

Letters Sent To Eternity

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ore of a rhetorical question that's less of a question and more direction." He laughs and I roll my eyes, choosing to ignore him and focus on where he is taking me.

The head of the room has a long table decorated with a white linen tablecloth and covered in blue flowers with a ton of greenery. The center of the table has an old tiered candelabra with blue candles matching my dress. I can see that Sarah was a part of this decorating scheme. Just in front of the candelabra is a golden goblet that looks old and really important with jewels and engravings along the top edge and the base. There is also a gold knife with a handle that matches the goblet.

"Ryker..." I gasp. He doesn't slow our pace as I try to pull him to a stop. He walks me straight to the table and positions me in front of him.

"This is so long overdue that it should be punishable, but I want to make sure that you fully understand my hesitation was from the fear of losing you, nothing more. I had to know I wasn't going to cause you any more pain than I already have."

"Ryker..." I whisper, trying again.

"You are my mate and my Luna and you have done nothing but make this pack better since the day you stepped foot here. I know you are already a part of this pack, but you were unconscious the last time." He smiles a sad smile this time at the memory. "I would like to give you the opportunity to accept us the way we have accepted you and I would like to mark you as our Luna. What do you say?"

"I still don't know if I am good enough to be the Luna of everything you have built, Ryker. I am just a human. I am fragile, easily hurt and taken, used as bait to get to you. I don't know if that is what is best for the pack." The tears are really loading up behind my eyes.

Ryker cups my cheeks and uses the pads of his thumbs to gently wipe them away as they spill over. "I think they would disagree, Kennedy." He turns my head and the room is full. Wall to wall, people are everywhere. I can see all the shopkeepers that Bennet and I visit regularly and the pups I see every week end. Finn and several of his rogues are here too. I look back at Ryker, the question in my eyes. "That is a whole other discussion. Right now we

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are talking about you and your role as our Luna." He raises his voice for everyone now. "The first time you were called on to protect this pack was just a few short days ago and again last night you confronted one of our biggest threats. So

meone within our protection chose to betray us and you took her on single handedly and returned her to the Goddess for her punishment with no additional weapons or enhancements. You love and care for this pack like your own. We would not want any other Luna in your place.”

There is a murmur around the room. “Ryker, are you sure?” I don’t know why I am still questioning his intentions. He has proven that I am his and he is mine, but sometimes old habits die hard I guess.

“Absolutely, you are what I want, who I want.”

“Did you bring me here thinking I wouldn’t say ‘no’ in front of everyone?”

“I didn’t think it would hurt my chances. And if you need more convincing, Emily is on standby to plead my case.’ That damn smile.

“Okay.”

“Okay?”

“Okay.” I say more confidently this time. Let’s get on with the ceremonies.

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Chapter 212

110 – Kennedy

An elder steps out from the crowd with a book so large and old only his werewolf strength is allowing him **to carry** it without an issue. He lays it on the table to the right of the knife and goblet then addresses the crowd.

“Our pack has a long history of strong Alphas and even stronger Lunas. The Moon Goddess created the first werewolves to be protectors of the natural world. She chose humans with qualities like loyalty, strength, and courage to embody these animalistic traits. The transformation to wolves symbolizes our connection to nature, our heightened senses a gift to keep the natural balance. She gifted us with our unique connection to each other- mates and packs—marking us as her children and reinforcing our loyalty to our kin. This bond originates from her desire to ensure we would never have to face life alone.”

He picks up the knife and holds it out to Ryker.

“Kennedy, we now formally invite you to become a member of the Dark Moon Pack. Alpha, if **you** please.”

Ryker makes a small cut in the palm of his hand, just above where it meets his wrist, then holds his hand out for mine and repeats the motion, careful not to drip blood on my dress. Ry

ker presses our hands together, lacing his fingers with mine. I still feel a surge of power even though he was able to make me pack while I was passed out. Maybe it's different this time because I chose it or because I am an active participant. Either way his smile is all I need as he kisses the back of my hand, but doesn't let it go as the elder continues.

"The Goddess chooses each wolf's mate, creating a spiritual and emotional bond that is both a blessing and a challenge. This connection is meant to be unbreakable and serves as a constant reminder of the balance she wishes to maintain among her creations. Alphas help us to maintain order and protect all pack members in times of need. Lunas are chosen to be the tie that binds us together. The one who makes us whole. The one who best compliments and balances out the Alpha." He gives Ryker a look which gets a small laugh in return. "Kennedy, you have proven time and time again that you will put this pack first above your own safety and health. Are you prepared to take the next step towards becoming our Luna?"

I look up into my favorite emerald green eyes. "I am." That smile will never, ever get old.

