

My Promised Rejection

chapter 111-120

Walked Away 111

[1,885 words]

11 Not Yet

Della POV

As soon as we reach the dining room, I take the seat next to Charlie, needing to put some distance between me and Valoi. I can't believe he said that in his deep s*xy voice. I've never had just words make my belly flip like that. "It was hot," Amethyst says. "It was not hot. It was inappropriate. What if he ends up not **being our**

mate?"

"What if he ends up being our mate? I know you are worried about hurting our true mate, but you need to relax, Della. It's harmless flirting. Nothing will happen with Valor or Ronan until we are absolutely sure. Even then, we have time before we complete our bond. You need *to stop* overthinking this. Just enjoy the journey," she says. The fact that the room goes quiet has my attention moving from my wolf back to what's happening in the dining room.

My eyes snap to the entrance of the dining room and I swear my heart stops beating. My parents actually did it. Ronan moves through the dining room with a bag thrown over his shoulder. Anger bubbles up inside me when I notice a handful of she-wolves with lust in their eyes as he passes them. How dare they ogle someone else's mate. My eyes move to Valor and he looks pissed. What the hell are my parents thinking about having them here at the same time?

My father rounds the table, followed by my mother. "Welcome Ronan" he says. Ronan bares his neck to both my parents. "Join us for breakfast Ronan," my mother says, pointing to a chair next to Charlie. Without warning, Valor stands and walks out of the dining room. I'm on my feet and following him. A need to make sure he is alright overwhelms me. I follow his scent of sandalwood and leather.

I round the pack house and find Valor seated on a bench that faces the garden. I'm just about to approach him when a scream has us both taking off toward the tree line. Anger streaks through me at the sight we find when another scream rips through the air. Maddy is on the ground with a basket of berries spilled next to her. With a large brown

wolf looming over her. Valor immediately shifts and rushes toward them, but not before the rogue bites down onto her leg.

Amethyst pushes to the surface and we rush toward Maddy. Valor is fighting the rogue, but my only focus is Maddy. She is bleeding heavily from her leg. "I'm sorry, Della. I never heard him" she whispers, her voice barely audible. "It's not your fault. Stop apologizing. We need to **get** you to **the** hospital." Just as the words leave my mouth, her eyes flutter closed, and her breathing becomes rapid. "We don't have time, Della. Place your hands

on her leg over the wounds," Amethyst says.

Without hesitation, I do as she ordered. My hands are engulfed in light that flows into Maddy's leg. The sound of footsteps has me looking toward where Valor and the wolf were fighting. He is standing still now watching me heal Maddy's leg, a power I've never used before. The light dissipates and Maddy's breathing slows down and evens out. My shoulders **sag** in relief until I realize he knows I'm not an ordinary wolf.

"It's alright Della. Eventually we will tell them both, but right now we need to get Maddy to the hospital," Amethyst says. "Della" he starts to say but right now the only thing that matters is Maddy. "Can **you** carry her? I'll explain everything later if you promise to keep my secrets. My wolf says I can trust **you**, **so don't make** her a **l*ar**." He nods, and I can see nothing but sincerity in his eyes. I link my parents as we make our

way to the hospital.

1/3

<11 Not Yet

"How the hell did they get that close to the castle," my father growls. "I don't know Dad, but the warriors need **to** sweep the woods to make sure there aren't any more of them." "Of course, Ronan insisted on heading to you when I told him what's happening. He looks genuinely concerned," my dad says before cutting the link. I don't have time to deal with drama, so I hope both men keep themselves under control. The only person that matters right now is Maddy.

We reach the hospital and Mordeci is already waiting. He takes Maddy from Valor's arms and rushes her through the double doors. "Don't worry Della, she will be fine. She might need something for the blood loss, but we healed her," Amethyst says. I know she is right, but I won't feel better until Maddy is awake. "Are you alright, princess," Valor asks me. "I will be. She is my friend. The first real one I've had outside my family."

"I'm sure she'll be fine thanks to you" he says, dropping his voice to a whisper. "I promise" I start to say, but he

cuts me off. "You don't owe me an explanation. If you want to share more about yourself, then I would love to

hear all of it, but I promise you I'll never repeat what happened in the woods. My grandmother is very special,

but she doesn't go around talking about all she can do. Hopefully some day soon you'll want to share things

with me, but until then I'll be right here waiting," he says.

His words have warmth spreading across my chest. He really is perfect. I can tell he meant every word he just said to me. **"Thank you, Valor,"** I say. Without a second thought, I wrap my arms around his middle. Just as he

wraps his arms around me, a low growl has us stepping apart. I expect to turn and see my father, but instead

it's Ronan. His eyes are dark, and I can tell his wolf is at the surface. I understand his jealousy because I felt

it earlier, but now is not the time. He starts to stalk toward us and I move to stop him before he reaches

Valor.

"No, you will not fight here. My friend is injured and dealing with you two fighting over who is the big bad wolf is very low on my priority list." His eyes meet mine, and they are back to their beautiful blue color. They are vastly different from Valor's. Where his eyes are chocolate brown and warm, Ronan's look like the ocean after a storm, dark blue. "My apologies' princess. I didn't mean to upset you," he says just as the double doors

open.

Mordeci steps out and the smile on his face lets me know that Maddy is awake. "She is asking for you, Della," he says. Without a word to either of them, I rush through the double doors. Maddy's scent of lilac leads me to her. When I open the door, she smiles at me, but I can see guilt shining in her eyes. "Thank you, Della. I don't

even want to think about what would have happened if you hadn't showed up," she says.

I move to sit on the edge of her bed, taking her hand in mine. "You never have to thank me for protecting you, Maddy. That's what friends do. I know if I needed help you would do the same." Her eyes drop to her hands and I know she is solely focused on the fact

she doesn't have a wolf. "She doesn't have a wolf yet," Amethyst whispers, I desperately want to ask her what the hell she means, but Maddy's eyes meet mine.

"What happened to the wolf that attacked me," she asks. "Valor dealt with him. My father has the warriors making sure that no more rogues got past the guards." Something flashes in her eyes before she speaks again. "I don't think he was a rogue, He **said** something about his Luna before he pinned me to the tree. Then he said something about having fun with me before he left my body as a reminder to the royal pack that they had enemies," she says.

I pull her into my arms as tears flow down her cheeks. "Did he," I start to ask, but she vigorously shakes her head. "When I screamed he must have heard the two of you coming. He threw me to the ground and shifted.

Then you and the prince arrived," she says. I look at her confused and she giggles.

11 Not Yet

+8 Points >

"I'm the one that helped your mother fix the room across from yours. She said the young handsome vampire prince would be staying. Do you think she thinks he will be your mate," she asks, taking me by surprise. "**Let's not worry about him right** now. I'm just glad you are **alright**." Before I can say anymore, the *door* bursts open and Beatrice, Maddy's mother, rushes in, followed by my parents.

I move so she can hug her daughter. "Mom, I'm fine. Della and the prince saved *me*." "No *more* berry picking. I don't care if the pack likes the fresh berries in your pies," she says before she turns toward my parents looking apologetic for her outburst. "It's fine, Beatrice. Your pup should always be your priority. I apologize that Maddy was in danger. When I find out how the rogue made it onto pack lands undetected their will be hell to pay. If you don't want her picking berries anymore, that is perfectly fine. It's your kitchen, Beatrice, as head omega," my father says and I smile.

"Dad, I'm going to say goodbye to Maddy, and then I'll meet you and *mom* in your office. We need to talk about everything Maddy just told me" I link him. He nods and my parents say *goodbye* to Maddy and her mom. "Thank you, Della. Please tell the prince the same," Beatrice says. "**I'll tell you the same thing I told Maddy. You never have to thank me for protecting the pack, but especially Maddy. She is my friend. She is important to me.**"

I hug them both and head back to the hospital lobby. I roll my eyes when I notice Valor *and* Ronan sitting in the lobby chairs glaring at each other. Goddess, give me strength. I head for the door without saying a word to either of them. The sound of

heavy footsteps have me turning to face both of them. I'm just about to tell them about dealing with bigger issues than them when I notice the look on Ronan's face.

His eyes are fixed on something behind me. Anger, recognition, and confusion swirl in his eyes. When I turn to see exactly what has his attention, I realize the warriors are dragging the dead wolf who has shifted into human form, to the back of the hospital. Does he know the wolf? What the hell does that mean? Did he come here to harm my pack and family? Anger flows through me as I turn on my heel. Mate or not, no one will hurt my family and that includes Maddy.

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Walked Away 112

[1,637 words]

12 Explain Yourself

12 Explain Yourself

Ronan POV

As soon as Della is out of our sight, I glare at the ba**ard in front of me. Why the f**k is he here? Why **is he** hanging around my mate? "Look who finally admits she is ours," Silas says. I block my wolf out and focus back on the pr*ck standing in front of me. "Why are you here," he practically growls. "**Why are you here**" | shoot back at him. "I am here to train with the elite warriors as the next King of Vampires" he says.

"**I didn't realize your kingdom** was so weak **you needed to rely on training from wolves.**" He takes a step toward me, but a deep growl has both our heads snapping toward the sound. The man that I assume

is **the** doctor from earlier approaches us. "This is a hospital. If you want to act like animals, you will take it outside. Otherwise, sit your a**ses down and wait like good pups" he says. I don't like his disrespect, but I can tell by his aura that he is a Lycan.

I am also a guest in the royal pack. After what happened last time, I need to keep myself under control. I **turn** first and take a seat in one of the chairs near the door. Valor does the same on the opposite side of the room. I wonder if the king invited us both. The better question is why. I'm not sure how much time passes before the double doors open and Della steps into the lobby. She looks at both of us and I can tell she is still irritated with us. I expect her to walk toward us, but instead she heads toward the exit.

