch me, draping one arm along the backrest of the car. I looked in the mirror to be met with Zane's sympathetic eyes staring back at me before he quickly glanced away. "What happened with Alpha David?" asked Reid. I had this entire scenario played out differently in my head. I wasn't expecting it to be so tense nor was I expecting him to punch David without giving me a chance to explain. "It was about Lily," I told him my voice firm, annoyed that he was treating me like I was some omega. Angry that he nearly ruined the deal I have with Alpha David. "And?" Reid asked, annoyed at my answer. I had to fight the urge to roll my eyes at him, his way of talking down at me was starting to really get under my skin. "And it doesn't concern you, David and I will organise things later around Lily's school schedule." Reid growled at my response and my tone of voice. I knew I sounded bitchy, but what did he expect after the way he just treated me. "When it's about you and Lily, it does concern me Aria. You are mine, now lose the attitude and tell me what is going on," "Really, lose the attitude? I'm sorry if I won't bow down to you. Until you

start treating me like your equal, the attitude stays.” I retorted.
Reid reached over and gripped my arm. I see Zane glance nervously
in the
mirror before his eyes went back to the road. Through the bond, I
could feel
that he was a ticking time bomb, his rage just swirling inside him
looking for
an escape even Ryder was angry. Pissed off he didn’t get the
challenge from
Alpha David like he hoped he would. Both of them were annoyed,
feeling
like I was challenging them.
I wasn’t, but I also wasn’t going to put up with their anger issues. Not
wanting to be suffocated by his testosterone-fuelled rage at me,
challenging
him, I gripped the door handle and shoved the door open.
Ripping my arm out of Reid’s grip, I jumped from the moving vehicle,
Zane
instantly hitting the brakes. My body collided with the rough gravel; I
could
feel my flesh being ripped away as I rolled along the road. The car
behind us
screeching to a stop about a metre off me. My clothes were torn, and I
had
cuts and scrapes covering every bit of exposed flesh, including my
face. I was
too angry to notice. I just wanted away from him, away from both of
them.
Pushing up off the ground onto my hands and knees, I groaned.
Maybe that
wasn’t the smartest idea I had thought of. Standing up, I dusted myself
off
pulling small rocks out that were embedded in my hands, I turned and
started
walking towards the forest that led to the Pack house. I could hear
people’s

rushed voices calling after me before the car that nearly hit me left, driving towards the Pack house.

Reid screamed at me, demanding I come back to the car, but I was not in the mood to deal with him. I ignored him and kept walking. Next thing I know I

am being knocked down onto the grass from behind as Reid barrelled into

me. Hitting the grass with an oomph as the air was knocked out of me. Reid

rolled me over onto my back; I just stared, dazed.

“Where do you think you’re going little one?”

“Where do you think I’m going... Home. Now get off me.”

Reid glared down at me, challenging me. I glared back at him, not submitting. When he realised I wasn’t going to back down he growled warningly at me, but I just growled back. How dare he challenge me.

We are

meant to be mates, equals. I don’t own him just as he doesn’t own me. I

won’t submit to him or anybody. I’m not going to be his little bitch that he

can treat like garbage then think I will forgive his brutish behaviour.

When I growled back, Ryder’s eyes peered back at me. Ryder may love me,

but Alpha’s don’t like to be challenged even by their Luna. Most Luna’s are

submissive to their mates. I’m not a normal wolf, I’m Lycan and not going to

back down to him whether he is my mate or not. Ryder seemed to realise that

I could tell Reid was fighting for control, his eyes flickering between him and

his beast. I shoved him to the side and went to get up when hands gripped my

shoulder’s pulling me back down.

Ryder pulled me, so my back was pressed against his chest, his arms holding my arms at my side, I felt him move my hair over my shoulder, exposing my neck to him. Suddenly feeling teeth bite down harshly on my neck, trying to get me to submit, I struggle against him when I feel his canines bite through my flesh harder pinning me in place. Ryder growled menacingly at me, but I refused to submit. When I felt him bite deeper, I could feel the blood start to run down my neck and arm, any harder he could rip my arm off. His growling got louder, trying to force me to give in. Instead, I pivot, his teeth ripping harshly out of my shoulder and neck. Gripping him I bite him back, I sink my teeth into his neck, but the blood loss from his bite starts to make me woozy as I feel myself getting sleepy, I drop to my side my body feeling like it's being weighed down. Why didn't I just let Ryder win? I knew better than to challenge a wolf. Reid is one thing, Ryder is completely different. The wolf side loves the chase and loves a challenge, but one thing they won't do is show weakness, especially in front of their mate. So, me challenging Reid brought Ryder forward. I feel my body being lifted, and my head hits Reid's shoulder as I fight to stay conscious. I can feel movement before I am placed on his lap. Hearing the car door close I know I'm back in the car on Reid's lap. I could hear Zane speaking.

