

# My Promised Rejection –

## Chapter 21 - 30

c 21

[ 1,846 words ]

Ace POV

I wrap Della tighter in my arms, carrying her back toward the pack house. I've never felt like as much of an outsider as I do at this moment. I grew up here and have always thought of this as my home, but walking with guests back to pack house is a sharp reality. "Daddy, will I have a wolf when I get big?" Della's question brings me out of self-pity. A smile spreads across my face. "I'm sure you will, sweet pea. You will have a beautiful wolf."

I step into the pack house just in time to see Candace and Alpha Roman. I had hoped she would keep her distance, but the moment she spots us, she starts to stalk in our direction. Roman gives me a look of disgust, but thankfully he doesn't join her. In fact, he walks into the banquet hall. Della tightens her hold on my neck when Candace finally reaches us.

"Hey sweet girl," she says like she didn't abandon our daughter. "Hi mommy," Della says, but makes no move to reach for her. "Aren't you going to give mommy a hug," Candace asks. Della lifts her head from my shoulder, looking into my eyes silently asking for permission. I press a kiss on her forehead before setting her on her feet. Watching my daughter turn to Candace makes me hate her even more. Leaving me was one thing, but discarding our daughter is another.

Della wraps her arms around Candace's legs as she places her hand on Della's back. My fists tighten by my sides, but I keep myself quiet for Della's sake. "She will never be Della's mom," Candace says. Her words shock me at first before anger spreads through me when I realize she is talking about Olivia. I notice Melissa, one of the omegas that often watches Della while I'm working, is walking toward the banquet room. "Melissa, could you take Della with you. I need to finish speaking with Luna Candace."

She glares at Candace before she offers a smile to Della. "Come on sweetie. Let's see what kind of cake they have," she says. Della squeals, immediately releasing her hold on Candace. Without a backwards look, she takes Melissa's hand. My eyes focus back on the b\*\*ch I once thought was my mate.

She looks like she swallowed a pack of lemons as her eyes are still focused on the direction my daughter just went. "How dare you say anything about who is Della's mother?" "She is my pup. I will always be her mother, Ace. Nothing you do will change

that. Your little mate is just a substitute,” she says. “You stopped being her mother the day you walked out on us. As far as Olivia goes, who she is or isn’t to me and Della is none of your business.”

Her eyes study me for a minute before a sickly sweet smile spreads across her face. When she throws her head back and laughs, I’m ready to walk away from her. I don’t have any desire to stand here and deal with her selfish a\*\*. I step past her but her hand gripping my arm stops me. Her touch has a shiver of disgust rolling through me. I shake her hand off and take a step away from her.

“I feel sorry for you, Ace. Not even your real mate wanted you. You are just a human living among wolves. That is all you will ever be,” she says. “I don’t have time to listen to your nonsense, Candace. I’m well aware I’m human. It’s not an insult. As far as a mate, I’m perfectly fine without one, so I’m not sure what the f\*\*k you are going on about. I wish I had been smart enough to realize that as a human I wouldn’t be given a mate because I would have seen through your bulls\*t.”

“Although I would never take back my time with you because of Della, I can honestly say I hate you with everything I am now. You are a selfish ich who only cares about herself. I was just too blind to see it. I never expected you to lie about us being mates. I should have known that my feelings for you were forced.

Thank you, Abe,” she growls, taking a step closer to me. What the hell is going on here? Connor’s voice has her taking a step back. “Nothing Alpha Connor I was simply speaking to Ace about our pup,” she says in her best reductive voice. I toll my eyes just as Becca comes to stand next to Connor. Last time I checked Luna Candace you no longer have a pup. Now if you can’t stop causing problems at our celebration, I’ll have you escorted from our pack,” Becca says.

I fight the urge to fist pump as Candace’s face looks like her head is about to explode. “No disrespect Luna Becca, but what is said between me and Ace is none of your business. As far as Della is concerned, she will always be my pup even if she resides in your pack with the human,” Candace says. Something flashes in her eyes as she stares at Becca.

“Tell me something Becca. You act like you care so much about Ace, but I’d bet my title you know that his mate didn’t claim him, don’t you? I would also bet my title that you didn’t tell him despite calling him your best friend,” she says with a smug smile on her face. Before I can even ask Becca what the hell the crazy b\*\*ch is going on about, she lunges at Candace, knocking her to the ground. Connor quickly moves to pull his mate off Candace. “What the hell is happening here,” Roman’s deep voice fills the space.

“Alpha Roman, your Luna has once again caused a problem in my pack and what’s worse with my Luna. I think it is time for you both to leave. I refuse to align my pack with a man who chooses a mate that is so disrespectful. She is not only disrespecting a member of my pack but my Luna,” Connor says.

“You are making a mistake, Connor. This is all about a pathetic human who shouldn’t even be allowed to be in a wolf pack, let alone a member,” Roman says. “That is Alpha Connor, Roman. Ace Morris is a member of my pack, and he is just as important to the Red Moon as any wolf. Now I don’t like to repeat myself. Leave my pack and don’t return,” he says. Guards filter into the foyer.

“You are making a mistake by making an enemy of the Black Rose pack, Alpha” Roman says. “Honestly, Roman, I don’t think I am,” Connor says once again, not using Roman’s title. I smile when Roman grabs Candace’s arm before dragging her toward the door that leads to the pack yard. The guards follow behind them.