I do my best to not shake as Ryker brushes my hair off of my right shoulder and leans in. No matter my body's very natural reaction, I want this. I just need to find a way to turn off my fight or flight responses right now. My heart is hammering in my chest and I feel a little light headed. I grip Ryker's biceps as he pulls me close, supporting my back with one hand and my neck with the other.

"This should only hurt for a moment, Lamb." He kisses where my neck and shoulder meet then I gasp.

The razor sharp pain only lasts a millisecond before a rush of warmth and desire and electricity erupt over my whole body. I feel like I am vibrating from the inside out, but I don't want it to stop.

"I have waited a long time for you, Kennedy. I am glad you and Ryker got here in the end." A soft melodic voice

whispers to me.

"Who are you? Where is everyone else? What's going on?"

"They are still here with us, don't worry."

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"That doesn't explain who you are and what is going on."

"Do you recall your elder speaking of the Goddess choosing worthy humans to **protect** the natural earth and **all** who live on it?"

"Yes?"

“You have been chosen. In **fact** you were chosen a long time ago to become one with our kind in every way possible.”

“I am Ryker’s mate and I have accepted being the luna **of** this pack. What other ways **can** I be connected with your goddess?”

“Our goddess, Kennedy. She has chosen to gift me to you.” My heart rate picks up again, I know I am breathing very hard and Ryker must be freaking out right now, but I can’t even see him. All I see is black.

I can still feel though. Feel his arms on me and his body heat **so** close. I have **to focus** on that so I don’t freak out.

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Chapter 213

“Who are you?” I ask again.

“Have you not figured it out yet?” She giggles.

“No. Yes. Maybe. But it sounds stupid even in my own head.” I’m frustrated and I just want a straight answer.

“I am your wolf.”

“Seriously?!” I gasp. “Have you always been there? Just waiting and watching?” I feel a twinge **of** irritation and then I feel bad. I don’t even know her reasoning yet.

“I have been yours for a very long time, but I couldn’t connect with you until you were marked.”

“That was a big risk! It almost didn’t happen.”

“We knew Ryker would figure it out eventually. Speaking of, I should let you get back to him. He and Alpha need to get you outside. The first shift is not very pleasant, you will need their help.”

“Wait! Shift? What do you mean ‘shift?’”

“You’ll see. Tell Ryker.”

I blink a few times and realize I am not standing anymore.

“Hey, Kennedy. Talk to me, Lamb.” He sounds worried. I still can’t focus though.

“Dizzy.” I manage to get out and I hear a collection of sighs just as another bolt of electricity shoots through me. This one is not pleasurable at all. “Ryker.” I manage to whimper out. “Outside.”

“What? What’s wrong?”

“Take me...outside...please. Just you. Now!” I feel my muscles tense and my fingers dig into the back of his neck. I try to stifle a cry of pain.

“Kennedy, you have to talk to me, baby, please. What’s going on? I feel the sway of him running. “NO! Stay , just us, all of you stay inside. You too Bennet, Jeremiah. Stay put and keep them all there.” I hear him bark orders trying to keep the worry out of his voice. “I— am so sorry, baby, I didn’t mean to hurt you.” He coos as I smell the clean fresh air outside.

“I need...” I blow out a breath of air as another wave of pain hits. “I need you and Alpha.” I clench my teeth. “I need you to help me shift.” Another deep breath, another wave of pain. They are coming faster and faster, I can feel my muscles start to ripple and my joints are painful.

“What the hell do you mean help you shift?”

I look up at him from my cradled position. At least I get a couple seconds to explain. “The Goddess gave me a wolf and she wants out...right now. She said to tell you and have you and Alpha help me shift.”

“Oh sh*t! Really?”

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“Well, I’m not acting like this to get you alone.” I laugh and my skin ripples. “This **is** the weirdest thing I have **ever** felt in my whole life.” I’m getting better at breathing through the pain.

Ryker sets me down in front of him, places my hands on his waist and moves to take his jacket, tie **and** shirt off.

“What are you doing?”

“Trying not to tear through my clothes. The **first** shift is the hardest and it’s hard to tell when it will finish, so it is more than likely you are going to tear through this perfect dress. Which is a shame, because I was planning **on** tearing it off of you myself later.”

I smile. He’s trying to distract me with **s*x**, and it almost works. “Well if it’s going to get destroyed, you might as well have the honors.”

“I don’t want you to get cold if this takes a while.”

“I’m standing next to you and about to become my own personal furnace. It’s fine. Besides, I think I like your s*x talk as a distraction anyway. This is just motivation.”

“You sure? I thought you might want to save it.”

“I will have Robin do something fancy with an unruined swatch later. Tear it off!! Now!” My irritation flares out of nowhere.