“Luna alright, Alpha?”

“Yeah, she just bit off more than she can chew with Ryder, she just needs blood,”

I feel the engine start and the car move. When I give into exhaustion. I’m nice and warm. My skin feels like it’s vibrating, tingles are spreading

down my sides where Reid’s hand is drawing patterns in my skin. I leave my

eyes closed, enjoying the sensations and my heightened senses. I breathe in

his intoxicating scent. His masculine smell making my mouth water. I can tell

we are laying on our sides, my face resting on his arm, his breath fanning my

face. Wriggling closer Reid tucks my head under his chin, pulling me tighter

to his chest.

I growl low, almost a purr at our closeness, I have an overwhelming need to

taste him, running my nose along his chest, I lift my head and start licking

and sucking his neck softly. He moves onto his back, pulling me with him, so

I’m lying on his chest. I breathe in his scent, which is teasing me, making me

thirstier. My eyes still closed; I run my nose along his collarbone, breathing

him in. Reid pulls me up higher, so we are face to face. I open my eyes to see

Reid’s soft gaze staring at me. I lean in and kiss his lips softly, his fingers

softly drawing circles on my lower back.

Dropping my head back on his chest, I listen to his heartbeat thump in his

chest, my own heart falling in sync with his.

Chapter 25

Aria's POV

"I shouldn't have let Ryder have control."

Reid's

husky voice broke the silence. My hand instinctively

went to my neck, remembering the feel of his anger

as he bit into my soft skin. My neck was smooth,

having already healed. Lifting my head up, I stared

at Reid's face. He was fully in control now his gaze

soft, but I could feel his worry seeping into me through the mate bond. I could feel his guilt thick

and strong. Reid's silver eyes searching mine waiting for me to say something.

Leaning over, I kissed his lips softly before getting up. I climbed off the bed

and walked into the bathroom, I wanted to shower so I could go see Lily and

tell her about my meeting with her father. When I opened the bathroom door

Reid sat up, he must have felt my intentions through the bond.

"Lily is asleep. I wouldn't wake her; she has her first day of school tomorrow."

“What do you mean? What time is it?” I asked, confused. I didn’t feel like I was out that long. It was the middle of the night when we left David’s, I feel like I only had a short nap.

“It’s 2:00 AM Aria, you have been out for three days now.” His voice got lower as he looked down at the bed. Three days I have been out, Ryder knocked me out for three days. No wonder he feels so bloody guilty. Turning my back on him, I push the bathroom door open. Stripping my clothes off I turned the shower on, my body felt a little stiff but other than that I felt fine. I certainly didn’t feel like I had been asleep for three days. I was fairly hungry though my bloodlust was strong, but it was strong before Ryder bit me. I will have to go see if I can find any blood in the infirmary.

Dr. Mavis said she would stock it there in the fridges for me. Halfway through washing myself, Reid walked in, I watched as he stripped his clothes off and turned the other showerhead on at the opposite end to me. I watched as the water ran down the muscles on his back. His arms braced on the wall in front of him, his head under the stream of water. Reid must have felt my eyes on him as he turned around and stared back. His eyes running up my body stopping at my hips then my breasts, before looking me in the eyes. His gaze stirring my insides, as arousal started to flood me. I wasn’t sure it was completely mine or just Reid’s desires coming through the mate bond. Scanning my eyes over him, I watched his chest move with each

breath, my eyes sliding down his abs then slowing at his V line when I noticed his erection standing proud. I turned away, definitely not just my own

feelings I was picking up on. I didn't want to give him the satisfaction. Abruptly ignoring my arousal, I turned the taps off and stepped out of the

shower. He will have to tend to himself, I could feel the hint of a smile creeping onto my face at the thought. Grabbing a towel, I wrapped it around

myself and walked out, closing the door behind me. I heard Reid groan with frustration.