“Ace,” Becca says, pulling my attention back to her. When my eyes meet hers Candace’s words about Becca knowing about my mate settles like a rock in my stomach. She takes a step towards me but doesn’t reach out to touch me. “Ace, can we go some place to talk in private,” she asks. “She is right, isn’t she? I’ve known you since you were a pup Becca. I can see the guilt in your eyes.”

“Ace, please just let me explain. I promise you that if you let me explain, everything will make sense. I consider you family, Ace,” she says. “No, you don’t keep secrets from family. Especially not something like this. I had the right to know if my mate didn’t want me,” I say before turning toward the door that leads into the banquet hall. I need to get Della and go home. I need to be alone. It was bad enough when Candace lied and then left me, but to know my goddess-given mate didn’t want me has my chest aching.

I scan the room and find my daughter spinning like she is a ballerina around Melissa. A sad smile spreads across my face. No matter what happens in my life, she is my heart. I cross the dance floor and scoop my daughter up into my arms. She squeals as I dance her around. I turn to face Melissa, who is smiling at the scene in front of her.

“Thank you, Melissa! No problem, Ace. Don’t listen to anything that w\*\*ch said to you, Ace. Any she-wolf that can walk away from their pup isn’t worth the spit in her mouth, she says low enough so only I can hear. I offer her a smile before I turn to leave the celebration. I take a few steps when I notice Olivia, Rain, and Kevin step into the room.

They look upset, and my first instinct is to rush to them and find out why. After two steps in their direction, I realize that they probably saw that Becca is upset. I change direction, intending to leave without having to them. Ace, stop,” Kevin says. I stop and turn to face him. “Rain and Olivia, take Della while I talk to my friend, please, Kevin says. “No, I don’t want to talk. I’m leaving with my daughter.”

“Daddy, I didn’t get any cake,” Della says. “I know sweet pea, but it’s time to go home.” “No, it’s not. Let the girls get her some cake and get your a\*\* outside to talk to me” Kevin says. “Uncle Kevin, are you mad at daddy, Della asks, worry in her little voice. I set her down and crouch to talk to her. “Of course not, sweet pea. Go ahead with Auntie Rain and Olivia to get some cake. I won’t be gone long.”

I press a kiss on her forehead before I follow Kevin out of the banquet room. I'm grateful that Becca and Connor are no longer standing in the foyer. I didn't see them step into the banquet hall, so I wonder where they went. I wonder if Connor knew that I had a mate that didn't want me. I step out the door into the pack yard the cool night air feels good against my skin.

Kevin turns to face me, his expression unreadable. "Why the f\*\*k did I just walk into the pack house after the pack run and find a woman I consider a sister crying? Not only crying but saying that you hate her" he says. "I never said I hate her." "What the hell is going on, Ace? Becca is your best friend. She wouldn't stop crying. Connor had to take her to their room to calm her down," he says.

I feel a twinge of guilt, but it's quickly replaced with anger. She is the one that kept secrets from me. I don't know what is worse. The anger at being kept in the dark or the fact that my mate didn't want me. That's a lie.

Not being wanted by someone that is supposed to be my other half is so much worse.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,902 words ]

Connor POV

I've never wanted to hit a woman in my life until I saw that b\*\*ch Candace f\*\*king with Ace again. He has become one of my closest friends over the last five years. He doesn't deserve any of the pain she's caused him. Seeing that b\*\*ch walk away from Ace and her daughter had me ready to go feral on her, but to see her still trying to hurt him has me fighting to keep control of both Cosmo and myself.

I smile watching my beautiful mate put her in her place. She is going to be an amazing Luna. She is kind, but she can be a bad\*\* too. I knew before now she would be the perfect Luna, but seeing her in action just solidifies it. I watch Becca stiffen when Candace talks about Ace's mate. Before I can even begin to figure out what the hell she is going on about, Becca tackles her to the ground.

As hot as it is to see Becca taking a run at the faux Luna, I grab her in my arms, pulling her back to my front. Calm down my love. She isn't worth dirtying your hands." The only thing I want at this moment is both Roman and Candace gone. I had no intention of forming an alliance with the ba\*\*ard, but I had to be diplomatic.

Diplomacy is over as I hear that pr\*ck talk about Ace. I'm glad when the guards finally escort them out, but the happiness is short-lived as I feel overwhelming sadness and

regret through our bond. I turn to look back at Becca just as she tries to talk to Ace. "She is right, isn't she? I've known you since you were a pup, Becca. I can see the guilt in your eyes," Ace says. I want to growl when I see the tears start to stream down Becca's cheeks, but Ace is right.

She knew something about his mate. Why would she keep it from him? My mind starts to try to find a viable reason that would justify her keeping something so important from him, but I can't manage to think of one. When he turns to leave, I wrap my arms around Becca as she begins to sob. "He hates me," Becca just keeps repeating. "Becca, he doesn't hate you. He is angry and hurt. It will be alright, my love."

"No, he'll never forgive me. What was I supposed to do? I couldn't betray her when she thought she was doing what was right. Not after all she endured. Now he hates me," she says again. A wave of unease flows through me. "Hey, what the hell happened?" Kevin's question pulls me out of my thoughts. "I'm not really sure. That b\*\*ch Candace was spouting off about Ace having a mate and Becca knowing who it was. Now Ace is pissed and Becca thinks he hates her."

