

Letters Sent To Eternity

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Chapter 101

Bennet gives me a tired smile and tries to wave me over, he's been out all night running down any other potential threats. I just shake my head and his face falls in concern as I turn towards a lone high top table in the back corner. These guys should be out of here soon and I'll take a seat then. He looks at me confused, but I just **keep** walking. I sit, but I can't have my back to the room out of habit, **so** I am stuck here watching people. They come and go while trying and failing to not look at me sitting alone in the corner of the room and whispering more

rumors.

I'm mentally going through the things I can do **for** school today and I have to remember **to** ask Robin about my laptop and my phone. Even if she has to give me new ones, it will be a little more freedom and it's been long enough. I am probably so behind and that is making my skin crawl. Being able to study on my balcony on days when the weather is good would be nice too. I love that the office she's letting me use has so many windows. I feel less cooped up and can watch the forest change throughout the day, but just knowing I'm not 'allowed' out is what's stifling.

A high pitched giggle breaks me from my thoughts and my attention is drawn towards the entrance to the breakfast room. Ryker walks in with Amy in tow. She looks disheveled and well f*cked. Did she stay with him last night after he left me angry and frustrated? I don't know why it bothers me. It shouldn't, we aren't together no matter what the Moon Goddess wants. But after his speech about me staying away from warriors, he could do the same with females, at least in public. It's embarrassing enough that everyone knows he doesn't want me and plans on rejecting me.

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"Ryker, you are so serious in the morning. I can help you cheer up if your needs aren't being met." She coos loud enough for the whole room to hear and looks right at me. Ryker follows her line of sight, looks a little surprised to see me, looks around the room and then back to me. Noticing that I am leaving 'his pack' alone like he asked. Maybe the gesture will be enough for him to be nice to me. That's a lot to ask though.

I roll my eyes even though my stomach has dropped into my feet. Yeah, asshole. I did as you asked and stayed away from your warriors. Maybe you should show the same respect. I raise my eyebrow in a dare, trying to convey all my irritation. I know it's seen as a challenge, but I will not break eye contact first. He blinks and turns his head and

continues walking toward the buffet table, his brunette bed buddy in tow petting him and talking incessantly. I take in and let out a slow breath and grab my plate. I'm not going to sit here and watch him be fawned over by another female while I'm in the room, when I'm not even allowed to talk to my friends, just because they are guys. Some mate he is.

I walk by Bennet's table, he reaches out to stop me. I step away from him, I don't want him to get yelled at because of me.

"Hey, where are you going? Why aren't you sitting with us?" I close my eyes and sigh. Why does he have to be so nice?

"Did you not get the memo? Apparently, I'm not allowed to spend time with any of you anymore. I am distracting you all from your real jobs, I get people injured and apparently I talk to too many male warriors." I let my voice get louder as I speak. "Which is also seen as flirting and is disrespectful to my mate. I will be in my office or my room for the foreseeable future, you may want to find something to do with your time, you are going to be really bored." With that I turned and left. I take deep breaths to swallow the lump in my throat, blinking rapidly. I will get through this and he doesn't deserve my tears.

Ryker's going to have to catch me if he wants to yell at me for making a scene in the breakfast room. I head straight to the office and sit on the little couch. I'm not hungry at all anymore. I shouldn't let him affect me, he does. I haven't thought about being with anyone but him since we met at Rayna's party. When I think of

but

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dating or being with anyone, his is the only face I see. He is so immune to me that he can walk in with a female on his arm, probably after spending all night with her, and not spare me more than a glance. He feels nothing. This is what all the rumors about him say. I thought the mate

bond was supposed to make your mate irresistible, but maybe it's because I am a human and don't have a wolf. Maybe there is no pull to me like Jeremiah has to Rayna.

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Chapter 102

I

pick at my food for a little bit, I need to eat, I can't afford to get sick and look even weaker to Ryker. Maybe I will go to the gym and run on the treadmill before I start my school work, just to clear my head. I can't be distracted by him with another woman, even if it is Amy. He doesn't want me, I know that. But he literally could have picked anyone other than her. I just wish he wouldn't give me mixed signals. Last night it was like he and his wolf were fighting about being close to me. I figure the mate thing probably compels his wolf to want to be near me. But they don't want a weak hu

man. I shake my head. He's not worth this amount of space in my head. Focus Ken. I will get through this.

