

# My Promised Rejection

## chapter 101-110

### Walked Away 101

[ 1,841 words ]

1 The Midnight Wolf's Cho

#### 1 The Midnight Wolf's Chosen Mate

##### *Della Sixteen Years Old*

I smile as I help my sister and brothers get dressed for the ceremony. My parents asked me not **that** long **ago** when I planned on taking the crown. I think they thought I would feel this need to rule the minute **I turned** eighteen, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. I'd be alright with not becoming queen for a long time and Amethyst agrees. Despite being a wolf I will live for as long as my Lycan family which means I will be queen for a very long time.

Besides at some point the goddess expects me to become ruler of all the supernaturals which is even more overwhelming. I know I'm powerful but that is a lot to think about. Truth be told, I want to meet my mate and spend time with him before I have to take on the responsibility of the one kingdom, let alone all of them. I know it's my duty but Amethyst insists we will know when it's time to reveal our true self to the supernatural world.

"Sissy, you look so pretty" Charlie says and I smile. **"Thank you, so do you Charlie."** She is wearing a pink princess dress. The boys are all dressed in black dress pants and white button down shirts. Maverick, Charlie, and Oliver are now twelve. The older boys think they are our protectors. I never tell them I don't need protection. It's cute and I love them for wanting to keep me and Charlie safe.

Eren and Matthew just turned six. I was grateful when we found out they would be Lycans too. I know my parents were worried about the difference between how long wolves lived compared to Lycans. My mother broke down when I told her that I would be no different than the other pups. **"Alright guys it's time to go down**

**and find Nana Evie and Grandpa Xavier. Don't forget you have to be quiet during the ceremony."**

“Alright sissy” they all say in unison. I smile because I know the only reason they have promised to be on their best behavior is because I promised they could play with Amethyst after the ceremony was over. She has gotten bigger as I’ve grown older. She is the size of an alpha wolf, but her fur is still the beautiful deep purple color. If not for my promise, they would behave like typical five–year–olds at a boring ceremony. They would be

hellions. I take Eren and Matthew’s hand, and we make our way down to the foyer where our family is waiting.

As soon as Cali sees us, she runs over hugging me and Charlie.

They are best friends since they are so close in age. I’m glad they are so close. Especially since Nana Evie

and Grandpa Xavier have decided to move to the castle. Mom wanted Nana close, especially taking over her

duties with all the pups. Before they agreed, I was worried about Charlie making friends. She is very shy. “There are my girls” Nana says, hugging us both. “And my handsome grandsons” she says hugging the boys.

“Let’s go take our seats. The ceremony will be starting soon,” Grandpa Xavier says with a smile.

He turns to face me. “Sweet girl, your mom and dad asked that you stay here to wait for them. They want you

to be part of the ceremony since you are their oldest pup and one day the kingdom will be yours” he says

before pressing a kiss on my forehead. They never said anything about this to me, **so I’m a little shocked. A**

few minutes later my mom and dad step into the room. Tears well in my eyes at how beautiful **they each** look.

Amethyst giggles at me, calling my dad beautiful. “**Handsome alright,**” I say. My mother **is wearing a ball** gown the same color as my dress. It matches Amethyst’s eyes perfectly. Her hair is pulled **up into a bun and** her light makeup only accentuates her natural beauty. My father is wearing a **suit and a tie that matches my** mother’s gown. His hair is slicked back, and **he kept the short,** neat beard **he has been sporting for a while**

< 1 The Midnight Wolf’s Cho

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They move to step in front of me. They both bend and press a kiss on my forehead. **For being the special** midnight wolf, I'm not built like a typical she-wolf. I'm on the shorter side and curvy. Most she-wolves **are model** thin and tall. I don't mind being different but sometimes I'd like to be like everyone else. "**Sweet pea**, are you ready," my dad asks. "I am **but I'm suprised. I didn't realize I would be going onto the stage.**" My mother cups my cheek with her hand. "We wanted you to stand with us. You are our first pup **and the future**

queen. You should be there," my mom says.

I nod and hug them both. We make our way through the double doors and take the short walk through **the** garden. When we step through the arch, my steps falter. I knew that many packs would be represented here today, but I never imagined the number of wolves present. We continue to walk down a long aisle until we reach the stage where my Grandpa Hudson and Nana Amber are waiting. I look at the front two rows **and**

smile when I see my whole family smiling at me.

We make our way to the stage and I intend to move to the back of the stage, but my mother grips my hand. We turn to face the crowd and I can hear the chatter until my grandpa speaks. "I want to thank each pack for making the journey to join us today to crown the new King and Queen of Werewolves. I've had the great pleasure of serving the kingdom for the last ten years with my queen by my side, but it's time for a new king

and queen."

I watch as many wolves present look emotional. My grandpa has been an amazing king. He is fair to all those that live in the kingdom, no matter their status. My father and I will be the same, but the packs here today don't know that. They only know how much their packs have flourished under King Hudson's rule. "Ace and Olivia Morris" please step forward. Both my parents squeeze my hand before they take their place in front of my grandpa. "Ace Morris, do you vow to uphold justice for all you govern over? To rule justly and mercifully by your queen's side," my grandpa says.

"I do" he says, and I feel the power shift between them. My father kneels in front of him. My grandpa takes the crown from his own head and places it on my dad's. Nana Amber steps in front of my mom, "Olivia Morris, do you vow to uphold justice for all you govern over. To rule justly and mercifully by your king's side" Nana says. "I do," my mom says and kneels. Again, I feel the shift of power. Nana Amber takes the crown from her head and places it on my mom's.

Both my parents stand and face the packs that have gathered. “King Ace and Queen Olivia,” my grandpa shouts and cheers erupt from the crowd. I watch most of the wolves in attendance bare their necks, but a

few remain seated. Amethyst and I don’t like their disrespect, but I remain quiet for now. One woman seems solely focused on me. My eyes move to the young man seated next to her and something inside me flickers. I’m not sure what it is, but Amethyst whines. She doesn’t wait for me to ask what the hell just happened. “He

is a potential mate,” she whispers.

I manage to keep myself from stumbling back hearing her words.

“**What the hell does that mean,**” I ask, but she blocks me out. This conversation isn’t over, but I need to focus on what’s happening around me, **so** I don’t embarrass my parents. I look at the young man that I realize must not be much older than me, and he smiles at me. The smile doesn’t reach his eyes. It feels forced, and I wonder if he isn’t happy **because he senses I’m**

his mate **too**.

“Sweet pea, are you alright,” my mom whispers as they come to stand next to me. “**Of course, it’s** just a bit **overwhelming to be up here in front of everyone.**” I won’t keep things from them, but I need **to know what the hell** Amethyst means before I even think about telling my parents. We **leave the stage and my eyes move**

<1 The Midnight Wolf’s Cho

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through the crowd trying to find the young man from earlier. Charlie nearly knocks me over when she wraps her arms around my waist.

“Della, now that mom and dad are queen and king, does that mean we are like the princesses in the Disney movies,” she asks. I giggle and squeeze her tight. “Yes it does. **You are Princess Charlie, and I’m Princess Della.**” “Someday you’ll be queen like mommy. I want to help you when you’re queen,” she says. “**Of course you will. How could I rule without my sister by my side? Someday you will be a strong Lycan like dad.**” She squeals before she rushes over to Cali.

When they both squeal, I chuckle. “I’m surprised there aren’t more guards around the future queen,” a deep voice says from behind me. I turn and come face to face with the young man that Amethyst called my potential mate. My heart starts to beat a little faster. I’m not sure if its his closeness or Amethyst’s words

from earlier.

**“I can take care of myself. Besides, I’m not queen yet.”** He chuckles before he offers me his hand. I take it without hesitation. Something about him makes me think he sees me as weak. “It’s nice to meet you, future queen Della. My name is Ronan Whitlock, future Alpha of the Night Walker Pack,” he says.

The minute our skin touches, I feel the faintest tingle but neither of us acknowledge it. Maybe he isn’t old enough to feel it. **“It’s a pleasure to meet you, Ronan. If you’ll excuse me, I need to join my parents.”** “Of course, my queen. I hope we see each other again” he says.

He turns to rejoin the older woman whose eyes haven’t left me. He is very handsome, but something about him has me leery of his intentions. **“Amethyst, stopping blocking me. We need to talk, and you need to explain what the hell you meant by potential mate.”** She whimpers but drops the block. I need to know what

the hell is going on.

18

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## **- Walked Away 102**

### **Walked Away 102**

[ 1,753 words ]

## 2 Why Can't I Be Like Others

### Della POV

Once I make my way inside the pack house, I head to the kitchen. Many of the omegas look at me with confusion written on their faces as I step into the pantry. **“Alright Amethyst, spill it.”** “Don't be mad Della,” she says. **“I'm not mad, I'm upset. Why are you keeping things from me? I thought we were in this together.”** She whimpers before she speaks again. “I'm sorry. I didn't mean to keep things from you. I didn't expect we **would** meet our mates so soon. I intended to tell you everything, I promise,” she says.

**“Mates, please do not tell me I will have multiple mates. Ronan seems like he is going to be a lot to handle. Does he have a twin brother? Oh my goddess, does that mean our brothers will have one mate? That poor girl. They will drive her nuts. Especially Oliver and Maverick, everything is a competition between them.”**

“Della, you are getting sidetracked. I have no idea if our brothers will share a mate, but I do know we won't,” she says. **“Then explain what the hell you meant by potential mate because I'm freaking out.”** “The goddess normally pairs wolves she feels that will complete each other. They are essentially two halves of one whole. When the bond is solidified, they are complete. We are different because we are a goddess in our own right like every midnight wolf before us,” she says.