Oli moves toward us and pulls Becca from my arms. "This is not your fault. I promise I will fix this. He won't hate you when he knows why you didn't tell him," Oli says, low enough I realize she only wants Becca to hear.

My body stiffens as pieces begin to fall into place. "Rain and Oli, why don't you come with me to take care of Della while I talk to Ace," Kevin says. "Thank you, Kev, I'm going to take Becca to our room for a few minutes."

Please let Xavier know if he is looking for us, that we will be back shortly.

"Of course, Alpha" he says, and I roll my eyes. I scoop Becca up, carrying her up to our new suite. I keep her in my arms as I sit down on the large blue couch. "Becca, love, is Oli Ace's mate?" Her body stiffens before she tries to pull out of my hold. My hands hold her firmly in place. "Becca, I'm not angry you didn't tell me. Please just tell me is Oli Ace's mate?" She picks up her head to look into my eyes.

I hate the sadness and pain I see in them. "Yes, she was," she says. "She was, she isn't anymore? How is that possible?" "She realized that Ace was her mate at her initiation ceremony," she says. If I was standing, I would be staggering. "She has known for the last five years he was meant to be hers?"

"Yes, the day of the ceremony, when she realized that Ace was married and had a pup, she refused to do what your mother had done. She refused to be the reason that Della's family was broken. She insisted that she had promised herself she would never do what Evelyn had done and, despite her own pain, she rejected Ace, she says .

My heart clenches in my chest. My sister sacrificed her own happiness for Ace and Della only to have that b\*\*ch f\*\*k them over. I can't stop the growl that escapes my

throat. I wish at this moment I had that b\*\*ch in front of me, so I could snap her neck. All of her deceit and lies have not only hurt Ace, but they have caused my sister more pain.

I take Becca's face into my hands. "Ace has every right to be angry but not at you. He was tricked by that b\*\*ch into thinking she was his mate. Even if Oli tried to claim him, do you really believe he would have just cast Candace aside? He believed they were mates. I don't agree with her rejecting him, but I understand why she did. I wished she trusted me enough back then to talk it out, but I know Oli well enough to know there was no changing her mind."

"Everything with my mother and Xavier was too fresh. I'm still confused. You said she rejected Ace, but he had no idea that she was his mate. In order for the bond to break, he has to accept the rejection." Becca drops her gaze and I lift her chin with two fingers so she has to look at me. "I couldn't let her do it, Connor, I knew that she had no intention of staying in the pack, but I had hoped someday that something would bring them back together," she says.

I can't help the smile that spreads across my face. "So you didn't tell Oli that, without Ace accepting the rejection, the bond would be weakened but not broken." "I'm sorry I know it was wrong to keep it from Oli, but she has been through so much sh\*t I was hoping that she would get her happily ever after," she says. I press my lips against hers, loving this woman even more at this moment.

Olivia POV

My heart is beating out of my chest. The minute I saw Becca crying about Ace, everything that I had buried came rushing to the surface. She doesn't deserve his anger for doing what I asked. I still don't understand why he is so pissed. He was married and had a pup. He was happy with Candace. Hell, I got to feel first hand just how happy.

When we step into the banquet hall, my mouth goes dry and my stomach flips as I watch him spin Della around the dance floor. "Pup and mate" Danica says. "Danica, he isn't our mate anymore, which means that Della is not our pup no matter how much we both want it to be true." She growls at me. My wolf actually growls at me. "Mine" she says before putting a block between us. I have no time to focus on dealing with her as we reach Ace and Della.

Hearing how upset Della is about having to leave without cake has me ready to pop Ace for being angry even though I know he has every right to be. As soon as Ace tells her to go with us for cake, I scoop her up in my arms. I bury my nose in her hair, breathing in her sweet pup scent. Why do I still feel so connected to this little girl? "I told you she is our pup," Danica says. "Danica, I rejected him." "He didn't accept it. She is our pup and he is our mate. I want them, Oli."

I feel like I can't breathe. What the hell does she mean he didn't accept it? "Oli, can I have more cake," Della asks, bringing me out of my panic. "Are you alright Oli," Rain

asks. I'm not sure how to answer, but I don't get the chance when a voice I had hoped to avoid tonight speaks from behind me. "Olivia, I was hoping you and I could talk about the pup," Evelyn says. I turn wanting to tell her that I would rather eat broken glass, but I have to think about Della

Now is not a good time Evelyn. In a pending time with Della and Rain. I'm really happy for you and Xavier but there is no need to talk. "Olivia, this has gone on long enough. It's been years. I am your mother. You are going to have a new sister or brother. It's time for our family to be whole again," she says. I tighten my fists at my side. She will never change. She will never understand that our family can't be whole. She did that and she thinks words will undo all she did. I try to be civil and let the anger go, but she just keeps pushing.

"Oli is excited about being a big sister," Della's tiny voice says. I turn forcing the smile on my face. "I am, Della Bella," I say, pressing a kiss on her forehead. "Olivia, please. The pup deserves to have you in their life. Even if it's not for me, do it for them," she says low enough that Della can't hear her. I take a step toward her, so my back is to Della.

"I will love the pup because they have nothing to do with the past. They are innocent, but there is nothing that will make us whole, I wish you happiness Evelyn, but that is all I am willing to offer you. You need to make peace with the fact that we are no longer family." She nods before turning to walk away from me.

