

Letters Sent To Eternity

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Chapter 201

“We can’t, there are blockers.”

“What do you mean blockers?” Kennedy looks at me, but I don’t know what was used either. I know I can force a suppression on a mindlink, but it takes concentration and a lot of energy to make that command because it isn’t natural for us.

“Something in the food or water. Please, I need to see her. I need to know that she is safe.” He sounds close to tears. I probably would be the same if it was Ken so I loosen my grip a little. I don’t trust him, but I can sympathize with his emotions.

“I can’t do that yet.” She holds her palms out as his breathing increases. “I will make sure you and the other mate pair will be reunited first. We have a job to do to make sure our pack is safe. Can you understand that? I give you my word as a Luna, the expecting mates are safe. We need to talk to Finn and we need Amy and her father. Can you help us with that? The faster we get our questions answered the faster you can be with your mate.”

Damn, she is good. I would not have asked this over emotional wolf for help, but the second she put a job in his path, his whole demeanor changed. This is for him and his mate, for the pack that they have made. He is a warrior and built to protect and take care of his pack. My mate has somehow claimed him, he is one of ours now, I can feel his loyalty radiating off of him.

I slowly let him go and step around to stand next to Kennedy. “Go get Finn and bring him to us. Is Amy hiding among your group?”

“I believe she is alpha, but she has not been a priority. I will be back with Finn.”

“Take Greta with you.” Kennedy throws out as he turns to leave.

“Am I still under suspicion, Luna?” He’s offended.

“No, but everyone else is, and we need you safe. Besides, Greta can link a healer for you to check in with your mate on your way. I assume you would like an update sooner rather than later.” She raises an eyebrow.

A small smile and a head nod. “Yes Luna.”

Greta appears out of the shadows and follows him.

I pull Kennedy into me for a hug and bury my nose in her neck. “You are f*cking incredible. What would I do without you?”

She runs her nose up and down the side of my neck causing my body to explode in goosebumps. “Take the long way to get to the solution.” She giggles. “I want to get this over with and it never hurts to ask for help.”

It feels like forever, but it has probably only been about ten minutes since Calvin and Greta went to get Finn.

“You need to stop fidgeting.” Warm tingles run up my arms and I look down at Kennedy studying my hands in

hers.

“I’m not used to waiting around patiently. It doesn’t feel right.” I squeeze her fingers a little

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She laughs. “I figured as much. You typically storm in, take everyone hostage and interrogate them one at a time.”

“Mmm” It sounds stupid when she says it like that. “We don’t take everyone hostage.”

“How do you decide who to take and who to set free?” She lifts an eyebrow at me.

“Fine, we take everyone, but I can sense the combative ones. I typically find our culprit within the first two or three people we talk to.” I shrug. “It works for me.”

“Good to know. Here comes Finn.”

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Chapter 202

106 – Ryker

Calvin is walking up with Finn in silver cuffs. His wrists are red from the silver, but aren’t raw and bloody like he has been fighting them. It’s what most wolves do. What they don’t seem to understand is that the cuffs are designed to withstand even me. No one can break free from them.

Finn knows what he is here for and he has accepted that fate. He thinks he is going to die here today. What he doesn’t know is that Alpha and I have searched through his and his wolf’s mind. He truly thought he was doing what was asked of him as the best course of action for these pack members. He now understands he wasn’t made to be the leader because he was the best choice of the options, but because he is expendable. Amy, his mate doesn’t want him, b

because of his rank and current status of being a rogue. No one deserves to suffer the way he has, the way my mate did at my hands. I won't let it happen again.

"Gather round!" I call out to the group of rogues trying and failing to stay in the background but close enough to hear what is going on. I pull Kennedy to me and place her in front of my left leg. **It's a sign of peace** since this group seems to trust her. It places her between them and me. My arm is locked around her waist ready to pull her back to safety if needed though. I'm not stupid. She doesn't flinch or question the position, just rests her arms on mine casually.

