

# **My Promised Rejection**

## **chapter 121-130**

### **Walked Away 121**

[ 1,689 words ]

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#### **Madelena *POV***

I smile as I roll the dough for the strawberry pies I'm making for dinner. With the bandages gone I can do the one thing that makes me feel useful to the pack. Baking has always been the best part of working in the royal kitchen. I look over my shoulder and watch as Madison cuts up the strawberries and apples. She really has shown she isn't the girl that stormed into

the kitchen to hurt me on Lisa's orders. At first, I hated the idea of her working in the kitchen.

I know my mother planned to give her the sh\*\*iest jobs as punishment.

My mother loves me. She may not be the strongest wolf in the pack, but she is smart. The first day Madison reported for duty, she asked to speak with my mother privately. I figured she was going to gaslight and tell my mother how sorry she was to get out the grunt work. Not that I didn't believe she was sorry, but I wasn't sure how much it was because she was in

trouble.

#### ***Flashback***

"Maddy, can you come into my office for a minute," my mother calls out. I can't imagine why she is calling me into the office, but I do as she asks. When I step inside, Maddison has tears staining her cheeks. "Maddison would like to speak with you," she says. I have already accepted her apology, so I can't imagine what more needs to be said between us.

“Maddy, I know I’ve already apologized, but I want you to know how much I mean it. I know what the king said about my punishment, but I don’t think he should get to decide how long it lasts,” she says. I look at her like she has lost her mind. He is the king. Of course, he should decide. Who else would be appropriate? “I’m ashamed of what I did, as is my sister and father. Hell Myra is hardly speaking to me,” she says.

“Don’t get me wrong, I deserve it for hurting you, but knowing I’ve disappointed them is worse than any punishment the king could give me. I talked to your mom, and she agrees I’ll be your hands while you are recovering. Then she can assign me the worst jobs until you feel that *you* have gotten justice for what I did. If that means I work in the kitchen for a year, then so be it. You were the one I hurt and you should decide how long my punishment stands,” she

says.

“**You don’t have to do that, Maddison.**” “Yes, I do” she says, looking at my bandaged hands. I’m healing faster than a human but not as fast as a wolf. “Maddy, I think you should give Maddison this chance to make amends. Not only *to* you but to herself. She is trying to be a

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better wolf and I think we should help her,” my mother says. I look back at Maddison, who

has a mix of regret and hope swirling in her eyes.

“Alright, **you** can help me make the desserts **for tonight’s** meal.” “Thank *you*, Maddy. I *know* I don’t deserve this chance, but I appreciate it,” she says and follows me out of mom’s office.

### ***End Flashback***

“Maddy, do you think this is enough or do I need to cut up *more* strawberries,” she says. I turn just in time to see an unwanted guest step into the kitchen. Maddison follows my line of sight and her face transforms into a mask of anger. “What do you want, Lisa,” she asks. “Is that anyway to talk to a friend Maddison? I know you were upset about getting in trouble, but it’s not like I forced you to do what I suggested” she says.

Anger bubbles up in my belly and I turn completely to face Lisa. “**You are supposed to** be in here. This **isn’t the laundry.**” Her eyes darken and the sight has me taking a step back. “You got your wolf,” Maddison says. “I did. My birthday was

yesterday. My dad was with me when I shifted for the first time, so I had a day off to rest. My wolf is beautiful and strong,” she says, her eyes never leaving mine. Her taunt implied.

“Good for you Lisa. Now if you don’t mind, Maddy and I are busy,” Maddison says, making me smile. “What are you smiling at wolfless,” Lisa growls out.

**“I’m smiling because I can. If you don’t like it, Lisa, you can leave.”** “How dare you speak to me with such disrespect,” Lisa says, but her voice is a bit deeper. “You are the one that came in here to start sh\*t Lisa. We aren’t friends. We never really were. I’m sorry I ever listened to you. I’m sorry I hurt Maddy. She is my friend. Now leave,” Maddison says.

“You can’t be serious. I understand you’re trying to make the best of your punishment, but saying she is your friend is just ridiculous. She is a f\*\*king wolfless omega, Maddison. She isn’t worthy of being our friend,” Lisa practically screams. A strange feeling in my stomach has me clenching my fists at my side. I catch her take a step toward Maddison from the

feet are moving of their own accord before I realize it. corner of my eye

and my

Lisa throws her head back and laughs as I come to stand next to Maddison. “I’m not sure what you think I’m going to do to Maddison, but even if I planned to hurt her, what are you going to do to stop me Maddy. You are a weak omega without a wolf,” she says. Before I can answer, a low growl has us all turning toward the sound. Ronan’s eyes are practically black as he steps farther into the kitchen. His eyes meet mine and swear my mouth goes *dry*. How does he have a wolf?

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What the hell is wrong with me looking an Alpha in the eye? “Are you alright Maddy,” he asks. His voice is deep and dripping with authority. **“I am alright, Alpha. Lisa was just leaving!”** “You will call me Ronan and, after what I just heard, I don’t think you are alright,” he says. I quickly meet his eyes again before I look back at Lisa. “Alpha Ronan, I think there has been a misunderstanding. I was simply here to tell my friend Maddison that I had shifted for the first

time,” she says.

“Are you saying my ears don’t work? That I don’t know what I heard when I arrived outside the kitchen door,” he says. The color drains from her face and I fight the urge to giggle at *the sh\*t* she has gotten herself into. “Now, by the sounds of things, neither of these young *ladies* are your friend. I also know you’ve been stripped of your rank, so you shouldn’t be insulting anyone. For that matter, I was raised by omegas, so I take it as a personal attack that you think you are better than the women that raised me because your daddy sits on the council,”

he says.

“I’m sorry Alpha Ronan. I didn’t mean to upset you,” she says. “I am not the one you owe an apology to. Now I suggest you make it sincere, or I’ll be letting Della know about your little visit to bother her best friend,” Ronan says. My eyes meet Lisa’s and I can see a mix of fear and anger before she finally speaks. “I’m sorry that I called you a wolfless omega. I apologize for hurting your feelings, Maddy,” she says. I know she doesn’t mean a word she just said, but I don’t care about her in the least.

**“My name is Madelena. Only my friends call me Maddy and we are not friends, Lisa. You didn’t hurt my feelings, Lisa, because that would mean I care about your opinion of me and I don’t.”** Maddison covers her mouth but I hear the chuckle. Lisa turns and stomps out of the room like a child having a tantrum. I turn to Ronan, realizing for the first time his muscles are on full display in his tank top. Holy sh\*t he is huge. The sound of a throat clearing from Maddison snaps me out of my thoughts. **“Thank you, Alpha.”** A low warning growl has me jumping, but I don’t dare look him in the eyes again.

**“I’m sorry I mean Ronan. Thank you for your help.”** “You’re welcome Maddy. Make sure you let someone know if she continues to harass you,” he says. **“I will.”** He steps around me, heading to the fridge for a protein shake, which is probably why he was here in the first place. “See you later Maddy,” he says before he steps out of the kitchen. Maddison’s squeal makes me jump. “Holy sh\*t, that was awesome. He is so hot Maddy. Do you think he is your mate? Is that why he was so pissed she was starting sh\*t with you,” she says.

I look at her like she has lost her mind. **“First, he is an Alpha. Second, I don’t even think he is eighteen yet. Third and most importantly, I am a wolfless omega. Surely the goddess**

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wouldn't do that. He needs a strong mate like Della. Maybe that's why he is here. He knows I'm her friend, so he stepped in and defended me." "Don't let that b\*\*ch's prejudices make you doubt the amazing person you are, Maddy," Maddison says. "I'm not. I know who I am, and honestly I'll be grateful if I'm given a mate, but if I have to fall in love like humans, then so be it. I don't want to be anyone but me even if I don't have a wolf."

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[ 1,682 words ]

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#### Ronan POV

After my sparring with Valor, which was pretty much a draw again, we all headed back to the castle to get cleaned up. He is definitely a skilled fighter and we both got a few good hits on each other. He isn't at all what I thought he would be like. I assumed he would be full of himself and look down on omegas like my sperm donor. I expected him to be arrogant and self-absorbed.

Seeing him defend Della's friend definitely gave me a glimpse of his character. If Della was with us, I would say he was trying to impress her, but she obviously wasn't. I guess that's my fault for making assumptions about people. I need to do better, especially if I want to be a great Alpha. "I told you not to be an a\*\*. I knew you two were going to end up being besties," Silas says with a snicker.

**"Very funny. I didn't say I wanted to braid each other's hair I just said he isn't a self-absorbed a\*\*hole."**

Part of me even felt bad for Valor when that thirsty vamp girl showed up trying to lay claim on him. It actually pissed me off, but I'm not exactly sure why. My thoughts are interrupted when I hear slightly raised voices coming from the kitchen. I feel Silas pushing to the surface as I step just outside the door. It takes all my control to listen to that snotty little b\*\*ch insult Maddy. When the other girl says about her having a wolf, Silas pushes me to step in.

**“Wait, Maddy seems to be holding her own against the nasty b\*\*ch.”** “I swear to the goddess Ronan if she gets hurt, I won't let you shift until she is healed,” Silas says. Silas's anger has me stepping into the kitchen to intervene. When my eyes meet Maddy's a feeling I can't describe washes over me. What the hell is happening? I push my questions aside for now and focus on making sure the witch knows to keep her distance from Maddy.

Once I know she is safe, I grab my protein shake and head for my room. Once I'm inside, I head for the bathroom. “Silas, what the hell is going on? Why are we reacting to Maddy,” I ask as I start to strip out of my clothes. I know he hears me, but for the first time since he awakened, he doesn't answer. Everything that happened from the moment I heard the raised voices until I stepped out of the kitchen replays in my mind as I wash myself up.