"You already pissed off our mate. You better beg for her forgiveness," Silas says as I get to my feet. Valor does the same as we follow closely behind her. As soon as we step out into the sun she whirls on us. I prepare myself for whatever chastising she is about to give us when I notice men dragging a body from the woods. It has to be the wolf that attacked Della's friend. Just as they cross behind her, I get a look at the ba**ard's face.

I feel like the air is knocked from my lungs when I realize the body they are carrying is one of my pack warriors. What the f**k? Why the hell would she do this without saying anything? Does Reagan know? Why the f**k wouldn't he warn me? She had to have done this without telling him. My mind is so full of anger and questions, I don't realize Della is angry until I feel her finger poke my chest. "Why do you look like you know him? Is he here because of you? Answer me," she says, startling me with her question.

I would chuckle at this tiny woman who barely reaches my chest trying to intimidate me if I didn't know she had every right to be angry. I also don't need to give her a reason to suspect I'm involved in this. I have no idea what she knows about the past. Hell, I don't really know what happened to Roger. All I know is that he went against the Red Moon with the council and ended up dead along with about twenty other warriors. My eyes meet hers again, and I swear there is a purple hue that wasn't there before.

"I said answer me" she says, and her voice is a hair deeper than before. I notice we are drawing attention from pack members that are milling about. "**I will gladly answer your question, Della, but maybe this conversation should be held in a more private place.**" My words have the desired effect **as** Della looks **around** us. "Fine, follow me" she says. I fall in step behind her, but so does Valor. I immediately stop walking, **and** he turns to face me.

"**Do you understand what private means?**" He growls **and** this time it's my turn to step toward him. "**Enough**, Valor, Ronan is right. He asked for this to be a private conversation," she says. "No way. **If you think he had** something to do with that ba**ard that attacked the omega, then I'm not leaving you **alone with him**" he says. "**I am not a threat to her. I would never hurt her,**" I growl ready to knock pretty **boy on his a** for** even **thinking**

12 Explain Yourself

could hurt Della.

“Valor, I appreciate your concern, but I can handle myself. Now you can either go to the training **field on your** own or you can wait for me here while I talk to Ronan,” she says. I can see he wants to protest, **but** he **finally** simply nods. “I’ll be right here waiting for you,” he says, his eyes never leaving mine. I fight the urge **to flip him** the bird. “Follow me,” Della says, her voice not nearly as gruff. Does she believe me when I say I’m **not a** threat? Goddess, I hope so. I couldn’t care less what Valor thinks, but I don’t want Della afraid of me.

I do as she orders, and we make our way through the pack house. She leads me to an office. Once we **are** inside, I close the door behind us. She rounds the desk and takes a seat, putting distance between us. I take the seat in front of the desk and wait for her to speak. “Explain why you looked like you knew the man **that** attacked my friend,” she says. “He is a member **of my pack, but I had no idea about him being here, let alone attacking anyone.**”

“You understand how suspicious this looks, Ronan” she says. “**I do, and you have every reason to think I have less than honorable reasons for being here, but I give you my word: I don’t. Your father invited me to come and train with the elite warriors. It was not my idea, but I jumped at the chance.**” “So you are telling me you had no idea a member of your pack intended to attack a member of my pack. Not only attack her but violate her,” she says. I’m sure my eyes are black as Silas pushes to the surface.

Anger bubbles up inside me. If that ba**ard wasn’t dead I would f**king kill him myself for touching that girl. I won’t ever tolerate that kind of bulls*t in my pack or anywhere else. When a she-wolf says no, it’s no. I notice Della’s features soften as if she could hear my thoughts. “Ronan, the day of the ceremony, I felt like you didn’t want to be here, and your aunt spent the whole time glaring at me and my parents. I know you probably know your father was killed in the Red Moon,” she says.

She thinks I’m here for some revenge against her family. I can’t say I blame her for thinking that, but a feeling I can’t name blooms in my belly at the thought she believes I’m as evil as my b**ch of an aunt. “I **am nothing like Agatha. I do know that Roger was killed by the Red Moon but I have no misconceptions about the man he was. I mean he killed his fated mate because she was an omega. Not exactly a great role model.**”

“I’ll be honest, Ronan, I didn’t expect you to feel this way. I really thought you would want revenge for what happened to your father” she says. “**It’s ironic really. The man was never really a father. He left me in the care of the omegas he looked down on. Even Agatha never cared for me. It wasn’t until I**

was old enough to train that my aunt bothered spending any time with me. If it wasn't for the omegas and Reagan, the Night Walker Beta, I would probably be exactly who you expected me to be."

I see regret and sadness in her eyes. "I'm sorry for the way I snapped at you, Ronan. I should have spoken to you first before I made assumptions. That wasn't fair to you," she says. **"So you believe me?"** "I do. Now I know we have other things to discuss, but right now I need to let my parents know about the wolf that attacked. Do you want to be there in case they have questions," she asks. **"Yes, I would like to be there. I need to make sure they understand that I had nothing to do with the attack."**

She rounds the desk and places her hand on mine. I wait for tingles to erupt on my skin but besides **the** warmth of her hand, there are none. I do, however, like the feeling of her skin against mine. The feeling **of** wanting to be close to her has not lessened since the day of the ceremony. I wish I understood why **I'm so** drawn to her. I really am with Silas that she is our mate. It doesn't make sense, but hopefully, being here around her, we can figure it out. "They will believe you, Ronan. Again, I'm sorry for the way **I reacted,**" **she says,**

I **stand** to my full height and offer her a smile.
"It's fine Della. Let's go talk to your parents before bat boy

12 Explam Yourself

loses his shit because he thinks I did something to you." "Be nice, Ronan / bet If you both get to know each other you can be friends," she says. I resist *the urge* to roll my eyes, I don't think Valor *and* will ever be

friends, and I'm just fine with that.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Walked Away 113

[1,864 words]

13 She is Like Me

Agatha POV

My plan was perfect. I knew that Ronan arriving today would be the distraction I needed to send a message to the royals. A reminder that they still had enemies despite the packs that kissed their a**es Ronan getting close to that little b**ch is the key to making everything I deserve to happen. I know Reagan has been filling his head with nonsense despite my insisting every chance I got he needed to avenge his father's death.

I have plans for that ba**ard too, but not yet. Most of the pack is loyal to me. I have been the Luna of the pack since I was twenty because my brother trusted no one but me. Had my brother gotten a proper mate, I would have gladly given up my title. The minute Roger found his mate, he refused to accept her because she was weak. A worthless omega that wasn't good enough to wash toilets, let alone give him a proper heir. My brother was an amazing Alpha and deserved far better than the goddess gave him.

I was there when he realized they were mates. She had just turned eighteen. The same age as me at the time. She was so naive. She actually believed that my brother was going to accept her when he grabbed her arm, pulling her from the kitchen. I knew she was dead wrong. I saw the disgust in his eyes, but his wolf wanted at

least to have what was destined to be theirs.

I'm not disillusioned about what he did to her, but that was the goddess's fault for putting such a pathetic she-wolf in his path. When that b**ch Miranda suggested she had a vision that the midnight wolf would be part wolf and part witch I knew she was lying, but Roger refused to listen. She had her own plans and the minute Ronan was born we all knew. We knew that he would be exceptional, but he wasn't the midnight wolf. Honestly, if not for needing a proper heir to take over the pack, Roger would have gotten rid of the pup. He

had no love for Ronan.

He had no desire to be a father. I warned him that allowing the omegas to care for him would make him weak, but again he wouldn't listen. That's why the minute Roger was killed, I started to plant the seed of hatred I needed to grow in my nephew. At first, it seemed to work. Anytime I brought up the royal pack, I could see the hatred and anger burn in his eyes. It wasn't until after he started to train with Reagan that the anger

seemed less and less.

I am the only blood he has left, so I know he won't betray me. I meant what I said. Getting that phone call from the king couldn't have come at a better time if I had planned it myself. I step out of my office and move down the hallway. I'm just about to step out of the pack house when someone calls out from behind me. I turn just as Reagan's daughter rushes toward me. "What can I help you with Melanie?"

“Do you know how long Ronan will be gone, Luna,” she asks. “Melanie, Ronan is not your mate.” “He could be my chosen mate. I am of beta blood. I would give him strong pups. Besides, what if he gets a weak mate like the Alpha did, she says. “What about your fated mate?” I’m shocked this girl is being so brazen, but I respect that she is trying to go after something she thinks she deserves. I’m even more shocked that a daughter of Reagan would so easily go against the goddess.

“I deserve an Alpha mate. I have no intention of leaving our pack. If I find my fated mate before Ronan accepts me, I’ll simply reject him,” she says. “Does your father know what you are planning to do?” She rolls her eyes. “I love my father, but he is too soft when it comes to mates. I love my mother, but she should never have been mated to a Beta. She is just a low-ranked warrior. He should have chosen you,” she says.

13 She is Like Me

+ Points >

The thought had crossed my mind when we were younger, but he was determined to have his fated mate. Now I’m disgusted by his lack of loyalty to my brother. I don’t know what is more impressive about this young woman. The fact that she recognizes that her father is soft or that she thinks her father shouldn’t have accepted her mother.

“Ronan **won’t** be **back for** at least a **month**, Melanie. **Right now** he needs **to focus on** learning all he can from the royals.”

She goes to speak, but I raise my hand to silence her. “When he returns I will **speak to him about accepting** you as his mate and future Luna of the Night Walker pack.” He will need to deal with that little b**ch Della first, but Melanie reminds me of myself. She will also be easily led when the time comes, which makes her perfect to stand by Ronan’s side when he takes over the kingdom. She practically jumps up and down. I don’t mention that he will have to secure his throne before that can happen, but she doesn’t need to know that right now.