Once everyone is settled and I have their full attention we begin. The sky is now a perfect shade of bright oranges and pinks. The practice arena's drab grey stone and dirt floor are warm and inviting. It feels almost symbolic, a new day, new beginning. Maybe it will be for some of these wolves.

"Finn, you have been brought forward to give testimony on the attacks of Dark Moon pack and the abduction of our Luna." My voice is magnified in the circular space. "Who was involved in the planning of the attack on the Luna and her five warriors back in the Fall?"

"The commander gave us our final plan, Amy gave us our insight to the patrol schedule, and the warriors who attacked Alpha."

"And the attack on the little girl this spring?"

"Also the commander and Amy. They know of the Luna's attachment to the girl."

"How was that accomplished?" I don't need to know, but Kennedy does. She needs this closure for her and Emily.

"The opportunity was found while the girl was separated from her friends." I feel Kennedy tense her fingers into my arm, but she shows no other signs of distress. "Three of our warriors, one being Dirk," He looks from Kennedy to me and back again. "Corralled her into running towards the wolfsbane grove. The goal was to capture her, but she attempted to get away by climbing the tree at the edge of the ravine. The branch broke and she fell. I watched from the other side of the gorge. We thought there was no way she would survive that fall." He takes a shaky breath. "I would have looked for her if I thought she had any chance of survival."

"Why doesn't she remember being chased?" Kennedy asks. "She said nothing of being chased when we asked."

"We have learned over the last year how to be stealthy, Luna. Sometimes, the things you can't see are more scary

than the ones you can."

“And the attack yesterday?” I have to move this conversation along, we need Amy and her dad. I need confirmation.

It was a three-fold attack. The two groups of warriors were to divide your and the fire was to pull everyone else including the Luna closer to our current camp. This also left your packhouse vulnerable, or so we thought.”

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lpha and Luna and your young warriors are not as helpless as we thought.” Finn smiles and if I didn’t know better, that was what he wanted his warriors to think. To underestimate the people Amy and her **dad** thought would be easy to pick off. Copyright © **2024** Miss L. Writes and Ember Mantel Productions

“You paid attention to the work Kennedy was doing with the pups.” It’s a statement not a question.

“Yes Alpha. I have suspected not everything is as it was presented for a while now. When you spend as much time watching and analyzing from a distance, you tend to pick up a few things.”

“I take it you did not share all of your findings.”

“No, I did not Alpha.”

“You set up your warriors to fail?” A murmur **of** grumbling ripples through the mostly still crowd.

“I have watched how you operate for far longer than I care to admit. Warrior to warrior, I can respect the choices you have made from the time I started watching your pack up until now. I knew that you and your fighters would not kill blindly. As long as they went peacefully if subdued, they would not be harmed. That is what I instructed all of our fighters to do. If surrounded, or at the mercy of your warriors to surrender and go peacefully so this can end.”

“YOU SABBOTAGGING SON OF A B*TCH!” Amy flies out of the crowd, hair cut short, grubby clothes camouflaging her. The stench wafting off of her has played a part in her concealment.

Kennedy moves to get in between Finn and Amy, but I hold her back and let Bennet block her path with a solid right hook to the face. Josh joins him then restraining her while Danny is locking her in cuffs. She is thrashing and spitting every combination of profanities she can.

Well we were able to draw her emotional ass out, but I have a feeling her father is going to be more difficult. He has gone this long in hiding, but I need him, or her really, to out him.

“ENOUGH!” I shout and let my aura flow this time. Everyone who isn’t my team stands with their heads bowed in submission, even Amy. Showing me whatever alpha blood she has is fairly weak.

“Amy, I will give you once chance to explain yourself. You came into my pack three years ago looking for refuge. You were given a place to stay, food to eat and a job within my pack. Was any of your story true?” I let my aura out in full force this time. I have always shied away from letting it out full force outside of highly aggressive warriors. I have never wanted to be like the alphas they are running from, but in this instance, I have to agree with my mate. Amy is long overdue to be put in her place. It’s the final way for me to show Kennedy my loyalty to

her and our matebond.