Why the hell did I want to snap that little witch in two when she was insulting Maddy? I know part of what I said was absolutely true. Being an omega doesn't make her less than. Being wolfless doesn't make her less than. She is beautiful and strong. She deserves to be treated with respect. Why do I feel so protective of her? Once I'm dried off, I wrap the towel around my waist and step out of the bathroom. I'm just reaching for my boxer briefs when there is a knock on my door.

I quickly slide them on but keep the towel around my waist. When I pull the door open, I smile

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when I see Della until I notice the look on her face. “Della, what's wrong?” “Dad got a call from your aunt. He needs you to come to the office,” she says. My heart starts to race because I know something is wrong just based on the look in her eyes. “What **happened**, Della?” “There was a rogue attack and three pack members were seriously hurt. Beta Reagan was one of the Ronan.” I can't stop the growl that escapes me.

I don't even give her a chance to say more, before I step around her and in the direction of the king's office. I knock once before push the door open without waiting for a

response. "What the hell happened," I ask before I even reach his desk. "Calm down pup. I *know* you are upset, but you need to get yourself under control. You are *no* good to Reagan like this," he says. I take a deep breath doing as he says.

**"I apologize, my king."** "No apology is necessary. Now I'll tell you exactly what I know," he says, motioning for me to sit.

The sound of the door closing has us both looking at where Della and Valor stepped into the room. Della comes to sit next to me and takes my hand as I focus on Ace. He raises his eyebrow in question but, thankfully, doesn't ask which is good because I have no idea what to say. I'm drawn to your daughter, but I have no idea if I'm her mate. I feel protective of her friend. I need to focus on finding out what happened to Reagan and nothing else right now. "The royal warriors arrived back this morning. Despite not finding anything, the head warrior felt there was tension between Agatha and Reagan. About twenty minutes ago, Agatha called and said that the pack was attacked by rogues and three of the pack members were injured. One out of the three injured is far worse than the others," he says. **"Reagan,"** I practically whisper. I'm on my feet and pacing. **"That is bulls\*t. There is no way that Reagan was hurt by rogues."**

**"We all know that it would take an army of rogues to hurt a hybrid pack, not to mention Reagan is the Beta. This is her doing. I need to get back to the pack. I won't let him die because of that conniving b\*\*ch.**

**He has been like a father to me and I refuse to lose him."** My heart feels like it's going to pound out of my chest. Small warm hands take mine and a calming feeling moves through my body. When my eyes meet Della's, they are a brilliant purple.

I almost stumble back but I steady myself. "I can help heal Reagan, Ronan. I know you're confused, and I promise I will explain everything, but right now we need to leave so we can help the man you consider your father," she says. I look at the king expecting him to refuse, knowing returning to a pack in such chaos is dangerous, but instead he simply nods. Della leads me out of the office and Valor follows close behind us. Why do I have a feeling that everything is about to change?

### ***Maureen (Reagan's Mate)***

I feel like I can't breathe as I stare down at the man that has always been my rock. We were

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both born in the Night Walker pack and have been together since we were teenagers. We both knew we were fated to become mates when we turned eighteen. The day it happened was the happiest day of my life. Now sitting here wondering if he will open his

eyes again, it is making it hard to breathe. I still don't understand what the hell could have happened.

Reagan is of Beta blood and a hybrid. He is the strongest man I know. I wish that Ronan was here. Despite the ba\*\*ard that gave life to him, he is a good boy. I had hoped that he would be mates with our daughter when they were pups but over the last year she has become more and more worried about the title instead of finding her true mate. Hell, she told me the day Ronan left she was willing to be his chosen mate. That is not how we raised her. I know Reagan was as disappointed as I was.

The door opening breaks me out of my thoughts. Agatha steps inside, offering me a look of sympathy. She can't really believe I don't know how she feels about my mate. Reagan doesn't keep things from me, so I know far more than she realizes. "How are you holding up Maureen," she asks. "I have faith **that he'll wake up soon.**" "The pack doctor said that he isn't healing Maureen. He is running tests, but I think you need to prepare yourself for the possibility he may not recover," she says.

**you**

**"No, my mate is strong.** His wolf is strong. He just **needs** time **and** rest." "I didn't mean to upset you, Maureen. I've called Ronan because I know how important Reagan is to him. He should be here soon. Is there anything I can get you," she asks. **"No, I'm fine, Luna. Thank for checking on us."** "Of course, what kind of Luna would I be if I didn't? Rest assured, the men will find the rogues that did this and make them pay," she says before she turns leaving the room.

Goddess that fake b\*\*ch makes my skin crawl. I lean up, so I'm close to Reagan's ear. **"Did you hear that** Reagan? Ronan is on his way. I need you to wake **up my** love. I need **you**, Reagan. **I can't survive** w8ithout you." I press a soft kiss on his lips before I retake my seat. The door opens again and this time my daughter steps inside. "How is he, *mom*," she asks, taking the seat on the opposite side of the bed. "He is about **the same. We** just need to trust **the goddess** and his wolf will heal him."

"The Luna said Ronan is on his way back. I'm excited to see him," she says. **"Enough Melanie. He is not your mate. You are not meant to be his Luna. You need to focus on waiting for your** destined mate instead **of someone** else's. **If you aren't here to focus on your injured father,** then **go** Melanie. I have **no** patience **for your childish ideas right now.**" Without *another word*, she gets up and leaves the room. Goddess give me strength.

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[ 1,988 words ]

### 23 Healing Reagan

#### *Ronan*

Two warriors will accompany us at the king's insistence. I wouldn't argue because I don't trust Agatha. My chest feels tight as I slide into the SUV. I'll never forgive myself if something happens to Reagan. I shouldn't have left the pack without dealing with Agatha first. I know damn well this is her doing. No rogue would be able to get the better of Reagan, let alone him and two warriors. I need to find out who else was injured. I pull the phone from my bag and take a deep breath before I push Agatha's contact.

Just as I do, Della and Valor slide into the SUV. I look at him confused, but I have no time to ask him why he is coming when the call connects. "Ronan, I expected this call thirty minutes ago," she says. "**Why didn't you call me directly instead of calling the king?**" There is silence for a moment before she finally speaks. "I was concerned how you would take the news if you were alone. I know how close you are to Reagan," she says.

"**He is like a father to me.**" "He is not your father. Roger was your father, and he always will be," she grits out. "**He hardly acknowledged my existence, so let's not talk about him being my father.**" "Enough Ronan. I realize you are upset about losing Reagan, but you need to show the pack your strength, not weakness. You are to become Alpha soon. You will find another Beta among the warriors," she says. Rage bubbles up inside me. "**Has Reagan died?**" I hate even asking the question.

"No, but it's inevitable, Ronan. He isn't healing. I only called you to give you an opportunity to say goodbye," she says. A hand squeezes my forearm and I look at Della. Her eyes hold a promise that Agatha is wrong. I pray she really can help Reagan. "**Who is with Reagan now?**" "I had just left his room and Maureen was with him. I'm sure Melanie joined them as well. She will make a good Luna one day after you execute the plan and deal with the princess," she says.

Despite the phone not being on speaker with their wolf hearing, they easily hear what she said. Both Valor and Della stiffen next to me, but she never takes her hand from my forearm. I need to explain to Della that I never agreed with hurting her or the king and

queen. **“Enough now is not the time to discuss such things. Besides I have no intention of taking a chosen mate.”** “You can’t be serious,” she says. **“I am very serious. Now tell me who was with Reagan at the time of the attack.”**

“Ronan, you can’t just accept a she-wolf with no rank. Look at what your father,” she starts to say, and I growl. **“I said enough Aunt Agatha. I’m not concerned about who is destined by the goddess to be mine right now. Answer my question.”** “This conversation isn’t over, Ronan. Miles and Brennan were patrolling with Reagan at the time of the attack. I clench my fist that

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is resting on my lap. It’s no coincidence that the two warriors that were hurt are loyal to Reagan.

**“We will be there soon. Please make sure there are four guest rooms prepared on my floor.”** “Who are the guest rooms for,” she asks. **“Friends I made at the Royal Pack that insisted on coming with me.”** I can’t wait to see her face when she sees Della and Valor. Just as the thought pops into my head, a feeling of panic settles in my belly. What if she tries to hurt Della? I know she can fight, and she is strong, but my aunt isn’t exactly scrupulous.

“I am not thrilled about the aspect of strangers entering my territory, Ronan.” **“You mean our territory. I am to be Alpha, Aunt Agatha and I trust them, so I expect they will be treated with respect and kindness by everyone in the pack.”** My underlying meaning is hard to miss. “Of course, Ronan. I’m just a little shocked you have become this close to them in such a short period of time,” she says.

**“We should be there within the hour. I will be heading right to the infirmary.”** A few seconds later I end the call. I lean my head back against the seat and close my eyes, trying to get my anger under control. She hurt and intended to kill three pack members. One of them is a man I consider my father. Fingertips moving in circles on the skin of my forearm has my eyes snapping open. When I meet Della’s eyes, I see sympathy and something else I can’t quite identify.

**“I know you heard what she said about her plan. I swear to you, I never agreed to what she asked of me. The man she was so hellbent on avenging was no father to me. The man that is lying in a hospital bed probably on the verge of death is the only man I have ever considered my father. Her feelings about the way my sperm donor died are hers and hers alone. He never acted like a father to me and in hindsight I’m glad. I would be as f\*\*ked up as he was if**

**he had.”**

I look at Valor for the first time and his expression is unreadable. "I believe you, Ronan. The three of us have a lot to discuss but now isn't the time. Now we need to focus on helping Reagan and the other two pack members. Then you, I, and Valor will sit down and talk. I have a feeling we all have secrets that need to be brought to light," she says. I look at Valor again, and he nods at me. The rest of the drive is in comfortable silence and my only thought is

about getting to Reagan.

