

Upcoming

## Chapter 71 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

The atmosphere was different. Riley was, miserable was not quite the word, but now that Tiana was gone from our lives, it felt like we were missing something. I had never realized what an affect the little girl had on us until she was gone. It felt like an emptiness, like a void that couldn't be filled. Even though Damien did his best to cheer his sister up, trying to form the familial bond that a brother and sister should have, I knew that Riley often thought of her, by the way she would stop to peer into the little girl's empty bedroom, her eyes filled with worry or regret. I could see her eyes cloud over and a look of pain come over her face, as though painful memories were being brought to the surface.

"Do you think she's okay?" she asked, one day, as I passed her by, leaning in the doorway of what had been Tiana's room, her arms folded across her chest, her brows creased, a worried expression on her face "do you think we did the right thing leaving her behind?"

It was a loaded question. There was pain behind those words. Grief. I could sense the distress in her voice and see the tenseness of her body as she turned her head to regard me.

"I think that she is being cared for amongst a group of her own people who care for her very much" I was delicate in my words and careful in what I chose to say.

Her eyes clouded "but what if we did the wrong thing? What if they are abusing her or not caring for her like they should? What if we put her in more danger leaving her there instead of bringing her back with us."

I placed a gentle hand on her shoulder. It was just like Riley to care so much, even though Tiana had been in our lives for such a short period of time, she and Riley had formed a bond that was almost maternal in nature, with Riley being the motherlike figure.

"I'm sure that they are taking care of her. Marigold was a friend of her mother's and she seemed to genuinely care about Tiana" I pointed out, trying to reassure her "and they didn't strike me as the type to abuse a little girl."

She frowned before the creases in her brow smoothed out. She sighed "I miss her" she gave a wistful smile "I don't know, I guess I got used to having her around" she admitted dryly.

"I did too" I admitted guiltily "even if she did have a tendency to jump on our bed early in the morning and wake us up" I grumbled half-heartedly.

It had half killed me leaving her behind, but we had to respect Tiana's wishes. We had not been blood-related to the little girl, and we had not had a claim to her. Love was not enough in some instances and Tiana had asked to be left behind. I felt my chest tighten as I moved to embrace my mate who gave a small snuffle, indicating she was on the verge of tears.

"We can come back later," a voice said hurriedly and I glanced up to see Callum and Cody hastily attempting to retreat down the corridor.

I shook my head, even as Riley wiped her eyes. "No need, you are more than welcome. What is it?"

I was curious, for the men tended to keep to themselves, although they had thrown themselves into helping train the warriors and even took shifts with the patrol, along with Damien, in an effort to make themselves useful. Both were convinced that Alpha Jaxon would turn up at some point, but yet, he had not made an appearance and all of us were beginning to suspect that he had lost interest in Riley altogether and she was safe.

"We wanted to talk about the upcoming mating ball you have organized," Callum said pleasantly.

I cocked my head "it is a yearly tradition in my pack. Members from other packs, such as warriors come in hopes of finding their mates. Each pack sends the older unmated males who have yet to find theirs, along with their unmated women. It brings about a harmony and helps to ally each pack with each other. It brings friendship and bonds that might otherwise not exist" I explained gently.

"We understand that but is it such a good idea?" Cody was very delicate in his words "considering the threat to your mate?"

"What threat?" I asked as Riley listened "she has been fully received in my pack by all members and nobody from another pack would refuse her, unless they wished to break alliances with me. As lycan King they cannot afford to displease me" I pointed out smoothly.

"I was talking about Alpha Jaxon" Callum said gravely.

"He has yet to make an appearance, I feel he has given up. Perhaps he realized how foolish his obsession was or what the ramifications would be if he attempted to touch my mate" I growled "either way I no longer see him as a threat and certainly not enough of one to call off the mating ball."

Callum and Cody sighed and shot each other resigned glances. "Look I appreciate the concern you have for me" Riley spoke up, moving back from my embrace and looking them in the eyes "but I'm not exactly helpless either. I was when I was at your pack" she reminded Callum who

nodded tightly "but it's different now. I for one" she declared loudly, her eyes beginning to brighten with enthusiasm "am looking forward to the mating ball. There's going to be so many people" she said "and I get to dress up" she crowed, her voice rising in enthusiasm while the men blanched "it's going to be so nice" she squealed.

I winced and then chuckled at the lack of enthusiasm on Callum and Cody's faces. "You do realize that you are expected to dress up for the occasion?" I asked.

"We were going to take guard duty" Cody was quick to say.

I shook my head "Even guards are required to dress up in case they find their mate. It doesn't absolve you from wearing a suit and mask at all" I told them as they glanced at me with desolation on their faces.

Riley giggled "it will be fun you guys. Who knows maybe one of you or Damien will find your mates. Wouldn't that be nice?" she teased.

"Maybe" grumbled Callum "but I doubt we will. If it's all the same to you King Bailey" he said respectfully, bowing his head as I sighed at his unhappiness "Cody and I will wait in your study to go over security protocols with you. Perhaps we might have some suggestions that might improve how the ball will go with your mate's safety in mind?" he asked cordially.

Damn. These guys were like having cold water thrown over your body. I blinked and then sighed, nodding in resignation, while Riley let out a disappointed exhalation behind me.

"I'm sorry my love" I told her, bringing her hand to my lips and gently kissing it as she gazed at me with a forlorn expression "but it appears I have some business to take care of. Perhaps we could go and see Tiana soon, and check for ourselves that she's okay?" I suggested.

Riley lit up. "That would be great, but you heard them say that we shouldn't step foot on their territory ever again..." she began.

I snorted "I'm the Lycan King. I go where I want, when I want. Their threats don't scare me. Do you really think they'll lay hands on a king?"

She bit her lip as I grinned cockily at her. I was glad to see she was in better spirits, even as I peered into Tiana's empty bedroom myself. I missed that little girl. Her smile brought contagious joy and her laughter was like listening to music as it petered down the halls. Now the pack house felt more quiet than ever. I wondered absent mindedly where Damien was.

"Where's the other security guard?" I grumbled, turning around and beginning to head to the study.

"The lake" came Callum's answer "can't seem to keep him out of it" he confessed.

That made sense. I couldn't keep Riley out of it either, I thought. It was one of her favorite places at the pack. She loved water, so it made sense Damien did too. I sat behind my desk and watched as Callum and Cody sat down in front of me, only now noting that Callum had a large file in hand. He was really organized, I thought, and began to have a thought about possibly making him my Beta in Command. He had the skills for it and he was being underutilized. Then again, I glanced at Cody. So was he. Maybe I had A gamma right here as well. Which would make Damien what? I mused. I sighed and rubbed my forehead. It was too early in the day for this. I glared at them. "Give me the folder and start explaining what changes you want to make" I growled resigned.

Closer

## Chapter 72 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

The collars were simple, interlocking silver rings to go around their necks, with little sigils on them to prevent them from being opened by the wearer or any other siren. The witch looked pleased as she stared at them, while I raised a brow, unimpressed by how simple, let alone plain they were.

"Is this really going to prevent them from singing and entrancing us?" I asked pointedly.

She sighed and turned to me, her hands on her hips, her wizened old face creased and her eyes glinting. "Yes. I have been doing magic before you were born boy" she growled "and if our pack hadn't owed you a favor..." she trailed off, sounding disgusted.

I laughed "well you tell it like it is," I said approvingly "but what about us? We needed something to prevent them from entrancing us before we got the collars on" I pointed out.

She pointed to some flowers. I frowned. She rolled her eyes. "They're spelled. Wear them or put them in your pockets. It will provide enough protection that you should be able to get the collars on. The collars are spelled so that your pack and your pack only will not be affected by their singing and I don't have to tell you what a right pain in the ass that was" she sneered "so much magic, I hope it's worth it to you" she added raising her chin.

I grinned "and to lure them out?"

She handed me a shell. "Put that in the water. It will sing a siren's song. They will think one of their own is in trouble and come swimming out to save them. Use it wisely, it's the only one I have" she added grimacing "and I have held it for well over twenty years."

"Why so long? How did you get it?" I asked bluntly, intrigued by this witch who had lived so long and been offered up so quickly by a pack that owed me not one but several favors.

"I killed a siren to get her song," she said nonchalantly, "and trapped it in the shell. Now stop asking questions" she snapped.

Reggie stood in the background listening. He walked up to me as the witch muttered something under her breath and the collars flared brightly with a black light and then went back to normal.

"There," the old woman said, panting slightly "done. As you requested," she said, putting her hands on her knees "now you can consider my pack and your pack even" she added.

"How do you get the collars off?" I asked, picking one up and examining it "if you wanted to that is?"

She frowned "I thought you wanted to ensure they couldn't be?" she asked.

"I did," I said tightly "but I want your assurance nobody can remove it."