Amy winces and all her muscles tense at trying to fight my aura. I just wait. She will give in soon enough, they all

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“Mmm...urgh...” She pants in pain. Kennedy is holding my arm so tight, I will have nail marks.

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“No other wolf here feels her pain, Lamb. It’s okay.” I try to soothe my anxious mate.

She takes a slow breath in, lets it out, tries to release her grip, but can’t seem to. “It’s not Amy that I am worried about. It’s Finn. I think he can feel her pain. Or she might be giving it to him somehow. Is that possible? Look **at** his face.”

I shift my focus and sure enough, Finn looks worse off than she does. That b*tch is using her matebond to fight my command. I didn’t even consider him.

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1. y. “I f*cking hate you, you sl*t! Ryker do you know she has slept with all of your warriors? Did you know that? While you were busy working for your pack and taking care of her she was taking each of them to bed. Kill them all, Ryker, and take me as your Luna like we planned. We could be so powerful together.”

Her eyes are wide and red rimmed. She is grasping at straws. Neither Kennedy or I take the bait, but it does spark

a reaction.

Growls can be heard around the arena. It's a low rumble at first and it grows as it spreads through the rogues here. She insulted every single one of my wolves in the vicinity and then I insulted the rogue pack by trying to

claim me instead of Finn.

"I rejected you as my mate." Finn sobs out.

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Amy screams again. "Nnnnoooo! I won't let you. Not until Ryker **accepts** me. **I will** not be **mateless.**"

Rejecti

"You already are." Kennedy growls out and lets her aura flare. "**Accept. His. Rejection.**" For **the** first time **since this** whole exchange began, Kennedy steps out of my arms and I don't hesitate to release her. I'm **not** afraid for her, **no** one here can hurt her, not even Amy.

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Chapter 205

She steps so close to Amy, their noses almost brush. She has about an inch in height, but her confidence makes her seem so much larger. If I didn't have the strength of my alpha hearing I would have missed their exchange.

"Accept the rejection. Accept your fate. Tell us where your father is and it all ends now." Another blast of her aura. It's a fine pulse, but it doesn't feel painful to me and I don't see any of her person in pain, Amy cringes though. Somehow she can cast her aura differently to different people. What?

"No." A fake sob. "I can't, he'll kill me."

"He won't get the chance. Tell us."

"You have to promise."

"Promise what?"

"Give me your word, you won't let him kill me. Make it binding." Amy's fake tears dry quickly. She thinks she has my Luna.

“You have my word as a Luna, that your father won’t get the chance to kill you, if you give up his correct and exact location. And accept Finn’s rejection.” Kennedy lifts an eyebrow. I silently applaud her word choice.

“He’s been staying in no man’s land. We have a small house. He wouldn’t stay in the camp with us, the bougie

bastard.”

“Go! Check it out. Be careful, it’s more than likely a trap or a way to signal we are on to them.” I tell five of our best warriors who can get away discreetly.

“And the rejection?”

“Fine.” She huffs like it’s an inconvenience. “Finn, I accept your rejection. Ah!” She goes slack in the arms of the guards holding her.

I have been told the willful breaking of the bond is more painful than death. I also notice that Finn is not having the same pain. Is it acceptance of the situation or something else?

Panting, Amy rights herself. “Now what?” She growls at Kennedy.

“Are you alright? Recovered from the bond break.” Not the question I would be asking, but okay.

“Yep. I only want one bond. You have made the biggest mistake letting me live and you can’t do a damn thing about it.”

In a flash Kennedy has her hand on Amy’s throat, forcing her to her knees. My warriors stand at the ready waiting

for their Luna.

“You thought I was going to let you live? After everything you have done, you don’t deserve to die with the audience you have now.”

Amy wraps both hands around Kennedy’s wrist trying and failing to pull her off. “You...you can’t you promised. You can’t let me die.” cough. “You will die too.” Amy gives an evil smile, she still thinks she’s won.

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I walk up behind Kennedy and wrap both arms around her waist. Not to stop her but to give her support. This will be her first kiss that isn’t in self defense. It does something to you and I want her to know I stand with her no

matter what.