**“A goddess, I'm not a goddess.”** “We are the embodiment of the goddess in earthly form. That's why we can enter her realm or any other realm,” she says. My heart feels like it's going to pound out of my chest. I knew we were special but a goddess. “We are the same wolf we were an hour ago, Della. This changes nothing about who we are so stop freaking out,” she says.

I take some deep breaths, trying to calm my racing heart. I know she is right, but hearing her say we are a goddess is a lot to take. “Now back to the mate situation. The goddess is going to give us a choice no other wolf has. She is going to show us potential mates. We will feel the pull and so will they to a certain degree, but until we choose our true mate we won’t feel the full effects of the bond,” Amethyst says.

**“Why, why not just pick who she feels is best for us, just like she does for everyone else? I would rather she chose.”** Amethyst giggles but this isn’t funny. “Della, we aren’t like everyone else. We have been given many gifts by the goddess and this is just another one. Most wolves would kill for the chance to pick their mate,” she says. **“How many,”** I ask. “Two, but the goddess isn’t one for sticking to her plans so it could change,” she

says.

I groan and rub my temples. Why can’t I be a normal sixteen-year-old wolf who is worried about finding one mate when they turn eighteen? This is all too much. Another thought strikes me. **“What happens to the mate I don’t choose? Do they end up mateless because that seems unfair?”** “That’s why you are my perfect human Della. No matter how much you are going through, you worry about others. They will be given a second chance if they are worthy. Your decision will have no bearing on whether they receive that chance or not. It is completely up to the goddess,” Amethyst says.

Before I can ask her another question, my mother nudges our link. “Della, where are you? Are you alright? Feel like you’re upset,” she asks and I smile. “I’m fine, mom. Amethyst and I needed to talk, but I’ll head **to the** ballroom now.” I can feel her concern, but this **isn’t** a quick conversation we can have over a link. Later I’ll **sit** both my parents down and explain everything Amethyst just told me. I step out of the pantry **and smile at the**

omegas.

<2 Why Can’t I Be Like Othe...

When I step out of **the** kitchen and into the hallway, I run straight into a hard chest. I **can** feel **myself** falling but the floor never comes. An arm wraps around my waist and my first **instinct** is not **to pull** away. **When I** look up into the eyes of the man holding me, I fight the shiver I feel at the darkness staring **back at** me. “Princess, you should be more careful” he says. He releases me and offers me his hand.

I take it and the same faint tingles dance on my skin. Why is this happening today? I know Amethyst **says** this is a gift but it feels more like torture. I pray the goddess doesn't add any more potential mates **to the mix**. I swear I hear a faint giggle in my mind. "I didn't get the chance to introduce myself earlier. My name is Valor Rugar, future King of Vampires." "It's **nice to meet you, Valor**. As **you know, I am Della Morris, future Queen of the Werewolves.**"

"Well, it's a pleasure to meet you princess. My grandfather is the King Jagger of Werewolves of **the** North Realm, although my Aunt Georgia will soon be taking the crown. King Hudson asked that the vampire kingdom be here today to ensure peace between our kingdoms continues with the change of leadership, **not** that it's necessary," he says.

I finally release his hand, realizing neither of us had pulled away. "**My grandfather has been an amazing king, so I'm not surprised. I'm glad y our kingdom accepted the invite to maintain peace. Why do you say it's not necessary?**" "My mother and father wouldn't have it any other way. My mother after all, is a werewolf," he

says.

"**So you are hybrid,**" I blurt out and he chuckles. "I am and so is my sister. We are twins and, by birth she should be the next ruler of our kingdom, but she has asked me to take on the responsibility. She has found her mate in the elven kingdom, so I will be taking the throne, but not for some time." The longer we talk, **the** more I feel the pull. Does that mean that he is the right choice to be my mate?

A hand on my back startles me. I turn to see Ronan's dark green eyes. "I was looking for you. I was hoping we could spend more time speaking before I return to my pack," he says. Amethyst words about them feeling the pull replays in my mind. I have two years to figure out who should be my mate, but I can already tell that

Ronan, despite feeling the pull, is not thrilled about the idea of me being his mate. In fact, I wonder if his

motive for wanting to spend time with me has nothing to do with feeling the pull at all.

Memories of the woman with him earlier and her eyes filled with hatred flash in my mind. That's the only way I can describe the way she was looking at me. "As you can see, Princess Della and I were speaking, so you'll

have to find someone else to spend time with. Someone that is actually interested," Valor says. His eyes changing colors, showing his wolf is at the surface.

He is definitely older than me, but how much older? Ronan moves to get closer to Valor. "Who the hell do

**you**

think you are talking to" Ronan growls out. "I'm talking to you pup," Valor says. Ronan growls again, and

before I can stop them, they are throwing punches.

I'm tempted to use my command, but no one can know I have my wolf or who I truly am. I link my father and moments later my father, flanked by people I don't know move past me. "What the hell is the meaning of this," he asks. His voice booms through the hallway and everyone freezes. The woman from earlier helps Ronan to his feet. "My apologies for my nephew's behavior, your majesty, but I would like to know what was said **that**,

made him so angry," she asks.

“That doesn’t excuse fighting Agatha. I understand your nephew is young, but he needs to **use words instead** of fists as he is to be Alpha of your pack in two years,” my father says and she nods her **agreement**. “**We also** apologize King Ace. Valor knows better than to resort to violence especially when we **are guests in your**

## 2 Why Can't I Be Like Othe

kingdom. I assure you he will be dealt with by myself and my mate,” the woman says.

“I appreciate that, Queen Gemma. I’m sure that whatever sparked this outburst could have been discussed instead of resorting to violence. As future leaders I expect better gentlemen” my father says. “**I apologize King** Ace and Princess Della. I hope you will give me a chance to make amends for my actions\* Valor says **before** he walks away with his mother. “I also apologize, my king. I will do better in the future. I also hope **you will** allow me to make amends to you and the princess,” Ronan says.

“We can discuss that later. Now there is a celebration that I’m missing, and I’m sure my queen wants an explanation for mine and my daughter’s absence. Please enjoy the rest of your evening” he says before offering me his hand. I take it, and he leads me back into the ballroom where there are far fewer people **than** earlier. “I’m sure there is an interesting story to go with that little show I just saw,” my dad asks.

“**You** have **no idea, dad**. We need **to talk** later maybe even **tomorrow**, because **right** now I feel like my head **is** about **to explode** with **everything** I’ve learned **in the last few hours**.” He turns to face me with concern clearly written on his face. I realize I could have picked a far better way to say what I just did. “I’m fine *dad*, I promise. Let’s just enjoy the rest of the night.” He presses a kiss on my forehead before we make our way to our table. My mother immediately pulls me into her arms and a sense of calm washes over me. Best feeling in **the**

world.

22

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## Walked Away 103

[ 1,438 words ]

### 3 Drawn to Her

#### *Ronan POV*

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As soon as we step out of the castle, I'm ready to shift. I'm so pissed at myself for losing control, **How dare** that f\*\*king little sh\*t speak to me with such disrespect? "What the f\*\*k were you thinking," Agatha says as we make our way to our waiting car. "**You** wanted **me to get** close to the girl. **That** is what I was trying **to do**." Starting a fight with the next Vampire King was not part of the plan. Upsetting the new King of Werewolves was not part of the plan. If you have any hope of getting the girl to trust you, then you need to **stay in control**. You need to gain her trust. I expect better from you, Ronan. Do you want everything we worked so **hard to do** to be for nothing," she asks.

"Goddess, I wish she would shut the hell up. Her voice is like nails on a chalkboard. I don't even think she really cares about what happened to our father. All she cares about is power," Silas says. I was fifteen when I shifted for the first time. Silas is the only true friend I have. The only one I can completely trust **to have my** back is my wolf. I know he's right about my Aunt Agatha, but she is the only family I have left. She thinks **that** I don't know the truth about the man my father was, but Reagan has told me everything.

He is the only reason I haven't become the power-thirsty ba\*\*ard my aunt wants me to be. Hell, I wasn't even interested in attending the coronation, but she insisted. She wanted me to get close to the very people that killed my father. Seeing Della for the first time today, I had a strange feeling settle in my stomach. Hearing her voice and feeling her strength had me truly wanting to spend time with her, but not for nefarious reasons.

Not for my aunt but for myself. I know she doesn't have her wolf yet because I heard them say she is sixteen too. The only reason I have mine is because I'm a tribid. No one knows that but my aunt and Reagan. Our pack is mostly hybrids but none know that I am part warlock. Even at sixteen, I am stronger than most members of my pack. I'm built like most Alpha wolves but bigger. Della didn't look like the she-wolves I'm used to being around. She is tiny, especially compared to me.

I thought I would want a she-wolf like Melanie. She is Reagan's daughter. She is beautiful and of Beta blood. She will give me strong pups if she ends up being my mate, but she does nothing for me or Silas. She also doesn't have her wolf, so she could still end up being my mate, but I think it's unlikely.

Another reason I really didn't want to try to get close to the princess, but now seeing her curves, I can't stop thinking about her. The minute I saw her talking to that pr\*ck, a feeling I've never had before overwhelmed me. Placing my hand on her back was my way of telling that a\*\* to back off, but I'm not sure why I care. It's unlikely she is our mate.

I would know if she was because of Silas, but he felt the same way I did. There was something about her that drew us in, but Silas said it wasn't the bond. I won't be like my father. He killed the woman that should have been my mother. Instead, he bred a witch to produce an heir he felt worthy of him. I'm glad I never really spent time with him. I was mostly cared for by the omegas that my father vowed he hated.