## Della POV

"You know he truly is telling the truth," Amethyst says.

**"I didn't need our gift to know that Amethyst. I trust Ronan and Valor. I'm still not sure what the future**

**holds, but I know in my heart they are both important to me."** "Do you feel more for one compared to the other," she asks innocently, but now is not the time for such questions. **"Amethyst, I know you want your mate and so do I but we need to focus on what's important right now."**

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"Our mate is important," she whimpers. **"Of course he is. I'm sorry if what I said upset you. I just need us to focus on what we are about to walk into. We both know that Ronan's aunt is a threat, but we don't know how much of the pack will do her bidding."** "We could wipe the entire pack out in seconds," she says trying to reassure me. **"It's not us I'm worried about. It's Ronan and Valor. It's the innocent members of the pack. It's Reagan and his family!"**

"We will protect those that deserve protection should they try anything stupid. We just need to stay alert while we are there," Amethyst says. Twenty minutes later we pull up to a large iron gate with a large N and W on full display. A large man steps into view as soon as the SUV stops. Before he can speak, Ronan steps out of the SUV. "Open the gate now," he says, and even though it doesn't affect me, I can feel the power of his command. I immediately know this man is one that is loyal to Agatha when I see the flash of black in his eyes.

Ronan slides back in next to me, and we proceed through the gate. We move down a winding road through the tall trees. When the trees thin out, I'm shocked to see the size of the pack house when it comes into view. **"How many members do you have, Ronan?"** "A little over three hundred, but not everyone lives in the main pack

house. In fact, Reagan lives in a large cottage with his wife and daughter near the pack house,” he says.

When the car is finally parked, he helps me out of the SUV. Valor stands on one side while Ronan stands on the other as we make our way to another large building that Ronan says is the infirmary. As soon as we step inside the brick building, a large man approaches us. “Ronan, welcome back,” the man says. “Thanks Doc. How is he,” he asks. A look of sympathy flashes in his eyes. “He isn’t good, Ronan. His wolf isn’t healing him. In fact, with every passing hour he gets sicker,” the man that I now know is the doctor says.

“I don’t understand. Why is he sick if he was attacked?” **“Ronan, let’s just get to his room. We can try to figure out the how’s and why’s after you spend some time with him.”** Ronan turns and simply nods. “Ronan, I’m not sure it’s a good idea to have outsiders in the Beta’s room while he is so vulnerable,” he says, staring at Valor. Valor goes to open his mouth but Ronan beats him to the punch. “I trust Valor and so will Reagan once he wakes up,” he says.

I smile realizing again that Valor and Ronan have truly become friends. “Of course, Ronan. Follow me,” the doctor says and we do. A few seconds later Ronan knocks on a large wooden door before he pushes it open. I realize this must be the Alpha’s private wing of the infirmary. The sound of a steady beeping is reassuring as we step into the room. Although the man in the bed looks pale and like he is barely hanging on.

“Ronan,” an older woman says as she practically jumps out of her seat. She must be Reagan’s mate. Where the hell is his daughter? If that were my father lying there in his condition, they wouldn’t be able to drag me away. Ronan pulls her into his arms. “Maureen, I’m so sorry,” he starts to say, but she cuts him off. “Don’t you dare. This is not your fault. The only people to blame are the ones that attacked him,” she says.

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An overwhelming feeling of fear washes over me. **“What the hell was that, Amethyst?”** “You are feeling her fear of losing her mate because we are meant to save him, but it needs to happen now. He is slipping away,” she says. **“What about his mate?”** “You can trust her to keep our secret. She will think you have the power to heal, nothing more” she says. Without saying a word, I step around them and move to the side of Reagan’s bed.

My hands move like they are possessed. I press my palms against Reagan’s bare chest. As soon as I make contact with his skin, my hands light up blue this time. I immediately feel different than I did the last time when I healed

Maddy. **“Amethyst, what’s happening?”** “He was poisoned. It’s a mix of wolfsbane and something I can’t identify. We are cleansing him, so his wolf can awaken and heal him. It’s almost done Della. You’re going to need to rest when we are done. The second poison isn’t natural,” she says as a wave of exhaustion overtakes me.

The glow fades and I feel myself stagger before strong arms steady me. I can’t hold my eyes open but the tingles that dance on my skin are stronger. Before I can force my eyes open, darkness sucks me under. “I’ve got you princess,” is whispered into the darkness.

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24 Tingles

*Valor* POV

As soon as Della steps around Ronan, I feel compelled *to* follow behind her. I can’t explain it, but the need to be close to her is intense. Something about the way her body moves has *me* moving to stand behind her. When she places her hands on Reagan’s chest, panic rises in me. His mate is in the room. The need to protect Della’s secret, whatever it may be, has me turning toward Ronan. **“Lock the door now.”** He nods and moves to *do* as I ordered. I take a step toward the woman that is Reagan’s mate. Her eyes are full of shock as she is focused on what Della is doing.

**“You will never tell anyone about what you are witnessing.”** “She can be trusted Valor” Ronan says as he moves to stand next to her. “He is right. She is helping my mate and for that I will forever be in her debt. I will never tell anyone about what happened in this room. I will take it to my grave,” she says. I nod turning back to Della.

My fingers itch to reach out to her, but I have no idea if my touch will interfere with her attempt to heal Reagan.

A few minutes later the blue glow that engulfed Della's hands and Reagan's chest fades. Della starts to sway, and I immediately move to steady her. When her body goes limp, I scoop her up in my arms. "I've got you princess," I whisper into her ear just as tingles dance on my skin. I almost trip over my own feet at the realization those tingles are the first real sign of our bond. The sound of coughing has me moving out of the way as Maureen and Ronan rush to each side of Reagan's bed. I take the seat near the wall holding Della in my arms.

Basking in the first signs of the bond I knew we shared, I look at Ronan, wondering what this means for him. Will he feel the same thing when their skin touches the next time? Will we truly share her when she is old enough to accept our bond? I push those thoughts away, knowing right now what is important is that Della saved Reagan. The man that made sure that Ronan didn't become an evil ba\*\*ard survived whatever his nasty b\*\*ch of an aunt tried to do. His eyes are still closed, but his color has already improved. The relief of both Maureen and Ronan is palpable.

When his eyes meet mine and then move to Della, tears form in his eyes. He rounds the bed and squats in front of us. He brushes the hair away from her face. "Why aren't either of us freaking out that she passed out," he asks. **"I think we both know instinctively she is worn out from whatever she just did. We both know that, despite being unconscious, she isn't in danger."** "She saved him, Valor. She is more than either of us realized," he says. Before I can respond, a knock on the door interrupts.

Maureen moves to open it and a girl that looks like a younger version of Maureen steps into the room. Her eyes search the room until they land on Ronan. Her smile fades when he leans

24 Tingles

125 Points

in and whispers in Della's ear. Before he stands, he places a kiss on her forehead and I don't feel one shred of jealousy. Axel is also quiet. He is content to have Della in our arms.

"Who the hell is she and why are you putting your lips on her," the girls asks, like she has some right to Ronan. A growl escapes me at the audacity of her question. She has no claim on Ronan. This must be how Ronan felt when Juniper launched herself at me. I don't understand why we feel this way, but I'm going with it.

"Melanie, who she is, has nothing to do with you. How dare you walk in here demanding answers from Ronan that are not any of your business," Maureen says. "He is putting

his lips on a woman that is being held by another man,” she says, practically stomping her feet like a petulant child. “Melanie get the hell out of my room now” a deep, hoarse voice says. All of us turn to where Reagan is trying to sit up in bed.

“Reagan,” Maureen cries out as she makes her way over the side of his bed. He pulls her into his arms and I debate about carrying Della out of the room to give them a moment alone. One whispered word has my head snapping in the opposite direction before I can even stand. “How,” she whispers. A growl has Melanie backing up as Ronan steps toward her. I guess he heard her question too.

### *Ronan POV*

I can't believe she healed him. Why did she pass out? “Healing takes a lot of energy. She just needs to rest,” Silas says, reassuring me. Seeing Reagan's color improve and his breathing even out has my shoulders sagging. I move around the bed needing to check on Della despite Silas's reassurance. She looks like she is sleeping peacefully in Valor's arms. I brush the hair off her face. When I hear the knock on the door, I expect it to be Agatha.

I want to see her reaction when she realizes that Reagan survived. I'm hoping he can tell me exactly what happened. When Melanie steps into the room, I expect her to rush to her father,

you, Della. but instead she is focused on me. What the hell is wrong with this girl? “Thank Rest now and we will be here when you wake up” I say in Della's ear. I'm glad when Maureen puts Melanie in her place. I don't have the patience for her childish bulls\*t right now. She should be worried about her father instead of where I put my lips.

Hearing Reagan's voice has my heart nearly beating out of my chest. I never expected him to

peace wake up so quickly. Della is truly amazing. Maureen rushes to him and a feeling of settles in my chest. Maureen isn't losing her mate, and I'm not losing the man I consider my father. When I hear the whispered question from behind me, Silas pushes to the surface. I turn and step toward the spoiled b\*\*ch who just asked how her father survived. **“What the hell did you just say”** I growl out.

“Ronan, I'm just shocked. The doctor didn't think my dad was going to make it. It's a miracle,” she says. **“So instead of praising the goddess for saving him, you ask how. That is the first**

< 24 Tingles

\$25 Points

**thought that pops** into your head when **you** see **your** father alive **and** well. **What the hell is wrong with you?** Why weren't **you** sitting at his bedside when we arrived?" "Mom, kicked me out," she blurts out. I can see she immediately regrets it.