The sound of heavy footsteps has our conversation halting quickly. Reagan steps into the foyer and looks between us. “Luna” he says before he bares his neck to me.

“Melanie, why are you bothering the Luna” he asks, taking a step toward his daughter. “**She isn’t bothering me, Reagan. She really is a delightful young lady. You** have raised her well. She **knows** what **is important.**” “Thank you, Luna,” he says, but I can see he is apprehensive to say the least.

I turn to walk out of the pack house when a pain grips my chest. I place my hand against the door to steady myself. It doesn’t last long before I feel my tether to Brandon, the warrior I sent to the royal pack, snap. F**k, I want to scream. Thank goddess, we used the spray to cover his pack scent. They need to believe he is just another rogue. “Luna, are you alright,” Reagan asks. I turn back toward him, sliding my hands down my dress.

“I am fine, Reagan, but I’m not sure what just happened. I felt Brandon Lionel’s pack bond break. Do you have any idea what could have happened? Did he mention anything about leaving?” He looks horrified. “I have no ideal Luna, but I will find out,” he says before rushing outside. Melanie eyes me suspiciously. “You would do well to remember this when you become Luna one day. **“Remember who truly has the power and make sure they like you, because your fate can change in the blink of an eye if you don’t.”**”

Valor POV

“I can’t believe that baard. How dare he insist on talking to our mate privately? Especially if he had something to do with that f**king wolf attacking her friend.”** “You need to calm down Valor. I don’t know why, but I don’t think Ronan is a threat to our mate,” Axel says. **“Why the hell are you defending him? You saw the way he was looking at that piece of sh*t we had to kill. He knew the wolf? You don’t think that is a tad suspicious he shows up and there is a member of his pack sneaking into the royal pack.”**

“I didn’t say we should be his best friends forever. I’m simply saying Della is strong and smart. She won’t be fooled by Ronan if he is trying to deceive her. We need to trust our mate. Don’t keep pissing her off by being overbearing when it comes to Ronan,” Axel says. **“I feel like I’m in the twilight zone. You are the one that should be jealous and unreasonable, I’m the voice of reason.”** Axel growls and I chuckle.

My phone rings and I pull it from my pocket. I smile when my mom’s name flashes on the screen. **“Hey mom.”**

“Hello sweetheart. How is everything going,” she asked. **“Mom, I know you aren’t calling me to check in after such a short time. What’s wrong?”** “I do miss you, but you’re right about me having an ulterior motive for calling you. I’m actually calling because we have a bit of an issue,” she says.

My body stiffens and I wait for her to continue. “Juniper and Alexia came to the office today to make a request.” Alexia is Juniper’s only girl friend. **“A request for what?”** “They have put a formal request in to visit

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packs in order to find their mates” she says. **“Why is that an issue mom? I’m glad she is interested in finding**

her mate. Maybe your feelings about her wanting **to be my** chosen mate were wrong.”

“I swear you men can be so oblivious sometimes it’s scary,” she says. **“Mom, I’m confused.”** “They are

requesting to start in the royal pack. The girl has been hanging around you all your life. Hell, she wouldn’t let any other girl get close to you, but you were too oblivious to see it until I pointed it out. *You are one of the*

smartest people I know, Valor, but when it comes to that girl you are dense. *Do you think that is a –*

coincidence? Do you really believe that she doesn’t intend to come there and make trouble,” she asks. The

more my mom speaks, the more I know she’s right.

“When is she coming, mom?” “We will be able to hold her off for a few days with the excuse that we need

permission from the Werewolf King, but once that’s granted she will be there at any time. *You need to*

remember what I said Valor. She can’t be trusted, especially around Della. You need to protect your mate

from her. I’ve seen girls like her all my life. Wanting what was never meant to be theirs.” **“I promise you mom**

that

will never happen. The only woman I want is my mate and both Axel and I believe that’s Della. I will

definitely put Juniper in her place if she tries anything.”

“Good, I really do miss you, but I’m glad you are there. I hope she is your mate, but just remember if she is not

Valor, you will find her someday. I love you, my son” she says. **“I love you too, mom.”**
We cut the call and I take

a seat on the bench from earlier. My mother’s words replaying in my mind. Goddess, I wish finding my mate

was like what happens for everyone else instead of being so unclear. The one thing I do know for sure is

that, no matter what happens, I need Della in my life.

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Walked Away 114

[1,813 words]

14 Tell the King

Ronan *POV*

I expected the king’s office to be cold and masculine, but instead it was warm with feminine touches. I was also shocked to find two desks. “My father will be here any minute,” Della says. She must have noticed my curiosity about the set-up because she chuckles. “My parents share the office. It’s sweet, isn’t it? They don’t like to be away from each other for too long. I hope I have the same relationship when I find my mate some day,” she says.

It’s strange how different the king is compared to my sperm donor. He is a powerful Lycan, but I’ve heard the stories of how he loves his queen. How she is his world. I know I’m drawn to Della, but will we be the same

one day? Will we want to spend all our time together? It's strange because I know how mates work, but I always wondered if the feelings we are taught that mates share were exaggerated. Could you really be so desperate that you want to spend every waking minute together?

The door opening breaks me out of my thoughts. King Ace and Queen Olivia step inside. I expect them to

both take seats behind their perspective desk, but instead the queen takes a chair next to the king that I hadn't noticed. "Mordeci, told us that Maddy would be ready to be discharged in about an hour, Della. I'm so glad that you and Valor were there or goddess only knows what would have happened. I dread to even think about it," the queen says.

I try not to let jealousy get the better of me, but I hate the smile I see on Della's face when her mother praises

that a**hat. I still don't understand why he is here. "Ronan, Della said that you needed to talk to us about the

wolf that attacked Maddy," the king says. **"Yes, my king. I would like to just say first that I had no idea that my aunt would do something so stupid."** His eyes darken slightly, and I can't help but wonder if Della is right about them believing me. "What exactly did she do" he asks, his voice laced with anger. The queen places her

hand on his forearm, and he looks at her.

When he looks back at me, all the anger has left his eyes. "I apologize, Ronan. My anger was not directed at you," he says. Did the king just apologize to me? "Just spit it out. Tell him what a conniving b**ch Agatha is" Silas says. **"No apology is necessary my king."** "Ronan, the sign of a good king, a good man, for that matter, is

recognizing your mistakes and making them right. Also, please just call me Ace when we aren't with the other pack members" he says.

I nod and take a deep breath before I continue. **"My aunt hates you. Well, not just you, the whole royal family. She blames you for my father's death. Had it not been for my pack Beta and the omeg as that cared for me, I'm sure I would feel the same way. Fortunately, Reagan helped me to see who my father truly was. Though I don't know exactly what happened the day he died, I have no doubt he brought what happened upon himself."**

"I can honestly say that no member of the royal family or the Red Moon pack killed your father. He showed up with the council intending to harm the pack. He also brought

about twenty pack members with him from what my brother-in-law told me” he says. **“You weren’t there the day of the attack?”** “No, we were rescuing my mother. She had been taken by a witch and was pregnant with my little sister,” Olivia says. “By the time we got back, Roger and all his pack members were dead,” Della says.

Her words register, but before I can ask why she was with them, since she was only six, her father speaks again. “I’m not sure how much you know about the goddesses, but Selene is the creator of us all, but her sisters are also powerful. One in particular showed up in the pack that day,” he says. He can’t be serious. A

14 Tell the King

13 Points

goddess came to our world to deal with my father. “I know it’s hard to believe, but she killed not only your father but all twenty of the pack members without breaking a sweat,” he says.

Holy sh*t, I don’t even know how to process that. Why the hell would a goddess leave her realm to deal with my father? A hand on mine sends a feeling of warmth through my skin. Is that tingles or do I just want it to be? “Ronan, are you alright,” Della asks. I lay my hand on top of hers, and I swear her eyes darken slightly. **“It’s** just a lot to process.” I turn my attention back to Ace. I expect her *to* move her hand, but instead she squeezes mine offering me support.

“Now tell me what your aunt did that you didn’t agree with,” Ace says. “The wolf **that attacked Della’s friend is from my** pack. He was the brother of one **of** the men that were killed **along with my father. My aunt has** poisoned most **of** the pack against the royals. I never **expected** her **to** send **someone** here **to attack on the** day **of** my arrival. Hell, I didn’t expect her to do it at all.” I drop my gaze, debating on saying the next part but at this point, it’s time to tell them everything. Hopefully they will believe that I didn’t come here *to* hurt Della.

“Her **plan** has always been **for** me **to get close to the future queen. I am not simply a hybrid. The woman** who

had me was a witch. In all **honesty I think my aunt’s motives are less about avenging her brother and more**

about **power.**” “You are a tribrid” Ace says. “**I am. I already have my wolf. His name is Silas. I shifted for the first time** at fifteen. No **one** knows in **my pack except my aunt and Reagan.**” “Do you have powers,” Della asks,

a hint of excitement in her voice.

"I do. **I can control** the elements, **mind control**, and **I'm stronger than** most wolves." A plant that's sitting on the corner of the desk has several buds waiting to bloom. I focus my energy on the plant, and it doubles in size and flowers instantly under my magic. "That's very impressive, Ronan," Ace says. "**Thank you, Ace.**" "Now,

I'm sure you realize that your aunt tried to hide that the wolf she sent was a pack wolf. I'd like to see what she

says when confronted, but the only way that we know he belonged to your pack is if I reveal you told us," he

says.