It wasn't until Agatha believed that Della was the midnight wolf that she began to care for me herself. Feeding me her own hatred for the people who took her brother away. After meeting Della today, I **think my** aunt is chasing a fairy tale. I **can't** sense a great power in her. I think she is an ordinary wolf, but there **is** something about her. Something that makes me want to see her again. Now I just have **to figure out how to** make that happen.

### **3 Drawn to Her.**

**“Are you even listening to me Ronan,” my aunt's shrill voice** snaps me out of my thoughts Sorry

**Agatha, I was thinking about how to get close to Della again.”** It isn't a lie, it's just **not** for the reason sh thinks. I refuse to be her puppet, but for now she needs to believe I am. I plan to take over the pack one day **but** right now they are loyal to her.

Well all except Reagan. I just have to bide my time, and now I need **to** figure out why I'm drawn to the future queen of werewolves.

Valor POV

F\*\*k, I didn't mean to embarrass my family or the kingdom, but seeing his hand on Della had me **and** Axel

losing our sh\*t. I have no idea why, because she isn't our mate, but there is something about her. The minute she took the stage with her parents, I couldn't take my eyes off of her. I won't make my father's mistakes **by**

choosing someone that isn't my mate, but I need to know why I feel so drawn to her.

She isn't old enough to have her wolf or Lycan. I'm not sure which she will be, but based on her stature, I'm thinking wolf. She is tiny and makes me feel even bigger than I am. She is also curvy, which I really like. Goddess, what the hell is wrong with me? I'm eighteen and should be focused on finding my fated mate, but

instead I can't get Della out of my head.

As soon as I get into the car, I wait for my father's wrath, but it doesn't come. "Do you want to tell me why you were fighting over the princess," he asks calmly. How the hell did he know it was over her? He must see **the** question in my eyes as he looks in the rearview mirror. He chuckles, and my mother slaps his arm. Valor, we saw Princess Della standing near you boys. So what happened? It's not like you to lose control," my mother

says.

**"It's strange. I felt drawn to her, but Axel and I don't think we are mates. It wasn't like we could sense her scent strongly. Don't get me wrong, she smelled nice like wildflowers, but it wasn't intense like I've heard a mate's scent can be. I also didn't feel the tingles when I touched her hand, but there is something about her. When I saw that a\*\*hole put his hand on her back, I felt jealous. Hell I wanted to rip his arm off."**

"Language Valor," my mother says, but I can see her smirk in the mirror. "Sometimes things aren't exactly what they seem. I'll reach out to grandma? If she can tell us why you are feeling so drawn to Della, she will," my mother says. **"What do you mean if she can tell us? Why wouldn't she be able to tell us if she was my**

**mate?"**

“Grandma’s gift comes with conditions. Sometimes she is free to share what she knows, and sometimes she has to keep it to herself. When I met your father, she knew things that could have stopped me from rejecting him but she couldn’t tell me. The goddess wanted us to accept each other without her interference, but my mother did give me advice to talk to your dad. So she may be able to lead you in the right direction even if she can’t give you the answer you want,” my mother says.

**“I don’t get why the goddess wouldn’t want you to know everything before you rejected dad. It’s like she is playing games with our lives.”** “No, it’s like she is letting you live and make choices for yourself, but sometimes we make stupid choices. She just sends us messages to help us get our heads out of our a\*\*es,” my father says. We are silent the rest of the way home. My mind replaying every second with Della. Could she be my mate and I just don’t know it yet? I have to figure out a way to spend more time with her.

14

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## Walked Away 104

[ 1,616 words ]

4 Friends

Della **POV**

I spend the rest of the night replaying everything that Amethyst said and every moment with the two men that could possibly be my mate. I still don’t understand why the goddess didn’t choose one for me. Hell, I don’t even think that Ronan is truly interested in me. I need to find out from my grandfather exactly what **is** significant about the Night Walker Pack. “Princess, would you like a drink,” a soft-spoken voice breaks me from my thoughts.

I smile when I see a young woman around my age offering me a glass of what I assume is grape juice. She has soft features and, though she is taller than me, she is just as curvy. **“Thank you”** I say, reaching my hand out to take the glass. “You’re welcome princess” she says. She drops her gaze and is just about to turn to leave when I stop her.

Besides my siblings, I really don’t have any friends in the castle yet. **“What’s your name?”** She turns back to look at me with confusion in her eyes. “Madelena,” she says. **“It’s nice to meet you, Madelena. You can call me Della.”** I try not to giggle when her eyes get like saucers. “I couldn’t do that princess. I’m just an omega that works here in the castle,” she says. I’m just about to tell her that doesn’t matter when I notice her eyes shift to something behind me.

I turn in time to see three girls moving toward us. “Well, at least you know your place. Now scurry off back to the kitchen where you belong. You shouldn’t even be speaking to the princess,” the girl in the front says. I ball my fists at my sides. Everything in me wants to slap the fake smile off her face. Madelena rushes out of the ballroom, and I’m just about to stop her when mean girl number one speaks.

“Della, we wanted to introduce ourselves. I’m Lisa and this is Myra and Madison. Those two are sisters. Our fathers are new members of the council. My father is Elias and their father is Joshua” she says. **“Do they not talk?”** “Of course they talk, but they were nervous about meeting you,” she says. **“You weren’t nervous about meeting the princess of the werewolf kingdom?”**

“Of course not. I know we are all going to be great friends. That’s why we had to save you from speaking to that lowly omega. She isn’t worthy of calling you by your name,” she says. I notice my mother looking at us

out of the corner of my eyes and I wonder if she heard what was being said. **“Lisa, was it?”** She smiles and

nods her head like she had just won some prize because I remembered her name.

**“Let me make a few things perfectly clear. I don’t like mean girls and the three of you fit that description. I really don’t care who your father is. You don’t tell me who I can be friends with or who can say my name; I do. As of this moment, you will address me as princess because we are not friends, and we never will be,”** I say before I turn and walk toward the hallway.

I make my way down the hall and into the kitchen. I notice many omegas flitting around preparing more food for the party, but no sign of Madelena. When a woman around my mom’s age finally notices me, she freezes. “Princess, what can I help you with,” she asks, wiping her hand on a towel that hangs from her waist.

**“I was looking for Madelena. Do you know where she is?”** Fear flashes in her eyes before she looks toward the

pantry.

“I’m sorry for whatever happened princess? She is a good girl, so whatever mistake she made, **I can promise** you it wasn’t intentional,” the woman says. I reach out taking her hand with mine. **“She did nothing wrong, I**

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4 Friends

really don’t have **any** friends my **age** here at the castle so I was **hoping** she could be **my first one.**” The woman looks at me like I’ve grown another head. “Princess” she starts to say, but I raise my hand to stop her.

**“My name is Della.** Unless we are at some stuffy meeting or a formal event, **I am just Della.**” A smile spreads across her face and she squeezes my hand. “It’s very nice to meet you, Della. My name is Beth. I am Madelena’s mother,” she says. **“It’s** very nice to meet **you too. Do you** know where Madelena went? **A group of mean girls** interrupted us, so I had **to** deal with them before I **came to** find her.”

“You are definitely your grandfather’s granddaughter. You are going to be a wonderful queen one day. She **is** in the pantry. She didn’t want to tell me why she was so upset, but I had a feeling it had something to do with the new council members’ daughters. They definitely aren’t kind like you,” she says. Anger bubbles up inside me again. I won’t tolerate them mistreating omegas. Just another thing I need to discuss with my parents.

**“I’m going to go talk to Madelena.”** She nods, and I make my way to the pantry. I knock lightly before I push the door open. The minute I step inside I’m even more pissed. Madelena quickly wipes her tears away and drops her gaze to the floor. “Did you need something else, princess,” she asks. **“Madelena, I meant what I said**

**in the ballroom. I want you to call me Della. I would like us to be friends.”**

“Those girls are right. I’m just an omega and a wolfless one at that. I turned eighteen a week ago and still

have no wolf. I’m not worthy of being your friend, princess,” she says. I move closer and her eyes finally meet mine. **“Madelena, do you really think I want to be friends with the mean girl brigade out there?”**

She giggles a little and shakes her head. I can feel my mother nudging our link. **“I have to get back to the**

**party, but I would really like a chance to become friends Madelena. Can we hang out tomorrow?”** “I would like

that, Della. You can call me Maddy if you like," she says. **"I'd like that. I'll see you tomorrow."** I make my way

back to the ballroom and smile when I see my dad dancing with Charlie.

I make my way over to my mother and plop down in the seat next to her. She wraps her arm around me and

presses a kiss on my temple. "Watching you put the **three** little witches in their place was a thing of beauty,

sweet pea. Did you find the young omega," she says. **"I did. Her name is Maddy. She is sweet, and I can tell**

**that those three have been giving her a hard time."** "Your father and I will address the royal pack tomorrow.

That will not be tolerated. I don't care who it is. No one is going to mistreat our pack members," she says.

**"Mom, I really need to talk to you and dad. I'm not sure if I'll be able to sleep if we don't do it tonight."** "This

sounds serious. I'm sure we can excuse ourselves. Your grandparents are keeping everyone entertained anyway" she says, pointing across the ballroom. I giggle when I see all four of my grandparents dancing. A

few seconds later my dad heads in our direction. "Hey sweet pea. Mom said you needed to talk to us about

something important. Let's head to our office" he says.