Ryker leans in close, pressing our bodies tightly together. Everywhere our skin touches feels more calm. I need more of that. I wrap my arms around his neck and smash our lips together as I hear the unmistakable sound of fabric shedding and my whole body cools and calms like I was put in an ice bath. I didn't even realize I was overheating until now.

“I really, really, really want to f*ck you out here in the forest right now, but we need to get you through your shift.” I can hear Ryker's teeth grinding together as I trail kisses down his neck to his chest.

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Chapter 214

111 – Kennedy

I open my mouth to protest, but my wolf has other ideas apparently. Another wave of pain and nausea rolls over me and I curl into Ryker.

“Why does it hurt so bad? And why the hell is it so slow?” I cry into his bare chest taking a deep breath in, letting his scent act like a balm for the pain. As soon as the pain is gone my raging lust for my mate is back. What the f*ck is this all about. I'm giving myself emotional whiplash, but I can't seem to control it either. I scratch my **nails** down his chest and he growls again just before he pins my hands behind my back.

“I definitely like this side of you and I will throw you up against the nearest tree as soon as this is all over now that I know I can't hurt you all bets are off, but we...” He grunts as I rub my hips against his, “Need to get you through this shift.” He's panting now.

“What if this will speed things up?” I arch back so my boobs are on full display for him. I need him to touch me, kiss me, f*ck me, anything. I am wound so tight I think I might explode. “Please, it's helping, I promise.”

He grunts again before lifting me up and taking one of my nipples into his mouth roughly. I cry out, but the pain feels so good. I secure my feet behind his back and hands on his shoulder so he can use his own on me.

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“F*ck, Kennedy,” He switches to give attention to the other nipple. “You are so f*cking perfect.” He mumbles around his mouthful of my flesh. I start grinding my hips into his, feeling the steel rod pressed perfectly on my cl

*t.

"I need more, please Ryker, lay me down, I need you inside me. Now!" I am sweating and slippery and he is having a hard time holding me, but everything he is doing is keeping the pain away.

"Are you sure, Lamb?" He asks kneeling.

"Why do you keep asking me that?" I breathe out. "I am yours, to care for and to love and to f*ck stupid when I need you." He laughs as I pull him to me in another bruising kiss. "Now make good on your promise to not hold back." I look into his eyes, pleading for him to give me all of him right now.

He grunts loud and low just before slamming into me. His full body weight pressing me into the damp earth. I can already feel my climax buzzing low in my belly. I don't stand a chance of holding it back right now.

"You feel so amazing, I'm close, don't stop." I beg for him to keep up this unnatural pace. The flutters become stronger and as I feel the first wave of my orgasm shoot through me, I also feel a sharp pain in my lips, then taste blood. I open my mouth to scream out in pleasure and pain, but my body takes over and my mouth is on Ryker's neck. He cries out and I can feel him release into me. We both pant and pulse riding wave after never ending wave of the best climax of my life.

"Holy f*cking sh*t!" Ryker presses his forehead to mine. "What did you do to me?"

"I don't know but are you okay?" I ask, trying to get my breathing under control. "I think I bit you, but I'm not sure. I think I bit my own lip too, it's bleeding."

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He pulls back **to look at** me. Running his thumb over **my** lower lip. He looks concerned **for just a second than my** favorite smile **blazes** across his **face**.

"I think you marked me, baby. Alpha can **feel** her, your wolf. He can't talk to her **yet**, which is **strange**. But, **you** have never done anything the traditional way." He leans in and gives me a gentle kiss and tries to pull **out of me**,

but winces.

"Are you alright?" I reach for him, but he stops me.

"I seem to be stuck." He laughs. "Well, at this rate we should be expecting a **pup** sooner rather than later."

I giggle and he grunts again. "Oh! I'm sorry, does it hurt?"

"Nope. Not even a little bit. In fact if you keep giggling like that I might come again.

I laugh and move my hips slowly in a circle, I feel a challenge in his statement and every time I move, small little sparks of my orgasm flicker through me, the waves are not completely done. “Is this what it’s like to be in heat? I already can’t get enough of you.”

“Umm...That...uh...is a question...mmm...for my mom and sister...F*ck! Yes. Keep going baby, you’re **so** tight for

I can feel you squeezing me so good.”

me,

I dig my heels into his ass and press my hands into the dirt to try and leverage myself to be able to press harder into him. I am so sensitive, it all feels so good. The pressure starts to build again. These are so quick but explosive.

Ryker grabs my thighs and starts to hammer into me mumbling gibberish as he throws both of us over the edge again. Sweaty and disgusting from the forest floor, we curl up together out of breath, but completely satisfied.

“How much longer until she lets me shift?” I whisper as Ryker’s arms tighten around me.