"**I'm fine with that. She will lie to save her own skin anyway.**" Ace picks up the phone from his desk and a few seconds later my aunt's voice fills the room. "My king, I didn't expect to here from you so soon. Is everything alright with Ronan," she asks with faux concern. "Yes, Ronan is fine. Actually, he is here with me in my office. We did have a bit of an incident. A member of the royal pack was attacked by what we assumed was a rogue wolf but, unfortunately, we were wrong," he says.

Her silence speaks volumes. "Ronan was able to identify the wolf as a member of your pack." "Are you sure, your majesty? I can't believe a member of our pack would do such a thing," she says. "**I'm sure Aunt Agatha. It**

was Brandon. I'm sure you felt his tether to the pack snap when he was killed." I picture her balling her fists or throwing something across her office. "I did Ronan, but we assumed he was killed by a rogue or another pack

wolf. Never in my wildest dreams did I think he would have decided to attack an innocent pack member," she

says.

I roll my eyes and wait for her to continue. "I am so sorry, my king. I know that Brandon held onto a lot of

anger after his brother was killed in the Red Moon but I never expected he would try to do something so stupid. Please feel free to dispose of his body as you see fit. He is no pack member of mine if he could do something so vile," she says. If I didn't know what an evil b**ch she was I would almost believe her

vehemence about what Brandon did.

"I'm glad to know that you weren't involved," Ace says. "Of course, not my king. I have nothing but respect for you, the queen, and the royal pack. I'm sure Ronan has already

told you that. Despite losing my brother, I hold no ill will, my king,” she says. I want to scream she is a f**king l*ar, but I stay quiet. “I’m glad to hear that.

< 14 Tell the King

Unfortunately, with an incident like this, I will need to send some of my men to check his belongings and

speak to your pack to ensure that there aren’t others that pose a threat. I’m sure you understand” he says.

“Of course, I do. Maybe it would be best for Ronan to return until all of this is settled,” she says. I’m just about to say “hell no” when Ace speaks. “That won’t be necessary. I can already tell that Ronan is an honorable wolf. I look forward to teaching him how to be a great Alpha so he can take his rightful place in the Night Walker pack. Besides, he has done nothing wrong and I won’t punish him for the actions of another wolf,” he says. I wonder if she realizes he is talking about her or if she truly believes that they think she is innocent in this. “I’m glad to hear that my king. My nephew is the only family I have left. I want what is best for him,” she says.

“I understand Agatha. My men will be arriving in two days. Please cooperate so we can put all of this behind us,” he says. I swear I can picture her gritting her teeth as she agrees. When the call ends, Ace looks back at me. “I will keep you in the loop of what happens, Ronan, but I truly want you to focus on your training while you are here. You are your own man and not your father’s legacy” he says. For the first time, I believe he’s

right.

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Walked Away 115

[1,664 words]

< 15 Let's Train

15 Let's Train

Valor POV

I can't believe this. What the hell is she thinking? Juniper has never acted interested in me as more than just a friend, but my mother thinks she has been pining to become my queen since she was a teenager. She has always acted like one of the guys, so it never dawned on me that she liked me that way. Hell, I've never looked at her that way. Not that she isn't a pretty girl, she just isn't my mate. I've maintained that the only girl I'd ever be interested in was my fated mate. She even said she respected me *for* that.

The night before I arrived at the Werewolf Kingdom, my mother told me that I was oblivious. That the girl was always hanging around me. That she was the reason that no other girls ever tried to be my friend. I never noticed before my mom brought it up, but now I'm wondering if my *mom* was right. Why else would she insist on coming here of all the covens and packs she could visit? "I swear to the *goddess*, if that little witch causes problems with our mate I'll kill her myself," Axel growls.

"Calm down **Axel**. We **will talk to her the minute** she arrives. I'll **make it perfectly** clear that she is to see **if her** mate is in **the royal pack** and leave. I **won't let** her **cause problems**." "Valor, are you ready," Della calls out to me. I smile until I see the pr*ck step out behind her. She must have noticed the change in my expression. "Ronan will be joining us for training," she says. I nod and move to join them as they start down the path that I assume leads to the training ground.

My mind wanders as to what explanation he could have possibly given that makes him look like he was innocent when he clearly knew the wolf that attacked Della's friend. "Maybe he just told them he knew nothing about the attack" Axel says. "**You really believe that he had no idea his shady aunt was sending a pack member here the same day he arrived.**" "Until he gives us a reason I think we should base our decisions about his character on his actions not his creepy aunts. That's what a good king would do," he says.

Before I can say anymore, we step out of the trees onto a huge well-maintained field. I'm shocked to see so many people are still training. I figured that being late there would be a lot less. A man that has at least three inches on my tall frame stands in front of the warriors. I can tell by his aura that he is a Lycan. "That is Liam. He is the Royal Beta. The really tall girl in the front is his daughter, Emily. She is the next Beta of the Royal pack, Della says. The girl is beautiful but she looks scary. She is definitely tall and muscular. "It's funny because her mother is so much shorter than both of them," Della says, her smile lighting up her face.

“Gentlemen, I expected you at the beginning of training. You have missed more than half. You’re lucky the king linked me, or you’d be running laps until you puked,” Liam says and Della giggles. “That goes for you too little queen,” he says. I chuckle and so does Ronan as Della glares at him. She is very tiny compared to most of us. “Now the three of you need to line up. We have a few more techniques to go over before we start sparring.”

Ronan POV

I’m just about to ask Della to be my partner when bat boy asks first. “You know you are a bat boy too. Besides, he has a wolf, so calling him that makes no sense. You need to come up with a better nickname,” Silas says. “Whose side are you on? He is trying to get close to our mate. You should hate **his guts.**”

I almost say as much as I do, but the truth is, I don’t know Valor enough to hate him. All I know is he is trying

to get close to my mate, which should be driving my wolf nuts. “I don’t hate him. He hasn’t done anything to

make me hate him,” Silas says. I’m so confused. Our wolf counterparts are always possessive of their mates. That is one thing I know for sure despite not being educated properly on mates. So why the hell is mine so nonchalant about another man getting close to her?

“First, Della is still young. She doesn’t even have her wolf. So if she is our mate, we have lots of time to get close to her. Second, just in the little time we have spent with her, I trust her completely. If we are her mate, she would not betray us no matter how hard Valor and his wolf try to get close to her. Third, despite you feeling threatened by Valor, he seems honorable. Last, we are better looking,” he says smugly, and I roll my eyes. “I am **not** threatened **by him.**”

“Is that alright with you Ronan,” Della asks, catching me off guard. F**k what the hell was she talking about? “I’m down if you are Ronan,” Valor says. By the look he gives me, he *knows* I have *no* idea what the hell they were talking about.

“**I apologize I was thinking about something and didn’t hear what you said.**” Della must realize I was talking to my wolf and smiles. “I thought that you and Valor could spar so I can see your strengths and weaknesses. Since I’m an elite warrior, I can work with you on improving your technique,” she

says.

“**You are an elite warrior?**” “So you don’t think I can be an elite warrior either,” she asks, irritation clearly in her tone. “Hey, I meant your age when I said it earlier, not because you are a girl. I already explained that to you,” Valor says, defending

himself. **“That’s what I meant too, princess.”** “Don’t call her that. That’s what I call her,” Valor says. **“That’s what everyone calls her dumb**, she is a princess.”** “Enough, don’t call him names, and you don’t get to tell him he can’t call me princess. Now if the two of you are done acting like children, get your butts over there and start to spar,” she says.

“Holy sh*t that was hot,” Silas says. Valor mumbles something under his breath as he moves across the field, but I can’t quite make it out. Della, however, must have heard it. “Then act like the future king,” she says. I chuckle and she glares at me. I move to stand in front of Valor, not wanting to piss her off any more than she already is. We both take a fighting stance before we start to circle each other. It doesn’t take long for him to throw the first punch. I watch his movements and dodge. I throw the next punch, but he moves quickly to

sidestep it.

He begins to dance on the balls of his feet. I can tell his next move will be a combo by the way he turns his body. I’m right and when he throws the second punch, I block landing my own punch to his ribs. I expect him to step back, but instead he kicks me hard in the side. What the f**k? Did he bait me to hit him so he could

land the kick? “He did. You need *to* pay attention. He is two moves ahead,” Silas says. “Thanks Captain

obvious,” I say as I start to circle him again.

This time I attack first. I manage to land a kick to his ribs where I had already landed the punch, which causes him to stumble back. I rush forward intending to land another punch before he can right himself, but he flips, landing on his feet further away from me. How the hell did he do that? His frame is almost as bulky as mine, but he flipped like it was nothing. This time when he comes at me, I don’t try to get out of the way. I block the punch with my forearm and land a solid punch to his jaw.

What shocks me is he turns his head back and smiles at me. Blood coats his teeth. He throws a punch connecting with my nose. I hear the crunch and tears form in my eyes. He takes a step back. Blood pours from my nose, but I refuse to let him win. Without warning, I lunge at him, my shoulder connecting with his chest. We are both on the ground, but I’m on top. I raise my fist, intending to punch him again when Della’s voice has us both freezing.

“Enough, you both have a lot of work to do. I don’t need you to go to the infirmary for serious injuries on the

first day of training. Tomorrow each of you will spar with me. For *now*, let’s get your injuries treated before they heal wrong. Ronan, your nose is definitely broken and Valor your ribs are definitely bruised if not broken,”

she says. I get to my feet and look down at the man who feels less and less like competition. I offer him my

hand, and he doesn't hesitate to take it.

I pull him to his feet. "Do you get the feeling she is going to be worse than if we trained with the Beta," Valor asks and I chuckle. "I heard that, and the answer is for sure it will be," she says as she turns to head back toward the path. "Our mate is a bad** and you are going to be her b**ch" Silas says with a cackle.

