

Letters Sent To Eternity

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Chapter 71

45- Ryker

“Hey, man. I’m sorry. This mate thing has **me** f*cked in the head. Is she okay?”

He shrugs. “I just hope I’m not this stupid about my mate when she finally shows up. I do not have time for the bullsh*t you and your wolf are up to. Especially right now, since I am **on** twenty four seven Luna duty for the foreseeable future since she thinks you are an asshole.”

“She said that?”

“Not in words, but I figure it’s a common thought amongst us and she’s pretty smart so she’s probably on board with the idea based on the way you keep treating her.”

“Again, f*ck you. I never wanted a mate. You know this. I have too many enemies that will try to use her against me. After everything my parents went through, I thought everyone understood. I thought maybe the Goddess agreed with me, but no. She made me wait until after my sister found hers and then just for fun decided to give me a weak ass human. She can’t shift or protect herself. What the hell am I supposed to do with that?”

“Start by talking to her d*ckhead. Maybe she feels the same way and you two could work something out. This isn’t all about just you. But fixing this... that’s on you. Until then, I’m going to sit here and listen to her angry chick music and not sleep until another warrior can take my place for a couple hours.” He points a thumb at the door. I hear the music too, but nothing else. “And might I remind you that she can fight back. Or did you forget she submitted your ass at training?”

I ignore the jab. “How long have you guys been up here?”

He looks at his watch. “A little over an hour. She threw a couple things around, turned on her music, then got in the shower. After that I heard her get into bed. Why?” He’s on his feet now, sensing my apprehension.

“I can’t smell her or hear her breathing.”

“What do you mean? I smell her all over this floor. And whatever bodywash she uses is strong as hell.”

“Her scent is faint, older. It’s not the constant strength it would be if she was in the room. Open the door.”

“She locked it.”

“I don’t give a f*ck.” I stepped past him and kicked it in with a grunt, hoping to have my suspicions wrong and her yelling at me. But I was right, she’s not here.

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He ran past me into the bathroom and then the closet while I just stood frozen looking at the open window. I took a deep breath in and it shuddered out. Where is she? Bennet came to a stop by me to see what I was

staring at.

“F*CK!” He yelled. That shout next to my ear has me springing into action. I shift as I jump out the window, tearing through my suit. Bennet right behind me.

“Josh, Danny! Let Jeremiah and Rayna know Kennedy is gone. We don’t know if she left or was taken. I

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need information NOW!!! If she left, where would she go? Do they have enemies that would take her?”

“Oh sh*t!”

“On it, bossman.” Are the only replies I get or need.

My wolf and Bennet’s focus on the treeline which would be the obvious place to go. We have to catch her scent to track her. I was already worried about her ability to ‘get lost’ in the park. She’s clearly good at disappearing and based on the lack of a second scent, she left on her own, which might actually be worse considering my fears with Claude and others who want to take me down. She’s out here, alone, without any idea that she’s a target or in danger. I can only hope that she hasn’t gotten far.

“Bennet, we have to find her, there is no telling what rogues will do to her if they get to her first. Or Claude, if his guys followed us here.”

“I know that now is not the time to say it, but she probably should have been told that a dangerous sociopath was gunning for you and to stay close to us. You may want to tell Jeremiah and Rayna too, just in case she contacts them before we find her.”

“You’re right, now is not the time. Have you caught her scent yet?” Both our wolves are sniffing at everything on the forest’s edge.

“No! It f*cking just stops at the treeline. How does a human turn off their scent?” I don’t think I have ever heard him sound panicky before. He is actually afraid.

Then I caught it, crushed pine needles. There's my smart girl. She's going to have to try a little harder to hide from me next time. Goddess knows there will probably be a next time. "She was here. She covered her scent with cedar. Don't look for her scent, look for unnaturally strong cedar. She's masking."

"F*ck. Jason was right. He said she was crazy smart and a whole lot of trouble when she wanted to be and would keep me on my toes. He told me to strap in and get ready for a ride." He sounds impressed as we take off.

I couldn't help but laugh. At least she did this to her own pack, not just me. She's at least learned to adapt to some of our wolf senses. F*ck. Now I sound impressed.

"I told you she was made for us. You need to give her more credit and the Goddess too. She wouldn't pair us with someone who couldn't handle it." My wolf's pride in our mate is palpable, but I still don't agree. She's human and fragile, easily harmed, even if she has picked up a few tricks along the way.