I love that they decided to share an office. I hope one day, once I determine who should be my mate, we are inseparable the same way my parents are. I can't help the groan that escapes me thinking about how to choose my mate. Once we reach the office, I plop down on the big comfy couch and tuck my legs under me.

Before either can say I word, I start to tell them everything that happened at the ceremony and after.

"So Amethyst said you have two potential mates. Neither knows that they are destined to be yours, but they do have this desire to be around you," my mother says. "Can we not use the word desire when we are talking about our daughter," my father says and my mother cackles. "She isn't a little girl anymore Ace. She is a young woman. She is already sensing her mates," my mom says. My father groans and places his head in his hands.

“I thought we had at least two years before I would have to worry about her finding a mate, and now you’re

2/3

#Friends

telling me she has two. What the hell is happening,” he says.

“**Not two to keep. Two to basically choose** from dad. Believe me, this was not my idea. If I had my way, I would rather be given a mate like everyone else.” “Which one are you leaning toward? “They are both very handsome young men,” my mom says.

“Olivia” my father growls low. She loves teasing my father. “**Honestly, mom I have no idea. It’s not like I can tell them about any of this.**” How do you choose a mate without spending time with them, and how do you **do** that when they have no idea that they could possibly be your mate? Goddess, my head feels like it’s going to explode.

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## Walked Away 105

[ 1,839 words ]

5 Rules

Della POV

I swear I couldn’t sleep at all last night. I tossed and turned, thinking about what happens next. I can’t just show up and say let’s get to know each other. Besides, Ronan probably doesn’t even have his wolf yet. “Yes, he does. His name is Silas” Amethyst says. “How do you know that?” “I talked to him and Axel. That’s Valor’s wolf. They both sound very handsome,” she says like we are talking about the weather. “Amethyst, why would you talk to their wolves?”

“No one is supposed to know who we are, and you have revealed us to Valor and Ronan’s wolves.” She giggles and I swear she is trying to make me crazy. “They won’t remember our conversation. As soon as I was done

talking to them, I wiped their memory of me,” she says. My shoulders sag in relief. I can only imagine what

she said to them, but based on her giggles I don’t think I want to know.

“Why does Ronan already have his wolf? Is it because he’s a **hybrid?**” “Actually, he’s a tribid. He is a vampire, werewolf, and warlock. He will be very powerful,” she says.

“Is **that** why the goddess chose **him?** Does she

want me **to** have a **powerful** mate? I **didn’t think** that would be necessary with **my** powers.” “I’m sure that’s part of it. The threats will increase once we attempt to take our place as the Queen of the supernaturals. We will need a powerful mate to stand by our side, to fight by our side,” she says.

“So then Valor is powerful too.” “He is a hybrid with royal blood from both his vampire and werewolf sides. He has also grown up with loving parents who have taught him there is more than just physical strength,” she

says. My heartaches when I think of all my father told me last night. He has no idea who Ronan’s mother is

but he did know the woman that accompanied him was his aunt. He is the son of Roger Whitlock. The hybrid Alpha that tried to slaughter our pack.

His forced smile and his aunt’s glare made so much more sense after what my dad told me. I wonder if his

attempt to get close to me at the ceremony was purely a tactic for revenge. “No, thankfully, he spent more

time with omegas than he did his father. It also seems the Beta didn’t agree with Roger and hasn’t allowed the evil aunt to fill his head with vitriol,” she says. “**What** else **did you** talk **about?**” “I just needed to make sure

that their intentions towards their fated mate, us, were good. I had the same fear about Ronan when that

woman kept mad mugging us at the ceremony,” she says.

“Mate or not, I’ll never allow anyone to hurt you, Della” Amethyst says, and I smile. I can feel her love flow

through our bond. I slide out of bed feeling more awake than twenty minutes ago. I head to the shower. Just

as I'm about to step inside my mother nudges my link. "Della, when you are dressed, head down to the dining room. Your dad and I are going to address the pack about our discussion last night, and we want you there,"

she says.

"I **won't** be long mom." I hop in and take the quickest shower I've ever taken. I grab my sports bra, tank top, and yoga pants. I quickly dress and make my way through the castle. It's going to take some getting used to living here full-time, but since we have visited so often, I know exactly where I'm going. I plan to attend training after breakfast. I want to see how the royal warriors train. I can't show them exactly what I'm capable

of, but I will definitely participate in hand-to-hand fighting.

As I approach the dining room, I'm not surprised by the loud chatter that can be heard from the hallway. The number of royal pack members has increased over the last few years. I step into the dining room and notice Maddy standing near the food. She gives me a small wave and I smile back at her. As I approach the head

1/3

table, I ignore the glares I'm getting from the Regina George wannabe and her cronies. Flaugh to myself as I

take my seat next to Charlie.

"Della, they have your favorite, chocolate chip pancakes. Do you want me to get them for you," she asks. "How about if we go up together after mom and dad address the pack?" She smiles and I nod to my parents. My mother and father stand moving around the table. I stand and join them. It's amazing how quickly everyone quiets once they realize the queen and king are facing them. "My queen and I appreciate how well everything turned out yesterday for the ceremony" he says.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for your loyalty and support. I would also like to thank the omegas that made such a beautiful banquet possible. Without the omegas, the royal pack would not function. It was brought to my attention yesterday that some pack members have deemed omegas as less than. I will only say this once. Every member of the royal pack is to be treated with respect and kindness. We all play a vital role in the pack's success," he says, his gaze moving to the table where the three girls are sitting.

I fight the smile that wants to spread on my face as they start to squirm under his gaze. "Any member of the pack that feels they can't treat others with kindness and respect is

welcome to leave. If you stay and treat others harshly and disrespectfully, the choice to remain part of the pack will no longer be yours. I don't care who you are related to or what position they hold. I will not tolerate abuse of any kind just as my father did not," he says.

I want to fist pump, but I stand keeping my eyes trained on the tables in front of me before my eyes finally

meet Lisa's. She immediately drops her gaze. "Thank you all again. Now let's all enjoy the delicious breakfast

that was prepared by the omegas, and please be sure to thank them for their hard work," my mother says. I

move back to the table and grab Charlie's hand. I lead her up to the buffet set up and we both over fill our

plates.

Maddy is standing at the end of the buffet table. "Thank you, Della. You didn't have to have your dad do that,

but my mom and I appreciate it. All of the omegas do," she says. "Yes, I did. He **meant** every word. My

parents are both amazing, and they **would never** tolerate **that** nonsense. They needed to make **sure** the pack

realized nothing had changed **just because my** grandpa was **no** longer **king.**"

She smiles and nods at me. Charlie clears her throat and I chuckle. "Maddy this is my sister, Charlie." "It's

nice to meet you Charlie" Maddy says. I smile when Charlie starts telling her how much she loves the food.

"Have you eaten **yet,**" I ask, and she looks confused. "No, I'll eat after breakfast is over. You should go enjoy

your breakfast with your family," she says. "**I'd** like **you** to join us **for** breakfast. **Grab** a **plate** and come sit **next**

**to** me."

"Della, are you sure," she asks as she looks toward the council's table. "**Yes, I'm sure. You don't** need **to** be

**afraid. You're my friend and I want you to join my family for breakfast.**" She smiles and makes herself a plate.

I notice how much less she has on her plate than Charlie and me. Is she taking less because she is afraid to

take more? "She doesn't have her wolf," Amethyst says, reminding me.

**"Why doesn't she have her wolf, Amethyst?"** I know she might know with our connection to the goddess. "I

can't tell you right now, but soon. I need you to trust me," she says. **"I trust you"** I say. I lead Charlie and

Maddy back to our table. After introducing her, we all take our seats and dig into breakfast. I'm glad that

Maddy approached us at the banquet. I have a feeling she is going to be important to us.

*Valor POV*

I approach my father's office and knock. I've learned my lesson about just barging in. I shutter at the image

213

& Rules

that I wish I could burn from my memory. Thankfully, it was only my father's bare a\*\* that I got an eye full of but my mother's moans still haunt me. "Come in," my father calls out. As soon as I step inside, he smirks at me. I roll my eyes before I take a seat in front of his desk. "I was wondering when you would make your way to my office," he says.

"Dad, I would like to spend time in the werewolf kingdom." "I figured as much but under what pretense? I can't

just send you there without an actual reason," he says. "How about training with the royal pack? **Can you** ask

if I can train with them and offer to have their warriors **come** here? I'm sure we have different **training**

techniques that could also benefit each **kingdom**. I will also **offer my apologies again for fighting at such an** auspicious event."

“I see you have thought about this. I’m impressed with what you’ve come up with in such a short time. Are you sure the young lady isn’t your mate,” my father asks. The more I thought about it last night, the *more* I believe she is. I’m not sure why I can’t scent her, but she is all I can think about.

“I believe she is, dad, but for some reason I can’t feel the bond. I can’t scent her.” A thought pops into my head

unbidden. Not because it’s upsetting, but it definitely will complicate things. “**Do you think** she is **wolfless?**”

My father sits up straighter and his face turns serious. “What if she is,” he asks. “Are **you asking me if I**

wouldn’t want **her** if she has no wolf? If she is **unworthy of** being my queen without **one.**” “That’s exactly what

I am asking you,” he says.

“She is mine whether she has a wolf or not. I believe in here **that** she is my mate,” I say, pointing to my heart.

A smile spreads across his face. “I will make the call. I’m proud of you, Valor. I believe that whatever the

reason is you are having trouble scenting her will not change the fact that you have found your queen,” he

says. It’s my turn to smile because I pray he is right.