There's a soft knock on the door. The only person who doesn't just enter is Robin and she's probably the only person I don't care about invading my space.

"Come in." I shove another forkful of food in my mouth, I can't have her worried about me and distracted from her actual job. I can't have the only people who are nice to me angry because I get them in trouble with their alpha.

"Hey, I saw you leave. Is there anything you need?" I know she saw Amy walk in with Ryker, but she's trying to bypass that part of the conversation.

"I'm fine. The alpha can do whatever he wants as he has pointed out several times. If she is what he wants, there isn't a lot I can do to stop him." My stomach drops as I say that, but I school my features.

"He's just..."

"Nope! I don't want to know." I throw my hands up. "I'm just here until he can figure out what to do with me. We both know that. I don't know why your Goddess made us mates, but he clearly doesn't want one, or more specifically doesn't want me. I'm just going to keep focused on school and getting my business degree so I am ready when he's done with me and kicks me out." She looks horrified and like she wants to argue, but I'm on a roll now. "Speaking of school, is my laptop and phone ready? I know I have the computer here, but I like to move around so the laptop is better." I haven't even touched the computer. I refuse to sit at a desk that will never be mine. I will just maintain my guest status and be good with that. "I need to check in with Jeremiah. I haven't talked to him in a weeks. The longest we've ever gone without speaking was two days and that was when he found Rayna. I could just use a friend right now." I blink away more tears.

"What about Bennet or me? Could you talk to us? Can we help?"

"I don't think so. You both have a job to do and it has been made very, very clear that I am distracting you both from more important things." I rub my face. "Listen, you have to follow orders and your loyalty to your alpha is very important. I'm not going to get in the way of that or even ask you to choose between the two of us. If you could just get me a cell phone, even if it only has you, Bennet and Jeremiah as contacts I will be good and I promise that I will tell you if I need anything and I won't go anywhere without asking. Being able to text will give us all more room to breathe. I'm going to go run on the treadmill for a bit then I will be back up here to work for the day. I'll let someone know if I change plans." I walk to the bathroom to change, cutting off the conversation. I just hope she's gone when I come out.

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Chapter 103

59 – Ryker

I cannot get Amy **off** of me. I was so distracted coming down the stairs, I wasn't paying attention to who was around. She's like a freaking octopus with tentacles everywhere. I have had to use an alpha command **on** her twice to keep her hands to herself, but she seems to just enjoy the power move and the pain she gets from disobeying. I shouldn't have to command her at all and I don't like using it on pack members, but I think I **am** going to have to make an exception now. She's been getting bolder in her defiance of my instructions.

I immediately saw Kennedy's face when we walked in. I know I'm a hypocrite when I told her to stay away from my guys. And now it seems whenever she sees me there is a woman hanging off of me or I'm yelling at her. Bennet is just as confused, but he's blocked me for now and won't let me explain. My mate has him whipped and that makes my wolf growl at the thought. Is she interested in him beyond friendship like Jeremiah's beta? Can she change her attention since she doesn't have a wolf to deal with? Another low grumble ripples through my chest. "Your wolf likes that doesn't he?" Amy coos in my ear.

"What?!" I look at her and look down and she's attempting to stroke me through my pants as I am walking, I swat her away. Finally breaking contact. "What are you doing? Keep your hands to yourself. And don't pull that sh*t in front of my mate again." I look around, but Kennedy is gone.

"You never minded before." She whines and grabs my arm. I growl again, but she smiles wider. This b*tch is crazy, she thinks I'm playing with her.

"Amy, go home. I told you, if you can't behave yourself, then you aren't welcome in the pack house." I pull my arm out of her grasp once again trying to use the buffet table as a barrier.

She stands next to me and tries to touch me again. I grab her wrists to stop her. I don't want her overly perfumed scent on me. It's like glitter. It doesn't ever really go away and it's not pleasant. Kennedy mentioned being able to smell females on me last night. I shouldn't care if she's into Bennet and Jensen, but I do. And I really need to figure out how she can smell a female on me without a wolf. Human noses are inferior to ours. They don't have the ability to identify people by scent.