We continued running in silence, or I was silent, Bennet was praising her ability to leave very little if anything to track and not moving in a linear pattern. She is making him work for it and he is one of my best trackers. He's giving a running commentary to Josh and Danny who aren't far behind us in the truck and just as impressed with her efforts. This f*cker is just as far gone on her as my own wolf. If I didn't know it was admiration for his Luna I would be jealous.

A decent distance into the woods, I did catch another scent that was unfamiliar, running parallel to Kennedy's and my heart jolted. Bennet caught it too and veered off to check it out, while I stayed on Kennedy's trail. No one was going to get to her before us. I put on a burst of speed. I'm not winded or tired at all, but I am impressed at how far she got in such a short time and with so little evidence left behind. Then I heard the menacing growl. A wolf was after her. Whether that is due to her connection with me or just being a human girl in the forest in the middle of the night, I don't care. 'My girl' is all I kept thinking as

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adrenaline coursed through my veins and my wolf's anger at anyone threatening our mate urged me even

faster.

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Chapter 72

46 – Ryker

I finally catch sight of her running like her life depends on it, meaning she heard the growl too and gave up **on** her **stealth** in order to run the path to safety. At least she doesn't have a complete death wish, she just rides the line of danger at all times.

"Bennet, I see her. Do you have the wolf?"

"Yeah, just a rogue out for a run. He caught sight of her and thought he would have an easy meal. But, he didn't fight me when I corrected his misinformation. What do you want me to do?"

"Take him to Jeremiah. He should know there is a rogue camping this close to his territory. He can decide. I'm going to go collect Kennedy."

"See you back at the packhouse."

"Josh, we are on the outskirts of the forest bordering the neighboring city about five miles out. Kennedy is scared and has been running for a while. She was chased by a rogue. Bennet is handling him, but I don't think she could or should walk back to the packhouse. Come meet us."

"Did the rogue take her?" Danny asked in protector mode now. "How did we miss a rogue in our pass this morning?"

"I don't think he took her. She left on her own and just ended up in his path."

"She was running away?" Danny sounds hurt by the thought. This is why Luna's are so much trouble. It's not just their alphas that are affected when something happens to them. She's the heart of the pack, the glue that binds everyone together. Apparently mine already has several of my guys wrapped around her little fingers. That makes my wolf proud and me frustrated.

"I don't know what she was thinking. I'm catching up to her now, but I don't expect her to say much to me tonight even if I get the chance to ask."

"Well whatever you do, don't act like your usual self and piss her off, making her want to leave more. We need her, you need her. Don't be stupid." His anger fuels mine. She hurt him, my happy go lucky Delta has been hurt by her actions. Bennet has been up for more than twenty four hours because of her. My sister is probably beside herself with worry too. Why couldn't she just be responsible and talk to me like an adult? Instead she had to be selfish and cause pain to the people most important to me all because she's angry at being my mate.

My wolf takes a running jump over her head, landing more heavily than necessary, but conveying his annoyance with her. She stutters to a halt right in front of us and just stares before she mutters "Oh, f*ck!"

I shift and don't even bother to try and cover myself. "Oh, f*ck is right, little lamb. Where do you

think you are going?" I tilt my head to the side studying her. She isn't afraid like we thought and just stays silent, staring at me. "Bennet caught the rogue chasing you, so you don't have to worry."

"I didn't see a rogue. They don't usually stay in this part of the forest. It's too close to the city and the pack for their comfort." She puts her hands on her hips. Is she challenging me?

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"Where were you going, little lamb? You weren't running away from me were **you**? It's not safe out here at night for..."

"Who? A weak little human girl like me? F*ck you, asshole! I walk this path regularly and have had no trouble, ever, until right now."

"You should always be aware of the dangers that surround you. You can't afford to be caught off guard by a stranger in the woods."

"Did you just make a red riding hood reference to me? What, are you the big bad wolf now? Leave me alone. You have made it perfectly clear you want nothing to do with me. Don't go changing your mind now. We both clearly have plans for our lives that don't involve the other." She moves to step past me.

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Chapter 73

"No." I growl, grabbing her wrist.

"Take. Your. Hand. Off. Me. Now." She looks up into my eyes. She is challenging me and I can almost feel my hand burn where it touches her skin.