"The only person able to remove the collars is yourself Alpha Jaxon," she said in frustration "I spelled it directly to your DNA. No one else will be able to pull them off. Does that please you?" she demanded "does that give you enough reassurance?"

"Do the collars work on anyone else?"

"Just sirens. It's what you asked for" she muttered.

I pulled the collar apart and smiled wickedly at Reggie who was watching me closely. "Perfect," I said almost purring.

The old lady looked frustrated as she began to pack up her things. It was cute, the way she thought she was going to get out of here. Unfortunately, I had other plans. I nodded subtly to my Beta who began to pull something out of his pocket, moving slowly in position behind her as she grabbed some vials.

"I'm afraid I can't let you leave," I told her as Reggie plunged the selenite dagger into her back, causing her to shriek in pain.

Selenite killed dark witches. I had done my homework. Reggie stabbed her over and over as she screamed. He didn't give her a chance to raise her hand or summon magic. The first strike had weakened her and subsequently, each and every other strike continued to drain her magic and her

life force. She slumped over the desk, blood pouring out from her wounds. Like all dark witches, her blood was black with a tinge of red in it.

"Why" she wheezed "I did everything that you asked. I gave you what you wanted. My alpha..."

"Knows exactly what I planned to do to you. He gave me permission" I told her as her head slowly turned and her eyes widened in disbelief "turns out you've been causing trouble at your pack Philamena. Getting into the middle of his affair with his mistress? Making your opinions known" I shook my head "he was glad to lend you to me and even gladder when I mentioned I would have to kill you afterward. He was too much of a coward to do it himself but was more than grateful when I offered."

"Please" she begged, as Reggie held the dagger over her once more, "please, I can..."

I nodded and Reggie sliced her throat, causing her to make a strangled noise, before her body slumped completely and then slowly dropped to the ground. I winced at the mess that was made. The omegas would have one hell of a mess to clean up. Oh well, not my problem. Reggie cleaned the bloodstained dagger on her clothes, the selenite suddenly going back to pure white. I shivered. Magic was something I would never fully understand.

"Well that old bitch is gone," Reggie said smugly.

I rolled my eyes "yes, but now there's a mess in my study" I said exasperated.

"We'll get it cleaned up."

"I want the collars carefully tucked away," I told him nodding towards them "put them in the safe, along with the flowers and the shell. I don't want any of the pack members to know about them. I can't risk any information being leaked or spread. We have to do this quietly. The beach is going to be a bit of a travel but it's going to be worth it to get our hands on that many sirens" I exhaled gleefully, picturing it in my mind.

"Do we really need to take all of them?" Reggie asked doubtfully "I mean, they are almost extinct, maybe we could..."

I pinned him with a gaze "are you questioning me Reggie?" my voice was cold.

He hurried to shake his head in denial "not at all Alpha Jaxon, I'm merely concerned about housing that many sirens in our pack without giving away what we've done."

I smirked "I have made the appropriate arrangements for their upcoming accommodation. They will be housed in the dungeon" I said "they are not fit to be housed anywhere else. There are enough cells and it means that darling Amber will have some company" I purred with a glint in my eyes "and there's nothing they can do to get out. They might not be affected by silver, like our kind is" I added thoughtfully "but something tells me that the collars and the threat of being bodily injured, or of hurting another siren in front of them will be enough to keep them in line."

Reggie grinned as I turned and headed out of the study. "I have several of my men prepared to go. All ones that I can trust and who will carry out their duties without question" he said as I turned my head, stepping out onto the grounds, while Reggie folded his arms across his chest, "they are eager to get underway. How soon can we leave?"

I looked at him thoughtfully "get the mess cleaned up in that room and then leave tomorrow night" my voice was firm "I will be coming with you."

"I thought you would stay behind" Reggie protested, looking uncertainly at me "in case..."

"Nobody is going to attack my pack in my absence and I find myself fascinated by these creatures" I said icily "I would like to help capture them and bring them back to the pack. Besides, having an Alpha could only further help you rather than prove to be a hindrance to you, no?" I asked deliberately staring him down.

How dare he try and prevent me from doing what I wanted! Reggie swallowed hard and then nodded looking irritable.

"By all means Alpha Jaxon we would be appreciative to have you on our mission" he said delicately.

Better. I gave a small nod and gestured for him to leave me. He sullenly walked back into the pack house to take care of business. Reggie was a good man, but he was proving to be quite resistant to some of my ideas. I would have to keep a closer eye on him, I concluded, beginning to walk the grounds. The man had proven to be loyal though, doing everything I had asked of him and more. I would hate to have to kill him and be forced to find another Beta so soon. I was still smarting from the loss of Callum and Cody. My hands clenched into fists. If I ever came across those two men again, I would not hesitate to kill the bastards for betraying me. I felt my body shaking in rage and turned my body in the direction of the training ring. With luck, I would find some pack member or warrior to beat in my rage. I would keep my body trained and primed for the mission and I would keep my pack safe from any threat I deemed necessary. It would not be long now, until I could bring Riley back to where she belonged. I smiled.

Primal

## Chapter 73 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

I'm nervous about the mating ball that my mate is insisting on hosting. I walk around the pack grounds, looking at all the preparations that are currently going on, the omegas working hard, the cook trying all sorts of new dishes I am coaxed to try in an attempt to approve for the food to be served.

### Best restaurants near me

This one is just a goat cheese and spinach quiche with caramelized onion," the cook said, bringing the little tart-like food to my lips as Bailey and my brother Damien swallowed one down whole, "I think it would go down well as a finger-food," she said hopefully.

We had decided that the food should be finger food on trays so that guests could nibble and chat during the ball, rather than be forced to sit down to a heavy meal and not feel like dancing.

I obligingly took the quiche from the cook's hand and brought it up to my lips, the smell almost overpowering. Whoa. Why hadn't Bailey or Damien said anything? Was it just that they hadn't smelt the cheese or was it just me that was finding it overpowering? I swallowed hard, fighting the urge to gag, and took a bite, my eyes widening. My stomach heaved. I dropped the quiche and I bolted to the sink, gagging and spluttering, my stomach contents coming back up as I vomited. The cook looked dismayed, while Bailey stood behind me, pulling my hair up and rubbing my back in concern.

"I'm so sorry Luna Queen" she gasped "I did not think you would have such a reaction to my food" she began to apologize as I waved a hand at her.

"It's okay" I gasped "I don't think it was you. Maybe my body just doesn't like the goat cheese" I added with a wrinkled brow "I've never had it before" I confessed.

Damien was frowning "Neither have I and I didn't vomit," he said rolling his eyes "dramatic much sis?" he teased.

I glowered at him. Bailey cut him a sharp look that had him immediately shutting his mouth. "Sorry" I apologized to the cook, running the water and beginning to soap the sink down "I am so sorry" I continued but she shook her head and gently pushed me aside, to take care of it herself. Somebody handed me a toothbrush and mouthwash and I quickly did my teeth, spitting into the now clean sink.

"It's fine Luna Queen," the cook said gently "if you don't like it, I shan't serve it for the ball."

"Oh no," I protested, still feeling nausea "Bailey and Damien didn't have a problem with it, did you?" I asked, glancing at the two men who shook their heads.

Bailey's eyes were narrowed "Was it the smell or taste that set you off?" he asked, as I leaned into him, his arm wrapping automatically around my waist.

I frowned. "I'm not sure" I confessed "it could have been both. Strange" I added "maybe I have a bug, I've been feeling sick lately" I added putting a hand on my stomach "and my stomach has been upset."

Bailey frowned "you should have said something, if you're not feeling well then you should be in bed resting" he scolded, lifting me up before I could protest and cradling me in his arms as Damien rolled his eyes and headed out of the kitchen.

"Bailey, I'm not that sick" I protested but he shook his head.

"Don't argue. You just threw up in the sink" he pointed out, wrinkling his nose and turning to head out of the kitchen and towards the stairs "you've been working hard, trying to help with the decorations and answer all the omega's questions. I didn't realize that it was taking that much out of you. I should have helped more" he said gruffly.

"But" I began.

"No buts" he growled "take the rest when you need it. The mating ball can be intense and sometimes" he paused "sometimes we have to intervene and it can't be pretty" he added exhaling as we began to ascend the stairs.

"Intervene? What on earth do you mean?"

He looked at me tiredly. "Sometimes one will refuse their mate and reject them, but the other one won't accept the rejection," he said looking at me remorsefully, aware of my past as I stiffened in his arms "it's our job to convince them to separate completely, so that each of them have the chance to find their second chance mate. Sometimes they will see sense and do it immediately, other times it takes some convincing and we have to keep them both at the pack until it's done. I don't condone using the mate bond to hurt one another" he said tightly "it's cruel and it's sadistic. The mate bond was meant to be sacred and to use as a way of loving your mate, not to make them feel the pain as you cheat on them."

I looked up at him admiringly. "You're awesome, you know that" I mumbled as he let out a chuckle "I wish everybody thought of the mate bond like that" I admitted lowly as he began to head toward our room.