9

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**Walked Away 106**

[ 1,569 words ]

## 6 Don't Be a Coward

*Lisa POV*

We make our way out of the dining room and anger bubbles up inside me. The f\*\*king king was looking **right** at us. I'm surprised my father didn't ask me why the hell was going on? "Can **you** believe that little b\*\*ch? **How** dare she tell her parents on us and then she **actually lets that f\*\*king omega sit at the head table**. Treating that **pathetic** mutt like she is **something** other than a **f\*\*king pack slave**."

"Maybe we should just let it go, Lisa? I mean she is the next queen of werewolves. If we piss her off now, what do you think will happen when she is actually in charge? Besides, the king sounded serious about **the punishment**," Myra says. "**Don't** be a **f\*\*king** coward, Myra. **Do you agree with your** sister Madison? She looks between the two of us and comes to stand next to me.

"Maybe you should just go hang out with the wannabe queen and the filthy omega if you want to be a coward," Madison says and I smile. Hurt flashes in Myra's eyes as she stares at her sister. Without a word, she turns to leave, but Madison's words stop her in her tracks. "If you leave right now we aren't sisters anymore." Myra turns again, staring at Madison, but I'm shocked when she walks away.

I can feel Madison resolve faltering as we watch her sister's retreating form. I place my hand on her forearm. "**I'm so sorry that your sister would choose those two pathetic she-wolves over you. Don't** worry **Madison, I've always** wanted a sister." She smiles, and I pull her in for a hug. Goddess, they are both pathetic, but I'm going to need her help to put that b\*\*ch Della and her little pet in their places. A few minutes later we are heading toward the entrance to the castle when the b\*\*ch herself steps into view.

She is wearing workout clothes and moving down the path to the training field. I turn to Madison. "**I have an idea. I'm going to follow her to training. She is only** sixteen. **There is no way she is as skilled a fighter as I am. Besides, I only have a month before I turn eighteen. I can feel my wolf even if I can't** shift. I know **she will help me embarrass her**."

"What do you want me to do? I can't fight Lisa. Our dad never let us train," Madison says. "That's alright. **This is the perfect time for you to go and teach that worthless omega her place. I'm sure she has never trained a day in her life. She is weak. I even heard them say she is wolfless. She shouldn't even be allowed to live among wolves**."

“What exactly do you want me to do, Lisa? You heard the king. He doesn’t care who our fathers are if we disrespect other pack members. It sounded like he was talking about banishment,” she says. **“That was just a threat trying to keep the lower-ranked pack members in line. He wouldn’t banish us. Our fathers would never allow it. Besides just threaten the little b\*\*ch to keep her mouth shut. I can already tell she’ll be too afraid to breathe a word if you threaten to have her and mother kicked out of the Royal Pack if she breathes a word.”**

rget

I can see she still wants to argue.

**“I thought you said you weren’t a coward like Myra. You know wh**

1. **it. I’ll deal with both of them myself. I refuse to be friends with a weak wolf who isn’t willing to do what needs**

**to be done to teach those two pathetic wolves a lesson,”** I say before turning to follow the path. “Fine, I’ll do

it,” she calls out, and I smile. I turn to watch her head back into the castle until I make my way **to the training**

field.

Thankfully, I’m wearing something that will allow me to move. Even if I beat this **b\*\*ch** senseless **here, there** is nothing the almighty king can do to me. I scan **the** rows of men and women until I **find Della at the back of**

Son’t Be a Conard

the group. I make my over but don’t approach her. It doesn’t take long for **the Royal** Beta Liam to have us break into pairs to spar. Without wasting a moment, I move to stand in front of Queen **b\*\*ch**.

At first, she looks taken back by my sudden appearance, but she quickly schools her features. “What can I help you with Lisa,” she asks. “I’m here to train princess. I was hoping we could be sparring partners unless of course, you are afraid to fight me.” She throws her head back and laughs, drawing the attention **of** warriors around us. “You think I’m afraid of you. I fight with formidable opponents, not little girls throwing tantrums because they have to be kind to everyone regardless of rank, she says.

I raise my hand, intending to slap her when a deep voice has me dropping my hand to my side. “Do we **have** a problem here ladies,” Beta Liam asks. “No Beta, I was simply asking the princess to be my sparring **partner**, but I guess I’m not good enough for her.”

“Fine, you want to spar. You got it, but no crying to your daddy when I beat your a\*\*\* she says. “Alright, since Princess Della has been training since she was a small pup, the entire group is going to watch the sparring match between her and Lisa Campbell. I expect you both to remember that this is not a real fight and the

point is to improve your skills and not to hurt each other,” Liam says. He is very wrong. I’d like to see her bleeding at my feet after the way she treated me **at** the banquet.

The warriors begin to form a circle around us as Liam’s words have me wondering if what he said was true

about her training or was he trying to get me to back out. No f\*\*king way am I losing face in front of everyone

here. My father trained me. I bounce on my feet as we begin to circle each other. I **can’t** wait to land **the** first

punch and put this b\*\*ch on the ground. Without hesitating, I lunge toward her.

### **Della** POV

I can’t believe this stupid girl is actually challenging me. “In her defense, she has no idea you are a bad\*\*

midnight wolf. Also, she isn’t the brightest crayon in the box,” Amethyst says. As we circle each other, I **study**

her movements. I already know she will make the first move based on her personality. She thinks too much of

herself and she is impulsive. It doesn’t take long for her to prove me right. She lunges at me and I easily sidestep her.

I immediately turn and face her, readying myself for her next attack. This time she approaches me slowly.

When she thinks she is close enough, she throws a punch which I easily dodge. I throw my own punch into

her right side, knocking the wind from her. When she doubles over trying to catch her breath, I grab her hair

and pull my knee up to meet her face. She falls back, blood pouring from her nose. She quickly scrambles to her feet, trying to wipe away the blood.

“You b\*\*ch” she screams before she barrels toward me. Instead of moving out of the way this time, I throw a

punch that connects with her jaw. She is out flat, knocked out cold. Cheers erupt around me, but I don’t have

time to enjoy them when my sister’s frantic link has me taking off toward the castle. As soon as I get inside, I make my way to the kitchen. Charlie’s back is to me and someone is sobbing in front of her.

I quickly move around the chair and find Maddy holding her right wrist. Blisters were already forming on her hand. **“What the hell happened?”** “I was just coming down to get some icecream and I heard a scream Maddy

was on the floor in front of the stove,” Charlie says. I crouch down so we are eye to eye. **“Who did this Maddy?”** “It was an accident, Della. It’s fine. I just burned myself. I’ll get my mom to put some ointment on it,”

she says.

I know she’s lying to me. I can sense it with my powers of perception, but why? **“I’m taking you to the hospital to have it treated so it will heal properly.”** “If I had a wolf like everyone else, I would heal on my own,” **she says.**

“Let’s just **focus** on getting **your** burn treated. Charlie, can you ask **mom** and dad to meet me at the

**“I’m on it,”** she says and runs toward the door leading **out** of the kitchen. I can see **Maddy** wants to argue but **I’m not** letting this **go**. Someone hurt her and I want to know who it is. Someone is **going to** answer for this f would be protective of any pack member that was being targeted by bullies, but something **about** Maddy makes me want blood from whoever hurt her.

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## Walked Away 107

[ 1,850 words ]

## 7 Tell the Truth

### *Madelena POV*

I'm still shocked that Della wants to be my friend. Not because King Hudson and Queen Amber **haven't** been amazing to the omegas, but this is on a different level. Treating us with respect is already amazing, but for her to want to spend time with me is unreal. The day I turned eighteen and didn't get my wolf, I thought my life was over. Being an omega is bad enough in our world, but to be wolfless will have most seeing me as worthless.

I smile as I stir the soup that I'm making for tonight's dinner. Footsteps from behind me having me turning in time to see Madison, one of Lisa's followers, approaching me. They have only been living in the castle a little over a month but they definitely think they are in charge. "What do **you** need," I ask just before her hand connects with my cheek. "Worthless b\*\*ch. How dare you think you are worthy of being friends with the princess," she says.

I'm not sure why, but her words have the opposite effect as they should. Instead of feeling she's right, I know she's wrong. "**The only worthless b\*\*ch I see is you, your sister, and Lisa.**" Anger flashes in her eyes. "You are a wolfless omega. You aren't even worthy of living among wolves, let alone be friends with the future que You should be banished to live among humans," she says.

"**I think I'm worthy and so does Della.**" Before I know what's happening, she grabs hold of me, turning on the other burner on the stove. I fight her with all my strength, but she still manages to force my hand over the flame. I scream as the burning pain engulfs my hand. She quickly lets me go looking around before her eyes meet mine.

I swear I see fear and regret in them. "If you say a word I'll make sure you and your mother get kicked out of the pack. If you think I can't, I have a very good imagination, so keep your mouth shut" she says before she

runs out of the kitchen.

I grip my wrist before I slide down to sit on the floor. I scream as pain mixed with frustration washes over me. The sound of footsteps has me trying to get to my feet. "Maddy, what happened," Charlie's voice is laced with worry. "**I got burned. I'll be fine.**" "Who did this to you," she asks, like she doesn't believe me. "**No one, I just got burned Charlie.**" I watch her eyes close, and I immediately know she is linking her parents. It's not like she can link with anyone else.

When the kitchen door bursts open, I try to stifle my sobs. I don't need them pressuring me to tell them what

happened after Madison's threat. Even if Della believes me, it doesn't mean the king and queen will if the

council gets involved. I'm just going to stick with my story and hope Madison has gotten her need to put me

in my place out of her system. I'm shocked when Della crouches down in front of me.