"No."

"No?"

"No. There are lots of people worried about you after your little disappearing act. We need to go back to the packhouse and talk about your move to Dark Moon." She's a danger to herself and others, she has no choice now. Not when running is how she reacts to tough situations.

"I am not moving anywhere with you. Are you crazy? You don't want a mate, that is perfectly clear and reinforced by all the lovely rumors floating around your pack." I try not to wince, it's not a secret how I feel about mates. "And I certainly am not going to change my life plans because your Goddess decided you needed someone who has a zero tolerance for your bullsh*t." That had my wolf laughing at me until I reminded him that he chased her down too. She's mad at both of us this time.

I take a breath and try for a civil tone. We are not going to get anywhere like this and I am becoming painfully aware that being this close to her, the slightest touch of her wrist and arguing with her is having a major effect on my body. I just hope I can keep her focus on my face until Josh and Danny get here.

“Josh and Danny are coming to pick you up, Bennet took the rogue following you to Jeremiah to deal with. Come back to the packhouse so we can talk about this. Your Aunt and Rayn don’t deserve to be worried about you like this.” That was a low blow but it worked.

She gasped and her arm went slack in my hand. I thought she was coming to her senses, but she wrenched her hand from mine, gave me a death glare and started back down the path towards her packhouse. The movement was so sudden, it took my brain a second to click that she’s walking away from me.

“What are you doing?” I shout and jog to catch up and then keep pace just behind her, my back still painfully at full mast, making walking awkward.

“I’m going home since I’m a prisoner causing pain to innocent people.” I can hear the hurt in her voice and it guts me, but I can’t care about her feelings right now. Not until she is safe.

“Kennedy, stop, please.” I reach for her again, but she shrugs away before I can make contact. “The guys are coming with a car, just wait.”

“You wait, if you’re too soft to walk in the forest at night.” I was wrong, she found a way to put me and soft in a sentence and take a shot at my ego all at the same time.

“Kennedy, f*cking stop. It’s not a request.” I don’t shout, but my temper is bubbling under the surface, but I’m trying not to let loose on her. I take a deep breath and try again. “It isn’t safe for you out here. You are riding in the truck with Danny and Josh.” My forced calm is chipping away fast with her defiance.

“Make me.” It was the last thing I heard before I saw red.

“Oh, little lamb. You shouldn’t dare me to do things.”

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“Wha...?” I ripped her backpack off with one hand, knocking her off balance and throw her over my shoulder with the other. Jean was right, my mate is going to give me a run for my money and my

wolf gray hair. And we still have not had a full conversation.

Miss L author

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

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Chapter 74

47 – Kennedy

“Are you f*cking kidding me? Ryker, put me down! Now!” It is not lost on me that I am looking down at the most perfect ass I have ever seen in my whole life and pounding my fists against muscles **so** ripped, he probably doesn’t feel it. I am trying not to think of the front half of this massive man. Specifically **the** appendage that keeps slapping the side of my ankle.

“Not a chance little lamb, you’re skittish. I wouldn’t want you to run off again and get lost. Lots **of** big bad wolves out there ready to gobble you up.” Now he thinks he’s a comedian.

I know it’s not going to do me any good and will probably leave bruises on me tomorrow, but I keep flailing around just to be difficult and make him as irritated as I am right now. It’s the principle of reminding him that he doesn’t have complete control over me. As long as I move enough to force him to keep adjusting his grip I am satisfied. And the pain reminds me to be mad at him and not enjoy the feel of his skin under my hands or the smell of his cologne or body wash or whatever he uses.

I hear the crunch of tires over the rough dirt path.

“It’s about f*cking time.” He grumbles under me. I can’t see anything as he moves toward what I assume is Danny and Josh, but I hear the door click open and then my world blurs as I’m thrown into the backseat.” Get her to the packhouse. She is not to be left alone under any circumstances. Not even in her own room.” Then he slams the door in my face and turns away. The f*ckers have the child locks on so I can’t let myself out again.

“Where are you going boss?” Josh asks out loud, I hope for my sake. I’m tired of the secret conversations.

“To check for more rogues in these woods. They are rarely alone.”

“You want backup?” Danny asks.

“No, she’s your priority. Check in when she’s secure and we’ll make plans from there.” It’s like I’m not even here. My anger flares again and without him so close it’s full force this time.