“I’m not sure, but I know when pups shift for the first time it can take a while. I’m curious to know now why she had you mark and mate with me bore your shift. I actually have a lot of questions, but you seem to have scrambled my brain.”

I smile. “Do you think anyone is trying to find us?”

“Uh, no. I’m pretty sure the entire pack knows where we are and what we are up to. You are not quiet, Lamb. No one is going to bother us right now.” He kisses my cheek as I feel a wave of heat rush over me.

“Ryker. It’s happening again.” I take a deep breath.

“It’s okay, don’t fight her. She needs to teach your body how to change from one form to the next. It becomes muscle memory after a while, but the first couple times are rough because it’s new.”

I can feel my skin get itchy and prickly and my joints are starting to pop. I’m afraid, but I try to keep my focus on staying relaxed and giving her control. Soon more popping and aching, then my whole head feels like it’s in a vice and everything starts to vibrate. I push to my hands and knees shakily. My head twists side to side, more popping and snapping then a blinding pain and white light and I can’t do a thing.

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Chapter 215

Deep breath in. Deep breath out. I'm alive at least, In. Out. I smell dirt, but more. **It's** sweet with a note **of decay**. I smell mice, squirrels, rabbits and somehow I can smell how many and the difference between all **of** them. I can also smell Ryker and Alpha. They are here with me, and I can tell them apart too.

"Look around, Kennedy. See the world with me." My wolf says gently. What does that mean?

"Mmm" Just thinking about moving hurts.

"Lamb, how do you feel?" A nudge to my side sends a shock of tingles through me and I feel my skin ripple.

I finally open my eyes to see that I am looking at Alpha's deep red eyes, but he **isn't** nearly as tall as he usually is when I look at him. I can see his dark black fur does have silver tips that make it extra shiny. **It** is also shades of black and navy blue. He leans in rubbing the side of his muzzle on mine.

Mine?!? Oh sh*t! I have a muzzle! I shifted! I lean into him feeling our fur brushing together. I feel the pressure of his head wrapped around mine, pressing me close to him.

"Please talk to me, Kennedy. Are you alright? We are starting to freak out a little."

"I'm okay, I think." He blows out a breath that ripples my fur again. "Did I really shift? This is so weird and amazing all at the same time."

He chuckles. "Yeah you did and you did great. But we have been out here a really long time. Your brother and your gamma are losing their minds. I was n't going to try and explain anything to them while you were mid shift. We should show them your new party trick."

"I hardly think I am a party trick!" My wolf grumbles at him and he just laughs. She seems very formal. I wonder if that is how she always will be or if it's just because she hasn't had a human in nineteen years.

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"No you are perfect." Alpha rubs up to our side.

"What do we look like?!" I am so excited to meet my wolf. We need a mirror.

"We'll tell you while we walk." Alpha picks up our clothes and we start back towards the packhouse. I'm so excited that I don't even care that he is stalling.

I fall into step next to him, our shoulders brushing every time he steps forward with his left leg. I can't move away though, it's a magnetic pull between us. I need to touch him at all times. I just take in the forest around us. All of the colors are sharper and I see more shades. It's late no

w, but I have no trouble seeing everything around me. The dirt feels the same but different under our paws. Each grain of earth feels different under me. Everything is so distinct. I watch each paw take confident step after confident step. I can see that at least my legs are shades of

white and brown and red.

“Okay so what do we look like?” I finally ask again.

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“Beautiful, like always.”

“Ryker! Please tell me. You know I won’t be able to look once everyone else sees me like this. There are going to be so many more questions.”

I hear both Ryker and Alpha laugh together. They know I’m not wrong.

“You look amazing. I don’t know if I have ever seen a wolf with so many colors before. Mostly you look the way you smell to me.”

“What does that even mean?”

“Like warm honey. It’s a golden brown color, but there are blacks and reds mixed in along your back. Your muzzle is brown, but fades into black up to your ears. I think your belly is white, but I would have to have a chance to take a really good look, and we don’t have that kind of time. All the colors seem to blend into your tail. Your eyes didn’t change though. Still my crystal clear blue.”

I go to ask another question when we are interrupted.

“HOLY F*CKING SH*T!” Jeremiah yells. “What the hell happened?”

He’s running at us from the porch, Bennet and all of the guys close behind.

“My Luna got her wolf. Apparently it was contingent on me marking her.” I can hear the sarcasm in his words. Had he known all along that I would be fine AND get a wolf, he probably would have marked me that first night at Rayna’s party.

“Ken, can I touch you?” Jer asks. I step closer. I don’t know if I can still talk to him like this. I’m not in his pack anymore. I notice Ryker moves with me, not breaking our contact. “This is so amazing! I have never heard of a human getting a wolf. I know it’s part of our history or legend or whatever, but this is f*cking amazing.”