**"Why would your mother kick you out of the room? I've known your mother all my life and she is one of the kindest people I know. So what could you have possibly said or done to make her upset enough to throw you out of the room?"** "Ronan, I was just excited you were coming home. I've missed you while you were gone," she says. Again Valor growls and I fight the urge to smile. I'm still not sure what the hell is happening between the three of us, but I accept whatever the goddess has planned.

"Why the hell are you growling at me? Who are you and why are you here," she says to Valor. This time its me that growls. I can see the shock and immediate realization that I have a wolf when her eyes meet mine again. "You have your wolf. Since when" she asks. **"I do, which means I know that you are not my mate. So you need to wait and figure out who it is and stop wishing for something that will never happen."**

"Ronan, I chose you. I don't need some mate chosen by the moon goddess. You need a strong mate who can rule the pack by your side. You are the one I want. I choose you and I want you to choose me," she says. **"You aren't listening. I don't want you. I don't** choose **you.** I

**want my**

**fated mate. I don't care** what **rank** she **holds. I don't care if she has a wolf, or she doesn't.** She **is meant to** be mine **and that is all that matters.**" "Ronan, my office now," Agatha says, startling me. I look up and see her glaring at me from the doorway.

**"No, I came here for Reagan. What I just said is not up for discussion. I'm not leaving this room until I find out exactly what happened to Reagan and the two other men that are recovering."** Her eyes leave me for the first time and I see the flash of panic when Reagan waves at her with a smirk on his face. The panic is gone as quickly as it came. "Fine, but you are very wrong if you think this discussion is over. Melanie, why don't you come with me to check on the accommodations for our guests," she asks.

I almost laugh when she doesn't notice Valor in the corner with Della in his arms. I'm sure crazy b\*\*ch will tell her as soon as they leave. For now, I'm going to check on Reagan and the other two warriors that are healing naturally. This attack was meant to end Reagan and no one will convince me differently. Now I just have to figure out if that means I can't return to the royal pack. I've never been so torn, but one thing is for sure, I won't leave Reagan unprotected again.

25

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## Walked Away 125

[ 1,810 words ]

25 Mate

Della POV

My eyes flutter open, and I expect to still be in the pack hospital but I'm not. Honestly, I have no idea where I am. It looks like a garden with beautiful flowers of every color. I get to my feet and wonder how I got here. I also wonder where here is? "I wondered when I would get the chance to see you, sweet pea," a deep male voice says from behind me. When I turn, tears well in my eyes. Despite never getting to meet him in the flesh, I've seen enough pictures and heard so many stories, I feel like I know him. **"Grandpa Charlie,"** I whisper.

He opens his arms and I rush to wrap mine around him. "You have grown up so much since the first time I saw you," he says. I pull back and look at him confused. His smile has warmth spreading through my chest. "I've been watching over my Oli girl, Ace, and all my grandchildren. I knew she would be a wonderful mother. She always loved with her whole heart," he says. **"She is the best mother. I've never doubted for a second how much she loves me. Even after Charlie, Oliver, and Hudson were born her love for me never wavered."**

**"I never for a second felt less than. In fact, she always told me how special I was because I was her first pup."** "She is right. You are very special and not because you are the midnight wolf but because you are so much like your mother. You care about others even when it's hard. I know how much Oli struggled to forgive Evelyn, but it's because of you that she could. You and your father healed the pain that she held in her heart. Now, as much as I would love to spend eternity spending time with you, it's almost time for you to return and the goddess gets impatient being kept waiting," he whispers.

"I heard that, Charlie," a feminine voice says from behind us. He chuckles and pulls me into another hug. "I love you sweet pea. Make sure you tell your mother how proud I am

of the woman she has become and how much I love her. How much I love all of you,” he says. He presses a kiss on my forehead before he turns, disappearing into the garden.

A beautiful woman with long red hair steps in front of me. “Hello my sweet daughter,” she says, and I’m sure she can tell I’m shocked. It’s her turn to chuckle as she reaches out her hand to me. “Did you not realize who you were? I know that Amethyst has told you that you are a goddess among supernaturals,” she says. **“She has which I still can’t wrap my head around. Now hearing you call me your daughter has me even more confused. I know Candace was my birth mother and Olivia is the mother of my heart. I also know that supernaturals are considered your children.”**

“That is true but you are special. You are a part of me, just as if I carried you in my body. All midnight wolves are my direct descendants. Candace was purely a vessel. I knew that Olivia wasn’t ready to give birth to you after the sh\*t show that Cassandra had created, but she was

25 Mate

**\$25 Pords**

always meant to be your mother. You are a part of her as much as you are a part of me, she says. Tears roll down my cheeks. She reaches her hand out and brushes the tears from my

cheeks.

“Come lets sit. We have something to discuss before you return to your mate,” she says. **“You mean potential mates.”** “No, I mean mate. Make no mistake that both men will be important to you, but only one is your true mate. The other is someone else’s mate. In fact, your first true act as the Midnight Wolf will be to create their true mate bond,” she says. “No offense, **but you aren’t making sense. Why can’t you just come out and say it instead of speaking in riddles?”** As soon as the last word leaves my mouth, I slam my hand over it.

I’m almost afraid to look the goddess in the eyes after what I just said. That is until I hear her laugh. “I’m not angry, Della. Actually quite the opposite. I’ve been accused many times of sounding like a fortune cookie. I truly understand that you are frustrated, but I needed you to show me his true nature. To show me the man that he was in his heart,” she says.

**“I am frustrated because I wish I was just like everyone else. You pick my mate, I feel the bond, and we live happily ever after.”** “Being a goddess comes with its own sets of rules and challenges. I’m sure Tanith would say I am a pain in her a\*\* with all my rules,” she says, and I giggle. A sound to my left startles me. I look up in time to see a

familiar purple wolf stalking toward us. "**Amethyst,**" I say as she comes to sit at my feet. I reach out running my fingers through her fur.

"She is a beautiful wolf, isn't she," the goddess asks. "**She is the most beautiful wolf. She is the other half of my soul. She is my best friend.**" Movement out of the corner of my eye on the same path has me turning to see a beautiful white wolf with a purple crescent moon on her head. The wolf comes to sit at the goddess's feet.

"There have been five midnight wolves since the creation of wolf kind, including you. Every one of them has faced the same challenges in one way or another. One of those challenges is finding someone they can trust with all their secrets. Someone that will rule by their side. Someone that will share a bond that is almost as strong as the mate bond. The person meant to fulfill that role is usually of what most consider an undesirable rank or none at all. They are also born without the gift of a wolf because it is meant to be bestowed upon them," she says.

My heart starts to pound against my chest. I look at the stunning white wolf whose eyes are the same color as Amethyst's. "Liora, just like Amethyst, has always been the Divine Wolf. There is never one without the other. Just like mates, they are bound to each other," she says. "**She is Maddy's wolf!**" "That she is. She is powerful and blessed," she says, and again tears streak down my cheeks. "I get **to** unite Maddy and Liora," I ask. "Yes, you do. You and Amethyst will use your powers to bring them together," she says. "Thank you," I say, **wiping** the tears from my cheeks.

< 25 Mate

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She stands and pulls me into her arms. "I am so proud of you, Della. I love you, daughter." "**I love you, mother. Thank you for trusting me, for choosing me.**" She presses a kiss **on my** forehead and my eyes slowly close. I'm not sure how much time passes, but when my **eyes** finally open, the sound of beeping lets me know I'm back at the pack hospital. The **feeling of** tingles dancing on my skin has me looking at the man whose arms are wrapped around **me**.

I can't help the smile that spreads across my face when I realize that Valor has fallen **asleep**. His scent overwhelms me and Amethyst growls out the word "mate." He was always meant to be my mate and Ronan was always meant to be Maddy's. The more I think about **it, the** more it makes sense. The mother goddess needed to make sure that Ronan was nothing like his sperm donor. That he was willing to accept a wolfless mate. That he would treat her the way she deserved to be treated even if she was an omega without a wolf. That's why we couldn't reveal who we truly were to either of them.

Excitement bubbles up inside me. Maddy is going to finally have her wolf and her mate. "You are staring at me, Princess," he says before his body stiffens. His eyes open, and I

can see Axel is at the surface. "Mate," he says. "**Mate,**" I say, and his hold tightens on me. I hadn't realized that we were lying in a hospital bed until this second. Why am I in a hospital bed? "How," he asks. Before I can answer, there is a knock on the door and a few seconds later Ronan steps inside.

When he looks between us, something flashes in his eyes. It's not jealousy or anger, but acceptance. "Congratulations," he says before he turns to leave the room. I scramble off the bed and rush over before he can leave the room. When his eyes meet mine, he pulls me in for a hug. I expect Valor to growl behind me, but he doesn't. "I'm not upset, Della. It makes sense

for

you

to be mated to Valor. He is after all, royal too," he says. I need him to understand that has nothing to do with it. He is just as good as Valor.

I pull back forcing him to look at me. "**Do you still feel drawn to me, Ronan?**" "I do, but it feels different. That's how I knew that you two had realized your fated mates. I'm sure the desire to be around you will pass Della. You don't need to worry about me. It's actually good because I can't return to the royal pack. I can't leave Reagan here unprotected," he says. A feeling of panic washes over me. He has to go back to the royal pack. He is Maddy's mate, and he needs to be with me. Now that everything is clear, I realize that Ronan and Maddy are meant to rule the supernatural world with us."

Before I can tell him he has to return, and we can take Reagan and his family with us, the door to the room bursts open. Agatha steps inside, followed by a young girl who looks like a younger version of Reagan's wife. Her eyes zero in on Ronan's arms around me. Ronan pushes me behind him and gives a low growl. Agatha's eyes get big before they narrow on Ronan. Her wolf clearly at the surface. "How dare you touch my mate?" I look past Agatha and, despite my best effort, Amethyst growls at the little b\*\*ch's claim on our best friend's mate. A knowing smile spreads across Agatha's face. I guess the wolf is out of the bag.