It takes everything in me not to kick the seat like a child. I have to remember that Josh and Danny are just doing their jobs. I am not mad at them, yet.

We drive the short distance in silence and I jump out of the back window they left open before Josh has the SUV completely stopped.

“What the hell?! Kennedy!” Danny yells at me, but I ignore him and keep walking.

I didn’t even think about what I might be walking into when I got back. I was so caught up in my anger at Ryker and my new found situation. Aunt Beth’s attacking hug came out of nowhere.

“Oh! My sweet girl. We were so worried. We heard about the rogue.” She kisses the top of my head. I take a deep breath and leave her to her coddling. It tends to go faster if you don’t resist. “Where were you going?”

I pushed away from her, not answering, but Jeremiah caught me in a hug before I could get all the way out of her grip. “Ken, you can’t just take off like that. What if something happened? You were lucky Bennet and Ryker caught the rogue before he caught you.”

“Yep. I was so lucky that my wolf friends want to keep their human pet around, but on a leash so short she

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can’t do anything without their knowledge or say so.” It was supposed to be sarcastic and biting, but came out more defeated and weary.

Jeremiah pulls back and looks hurt, but I’m too drained to care. “You know it’s not like that.

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Chapter 75

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“Oh yeah?” I grab his and Rayna’s hands, she’s never more than a step away from him. Neither fight the movement. I look at the faint pink lines that are almost completely healed. I run my thumbs over them and whisper. “So f*cking difficult, isn’t it? At least you can’t lie to me anymore and tell me how much you really want me. It’s the only thing I ever asked for. And now I know the truth.” I look from him to Aunt Beth who is on the verge of tears and my anger swells again. “And now you’re shipping me off to go live alone in a pack full of people I don’t know, who also don’t really want me, without any input from me. No one has asked how I might feel about that. How that might affect the plans I had for my life.” Tears are running down my face and

I just let them. While I stroke the pink puckered lines on their palms. There is no use in pretending to be strong through this. Clearly none of them think very highly of me anyway. Might as well add emotional to the list.

I drop their hands and turn to walk away, noticing I had a full audience. “Ken, please. You know now none of that is true.” I look back and Jeremiah is crying just as much as I am right now in front of all of these guys. He cares, I know he does, but it’s too little too late and I just can’t right now. I move silently toward the stairs. No one stands in my way, finally.

“Kennedy, we have to talk about what’s going to happen next.” a deep timber comes from behind the group of people surrounding me.

At the sound of Ryker’s voice, my despair turns into pure hatred. I stop on the lowest step, but don’t turn to look at him or any of them. “I don’t give a sh*t what happens next. Stay the f*ck away from me. I’m tired of lies and fluffy words. You all make plans and tell me what my instructions are in the morning.” I move to leave again, but only get one more step up. He just won’t stop.

“You won’t be left alone. I don’t trust you not to run off again. That puts too many people at risk.” Well at least that was the truth and there’s nothing fluffy about the demand.

I close my eyes and take a deep breath. I don’t have any more energy for them tonight. “Fine, put a warrior outside my door and outside my window for good measure. By the way, there are three other ways off the roof. For future reference. Give Bennet the night off though. I’m sure he’s done being my shadow. You are abusing his service.”

“It’s your gamma’s job to be your shadow. It saved your life tonight. I would think you would be more appreciative.” His condescending tone is really starting to grate on my nerves. This time I take two steps up and turn around. He’s moved closer to me and at least had the decency to put on shorts.

“You’re right.” I look past his shoulder. “Thank you Bennet for taking care of me today. For comforting me while I watched my best friend bring his mate into the pack by way of a little cut to the hand.” I looked at Jeremiah, Rayna and Aunt Beth. It’s mean. I know I’m being mean, but I just don’t care right now. I have been bottling this hurt for so long. “Thank you for understanding that I couldn’t be around all of these happy people while they are living it up and simultaneously leaving me in the dark about what my life is going to look like tomorrow since being human renders me incapable of making decisions for myself. Thank you for following me into the woods and making sure I live to suffer another day. Was that to your satisfaction Alpha?” My eyes cut to Ryker. “If not, go f*ck yourself.” Everyone around us gasps and his team looks impressed and angry. It takes all my remaining energy not to stomp up to my room and then scream when I see my obliterated door. F*cking over reactive alpha

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Chapter 76

I step over the destruction. I change into sweats and a t-shirt, grab my pillow and comforter, shake the debris out then head downstairs to the media room. At least everyone was dispersed by the time I came back down. I don’t know if I have any other terrible insults left in me tonight. I just wanted space. Space to think and plan and try to wrap my

head around this whole situation, but none of them allowed that. Always thinking they know what's best for me since I am the weak, stupid human.