"Excuse me, Alpha, you are needed." I pull my gaze away from my random thoughts. "We have a busy day." Oh, thank f*ck for Robin. But, I'm a little wary at the look she's giving me. She's pissed, and Robin never gets pissed. "Amy, you are excused, now."

"Uh! But! Alpha, she can't send me away." Amy looks from Robin to me.

“Of course I can. Your alpha asked you to go home and not return if you cannot behave yourself. This is the second time in a month that you have put your hands on him without permission. You have no business touching the Alpha and he is too polite to say so. Go. Home.” Robin steps between Amy and I, hands on her hips, and is a better guard than my warriors at the moment. “If you can’t follow that simple instruction I will have the warriors toss you out and ban you from the packhouse, indefinitely. Am I clear?” She doesn’t wait for an answer, but I look at me. “Alpha, this way. Gamma Bennet?” She looks over to the other side of the room and Bennet pops up from his seat like he was shocked in the ass, “Your Luna is going down to the gym shortly, she wanted me to relay the message.” He nods, then she turns and walks away, leaving me to follow like I know what the hell is going on. She’s lucky I’m good at schooling my face and just going with what she’s doing. Why did she tell Bennet about Kennedy and not me?

We walk straight to my office and she closes the door like this is her space not mine. “Are you out of your mind?!” She hisses. “How dare you disrespect your mate like that? And with Amy of all she-wolves... in front of

everyone.” She rubs her temple with one hand,

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“Now, hold on! What’s got you all worked up? Amy’s always sniffing around and you have never had a problem with her before.”

“You never had a mate before, Ryker! What the hell is wrong with you? That poor girl ate in the corner by herself this morning. And then left after watching you parade around your latest poor choice in sexual partner to everyone in the breakfast room. She’s your Luna for God’s sake, **not** some little power chaser. And you let Amy talk about her like that, loudly in front of everyone and hang all over you. You embarrassed her... and yourself for that matter.”

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“What am I supposed to do? Kennedy hates me and she’s a weak human. There’s no benefit to having her as a Luna. She doesn’t want to be a Luna or part of a pack. I don’t know why the Goddess gave her to **me**, maybe as a punishment for something.” I start pacing the office floor.

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Chapter **104**

“Trust me, after this morning she has every right to hate you. And you deserve the punishment.” She slammed **the** files she was carrying on my desk. “You need to fix this. You need her. We all need her. She asked me **for** her laptop and her phone... again...”

“No! There can be trackers in the apps she uses. We don’t know what she was doing in her last pack or what other humans she had contact with. We need discretion for a reason, you know that Robin. **It’s** just another weakness.” Robin keeps talking like I didn’t just tell her ‘no.’ “She wants to make sure she can finish her business degree so when you finally decide to reject her and cast her out like trash, she is capable of taking care of herself.” She glares daggers at me. “And don’t for a second think that I believe your bullsh*t about trackers. You don’t want her having any contact with any males out of jealousy. You hate the idea of her having any kind of life before you or without you.”

“She said that?” Why would she think I was going **to** cast her out? I may not want her as a mate, but no one deserves to be thrown out of a pack for that.”

“And...” She keeps talking over me, “she said she would like to have a phone even if it only has Jeremiah, Bennet and myself as contacts, so she can talk to a friend and let us know when she needs something so she isn’t a bother and we can focus on more important jobs.”

“Well, she’s not wrong. She’s a distraction for all of us. Bennet...”

“Is her Gamma!” She shouts and slams her fist down on the files. “If he isn’t protecting the Luna, what else is he supposed to be doing? I am your house manager. I am her assistant as much as yours. She is our job! She is important and you are making her feel worthless!”

“No! She is a weakness! She’s a human who can’t even protect herself when she’s attacked! She’s easy to capture, easy to torture, easy to use against us...”