Since it was night-time, I decided to put my pyjamas on. Leaving the room, I

snuck down the stairs and opened up Lily's door, she was sleeping peacefully

snuggled up to her purple unicorn plushie. Closing the door, I walked to the

infirmary. My gum tingling in anticipation. Just as I'm about to reach out and

open the infirmary door, Zane steps into the hallway.

"Luna, you are up," he said noticeably shocked at finding me walking the

halls so late at night.

"Yes, Zane, good morning. Why are you up so early?" My voice was breathy,

my fangs had already protruded from my gums, making it difficult to speak.

"Patrol duty, are you sure you're alright?" asked Zane, reaching out he gently

touched my arm. I pulled back. I tried to calm myself, but in this empty narrow hall, it was hard to ignore the beating of his heart, the sweet smell of

his blood racing through his veins. I was struggling. I was fine, but as soon as

the infirmary came into view, my hunger took over knowing what waited on

the other side of the door.

I watched the vein in his neck lost in a trance. I could hear his concerned

voice talking to me, but his words didn't register. My mouth started to water;

I could feel my eyes blazing in hunger. Just as I went to lean in to taste him,

he pulled away startled. My eyes flicked to his concerned ones.

"Luna... Luna, Aria." I could hear him speaking, but they were just words.

They held no meaning at this moment. Moving towards him, he put his hands

up, trying to ward me off. My only response was a guttural growl. Just when

I went to take another step towards him, I felt arms wrap around my own,

distracting me.

Reid's arms, the familiar tingles spreading throughout my body at his touch,

his intoxicating scent making me lean into him instinctually, calming myself

down. Reid pulled me closer, tucking my head under his chin.

"Beta you are free to leave. Let me know if you have any problems while on

patrol." Reid spoke with authority. Beta Zane sounded relieved to have Reid

walk in. His heart rate instantly slowed down at the sight of his Alpha.

"I will see you later. Luna, feel better," he said as he walked off towards the

foyer. I let out a shaky breath and tried to pull away.

"Where are you going?" Reid asked.

"I need blood," I stated, my voice still slightly distorted.

"I know, but why you are going into the infirmary?" I looked at him confused. I know blood isn't stored next to the milk in the fridge downstairs.

Reid pulled me back towards our room. Wriggling out of his grip, I opened

the door to the infirmary.

"I told Mavis not to store blood here for you after the last batch went off."

"Why would you do that?" I asked in disbelief. Was he going to force me to

go without it like David?

Reid grabbed my hand and walked me back to our room, why would he tell

Mavis to do that? Is it because I challenged him? Because I went behind his

back? Was this his punishment?

Once back in the room, Reid pulled his shirt off and sat on the edge of the

bed. "You don't need blood bags when you have me, I don't want you drinking random peoples blood Ari, only mine."

I watched him waiting for him to tell me it was a joke. I searched the bond

and found no deceit, no indication that he was going to go back on what he

was telling me. I could tell he felt strongly about me drinking only his blood,

his possessiveness making him even want to control who I drink from. I

didn't mind, he tasted just as good as he smelt.

Reid put his hand out and tilted his neck towards me, I watched the vein in

his neck, throb to the beat of his heart. His scent perfuming the room, the

sight of his neck was making my mouth water. I hesitantly stepped towards

him and grabbed his hand. He pulled me on his lap, I was starving, but I was

also worried about hurting him after what happened in the hallway with Zane.

"I won't let you kill me, Ari, stop worrying," When I didn't move, Reid reached up and slid his nail across his shoulder where it met at his neck.

Drawing a thin line of blood. His blood spilling over and running down his

shoulder onto his chest.

I couldn't fight the urge anymore, seeing his blood running down his skin, the

temptation became too much. I licked up the trail of blood. Reid shuddered

under my hot tongue, running over his flesh. When I reached his neck, I sank

my teeth into his tender flesh. Reid moaned loudly at the sharpness of my

teeth. Through the bond, I could feel that he actually enjoyed me feeding off

him, like he found it erotic.

His blood dribbled down my chin as I drank from him, my hunger felt insatiable, when I went to pull away, Reid shook his head, he could feel my

hunger radiating through our bond. I sank my teeth back into him, I knew my

eyes and sclerae were burning red as the colour of his blood started to take

over my vision. Making the room appear tinted red.

Adjusting my position, I could feel Reid's erection pressing between my legs

through his jeans.