I walk over to the love seat remembering what was going on on the big couch the last time I was in a mood like this. Geez. That seems like forever ago. I start arranging the blankets.

"Why sleep on the little couch?" I jump and spin at Bennet's voice.

I rub my chest to try and steady my heart as he lowers himself casually to the sofa. "I don't know how many times Jer and Rayna have had s*x on that one." He jumps straight up looking more irritated that I didn't say anything before he sat down than when I was insulting him about saving my life. "I caught them once... and now I just can't sit there."

"Good to know." He lets out an uneasy cough and just stands there with his hands in the pockets of his joggers.

"Bennet." I sigh. "I'm not going anywhere, I don't have the energy. Go to bed. I feel like I have been a big enough pain in your ass for a lifetime and I'm too tired. You don't deserve that or what I said earlier. I do appreciate you being there for me. You seem to be the only one who caught on that today was hard for me and I was blindsided by several things. Thank you." I hope he can hear the sincerity this time.

"It was my pleasure Lu..."

"Nope!" I held my hand up. "Still don't get to use the word."

"You know when we get back to Dark Moon, you won't have a choice right?" He laughs low. "Ryker won't let us not use your title out in public."

"Perfect! Since I will be locked up like a bird for display only, you will probably use it twice a year."

"Come on. It won't be that bad."

"Would you put money on it being much different?" I raise an eyebrow at him and he doesn't immediately answer. "That's what I thought."

"You have to understand..."

"I'll take the first shift, Bennet. She's right, go to bed." Ryker and Bennet share a look and I let my annoyance at them mindlinking in front of me known, with a growl of my own, my fists balled at my sides. Ryker holds his hands up in surrender. "Don't worry, he wasn't saying anything bad, just warning me not to make you more angry. Apparently you have had a long day." Ryker looked between me and Bennet.

"Whatever. Bennet, sleep. I promise not to suffocate your alpha while he's left alone with me."

“That is something I would take bets on Lu...” He coughs. “Sorry, Kennedy. Goodnight.”

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Chapter 77

48 – Ryker

At least she is talking to Bennet. They seem to have come to some kind of understanding. That will be helpful in gaining some insight in getting her to cooperate. But, watching her look at the pack brands on Rayna and Jeremiah’s hand longingly and heartbroken did something to my insides. I felt my stomach drop with her expression. Their mate marks she completely ignored. She just wants to be a part of the pack. And watching Jeremiah’s reaction to her rejection of him. I don’t know what I would do if that was Rayna and I. She has been my everything since the day she was born and I know Jeremiah feels the same about Kennedy. But, there has to be a reason they never made her pack. She’s been physically a part of it her whole life and permanently here for the last three years. I never got a full explanation of why they left her out and the events here so far haven’t left much room for that discussion. Jeremiah said it was her story to tell.

There’s no way I can ask her about it now, she’s so worked up and irrational. She berated Bennet for everything he did for her since he got here. She can’t let her emotions run away with her like that. No Luna behaves this way. Just another reason, in the long list, why I don’t understand the Moon Goddess’ reason for making her my mate.

“Are you just going to stand there staring at the wall all night?” At least her general attitude toward me is predictable.

“Well, I’m not sleeping on the couch after what you told Bennet.”

“You were eavesdropping?”

“Alpha, remember? I was still upstairs, but you don’t exactly whisper.” I can’t help but smile.

“Well, I’m not moving or sharing so you are SOL, there, Alpha.”

I should not like the way she says that at all. It should piss me off, not make my skin tingle. I grit my teeth. “What would you suggest, little lamb?”

“You know how stupid that nickname is, right? It implies that I’m prey and afraid of you. I am neither of those things.”

“And yet, it’s exactly how my wolf and I see you. We can discuss that more tomorrow, it’s a long drive back to Dark Moon. Any suggestions on the sleeping arrangements or did you change your mind and decide to share?” I shouldn’t flirt, but watching her cheeks go red in either embarrassment or anger is too much fun to pass up. I deserve to have a little fun after all the bullshit she has caused tonight. And I am enjoying finding all the ways she responds to me.