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Walked Away 116

[1,877 words]

16 She is First

Della POV

I

After showing Ronan to the room next to mine, I left both men to get cleaned up. They were covered in dirt and dried blood. It's funny, but they seemed less hostile towards each other after training. I mean I don't know that they will ever be friends, but there was a lot less growling than I expected. Especially when Valor realized Ronan's room was next to mine. I know eventually I'm going to have to talk to them both about my powers, but I don't feel like now is the right time. I mean, Valor obviously realizes I have healing ability, but he has no idea of who I really am.

After watching them both train, I can tell they are both exceptional fighters, but they could definitely learn a thing or two, especially about control. Valor definitely used Ronan's impulsivity to his advantage, but Ronan's strength made it hard for Valor to maintain the upper hand. I also wonder if Valor has powers like Ronan. I've heard that hybrids can sometimes, but Valor is the first one I've spent time with.

Once I take a quick shower myself, I make my way through the castle. I want to check on Maddy since Mordeci said that she could be discharged this afternoon. I also need to talk to her alone. I know she woke up while I was healing her. I don't want her to be afraid to tell me she knows. I approach her room and reach for the handle. Before my

hand touches it, the voice of someone that shouldn't be anywhere near Maddy has me freezing in place.

"I know that no apology can take back what I did to you, Maddy, but I need to say it anyway. I need you to know I am not that person. I let my own selfish desire to be accepted by Lisa do something that makes me sick. Every time I think about the look on your face and the pain in your eyes, I hate myself," Maddison sobs. "I forgive you, Maddison. People make mistakes. It matters if you learn from them. Someone who is truly your friend will never ask you to do something that is out of your character," Maddy says and I smile.

I can hear Maddison sniffle. "Thank you for forgiving me even if I don't deserve it. There was actually another reason I came here to see you," she says. There is a long pause before she speaks again. "I just wanted to tell you to be careful. Lisa isn't just a mean girl. She really thinks she is better than everyone around her. Even if she is doing what she has to in order to avoid being banished, she isn't going to let what happened slide. She really hates omegas and you being friends with the future queen is unacceptable as far as she is concerned," Maddison says.

I push the door open and Maddison jumps. As soon as she realizes it's me, she drops her gaze to the floor. "That isn't necessary, Maddison. I heard **what you said to Maddy**. She's **right**, you know. I'm proud of you for apologizing and truly meaning it. As far as Lisa goes, she will definitely be sorry if she tries to hurt any member of my kingdom. That includes you, Maddison." "Thank you, princess" she says. I want to groan at her use of my title.

"Please don't call me that. If we are in a formal setting, by all means use my title, but Della is fine for **now**." "Thank you, Della. You really are going to be an amazing queen some day," she says and I can feel her sincerity. "Well, I better get back to the kitchen to finish helping with dinner. I'll see you when you're better Maddy. Everyone was very disappointed when they saw the desert was fruit tonight and not one of your amazing pies or cakes" Maddison says. She leaves and Maddy smiles at me.

"You are going to be an amazing queen. It's still hard for me to believe that you want to be my friend Della. Don't get me wrong, I'm so happy that you do, but I just never expected it, A lot of people feel the same way

1/3

< 16 She is First

Points >

that Lisa does," she says. "Well, they are wrong. A rank doesn't define you. You are kind and giving. You didn't have to forgive Maddison, but you did. Do you know how many people would hold onto the anger, but instead you offered her absolution? That

speaks volumes about the kind of person you are. Now I want to *know* how you're feeling?"

"Really good actually. I feel better than I did when I woke up this morning. I just feel energized. Dr. Mordeci said I could be discharged." "That's good. Before I spring **you** from this place, I was wondering if we **could talk about something** serious first." She nods, and I can see uncertainty in her eyes. "Maddy, when we were **in the woods and Valor was fighting** the wolf **do you** remember **anything?**" She bites down on her lower lip and I can sense she isn't sure if she should say anything.

"Maddy, I **always** want **you to tell me the truth**. **You** never have to lie or **keep secrets from** me." "At one point, my eyes fluttered open, and I saw you leaning over me. There was light *coming out* of your hands. When I woke up in the hospital, I thought maybe I dreamed it from losing all that blood, but I didn't, did I," she says.

"**No, you didn't. I healed you Maddy. I knew you wouldn't make it back to the hospital with the amount** of blood you had **lost**." She takes my hand in hers and squeezes it. "I promise I'll never tell anyone about what you did for me, but I'm so grateful to you, Della. I was terrified I was going to die," she says. "**You** never have to **thank me for saving you Maddy. I told you before you are important to me. I appreciate you not telling anyone but there is more I need to tell you. Amethyst says you will be the first to know.**"

She looks at me like I've grown ten heads. "Amethyst" she says her name like a question. "**Amethyst, my wolf. She wants to meet you in person too.**" "How is that possible? You aren't even eighteen yet. I knew you were different but I've never heard of anyone getting their wolf. You aren't like other girls your age. You seem wiser and more mature. Are you a blessed wolf, Della? Is that why you have the power to heal," she asks.

"I have an idea. **I'm going to get your paperwork situated**, and then we **can get you cleaned up. You can join us for dinner tonight and then you and I will have a sleepover. I'll spill all my secrets, and you can spill yours.**" "I've never had a sleepover before and I don't really have secrets," she says, tears forming in the corner of her eyes. "Well, **that's what best friends do. They have sleepovers, share secrets, and eat junk food. I'm sure you can come up with a secret or two.**" "I would really like that Della," she says.

Madelena POV

Once I'm showered and dressed in a sundress that makes me feel less out of place at the King's table, I make my way toward the dining room. "*Do you* really think she is your friend? You must be dense and pathetic to really think so," a voice I'd rather not hear says from behind me. "Lisa, I don't have time **for** you bulls*t. Say what you want to say

so I can go have dinner **with** my friend.” I enunciate the word friend. Anger flashes in her eyes and she takes a step toward me.

“One day she’ll realize how pathetic you are and when that day comes I’ll be there to give you everything you deserve, omega” she says. “Are you done because I don’t really care what you have to say? Honestly, Lisa, **everyone** is right about you. You are just some mean girl who needs to try to hurt other people to make **yourself** feel better. It won’t work. No amount of insults and sh**ty behavior is going to make you **superior to anyone** else.”

She balls her fist at her sides and I know she wants to hit me. The sound of heavy footsteps has her taking a step back. The man I think Della called Valor and another man I’ve never seen before descend the stairs. They are both huge and muscular. They are also very handsome. “Maddy, right,” Valor asks when they reach us. “**Yes, that’s right.**” “Are you joining us for dinner, Maddy,” Valor asks, I’m sure sensing the animosity

2/3

< 16 She is First

between us. Before I can open my mouth to answer, queen b**ch speaks.

Points

“Your majesty, I’m sure you don’t know this, but she is an omega and a wolfless one at that” she says, a smug smile on her face like she won. “I’m sorry I didn’t catch your name,” Valor says. I notice out of the corner of my eye that the other man looks like he would rather be anywhere but here. I wonder if he feels the same way that Lisa does. “My name is Lisa, your majesty. My father is a member of the Wolf Council” she says. “Well, Lisa, based on what you just said, I don’t like you,” he says.

Both Lisa and I look shocked. “Excuse me” she says. “You heard me. You aren’t special because your daddy is on the council. Now I’m not sure what you were saying to Maddy before we arrived, but based on your comments after I’d venture to guess it wasn’t nice. So I think you should be gone before someone drops a house on you,” he says. I fight the giggle as Lisa opens and closes her mouth like a fish out of water. For the first time, I notice a small smile on the other man’s face.

Lisa finally stomps her feet like a toddler before she takes off back toward the laundry. “Maddy, this is Ronan. I don’t think you really met because you were unconscious. He is the future Alpha of the Night Walker pack” Valor says. Ronan offers me his hand and I reluctantly take it. Both of them are definitely handsome but intimidating.

“It’s nice to meet you Maddy. Should we head inside,” he asks very evidently, the quieter of the two. I nod and we make our way inside. I notice Della is sitting at the

table, and she smiles when she notices me. Her eyes move behind me to the men that are a few steps behind me. Something flashes in them, but I'm not sure exactly what it is. My thoughts go back to Della's words from earlier about secrets and I wonder exactly what she wants to tell me.

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Walked Away 117

[1,686 words]

17 Girl Talk

Della POV

I don't know why I'm so nervous to tell Maddy about Amethyst. We both trust her, but it's the first time that someone outside my family will know who I really am. Maddy is my first real

friend and I don't want her to treat me differently. A knock on my bedroom door brings me out of my thoughts. I expect it to be Maddy, but instead Valor is standing freshly showered smiling at me. His hair is still wet, and his tank top is leaving very little to the imagination. He

is built like a tall, muscular male model.

When my eyes meet his again, the smirk on his face lets me know he noticed I was checking him out. "**Did you need something Valor,**" I ask before he can call me out for ogling him. "I

was hoping we could take a walk and talk," he says. I go to open my mouth when Ronan's

deep voice interrupts me. "Funny, I was going to ask her the same thing," he says, stepping

into view. I notice the glare they give each other before they both focus their attention back

on me.

“Unfortunately, I already have plans, but I appreciate the offer. Maybe some other time,” I say

to them both. I notice Valor’s eyes darken slightly but Ronan just looks disappointed. “May I

ask who you have plans with,” Valor says. **“You can ask, but that doesn’t mean I have to**

answer.” I’m confused when a smile spreads across his face. “You forget princess your room

is across from mine. I’ll scent anyone that steps onto this floor before they can knock on your door,” he says smugly.