“You got this baby.” I whisper in her ear and kiss her temple.

“You’ll let your mate die just to get rid of me?! Ha! some alpha you are.” She chokes as Kennedy squeezes her

throat a little more.

“The Luna only agreed to not let your father kill you. She said nothing about anyone else.”

“We found him Alpha, but he is putting up a good fight. There are a couple warriors here to protect him.”

“Take him down. Now!”

“She gave us good information, Lamb. Let’s get this over with. May I?”

A roar rips through the arena followed by screams and yells coming from every direction.

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Chapter 206

107 – Kennedy

I hold onto Amy as she tries to get out of my grasp. I don’t break eye contact with her as I address my mate. “Go, Ryker. I have her. Stop him. He won’t come for her.” I whisper. This is something I am sure of and something she never thought of based on the look on her face. He kisses the side of my head.

“I won’t be far, Lamb. Call if you need me.” I shove his chest as another roar comes from the other side of the arena. It is chaos right now.

“Urm,” She tries to get out of my grasp again, but I dig my nails in and find my aura is pressing down on her like hands on her shoulders. She is too weak for me. “He...will...He will come and save me.” She grunts.

“If he was going to come for you, why are you still at my mercy? You did not get Ryker as a mate, you could not gain control of this pack or the rogue pack that you brought with you. You also sold out his hiding place. You are not worth his effort anymore.”

She spits in my face. “Bullshit. He will come for me and kill you and I will have Ryker and give him a real heir. You won’t even be a memory.”

Rage flares in me. I don’t know if it is just my anger or the collective anger of the fight going on around me. I can feel it in every fiber of my being, but I know that our warriors are handling it. I can see the fight out of focus in my peripherals. Amy and I are in our own little bubble, but I will not let her say one more thing about taking Ryker, claiming Ryker, having Ryker’s kids.

“My mate’s name will never fall from your lips again. You will never have him. I am his first and his last mate chosen by the Goddess. She didn’t find you worthy of him.”

That was enough for her to really try and fight me. She presses into my hand as she reaches forward. “I f*cking hate you!” She screams, flailing and swiping at anything she can. “Die you human b*tch.” She extends her claws as she aims for my face.

“Reject...Finn you selfish asshole.” grunt against her swings. I’m getting tired holding my aura on her. That would have been good to know. “I will even let you fight me if you do.” I finally push her off of me. I actually expect her to run and hide like before, but she is considering my words. “Accept his rejection. No one deserves to be led on by their mate. No matter what happens, you don’t want to be with him so let him go.”

“Argh!” She stomps her foot like a toddler. “FINE! FINN, I ACCEPT YOUR REJECTION!”

I hear a roar of pain from somewhere behind me, but I don’t have a chance to check on him as she runs at me.

I use one of Greta’s famous moves and follow her momentum as I grab her shirt, plant my foot in her stomach and roll back throwing her over my head. I roll to the side to avoid any hits from behind. I have to use my strength in avoidance. That is going to be my best bet. I am tired from holding her, but she is tired from resisting my aura. That doesn’t stop her wolf from being statistically stronger than me. A punch flies by my right cheek narrowly missing me. I swing blindly in the direction it came from. I make contact and it hurts my hand but the ‘omph’ I got from her tells me it’s worth it.

Punch after punch, kick after kick, we are tangled together in a frenzy of arms and legs, hair and teeth. Yes, I bit

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25 Bonus

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the b*tch, she’d do the same if I gave her the chance. I get behind her, wrap her in a headlock and we fall back and she drops her whole bodyweight on me. I don’t let go, I can’t. My bicep wraps tighter, legs locking **around** her waist. I am in control, I will not let her go now. Finn can’t feel her die, he won’t be forced to feel the **impact of the** bond breaking from her death.

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Chapter **207**

She ends now. She has been at the heart of so many of my past traumas, so many issues with Ryker, my parents, everything. She's still trying to elbow me, but it's fading, she's fading. I pull her tighter to me, locking my arm deeper into her throat. She is scratching at my forearm now.