I turn stepping back toward Della. Rain places her hand on my back and begins to rub circles, trying to help me calm down. The sh\*t feelings my mother stirs in me starts to settle just as another voice sets me on edge again. "I was hoping that my sister was wrong when she told me that the rogue was back," Collette says. Della whimpers before she grips my hand tightly.

"Go away, Aunt Meanie," Della says. "I should have known that half-breeds would enjoy each other's company," she says, staring at Della. Before I can stop her, not that I would have, Danica pushes to the surface. I take the b\*\*ch to the ground. I pull back my fist and land punch after punch to her face. "You stay the f\*\*k away from my pup," I scream just as someone pulls me off of her. By his scent, I can tell it's Kevin who has his arms wrapped around me, but the man in front of me who looks pissed is the only thing I can focus on.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,935 words ]

Ace POV

“What do you want me to say here, Kevin? Becca knew I had a real mate that didn’t want me, and she kept it from me. I love Becca but how I am supposed to not be angry? First, that b\*\*ch Candace makes me believe we are mates. Then my real mate doesn’t want me. Worst of all, the woman I consider a sister didn’t think I had the right to know that the other half of my soul rejected me. So you tell me how I’m supposed to handle it, Kevin.”

I hate that I can feel tears running down my cheeks. Not because I don’t think I have the right to cry, but why am I crying? I know it’s not because of Candace. Well part of it is because I think I knew she wasn’t my mate, but I wanted it to be true so badly. I grew up around wolves and watching them find their mates killed me. Not because I wasn’t happy for them, but I believed in my heart I would never know that feeling of finding my perfect match.

When Candace told me I was her mate, I was shocked. I expected to feel something. I knew it wouldn’t be like what the wolves always described, but I thought I would feel drawn to her. We grew up together, and I liked Candace but it was far from love. When she would leave on her trips, I wouldn’t think about her every day or what she was doing. I hate myself for believing the lie.

Part of me is crying because Candace is probably right. A wolf doesn’t want to be mated to a human. Another reason I was willing to believe her bulls\*t. I fold over, placing my hands on my knees. I can’t fall apart. I have Della to think about. “You are allowed to be angry, but you also need to find out why. Becca is one of the kindest, sweetest, most caring people I know. She would never have done this to hurt you, Ace, and deep down you know that,” he says.

He pats my back before pulling me into a hug. “I know how easy it would be for you to just say f\*\*k it and want no part of the reasons, but you need to let Becca explain. As hard as it might be to hear, you need to listen. Rain, Oli, and I will be there with you. Let’s go take care of Della before we go talk to Becca and Connor,” he says.

When he mentions Olivia, my brain is flooded with memories. Della wanting Olivia to be her mommy. The tingles on my hand. Not liking Kevin’s hand on her. The fact that I often thought about her over the years. Like pieces of a puzzle, things start to fall into place. A feeling of anger and excitement flow through me, but then I remember she was only seventeen, the last time I saw her. Wolves don’t find their mates until they turn eighteen.

“Ace, did you hear me,” Kevin asks, bringing me out of my thoughts. “Yes, sorry. Let’s go find Della.” We make our way back inside. As soon as we get close to the banquet hall door, the sounds of people yelling has us both rushing inside. What the f\*\*k is my only thought when I see Olivia on top of Candace’s b\*\*ch of a sister. I search for Della, who is wrapped around Rain a safe distance away. Kevin rushes around to get a hold of Olivia when her words have my heart ready to beat out of my chest.

“You stay the f\*\*k away from my pup.” What pup? Olivia has a pup, with who? I’ve never been a jealous man, but at this moment I can’t stop the anger at the thought of her carrying another man’s pup. Kevin pulls her back and our eyes meet. “What the hell is going here? Who started this,” Xavier’s voice breaks through the tension.

You were right. Here with your little half-breed, this wouldn’t have happened. “I warned you, Burch diva ð trying to free herself from Kevin’s hold. Daddy, Aunt Meanie called me and Olivia half-breeds, I don’t like her, Della save.

I look between Olivia and Della. My heart starts to race again. Before I can open my mouth, Xavier speaks. “Everyone in the Alpha office now” Xavier says, looking at the group of us. “I believe I’ll handle this, Xavier, since I am Alpha now,” Connor’s voice brooks no argument. I can see that Xavier doesn’t like it, but he turns to head back toward Evelyn. “Everyone in my office now.”

I scoop up Della, my mind still trying to wrap my head around everything that happened in the last ten minutes. Is Olivia really my mate? I can’t focus on anything else as we make our way to Connor’s office. “Aunt Becca, Della squeals and squirms out of my hold. She immediately scoops her up, but Becca’s eyes don’t leave me. “Ace, I’m sorry,” she says. “Love, let’s deal with one issue at a time,” Connor says before I can respond.

Olivia POV

Seeing the anger in Ace’s eyes after Kevin pulled me off, that b\*\*ch had bile rising in my throat. Does he realize that I’m his mate? He can’t because Kevin has no idea. I keep my eyes focused on Connor once everyone is in the office. “Alpha, I realize that Olivia is your sister, but that doesn’t mean she can go around hitting pack members. This isn’t the first time she has hit me unprovoked,” Collette says.

“That’s bulls\*t. She was calling a pup names. I couldn’t care less what she has to say about me but I will not allow her to be mean to Della.” “She is a l\*ar. Della is my niece. I would never be mean to her. She is my blood,” she lies so easily. “You are a big l\*ar, aunt meanie. You called me and Oli half-breeds,” Della says. Growls sound around the room.