"Who did this Maddy, she

asks. **"It was an accident, Della. It's fine. I just burned myself. I'll get my mom to put some ointment on it.**

**It's not a big deal."**

When she **says** she is taking me to the hospital and tells Charlie to have her parents meet us there, I want to

scream for her to let this go, but I know Della won't. Even in **the short** time I've known her, I can **tell** she is

**protective of the** people she cares about. Knowing I'm one of those people has guilt **bubbling up inside** me. I wish I had a wolf. I meant **what** I said to Della. This wouldn't be an **issue if I had one. I can tell Della is strong**

**but she doesn't** have her wolf either. I won't have the girls hurting her **either because she defends me**

<7 Tell the Truth

0 Points >

As soon as we reach the hospital, a young man I've never seen rushes toward us. I don't leave **the** castle much and most of my time is spent in the kitchen. He looks like he is in his mid-thirties and he's **handsome**. "What happened, Della," he asks. "She got burned Mordeci, but she won't tell me how." His eyes darken as he stares at the blisters on my hand. "You do realize that unless something held your hand to the flame or **heat** source there is no way it would be this bad. Your first instinct is to pull away from pain," he says. I lower my gaze, hoping he'll drop it.

I'm glad when he takes me to a room by myself. I know Della isn't going to let this go, but I need a few minutes to come up with a plausible answer. I can't put my mother or her in danger because of me. "So *do* you really want to tell me what happened," he asks, bringing me out of my thoughts. "I just burned myself.

Della is just worried because we are friends." "No, that is part of it but she is also worried because you are

lying. I'm not sure why, but you need to tell her the truth. No one should be hurting you, Maddy," he says.

I go to open my mouth when he speaks again. "Do you think whoever did this to you will stop? I've seen

bullies all my life, and I've been alive a long time," he says. I look at him confused. "How old do you think I

am," he asks with a smirk. "**Thirty-two**" I answer. "Not even close. I'm sixty-two years old. Lycans age much

slower and live a long time. Now again I'll say bullies don't stop, they just find a new victim. What if they do

worse to the next person," he asks.

My thoughts go to the other omegas, then my mother. What if she does something to my mother because

they hate me? I'm just about to open my mouth when the door to the room bursts open. Della steps inside,

followed by Myra and Madison. Della looks pissed and the other two look petrified. "Mordeci, can you give us

a minute please" Della asks, but I can tell it's more of a command. "Of course, I need to get the ointment for

her hand."

He leaves, and my eyes move between the three of them. "I'm sorry Maddy. I never should have listened to

Lisa. I really didn't want to. I just wanted her to like me," Madison says. I can see the disappointment in

Della's eyes. It feels far worse than the pain I'm having in my hand. Before I can tell her it's fine, the door opens again and the king and queen step into the room. They look at the girls, then at me.

"Maddy, what happened" the queen asks. Before I can answer, Madison tells them everything that happened.

**"I'm sorry I didn't tell you, Della. I was worried that someone else would get hurt."** "You should have trusted

me, Maddy. You are my friend. I would have protected you and everyone else” Della says. “Madison, I want

you, your sister, and father in my office for an hour to discuss your punishment. I warned you what would happen if you mistreated another pack member, and you chose to anyway,” the king says.

“I’m sorry, my king” she says, tears rolling down her cheeks. “Dad, I would like Maddy and I to be there along with Lisa,” Della says. He nods and her parents leave the room. “I know my sister was wrong, but she does really feel bad. The minute it happened, she came to find me in tears. When she told me what had happened, I knew she was sorry. She wasn’t just sorry because she knew she would be in trouble, but because she hurt you Maddy. She isn’t a bad person. She just let her desire to be accepted by Lisa cloud her judgment,” Myra

**says.**

“Are you asking that she not be punished,” Della asks. “No, I deserve to be punished for hurting Maddy but I truly am sorry,” Madison says. “You can both leave. I’d like to discuss everything with Maddy before we meet with my parents,” **Della** says. Once they are gone, Della sits down next to me. “Maddy, I want us to be good friends. Good friends don’t lie and keep **secrets**. I realize that you don’t know me enough to know **you** can **trust** me, but you can. Promise me that if anyone hurts you **or** tries to, you’ll be honest **with me**” **she says**. “**I promise**” I say, knowing that I mean it. “Now, how do you want Madison punished,” she **asks**.

7 Tell the Truth

**Valor POV**

\*\*\* Points ›

“Are you sure about this Valor? I thought wolves always knew who their mates were the instant they found them, but you’re not even sure about this girl,” Juniper says. Axel growls, and I’m not thrilled with what **she** just said either. Juniper and I grew up together. We have been friends since we were pups. “**Juniper, I appreciate your** concern, but Axel and I know what we feel. **I think the more time we spend with her, the stronger the bond will become.**”

“Do you really want a weak mate without a wolf? Do you think the kingdom is going to want such a weak queen?” “**Enough** Juniper. **No** matter the reason we can’t sense her, we **both** believe **she** is **our mate**. Neither **of** us **care if** she is wolfless. If she is our fated **mate, that** is all **that** matters. **Don’t** ever **speak about** our mate like **that** again.” Something flashes in her eyes but she finally nods. “How long will you be gone,” she asks. “**I’m not sure. My dad is reaching out to King Ace today. I’m hoping he will a**

**gree and** if he does I'll leave **tonight.**" "You are going by yourself. Shouldn't you take a couple of warriors with you? I mean you are the next ruler of vampires. Why don't you let me and Vince go with you? I'm sure your mom would feel better about you being away from the castle" she says. "Why would his mom be worried? I trust my son to take care of himself and I also trust the king and queen," my mother says as she steps into the room where I'm packing.

"Juniper, head home. I need to speak with my son" she says. I can see she wants to argue, but she knows better. My mother is the kindest person on the planet, but when she gives an order she expects it to be followed. Once the door closes, she sits on my bed. "**What's up, mom?**" "We need to talk about Juniper," she

says.

11

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## Walked Away 108

[ 1,864 words ]

8 Phone Calls

**8 Phone Calls**

**Ace POV**

As soon as we reach the office, I pull Olivia into my arms. I can feel her anger flowing through our bond. "How

dare that little b\*\*ch" she growls. "I'm **angry too, my love**, but we need to be **calm** when we meet with **the** girls. I've already linked their fathers **to join** us." "How

could they hurt someone that is clearly weaker than them? What the hell is wrong with these girls, especially after we just addressed the whole pack,” she asks.

“**I don’t** know **Olivia**, but I do know they will be punished. I meant what I said **in the dining room**. **I don’t** care **if they** are the **daughters of** council members. **That** makes all of this worse as far as **I’m** concerned.” “I agree. They should be setting examples, not bullying other pack members,” she says. I begrudgingly release Olivia from my hold when the phone on my desk rings.

If the call made it to my desk it has to be important. “Hello King Ace, it’s King Alfonso. Do you have a moment to talk,” he asks. “**I do** have a few minutes before **I** have **to meet with some pack** members, **and** please **drop the title**. **Let’s save that for the official** ceremonies.”

He chuckles before he speaks again. “Excellent, I’m reaching out on behalf of my son,” he says, and I press the speaker button on my phone, so Olivia can hear the conversation. “**What can** I help **you with** Alfonso?” “M

y son was hoping you would allow him to stay in the royal pack to train with your warriors” he says. Olivia’s face lights up and I roll my eyes. “**I’m** **honestly shocked, Alfonso**. **I know your warriors** are quite skilled. **I**

**never expected he would ask to train here.**”

Olivia glares at me and I raise my hands in surrender. “**We would, of course, love to have your son stay in the royal pack and train with our elite warriors**. **Hell, maybe he can even teach some of my men new techniques.**” “He also wanted me to extend an invitation to any of your warriors that might want to join our training,” he says. “**We appreciate that offer, Alfonso**. **I will speak to my warriors and let you know if any are interested**. **When will Valor be arriving?**”

“Honestly, he is very excited to get started. He will probably leave shortly and be there sometime this evening if that’s alright with you,” he says. Olivia is practically dancing with glee across from my desk. I can’t stop myself from rolling my eyes again. “**That will be fine, Alfonso**. **I will make sure that we have accommodations for him.**” “Thank you, Ace. I really appreciate your willingness to allow my son to spend time in your pack. I look forward to meeting any of your warriors that join us” he says before cutting the call.

“Della is going to freak. Do you think he is really going to be her mate,” Olivia asks. I groan but before I can

answer her, there is a knock on the office door. We take our places behind the desk and I call out for them to enter. Elias and Joshua step inside, followed by their daughters.

Madison has the good sense to look apologetic, but Lisa is either oblivious or really believes she is untouchable.

“My king,” the two men say in unison before they bow to Olivia. **“Please have a seat. We are waiting for Della and Madelena to arrive before we begin the discussion.”** Something crosses Lisa features, but it is gone as quickly as it came. A few seconds later Della and Madelena step into the office. Olivia rushes to offer Madelena a chair. A large bandage covers her hand. I watch as Lisa looks disgusted by my mate’s actions.

**“Do you have something to say, Lisa,”** I ask, startling her. “No, my king” she says. **“It seems that you aren’t very good at hiding your emotions. Do you have a problem with the queen helping an injured pack member?”** “Lisa” Elias says in warning. “No, let her answer honestly, **Elias.**” “I just don’t think a queen should be waiting on a

1/3

wolfless omega,” she says. “So you think that you are better than Madelena?”