He runs his fingers along my back and it tickles a little. I can smell his sandalwood scent all around him. It has floral notes that must be from Rayna. Just as I start to get comfortable my wolf speaks up.

“I need to rest, shifting for the first time is exhausting. I am glad to finally meet you and we will have plenty of time to get to know each other. You may not hear from me for a day or so, but we will keep shifting as your body sees fit for a little while. Soon you will be able to control it.”

“Thank you...wait. What do I call you? Do you have a name?”

“You can call me Rosalie if you want.

“My mom would like that. So how do we shift back so you can rest?”

“Your body will take over like before. You will be tired too, but Ryker will take care of you.”

“Yes,

he will.” I say as I start to shake again. “Ryker, she said it’s time to shift back.”

“Alright, Lamb. Let’s go out back this time.”

“Okay.” I follow alongside him again. We don’t go far, but it’s deep enough that no one should be able to see me.” Why are we back here?”

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“Because I need a new memory of this place and being able to mark you as my mate and Luna, you getting your wolf and the ability to mark me and shift with me is what I want to remember here.”

Oh! Just as the realization hits me, my body convulses in pain.

“Ryker!”

“I’ve got you, Lamb. Just lean into me.”

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Chapter 216

113 – Kennedy

There is more pain this time, but the shift is also quicker. I still lose sight though, I need to remember to ask about that. I just seem to wake up in the other form.

“Urgh. Why does it feel like a hangover?” I push up from my lying position on the ground and immediately regret it. It’s cold now. I shrink back towards the warmth I feel next to me.

“Careful, Lamb, or we won’t make it back inside.” Ryker murmurs against the shell of my ear, wrapping me up more tightly in his arms. “Let’s get you dressed a little more to my liking when others are around.”

He sits us both up and wraps his button down shirt around me, doing up each button carefully. He stands to put his pants back on then reaches a hand out to help me up. Slowly wrapping an arm around my back to pull me close again. "I really do like you in my clothes. I never thought that would be something I would **care** about."

I just smile at him, still processing all of this. Part of me is irritated, mad even that it took me getting marked to get Rosalie and the other part understands that it wasn't about me, but Ryker. Then I'm frustrated at how long it took him to figure out he could have me and then act on it and yet again, I understand the fear that was there too. I don't have the mental space right now. My wolf wasn't wrong, I am exhausted.

"I need to go see Aunt Beth and your mom. Your sister is probably super stressed out too. We can't do that to the twins."

He kisses me gently. "Anything you want."

We sneaked in through the back door where Robin met me with a new set of clothes. A sundress that looks nice enough to meet with people in the pack as their official Luna, but not uncomfortable.

"Oh! My girl! How are you? What happened?" Aunt Beth comes rushing towards us with Sarah and Rayna in tow. Ryker hasn't—let go of my hand yet and I have a feeling he won't unless forced, and I don't mind one bit.

She pulls me into an awkward hug and huffs when Ryker doesn't release me to her. Her fight doesn't last long as she pushes me out to arm's length. "You're different." She tilts her head. "I mean your scent should have changed when Ryker marked you, but this is more."

"What do you mean?" I look from her to Ryker.

"She was given a wolf and with that the same powers that we have. I assume her strength and speed have been enhanced which is probably why her body is fuller, more muscular." I whip my head back to him. "What? I like it." That damn smile. And now I am horny again. I have got to get this under control, I know they can smell it. And the look that Ryker is giving me tells me it's too late to worry about it.

"I need you to stop looking at me like that. We need to go and see people."

"Lamb, in order for that to happen I'm going to need you to stop looking so appetizing and that will never happen."

"Okay, you two love birds need to knock it off, there will be plenty of time to give us grandbabies later. You have a pack that wants to welcome and thank their new Luna." Sarah shuffles forward, waving her hand in the direction

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of the ballroom.

“Hold. The. Phone! I want ten seconds of my sister’s time.” Rayna bumps everyone with her very pregnant belly. On her way to me. “I cannot believe you have a wolf now and you managed to finally pull my brother’s head out of his ass! Does that mean that you can start talking to us regularly again? Cause I am really tired of the bullsh*t calls followed by silence.”

My eyebrows are probably lost in my hair right now. I can’t believe she just called me out like that.

“What is she talking about?” Ryker pulls me back to him protectively wrapping an arm around me.

“Your mate has been radio silent for far too long and I would like to know if this new development means **she’s** done acting crazy.” Rayna places her hands on her hips, looking like an angry potbelly pig.

“Wait. When was the last time you spoke?” I can’t look up to see if he is talking to me or Rayna. I plead with my eyes for her to drop it and we can talk later. There is so much she doesn’t know or understand yet.