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## Walked Away 126

[ 1,787 words ]

(26 She is a Liar

+25 Points

## 26 She is a Liar

### *Ronan POV*

The minute Della growls, my heart starts to beat faster. I don't like the way my aunt is looking at her. She may not be my mate, but it doesn't change that I care for her.

"Ronan, I believe **an** explanation is in order about why you were holding the future Queen of Werewolves in your arms. Have you failed to tell me that you two have grown so close," she asks, hope and something sinister in her eyes.

"She is not his mate. He doesn't even have his wolf yet," Melanie says from behind her. "Enough Melanie, I had no idea one of our guests was the future queen," Agatha says, chastising Melanie. I almost laugh at the hurt in the b\*\*ch's eyes, but then I think about Reagan. Even though she is a brat she is still their daughter.

"They won't be staying long, and I won't be returning to the royal pack. Valor is Della's mate. She and I are just friends, Aunt Agatha." "Ronan, we need to talk before you make any decisions about not returning to the royal pack. Your training is far from done," Della says, and I turn to look at her. Something in her eyes has me agreeing before my aunt's next words have my eyes snapping back to her.

"Why is he here? He isn't even part of the werewolf kingdom, but you've brought him here," she sneers at the man who comes to stand by Della. She is now between us. Something about the way we are at her side feels right. "**I invited him here. He is my friend and this is my pack.**" Her eyes meet mine and I can see she wants to argue, but she must think better of it. "Of course, forgive me. Ronan, I would still like to speak to you alone in my office," she

says.

"**Fine, let's go.**" "Ronan" Della says my name and grabs my hand. A feeling of warmth spread through my body but it went as quickly as it came. "It's **fine** Della. I **won't be gone** long and then **the three of us can talk about training.**" She nods and releases my hand. "Valor, **please protect Reagan and Maureen. I shouldn't be long.**"

"Of course," he says. "What would they possibly need protection from Ronan? The attack was at the pack border, not inside the pack lands," Agatha says. "**Until I determine exactly what happened and Reagan is back to a hundred percent, I will be assigning him a guard if I can't be with him. Right now, that's Valor.**" "Ronan, that isn't necessary," Reagan says from behind me. I turn to look at him. He still looks

weak and my heart squeezes in my chest. **This is my** fault for underestimating my b\*\*ch of an aunt. “**This isn’t up for discussion, Reagan.**”

I can see he wants to argue, but he simply nods. I turn and start to *follow* my **aunt**, but Melanie steps into my path. “Ronan, I would really like us to talk after **you speak to your aunt,**” she says. “**Melanie, we are not friends and, honestly, I have no desire to sit and speak with**

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< 26 She is a Liar

+25 Points

**you.** Nor is there a reason for me to. Your father is my mentor and the only man I consider my family, but you are nothing to me.”

Tears roll down her cheeks, but I don’t feel a shred of regret about what I just said after the way she had no regard for her father. I step around her and make my way out of the room. I hate leaving, but I trust Valor to protect them. “It’s not just Valor that will protect them,” Silas says. Before I can ask if he is talking about Della’s wolf, which I’m still shocked about, he recedes in my mind.

When we reach Agatha’s office, she motions for me to enter first. As soon as I am inside, she closes and locks the door. I fight the urge to roll my eyes. No one would dare step into her office with her permission. “What the f\*\*k are you thinking, Ronan,” she growls as she whirls on me. “**I have no idea what you mean, Agatha.**” “Excuse me. Last time I checked, I am your aunt and the Luna of this pack. You will address me by my title. I am the only real family you have. You would do well to remember that,” she says.

“I am well **aware of who you** are, **Aunt** Agatha. **I’m simply wondering why it** is you are so **upset by the** guests **I’ve brought to** the pack. Was **it not your** idea for me to get close to the princess?” “Of course, the whole reason you went to the royal pack was to get close to the princess so we could exact revenge. Now you show up here with her and the vampire prince acting like you are the best friends. Have you forgotten what happened to your father?” “No, I **haven’t forgotten, but my only concern right now** is **figuring out** exactly what happened to Reagan.”

“I *told you* what happened. There was a rogue attack. I’m just glad to see he is finally recovering. The doctor really believed that he wouldn’t survive,” she says. I can sense her heart beat faster as the lie falls from her lips. “**I want to speak** to the warriors that thwarted the attack. Maybe they **can offer some insight** as to what kind of rogues could have harmed a Beta born hybrid **and two hybrid warriors.**” “Ronan, the important thing now is that Reagan survived, and his wolf is finally healing him,” she says.

"I agree, but I still want to speak to the warriors." "Fine," she says, and her eyes glaze over. A few minutes later three of Agatha's own guard step into the room. They are completely loyal to her. Why the hell would they be anywhere near the border? "Luna, you wanted to speak to us," Micah says. "Actually, my nephew has some questions about the attack. I told him that the three of you are the ones that dealt with the rogues," she says.

Something passes silently between them before he turns to face me. I'm just about open my mouth to ask a question when I notice Jasper who is standing near the back. *His mouth is moving* but no sound is coming out. "The ba\*\*ard is chanting. How did we not know he was part warlock" Silas asks. A heaviness blooms in my chest and I feel like I can't catch my breath. Agatha rushes toward me grabbing my arm to steady me. "Ronan, what's wrong" she asks. The feeling of warmth from earlier returns and the heaviness fades.

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< 26 She is a Liar

+25 Points

I stand to my full height my eyes meeting Jasper's. Fear and confusion swirl of equal measure as I take a step toward him. Before he can open his mouth to speak I grab him by the throat. "Ronan, what the hell are you doing" Agatha screeches. "Dealing with a disloyal pr\*ck" I say before snapping his neck. When I turn back to face my aunt I can see she doesn't know what to say. "Now I'll ask again what happened to Reagan and the other two warriors?"

*Della POV*

I know the protection I just placed on Ronan at Amethyst's direction will keep him from harm, but I still don't like the thought of him alone with that horrible b\*\*ch. When Ronan finally steps out of the room, Melanie focuses her attention on me. "You should not be touching someone else's mate," she says, taking a step closer to me. I feel Valor stiffen at my side and I reach out taking his hand in mine. "Enough Melanie. Ronan is not yours," Maureen says from behind me. "He is not hers either," she says with a smug smile.

"She isn't worthy even if she is meant to be queen. Hell, even her own mate doesn't care that Ronan was touching her. She is nothing but a wh\*re," she says. Valor growls and I step in front of him before he lunges at her, forcing him to look into my eyes. The sound of skin against skin has me turning in time to see Maureen take a step back from her daughter. "You hit me. Why would you hit me for her," Melanie asks, holding her cheek.

“You are damn right, I did. How dare you speak to the future Queen with such disrespect? She is special, and I can see that only by being in her presence for a short time. I am ashamed to call you my daughter at this moment. You were such a good girl when you were younger, and then you got these ideas in your head about being Luna. You have turned into nothing but a spoiled brat who wants a toy she was never meant to have. Until you can act like the daughter that your father and I raised, get out of my sight,” she says.

“I am your daughter. How can you say such things,” she says. “No, your mother is right. You aren’t acting like our daughter. Get out and figure out what happened to the little girl that wouldn’t step on a bug because she had such a kind heart when she was little, because you *are not* that girl anymore. I know it wasn’t you who made the drink, but you gave it to me, Melanie,” Reagan says. Her eyes get big and the color drains from her face.

“What did *you do*” Maureen practically screams in her face. “I didn’t do anything. I don’t know what he is talking about. It was just his normal coffee. The omega gave it to me,” she says. “She is a l\*\*r” Amethyst says. I look at her shock and anger coursing through me in equal measure. She goes to turn and leave, but that won’t be happening. Before I can move, Valor has her pinned against the door.

“I’m sorry, daddy. I didn’t mean to,” she cries, but I can sense she is only sorry she was caught. Amethyst and I know she isn’t the only guilty one, but she is going to pay for her betrayal. She is going to pay for hurting the man that gave her life. The man that Ronan

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< 26 She is a Liar

considers his family.

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# Walked Away 127

[ 2,034 words ]

## 27 Put Her in Her Place

### *Ronan POV*

**“Did you know he was of warlock blood?”** A look of panic crosses her features before she quickly schools her expression. “What the hell are you talking about Ronan? You just killed a pack member without cause and now you’re saying he had warlock blood running through his veins. I knew both his parents. They were born in this pack. Both of vampire and wolf descent. His father died fighting by your father’s side. You had no right,” she starts to say, but I cut her off.

**“Enough, Aunt Agatha. Either you are lying to me or you were lied to. I could sense the magic in him even before he attempted to use it on me. So tell me Luna, was it on your orders or was he acting alone?”** Her face looks like I just slapped her, but she recovers quickly. “Take him to the pack hospital for storage. I will speak to his mother about what happened. Nothing leaves this room. Am I clear,” she asks. Both men nod before following her orders.

As soon as the door clicks shut, Agatha faces me. “I am not sure what has gotten into you, Ronan, but I believe you have lost sight of what is important” she says. **“So you knew he intended to use magic against me.”** She nods, and I fight the urge to grab her by the throat. Something isn’t adding up, and I need to figure out what it is before I send her to meet her brother. “Ronan, you are important to me. You are the last connection I have to Roger,” she

says.

“I can’t say I love you because it is not a feeling I’ve ever been capable of, but I am loyal to you. I fear you can no longer say the same. You are correct that Jasper had warlock blood coursing through his veins. He was following my orders today, but he was not trying to harm you. I simply needed to know where your loyalty lies. After seeing you hugging that b\*\*ch today, I realize she may have seduced you into believing she isn’t the enemy,” she says.