I can see Elias swallow, but he doesn’t dare fink his daughter in front of me. Of course, I am. My father is a council member I am bound to be someone’s Luns someday. She will always be a wolfless omega’ she says Della growls from where she is standing behind Madelena chair. I believe my daughter doesn’t agree. What do you think, Della?” “I think the pack was warned what would happen if they disrespected any other pack member, regardless of who their dad was. I also hope that no pack is subjected to a Luna like you, she says.

“I do recall saying that, actually. So I’m going to cut to the chase. I was made aware that Lisa encouraged both girls to hurt Della and Madelena” Lisa goes to open her mouth but Ryker growls and fear flashes in her eyes. “You don’t interrupt me when I’m speaking. Now my understanding is that Myra refused to get involved but, unfortunately, Madison followed Lisa’s orders.” Joshua looks at his daughter, disappointment clearly

written on his face.

“What did you do,” he asks Madison. “Lisa went to the training field to teach Della a lesson and told me to teach Maddy one. She told me to threaten her so she wouldn’t tell after I put her in her place, Madison says “How could you do such a thing? We have raised you better than that,” Joshua says before he turns to me “We will accept whatever punishment you see fit my king and I would like to apologize to Maddy on my daughter’s behalf,” he says.

“My daughter may have told her to put the omega in her place, my king, but she didn’t force her. How can she be held accountable for Madison’s actions,” Elias asks, bringing my attention to him. “Did you miss the **part** where she went to

the **training** field to harm **my** daughter? **Had she not** had her **a\*\*** handed to her, we would **have** had a very different **conversation**. I believe **both you and** your daughter **might** need a lesson in taking responsibility for your **actions**. Her behavior **right now** is **a result of what you** deem acceptable.”

“My king” he starts to say, but I cut him off. **“Madison has apologized** and I truly believe she means it but that **doesn’t negate that she must be punished. Your daughter doesn’t seem a bit sorry and she** also will be punished. “My king, she is still a child” Elias pleads. “She **is** seventeen **and should** be well aware of **what** is right **and** wrong. **Madison both** Maddy **and** Della have **asked for leniency for you. Therefore, you will be** stripped of **your rank for one month and will report to the kitchen every morning by six.”**

Tears stream down Madison’s face. She rushes over and hugs both the girls before she thanks me. “Lisa, since you show **no sign of remorse for your actions, you will be stripped of your title for two months. You** will report to the **laundry every morning at six. If I get a report of you causing** trouble, you **will be put** in the cells and, depending **on** the severity, you **will be banished. I will not tolerate abuse of any** kind in my pack.”

Lisa looks at her father for help, but he stares at me, knowing there is nothing he can do. “**I hope** for your sake **that during this time no one treats you as you have treated Maddy. You are** all dismissed.” Once everyone is gone, Olivia plops down in my lap. “Seeing you be all kingy is super hot. After you make the call, I think we should lock the door. **“You really think this is a good idea.”** “I do, my king,” she whispers in my ear. I

grab the phone and dial quickly.

### ***Ronan POV***

“So tell me exactly what you felt and said,” Reagan says. **“Reagan, I’ve said it three times. Nothing is goi change if I repeat it.”** “So *you* feel drawn to her, but you didn’t scent her as your mate. Silas also feels **the need** to be close to her, but there was no tingles when you touched her skin. I’ve never heard of that happening before. Mates can always identify each other. Even if she is not of age, you would be able to sense her,” he

says.

2/3

### **Phone Calls**

**Nothing** he is **telling** me is **helpful**. **It's only** been a few **days since the ceremony and the need to go back to the castle** is driving me crazy. "I can look in the **library your father kept, but he was so focused on power**

**doubt** there is anything that can help us with questions about mates" he says. "**Right** now I'm **more** concerned **about how** I get to see her **again**. I **know** she **won't** have her wolf until she **turns eighteen but** Silas is **driving** me crazy **about** seeing her **again now**."

"Are you sure it's just Silas," he asks with a smirk on his face. I growl just as a knock sounds on the **office door**. "Come in," Reagan calls out. Melanie steps into the room, offering me a shy smile before **she looks at** her father. "What do you need, Melanie," he asks, irritation clearly in his voice. "I was just wondering **if you**

would be training with Ronan today. I wanted to join you," she says,

He throws his head back and laughs. "Daddy, why are you laughing," she whines. Looking at her now, she is still a beautiful she-wolf but she has nothing on Della. "I'm laughing because you have never trained **a day in** your life. I was more than willing to pass you my title, but you refused to train. So why now, all of **a sudden**, are you so interested," he asks.

"Daddy, why are you trying to embarrass me," she whines again. I never realized how annoying she is until now. "Ronan is not your mate. He is not interested in anyone but his mate, Melanie. You need to focus on finding the one that is destined for you when you turn eighteen. Until then focus on school," he says. I **try** not to laugh when she stomps her foot and stalks out of the office. "I apologize, Ronan. She is very immature. Hopefully her wolf will help her grow up," he says.

"**No**  
**problem Reagan. Are you ready for training? Silas wants out in the worst way.**" "Of course, let's go." He stands just as the phone on his desk rings. When he places it against his ear, I can hear my aunt's shrill voice. I can't make out everything she is saying, but I definitely hear the word king. What the hell is she going

on about now?

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# Walked Away 109

[ 1,618 words ]

9. Suplice

9 Surprise

Ronan POV

When Reagan hangs up, he smiles at me like the Cheshire cat. What's going on? Our presence is being requested in the Luna's office. Apparently the king is on the phone requesting to speak to you," he says. He can't be serious. Why the hell would the king be calling me? 'Move, don't keep the king waiting" he says, pushing me toward the door. It doesn't take us long to reach Agatha's office. What the hell took you so long? she growls before she pushes a button on the phone.

"My apologies, your majesty, for keeping you waiting. Ronan and Reagan have joined me in my office, she says. "It's alright, Agatha," he says. The fact that he doesn't use her title is not lost on me. She must realize it

too, because her expression morphs from excitement to disdain in seconds. She looks like she sucked on a

lemon.

"Ronan, I'm reaching out to offer you an opportunity to stay in the royal pack and train with the elite warriors.

I realize that your aunt is currently leading the pack, but all too soon it will be time for you to take your place

as Alpha of the Night Walker pack. My hope is that we can offer you training and support so that you will

become the Alpha you are meant to be with your Beta's support. I'm sure your aunt can help, but it is not the

same as learning from an Alpha," he says.

My aunt's eyes light up hearing the king's offer and I fight the urge to roll my eyes. "I'm honored that you would offer **me this opportunity, my king. I absolutely would love the opportunity to** train with the elite **warriors.**" "We also get to see Della," Silas says, practically prancing in

my mind. I block him out and focus my attention back on my conversation with the king. "If you would like to make the trip to the castle tomorrow, we will be waiting for your arrival. My queen has already made arrangements for your stay," he says.

Of course, she did, because I would be a fool to turn down this offer even if Silas wasn't driving me crazy to see Della. Every pack knows that the elite warriors are more skilled than any pack warrior. "You can lie to yourself, but that is *the* only person you are lying too. The minute the king made the offer your first thought was of Della, human," Silas says. I don't even bother to try to put the block up again. "We look forward to seeing you tomorrow, Ronan," he says. "**Thank you, my king.**"

As soon as the call ends, a sinister smile spreads across my aunt's face. "This is perfect. It couldn't have worked out better if the goddess herself planned it. You'll be able to get close to the three of them. This is your chance to avenge your father and take your rightful place as ruler of the werewolves. You cannot waste this opportunity, Ronan," she says. "**Agatha, we have been over this enough times. I know what you expect of me. I will do what is right for the pack and my father's memory.**"

This is a perfect opportunity to discuss with the king exactly what happened the day of my father's death. I need a way to convince the pack that Agatha's retelling of the events of that day are all lies. It is the only way to stop the pack's plotting against the royals. "Ronan, I think you should get some sleep. We will leave right after breakfast. I will accompany you before returning to assist Agatha with the running of the pack," he says.

I *know* exactly what he is saying to me. We both know she will be even more relentless with the poison she spews to prepare the pack for their part in taking over the kingdom. Despite Agatha and I sharing blood, I refuse to allow her to destroy my pack or the woman that I believe is my mate.

### ***Della POV***

I'm just about to jump in the shower when my father links me that he needs me in his office. Once everything was settled with Lisa and Madison, I walked Maddy to her quarters. I knew she was afraid of upsetting her

mom, but once we explained everything she was just happy both girls were being punished. I agree with my

dad about Madison, I believe she was truly sorry, but I also believe that Lisa is going to be a slow learner

even though i hope I'm wrong.

After that, I took Maddy to my room, and we watched movies and ate junk food. I wonder what my dad needs to see me about this late. I slip my clothes back on and rush downstairs to his office. I knock, and before I can reach for the handle, the door opens. I almost stumble back when I see who opens the door. "Valor!" I practically whisper. "Princess" he says with a slight smirk. What the hell is he doing here? "I don't know, but

he is looking mighty fine," Amethyst says.

"Could you get your hormones under control? Now **is** not the time to be checking him out. We still have no idea if he is our mate." She giggles before she recedes in my mind. "Della come in, my father calls out, and I step around Valor. I look between my parents and I can tell that they aren't surprised by Valor being here. What the hell? Why didn't they give me a heads up? "Della, Valor will be staying in the pack for a while to train

with the elite warriors," my mother says.

"Since you two have already met, I was hoping you could show him around and introduce him at training tomorrow since you'll be there," my father says. What the hell are they doing to me? I'm freaking out, and now they want me to show Valor around. "You train with the elite warriors," Valor asks. I'm on edge and his question irritates me. "**Do you think, because I'm a girl, I can't be an elite warrior?**"

"Not at all. I'm just shocked that you are only sixteen and have mastered such skills. I know how intensive elite training is, so I imagine yours is just as tough. My sister is an elite warrior, and I'm sure if she really wanted to she could put me on my a\*\*," he says.