“He doesn’t know, does he?” Now I know I can mindlink her.

“It’s complicated. Please just drop it. I promise we can talk later.” She narrows her eyes at me.

“Uh, none of that ladies. What is she talking about Kennedy? When was the last time you spoke to them.” His stern voice is just confusing me more by activating all my lady bits, but his words are killing the mood. “Rayna...”

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Chapter 217

“He isn’t going to let this go.” She looks at me then back to him. Since before Christmas.” She **crosses** her arms, a knowing look on her face.

Ryker’s arms stiffen around me. I haven’t talked to them since before he found me almost frozen in the woods. I haven’t had any news or time to talk since then and frankly I was tired of lying telling them everything was alright, when they clearly knew it wasn’t.

“We will talk about this later, Lamb.”

“Fine, but there really isn’t anything to talk about. Now, let’s go. I really am tired, but I want to see everyone.”

He loosens his grip and I walk to Rayna to give her a hug. "I am sorry and I will tell you, just not now okay?" I whisper in her ear. I know the others can hear me, but that is the hazards of living with werewolves. "Now when do I get to meet these two?" I rub her belly again. Copyright © 2024 Miss L Writes and Ember Mantel Productions

"A couple of weeks, I think. It's hard to tell with two of them cooking in here. I'm just glad ours go faster than a human's. I can't imagine being pregnant for almost a whole year." She groans.

"Wait? How long are your pregnancies? I never really paid attention to that part. But, I guess it matters now."

"Around six months. Still a long ass time, but not bad in comparison." She shrugs leading me out into the hall arm in arm, leaving everyone else to follow.

"Are you sure it's okay to be here? Shouldn't you be at home?"

"I think if we were traveling anywhere else, I probably would have, but this is my home pack so we aren't worried about care or safety. And besides, I needed to get out of the packhouse and the only thing Jeremiah would budge for was you. So you are my golden goose." She giggles at me and I smile.

We make it two steps into the ballroom when Bennet walks up to me and stops. He looks like a wreck. His hair is in all different directions, I think from being pulled. His shirt is untucked in one spot and I think his dress pants are slightly twisted. He resembles a toddler that went three rounds with his mama. "Are you done scaring the sh*t out of me, cause I think I may actually get gray hair and an ulcer from you."

I just reach up and hug him tightly around the neck. This poor man has been through as much with me as Ryker has and I couldn't be more grateful. He hesitates for a moment and I know it's because of my mate behind me giving off jealous vibes, but it doesn't last long. This isn't romantic any more than my connection with Jeremiah.

"You wouldn't want me any other way."

"But you're okay right?"

"Better than okay." I look at him and he nods.

I manage to get through the rest of the guys, but Ben is hanging back. I'm sure I know why though.

"Hey."

“Hey.” He mutters as I walk up to him. He has his hands firmly in his pockets and I won’t push for a hug if it will

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cause trouble. **The last** time we were this close, Ryker claimed me as his mate and then took me away.

I **step** closer, sliding my arms under his and around his waist. He has been my friend **for** so long **and** I knew one day our close relationship might **be** strange, but I don’t want it to be.

Grrrrr... I hear behind me.

“Stop! He is my friend too. I would have thought by now you figured out that you are who I want, but I won’t let them go completely.”

“I’m sorry. **It’s** just not easy with him, not like the rest.”

I let go of Ben and see a small smirk. “It’s nice to know I can still mess with him.”

“Don’t push it too far. Jer needs **his** beta and Ryker only has **so** much control when it comes to **me**.” He keeps smiling but it’s forced.

Ryker and I continue around the room. Some people want to stop and talk, others just wave and smile. The next person I see is Finn, but he seems distracted. “Who are you looking for?” I ask.

“Greta. She’s avoiding me.”

“Why are you looking for Greta?”

I’m trying to convince her that I am a worthy mate.”

“I’m sorry, what?”

His eyes snap to mine. “I thought the alpha would have told you. The Goddess gave me a second chance mate. She gave me Greta.” He sounds so hopeful. “But, I also think the Goddess likes to make me work for my mates. Greta has been avoiding me all day.”

“Oh, sh*t!”

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Chapter 218

114 – Kennedy

“Finn! That **is** so exciting!” I jump up to hug him.

He pats me awkwardly on the back then sets me down and steps back. "I wish my mate was as excited as **you are.**"

"Give her time. She'll come around."

"I have heard that before, funny enough. It didn't work out well for me then either." He gives me a dark look.

I pat his chest as I walk by. "But last time, you didn't have me. And I like you and she listens to me." I wink and walk away, his jaw on the floor.