Mom and Dad, this is for you. For everything you have missed, for everything you will miss in the future. I love you. I miss you. I flex my arms and legs tighter. I close my eyes and just will her to go back to the Goddess. Copyright 2024 Miss L Writes and Ember Mantel Productions

"Baby, let her go. She's gone, you did good. It's over." I look up into Ryker's emerald green eyes.

I just stare. He is so beautiful. How in the world did I end up with him? There is no reason we should be together, and yet there is no where I would rather be.

"You keep staring at me like that, our pack is going to get a public display of our first pup being conceived." He growls in my ear. I gasp in as a weight lifts off of my chest and he pulls me close.

"I love you." I bury my face in his neck and grip at his skin, we can't be close enough right now. I feel the tingles vibrating all over my body, even through my clothes. "Do you hate me?" I sob.

He pulls back. "What are you talking about? I could never hate you."

"I killed one of your pack members. Do you hate me?"

He rubs the dirt and sweat soaked hair out of my face and gets so close our noses touch. "I could never hate you and she wasn't one of our pack members. She came here for personal gain, not to get better or help the pack get better. You did what a Luna needed to do to protect her pack. I will never hate you for deciding to protect our pack."

"Where's Claude? Where is everyone?" I look around, just now noticing the lack of noise.

He huffs a laugh. "You were a little busy with Amy, but we got Claude and all of the guys who were following his

lead."

"What do you mean 'got'? Will we have another trial?"

"No Lamb, it is over. He's gone too. They are all gone. We took no prisoners this time. Those who were with us fought with us, those who weren't died."

At those words, the damn breaks. I am a mess. In my head I know it's ridiculous, but I can't stop it either. The person who killed my parents and caused all of that pain, the person who tried

to get in between Ryker and I, the people responsible for so much damage and turmoil to our pack members, who almost took Emily from us. They are finally gone and I am responsible for that, or part of it. I don't know how to feel. It's too much.

"Let's get you home and into a bath. We have a lot to talk about and I think we both need some sleep." Ryker lifts me as the sun makes its full appearance over the treeline.

It has to be late morning now. It seems like years since we had the conversation about Claude being Amy's dad in my office.

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In the truck, I slide into the center of the bench seat, and tuck myself into Ryker's side, resting on his shoulder as his arm is draped across my legs. The walk up to our room is hazy at best. I am just going through the motions. I'm not sure if the fatigue is from the fight, the fact that I took a life or everything all rolled into one. We bath and change and Ryker carries me to bed.

"Sleep, Lamb." Ryker coos to me, holding me close.

When I wake up. The light outside has to be early evening and my first thought is that my sleep schedule is going to be all messed up. The second is, I'm alone.

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Chapter 208

108 – Kennedy

I look around even though I can smell Ryker isn't near me. His scent is on the pillow, but it is faint. I don't think he stayed long after I fell asleep. I get up slowly, my body is so sore even my hair hurts.

Slowly, one painful step at a time I head into the shower again, hoping the hot spray will unlock my rigid muscles. I take my time, it's a strange feeling, but I don't have any motivation to do anything right now. I know that the rogues who sided with us last night are being taken care of and anyone who went against us either died or is in a cell somewhere.

I should check in on everyone who was affected by the fire, but I know that is being handled too. **I can** just feel it, the pack is such a well oiled machine that now the tasks have been set up and delegated, I am not needed. It's almost like being back to square one, like when I first got here, but the difference is now I can feel the pack buzzing like a current under my skin. That's new since yesterday.

I drag my hands up and down my arms slowly reveling in the feeling as the hot water melts my aching body. **If I** really concentrate on a pack member, like Emily, I can even get an idea of where she is in the pack. I know Bennet is downstairs in the kitchen, probably waiting for me. Ryker is out at the ar

ena with Josh and Danny. Greta is running a patrol south of me. Does this mean that the pack has accepted me? I have to smile at the thought and it gives me a boost of energy.

I wash, ignoring the different bruises littered everywhere that formed overnight from my time with Amy. Every single one was worth it. I comb conditioner through my tangled mess of hair. If the pack has now accepted me I want to look the part. I think of Sarah and how, even casual, she looks like a Luna or someone in charge. Same with Robin.