“Stop. She did what she was supposed to do in an attack. Both times. She let the warriors assigned to her do their job, she stayed out of their way and even hid. From what I understand she did so well at following protocol and hiding, that Bennet had to call you to locate her. Sounds like she knows what she’s doing and didn’t get in the way or try to be something she isn’t. She wasn’t captured, because no one could find her. Therefore no torture, no using her as bait. She’s smart. Why can’t you see that?”

“Great, she’s got you too.” I rub my face.

“Stop being dramatic. She needs us as much as we need her. I understand what you’re afraid...”

“Enough. She’s powerless and a liability we can’t afford right now. She stays in the packhouse. It’s the only place she is safe. Are we clear?” I let my aura out just enough to let her know that I am serious.

“Fine...for now. But you need to do something about Amy. That tramp is awful to Kennedy and disrespectful to the staff. They have been instructed to ignore Amy, but even your subtle alpha command isn’t working and I don’t know why. Fix it! You also need to be nicer to Kennedy, especially in front of pack members. Otherwise we will have a whole other problem, no matter what you decide to do with her.”

I grunt, and my wolf is chiming in along with Robin. I don't need this right now. "Have we found out any more about Claude's movements?"

"I am not one of your warriors. That information, you need to get from Josh and Danny. Bennet is with them now. You might as well get a report from all of them. Bennet went out with patrols last night." She gives me a look. "You need to talk to him too, because he thinks he is in trouble with Kennedy. She won't speak to him and I assume that is your doing. You can't be jealous of her guard doing his job."

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"See! This is what I mean. She is causing all kinds of drama we don't need! I don't have time to play girl talk with my gamma. And I'm not jealous!"

She laughs, "Bullsh*t. Your problem. You caused it, you **fix** it. I am giving Kennedy a phone and I am giving her a laptop." She points a red painted fingernail at me.

"What?!"

"And if you don't do something to alter this massive clusterf*ck. I am going **to** call in reinforcements."

"You wouldn't!" I drop into my chair. This is low for her. Robin might be worse than my sister .

"I would! How do you think she would react to your treatment of your mate?" She turns around and walks out **of** my office, leaving me with my jaw on the floor.

What the hell just happened? I have been asking myself that question far too often since I met my mate.

Miss L author

*Thank you so much for reading. All constructive comments and **gems** are appreciated. I cannot interact here. If you would like to join in the conversation **you** can find me on the socials. Miss.*

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Chapter **105**

60 – Kennedy

I have to make the best **of** this. It's been weeks and I haven't left the packhouse or seen Ryker at all. My usual stubborn side has been stuffed way back into my mind because I don't want to get any of the warriors in trouble again. Who knows what Ryker did to them last time, but none **of** them talk to me anymore and I haven't seen Jensen since the attack. I can't ask anyone about it, even though I'm not really ever alone, someo

ne is always lurking around. Their punishments were enough to make them keep their distance. I can call Jeremiah and Rayna now. But this has proven to be a bigger problem. I can't tell them the whole truth. Jeremiah can see bullsh*t a mile away, especially mine. We have never been able to lie to each other, so I have to come up with creative half truths about my time here. At least Rayna could back up my story about not having my phone because it was being checked by an IT team. I guess her brother has always been extra cautious with electronics.

"Yeah, it's a little boring being stuck here, but I don't know anything about the part of the pack he's visiting." I explain my latest BS excuse to Rayna. "It doesn't make sense for me to travel with him yet. I need to understand how he does things with combined packs before I go anywhere and embarrass him."

"Well, how are you supposed to learn if you don't go with him? It's been over a month since you got there. I should tell him to take you next time." Rayna is frustrated on my behalf and it's adorable.

"No! I'm good right now. I have a ton on my plate with school and stuff. Finals are coming up, then I only have one more semester left. It's just easier if I stay behind and focus. We are both adjusting and just need a little more time. I wasn't planning on any of this so it's taking longer for me to learn. I haven't been training to be a mate or a Lun a my whole life like you." I try to turn the conversation back to her. "So, how is everything going? Are you going to make me an Auntie soon?"

"Oh! I love this pack so much! Everyone is so great, well not everyone, but almost. I found our fan club. Ugh, how did you put up with them? They're awful and I don't think they are nearly as snarky to me as they were to you."