"Everybody should," he said sharply "I admire everything you've gone through Riley and I love you so much. My wolf is willing to die for you," he said, glancing down at me "as am I."

"Same here" I whispered through the lump in my throat "but I'm hoping it doesn't come to that" I added, causing him to laugh as he opened the bedroom door and strode inside.

He placed me gently on the bed and paused to press his lips lovingly against me. I arched my back, suddenly overcome with another desire, a much more primal one, glancing towards the door that was thankfully shut. My hands reached out, stroking his arms, watching as his eyes

began to turn dark in response. I bit my lip, my hands moving to undo the buttons on his shirt as he exhaled in surprise.

"Are you sure?" he whispered, as my hands fumbled clumsily and then pulled the shirt back down his shoulders and then off him, flinging it carelessly to the floor, my eyes hungrily devouring him "you were just sick..." he began and then stopped as my hand eagerly went to the button on his pants, undoing it and slowly pulling the zipper down, licking my lips in anticipation as he let out a groan.

"Riley" he groaned as I stood back up and began to help him out of his clothes, my hands moving over his body, feeling the hard muscles rippling beneath his skin, my hands roaming all over him. It was like I couldn't get enough. He stood there naked, his cock already erect, and my eyes glinted with mischief. I began to undo the buttons on my own shirt as a devilish smile appeared on his lips.

"I'm a little bit overdressed" I purred as he narrowed his eyes at me "care to help?" I offered, turning my back as I pulled my shirt over my shoulders and let it drop to the ground.

I felt his fingers at my back, gently undoing the clasp of my bra and undoing it, kissing my shoulders as he tugged it away from me. His hands dropped to the waistband of my pants as I kicked off my shoes, pulling my pants down and lifting each leg, taking them completely off and leaving me in just my lace panties. I heard him give a low growl of appreciation.

I was wet. Soaking. I felt impatient. I reached for him and he shook his head his hand reaching out, his claws growing slightly as he tore the panties away from me, his nostrils flaring.

"I can smell your arousal woman" he groaned, his eyes going even darker "it's killing me" he growled.

Something came over me. Something reckless. It was like I wasn't even in control of my body anymore. All I could think about was our bodies joining together and the sheer pleasure that would produce, almost salivating at the thought of it. I could feel my breathing becoming more hitched, as I moved over to the bed, Bailey watching my every move. My hair cascaded loosely down my shoulders. The nausea had faded. Instead, I now felt, aroused, horny, lustful. I cocked my finger towards Bailey who looked more than prepared to take me up on my offer, a look of fierceness coming over his face.

"I want you" I purred, as he stalked towards me, a predator heading directly towards his prey, my body shivering in excitement as I stared longingly up at him, my inhibitions gone, only one thing on my mind as he began to slowly climb onto the bed, his eyes never leaving mine.

This wasn't me. I wasn't this wanton, this eager usually. This was different and yet, I relished it. I basked in it. I knew what I wanted and I wasn't about to be denied. My body craved him, craved this. It was like I was insatiable. As Bailey got onto the bed, I moved, pressing my lips to his in a sudden burst of desperation in an effort to feel his body pressing against mine. Whatever this was, I was not about deny the urge. It was too strong and I was too far gone to question it.

## Chapter 74 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

### Bailey POV

Riley had surprised me as she kissed me, my body on top of hers, her lips pressing against mine in a possessive manner that sent tingles down my spine, even as she maneuvered me so that she was pushing me down and somehow lying on top of me, my hands gripping her arms, her eyes glinting, darker than I had ever seen her eyes go before.

"I want you" she purred, her hands running up and down my chest, her lips pressing down on my body, exploring every intimate nook and cranny, my body trembling as she touched me, her hand slowly reaching down to grasp my shaft which was already rock hard, Riley licking her lips in anticipation.

"Riley" my voice was hoarse "you keep going like this and we won't get to the main part" I tried to warn her.

She ignored me, lowering her head and beginning to lick the tip of my cock, causing me to groan and inhale sharply. Damn. She was like a woman possessed, her mouth slowly enclosing around the tip as I groaned, my body arching slightly as I panted, before she began to take me in, slowly enveloping all of me as I groaned some more. Her eyes gleamed as she began to slowly move her head up and down, licking and sucking, my hands digging into the bedsheets as she expertly brought me to the brink, her hand gently stroking me between licks and strokes. I was having a hell of a time holding back. I was struggling not to take over, to move her and slam into her as she kept going, determined it seemed, to drain me dry, even as I tried once more to warn her to stop.

"Riley, I'm about to..." I wheezed.

She looked directly at me and gave a smug smile. Who was this woman? This confident, provocative, possessive woman?

"Do it" she challenged and I let out a gasp as she deliberately put her mouth back on me again and began to suck hard, causing me to jolt on the bed and my body to tense.

I couldn't hold out any longer, even if I tried. Her eyes met mine and I cried out, my body arching, my body stiffening as I came, Riley's mouth continuing to suck and swallow as my seed spilled down her mouth and throat. It was heaven. It was hell. It was a combination of both and I

ejaculated so hard I saw stars. She was ruthless, draining me completely dry, my body flopping back onto the bed as she slowly pulled her mouth from my cock and licked her lips, a satisfied expression on her face. Fuck. I was more aroused than ever, smelling her arousal, my hands shooting up to move her, pinning her down onto the bed as she smiled at me, my cock hardening instantly.

"I don't know what's gotten into you" I growled, as she ground against me in eagerness, her hands exploring my back, her hair cascading over the pillow and making her look even sexier and more alluring than ever, "but I'm not complaining" I snarled.

I felt her legs trying to wrap around my waist. She gave a low whimper, filled with need. Riley had always been keen when it came to lovemaking but this was a whole new level. My lycan was going berserk, desperate to sheath himself in her. My eyes were darkening and I could feel my primal side, my lycan side surging to the surface as I struggled to keep him back.

"Take me" she begged, arching her back and digging her nails into my back as I fought to keep my self-restraint "I want you" she begged.

How could I resist her pleas? No male would ignore his woman's cries like that. I positioned myself at her entrance. I slowly pushed inside of her and watched as her eyes widened in pleasure. Her lips parted, and her hands dug into my back harder. I was trying to be slow but she pushed against me, causing me to sink into the hill. The little minx was being impatient. I slid out and heard her gasp before I thrust back in, her head flinging back as she felt the friction of my cock moving inside of her, her walls clenching tightly, my body moving at a slow pace, her whimpers growing steadily louder.

"More" she whispered, "harder Bailey" she purred.

I obliged, thrusting in harder, causing her to shriek, her legs wrapping tightly around my waist. I had never seen Riley like this before. It was like she couldn't get enough. I rocked back and forth, sliding in and out, my thrusts growing faster and harder, the look on her face one of bliss and growing excitement. She came, convulsing on my cock, her shriek filling the air, even as I continued to plunge into her.

She came, again and again, her cries louder and sharper. My hand crept out and played with her clit, causing her to moan, her eyes closed as she became lost in the sensations. Her juices dripped down my cock and onto the bedsheets. She was wet, so wet. I was going insane. My lycan growled, enjoying the sounds of our mate as she continued to lose control of all her inhibitions, a fierce streak of possessiveness coming over the two of us. She was ours. She belonged to us. We would remind her of who she belonged to. We slammed into her and she arched her back, mewling. I couldn't get enough of her cries. I kissed her on the lips, diving my tongue inside and demanding access. I let out a growl and lifted her legs, causing her to cry out, another orgasm washing over her. I stiffened, unable to deny the own pleasure racing through me, the sounds of her cries, the feel of her body pressed against mine, the feel of her walls clenching tightly down on my cock pushing me over the edge again as I gave a shout, my body stiffening as I spilled my seed deep inside of her, Riley's breathing shallow as I halted, before slowly and carefully sliding

out of her, Riley's body collapsed, sweat-soaked and shining on the bed, a wondrous smile on her face.

I slipped from the bed and disappeared into the bathroom, heading back with a washcloth. Gingerly I cleaned her and tossed the cloth towards the hamper. Riley was panting. I pulled her into my arms. She moaned, arching against me. I raised a brow. How could she still want to go again, after everything we had just done? She seemed to be insatiable. I sniffed, suspicious. It wasn't her heat. We had marked each other, so I knew she shouldn't be going through something like that, but her hormones seemed to be unbalanced. I frowned, even as Riley turned and put her arms around me, kissing me deeply on the lips.

Haven't you figured out what's wrong with our mate yet? My lycan was highly amused by my confusion. I frowned.

If you're so clever, why don't you tell me? I'm concerned for Riley. What if this is a siren thing?

Trust me it's not. It happens to some women in this state he said delicately maybe being a siren her hormones are different but this isn't unusual, its been experienced by a lucky few before. Needless to say, we've hit the jackpot he crowed.