"Why are you snapping at our mate," Amethyst asks. I close my eyes, trying to get myself in check. **I'm not snapping at him, and we don't even know if he'll be our mate yet.** I know she is right, and I owe him an apology, but being this close to him has me out of sorts. I take a deep breath before I open my eyes. **"I apologize, Valor, for my tone. It has been a very long day, and I'm just tired. I will show you around tomorrow and take you to training."** "No worries, princess," he says. **"You can just call me Della you know when we aren't**

**at a formal ceremony."**

"I could, but I like calling *you* princess" he says with a smirk. Amethyst giggles again and I want to pummel her. **"I'm going to bed,"** I say, turning toward the door. "Della, before you head to bed, can you show Valor to the spare room across from *yours*," my mother says. I watch my father's eyes get big as he turns to look at my mother, who doesn't even acknowledge his stare. I smirk realizing he had no idea that was the room my mother had prepared for Valor. "Olivia" he starts to say, but she ignores him as she comes to hug me. Valor grabs a large bag, slinging it over his shoulders.

His muscles bunch under his t-shirt and I quickly look away. I swear Amethyst is purring in my mind. I lead him out of my parents' office and up to the alpha floor. "I hope you don't mind me being here princess," he says from behind me. I turn and nearly run into his chest. "**Why would I mind Valor? You being here is not about me.**" He leans down so we are eye to eye. "I don't know you were checking me out pretty hard back there in the office," he says.

"**What the hell? I was not.**" He chuckles before he puts his hands up in surrender. "I was kidding princess. Besides, I really am here for training, so I'll try not to drive you to crazy playing tour guide," he says. "It's fine. I really don't mind. I really am sorry about earlier. My friend Maddy got hurt, and we had to deal with the

**she** wolves involved. Something flashes in his eyes **but** it's **gone** as quickly as it came "Well then you should get to **bed** princess. I'll see **you** bright and early in the morning he **says**.

He turns pushing open the door to his room and I go into mine. As soon as I'm inside, I throw myself **onto** my bed. A hundred questions rush through my mind, but the one I have no idea how to answer is whether Valor is truly my mate. How can I know without spending time with Ronan too? I groan and force myself **to get** up and head to the shower. I have a feeling that no matter how tired I am, sleep isn't going to come easily tonight knowing that Valor is across the hall.

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## Walked Away 110

[ 1,657 words ]

< 10 Breathe Della

+ Points

10 Breathe Della

**Della POV**

I was absolutely right about not being able to sleep. I couldn't stop thinking about why Valor was really here. Does he suspect that I'm his mate? Why did my parents keep me in the dark about him coming? I slam my fists down at my sides onto the bed before I groan in frustration. Now is when I wish I had someone other than my parents to talk to about this whole mate thing? "What am I, chopped liver," Amethyst asks.

I roll my eyes. "You and I are in the same boat. I have no idea how to choose the right mate. I know we have time, but I feel like we're bound to end up with Valor simply because he is here spending time with us but what if he isn't the right choice? What if Ronan is the mate we should have chosen, but we never truly get to know him? Besides, I have no idea if he is still holding a grudge against us for what happened to his father."

"Della, I know how hard this is but I promise you that the goddess picked both Ronan and Valor because she believed they were both worthy of standing by our side/ She saw something that made her believe they would both make a good mate," Amethyst says. **"I don't just want a mate that is worthy of leading by my side. I want the one who is going to love me the way dad loves mom. I want him to look at me like I'm his everything. I**

**want to feel the same way about him."**

"What if we could have them both," Amethyst asks. "I can honestly **say that I wouldn't want to make anyone share me. I am not a selfish person, Amethyst, but I wouldn't want to share my mate. I know that I want my mate to love only me. To want only me.** How could I ask the most **important person in our life not to want the same thing? Valor and Ronan** deserve to be someone's **one and only.**"

"So you will be alright with someone else being mates with the man we don't choose" she asks. **"Of course. I don't expect him to remain mateless because I feel the other is meant to be ours."** "This is exactly why the goddess chose you to be my human. She knew even faced with a difficult choice, you would never make the easy one. She knew you would think about the needs of others above your own. Do you know how many she-wolves would have simply been selfish and chose them both if they could," Amethyst says.

"That still doesn't help me Amethyst. I feel drawn to Valor but I need to figure out if he is truly my fated mate. I can tell that Ronan has very different life experiences and may not even want me, but I still need to spend time with him. This isn't a choice I will make lightly, but I fear my bond with Valor will strengthen if he is with me every day. You're right I won't make the easy choice because this isn't something I can get wrong."

"Take a breath Della. We will figure something out. We will find a way to spend time with Ronan. I promise you that together we will choose the man that is meant to be ours. No

matter what happens, I believe that both men will be important to us in different ways," she says. I throw my forearm over my eyes and groan again. A

firm knock on my bedroom *door* has me sitting up quickly. "Who is it?"

"Your mother, sweet pea." I rush from the bed and open the door. I grab her arm, pulling her inside. She giggles as she makes her way to a comfy chair that sits in the corner of my room. "I take it you have questions about Valor being here she says. **"What the hell mom?"** She raises her eyebrow at my choice of language. Not because she has never heard me curse but never at her. **"What the heck mom? Why is he here? A better question: Why didn't you tell me he was coming?"**

"Breathe Della. He is here to train with the elite warriors. Alfonso reached out to your father yesterday asking

our permission for Valor to stay in the pack and train. We didn't tell you because we wanted it to be a

1/3

< 10 Breathe Della

+8 Points >

surprise," she says. I start to pace. "It was definitely a surprise, mom. Do you **think** he asked **about coming here** because he feels the pull of the bond too?" "I've never seen you like this Della. I don't think I've ever seen you so rattled" she says.

"Wouldn't you be if you were me? You didn't have to think twice about who was your mate. You **knew it was** dad the moment you met him." "I did but you know, as well as I do, it wasn't a fairy tale like many mates experience when they find each other. What I can tell you is that just because it didn't start out the way I expected doesn't make my relationship with your father any less amazing. I guarantee you will have the same thing with whomever ends up being your mate, Della. Trust yourself and trust Amethyst," she says.

She motions for me to come over to her and I laugh when she pats her knee like she did when I was a little girl. I sit down, and she wraps her arms around me. "I love you, Della. I want you to stop stressing and just enjoy the journey. Now I suggest you get up and dressed before the handsome young man across the hall

comes knocking on your door," she says. I press a kiss on her cheek and stand.

She starts to make her way toward the door just as I grab my training clothes and head toward the bathroom.

“Della” she says, and I turn back to look at her. “We are expecting another guest after breakfast” she says

with a smirk on her face. “**What guest**” I ask my heart beating faster. “It’s a surprise” she says with a wink before she opens the door and steps into the hallway. “**No way. She has to be teasing me.**”

Valor **POV**

Once I’m up and showered, I throw on sweatpants and a tank top for training. I leave my hair wet and messy. I

check myself out in the mirror. “Alright Cassanova, let’s go see our girl,” Axel says. “**Calm** down beast. **We**

**don’t want to seem too anxious and scare the poor girl.**” He growls low and I chuckle. I open my door and step

into the hallway. I’m just about to knock on Della’s door when a voice from behind me startles me. “That’s my

sister’s room.”

I turn and smile at a girl who looks like a younger version of Della. “**I know I was going** to ask **her if** she is

ready for breakfast. **What’s your name?**” “My name is Charlie. Are you my sister’s mate,” she asks. Her question takes me off guard. Did Della tell her sister about me? Does she feel it too? Before I can answer her,

the door to Della’s room opens. When she notices us, she looks between us with confusion in her eyes. “Sissy.

is he your mate,” the little girl asks before either of us can speak.

Della’s eyes get big and she looks panicked. Is the thought of being my mate that horrifying? “Why would you ask that, Charlie” she asks. “No one stays on our floor unless their family. I’m not old enough to have a mate,

so I thought he might be yours” she says. “This is Valor. He is the next King of Vampires. He is a quest. That’s

why he is on our floor,” Della says. “It’s nice to meet you Charlie” I say extending my hand. She takes it. Her tiny hand totally engulfed in my big one.

"You are handsome, the little girl says. "Charlie' Della says in warning. "What he is," she says before she rushes down the hallway. I can't help the chuckle that escapes me. I'm sorry about her. She is ten, but sometimes she acts like she is sixteen' she says. "She is cute. She looks like a mini version of you, although you aren't **much** taller? She growls and I swear her eyes flicker. I know it isn't possible, but if I didn't know better I would think she has her wolf

"I may be short Prince Vator but teasing me before training is going to get you in a lot of trouble," she says. I can't help the smile that spreads across my face at her threat "I look forward to my punishment princess." Her cheeks turn bright red, and she rushes past me without another word. "Stop teasing our mate," Axel says with a growl. "No **way**. Did you **see** the blush? She is as attracted to us as we are **to** her."

2/3

<10 Breathe Della

45 Points

I catch up to her and we make our way to the dining room in silence. I chuckle when she takes the seat next to Charlie. Leaving me to sit next to the king. I smile listening to the conversations going on around me after

I'm introduced to everyone. I'm just about to answer a question Queen Olivia asked me when the chatter surrounding us suddenly stops. I look at Della first and follow her line of sight. The minute I see who she is looking at, anger bubbles up inside me. What the f\*\*k is he doing here?"

1

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