"They suck, but are mostly harmless. They really only have hateful words and I tried not to let it bother me, cause I never thought of Jer like that so I knew they were just being stupid. Hopefully they will grow out of it now that he's really taken. Otherwise, I would like a front row seat to your beatdown of them." I laugh.

"Oh, don't you worry, I took care of them. They won't mess with you or me ever again." She giggles and it's not the cute kind of giggle, it's a crazy, maniacal giggle that I have never heard from her before.

"What did you do?! And don't think I missed you skipping over that auntie question." I'm walking through the kitchen looking for a snack and totally into my conversation. It's a quiet day in the packhouse which has given me

a little more freedom.

"I may have put them on trash duty at the school and...at the daycare, indefinitely." She giggles again.

"Oh damn, they were probably so p*ssed."

“Well, there isn’t anything they can do about it, a luna command is just as powerful as an alpha’s. When my mom gets back she can show you the ropes. Her and my dad still help Ryker with all the pack members so they are

traveling, but should be home soon. That will make everything so much better.” I don’t agree, but I don’t tell her

that either.

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Chapter 106

“We’ll see. It’s kind of a lot right now. Ompf!” I walked into a tiny wall of blonde hair. “Oh I am so sorry! Rayna, I have to go, I’ll call you later.” I end the call and shove my phone in my pocket. “Are you alright?” I look at the towels and linen napkins scattered across the floor and the lap of this little omega. “Let me help you with that.” The poor girl looks startled as I squat and start gathering things into a pile.

“Oh no, Luna! I can’t let you do that.” She looks terrified. Her honey eyes are so big she looks like a little doll. She can’t be more than fourteen.

“Umm, I knocked you over when I wasn’t paying attention. The least I could do is help you pick this up. What’s your name?”

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“Uh, Cindy, Luna.” Her voice is quiet and unsure. She must not be used to talking to anyone. Or maybe she’s not supposed to talk to me. That’s the most likely reason.

“Well, Cindy, my name is Kennedy. When it’s just us, I would like you to use my name, okay?” I put my empty hand out to help her up.

Her eyes go wide. “Oh, uh, no I don’t think I could do that Luna.” She lets me help her, which is a good sign even though she still looks a little terrified.

I take a deep breath and let it out. I’m not their Luna. Ryker doesn’t want me as their Luna. I don’t feel right about going by a title I haven’t earned yet. I decide to help her in silence instead of arguing the moot point of my nonexistent title and we get the linens picked up and put away in no time. I learned a little more about the kitchen watching her move around.

“Can we compromise, Cindy?” I ask as she is trying to get the rest of her chores done quickly and get away from me. She looks unsure, like I am trying to trick her. “I am bored and need something to do to break up my day. Can I come down here and work with you in the kitchen? Please?!”

Her eyebrows have almost disappeared into her hairline. "I don't really think that is proper for the Luna. That is what servants are for." She explains like I have never seen servants before.

"Yeah, well most Luna's are not like me and I am going out of my mind right now. Please?" I am not too proud to beg for some real interaction.

"I mean, it's your house, right? You really can do whatever you want."

"Perfect! I'm going to help you after breakfast then and you are going to call me Kennedy. Got it?" I look at her with a smile on my face.

She takes a deep breath and puffs out her cheeks letting the air out slowly. "You can help me Luna Kennedy, if you really want to."

"Yes!" I do a little excited jump. "Thank you Cindy. You are a lifesaver. Okay, what can I snack on, I am starving." She just laughs at me and shows me the pantry with a whole stash of hidden snacks. Another hidden treasure.

Once I am fed, I take a chance and head out the back patio door with a blanket and a book. The back of the packhouse is very simple. There aren't any big ostentatious seating spaces or elaborate outdoor visual design things. It's one simple level deck on the main level that runs the length of the wall behind the dining room with sturdy wooden rocking chairs, two porch swings and a few outdoor couches that are nice and comfy. The design allows the forest to shine in its own natural beauty.