Then you won't mind telling me what's wrong with her I snarled, thoroughly put out now as Riley began to run her hands down my body, fighting back the urge to grab them and hold them away from me. I didn't want to hurt my mate or her feelings. But I was worried that she was under some spell or something and I felt bad, like I'd taken advantage of something I shouldn't have.

I felt my Lycan roll his eyes I never took you as the type to be this stupid he growled shaking his head. Put it all together. Smell her again he demanded as I obliged. I frowned. There was the slightest change in Riley's scent. Not remarkable, but it was definitely there. Strange. Now think about it you dumbass he snarled in disgust, his tone still tinged with amusement she's throwing up, she has sensitivity to certain smells and she's extremely horny. Not that we're complaining about the last one he added hastily as she cuddled into me, while my arms wrapped automatically around her and her sent was slightly off. What do you think that might mean? He sounded impatient. I mulled it over and then my eyes widened. How could I have been so stupid? No wonder Riley was acting so strange. It didn't happen to every woman but it could cause them to become overly sexual. Her hormones must be running rampant. I couldn't believe I hadn't thought of it before. Riley must not have any idea of what was going on with her body. Maybe being half siren and half shifter, she hadn't become accustomed to the slight changes in her body. I felt a grin spread over my face as my Lycan chuckled. Riley was pregnant, I concluded, leaning back and seeing her eye me in surprise, and she didn't know it!

A Moment in Time

# Chapter 75 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

I had made love with Bailey before but not like this. This was a whole new level of neediness and greed. Every fibre of my being craved more and while he had more than satisfied my desire for him, there was still some insatiable need for more. It was so unlike me, that part of me wondered if something was wrong. Was it my DNA? Something to do with the siren side of me that was making me this lustful and hungry for him? As we lay there, I could see a strange glint in his eyes, but then my wolf side, Snow began to speak up, amusement in her voice.

Best gifts for your loved ones

You might want to get used to how you're feeling because I have the sense that you're going to be this ahem she coughed, deeply amused hungry for your mate for quite some time.

But I'm not in heat, am I Snow? I mean, this is different, isn't it? I don't feel like I'm in pain or anything. In fact I told her silently, feeling my cheeks blush as I made the admission I feel pretty wonderful right now.

Other than wanting to jump your mate again you mean she chuckled knowingly to be fair he is quite handsome and his lycan she exhaled don't get me started on what a fine piece he is.

Snow I said shocked as she giggled are you going to tell me what's going on I demanded touchily.

I'm surprised you haven't figured it out for yourself she admonished I never took you for being stupid Riley. Think about it she advised the vomiting, the sensitivity to smell. Can you remember the last time you had a period?

I stiffened. It was like a flood of cold water washed over me. Now that Snow had mentioned it, I couldn't remember when I had my period last. Not only that, but she was right. Certain smells made me feel sick and my breasts, now that I thought about it carefully, were tender. I sucked in a breath. Shit. I knew that this would happen eventually, it's not as though Bailey and I had been using birth control so it was an inevitable consequence, but I had not expected it to happen this quickly. I could feel my body begin to tremble, not just in feat, but overwhelming panic.

What did I know about being a mother? My own mother had been murdered by my father and nobody could say that my father had been a role model to base parenting skills on. Then to throw in the child would be part siren, shifter, and lycan, well that was a whole new kettle of things to

be concerned about. What effect would that have on the child's development? What part of their DNA would prove to be dominant amongst all three of them? Would it depend on the gender as well? Questions whirled in my mind, even as I gave Bailey a stricken look, surprised to see that he had a crooked grin on his face. Then again, after what we had just done, I would be surprised if he wasn't smiling, I thought a little grumpily.

I took a deep breath. "Bailey, I think" I stammered.

Damnit, how did I put this into words? I didn't even know how he would react to the news of being a father. I knew he would make a good one, I had seen him with the children of the pack and they all adored him. He was so kind, so sensitive and so loving. But was he ready to be one so early on in our relationship? What if he had thought the same, that it would take longer for me to get pregnant? Would he be upset? I could feel myself hesitating, but I knew it wasn't fair to keep such important news, or my suspicions to myself. He deserved to know. I could hear Snow chuckling to herself in the background. I tried again, "Bailey, I think that I might be, um pregnant," I said in a large whoosh, avoiding his gaze.

Say something, please say something, I silently begged in my mind. For a moment there was silence and I could feel my eyes beginning to prick with tears as disappointment washed over me. I knew it. He was upset. But then he spoke and his voice was filled with excitement rather than anger. "I know," he said and my eyes rose to meet his "I just figured it out. It explains why you are" he coughed, the tips of his ears turning red "so um horny," he said apologetically "and why your scent has changed ever so slightly. It explains the change in your behavior and the reason you've been sick and feeling off lately. We can have it confirmed by a doctor if you want, but my Lycan is certain and by the expression on your face, I'm guessing that your wolf has told you the same" he said heavily.

I nodded, watching his eyes begin to sparkle. "You're not upset?" I asked biting my lip.

"Upset?" he looked astounded "why on earth would I be upset? Riley I'm ecstatic" he told me, pulling me to him and cupping my cheek with one large hand as my eyelashes fluttered at him in response "I've always wanted to be a father and now I'm going to have a child with the woman I'm in love with, my mate. How could any man be upset about that" he demanded fiercely "it's a blessing and if anything I'm going to have a stupid grin on my face for weeks" he added as I giggled at him, unable to help myself.

"But what about..." I began.

He raised his brows "what about what?" he asked calmly.

He was cool as a cucumber I marveled. Lying there, his arm protectively around me, a wide grin on his face. His hand moved to touch my stomach despite the fact that it was still fairly flat. "The baby will be part siren, part shifter, part lycan" I said helplessly "what does that mean for it?"

He looked thoughtful "so it will be a tribid, with one of its traits being dominant. If it's a girl, I'm going to make the assumption the siren part would be dominant, as in your case. But we don't

know until it's born, so there's no point fretting about it until then" he shrugged "either way, we're going to love them so it doesn't matter, does it?" he asked reasonably.

Well no, I acknowledged ruefully, it didn't matter. He was right, I would love our child regardless. But the fear remained. Sirens were so feared by shifters. Would my child truly be safe, if they were to look or resemble me? If their siren part was in fact dominant? Or would they be living in fear, worried for their lives? Bailey was trying to change things, to ensure that sirens were given sanctuary, but you couldn't change people's minds with the snap of a finger. There would always be those who refused to change, who refused to see the good in other races. Who would always fear those who were stronger or more powerful than them. I put my hand over Bailey's keeping his there as he smiled lovingly at me.

"Promise me we'll protect them" I whispered and he didn't even pretend not to understand me.

"Riley I promise that no matter what, our children will always be protected. I will make sure they don't have to live their lives in fear or have to hide. We will make changes sweetheart and make this a world that everybody can live in safely."

A lone tear trailed down my cheek. I was overcome with emotion. My mate wiped the tear away with his thumb, his eyes softening. "Don't forget the mating ball. We have the chance to speak our minds with the visiting Alpha's and Lycans then. It's an opportunity to show them that they have nothing to fear and to show you off as the Lycan Queen. As my Queen and mate. We can rally them to our cause" he said with determination "and perhaps meeting you in person will do a lot to assuage their fears" he added as I nodded, lost in thought.

"Right now though" he added, breaking my concentration and causing me to blink at him as he slowly got up and then helped me up from the bed, pulling me into a large embrace, his head on top of mine "we have reason to celebrate" he laughed, "you're going to be a mother Riley and I'm going to be a father. Let's forget about our worries for the moment" he proposed as my body began to relax "and just enjoy this moment. After all, it's one that we'll never get back" he added as I smiled at him, before his lips pressed against mine, gentle, soft, tender and filled with so much love that it brought more tears to my eyes. This mate of mine was more than I could have ever hoped for and he continued to surprise me and as we stood there, holding each other, it was like time stood still, if only to give us this one, special moment.

Defeated

## Chapter 76 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

We were prepared but the fight was dismal at best. For a species deathly afraid of outsiders, that had holed themselves up in caves, weary of the slightest trap, they had not foreseen what we had coming. It was laughable. They had been unable to protect themselves as they fell for the witch's song, the siren's voice coming from the shell luring them out, to seek a distressed siren that was not there. Onto the beach, they had walked, in search of one of their own, my men protected from their voices, disarming them as they fought desperately to get away, most of the group was women and children, although there was a male or two in the group as well, which was rather interesting to me.

They lay defeated on the ground, the collars around their necks as I observed them coldly. Of course, Riley was not there, but I had not expected her to be. The children were weeping, one girl about seven years old, or was it five? trying to shush them, her eyes flashing at me with defiance. I steadily ignored her. Children were useless to my cause but would prove useful as hostages to keep the other sirens in line. I had already identified the woman that everybody looked to as the leader, the one that they referred to as "Marigold" and I knelt beside her, smiling as she glared at me, her hands restrained behind her back, her body heaving as she tried to get her breath back.