“Her family killed your father, Ronan. She is the enemy,” she says. Just as I open my mouth to respond, I can feel Reagan firmly nudging our link. “Ronan, I need you to come to the hospital room before the vampire prince kills Melanie. I know she has to be

dealt with, but she is still my pup,” he says. What the f\*\*k is happening? Valor wouldn't just go after her without a good reason. Did she try to attack Della?

Without a word, I turn rushing out of Agatha's office. My steps don't falter despite Agatha's screaming for me to stop. As soon as I reach the hospital, I stalk toward the room. When I attempt to push the door open, it won't budge. My heart starts to pound against my chest. I shove hard, and the door slams open like whatever was holding it closed was suddenly moved away. I don't make it two steps before I take in the scene.

Maureen is in tears and Reagan looks completely torn. Della is holding onto Valor's arm as

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< 27 Put Her in Her Place

**+25 Points**

he looms over a blubbering Melanie. “What the f\*\*k is going on,” Agatha asks from behind me. Melanie scrambles to her feet and moves to hide behind my aunt. “He attacked me, Luna,” she cries. “How dare you attack one of my pack members? Is this how you are taught to behave in the vampire kingdom,” she asks and Valor growls.

“**Enough,**” I say, my eyes focused on Melanie, who is keeping her eyes cast down. “**I know Valor didn't attack you for no reason. What the f\*\*k did you do?**” “Ronan, this is not how a future Alpha behaves. She is your pack member. She is the one you owe loyalty to. Not some outsider,” Agatha says. It's my turn to growl. “I asked a **question and I expect a f\*\*king answer. I may not have had the formal ceremony, but this pack is my birthright. Now** answer me,” I say, my aura washing over the room.

Everyone but Valor and Della bare their necks. Even Agatha, despite her best effort to fight against it, has no choice. “Ronan” Reagan manages to croak out, and I pull my aura back. I look at him and there is a sadness in his eyes that nearly guts me. “I think we all need to take a moment to calm down. Whatever misunderstanding that has happened can be discussed at a later time after Reagan has had time to rest,” Agatha says. “**No one is leaving this room until I find out why Valor looked like he was ready to snap her neck.**”

**Della** POV

I can tell that Ronan is on the edge and, as much as I want to see him rip this little b\*\*ch to shreds, I can't allow that to happen in front of Maureen or Reagan. I move toward him, placing my hand on Ronan's forearm, using my powers to offer him comfort. “**Ronan, I believe that Melanie should be placed in the cells until we can determine exactly what happened. I think Reagan and Maureen**

**would agree they want all the facts before she is dealt with.”** He turns looking at the man he considers a father and Reagan nods.

“With all due respect, princess the royal wolves have no right to involve themselves in pack matters. That is an overstep of your power. Pack members are to be dealt with by pack leadership. Now I am not sure what you believe Melanie did, but whatever her supposed wrongdoing might be, it will be dealt with by me as the acting Luna,” she says. Amethyst is ready to take control and show her exactly who she is dealing with, but now is not the time to completely reveal exactly what I am capable of. Besides, the pack is truly Ronan’s despite the traitorous ba\*\*ards that are loyal to Agatha.

The room is silent but a few seconds later the door to the room opens and two large men step inside. Agatha is shocked by their presence. “Take Melanie to the cells. She is only to be released on my orders,” Ronan says. The men look torn. I’m sure they know that Melanie is Reagan’s daughter. These men must be loyal to Ronan and, by default, Reagan. “Your Alpha gave an order. I suggest you follow it,” Reagan says.

“Daddy, please don’t let them do this to me. I’m sorry. I really am,” she cries as she is pulled

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< 27 Put Her in Her Place

+25 Points

from the room. “Ronan, you are not Alpha yet,” Agatha says, Ronan takes a step toward her but his posture never changes. **“It is unconventional for a sixteen-year-old to take the title of Alpha, but make no mistake, Agatha, the title is mine. If you go against the orders I just gave, I will not wait the expected two years and I will claim my title today!”**

She looks as if she was just slapped, but she manages to simply nod. Without another word, she turns leaving the room. I am not naive to think for one second that she *won’t* be in her office plotting as soon as her ugly shoes can get her there. For now, we need to deal with the matter at hand. Strong arms pull me into a hug. It’s a hug that now feels like brotherly affection and nothing more. “You really like hugging my mate. A lesser wolf would be jealous,” Valor says, and I giggle.

When Ronan releases me, I’m immediately pulled into Valor’s arms. “Now I would really like to know exactly what happened after I left the room to go to Agatha’s office,” Ronan says. I look toward Reagan and my heart breaks to see the pain there. “She drugged me,” he finally says after a long pause. Maureen sobs and I wiggle out of Valor’s hold to go to her. I wrap my arm protectively around her despite our height difference.

“Are you telling me that your daughter drugged you,” he asks through gritted teeth. “I am. I’m not sure what she knew of what she gave me or what she hoped would happen, but I’m positive she knew that the coffee she gave me was spiked. I’m sure she was following someone’s orders and I would bet my wolf it was Agatha’s. I also know without a shadow of a doubt there were no rogues,” he says.

**“Tell us exactly what you can remember before waking up in the hospital.”** He smiles at me and offers me his hand. I move to take it. “Thank you for saving me. I love my mate and Ronan. I love my daughter too, but right now I don’t like her. I was so worried I wouldn’t make it back to them. Maureen told me what you did. Your secret is safe with us. I am forever in your debt,” he says. I squeeze his hand.

**“You owe me nothing. You are important to Ronan, which means you are important to me.”**

He looks confused as he looks between the three of us. “Is Ronan also your mate,” he asks, and I giggle at his look of disgust. “Why do you look constipated at the thought of me being her mate too,” Ronan asks. “I would hate to share Maureen especially with someone as handsome as him. I feel bad for you,” he says, and I giggle.

I know he is trying to lighten the mood, and it seems to work, as Ronan smiles. “I am not her mate. We haven’t figured out why I am so drawn to her and protective of her, but Valor is her mate. Truth be told, I feel close to him as well, despite the short amount of time we’ve spent together,” he says. **“I know the reason, but for now we need to deal with this issue so we can get back to the royal pack. You’ll understand everything when we do.”**

“I can’t,” he starts to say, but I cut him off. **“Focus, Ronan, then we will talk.”** “I like her. She is

3/4

27 Put Her in Her Place

+25 Points

strong and will make sure she makes you both better men even if she is not your mate,” he says pointing at Ronan. “Stop stalling, Reagan and tell us exactly what happened,” Ronan says. “I was in my office. I normally get coffee at the same time and when the door opened I expected it to be an omega delivering it, but instead it was Melanie. She told me she grabbed it from the girl since she wanted to say hello. I should have known then something was up. She hasn’t wanted to spend time with me in months,” he says, sadness in his eyes.

“We talked for a few minutes about nothing important and she left. After I drank the coffee, I headed out to patrol. It took a few minutes but I started to feel the effects of whatever was in the coffee. Right before I passed out, I heard growls but the scent

never changed. There were no rogues. I would bet my title it was Agatha's cronies. They needed it to look like an attack. I'm not sure if they drugged my guys too, but I know it wasn't rogues," he says.

**"If they did, it wasn't with the same thing they gave you. When I healed you, Amethyst said that it was wolfsbane, but it was also something dark. That's why I passed out. It took a lot to pull it from your system."** Concern flashes in his eyes. "Are you alright," he asks. **"I'm fine, Reagan, I promise. I need to ask you something. I know she is your daughter but what do you think should be done when we determine her part in this?"**

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85

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## Walked Away 128

[ 1,603 words ]

28 Ronan's Truth

Della POV

I can see the pain in Reagan's eyes when I ask the question. He takes a deep breath before looking towards the goddess. When he looks back at me his eyes are a mix of his and his wolf's, letting me know what he is about to say is agreed upon by both. "She is our pup and, despite what she has done, I don't want to see her dead. Even if she truly intended to cause my demise, I don't want hers," he says.

He looks toward his mate, who has tears streaking down her cheeks. He reaches for her, and she takes a step back. I am as confused as the rest of the room. "Reagan, I love Melanie, but this wasn't a mistake. She didn't accidentally do this. She intended to harm you and no one will convince me otherwise," she says. The pain and regret rolling off of her is palpable. "You think she should die" Reagan asks visibly distraught by the thought.

“Of course, I don’t want that Reagan. She is my pup. I love our daughter, but that girl who stepped into this room and saw you lying in that bed dying is not my daughter. I thought I was going to lose you, Reagan. I thought I was going to lose the other half of my soul. Do you understand how scared I was? If it wasn’t for Della I would be burying you and Melanie was part of the reason you needed to be saved,” she sobs.

“So as hard as it is to say this, I want her punished. Whatever the future queen decides is appropriate is what I want. That is not the daughter I raised and loved,” she says. My heart breaks for this woman I just met. I can’t imagine betraying my own family for anything, let alone a title or a man that isn’t even my destined. I move and pull her into my arms as she continues to sob. My energy flows through me and after a few seconds her sobs quiet.

“Maureen, please come here,” Reagan says from behind me. She stiffens before she steps out of my embrace. I turn and watch her take the few steps to reach her mate, whose expression is unreadable. As soon as she is close enough, Reagan reaches out and pulls her into his arms. I look at Valor and then Ronan, intending for us to step outside and give them a moment. “Don’t leave princess,” Reagan says. When I turn back, Maureen is still wrapped in his arms.

**“Reagan, Ronan considers you his family, which means I do to. Please just call me Della.”** Reagan smiles, but I can see he is still confused by my relationship with Ronan. “As much as it kills me, Maureen is right. If Melanie truly intended to harm me because I wouldn’t support her becoming Ronan’s chosen mate, then she deserves whatever punishment you see fit,” he

says.