“Actually, yeah. Shift.” That pulls me from my day dream.

“Excuse me?”

“Shift. Sleep on the floor like the mongrel you are. A bonus will be that it shuts you up since your wolf can’t talk to me, insult me or piss me off in any way. It will actually be a pleasant silence.” She gives me a sugary sweet smile and my wolf, the traitor that he is, thinks it’s a great idea.

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Then another thought crosses my mind. It’s a challenge. She’s trying to make me uncomfortable. Oh, little

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lamb, you are going to have to work a lot harder. I pull my t-shirt over my head and toss it on the s*x couch. I may have to say something to Jeremiah about that, a brother-in-law heart to heart about treating my sister respectfully. When I go for my pants, Kennedy finally speaks up and I look at her, keeping my face

blank.

“What in the hell are you doing?”

“You said shift. I’m shifting.”

“Do you have to get naked right here?” Her voice is almost a shriek.

“I’ve torn through enough clothes for the day, and I only have so many here. Do you want my wolf or do you want to share?” I raise an eyebrow. “Should I remind you it’s not your first time seeing me naked today?”

“Nope, I was actually trying to figure out how to scrub that tiny little thought from my memory.” Ouch. She squeezes her eyes shut. “Just be quick.”

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Chapter **78**

I can’t help but smile when she isn’t looking. “Behave yourself, **got** it?”

“What are you talking about? She actually requested my presence. Right now I am winning.”

“Don’t get cocky, she only wants you because you can’t talk to her.”

“That doesn’t mean I can’t communicate.” His chuckle rumbles in my head as we shift.

He lets out a sniff to let her know we are done and she can open her eyes. She blinks a few times taking in my wolf’s form.

“You are huge!” She sounds impressed in spite of herself. “I thought so in the woods too, but there was a lot going on. I wasn’t sure if my imagination was making it up.”

“See, she likes me better. She called you tiny and me huge!” He gloats. 1

“We’ll see how long that lasts. You’re more obsessive over her than I am.” He takes a tentative step forward.

“Watch a master.” He keeps moving forward slowly, one step at a time.

She isn’t phased at all by my wolf’s size or deep red eyes. The eyes that send fear into the most hardened warriors and this tiny human girl is just staring, curious. I can’t smell nervousness or sense any apprehension.

“Are you both in there? I mean can you both hear me all the time?” I don’t even know if she realizes she asked the question out loud. I hate how much I like the way she scrunches her nose when she asks.

“So much for not talking to you. Too bad you can’t answer.” Before I get too smug about it though, my wolf dips his head and she smiles, f*cking smiles at him and it’s gorgeous. “Seriously? Whose side are you on?”

“The side that gets us our mate, dumbass. We need her. She might as well like one of us.”

He gets right up next to her at the edge of the couch as she settles in on her side and he sits like the dog she thinks we are. I’m getting more and more angry with him...and with her. She can’t f*cking talk to me like an adult, but she can talk, and be pleasant to my wolf who can’t even communicate back. I’m in the damn twilight zone.

“I wonder why your eyes are red? Uncle James and Jeremiah’s wolves don’t have red eyes like this. They change to a wine color but yours are pure ruby.” She reaches out like she wants to touch my wolf’s face, but maintains an inch of space. I still don’t think she realizes she’s asking questions out loud. Jeremiah and all his guys say she is super smart. She’s naturally curious, wants to learn. Interesting. She’s clearly seen and studied their wolves.

Before my wolf can lean into it, she pulls her hand back quickly, like she finally caught on to what she was about to do and my wolf whimpers a little at the loss. She lays down, pulls her blanket up all the way to her chin and tucks her hand under her cheek. My wolf takes that as an invitation to curl up on the carpet in front of her. Just as I was about to yell at him again, tingles ripple through our whole body and all my tension melts instantly. Her fingers lightly brush through the fur on our back and we shiver at the contact. The comfort and calm is immediate.

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“Night Alpha” She yawns. “I guess, you too Ryker.” She mutters sleepily and my brain stutters.

“See, she needs us.”