I roll my eyes when a throat clearing draws all our attention. I smile when I realize it’s Maddy. I reach between Ronan and Valor and grab Maddy’s hand, pulling her into my room. **“If you**

will excuse us gentlemen. We will see you in the morning at breakfast.” Their faces of utter

disbelief are comical as I close the door and Maddy giggles. “They looked like you stole their favorite toy,” Maddy says.

“Someday, we will be their favorite thing to play with for one of them,” Amethyst says with a

cackle. What the hell is **wrong with you?** I thought male **wolves** were **supposed to** be **the** horndogs.” “That’s a lie. When we choose our mate we will be as wanton as he is,” Amethyst

says. “I doubt that, **but for** now this **conversation** is **over!**” “You are no fun,” she says before she recedes to the back of my mind. When my eyes focus back on Maddy, she looks like one of those characters from a cartoon.

Her eyes are nearly bugging out of her head. “You have a wolf,” she whispers as she

stumbles back. I reach out grabbing her arm, helping her right herself. “I’m right aren’t I,” she asks. **“You are right. I have my wolf. I’ve had her for a very long time.”** “I don’t

understand. How is it possible," she asks. "Let's **sit down, and I'll tell you everything, but I need you to promise that you'll keep my secrets, Maddy.**"

"I would never betray you, Della. You are the first real friend I've had. I promise I will never repeat what you tell me," she says. The conviction in her words solidifies the trust I already feel. We both take a seat on my bed facing each other. "**My wolf's name is Amethyst. She is when first very special.**" "You said you've had her for a very long time. How old were you you shifted," she asks. I hate the sadness I see in her eyes. I didn't think about how hard this would be for her not having her own wolf to hear about mine.

"Yet," Amethyst says. "**That's the second time you've said that. What the hell do you mean?**" "I mean Maddy is destined to have a wolf. Unfortunately, she just has to be patient for a while longer," Amethyst says. My heart starts to beat like a drum. She is going to have a wolf. I have so many questions but right now the only one that matters is if I can tell her. If I can ease the sadness that has settled in her eyes as we talk about my wolf.

"The Goddess says you can tell her," she says. I immediately focus my attention back on Maddy. "You were talking to your wolf again. Does she talk to you a lot? My mom's wolf talks to her all the time. She told me Maya is her best friend," Maddy says. "**I think that's as good a way to describe it as any. A best friend that you can't get away from**" I say teasing Amethyst.

"As if you'd want to," she says, sticking her tongue out.

"**To answer your earlier question, Amethyst has always been with me. Since the moment I opened my eyes and breathed my first breath, she was there. I shifted for the first time when I was six, but she has always been with me.**" "I don't understand. How is that possible," she

asks again. "**I'm not an ordinary wolf, Maddy. I am the Midnight wolf. I am more powerful**

than **any other living creature. I have powers like the ability to heal but many others too.**"

"Oh my goddess, my best friend is the Midnight wolf. It was hard enough to believe you wanted to be my friend when I thought you were just going to be queen, but now you're telling me your some kind of mythical wolf. I remember hearing the stories of a wolf that would rule all supernaturals," she says. "Hey, **don't do that.** I'm still the same Della. You are still **my best friend.**" "Della, I have no wolf, and I'm just an omega. Your best friend should be some Luna

or queen," she says a hint of anger in her tone.

“First, you are not just anything. You are not defined by the rank given to you at birth. Second, even if you were always going to be wolfless, it wouldn’t change that you are

important to me.” She looks at me confused. “Della, I’ve been eighteen for a while now and haven’t gotten my wolf. I’m always going to be wolfless.” **“No you won’t. You just haven’t gotten your wolf yet. Amethyst assures me that the goddess says you will have a wolf. I don’t know when, but you will not be wolfless forever.”** Tears start to form in her eyes and I

pull her into my arms.

Madelena POV

I feel like I can’t breathe. Tears roll down my cheeks as soon as Della says I won’t be wolfless forever. She wraps me in her arms and I sob. I’m going to have a wolf. I know that it doesn’t matter to Della but many of the pack see me as worthless because of it. It’s hard not to feel that way myself when I see everyone around me. I pull back and look into the eyes of this girl that has become my best friend.

“Thank you, Della. I’m so grateful to the goddess for

bringing you into my life.”

“I feel the same way Maddy.” A moment of silence passes between us before I finally blurt out my next question. **“Can I meet Amethyst?”** Della smiles before she slides off the bed and offers me her hand. We make our way out of the room and down the hallway. It’s late, and the castle is relatively quiet. A few pack members move about but for the most part they are in their rooms for the night. As we approach the door, I wonder if the guard that just stepped inside will stop us, but he simply bares his neck to Della and steps out of the way.

She leads me down a path that will take us away from any prying eyes. **“Della, I didn’t even**

think about the fact you would be putting yourself at risk by letting me meet Amethyst. Maybe we should just head back inside.” She turns offering me a smile, but just as quickly turns back down the path. We reach a wooded area with many trees, but there is enough space for a large wolf to shift. She takes a step back and quickly removes her clothes.

It’s so common among wolves that neither of us bat an eyelash that she is standing a few feet from me naked as the day she was born. I swear it happens so fast I almost miss it.

What I can’t miss is the deep purple wolf that is now standing in front of me. I take a few

steps and Amethyst lowers her head. I rub my hand between her ears and over her snout.

She moves forward a little more and this time, when she lowers her head, she presses it against my forehead.

I'm sure if anyone saw us it would look comical. This huge wolf pressing its big head against mine tiny one. Before I can pull back, a feeling of warmth flows through me. Everything around us goes silent and my eyes close of their own accord. A vision of Amethyst stalking toward two men followed by a beautiful white wolf plays out in front of me like a movie. It's

only then that I realize the two men are Valor and Ronan.

More Rewards >

Before she reaches them, the vision fades. What the hell was that? Before I can voice my question, I swear I hear something from behind me like a branch snapping. I whirl on my heels, intent on protecting Amethyst and Della even if I have no idea how. A large figure stands at the edge of the trees. I immediately rush toward whoever it is. I've lost my mind, but I refuse to let anyone see Amethyst and Della. Hopefully, it's just a warrior, because if not, I might not live long enough to get my wolf.

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Walked Away 118

[1,638 words]

18 It's Time to Talk

Ronan POV

As soon as the door closes, I'm left alone in the hallway with Valor, I still don't understand why the hell he is trying to spend time with Della. "What is **your** deal, **Valor?**" "I'm not sure what you mean, Ronan," he says, emphasizing my name. "**I** mean **why** are **you** here and **don't give** me that **bulls*t about training with** the elite warriors." He takes a step closer to me, but I don't back down. "Why is what I'm doing here any of your

business” he asks.

“It’s **my** business if **it** has something **to do with Della.**” His eyes darken, and I can feel his aura trying *to weigh down* on me. He’s a royal and his aura should be suffocating, but it’s not. He looks as surprised as I feel when I don’t fall to my knees. He is, after all, a royal hybrid. He takes a step back, and I can tell he is talking to his wolf. “What **the hell** was **that about Silas?**” “I’m not sure, but something tells me that Valor is important to

Della too,” he says.

“**What does that mean he is important to her? He can’t be her mate.**” “What if he is too,” Silas asks, without a hint of sadness or anger.

“**You can’t be serious. You forget that only happens with identical twins. I’ve never**

heard of that happening at any other time. Besides, I’m not sharing a mate with him. Hell I don’t even like

him.”

“You don’t even know him and you forget I know what you feel,” Silas says. “**So you’re willing to share our**

mate is that what you are saying?” “It’s not ideal, but if that is what the goddess has chosen for us, then I will

accept it. I will not go against the mother of all wolves because it’s not what we expected or wanted,” he says.

I can’t even wrap my head around the thought of sharing our mate. Ronan, I’m not saying that is what’s

happening, but I am saying there is a reason I’m not feral about the thought of Valor being close to Della.

Only time will tell what that really means,” he says. “**So you’re telling me that it doesn’t bother you at all that**

Valor is trying to get close to the girl that we believe is our mate.”

“I told you before, Ronan. I trust that if Della is our mate no matter what happens, she will not betray us. You need to trust in Della and the Goddess. If she is meant to be only ours, then that is what will happen. You can’t be angry at Valor if perhaps he is feeling the same way,” he says. When I look back at Valor, all the anger from earlier seems to be gone from his eyes.

Before I can speak he does. "I think we need to really talk after the conversation that I just had with my wolf," he says. **"I agree but not here."** "Fine, lets see if we can find a gym. I have a feeling we are both going to need to hit something after this conversation," Valor says. As much as I hate to admit I think he's right. We make our way through the castle. When we step into the foyer, we both bare our necks as the former king

approaches us.

"Good evening, my king," I say first, and Valor does the same. "That's not necessary. My son is King now. Just call me Hudson. I'm surprised to see you two without my granddaughter. Where are you two gentlemen off to at this hour," he asks. "Della, is spending time with her friend Maddy. We weren't ready for bed so we thought we would go workout," Valor says. "Maddy is a lovely girl. I'm glad she and my granddaughter found each other. I have a feeling they will be inseparable from now on," he says.

Why do I feel like there is more to what he is saying, but I don't dare ask. "If you follow the hallway **near the** stairs, it will lead you to a large gym. It's should be pretty empty right now. I think I'll go tell my granddaughter

18 It's Time to Talk

and the other pups' goodnight. I'm so glad they are finally here with me and Amber," he says. We both nod and leave to find the gym. Once we're inside, I'm glad there isn't anyone around.

"That was weird," Valor says before I can. **"I know.** It's like he was **trying to say something without just coming out and saying it.**" We both move to the weight benches and take a seat. We are both silent for a long pause. I think neither of us really know what to say. "I'm **drawn to Della.** I **think she may** be my mate," I finally blurt out. I'm not sure what I expected, but it isn't for Valor to burst out laughing. **"Why the f**k are you laughing?"** "Because I feel the same way. Ever since the night of the ceremony I've wanted to be around her,"

he says.