Her body was littered with bruises and cuts from her pathetic attempt to defend herself. I raised a brow and motioned to the silent group who sat, hands behind them, restrained, sullen expressions on their faces. "Is this everyone?"

There were about a dozen or so if that. More sirens than I could have hoped for, but if I was honest, I only needed two or three to do my bidding. "Why would I tell you?" she spat, her spittle just missing my face.

I stood back up, grabbed one of the men, and grew a claw, slamming it into his stomach, listening dispassionately to the sound of his bloodcurdling scream of pain as Marigold struggled against her bindings with little success. I pulled my claw back out and licked the tip, the blood metallic in my mouth.

"Bastard" Marigold hissed, while I kept a firm grip on the young man.

"Is this everyone?" I asked.

She flattened her lips. "Next it will be a child," I said flatly.

"Monster" she spat.

"It takes one to know one" I snapped.

I dropped the man to the ground and strode over to the children, yanking up the one who was staring at me so defiantly, wrapping her hair around my fist.

"Tiana" the woman cried as the girl began to squirm in my grasp.

My claw grew and the woman's eyes widened. I placed the tip of the claw at the girl's eye. "You don't need your eyes to be able to sing" I purred.

"You son of a bitch" Marigold screamed "fine, everybody is here. I swear" she sobbed, "you got all of us, are you happy now?" she begged as Tiana tried to wriggle away and I touched her skin with the claw, warning her to stay still.

"What do you want from us?" one of the other women cried "we haven't done anything to you" she added pitifully.

She too was covered in bruises and scrapes.

I slowly put the child down, and the girl immediately ran to Marigold who leaned into her "haven't you figured it out yet?" I asked with a cruel smile as they stared at me oblivious "the collars you wear are spelled so that you can't ensnare my men" I explained as they stared wide eyed "but they will work on others. Your voice is what I want" I clarified standing in front of my men and cocking my head "and power. The only type of power you can give me" I added with a satisfied grin.

"You want us to work for you," Marigold said emptily, a sickened expression on her face "you're going to use us to get this so-called power, isn't that right?" she said dully.

"You're not as stupid as you thought," I told her devilishly "I plan to use you to take over other packs and merge them unwillingly with mine. You will be responsible for the demolition of any pack that has even thought about trying to go against me. I want to become the strongest Alpha with the most powerful pack in the country, maybe even the world" I told them as they glared at me "and I'm also going to use you to get my mate back."

Confusion on their faces. I thought about Riley, my hands clenching into fists. What a fool I had been to let her slip from my fingers. How naive I had been not to think about the implications of having a siren for my mate and the strength she could have provided me. I had been stupid, but I was working to correct that now. My eyes gleamed as I thought about how all the puzzle pieces were falling into place. My wolf let out a low growl, his own rage and bloodthirsty surging to the surface. His personality was beginning to reflect mine, perhaps because he was forced to read and listen to my thoughts all day, and sometimes he seemed as though he was slowly beginning to lose his grip on sanity, something that would normally concern me if it wasn't for the fact that I was able to bring him back to reality every time without fail.

"Your mate," Marigold said looking at me in disbelief "if she's rejected you then..."

"Silence" I roared and she fell silent, her expression pale "I haven't accepted the rejection and I don't intend to. She is mine" I snarled, the group trembling in the wake of my anger, while my men remained standing, their arms folded, looks of resolve on their faces "she will always be mine. Nobody is going to take her from me."

"You can't force somebody to love you" Marigold protested, raising her eyes to look at me with a spark of anger "the mate bond doesn't work that way. We can't just sing her into loving you if that's what you're thinking...." she trailed off as I snorted.

"She's a siren herself, so that wouldn't work," I said cryptically "and I happen to have something on hand to make that happen. All I need is to make sure she can't fight back" I said, motioning to my men, who began to roughly yank the sirens to their feet, while the children cried out in fear and pain, clutching each other tightly "and find the perfect opportunity to get her alone."

"Don't do this" one woman begged, her voice shrill as my man began to march her towards the cars "please, I'm begging you. Think of the children" she pleaded, sounding almost hysterical.

"At least let the children go" Marigold argued, Tiana still standing there, refusing to leave her "what use could they be for you?"

I laughed "Do you think I would let my only leverage go? These children are to make sure you do exactly as I tell you to do" I said as they widened their eyes and looked over their shoulders, the men grabbing the children and hoisting them over their shoulders "and I'm capable of hurting each and every single one of them to get what I want" I advised them coldly.

"You're a monster" a woman screamed, "I hope that somebody kills you for your pack Alpha Jaxon" she sneered.

"You can dream," I told her as my man shoved her, watching as the back of the truck was opened and the women were slowly forced inside, the men put in a separate one, their bodies hitting the hard floor as my men were none too gently, the children placed a little more kindly inside, "but right now I would worry more about myself" I added gleefully.

Reggie moved to stand beside me as the trucks began to close back up on the sirens who were beginning to panic, scrabbling at the doors as they were locked. "Stage one of your operation is complete" he murmured with satisfaction "once we get these guys back to the pack, we'll get them into the dungeons, watered and fed and then what's next?" he asked as I began to stride towards my own car.

"Then we choose the first pack to pick. There's a particular Alpha that's been a thorn in my side and attempted multiple times to try and get his hands on my land" I said smugly "let's see what happens when I take his land and kill him for his pack. Anyone not wanting to merge and declare their loyalty to me will be killed" I added "and the new members will then be protected against the sirens and made to attack the next pack."

Reggie said nothing as we climbed back into the cars. I sat back as he started the engine, lost in thoughts, my mind continuing to tick over. The mating ball was coming up and I was already beginning to work on a plan in regards to that as well. Riley would get to see me earlier than she would realize.

Demands

# Chapter 77 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

I was lost in thought, my head staring blankly out the window when there was a tentative knock on the door. Surprised, I sniffed and then, detecting the familiar scent, I called out "enter" wondering what it was this particular person wanted from me. Although, judging by the current circumstances, part of me was surprised that he had not sought me out sooner. With his relationship being as tenuous as it was with Riley, perhaps he had thought it best to hold off until now. I heard the sound of the study door opening slowly and then heard his footsteps as he slid inside and carefully shut the door, my head rising to meet his cool glacial ones. I blinked.

"Is something amiss Damien?" I drawled.

He looked as though he was on the verge of losing his temper, even as he forced himself to exhale slowly, his hands clenched tightly into fists and then relaxing. "May I sit?" he asked tightly.

I gestured with my hand. He nodded tersely and then sat, gripping his knees, so hard his knuckles went white. I raised a brow, unsurprised by his anger, but wondering at who or what it was directed at. While I had gotten to know him a little bit, we had not established the kind of strong relationship I had hoped.

"Speak," I said impatiently "there's clearly something on your mind, so you might as well spit it out" I advised him, leaning back in my chair and regarding him silently.

He frowned and then cleared his throat. "Riley just told me the news" he blurted out.

Ah. I had been wondering when Riley would tell her brother she was pregnant. I had left the news up to her, not sure whether she wanted to spread the news through the pack or keep it to merely a few close acquaintances. She was fearful of something happening to the baby and had decided to keep it secret for now, and I respected her wishes, both of us were uncertain how her pregnancy would progress as the baby continued to develop with its tribrid nature and characteristics.

"So she told you she's pregnant with my child," I said quietly, cocking my head "and you came her to what exactly?" I asked him challengingly "to confront me? Does Riley know you've come here?"

He shook his head "No, she doesn't" he bit out "and yes I came here. That's my sister" he hissed "that you've gotten pregnant."

"I'm aware" I snapped "but what business is it of yours?"

"What are your intentions, King Bailey?" his eyes narrowed as I looked at him taken aback, by how cold his tone had gone and how possessive he sounded of his sister, a fierce expression on his face "what are you planning on doing now?"

"What exactly are you looking for Damien?" my tone was mild, but my expression was anything but "may I remind you that up until a few weeks ago, you weren't exactly on the best of terms with your sister? Or that your relationship was not the norm between siblings? You are hardly one to demand answers from me, let alone from the Lycan King."

"I'm not speaking to the Lycan King right now" he snarled, slamming his hands on his thighs in frustration "and yes, I know that I've been a crappy brother to my sister. The worst kind of brother if I'm honest" he added as I stared at him "and that will haunt me for the rest of my days, but I'm trying to make up for that now. I'm trying to protect her the way she deserves to be protected, even if it's from the likes of you" he added.

From me? Why would Riley need to be protected from the likes of me? I had done nothing but love her. I would never harm a hair on her head! What was Damien trying to accuse me of? "How dare you" I snarled, my eyes going dark "accusing me of hurting your sister. We are mates" I hissed "and I would never so much as lay a hand on her. I am in love with her" I stood up, towering over him as he sat there "and for you to even think so lowly of me, speaks of your despicable character and twisted mind."