We don’t sleep or move for the rest of the night. My wolf is too afraid of disturbing her and we are both hypnotized by the hum of electricity coming from her touch. **It’s** nothing like we have ever felt before. **If** this is how it feels every time she touches me, I can see it becoming an addiction. No wonder mates can’t keep their hands to themselves. I’m going to have to be aware of how much physical contact we have. This could be a problem.

Miss L

Thank

author

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 Book of the*

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Chapter 79

49 – Kennedy

“Kennedy. Hey Ken. You have to let go and wake up. Kennedy.” The last one comes out like a song.

“What?” I grumble. I am so comfortable and I don’t think I had a nightmare, I don’t think I dreamed at all last night. I just want to curl up and fall back into the blissful darkness. I am so comfortable, I don’t want to move.

“Luna, I need my alpha back.” My eyes fly open at Bennet’s words, and he laughs.

“Don’t call me that.” I grumble and try to bury my face back into the pillow as he laughs.

“Then let go of my alpha and get your butt up. We need to leave and your death grip on his fur is making things difficult. His wolf is not going to let him up until you let them go.”

I don’t move, but I blink and look around and sure enough Ryker’s wolf is still laying in front of me. My arm is draped over the side of the couch and my fingers are threaded through the fur at the nape of his neck and balled into a fist. Maybe I did have a nightmare and don’t remember. I don’t usually reach out for things in my sleep unless I’m trying to pull myself from that memory.

I gasp, realizing I'm just staring at my fingers in the deep black fur instead of moving. It's like my brain hasn't fully become conscious yet.

"I'm sorry." I pull my hand back, tuck it under my pillow and look up at Bennet. "How much time do I have? I need to pack."

"Luna Beth said to just pack your clothes and anything you will need immediately she will call you about packing up your room. She's making breakfast for everyone else now." He gives me a sympathetic look, but he's letting me know that everyone is in the kitchen which I will have to pass by to get to the stairs. At least he understands my emotions are raw right now and I need people to give me some space.

I stand up and grab my blanket and pillow, skirting around the massive black wolf just watching my exchange with Bennet.

"You want me to walk you?"

"I'm good, thanks Bennet." I say over my shoulder. I can't bring myself to look at Ryker or his wolf right

now.

"No problem, Lu..." He coughs. "Kennedy." He sighs and I hear a huff behind me. I hate it when they mindlink about me when I'm in the room.

No one even looks in my direction as I pass through the kitchen. All of my friends know to leave me alone when I am angry and Ryker's guys must be following their lead. I just need time to process stuff in my head and get past it. I am the mate of someone who doesn't want one, or more likely doesn't want me. I'm moving to a pack that is too far away for me to attend the college I want or work at my mom's studio like I planned. My whole life is changing and it's out of my control. I wonder, again, why me as I stumble over the broken door that no one touched or thought to move. Me either, I guess. I head straight for the shower and wash off all of the grime from the forest last night, then I get to packing.

I have two large suitcases, but I don't know how much room I have to work with in the SUV's we're driving

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home. I am sure that Ryker brought more warriors than we have actually seen and I know Greta is here somewhere, Danny said she would be, but I haven't seen her yet. Meaning she's out on patrols. Do they **all** have stuff to pack too? I am a planner, I hate not knowing what's going on or what is expected of me **or** simply what I can expect.

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Once I have the basics packed in a single large case and toiletries bag, I grab my backpack, planning on heading over to talk to the principal about what I can do to finish school remotely and clear out my locker. For some reason I think it would be weird for me to finish high school in Ryker's pack. And all of my current early college courses are already online so that shouldn't be a problem.

I walk downstairs and to the front door without looking at anyone. The low murmur of conversation stops, but I don't. I'm still not in the mood to discuss this. I am being given no choice in leaving, so the least they can do is let me handle things in my own way. I pull the door open and head out.

"Wait! Where are you going?" I hear rushed footsteps behind me.

"School, Bennet. Not all of us have a pass to do whatever we want, whenever we want. I need to talk to my teachers and make some kind of plan to finish my senior year. With everything going on here I have missed a ton and I am still catching up." Kind of a lie, my load this semester is light and I'm too neurotic about school to get behind, but he doesn't need to know that. I just need to take a walk and this is a good excuse.

Bennet just stares at me and we walk in silence for a few paces. I want my question answered and he knows it. I won't speak before he does. He sighs, "Fine, your detail, including me, is five warriors."

"All the time, or just when we're out like this?"