My heart feels like it's going to beat out of my chest. Thinking something might be true and hearing **it** are two different things.

"I still don't understand why the hell you're laughing. This is the farthest thing from funny. I

have no desire to share my mate with you." "I'm not exactly ecstatic at the prospect either," he says. "So what **the hell do we do?"** "The only thing we can do, we wait. Right now, the feeling is nothing more than a desire to spend time with Della. It's definitely not the full bond. She doesn't have her wolf yet. Maybe she never will and

that's why we can't feel everything we're supposed to. Maybe that's why she needs two strong mates to rule

by her side," he says.

"So you're willing to share her with me?" I'm still can't believe we are having this conversation. His nose crinkles in disgust. **"I'm glad I'm not the only one that isn't happy with this possibility."** "I may not be happy about sharing my mate, but I'm also not willing to give up on her. If she is destined to mine, then I will accept her no matter if you are involved or not. Are you saying you won't?"

After everything that Roger did, I promised myself I would accept my mate no matter what and I have no intention on going back on that promise.

"I won't reject her if she is meant to be mine." "Good, now that is settled. Do you want to go a couple rounds," he asks. **"A chance to beat on you again, absolutely"** I say with smile. "I'll be beating on you, Roro," he says. He moves before I can grab him. **"Don't call me that."** He throws his head back and laughs as he makes his way to the ring. "I told you to come up with a better nickname,"

Silas says.

Madelena POV

The closer I get, the bigger the person becomes. Despite the fear I feel I keep moving toward them. When I finally see the person's face, relief washes over me. I fall to my knees pulling in lung fulls of air. "Maddy are you alright," King Hudson asks.

"I will be, just give me a second." Della's voice from behind me has me turning to see her dressed and rushing toward me. "Why the heck did you run away from me" she asks. **"I saw someone coming toward us and I didn't want them to see you or Amethyst"** I whisper. I have *no* idea if her grandpa knows.

"You don't have to whisper Maddy. My grandpa knows exactly who I and Amethyst are. That doesn't answer my question though. If it was someone else," what were you going to do," she asks with concern in her voice. **"I didn't think that far ahead, but I knew I had to protect you."** She reaches down and pulls me into a hug. "Waylen was right about you Maddy. He knew you were special. My granddaughter is lucky to have you," King Hudson says.

"Thank you, your majesty, but I'm the lucky one." "You can call me Hudson or grandpa. I have a feeling you won't just be important to Della but to all of us," he says. He pulls me in for a hug and I fight **the** tears that threaten to fall. When he releases me, I step back. "It's time for *me* to head to bed. I'll see you both **at** breakfast," he says and turns to walk away. I turn back to Della, and she is smiling at me.

18 It's Time to Talk

"I love that you wanted to protect my secret, Maddy, but you don't have your wolf yet. What if that wasnt my grandpa and you were hurt," she asks. "I know it was reckless, **but** I couldn't let you be exposed because of **me**." "Thank you for wanting to keep your promise, Maddy, but your safety is more important than my secret she says. "I'll remember that next time."

"Della, can I ask **you** a question?" "Of course you can," she says. "The scene that you and Amethyst **showed** me **of the white** wolf running with Amethyst toward Valor and Ronan. What did it mean?" I can see confusion clearly written on her face. Her eyes haze over, and I immediately know she knew nothing of the vision. What the hell did it mean? Who was the white wolf? They are said to be blessed by the goddess. She must be important, but who was she, and why did Amethyst show me?

11

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Walked Away 119

[1,789 words]

19 Unwanted Visitor

Juniper POV

"Junie, are you sure about this? What if he gets pissed about us going there when he has clearly told you he thinks the next queen is his mate," Alexia asks for the third time as I shove

my

last bit of clothes into the bag. "**For goddess's sake, Alexia. He has never been mad at me a day in his life. In fact, if it wasn't for his stupid wolf, none of this would even be an issue. You know how long it can take for our kind to find our beloveds. If his damn wolf wasn't so hell bent on having its mate he would have realized I'm perfect for him.**"

"I am **the only girl in the whole coven he spends time with. Besides he needs a strong woman to**

stand by his side, not some little girl who might not even have a beast. She is no better than a pathetic human.” “I just think you need to be careful. He has always made it known that he wanted his fated beloved,” she says. **“He will realize that is a mistake as soon as I show him just how weak and pathetic he is. She is still a pup for goddess’ sake. He needs a grown woman and I plan to make him finally realize that.”**

A firm knock on my bedroom door startles us both. I look at Alexia before I move to open it. I’m shocked to find the queen standing on the other side, but I keep my face impassive. **“Your majesty, I was expecting it to be you.”** “I’m sure you didn’t. I would like to speak to you alone, Juniper, before you leave for the royal pack,” she says. Alexia immediately bows and rushes from the room. I fight the urge to roll my eyes.

She is so weak but she listens well. I move, and the queen steps into my room. She takes a seat in a large chair in the corner. “Have a seat, Juniper,” she says. I do as she says and wait for her to speak again. “I know that your trip has been approved to find your mate, but I wanted to remind you that is the only purpose of this visit. I know that Valor told you he believes that the future queen is his mate, so I trust that you have no plans to interfere in his relationship,” she says.

“I’m not sure what you could possibly mean, my queen. I simply want the chance to find the man that is meant to be mine. I would never do anything to hurt Valor.” “Good, because if you did, there would be severe consequences, not only from the werewolf kingdom but from **ours** as well,” she says, a hint of threat in her tone. She stands moving toward the door before **she** turns back to me. “Travel safely, Juniper, and do not do anything which will embarrass **the** vampire kingdom or my son,” she says before she finally leaves.

Goddess, she is a pretentious b**ch. She never should have even been **queen of our kind**.

1/4

<19 Unwanted Visitor

More Rewards >

King Alfonso should have rejected her and stayed with his chosen mate. A pure blood vampire, then all of this wolf bulls*t wouldn’t be a problem. Fifteen minutes later Alexia is slinking back into my room. **“Jeez, you ran out of here like your a** was on fire.”** “She is the queen, Juniper. When she gives an order, I listen,” Alexia says. This time I don’t stop myself from rolling my eyes.

“Are you finished packing? I want to leave as soon as breakfast is over.” “Yes, my bag is ready. I know that we are doing this for you to convince Valor he should choose you, but what if I find my beloved,” she says. **“Well, unless you**

want some mutt as your beloved, **you should hope not.** "You do realize the man you are pining for is part mutt" she says. **"Shut up Alexia. It's not the same. He is more vampire than mutt, and he is going to be king."**

A few minutes later we're making our way to the dining room. As soon as we step inside, I notice the queen's eyes are on me. I'll be glad when we finally leave. "So Juniper, I heard you are leaving the coven to find your beloved. "Finally, giving up on your dream of becoming queen and stealing Valor from his real beloved," Cora says from behind me. She is one of the girls I threatened many times to stay away from Valor.

I turn and glare at her. "Looks like all that effort you put into keeping us away from Valor was for not," she says. I stand but Alexia grabs my arm before I can knock the stupid b**ch on her a**. **"I would be careful, Cora, or you may find yourself out on your a** one day when the new queen takes her rightful place next to Valor. Come on Alexia, I've suddenly lost my appetite."** She stands, and we make our way out of the castle.

The ride feels like it takes forever, but we finally pull onto the road that will take us to the castle. We drive about a quarter of a mile when the sounds of howling has us both looking around. Out of the trees steps four large brown wolves. They block the car and Alexia starts to panic. **"Calm the hell down,"** I finally say just as two of the wolves shift into their human form. Their very naked human form. It's too bad they aren't vampires because they are both

hot.

The larger of the two approaches my window. "State your business at the royal pack," he says gruffly. "How **did you know we aren't humans and you've just revealed** your kind **to us?**" "We are surrounded on all sides by packs. No humans would make it this far. Now I'll say again, state your business," he says with a growl. "We are from the vampire kingdom. The king approved my friend and I to see if our beloveds reside in the royal pack. I am also best friends with Valor, the next King of Vampires."

He rolls his eyes and they immediately haze over. A few seconds later his eyes return to their

214

<19 Unwanted Visitor

More Rewards >

sh**ty brown color. "Follow the road until you reach the castle. Someone will be waiting to meet you," he says before they shift back and take off through the trees. "Holy f**k, that was

scary,” Alexia says. **“You’re a warrior for f**ks sake start acting like it.”** A few minutes later we

are being led to the castle by what I assume is a pack slave. I know they have a word for

them, but I can’t recall it right now.

We get some strange stares as we are led through the castle. We reach a large wooden door

and the woman knocks. After a few seconds, a woman who I can sense is a wolf opens the

door. Her expression unreadable. “Come inside ladies. I am Queen Olivia and the man behind

the desk is King Ace,” she says as we step inside. “Please have a seat,” he says. I can feel his

authority rolling off him in waves. He isn’t a regular wolf. If the rumors are true, he is a Lycan.

“First, I’d like to welcome you both to the Werewolf Kingdom. Queen Gemma did call us earlier to let us know you were on your way,” he says.

I tighten my fists on my lap. I can only imagine what the hell she said. “We have arranged for

a small cottage near the castle for your stay,” he says.

“Is **that** where **Valor is staying?**” “No,

Prince Valor is a guest on the Alpha floor,” the queen says. Before I can ask why we aren’t

staying with him, the king speaks again. “There will be several training sessions throughout

the day. I think you ladies should attend to see if your mate is here and also take advantage

of training,” he says.