### Best gifts for your loved ones

He smirked, leaving me flabbergasted. Was this some sort of game to him? Was this amusing him? I could feel my body beginning to vibrate with rage. I had not anticipated a conversation like this today. Damien was provoking my anger and yet remained calm as a cucumber as he sat there, staring up at me, while I fought to retain my self-control instead of ripping him to shreds and shifting into my lycan form. Did he have a death wish? Was he suicidal? I gripped the edge of the desk, my nails digging gouges into it, taking deep shallow breaths in an attempt to calm myself.

"You say you love my sister" Damien narrowed his eyes as I looked at him, a low growl erupting from my throat "prove it."

What? Prove it? I had marked his sister, she was my queen. The pack adored her. Nobody had a bad thing to say about her. What more could Damien possibly want or Riley demand from me? I stared at him in confusion. Now he was smirking at me. I wanted to wipe that smug expression off his face. My hand gripped the table even tighter, my claws digging in, the desk slowly becoming ruined while I observed him.

"I don't need to prove anything, Riley knows I love her" I denied "there is nothing more that I could possibly do to prove it. She's marked, she's been claimed" I said heatedly "I have never once looked at another because she is the only woman for me. I am loyal to her for she is the other half of me, my mate."

He slowly rose to his feet. Now I could see that he was eyeing me in consideration. "There is one thing that you have not done King Bailey," he said slowly and meaningfully as I stared at him mystified "something that would go a long way to giving Riley security and that of the child she is carrying. I'm surprised it hasn't come to you, but then, I don't think it's entered your head."

"Spit it out already and stop playing games" I growled at him.

Enough with the games and this charade. Damien had come here for a purpose and by god he was going to tell me now what it was he was after, before I let my lycan loose on him. I could feel my Lycan ready to shift, my body tensing in preparation. Damien at least had the sense to look closely at me and then nod in acknowledgment.

"Your name."

I blinked surprised. "My name" I repeated dumbly.

Now Damien was eyeing me as though I was the biggest moron I had ever seen. My claws began to protrude back into nails, withdrawing from the desk. He shook his head in disgust. "Your name" he repeated.

"You mean" realization began to dawn.

Damien thumped his hand on the desk, startling me slightly. "Your name you nincompoop. Marriage" he snarled "you know the thing you do when you love someone? Riley's too nice to say anything so I'm going to. You might have marked her or claimed her" his lip curled back as he glared at me "but that doesn't dispel the rumors that the reason you haven't proposed to her is that you're planning on taking a mistress. The pack is rife with rumors like that. If my sister is good enough for you to get knocked up" his voice rose as I tried not to wince at the blatant way he had of putting it "then she's good enough to marry, is she not?"

Marriage. Is that all Damien had wanted? Is that what was causing him such angst towards me? Because I had yet to propose to his sister? I won't deny that had been on my mind lately, but purely because I thought it was the right step to take in our relationship, not because of rumors in the pack. Rumors, that would stop, I vowed, once I had finished speaking to Damien. I sat back down and smoothed my shirt feeling much calmer.

"Well," Damien's voice was cold "Riley deserves better than to have this baby born out of wedlock. She might not have mentioned this King Bailey" his voice lowered as I looked at him sharply "but part of her thinks that she doesn't deserve to have a happy ever after. She's always going to be the abused Riley from back home, the one who's waiting for something bad to happen or for the shoe to fall. She won't tell you what she wants" he advised me, folding his arms

and speaking even quieter "but I do know that it's important that this child, boy or girl, has your last name."

Silence. That was not something I had considered and I felt awful now. While Riley could simply give the child my last name, it was not the same as being wed. I fought back feelings of shame and guilt. Damien had a point. Riley would never come out and tell me what she wanted. Nor would she pressure me, she wasn't that kind of person. I had been thinking about proposing anyway, but now I felt even more determined to do it.

"The mating ball" I told Damien firmly as he lowered his arms and gave a long slow smile "it's perfect is it not? You have my word, I will propose on the night of the mating ball. Does that satisfy you?"

"It does" Damien said more relaxed "but are you doing it under duress?"

I shot him a scathing look "You might think you're big and powerful, but nobody forces the Lycan King to do something he doesn't want to do" I snarled as he grinned at me "Now get going before I decide to forget you're Riley's brother and fling your sorry ass in the dungeon or something."

He smirked and walked to the door "It's been a pleasure talking to you King Bailey" he purred as I closed my eyes.

My hand reached over and grabbed a paperweight, flinging it his head as he expertly ducked and avoided it, hastily shutting the door behind it. I smiled in spite of myself. Damien might have thought he was protecting his sister with his demand, but all he had done was convince me to propose sooner rather than later. I got up, thoughts of what needed to be done whirling in my mind.

Undeniable

## Chapter 78 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

Bailey has been acting strange lately. Almost secretive and the way that Damien has been acting, staring at my mate as though challenging him to do something hasn't escaped my notice either. I put my mug of coffee down on the table and study the three men silently, Cody, Callum, and Damien taking a break, eating their breakfast with keen expressions, while Damien subtly shoots glances at me, an indecipherable expression on his face. I glare at him.

"Enough," I say loudly, causing all three men to look up at me startled, "What did you do Damien?" I demanded shrewdly.

"I don't know what you mean," Damien says nonchalantly, finishing his piece of toast as I put my hands on my hips and stare at him, my eyes narrowing.

"You know exactly what I mean" I hiss as the other two men remain silent, glancing between the two of us with curiosity "why do you keep staring at my mate like that? You went and spoke to him when I told you the..." I trailed off and then finished in a low voice "news, didn't you?" I said, not wanting to speak about the pregnancy in front of the oblivious men.

Damien raised a brow "What do you mean? I have done nothing of the sort" he shrugs, while I slam my hand on the table in anger.

"Stop lying" I snarl "you and Bailey are both keeping something to yourselves. Do you think I haven't noticed the secret glances you keep giving each other? Or that he keeps disappearing on me? What did you say to him, Damien? I told you to leave it alone. You're lucky I even told you the news at all" I said accusingly.

Cody and Callum looked perplexed now. Damien gave a crooked grin "Careful Riley, lest you let your secret out" he warned.

"What am I missing?" I heard Cody mutter to an equally stymied Callum "is there something we should know?"

I ignored the two of them. "Damien, you better not have threatened Bailey" I hissed.

He laughed "The Lycan King? You honestly think I had the nerve to threaten the Lycan King over your pregnancy..." his eyes widened and he gulped as he heard gasps from the table, my secret unwillingly let out by accident as I groaned inwardly.

Damnit.

"Luna Queen" Cody's voice is strangled "are you pregnant?" he looks concerned now, his eyes sweeping over my form, which is still the same slender frame it's always been, my stomach barely distended at all.

I glare at Damien who at least looks contrite. "Yes" I answer, looking at the two other men who look excited on my behalf "but I must ask that it remains between us for now. I don't want it known in the pack. I have" I paused "certain concerns that something might happen to the baby until the second trimester and because it's a tribid" I explained, the boy's eyes widening as realization dawned "I'm not quite sure what will happen as the baby develops."

"Sorry sis, I didn't mean to let it slip" Damien apologized bowing his head.

I shook my head "Callum and Cody are friends. But keep your damn mouth shut from now on" I told him disapprovingly "and that goes for speaking to Bailey as well. Just because you've decided to take on the big brotherly role, doesn't mean that you get to interfere in our relationship."

The tips of his ears were bright red. I stared at him. He shifted on his feet and avoided my gaze. I could hear Cody clear his throat. "Well, how are the preparations for the mating ball going?" he asked, eager to change the subject.

I turned to him, grateful for the distraction.

"Wonderful. Most of the Alpha's of the packs nearby have already sent back their acceptances and each pack is bringing unmated males and females. The omegas are working overtime, decorating the trees outside and the marquee is going to be large and spacious. There'll be tables in and out, as some prefer the freedom of being outdoors and it's going to be quite casual, but the dancing will take place in the marquee. I'm hopeful that a lot of shifters and other races will find their mates and that Bailey will be able to make new connections and friends as he socializes and communicates during the ball" I enthused, picturing the beauty of the decorations, the twinkling fairy lights that were already being attached to the trees on the grounds, the beautiful tables and chairs and the wonderful food and drinks to be served.

"I think that the queen is also an instrumental part of the mating ball and forging new relationships with other packs," Cody said tentatively with a crooked smile as I nodded at him "I think you might underestimate the impact you might have, especially when it comes to speaking to the Luna's and other powerful women. You're a prime example of how other races can tolerate each other, not to mention how mates can be different species and that the mate bond is not discriminative."