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Chapter 107

The other benefit is the cute little planters that are out here growing different flowers and vining vegetables. Someone spends a lot of time out here caring for them. They are thriving and beautiful even in **the colder** weather. Someone must put a cover or something over them so they don't freeze at night. We haven't gotten snow yet, but I'm sure it's not too far off.

It has become my favorite space. Everything is bright and inviting. The deck is a light teak wood and all of the furniture is a similar wood color with cushions in shades of gray. I don't know if technically I am supposed to be out here, since it is outside, but I figure if I don't leave the safety of the porch I'm fine. No one has yelled at me yet.

I haven't seen Bennet much. But I know he's around. It's like I can feel him watching me. I figure if he **didn't** want me out here he would tell me to go back inside or more likely have Robin tell me. But, he also might be mad at me for getting him in trouble with Ryker. I was hopi

ng to have him as a friend, but that doesn't seem to be in my plans now. I'm lost in my thoughts, staring out at the forest, before deciding on which couch is the most comfy.

"I was wondering when I would see you."

I jumped "OH SH*T!"

Then I stumbled back, getting caught in the blanket and landing on my butt. The book I had in my hand went flying to who knows where in the yard. A low feminine giggle caught my attention while I flail to get myself free and back to a standing position. "I'm not used to anyone being out here, sorry." I don't know how I continue to embarrass myself, but it's becoming a real problem.

"It's alright dear. I haven't been out here in weeks and my babies needed some loving." She fluffs the plants and looks through all the leaves as she goes. The woman is a little older than Aunt Beth, but it's hard to tell age with werewolves because they age so much slower than humans. Her dark hair was pulled back into a ponytail, the only sign that she was a little older was the two small streaks of gray hair just over her ears. Her lean body is toned like she uses it regularly. "You must be the new Luna. It's good to meet you."

"Uh, thank you. But, I'm not much of a Luna. This is the farthest out of the packhouse that I have been in a month. A Luna should really be more involved with the pack. Don't you think?" I huff out rolling my eyes. I know I sound bitter, but I am. This is so stupid. I know that I can be doing more, but no one is going to go against Ryker and teach me anything. I finally get myself out of the blanket and stand up walking down to her. "I'm Kennedy."

Something about her warm smile makes me feel safe. "Hi Kennedy, Sarah." She shakes my hand firm, but gentle. She isn't simpering or angry with me. I am just a person she is meeting for the first time. Maybe I can have a friend here.

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Chapter 108

61 – Ryker

I have been tracking all of Kennedy's calls and text messages. She seems to be telling the truth. She has only messaged my sister and Jeremiah from her old pack and Robin and Bennet here.

All the messages have been short and to the point. She calls Jeremiah more than she texts, which makes sense based on what I know of their relationship. The calls never last more than ten minutes though, which I do think is odd. Bennet doesn't respond to her unless necessary and most of the time it's 'I'll check with the Alpha.' He knows I'm monitoring, so maybe he just converses with her face to face. He hasn't said much to me either since her attack. Until last night. Last night I got a front row seat to his opinion of my treatment of her. Which is why I'm on my current Kennedy rabbit

hole.

“ALPHA!”

“What?!” I yell back at Josh. He’s been more crabby recently too.

“Will you stop stalking your mate and help me with this?”

“I am not stalking her and you seem to be just fine on your own.” I walk up to him, stowing my phone before he sees it, as he’s finishing the last flower box next to the entrance to the new school we put up. He likes this woodworking stuff. His attention to detail is amazing.

We were hoping that Claude and his guys would have attacked us while we were building. Josh and I even joined the crew halfway through the build pretending to want to get first hand knowledge. In reality, I was hoping to be the bait to draw him out, especially when I put the location in a position to be more controlled by Don, Nathan and Rory. This is the best place and it will be well loved by the pups here. There is a wide flat area for outdoor play and a lake big enough to be a safety feature and to be used by the pups in warmer months. The hospital is almost done and the crews are working hard to complete the external structure before the first snowfall hits. We have been lucky so far this season and the bad weather has held off, but some of our specialists are human so we have to play along with their sensitivities to the weather.