“So you called my sister and a pup half-breeds. You do realize that my father was human. I can’t imagine you would want to continue to live in a pack that is now being run by a half-breed,” Connor says. I can’t stop the chuckle that escapes me. “Olivia,” Connor says my name like a warning, but I can see the hint of a smile on his face. “Alpha, I apologize. I have no problem with you being Alpha,” she says.

“I think you misunderstand Collette. You have an hour to gather your things. You are banished from the Red Moon pack. I will not tolerate any member of my pack mistreating another because they are human or born of a human,” Connor says. I want to pump my fist in the air, but instead I keep my expression impassive. “You – can’t do this. I’m telling Alpha Xavier,” she practically screams.

A smile I've never seen before spreads across my brother's face and a shiver goes down my spine. "I am the Alpha of the Red Moon. My word is law, so you can tell anyone you like, but you will be leaving my pack today. Maybe your sister will take you in since you are both prejudiced b\*\*ches," he says.

"Kevin, please escort Collette to her home to gather her belongings. If her parents want to join her, I will gladly release them from the pack bond" he says. "Of course, Alpha," Kevin says. Collette stands glaring at Connor. "I lied a half-breed should never have been made Alpha," she says. This time I stand and take a step toward her. "Say one more word to my brother, and I'll finish what I started in the banquet hall."

Fear flashes in her eyes. Kevin grabs her arm and drags her out of the office as she screams how we will all be sorry. "Rain, can you take Della for a while? Ace, Olivia, Becca, and I need to discuss something that isn't for little ears to hear," Connor says. "Sure" she says, taking Della from Becca's arms. My heart starts to pound against my chest This is it. He won't suspect but not that from his mate. He knows that I am Danica, whimpers, and both fear and sadness flow through me. She's worried he's angry or that he won't want us. I can't say that I don't feel the same. I've never asked Becca about him or Candace because I knew would hurt too much to know they were happy. Now that I realize they aren't together, do I want him to choose me? Of course, I do, but what if we can't find a way to be together after everything that has happened? What if he still wants Candace?

"Oli, did you hear me," Connor asks, bringing me out of my spiraling thoughts. "I'm sorry, no I didn't. For the first time since we stepped into the office, my eyes stray towards Ace. His expression is unreadable, which does nothing to help the nerves flowing through me. "Oli, do you want Becca and me to stay or do you want to talk to Ace alone first," he asks. "I would like to speak to my mate alone," Ace says before I can answer. My eyes meet his before I turn back toward Connor.

"I think Ace is right. We need to talk alone." Connor walks over to Ace, pulling him into a hug. He says something in his ear that, despite my wolf hearing, I can't make out. Maybe I wasn't meant to know whatever words my brother and mate just shared. Becca moves toward me, hugging me tight. "I love you, Oli. I'm 20 sorry," she says. I pull back looking at her like she has grown ten heads.

"You have nothing to be sorry for. I'm sorry for making you choose your loyalty between us." "I love you both. We will talk later," she says. She moves to join Connor, but as she passes Ace, he pulls her into his arms. "I'm so sorry Ace," she sobs. "I love you Becca. Nothing will change that," he says before he presses a kiss on her forehead. A low growl escapes me, making Becca and Connor smile. Ace's eyes never leave me as Becca steps out of the room with my brother.

Neither of us move for a long pause. I finally can't take the silence any longer. "Ace" I start to say, but he cuts me off. "I understand why you didn't want me, and I'm not mad,"

he says. I look at him confused. “You think! didn’t want you. Why the f\*\*k would you think I didn’t want you?”

“Olivia, I don’t need you to spare my feelings. I’m a human and your wolf. I completely get it. I was angry at first when I started to put the pieces together, but I have no right to be mad. You deserve to have a wolf mate,” he says. I can feel Danica pushing to the surface as we listen to every word that Ace just said. F\*\*k no will he think what I did had anything to do with him being human. I stalk across the room until I’m standing in front of him.

Without overthinking it, I grab his face and pulls his lips down to mine. The tingles that were faint but now are as strong as the day I realized he was meant to be mine dance on my lips. F\*\*k, I’m screwed if he doesn’t want me now because I want him to be mine.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,773 words ]

Ace pov

Olivia sounds almost angry when I say I understood why she didn’t want me. Shouldn’t she be happy? I’m not going to make it awkward for everyone’s sake.

Becca and I still need to have a real conversation, but I meant what I said. I love her and, despite my anger, that won’t change. I don’t need Olivia to spare my feelings. I’m a grown man and I have a daughter that needs me. I don’t have the luxury of feeling sorry for myself because this beautiful woman doesn’t want me.

Besides, she deserves to have a wolf mate. I know Olivia is nothing like Candace, but it only makes sense that she would want a strong mate to have pups with.

Even the thought of that makes it hard to breathe. I look back at the woman that is meant to be mine. I swear its irritation and anger flashing in her eyes before she stalks towards me. I brace myself for the rejection that is about to come. Shock overwhelms me as she grips my face in her hands and forces my head down until our lips touch.

The tingles that were faint pulses are so much stronger now. I feel the kiss in every cell of my body.

Without a second thought, I wrap my arms around her, pulling her body flush with mine. When she moans into my mouth, I force myself to step back.

Disappointment flashes in her eyes, making my chest ache. She moves to turn away from me, but I quickly stop her. “Olivia, as much I want nothing more than to continue to kiss your delicious lips. I think we need to talk.”