Towel-drying off, I think about what I can get started on. What is there that I can do to keep proving I am worthy of this pack? Then I remember all of the books Ryker and Josh brought me from Claude. I would love to find an instance of a human Luna who survived being marked. I understand Ryker's unease now after hearing Finn's cry of pain when Amy accepted his rejection. That was awful and she didn't even bat an eye. I guess feeling your mate die is supposed to be ten times worse. No one should have to feel that, ever. I need to learn as much as I can about mates and being mated. I regret not paying as much attention in school.

I slip on a pair of leggings and a tank top and, just because I can't help myself, one of Ryker's sweatshirts. I don't know why he even owns these, he rarely wears a jacket or anything long sleeved outside of a suit, but I am so glad he has these for me to choose from. His rosemary and mint scent engulfs me and any tension that I had left in my body disappears.

I pull my long blonde hair up into a ponytail. I am really due for a haircut. It seems to have grown a ton recently. The ends of my hair almost touch my waist, even tied up. I slip on a pair of comfy flats and head out. I take the back stairway so I can grab Bennet on my way. He will be helpful for this and I am sure he is tired of me making his job harder by avoiding him.

"Hey Bennet, Cindy!"

"Hello Luna! How are you feeling?" Cindy asks, coming over with a plate already made up for me.

"Better, but sore. I don't know how you guys fight like that all the time. I mean, I train with you and all the

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warriors and now I know for a fact you are all being nice to me." I giggle at Bennet's face. "Bennet, I am okay. If I wasn't,

do you think Ryker would be out at the arena working?"

He tilts his head, thinking through his answer. "How do you know he's at the arena?"

“I can feel it?” I know it comes out like a question, but it kind of is. I’m not sure what to do with my newfound

senses.

“Feel it?”

“Yeah, it’s kinda weird. Walk with me, I’ll tell you about it. I have another project I want to work on too. Thank you Cindy.” She nods her head at me as I step past.

“You’re the boss.” The stool squeaks as he slides out from the island.

“Don’t let Ryker hear you say that.” I laugh, walking quickly to my office.

“He will always be the ‘bossman.’ That does not, however, make him ‘the boss.’ I learned that from Luna Sarah.” He laughs back at me. “Tell me about this weird feeling you now have that tells you the GPS location of your mate.”

“It’s actually with all **of** you.”

“Huh?”

I motion him to his usual chair in my office and I sit on the little couch where we left most of the books yesterday. I set my plate on one of the open books and pick through the chips.

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Chapter 209

“I can feel where all of you are. I guess that’s the best way to explain it. I want to talk to Sarah and see if it’s maybe a Luna thing. But, first I really want to see **if** there is anything here that can help us with our marking problem. After the whole thing with Amy and Finn, I kind of get Ryker’s reservation about marking me without knowing what will happen. We need just one example of a human being marked as a Luna. There **are** plenty of examples of human mates being marked safely, but being a Luna, and Ryker’s Luna at that, is what is scaring him. Copyright © 2024 Miss L Writes and Ember Mantel Productions

“I can help with that research. There has to be something here. There’s no way we have gone this long without someone having a human Luna. If humans weren’t supposed to be a part of our world the Goddess wouldn’t mate us together. Bossman just needs the reassurance that he won’t fatally harm you. So where is Danny?”

I roll my eyes. “He’s still at the arena with Ryker and Josh, but they aren’t together. I’m sure they are all working on different things.”

“How do I know you aren’t messing with me and they aren’t just feeding you info through the link?”

“First,

that seems like an epic waste of time and second, if I really wanted to mess with you, do you think I would waste the opportunity on something like this?”

“Fair point.” He reaches for a book and starts skimming. “Is there anything else we are looking for or just an example of a human being marked as a Luna?”

“I will take anything that you think would help convince Ryker to mark me. It’s becoming a need for me, to be marked I mean. It’s so distracting. I’m just lucky classes are over and I’m not trying to study right now. I think it will help him too. It’s something he and his wolf both need to feel complete.”