Callum nodded in agreement. He frowned. "There's been a little talk lately about some of the packs being taken over, but it's all been hearsay so far. Not ones that are close by. Small ones according to sources. All I know is that Alpha Jaxon has not come looking for us" he said looking at Cody in relief "he was pretty angry when we managed to safely leave his pack."

"He's all bluster and no bite," I said scathingly, confident that my previous mate would never step foot here, not in a million years "he's never come looking for me, he won't come looking for you. I feel sorry for his pack, having a pitiful leader such as that" I added, remembering it all "perhaps we might bring up his leadership during the ball and suggest that maybe a new one should be found. Or maybe somebody could be found to challenge Jaxon for his leadership."

It was a welcome idea, but the boys looked unsettled as they faced each other.

"In order to challenge his leadership, it would involve a fight to the death," Cody said slowly, "and other Alpha's to bear witness that nothing untoward, such as cheating has happened. It's usually the last resort, but there is a precedent for it occurring before. However, nobody is foolish enough to go against Jaxon, no matter how much they disagree with his ruthless methods and desire for power. He's too strong. He's killed enough Alpha's to make others fearful of him.

We've seen him fight firsthand and he's strong, agile, good. It would be committing suicide if you lost to him."

Even Damien looked taken aback by that. I however was mulling that over. Surely Jaxon was not as powerful as Cody was claiming. There had to be other Alpha's more powerful, with more strength behind them. I had no doubts that if it came down to it, Bailey, could take down Jaxon if it was required.

"Not to mention there has to be a good reason for challenging an Alpha for his title and leadership" agreed Callum "you can't just do it out of the blue. There has to be a legal reason or a law clearly broken. Otherwise, the challenge will have been for nothing and the elders will simply undo what is done."

I frowned. "You said there was precedent though, so it has happened before."

"Only when an Alpha has gone too far. Or when they have had to be put down because they've turned feral, but that was hundreds of years ago. Nowadays, even breaking the law results in punishment rather than a challenge" Cody pointed out as I sighed "it's the way of the shifter world. Taking over packs and fighting amongst each other, is in our nature. We seek to be the strongest, the fiercest, the largest. To try and prevent it, would be to prevent the very nature of our kind."

"Very well" I murmured as Damien just shrugged at me, "I guess that leaves a lot to be considered. However, maybe the laws need to be changed" I said out loud, while the men stared "maybe the laws aren't good enough. Especially if they allow you to kill other races out of fear, or almost drive them into extinction. Maybe the whole legal system and justice system for shifters and other races, and packs, needs an overhaul" I declared loudly.

"You could be right. Maybe that's something to begin approaching the elders and the Alphas about" Cody said, while I began to feel a stirring in my breast, an indignation that continued to grow "at the very least, you could start to institute change, by implementing some new laws that would encourage packs to be fairer in their treatment of other species. Inclusive of Vampires, Fae, Sirens, for instance" he suggested.

"Think about it sis, as the Luna Queen, you have the power to implement change. Use the mating ball as a way to do what you've always been passionate about. Make the statement you intend to be the change. Use your power for good" Damien urged, while Callum nodded "and then, think about taking that bastard Jaxon down if it comes down to that."

I had a lot to do. The boys were on the right track. I could use the mating ball as a stepping stone to implement change, introduce new laws and gather support for myself. But I had to do it on my own terms. Instead of hiding in the background or being attached demurely to Bailey's arm, I needed to stand out from the crowd. I needed to make it blatantly clear that I was not going to be someone to be spoken over or disregarded. I needed to speak, not just for my people or race, but for the others as well. I was going to have to be the loudest voice these other Alphas and Luna's

had ever seen and by god, I was going to make sure I wasn't lost in the crowd. I smirked at the boys "You've just given me the greatest idea."

Revenge

## Chapter 79 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

I grinned at the defiant siren, even as she sat beside Amber who was still looking the worse for wear. Her eyes were filled with pity as she held the girl in her arms, Amber's body shivering slightly. "Have you no human decency" she spat, the other's in the large cell also nodding in agreement, fear etched on their faces "You say we are the monsters, but the real monster is standing right in front of me" she cried in disgust "this poor girl...."

"Is not as innocent as you would like to believe" I said impatiently, bored by her protests as Amber merely looked at me.

There was a defeated expression on her face that thrilled me. She was no longer the brazen woman she had been when we met. This Amber looked lost, helpless, and broken. Just the way I had envisioned. I felt a thrill as I looked at her. Soon all of them would have that same expression on their face. Even the little girl sitting in the corner with the look of utmost hatred on her face.

"Please" Amber whispered, licking her lips, glancing at me with pleading eyes, her dress barely covering her frame "Please, leave me be."

"I'm not here for you," I said callously, watching as Amber's eyes widened in relief "And since the sirens are now in your home, so to speak" my lip curled back "you will no longer be bothered by my men for now."

Tears filled her eyes. I smirked at her, watching as she trembled on the floor. Marigold continued to keep an arm around her. "Then why are you here?" she demanded hotly, her other hand touching the collar on her neck that she could not remove "What is it you want?"

I could see Reggie in the corner, his arms folded across his chest, the key in his hand as he awaited my instructions. I peered closely into the cell, trying to make my decision. I did not need all of them, merely three or four would suffice for what I required. I gave the women and the men a crooked smile. In this instance, the men, unfortunately, would prove useless, but perhaps I could find a use for them in some other aspect.

"I need some volunteers," I said very deliberately "four of you."

The women avoided my gaze. Marigold scoffed "You think we would just offer to become sacrifices for you?"

I was not surprised by their defiance. I merely turned my head ever so slightly and nodded to Reggie who was waiting with several of my men. He stepped forward, even as Marigold automatically moved backward in the large cell, dragging a timid-looking Amber with her. He put the key into the lock and turned it, using his foot to kick the door open violently, causing the occupants inside to gasp.

"You know what to do," I said idly, my eyes resting meaningfully on the little girl.

Marigold's face turned white as the men swarmed the cell. Despite the women trying to put up a pathetic fight, the little girl was snatched, screaming, from the cell and dragged out in front of me. I gave Marigold a smug look, gripping Tiana, by the throat as she struggled futilely.

"I don't think you realize just what a precarious position you are in. I could have you starved, beaten, abused" I deliberately looked over at Amber, watching the woman's eyes widen and realization dawn "but I've been nothing but hospitable so far. In fact, I've been downright charitable" I growled as they looked towards Marigold in desperation, the men standing in the doorway, preventing them from lurching forwards "but it appears you might need a lesson in order to remember your place."

I gripped the little girl's throat harder, listening to the sound of her breathing as she gasped for air, her lips slowly turning blue. I could sense the leader, Marigold's distress as she watched helplessly, her eyes widening and filling with tears as she was forced to do nothing.

"She's going to run out of air soon" I taunted, "do you want the death of a little girl on your hands?" I asked cruelly "because it won't affect my conscience. I will kill you one by one until I have only a few left to do my bidding. Do you want to be responsible for the extinction of your species, something you've worked so hard to prevent until now?"

"Stop" Marigold screamed, her eyes bulging as the little girl clawed desperately at my hands, her nails making pathetic red lines on my skin "Please, god stop" she yelled.

"Four volunteers" I snarled, lifting the girl up like a limp rag doll as Marigold put a hand to her mouth, tears flooding her eyes "And this stops. Hurry now, I can hear her heartbeat slowing down" I taunted.

"Bastard" Marigold breathed, before shooting another desperate glance at Tiana and rapidly standing up "There, look, I volunteer" her voice cracked.

She glanced towards the others in the cell.

Three more women slowly rose, looking reluctant. My grip on the girl loosened, allowing her to desperately draw breath. She sucked in air greedily, while I smiled pleasantly at the women who looked as though I had declared their execution.

"Was that so hard?" I asked as they glared at me "This could have been avoided if you had merely done as I asked the first time."

The little girl sobbed, the sound annoying my ears. I tossed her into the cell, Marigold catching her and quickly placing her down. Amber glared at me. I turned to my men.

"Get the volunteers out" I instructed darkly.

They grabbed the women by the arms. "I suggest you come quietly, unless you want to repeat that same experience," I said pleasantly.

I saw the women clench their jaws. One by one, they filed out, Reggie quietly shutting the door behind them and sealing the rest of them in the cell. I saw Amber scramble over to comfort the weeping little girl. Strange. I hadn't thought she would have a maternal instinct in her body. I guess time down in the dungeon had changed her. I shrugged and then focussed on the women in front of me, eyeing them critically.

"Get them cleaned up, stand guard outside the bathroom. You" I said to the women "have twenty minutes to clean up and get dressed so you don't stink" I wrinkled my nose at their body odor.

"Where are we going?" one of the women ventured to ask.