I can see how painful it is for him to say each word. “Tell them about our powers to discern truth from lies and good from bad,” Amethyst says, startling me. **“Amethyst, are you sure?”**

1/3

<28 Ronan’s Truth

\$25 Points

“Yes, you can trust them, and they need to know that when we decide her punishment it will be because you know what she has truly done. What kind of person she has become,” she

says.

When

my eyes meet Reagan's again, there is a knowing smile.

"She was right, wasn't she? You are the midnight wolf that we learn about as pups," he says. I look at Valor and Ronan before my eyes return to him. I had hoped to tell the *two* of them this before anyone else, but now it feels important that Reagan and Maureen *know* who I am. "Your right, Della. There will be people and moments that need us to reveal who we truly are. They will be just as important as when we announce our existence to the supernatural world," Amethyst says.

"After Roger was killed, she sent a group of warriors to attack the Red Moon. She insisted that the only way Roger and the other hybrid warriors were killed was because the pack contained the midnight wolf. When none of them returned she was even more convinced," he says. **"Actually, I wasn't even in the pack the day Roger was killed."**

**"My Nana Evie had been kidnapped by an evil witch. She was pregnant with Calliope at the time. I was with my parents rescuing her."** Maureen's eyes look like saucers as I'm sure she is doing the math. **"I was around six at the time and to answer your question, I am the Midnight Wolf."** I give over Amethyst control, and she greets Maureen, Reagan, and Ronan before I'm pulled into strong arms. "Mate, is even more special than we realized," Axel says and I giggle. He presses a kiss on my forehead before Valor manages to regain control.

I turn back to face Reagan and Maureen, but I'm sure my cheeks are pink. **"My wolf's name is Amethyst and she has been with me since the moment I took my first breath."** "Not that I'm not grateful that you told us, but I can see even the boys are shocked. Why tell us," he asks. **"First I meant what I said. Ronan is important to me. I can't explain why yet, but he may not be my mate, but we will share a bond. Not a romantic one but a bond just the same. Second, the sole purpose of me coming to the pack, Reagan, was to save you."**

**"Third, Amethyst felt it was important for you to know. She feels we can trust you. Someday the world will know who I am, but for now, only those we trust do."** Reagan reaches his hand out to mine. I slip my small hand into his large one. "She is right. You can trust us Della. We will never betray you," he says as Maureen places her hand over ours. **"Now the reason I asked you about Melanie's punishment is because one of my powers is being able to discern if someone is lying or telling the truth. If there is even a shred of good in them, that is worth saving."**

**"I plan on asking Melanie some pointed questions and if I don't like the answers, she will be held accountable for her crimes. Agatha is right about the royal pack's involvement in the day-to-day running of the pack, but the minute she spoke to the king she opened the door,"** I say with a smirk. "Bet once the old b\*\*ch realizes

that she will want to kick her own a\*\*" Valor says. We all look toward him and guilt flashes in his eyes when he looks at Ronan.

2/3

<28 Ronan's Truth

25 Points

"Sorry Ronan. I know she is still your aunt," he says. "Don't be. I was always a means to an end for her. She doesn't care for me. Hell, I don't think she really cared about Roger. She wants power. She believes that I can get her that power. It's the only reason she even bothered with me. Every person that shares my blood has been a piece of sh\*t that cares more about title, rank, and power," he says. Sadness washes over me thinking about a small boy never feeling loved.

"Don't look like that at me, Della. I promise you my childhood wasn't as bad as you're imagining. My mother was gone before I could meet her, which was fine with me. She only was with my father to try and create you funny enough. Roger was *no* kind of parent, so I was more than happy he never bothered with me. Hell Agatha never even started *to* speak *to* me until I was thirteen. The omegas that cared for me treated me like their own pups," he says.

I can feel the truth in his words. "I was lucky enough to have many women I considered like a mother," he says, looking at Maureen. She smiles, tears forming in her eyes. "I also had a man I considered a father," he says, looking at Reagan. "So I promise you, despite the lack of care from the people I shared blood with, I knew love. It's the only reason I didn't turn into a raging a\*\*hole like Roger," he says. I move and wrap my arms around him, and he does the same without hesitation.

I giggle when Valor tries to wrap his arms around us both, but Ronan's size makes that impossible. "I'm not sure what the hell is happening with the three of you, but I'm happy to see that smile on my son's face," Reagan says. I manage to pull back despite four arms surrounding me and see the warmth in Ronan's eyes as he nods at Reagan. A knock on the door of the room has us separating but not moving away from each other. When the door opens, I recognize one of the men from earlier.

"What is it," Ronan asks, all the warmth of a few minutes ago gone from his eyes. "It's Melanie. Perhaps we should talk outside Alpha," the man says, looking toward Reagan and Maureen. A pit forms in my stomach. What the hell could have happened in a short time that has the man looking like he wants to be anywhere but here?

10

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## Walked Away 129

[ 1,715 words ]

29 Rork

*Ronan* POV

“What the hell happened,” Reagan growls. “Answer him,” I say, knowing despite everything she did, she is still their daughter. “She was fine. We had escorted her to the cell as you ordered Alpha. The three guards were outside the cell. Twenty minutes later she screamed and fell to the ground. Her body started to convulse. We called the pack doc immediately, but she still hasn’t woken up. I don’t understand what happened. We brought her from here to there. She spoke to no one. None of the pack members even got close to her. No one was in the cell with her. It doesn’t make any sense. She was fine one minute, and then she wasn’t,” he says.

“Take me to her,” Della says. The guard looks at me and I nod. I turn to Reagan, who is holding his mate like she is his lifeline. I’ve never seen him look so broken in all the years I’ve known him. I think they knew Melanie would be punished but had hoped her life would be spared. Now they are faced with the real possibility that she could die. Reagan’s eyes meet mine before I turn to follow the others. It doesn’t take me long *to* catch up with Della and

Valor.

The emergency care unit is in the opposite direction of Reagan’s room. As soon as we step through the double doors, I can hear orders being barked from the pack doctor. Della’s steps don’t falter as she heads toward the room that is a flurry of activity. As the room completely comes *into* view, I hear the doctor’s deep voice say the word “clear.” A pit forms in my stomach. I don’t need *to* be a doctor to *know* that means they are losing her.

My thoughts immediately *go to* Reagan and Maureen. I have no idea if she will pull through this, but they have the right *to* say their goodbyes if she doesn’t. I nudge

Reagan's link, hoping the residual wolfsbane won't hinder our connection. "What's happening, Ronan," he asks, his voice frantic. "It's *not good*, Reagan." "Where is she? Maureen and I need to be there. I know what she *did* but she is still my little girl," he says, his voice barely audible. "I'll send a warrior *to get you*. He can push *you* in the wheelchair," I start to say, and he cuts me off.

"Like hell. Razor has *me* almost healed. I'm walking on my own two feet," he growls. "She is in the first *room* of the emergency care wing. He cuts the link and, for the first time since we stepped *into* the *room*, *my eyes* meet Della's. She had moved close to Melanie's bed despite the protests of the *doctor*. My growl had him back down but they continued to work around

her.

I watch her reach *out* and *touch* Melanie's bare foot. My hearts starts to beat faster. I look at Valor and he looks as panicked as I feel. I was worried for a moment that she was going to try and heal her. I *know* that sounds terrible and it's not because I want Melanie to die, but I *won't* have Della reveal herself *to* the people in this room. I have no idea which ones are loyal

to Agatha. After realizing today that bar and Jasper was part warlock have an das wa eise Agatha has **been** hiding

A big part of me wishes that Reagan demanded the Alphe stle as Bate of the pack Everything **in** me wants to find Agatha and send her to meet her Brother but have no des what we will be facing. I know Della is strong but we are talking about a pack full of yes "Ronan, I can't save her." I almost fall over when I hear Della's voice in my head Hour the is that possible? "She is a goddess on earth. She is one of the most powerful wolves ever created. You can't even begin to fathom the powers she holds Slas says.

Before I can ask him even one of the hundreds of questions about what he just said, the door to the room flies open. Reagan steps into the room with Maureen tucked under his am ter sob the minute she sees her daughter makes my chest ache. Why the hell was sie so mu to go against everything she has been taught as a pup. I'm trying not to be angry with her out the anguish on her parents face is making it difficult. I know that ultimately this was my aunt's doing but proving it will be a different matter

Agatha POV

The silence of the office has bile rising **in** my throat. How did everything go so sideways?! knew that little b\*\*ch was the wolf that Cassandra so desperately wanted. The day more of the warrior returned I knew it was because the Midnight wolf was living in the Red Moon "Aggie, you look green around the gills. Don't tell me you've grown a conscious all of a sudden because I'd be hard-pressed to believe it."

I turn and come face to face with Rork. Despite his refusal to accept our bond it remains intact because he never formally rejected me. He hasn't visited the pack in months and today he shows up. I'm sure Micah told him about the situation with Melanie and Jasper's death

"I am not upset about the little b\*\*ch dying Rork. I'm upset because you couldn't wait until the unwanted visitors left. You could have simply knocked her out or silenced her until they were gone. Was it truly necessary to feed her so much of the darkness?" "She is a loose end. and you know how I feel about those, Aggie. Now tell me about these unwanted visitors," he

says.

"It seems my nephew has become friendly with the future Queen of Werewolves and future King of Vampires. They are both here. Which is why we should have waited to deal with Melanie. We could have done it more discreetly and less painfully." "Aww you sound like you actually have a heart Aggie and we both know that is not true. The only thing you are worried about is power," he says.

It's one of the things I've respected about you all these years. Hell, you don't care a shred about that ba\*\*ard you call a nephew. The only reason you didn't get rid of him after you and *my* sister realized he wasn't the Midnight wolf is because he was going to be stronger than

29 Rork

any other member of your pack. You wanted a puppet with powers that could make you something more than Roger's little sister," he says.