We were able to confirm that Claude is trying to overthrow me. The two rogues we caught from Kennedy’s attack didn’t even take two hits and they were vomiting up details. They were not after her, just scouting, trying to gain a pattern of our patrol schedule. They happened to see an opportunity to attack a border patrol. I don’t know if I fully believe that, but neither mentioned wanting to take my Luna or harming her. I haven’t told Kennedy that, though the rest of the guys know. Bennet took it personally that she was in harm’s way. I still can’t gauge how he feels about her. I’ve never seen a gamma act the way he does when it comes to her. It’s like he’s agitated all the time because of her.

“Earth to Ryker.” Josh sings, waving a hand in front of my face. I blink and slap him away. “Why don’t you try talking to her. This is out of hand man.”

“We don’t talk, we yell at each other. Or did you not notice? She hates me for bringing her here and whatever happily ever after she thought she was going to get with her beta.” My wolf grumbles at the thought, but it’s the truth. We are not what she wants and she can’t handle what we need from her.

“What are you talking about? I’m her beta and she only likes me slightly more than you. I don’t get full on death glares the way you do.”

“I meant Ben. They were pretty cozy before she came to Dark Moon and I couldn’t even feel if they were sleeping together. She doesn’t have a wolf, she can’t mark m

e, I don't know if I can mark her. What's going to stop her from cheating? We can't even have a full mate bond. She can pick whoever she wants..."

"You're worried she won't pick you? That's your big hang up? You are stupid." He grunts. "Greta! You win, I'm

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out. This is not my wheelhouse."

"Huh? What the f*ck are you two on about?" I look over my shoulder confused as hell, watching my best female warrior saunter up like she knows a secret.

Greta has a smile on her face while Josh moves back to his planter. "You think she doesn't want **you** alpha? After everything you have put her through?" Greta has her hands on her hips and that stance makes **me** nervous. I stand my ground, but every nerve is trembling inside. I'm about to get my ass handed to me and she isn't one for being gentle.

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Chapter 109

"What have I put her through?" This is a dumb question, but I need to buy time. She knows something I don't and that is not a good thing. I need her talking.

"She is a prisoner in her own house and yet she rises above it every day, smiling and showing kindness to the omegas working in her home. She's an athlete, a warrior, but she isn't allowed to train with the rest of us, so she does the best she can in the packhouse gym, alone. You took away the only forms of communication she had for her friends and family back home, but instead of trying to sneak around she asked us to help her get messages to your sister and her brother AND make them sound like everything was fine. When Robin finally gave her a phone, she still lies to them so they won't worry."

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"How does that make her a good mate?" I cross my arms over my chest. It just sounds like she's adapting to her surroundings. "And why would she need to lie? She has everything she could ever need. She can buy anything she wants without question. The best cooks and cleaning omegas are at her disposal. She has the best of everything.

"From what I have been told she doesn't spend time with or talk to anyone. The warriors think you may have threatened her in some way."

"WHAT?! I would never do that to any woman, even the ones I don't like."

"We know that, but not everyone does. She steers clear of any males, one male in particular she avoids like the plague. One she should be the closest with other than you. Bennet thinks you might have hurt her out of jealousy and that's why she doesn't talk to him. He's afraid to go near her. He thinks she's afraid... of you. They are both hurting from the separation and it shows."

"That's the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. Bennet knows me better than that. Why wouldn't he just ask? He's been blocking me for weeks."

"You barely spend any time at home and don't talk to either of them when you are. You are the only one who can squash the rumors."

"Oh, so there's rumors now?"

"Alpha," The word comes out as a quiet breath. Greta looks at me with a 'seriously' look. "Warriors are worse gossips than the teenagers. Your Luna talks to no one, unless she has to. She's not allowed to leave the packhouse without a guard and she believes that she's an inconvenience so she rarely asks to leave. They think you've figured out how to alpha command your Luna." Her tone is going from exasperated to hostile quickly as she takes a menacing step towards me and points. "I saw bruising on her stomach myself the other day, I know others have probably seen them too. Especially if she doesn't realize they're there and she wears a cropped shirt. She doesn't spar anymore and it's not in a place that can be easily done to herself. You do the math. If no one is laying a hand on her, then she is putting up with your infidelity and I don't see any bruises on you. I would say her track record for being a good and loyal mate is better than yours right now. She may not even know what is happening, or maybe she does and is afraid to ask for help."