Did they think I would be foolish enough to tell them? Then again, perhaps they hadn't understood the gravity of what was about to occur. "Get the omegas to give you a hand. I want them in the back of the truck on time. As for your question" I smiled wickedly at the woman and saw her go even paler "we're about to see somebody who has constantly been a thorn in my side. His land is quite extensive but it's his pack I'm interested in and the warriors at his disposal. I require your voices" I said, emphasizing the last word as the women glanced uneasily at each other "in order to take down the pack. Amber" I turned to her, looking pleased with myself, even as she looked at me in bewilderment "you'll be pleased to know that once this is over and done with, you'll no longer have to worry about your father interfering in your life ever again," I told her with glinting eyes "because it's your pack I'm taking over first."

I saw realization dawn in her eyes. Light flickered and for the first time, I saw her come back to herself as she lunged to her feet, flinging herself towards the bars. "Bastard" she screamed "My father has done nothing to you. Nothing. Leave my pack alone. I don't care whichever pack you choose, but leave mine in peace" she begged, sinking to her knees, tears trailing down her cheeks.

I relished the pitiful picture she made as she begged for the sake of her pack and for her father's miserable life. Even my wolf purred in satisfaction. I reached between the bars and lightly swept a tear up in my finger, placing it in my mouth and tasting the saltiness as she stared at me.

The other women were silent, Marigold shooting an apologetic glance at Amber. "Delicious" I growled, as Amber sank back and sobbed "Your tears are like wine. Don't worry Amber" I told her coldly as she lowered her head in defeat, her shoulders slumping in resignation, while my men gripped the woman's arms tightly "I'll bring you back a souvenir" I promised as I heard her hiccup "something to remember your father by. I'll bring back his head" I chuckled, turning around and beginning to stride toward the stairs.

I headed up them, followed by my men and the helpless women, the sounds of Amber's screams and protests filling the air behind us. It was like music to my ears. Soon, her pack would be merged with mine and I would start on the path of becoming the most powerful pack in the world.

The Beginning

## Chapter 80 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

It goes even smoother than I could have dared to hope. The women forced to sing on the outskirts of the territory, continue to slowly walk forward, their voices rising in harmony, as pack members of the Red Moon Pack begin to slowly swarm towards them in droves. Warriors, Omegas, Pack members, women, and children, all of them with the same puzzled expressions on their faces that slowly change to expressions of blankness. My men, stand directly behind the women, weapons in hand, prepared to slit the women's throats should they so much as attempt to betray us in any way, but I know it won't be needed. I have already informed them that to do so will also result in the death of the innocent child back in my pack, Tiana, causing them to know that repercussions will continue even after they are dead. They won't risk her life, no matter how much this pains them.

We make it to the center of the grounds. My eyes scan the pack. I am reasonably impressed. The security had been tight. Patrol had consisted of more than enough shifters. The warriors were in good shape. Fit and toned, they weren't unused to training, another bonus. I couldn't abide lazy men. The last person to be entranced and placed underneath the siren's spell, was of course the Alpha and Amber's father, a helpless expression on his face as he wandered into the clearing, his teeth gritted as he tried to fight the song with every fiber of his being. I smirked. The alpha was strong. There was no denying that. He was glancing at his people, and then towards the sirens, a look of sheer panic on his face. Whether he knew it yet, the Alpha was about to die today and his people, would merge with my pack, The Blood Moon Pack, and pledge their loyalty to me.

I nod towards the sirens. The song changes. The Alpha is freed from the siren's grasp. He blinks and then looks at me, recognition dawning. "You" he hisses, "Where is my daughter? What have you done to Amber? What are you doing to my pack?" he demanded.

I gave a lazy smile. "Amber is alive for now, although I must say she's not enjoying being in the dungeons as an accommodation" I cocked my head "And isn't it obvious? I'm taking your pack Alpha. Why else would I be using the sirens to entrance your people?"

He stared "Bastard" he growled and then he shifted, causing me to chuckle as I did the same. He was a fool to think he could overpower me. Even if I began to lose, the sirens would re-entrance him. Still, I had my pride and we began to fight, circling each other.

His anger began to get the better of him as he lunged heedlessly towards me. He was distracted. I easily dodged his attacks and countered with my own, swiping his side and spilling his guts as he howled in pain. I bit into his neck and shook him, sending him flying across the grass. He hit the ground with a painful thud and awkwardly got to his feet. It was almost pathetic, the fight he put up and within minutes I was severing his spinal cord with one bite to his neck, breaking it and dropping his floppy body to the ground, blood staining my fur. I shifted back to human form and nodded to the sirens who slowly petered their song out, watching as the light dawned back in the pack member's eyes as they blinked and then looked towards their fallen leader in shock.

"What happened to the Alpha?"

"The Alpha, the Alpha is dead."

"Our leader is gone, what do we do? Even if the Beta and Gamma step in..."

"Sirens, they have sirens. We have no hope. Is he going to kill us?"

Children crying as mothers swept them in their arms, babies held fiercely against their breasts. Reggie handed me some clothes and I nonchalantly put them on as my men kept a careful eye on the confused pack members, the sirens lowering their heads in apology and remorse. They had helped to kill the Alpha and even if they hadn't wanted to, they would still carry part of the blame. I raised my eyes and addressed the pack, the men grim-faced and angry.

"Your Alpha is dead," I said deliberately, gesturing to the blood-soaked wolf on the ground "killed by my own hand. Your pack is surrounded by sirens. I have control of your pack right now. Anybody wishing to challenge me one-on-one shall do so, but you don't have a chance in hell of winning if your own Alpha couldn't defeat me."

Silence. The women shot each other nervous glances. The men clenched their jaws. "Where are the Beta and Gamma?" I asked.

Two men slowly stepped out. I nodded to my men. They quickly surrounded them. Cries of shock sounded as the men's necks were broken before they could defend themselves.

"Why would you do that?"

"Beta's and Gamma's are always loyal to their Alpha," I said, watching two women scream and sink to their knees in anguish, presumably the men's mates "I won't risk them trying to overtake me."

"What do you want?" one of the pack members called out, their voice shaking as the group eyed my considerable number of men and the silent sirens.

"I want this pack" I declared, grinning smugly as the pack went quiet "to merge with mine. To become one with the Blood Moon Pack and increase its strength."

"But what about our pack?" a woman whispered, "what about our home?"

"That is no longer," I said icily.

"What if we don't want to?"

"You have a decision to make" I announced, watching the group nervously shift on their feet and mutter amongst themselves "and it's an easy one. Either," I paused and glanced deliberately at the pack members, my men nodding in agreement with me "come and pledge your loyalty to me, by making a blood oath" a gasp at those words "or die. It's your decision, but anybody who chooses to die today will be left here for the wild animals and rogues to feast on."

More sobs as the women begin to break down. I stride to a spot and stand, while Reggie hands me a dagger. I hold it, the knife glinting in the sunlight. I tap it impatiently against my leg. The group glances uneasily at each other. "Oh, anybody who hasn't pledged by sunset will automatically be killed" I added, causing another mutter amongst the group and more sobbing.

One of the mates of the dead men slowly stands and makes her way towards me, tears staining her cheeks. I see the looks of disbelief on the group's faces as she faces me, her body trembling. I cock my head. I'm surprised to see that she's willing to abandon her pack so easily, but her mate is dead now and she has nothing left for her here now. The devastating loss of the mate bond is no doubt clouding her mind. Still, she will serve as an example to the others.

I raise the dagger and slice my hand, before she tentatively holds her hand out, it shaking slightly. I show no kindness as I slice hers, hearing her gasp in pain. She places her hand in mine, our blood mingling together. I can feel the warmth of hers as it joins with me. She takes a deep shuddering breath. I wait.

"I, Felicia Jones, pledge my loyalty to my new Alpha" she hesitated.

"Alpha Jaxon of the Blood Moon Pack" I supplied.

"Alpha Jaxon of the Blood Moon Pack" she repeated and I felt a slight tingle in my forehead and then I could mind-link with her as she joined the members of my current pack.

I waved a hand at her and motioned to one of my men. "Get her in the truck."

She went willingly, avoiding the stares of her fellow pack members.

Just like that, the others began to give up. One by one, they filed forwards. Children did not need to pledge their loyalty as their parents did it for them, meaning they also did not need to be cut or share their blood. I watched as the Siren's faces filled with tears, my men beginning to drag them away towards a separate truck, no longer necessary to keep the people in line as the crowd began to dwindle. Unfortunately, a select few refused to pledge, forcing me to kill them and leave their bodies littered on the ground. By the time I was finished, I was more than satisfied with what I had accomplished, already planning which pack I was going to hit next. My wolf was triumphant.

So easy and so delicious seeing all those pitiful faces. Their tears are music to our ears. We need more Jaxon. More blood, more tears, more pain. One pack isn't enough. We have to take over all of them.

We will, I told my wolf silently, as I began to turn around and join my men, every pack and then Riley will be ours again.

Our true mate he snarled every minute spent away from her is agony. Let us find her pack and soon so that we may be joined like we were always meant to be.

Patience I chided have patience and both of us will be rewarded.