"F\*\*k you, Rork. Why are **you** being **so** antagonistic?" "Why? Because you think you have some power over me. You don't tell me how *to* handle anything," he says before his hand shoots out and wraps around my throat. "You do *not* question me again, Aggie. I may not accept our bond, but you are still mine to do with what I want. I am still your master. If I want to slaughter this whole pack I'll f\*\*king do it. You think I care about your little plan that was never going to work, I don't. Do not piss me off. My patience is running out," he says.

I pull at his hands as he tightens his hold before he finally releases me. I cough and try to pull air into my lungs. "He is close to her. I saw it for myself today. When I walked into the room, she was in his arms." His eyes darken, and I feel a twinge of jealousy. His hand reaches out with a softness that is unlike him. Even when he f\*\*ks me, it is feral and rough. Not that I don't enjoy it. A sinister smile spreads across his face and I fight the urge to step back from

him.

“Your nephew might be useful for something after all. She is for sure more powerful than me, but she has a weakness that I will never have,” he says with a smirk. I stay silent waiting for him to continue. “It sounds like she cares about Ronan. She won’t want to see him harmed, and he is no match for my magic. Threatening him will keep her in line. I can’t wait to see all the things I can make her do just by threatening him,” he says.

“She is still a child.” “I may force my mark on her neck, but I won’t take her until she is of age. Until then, I have you for my needs,” he says. My wolf pushes forward, anger bubbling inside us hearing him speak about marking her. I was meant to bare his mark. He may have his plan but I have mine. I have no intention of allowing that b\*\*ch to be queen or to have my mate. She may be strong, but Rork has given me enough of the darkness to kill even the Midnight wolf.

Ronan doesn’t know it yet, but he is going to be the one to give it to her after I give him the persuasion elixir. “Don’t be jealous, Aggie. I have *no* intention of casting you aside completely. I mean the goddess did choose *you* for me. You will be my concubine once I’ve finally made the Midnight Wolf my chosen. I will give *you* a place in the castle I build, and I will visit you often,” he says. I want to bristle at his words, but I keep myself still.

“You won’t have the title of queen, but you were never meant to. Now I’d like to get a look at my future queen. The darkness should have completely taken hold by now and the pup should be gone. Shall we go check on your pack member and offer *our* sympathies to that pr\*ck Reagan? I had hoped he would be dead, but *we won’t* let *him* grieve too long before he joins his daughter. Once your pathetic nephew leaves *the* pack again, I’ll handle his death myself so there are no more mistakes,” he says.

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## Walked Away 130

[ 1,638 words ]

**30 A Threat**

Della **POV**

**+25 Paints**

I don't understand why we can't save her like we did Reagan. "She isn't Reagan Della. She doesn't even have her wolf. She doesn't have his strength. Whatever black magic is at play is strong. It's already overwhelmed her body. It is drowning out her life force. Besides, we aren't meant to save her, Della," Amethyst says. My chest aches as I watch Reagan and Maureen move to stand at their daughter's bedside. "I forgive you, Melanie. I love you. You will always be my baby girl," Reagan says as tears stream down his cheeks.

Maureen leans down and kisses her daughter's forehead. My heart clenches in my chest as their pain is palpable. "I love you, Melanie. I never wanted this for you. I wanted you to face the consequences of your mistake, but I wanted you to learn and live your life. To find the mate that was meant to be yours and be happy. I wanted you to remember the girl you used to be," she sobs. A strong arm wraps around me and everything in the room seems to slow down as the once steady beeping of the machine is replaced by the very real sound of her heart stopping.

I close my eyes, the sound of Reagan and Maureen's pain overwhelming. I can't imagine losing a pup. I think about my own parents and how losing one of us would destroy them. "**Selene, is there no way to ease their suffering. They don't deserve this,**" I say in my mind, never expecting her to answer. "Reassure them she is with me. The moment she took her last breath she was forgiven. Her soul was not black or evil like the ba\*\*ard that sent her to me. I wish I could offer more but selfish choices often have the harshest consequences," she says.

The sound of the door behind us opening has me opening my eyes. When I turn, anger bubbles up inside me. Amethyst is on edge. How f\*\*king dare she even think about setting foot in this room? I may not have had the opportunity to ask my questions, but I know without a shadow of doubt she was involved in the plot against Reagan. I'm not sure if it was out of jealousy or just to isolate Ronan, but she wanted Reagan out of the picture. I know in my heart she tried to use Melanie to do it.

I'm just about to tell her she needs to leave when Amethyst growls. A man I've never seen steps into the room behind her. "He is a threat to our mate and everyone we care for," Amethyst says. I don't know if Ronan and Valor feel it too, or if they're being protective, but they both move toward me. "Agatha, why are you here," Ronan says as he steps in front of me. Valor moves to stand next to him. "Ronan, I've warned you about disrespecting me. I am here because one of my pack members is grieving. It is my duty as the Luna of this pack," she says.

The lie rolls off her tongue without reservation, and it takes all my control not to ask her

1/3

<30 A Threat

425 Points

more questions, but I don't want to upset Reagan and Maureen anymore than they **already** are. I'll wait till we are outside this room to get my answers. "Now is not the time **for this** discussion, Luna. I will handle everything with Reagan and Maureen after they have **time to** their goodbyes to their daughter. I'm sure you have other things to handle," Ronan **says** through gritted teeth.

**say**

I notice for the first time since Agatha stepped into the room that the warrior standing behind her has his eyes trained on me. Valor must notice too, because he steps in front of me to completely block the man's view. "Luna, if I may," he asks, stepping *to* stand by Agatha's side. I step out needing to see his face if he intends to speak. She nods and he looks between the three of us until his eyes meet mine. "We are all deeply saddened by this loss but now is not the time to be divided by grief, Ronan," the man says.

"Micah, it is not your place to even be involved in this conversation," Ronan says. I watch the man's hands ball into fists at his side. "With all due respect, Ronan, you aren't Alpha yet. So, as long as the Luna wants me here, then that is where I will be. Besides, having a pack member die while under the watch of guards is disconcerting to say the least. I'm sure

ordered Reagan will want answers as to why he has to bury his daughter while the men you to take her to the cells had her in custody," he says. A growl from behind us has me turning in time to see Reagan stalking toward the warrior.

"Get the f\*\*k out of this room before I make sure you are buried next to her, Micah" Reagan growls. I wait for Micah's eyes to flash black, but it never comes. "Despite his scent, I can't sense a wolf, Della," Amethyst says. "Micah, enough. Let's leave them to grieve. You have my deepest sympathies, Reagan. You both do," Agatha says, motioning her head toward Maureen, who is still solely focused on her daughter. I can see the pr\*ck wants to argue, but he must think better of it. "We need to figure out exactly who and what Micah is. He wants to hurt the people we love which means he needs to be dealt with," Amethyst says. I couldn't agree more.

### ***Madelena POV***

I know it's crazy since she has only been gone less than a day, but I miss Della. Since the moment she decided to be my friend, we have spent a lot of time together. It's strange how close I feel to her in such a short time. I make my way from the omega quarters through the castle. I don't have kitchen duty today, so Madison and Myra asked me to hang out with them at the pool. I'd be lying if I said I didn't hesitate at first.

It's still hard to believe that they truly like me. I figured Madison only invited me because she was still feeling guilty, but I meant when I said I've forgiven her. I actually consider her a friend now. I was also worried that other people would be there, and I'm not exactly excited for one of them to be Lisa. There are probably others who feel the same

way as Lisa but are better at hiding it. Lisa has pretty much left me alone since that day in the kitchen, but I'm not

2/3

30 A Threat

stupid enough to let my guard down with her.

I push thoughts of her out of my head as I continue down a second set of stairs. I just step into the hallway that will lead me to the pool when my steps falter. My heart starts to race when I realize that Myra is lying motionless a few feet from me. Blood marks her forehead, but thankfully I can still see the rise and fall of her chest. I rush over and start to search her for other injuries. I'm glad to see that besides the large gash on her forehead, there is nothing

else.

"Myra, can you wake up for me" I ask while lightly shaking her shoulders. She doesn't stir and I realize I can't waste anymore time trying to wake her. Myra doesn't have her wolf to heal her. "**Myra**, I need to get you, help. F\*\*k I wish I could link the king" I go to stand when a humorless chuckle has me turning toward the sound.

It's as if my thoughts of her made her appear. I move to go past her, needing to get Myra help, but she pushes me back. "**What the f\*\*k are you doing? Myra needs help. I can't** wake her and she is still **bleeding**." She pulls what looks like a small stone statue from behind her back. "I know, but you won't be the one to her rescue. In fact, in a few minutes this hall is going to be flooded with people who are going to believe this is your doing. That you are a pathetic omega who was jealous of poor Myra," she says.

I look at her like she has ten heads. When she starts to scream, I stumble back. I right myself, but it doesn't last as her fist connects with my jaw. I'm knocked on my a\*\* just in time to hear the pounding of feet heading in our direction. Several warriors arrive first, along with Madison and other people from the pool. Madison looks between the three of us before she drops down to her knees next to Myra.

"What the hell happened to my sister," she asks. She looks at Lisa, who is still holding the statue in her hands. "I saw Maddy hit her Madison. I got this away from her before she could hit her again, but she did it. She was spouting on about how you and *your* sister were nothing but fake b\*\*ches after she hit Myra from behind. I tried to stop her, but I couldn't get to her in time. I'm so sorry, Madison," Lisa says.

She should win an Emmy for her performance as tears roll down her cheeks. Before I can tell Madison that Lisa is a f\*\*king l\*ar one of the guards grabs me. My eyes meet Lisa's and she gives me a triumphant smile. This cannot be happening.

8

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