A pink tinge crosses her cheeks. “You’re right, we do,” she says. She crosses the room, taking a seat on the large leather couch sitting under the bay window. I sit across from her, trying to keep some physical distance between us. Her eyes glaze over, and I can tell she is talking to her wolf. “What is her name?” Embarrassment flashes in her eyes at being caught.

“I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to be rude. Danica is my wolf.”

We are both a little nervous. Neither of us thought we would be here talking to you about being mates,” she says. “Olivia, if keeping it from me had nothing to do with me being human, then why?” She takes a deep breath and places her hands on her knees like she needs to steady herself for what she needs to say. “Do you know anything that happened before I came to stay in the pack five years ago” she asks.

“I know you didn’t know you were a wolf until you came here. I was quite shocked when Connor and Becca brought you to me after you passed out when they showed you their wolves. Outside of that, I know nothing of your past in the human town.” “You are right. Up until I turned seventeen, I knew nothing of werewolves existing, and I certainly didn’t know I was one. I thought I had the perfect family. My dad was my best friend,” she says, sadness rolling off her in waves.

I fight the urge to pull her into my arms. “I came home from school one day and everything about my life changed. There was my mother kissing a man that wasn’t my father. From there, everything fell apart.

Evelyn and Connor left with Xavier. I refused to leave my father. I hated Evelyn and Connor at the time. They abandoned my father. Evelyn betrayed our family and Connor condoned it, or at least that’s how I felt. Then Evelyn and Xavier made me abandon my father by taking him to court for custody.”

“I didn’t know it at the time, but the judge was a wolf and gave custody to Evelyn because Xavier convinced her I was a threat to the werewolves until I shifted. I hated it here because all I wanted was to stay with my dad. Actually, that’s a lie. I wanted to go back in time and have my family back to the way it was before Evelyn found Xavier. Anyway, I wasn’t allowed to visit my father because Xavier wanted to make sure I was in the pack to shift,” she says.

She is silent for a moment, as the sadness continues to roll off her in waves. “I still didn’t know I was a wolf.”

They still kept it from me. One night I got a call from the hospital that my father had been brought in. He had started drinking to drown out his pain. He died Ace. I never got home to make sure he knew how important he was to me. How much he wasn't alone.

How much I loved him. I begged him not to leave me that day in the hospital, but the doctors couldn't save him." Tears streaming down her cheeks have me out of my chair and moving to sit next to her.

My need to comfort her wins out over any attempt at self-preservation. Her pain is palpable, and I would do anything to take it away. I wrap my arm around her, pulling her close to my side. She is quiet for a few minutes before she stands, moving to stand in front of the window. I immediately miss the feeling of her in my arms. "After everything happened, I promised myself that I would never do what Evelyn did."

"I promised that I would wait for my mate. I wouldn't fall in love with someone and destroy them when my mate came along. I promised myself that I would reject them before I would let what happened to me happen to my pup," she says. I feel like I can't breathe when her words sink in. I was married to Candace and had a pup. I'm Evelyn in this story, but unlike Xavier, she sacrificed herself for Della. Not just for Della but for me. She wanted me to be happy with my wife.

I feel like I can't breathe. She walked away from me because I married Candace. I chose to believe her and hurt the woman that was meant to be mine. The woman I was meant to love. My breathing becomes erratic as I realize how much I've f\*\*ked up both our lives. She should be Della's mother. "Ace, slow your breathing down," she says as she comes to sit next to me. I can't get the panicked feeling under control.

"Ace, I need you to focus on my voice. Focus on the feeling of my fingertips on your skin," she says, as she trails her fingers over my forearm.

I do as she says and my breathing starts to slow. The tingles dance on my skin and the sound of her voice washes over me. My heart rate slows, and I feel like I can breathe again. "I'm so sorry, Olivia. This was all my fault. I should never have believed Candace. I was so desperate to have a mate, someone that would love me the way the wolves around me described I hurt you, Della, and myself." She grips my hand in hers, giving it a squeeze.

"No, we both made choices. I was never angry at you, Ace. I was sad because I would never know what it was to have my mate, of course, but I knew I was doing the right thing. I couldn't be the reason that your family fell apart. I would never have forgiven myself for doing the same thing to you and Della that Evelyn did to our family," she says.

Olivia POV

My chest aches watching Ace have a panic attack.

Everything that happened is in the past. We need to figure out if we can find a way to move forward. “We can’t change the past Ace. Despite my rejection, I still feel the bond with you.” “Olivia, you said you rejected me, but a rejection can’t work unless I accept it. When did it happen,” he asks.

His words have my heart racing. Our bond isn’t broken.

He had to accept it, but Becca never told me that. I look toward the ceiling, wondering what the hell my best friend was thinking by keeping that from me. I can’t think about that right now. We are here together and still bonded. “Olivia, when did you reject me,” he asks. “The morning after my ceremony to join the pack.”

“You were in the fridge getting something to eat after working out. Your scent was overwhelming. I was torn the night before until I felt you and Candace” my voice trails off. “Oh my goddess, you felt the pain of betrayal because you knew I was your mate. How can you even look at me knowing what I did,” he says, tears forming in the corner of his eyes.