“Let’s get to this.”

We are a few hours into our research when Sarah comes barging in. “Dinner is ready my dears.”

“We really need to get through this, though.” I kind of whine at her.

“I have left you alone for long enough. **If** you haven’t found anything by now, you can pick it back up in the morning.” She walks closer to me when I am clearly not moving fast enough for her. “Let’s go missy, we have food to eat and you need to see you mate.”

That has my attention. I pop up out of my chair. “What’s wrong with him?!” I ask moving to the door.

“Nothing’s wrong, you just need to see him. Both of you have done nothing but work while awake for the last few days and seeing as how you now have the energy to move your cute little butt, let’s go.” She smiles at me and

winks at Bennet.

“Noted.” I hear Bennet grumble under his breath. What’s noted? I wonder as she ushers us out.

I move to turn left toward the kitchen but a hand stops my shoulder. “This way sweetheart, we need to change, we have a few guests tonight.”

“Wait. What?” I’m a little scared now. “What do you mean guests?”

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“Nothing crazy, but we do have guests. It’s all a bit last minute. Don’t worry, I have taken **care** of everything. I have your outfit over here. She points to the bathroom we have on the main floor and now I am suspicious. This woman does not do ‘last minute.’

“Sarah...”

“Pish. Just go with it. I have you all set. Bennet give us ten minutes please.”

“Yes ma’am.” He stops at the door to the bathroom as I am shoved in.”

“Traitor.” I call out in the mind link.

“Am I really though? You’re just changing clothes, Boss Lady. It’s fine.”

“The traitor part is I think you knew this was coming and didn’t warn me.”

“I found out only slightly sooner than you did, and again, you are just changing your clothes.”

“Bennet. I am in a full length dress. Try again.”

“I plead the fifth, Luna.”

“Oh! It’s ‘Luna’ now? You will pay for this Gamma.” I smile to myself.

It’s really not that bad. The dress is beautiful in a shade of blue very close to my eye color. It’s a grecian cut with pleats of soft fabric draped over me and a thin gold braided belt around my true waist making my long legs seem even longer. Strappy gold heels and delicate gold bracelets and earrings finish the look. She leaves my hair in a high ponytail, which strikes me as odd.

“Perfect! I love that you can wear almost anything because we are right at our ten minutes. Let’s go.”

She starts to shove me towards the door. “Okay, okay, I’m going! Goodness you’re bossy to day.” I giggle at her again.

“I am bossy everyday. You just happen to be my focus right now.” We both laugh as we exit and I am met with Bennet in a black suit and tie.

“Now I don’t trust either of you.” I grumble.

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am accosted into a hug with a squeal and an “I’ve missed you so much!” Ryana’s floral scent is calming and energizing all at the same time and I forgot how much I enjoy it. I hug her tight, or at least try to. My arms can’t get around her at all.

I push her back to get a good look. “RAYNA!!! Oh Goddess! Are you serious?!?!” We both squeal as I rub her very pronounced belly.

“I know! They take up so much space, but I love them already.”

“Wait, them?”

“Jeremiah does not mess around. We got two for the price of one!” She giggles. “Now, the fun part will come when you two start having kids. Is the twin thing really a thing for you two?” She points to me and then next to her at Jeremiah.

“JER!” I jump at him and he catches me easily. I bury my face in his neck and I am home instantly. His effect on me is so different from Ryker, and yet so similar. “I have missed you so much. What are you guys doing here? I mean don’t get me wrong I am so excited to see you, but should you really be traveling right now?” I look at Rayna worried about her being stressed with the long travel.

“I was cleared to come, considering it’s a special occasion...”

“And we have never once spent a birthday apart. I wasn’t about to start now.”

I cover my mouth. With everything going on and not being with Jer and the guys, I haven’t even thought about my birthday at all. I didn’t even realize it was coming up, let alone today. I look at Ryker. He just gives me that shy smile, the one just for me. He did this for me. He knows how important this day with Jer is and he made it happen with everything else we have had to worry about.