I can feel the blood drain out of my face, Bennet basically said the same thing last night. But I recover quickly." She doesn't have a wolf! That can't be possible." I'm close to shouting. It can't be my fault. She doesn't have a wolf so it doesn't work like that right? I can't feel her and she can't feel me.

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Greta takes her power stance again. "Should I have her test the theory? Tell her she can sleep with any male she wants and see if bruises show up on *you* or if it causes you pain."

"NO! Absolutely not!" Now my wolf is crawling to get out of my skin.

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"Then go home and stop acting like a chickenshit. Everything here is ready. Claude and his little packs of rogue scouts can be handled by any of us. We'll let you know if we need you."

Her voice **goes** softer, but no less stern. I'm going to say it and I don't care how mad you get. I know you are afraid of the mate bond, but this

bullsh*t is affecting the whole pack. I don't think she would be unfaithful, but right now you are basically setting yourself up for failure. I'm surprised she's lasted this long."

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Chapter 110

"I second the motion." Josh throws over his shoulder.

I scrub my hands over my face and through my hair. "I hate you both sometimes."

"Would it make you feel better to know that she's hanging with the pups right now and should be having dinner with your mom in the next couple of hours."

"My mother? Since when does she have dinner with my mom?"

"A few weeks, but you would know that if you spent any significant amount of time at home." Greta rolls her eyes at me and now I am panicking. There is no telling what my mom has said to her. Weeks?! At least I know why Greta's being so bold, my mom put her up to it.

"Hey, bossman?"

"I am out of f*cks to give, Josh. What?" I growl, looking over my shoulder.

"Christmas is next week. Have you thought of what you are going to get your mate?"

Apparently, I do have more f*cks to give. I sigh. "No, Robin usually handles all of that for me."

"Kennedy is obviously not a 'stuff' type of person. Think about that. You won't be able to buy anything that she wants. And she'll know if Robin chose it." I hate it when he's more observant than I am.

"Then what do you suggest?"

"If you're not ready to be her mate or give her her freedom, then maybe give her gamma back." His eyes meet mine and it isn't a suggestion.

He and I are the closest in personality and he was there the night my mother was taken and my father was attacked. We all still have scars, some on the outside, some in. We were just kids and those kinds of traumas bond people. He knows me better than most and as much as I am fighting this mate bond, we both know I can't give her up either. I just nod, take a deep breath and throw him the keys to the SUV we drove here, then I shift and take off towards Kennedy.

It takes about thirty minutes to get to where she's sitting, watching the pups play. Obviously, she goes out into the pack, maybe Greta was wrong about her just staying in the packhouse. We hold back just watching for a moment. She's the magnet to my personal compass. I a

m drawn

to her so strongly as she is, I can't imagine what it would feel like if she had a wolf. I wouldn't be able to leave her side. Greta is right, her personality has always been large, even just sitting or standing. But, now she seems to be making herself as small as possible, hugging her knees to her chest as best she can in her puffy coat. She's smiling at the kids, but it doesn't reach her eyes, not like the first day I saw her with them. I notice the distance between her and the pups too. They are normally all over her, vying for attention, but now she's alone just observing.

I take stock of her team. Bennet notices me, but doesn't do more than lift an eyebrow at me from his post leaning on a tree behind her. The other four are stationed at each corner of the field. They look like they could be watching the game.

I debate shifting back and trying to talk, but then I remember the night at Jeremiah's. She likes me in my wolf's form. She says it's because I can't talk back, but I think he's a good buffer between us. He knows he wants her and she can feel that sureness. She has never once shown that she is afraid of me or him, but something about my wolf settles her, and Josh has a point, I have to give her something if I am going to keep her. Especially if Bennet and Greta are right and any bruising or pain has been caused by me.

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My wolf slowly walks up beside her and sits. She makes no indication that she notices and doesn't turn toward us, but she does lean in closer. Not putting any weight against his flank, but close enough that we can feel his fur brush her arm and side. Now I just need to get her to sit with me like she is in my human form.