“You did nothing wrong. You were married and had no idea that we were mates. You didn’t intentionally betray me. As much as what happened in the past hurt both of us, we need to figure out how we move forward.” “What do you mean? Do you still want to reject me,” he says. I hate the fear I hear in his voice.” No, Ace, I don’t want to reject you, but I also don’t want to be a substitute for the woman you really want. I realize that you don’t feel the bond the same way I do.” Before I can say another word, he pulls me onto his lap and slams his lips down on mine.

The kiss is nothing like the first we shared. There is lust and heat but also something I’m too afraid to name because I’m afraid it’s what I want him to feel.

Not what he is really feeling. He pulls back after we are both breathless, pressing his forehead to mine.

“You are no substitute. You are mine. I feel the bond between us as if it was a rope I could run through my fingers. I do not love or want Candace. In fact, I don’t believe it was ever love, but I can never regret Della,” he says.

“That’s good because I would have to kick your a\*\* if you did. She is mine as much as you are mine.” “So does that mean you take back your rejection,” Ace asks, hope in his voice. “I, Olivia Crocker, take back my rejection of you, Ace Morris. I accept our goddess-given bond.” My heart starts to race as I feel the bond grow stronger. “I, Ace Morris, accept you, Olivia Crocker, as my mate,” Ace says. The bond completely snaps into place and, for the first time in five years, I feel whole.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,924 words ]

## Collette POV

I can't believe this is happening. I was born in this f\*\*king pack. "Keep moving. You are wasting time walking so slowly, Kevin says from behind me. I turn to face him. 'Kevin, you can't agree with this. We grew up together. If you help convince Alpha Connor to let me stay, I'll do anything you want. I'm sure your innocent little mate won't let you f\*\*k her the way your beast likes, especially now that she is pregnant."

He growls, taking a step into my space. I immediately back up, falling onto the stairs of my parents' house. "Even if I didn't love Rain with every fiber of my being, I would never touch a sk\*nk like you, Collette. You have no idea how happy it makes me to see you and your b\*\*ch of a sister are no longer part of this pack. The only part of your family that I feel bad for is your mother. Being stuck with your father for a mate and you two selfish twits for daughters must be torture for her," he says.

"F\*\*k you, Kevin. Do you know how pathetic you are for accepting an omega mate and a half-breed Alpha? I'm glad I'm leaving this pathetic pack." He throws his head back and laughs. "Two minutes ago you were offering me your disgusting sn\*tch for my help to stay in this disgusting pack, as you called it. Now move your a\*\*, the clock is ticking" he says.

I make my way up the stairs and onto the porch just as the door to the house opens. My father and mother step out onto the porch. "What the hell is going on here, Beta?" "Your daughter is being banished from the Red Moon pack. The Alpha has offered for you to join her if you so choose. He will gladly break your pack bond if you want to go with your daughter," Kevin says almost smugly. I clench my fists at my side.

"What has she done to warrant such a punishment," my father asks. "How about, for starters, calling your grand pup a half-breed," Kevin says. "Collette, how could you? Della is an innocent pup," my mother says. I roll my eyes. "Enough Amber, the pup is half human. Since when is it a crime to speak the truth in this pack," my father asks. I smile waiting for Kevin to answer.

Kevin takes a step toward my father. "So you agree with your despicable daughter that your grand pup and the Alpha of this pack are half-breeds," Kevin asks. I watch my father's eyes get big before he takes a step back fear shining brightly in his eyes. "Now, I'm sure that Collette meant no harm, Beta. We both respect Alpha Connor. In fact, I'm sure once I speak to him, we can sort this all out," my dad says.

"There is nothing to discuss. I have my orders and your daughter has thirty minutes to gather her belongings before I walk her to the gate," Kevin says. "No, I insist on speaking with Alpha Xavier if Alpha Connor won't listen to reason," my father says. I

smile to myself, remembering the last time that b\*\*ch hit me. Xavier will definitely be on my side again. I can tell he hates Olivia.

“There is no Alpha Xavier. Maybe you missed it today, but there is only one Alpha in this pack and his name is, Alpha Connor. Now I have orders, so I suggest you move your a\*\* Collette because I don’t really care if you only go with the clothes on your back. It’s more than you deserve as far as I’m concerned,” Kevin says.

“Daddy, help me.” “Don’t worry, sweetheart. Just go inside with your mother, and I’ll take care of everything,” my father says. He walks off the porch and I rush inside. All I can think about while I pace the living room is how much I hate Olivia. This is all her fault. “Collette, how could you? How could you be so mean to a pup?”

She is your niece for goddess’s sake,” my mother says. “I don’t consider her my niece. In fact, along with marrying Ace she is the biggest mistake that Candace ever made.” aint burst in my cheeks as my mother’s hand connects with my face You triking hit me, Why did you hit me, I practically scream. Thit you because you have become as disgusting as your father. I did everything I could to teach you girls to respect others and be kind, but you’ve turned out to be just like him. I am ashamed to be your mother,” she says.

Well I’m ashamed to have such a weak pathetic mother. Something flashes in her eyes, and she takes a step toward me before she turns walking toward the front door “What the hell are you doing?” She pulls open the door. “Kevin, please remove Collette from my home. She is no longer welcome in this house,” she says. A smile spreads across his face as he steps toward me. “Mom, you don’t mean that. I am your daughter. Dad will never let you do this.”