“We appreciate that, King Ace. I was hoping before we check out the training that we could put our things away and see Valor. He is my best friend, and I’d like to let him know I’ve

arrived.” “He is in private training with my daughter right now, but I will let him know you’ve

arrived as soon as they finish. It shouldn’t be much longer,” he says. What the hell does that

mean, private training? Before I can focus too much on exactly what they are getting up to,

there is a knock on the office door.

I turn just in time to see a petit curvy girl step inside, followed by a man that is built like a tank. As soon as Valor steps in behind them, I’m on my feet and rushing toward him. I throw

myself at him and like he has done a hundred times before, he catches me. “**I missed you,**” I say just as a deep growl sounds from behind me. I’m abruptly pushed out of his arms so hard I nearly fall on my a**. We all turn to look at the big man that stepped into the room

before Valor.

When I turn back to look at Valor, he is smirking at the man. What the hell is happening? Why does this man care if I’m hugging Valor? “Juniper, I didn’t realize you would be here this early. I really don’t have a lot of time to speak with you. We are heading to elite training now,” he

says. He has never been so cold with me.

3/4

<19 Unwanted Visitor

More Rewards >

“Valor, it’s me, **Junie. Haven’t you** missed me even **a** little?” “Juniper it’s only been a few days since I’ve seen you. Besides, you are here to find your beloved. You need to focus on that. Now if you’ll excuse us, we need to go,” he says. “Wait, what do you need,” the king asks before they an leave. The man that growled at me speaks.

“I was wondering if you had any news about the pack visit, but we can discuss it later, my king,” the big man says. I fight the smile that wants to spread across my face over what Valor said. Is he jealous that I’m here to find my beloved? Has he finally realized that I’m the one he should be with? This is going to be easier than I thought.

23

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Walked Away 120

[1,806 words]

20 Put **in Your** Place

Della POV

“**What** the hell was **that about?**” “Which part,” Amethyst asks. I roll my eyes as I make my way out of the office and down the stairs.

“**Ronan growling** when **touchy pants touched Valor to start.**” “Touchy pants. That was the best name you could come up with for the girl that was touching someone else’s mate. I could think of a few other names that aren’t so tame and way more accurate,” Amethyst says. I can’t stop the giggle that escapes me. Both men look at me but I start to walk faster before they can ask me why I’m giggling.

“What **about** that **girl? She** seems **way too familiar** with **Valor. Do you think** they’ve been together? **I feel like** she was **trying to stake a claim.**” “I’m not sure if they have been together, but he didn’t seem to be thrilled about her being here. Are you upset if they have,” she says. “**I can’t say I’m thrilled at the thought of him being with** her **especially** when **she** just **threw** herself **at him.** It’s **disrespectful to touch someone else’s mate.**” “Do I detect a bit of possessiveness in your voice,” she says. Before I can answer, Valor’s voice interrupts our

conversation.

“Della, can we talk before we reach the training field,” he asks. I look at him and then Ronan. Why do I feel like something has shifted between them? “I’m going to head to the training field and give you two a minute to talk,” Ronan says. He turns to leave, and I watch his retreating back, wondering if I’ve stepped into an alternate universe. I turn

back to face Valor, who looks worried. “Della, I’m sorry about Juniper. I should have warned you that she was

coming,” he says.

So he *knew* she was coming. “Just listen before you jump to any conclusions,” Amethyst whispers. “My mom called me the day that Maddy was attacked. I wanted my parents to refuse her, but denying a coven member to search other covens and packs for their beloved is against the coven laws. I’m not happy she is here, but I promise it won’t be for long, and I’ll make sure she doesn’t cause trouble,” he says.

“Have **you** been **with her**,” I blurt out before I

slap my hand over my mouth.

A smile spreads across his face, and he takes a step closer to me. An unfamiliar feeling flutters in my belly and I take a step back. “I’m **sorry** I shouldn’t have asked you that. It is none of my business who you’ve been with!” “What if I want to answer, and I want it to be your business,” he asks, again taking a step closer to me. I open and close my mouth, not really knowing what to say. “I have never been with Juniper or any other woman for that matter. I promised myself I would never make my father’s mistakes,” he says.

1/4

< 20 Put in Your Place

More Rewards

He reaches for my hand and the faint tingles feel a bit stronger. I’m just about to ask him if he feels them when a squeal has us both turning toward the sound. I fight the urge to roll my eyes as Juniper and her friend rush toward us. “Valor, I was hoping we would catch up with you before you made it to training. Are we interrupting something,” she asks as she wraps her hand around his arm. He quickly shakes her off and moves *to* stand closer to me.

I fight the smug smile that wants to spread across my face at her clear irritation. Anger

flashes in her eyes before she pastes back on her fake smile. “*You* must be Della. We didn’t

really get the chance for introductions back there. I’m Valor’s best girlfriend,” she says and

reaches her hand out to me. I look at it before I finally offer her mine. “**That’s nice that you**

and Valor are friends. You may call me princes since we are not friends. Valor is th
is another

of your friends from the coven,” I say, pointing at the girl next to Juniper.

“That is Alexia. She is a coven warrior, but we don’t hang out much,” he says. **“It’s nice to** meet

you, Alexia.” I turn to look at Valor, and he is smiling. **“Are you ready to head to training?”** “Of

course, princess,” he says with a wink. We both turn and start back up the path. When we

arrive I’m glad to see Liam hasn’t arrived yet. I have no desire to run until I puke today or any

day for that matter. I move to stand next to Ronan just as Liam’s Lycan comes tearing through the trees. “What the hell is that,” Juniper asks, and I fight the growl that tries to escape me.

I look over, and she has taken the spot next to Valor. **“That is my uncle and the royal Beta.**

You would do well to watch how you speak.” Her eyes meet mine and I can tell she doesn’t

like being chastised. “Apologize Juniper, or you will be leaving just as quickly as you arrived.

I’m sure my parents will be very disappointed to hear of your disrespect,” Valor says. “My

apologies princess. I have never seen a Lycan in the flesh. I was taken off guard,” she grits through her *teeth*.

“Then maybe *you* should think before you speak next time,” Ronan says from behind me.

“What is your problem? First, you growl at me for hugging Valor, and now you are butting into

a conversation that has nothing to do with you,” she says. Before Ronan can respond, Liam yells for everyone to get in formation. Goddess, I hope Valor is right about this b**ch not

being here long. I really don’t like her. “That was one of the names I would have called her earlier,” Amethyst says, and I giggle.

Juniper POV

How dare that wolfless mutt treat me with such disrespect? Then Valor insists I apologize to her. What the hell is wrong with him? I don’t understand why he is still entertaining the idea of

2/4

< 20 Put in Your Place

More Rewards >

the pup being his mate. Even if she gets a wolf, he will have to wait two years to find out if she is truly his mate. Besides, his beast should be feeling more than wanting to spend time with her if they are truly fated to each other. I know I won’t have much time here in the royal pack, but I need to convince him that she isn’t worthy of becoming queen.

Besides, she is meant to be queen of the werewolf kingdom, so how would their mating even

work? I focus my eyes on her tiny stature and big curves. She isn’t even built like a normal

she-wolf. She isn’t exactly fat, but she isn’t worthy of standing next to a vampire as handsome as Valor.

A deep growl has me nearly jumping out of my skin. “If you are not here to train, then I suggest you head back to your cottage. I don’t tolerate slacking,” the Royal Beta says as his

eyes meet mine. **“I’m sorry Beta, I’ll pay attention.”** I drop my gaze until I know he has moved

away from our row. I start to mimic the others’ movements, which is harder than it looks.

By the time we are done, my muscles are aching. I’m not sure how much time passes until he

calls out for us to break into pairs. Alexia goes to grab my arm, but I glare at her. This is my

chance to remind Valor what a strong partner I can be. "Valor, you can be my partner."
"Sorry

June, we have already decided we are having a rematch today," the big-necked
ba**ard says. I

go to open my mouth and Valor glares at me.

"I'll gladly be your partner, Juniper. You can show me all the things you've learned in the Royal Coven," Della says. I fight the urge to fist pump. This is the perfect opportunity to show Valor just how weak she is. I can beat her a** and not get in trouble for it. I smile at her, trying to keep the excitement out of my eyes. "**I would be honored, princess.**" I look at Valor again, and I can see the warning in his eyes. He is worried I'm going to hurt the pup. He should be

because I intend to teach her a lesson.

Her and I move away from the others. "**I know you don't have your wolf yet, since you are still a pup, so I won't use all my strength and speed.**" "No need to hold back. I've been training since I was a pup. I am considered an elite warrior of the Royal pack. I fight warriors that have their wolves all the time," she says with a smug smile that I can't wait to knock off her

face.

We start to circle each other and I use my speed to lunge at her. To my surprise, she easily sidesteps me. I get my bearings and turn to face her again. This time I wait for her attack. I don't have to wait long. She does some kind of flip landing in front of me. When her fist connects with my jaw, I feel like I've been hit by a truck. I manage to stay on my feet but barely. My eyes find hers and I swear they are darker than they were earlier.

3/4

< 20 Put in Your Place

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I use my speed to move around her and kick her in the back of the leg. She drops to one knee, but before I can land another kick, she springs to her feet. She moves so fast I don't even see her foot coming until it collides with my stomach. I'm knocked off my feet and my back hits the ground hard. The wind is knocked from my lungs. How the

f**k is this possible? She doesn't even have a f**king wolf. I close my eyes and focus on pulling air into my lungs.

When I open my eyes again, the b**ch is standing over me offering me her hand. I take it even though I want to slap it away. "If you ever want me to train you, Juniper, I'm always happy to help while you're here," she says before she turns back to join the others. I swear to the goddess I will make this b**ch sorry for thinking she is better than me and wanting what always should have been mine.

24

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