The rest of the night was amazing. Robin and a woman named Jean put together a dinner that was to die for. I talked with everyone and spent needed time with Aunt Beth, Jeremiah and Rayna. As **Rayna** and I are in animated conversation, Ryker walks up with his hand out

"Can I steal my Luna for a few minutes?" I slip my hand into his, no hesitation.

He laces our fingers and pulls me with him, bringing my knuckles up to his mouth for a kiss. "Where are you taking me?" I giggle and he smiles secretively.

"You'll see. I still have some making up to do, and right now I can check one thing off and make it right." I look at him confused as I notice we have stopped in the middle of the dance floor. He slides his free arm around my waist, pulling me close. "This is how I should have danced with you the first night I met you." A familiar tune plays. I gasp and he nods. "I knew then that you were mine and I was so afraid, I tried to have as little contact as possible because my wolf wouldn't let me walk away from you. When the song was over, I had to run, I don't even know how I managed it, but he would have had me mark you right then. This is so much better." He leans in to kiss me and I hear a chorus of 'awes' around us. I giggle again, but he doesn't pull away.

We continue, lost in our own world. I think the songs changed a couple times, they might have even been upbeat ones, but Ryker and I are only focused on each other. Nothing could break this connection.

"HOLY F*CKING SH*T!" Except his sister screaming from the side of the room.

We all run to her while she is screaming profanities at Jeremiah, who looks lost and terrified. Aunt Beth and Sarah descend upon her to help her up, but she doubles over in pain.

"Jeremiah! Pull your head out of your ass!!" I yell at him.

He blinks a couple times, looks from his mate to me and then I think his brain reattaches and he jumps into action, picking her up like she weighs nothing. We run outside, Jeeves has

an SUV out for us. This man seriously needs a raise. He is always on top of the escape vehicles.

Jeremiah slides into the backseat, cradling Rayna carefully in his arms. Ryker jumps in the driver's seat and I follow in the passenger side and we are off to the pack hospital.

"Rayna. We need to time you. Can you give me an idea of when one starts?" I call over the seat. "Or better yet, dig your nails into Jer's arm and he can tell me." I laugh and she tries for a half smile from the crook of Jeremiah's

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neck.

"Oh f*ck! I really don't like that suggestion Ken." I look at the time on my phone.

"Well, I just figured you planted two so she is going through the pain twice as badly, so you deserve to have a little pain as well."

"Are you sure you're my sister? Were you replaced with a sadist?"

"I have always been this way. I have just never had another female to back up before."

"I'm good Ken." She whispers to me. She doesn't get more than a minute of rest when she tenses up again and Jeremiah curses.

"We need to get you a dictionary or something. Your complaining is not nearly creative enough, brother. Rayna, just to give you something to focus on, it is about thirty minutes to midnight. Do your babies want to share a birthday with their daddy and their favorite auntie or are you going to hold out and give them their own day?"

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Chapter 219

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"thm. I never thought about that." She lets out a slow heavy breath. "I guess if they are anything like their auntie or their uncle they are going to do whatever the hell they want anyway," Ryker and I both laugh as we **pull up**

The healers are ready with a wheelchair for her when we pull up. Jer sets her down but doesn't let go of her hand.

Ryker kisses her cheek "We'll be here, just let us know if you need us." He whispers in her ear and then looks at Jeremiah who nods. Then they are off. We walk in slowly and find a seat in the waiting room as our closest friends and family file in.

It's been a couple hours since we brought Rayna in. Sarah has been back and forth to keep us updated. Rayna's progress is steady, but slow.

"She wants to see you, Kennedy." Sarah walks up to me. I look over and see Ryker with his head tilted back to the wall sleeping.

I kiss his cheek. "I'll be right back."

"Love you, Lamb." He mumbles and I smile as I follow Sarah.

The hallways are dim so it's not shocking for the people in rooms when the door is opened. Sarah pushes the door open and I peek in before entering. If she finally fell asleep I am not going to disturb her.

"Get your ass in here. I am losing my mind. These brats decided they heard you and want their own f*cking day and want to make sure it is theirs." She rubs her belly.

I walk in and the scent hits me immediately. "What is that?" I ask.

"What is what?" Sarah looks at me tired and confused.

"That smell. I can smell Rayna and Jeremiah," Who happens to be sleeping. I roll my eyes. These boys could sleep through an apocalypse. I look at Rayna. "I can smell them, I think. They're ready, they're here." I feel as confused as I sound. "Sarah go get a he aler, now!"

She doesn't question me as she runs out of the room and I move to Rayna to hold her hand.

"Kennedy, what's going on? How can you smell them?"

"I have no idea, but I have always had a great sense of smell, even before I had a wolf. Maybe I was meant to be like you guys." I see the worry in her eyes. "I don't think anything is wrong, I can just smell them like they are already here. I can feel them."