"It's not really a big deal. This is pretty standard."

"No it isn't. Your pack is massive, ours is small. Beth has her gamma whenever she's out in the city here for small errands and two if she's out all day and that's only if she's not with Uncle James. I didn't really pay close attention to stuff like this because it didn't pertain to me. I'm always with warriors, just not as the one being protected. It shouldn't be a big deal that I ask questions." I shrug as we reach the coffee shop and he holds the door open for me. "Not if I am supposed to 'act like a Luna.' I don't actually know what that means."

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Chapter 80

"Let me drive you at least."

“What?” I side eye him. “I’m not allowed to walk anywhere now? If that’s the case, my training program is going to need to increase, otherwise your alpha is going to have an obese mate. I was not blessed with the same insane metabolism. I walk everywhere.” Also a lie, one he probably sees through. I just need to be able to make simple decisions, like transportation, on my own. I’m already feeling suffocated and it’s been a day, one single day. I haven’t done any of the group training in a few days because Aunt Beth and Rayna have needed me for ceremony stuff. I’m just antsy and need to move. Just the thought makes me walk a

little faster.

“So, you’re in a hurry now?” I can hear the humor in his voice as he easily keeps up. “I don’t think I have ever known anyone who was in a rush to get to school.”

“Well, considering the only things I have been told are ‘we’re leaving today’ and ‘pack’ I have no idea what is going on or what your alpha’s agenda is. I assumed it would be better to handle my stuff quickly before anyone realizes I have more wants and needs for everyone to completely disregard.” I let the sarcasm drip heavily. “Finishing school is not negotiable. Getting my business degree is **not** negotiable. I am a person not a possession or a pet.”

“Lu...”

“I swear to everything you believe in, if you even stutter that one more time, you will lose teeth. I’m not a Luna, I’m a human. Your goddess made a mistake and once everyone figures that out, Ryker can reject me and we can all go back to our previously scheduled lives.”

“The Goddess doesn’t make mistakes.” He says it so hopefully. “And no matter what you say or how temporary you think this is, right now, you are my Luna. Once we drive out of Jeremiah’s pack, you will be called ‘Luna’ by every one of the warriors traveling with us and there is nothing you can do about it. We don’t have a choice anymore than you do. Don’t get angry, it’s a sign of respect.” I can see him staring at me in my peripherals as he makes his declaration. I keep my eyes forward. “Focus all that pent up energy on something else.” He smiles and I roll my eyes.

The meeting with the principal was faster than I thought it would be. But then again, being mandated to the alpha of the Dark Moon pack probably sped things along. He agreed with everything I asked and said I would have the full cooperation of my teachers. I was even told I could walk with my class for graduation...if my new alpha allowed me to return. Asshat.

We step out of the school with my full backpack slung over Bennet’s shoulder, but I hesitate. I wanted just a little more time here, before I was stuck in the car for hours with almost complete strangers. The fall air is chilly, and normally I am a freeze baby. I keep a sweatshirt with me in the summer in case of a breeze. But since we have been back, I find I am comfortable with the cooler air. I take a deep breath and Bennet must

read the hesitation on my face.

“Let’s go get you a coffee, and maybe something to eat, since we both skipped breakfast.” He nudges me along the street toward a little cafe.

“Did you have to get permission for that?” I raise my eyebrow at him.

“I am obligated to let my team know when we change locations.”

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“Spoken like a true warrior. Specific and yet vague, while not actually answering the question. Does your alpha know you’re taking me on a date?” A growl ripped through the street. I smile at Bennet and he just shakes his head as I lead the way. “Well, I know his location now. He’s **going** to have to work **on** that. How many more are trailing us?” I should not be amused by this at all.

Bennet just stares at me and we walk in silence for a few paces. I want my question answered and he knows it. I won’t speak before he does. He sighs, “Fine, your detail, including me, is five warriors.”

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“No it isn’t. Your pack is massive, ours is small. Beth has her gamma whenever she’s out in the city here for small errands and two if she’s out all day and that’s only if she’s not with Uncle James. I didn’t really pay close attention to stuff like this because it didn’t pertain to me. I’m always with warriors, just not as the one being protected. It shouldn’t be a big deal that I ask questions.” I shrug as we reach the coffee shop and he holds the door open for me. “Not if I am supposed to ‘act like a Luna.’ I don’t actually know what that means.”