"Do you know? I need to know. What are they? Boys, girls, one of each? I am dying here and bored!" I smile at her.

"I should let Jeremiah tell you, when he helps deliver them."

"HA! He will faint at the sight of my coochy all stretched out. He'll never get that far." She takes a deep breath

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and lets it out slowly. "**Okay** so I believe you. They are here." Another grunt. "So now what?"

“It’s time **for** me to step in, Miss Rayna. Luna, may I?”

“Oh yes.” I step closer to Rayna and out of the healer’s way.

“Well, the Luna is right, baby number one is ready to go.” The healer instructs Rayna through the next contraction.

It only takes three pushes for a massive baby boy to come out screaming, waking Jer up. He rushes over to be by Rayna’s side. I stand next to the healer to take him as Rayna groans again. He is gorgeous and looks just like Jeremiah. I can’t wait for him to open his eyes and see if they are the warm brown that have comforted me my whole life or the emerald green that comfort me now. This little boy is about to be the center of my whole world, right along with his sister. She comes out wailing louder than her brother, with a full head **of** jet black hair like

her mama.

“I heard...” Ryker storms through the door and stops, staring at me.

Miss L Author

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

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Chapter 220

115 – Kennedy

I smile at him walking to Rayna’s other side. The healer hands my niece **to** Jeremiah. Rayna **is panting**, but glowing. She looks amazing for just pushing two giant babies out.

“Well, we are going to have to have a birthday week to celebrate the four of us.” I giggle.

“They are beautiful, Rayna, nice work.” Ryker comes up behind me wrapping me up in one **of** his arms, pulling the blanket back from our nephew’s face with the other.

“Hey! I contributed.” Jer whines halfheartedly.

“Do you have names?” I ask. Both twins are so calm just resting in our arms.

“Of course we do. Now it’s just a matter of which ones. With twins we came up with **sets** that sounded good together. I figured if they are anything like their father, I am going to be yelling at them in tandem pretty often so they have to roll off the tongue nicely.” We all laugh. “I know which pair I like the best. How about **you**, babe?”

“I liked all the names we finally agreed on. Whatever you want. You did all the hard work.” He is staring at his little girl, completely lost in memorizing her features.

“I like Hayden and Carson, but who is who? They could go either way.” She looks at all of us. She’s so tired, but happy.

“Little man here should be Hayden.” Ryker says. At the sound of his uncle’s voice he opens his bright green eyes.

“I think Hayden agrees with his name. What do you think Rayna?” She just smiles at us, tears in her eyes. “Are you okay? Do you need the healer?” I’m worried now.

“No, you two look so cute holding him together.” She snuffles. “You need to get on this baby train fast. Now gimme, my hormonal ass needs my son. Go make your own perfect babies. Copyright © 2024 Miss L Writes and

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I laugh handing him over. “He is perfect.” I whisper in her ear. “I am not leaving without a snuggle from my niece though. Give her up, Jer.” I walk out of Ryker’s arms and head around the bed.

“My sweet little feisty Carson.” I coo at her. “You are going to be so much trouble and so much fun aren’t you?” I nuzzle into her little face and she tilts towards me with her mouth open. I laugh. “She’s already hungry, definitely daddy’s girl.” I move past Jeremiah, like he isn’t even there to hand her to Rayna. It’s the first time she’s gotten to hold both of them together. I lean forward and kiss her on the head, then turn and hug Jer around

the waist.

“Thanks Ken. Go get some sleep. You’ve had a busy couple days.” He kisses me on the head, lets me go and shakes Ryker’s hand before we leave the room. Aunt Beth and Sarah are sitting outside the room deep in conversation. Clearly they are conspiring and I will not get in the way of two grandmothers plotting for their first grandchildren.

Of course we are accosted the second we are in the lobby by everyone wanting to know how Rayna is, how the babies are, all the details. We give them basic info, it should be up to Rayna and Jer to tell their names and all of

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that. Ryker **doesn’t** let me entertain the questions for long before he drags me outside **to the** truck. The drive home **is** quiet and the weariness is starting to settle in. I start **to** doze off with the calming rumble of the **truck** and Ryker’s smell surrounding me. We are safe and together. Jeremiah and Rayna are safe **with** the twins **who** decide

d they needed to come early while they were visiting. The lazy smile stretching across my face can't be **stopped**. I **slide** out of the truck and slowly trudge to the door after we pull into the garage. I don't really know where I am going, just mindlessly walking, hoping that the muscle memory will kick in and take me to bed.

"I have somewhere for us to be later this morning and I cannot wait all day for you to find the staircase." Ryker scoops me up and takes the stairs three at a time. I don't even argue with his insult, just bury my face in his neck and close my eyes. I don't even remember falling asleep or being placed into bed.