“No, you are not my daughter. You and Candace are Bart’s daughters. As far as I’m concerned he can join you. I refuse to lose my chance at being that little girl’s grandma because you are all so narrow-minded and prejudiced. Ace is a wonderful man and your sister should be ashamed of how she treated him,” she says. “Time’s up, Collette,” Kevin says. “No, you can’t do this.” “I can, and I will,” Kevin says, grabbing my arm roughly. This can’t be happening is my only thought as he drags me along the path that leads to the gate with three other guards behind us.

“Please don’t do this, Kevin.” He never responds and when we reach the gate he throws me to the ground outside the pack territory. “Collette Mangan, you are hereby banished from the Red Moon. Don’t ever return,” he says before walking away without a backward glance. I pull my phone from my pocket. My sister picks up on the second ring. I swear these ba\*\*ards will all pay.

Ace POV

“Do you think we should have Connor and Becca come back? I have something I need to ask Becca,” Olivia says. “I think that’s a great idea. I owe Becca an apology. I should

have let her explain instead of letting my anger get the best of me. She would never do anything to hurt the people she loves." I watch Olivia's eyes glaze over and a feeling of excitement washes over me at the prospect of meeting Danica. I have two mates. I'm sure she is just as amazing as Olivia.

"What is that smile about," she asks. "I'm happy., I'm just really happy and excited to meet Danica." Her eyes turn black and, without warning, she climbs onto my lap. "Hello mate. You are very hot. I can't wait to complete our bond. Oli is nervous about our first time, but I can't wait to have you inside me," she says.

"Danica," I say in warning. I can feel myself hardening at just the thought of the woman straddling me, but this isn't fair to Olivia. Before I can ask her to give Olivia back control, the door to the office opens. Connor's growl has Becca giggling. "Man, that is my sister. I don't need to see you two making out on my couch," he says. Olivia's eyes turn back to their beautiful green color and her face turns red as a tomato. She tries to pull away from me, but I don't let her.

"You have nothing to be embarrassed about. We will finish our conversation later," I say, before pressing a quick kiss on her lips. "Ace, don't make me kick your a\*\*," Connor says, and I can't help but laugh. Olivia slides off my lap onto the couch next to me. Her hand remains on my thigh. "You won't be kicking anyone's a\*\* Connor. Ace is my mate and after the things I've walked in on, going on between the two of you, gives you no right to complain about me sitting on Ace's lap," she says.

Warmth spreads through my chest when she calls me her mate. "I take it that means you have accepted each other. You've talked about everything that happened. My two best friends are going to live happily ever after," Becca says excitedly. "We have accepted each other. We still have a lot to work out, but Ace is mine,

My ek twitches in my pants and I have to force myself to think about anything but the beautiful woman sitting next to me. Becca, I need to ask you something, Olivia says. I can see the flash of fear in Becca's eyes before she hods. "Why didn't you tell me that Ace had to accept my rejection, she asks.

I place my hand on top of hers where it rests on my thigh. She offers me a reassuring smile. "I knew that when you spoke the words of rejection it would dull the bond. Also, living away from the pack wouldn't allow you to feel any pain. I really believed that you two would find your way back together. I'm sorry I didn't tell you the whole truth, Oli. I just wanted you both to be with the person that deserves you," she says.

I love you. Becca, but you had no right to keep that from me. What if Candace and Ace stayed together? Do you know that I've never really dated because I always felt guilty? Now I realize it's because, no matter how dull the bond was, I still felt the pull to be with Ace. If things didn't work out the way they did, I could have spent the rest of my life alone, Becca" Olivia says,

Becca sobs and I expect Connor to glare at Olivia for upsetting his mate, but instead he simply nods at her. Olivia stands and moves across the room, pulling Becca into her arms. "Did you miss the part where I said I love you? I know you weren't trying to hurt me, Becca. I just need you to always be honest with me, even if you don't like my decisions. You are my sister and I need to be able to trust you to always have my back. You have been the only one that has always had my back," Oli says.

I see a twinge of regret in Connor's eyes and Olivia's words from earlier, having me realizing once again how much pain she has endured. I stand walking over just as Olivia steps back from Becca. She looks at me and the sadness in her eyes guts me. "I'm sorry Becca." She looks confused. She opens her mouth to speak, but I raise my hand to stop her.

"I know you Becca. You are the most selfless person I know. You are kind and trustworthy. I should have given you the chance to explain, but instead I was an a\*\*hat. I'm sorry, can you forgive me?" "I love you, Ace," she says. A low growl makes Becca laugh as she pulls me in for a hug. "You are going to have to get over it, Danica. Ace is like my brother and I plan to hug him as much as I hug you," she says. I look at Olivia over my shoulder and her smile takes my breath away. This is what having a mate should be like.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,676 words ]

Connor POV

Seeing my sister genuinely happy in this place that has caused her so much pain, has warmth spreading through my chest. I often wondered over the years if we would ever get back to the way we were before my mother found Xavier. I hated myself for a long time for my part in her pain. I should have fought harder for her to stay with my father. I should have told her what we were the minute I was told. I should have been a better brother.

Hearing her tell Della that I call her Oli because we are family felt amazing. We have definitely gotten closer over the years, but hearing her say that felt like the last bit of pain between us was completely washed away. I don't know if she will ever be willing to live in the pack, but knowing she is my Oli girl again means everything to me. A stern knock on the office door startles me. I turn just in time to see Xavier, my mother, and f\*\*king Bart walk into my office.

"I don't remember saying enter." "Connor, now is not the time for semantics. Bart told me you plan on banishing Collette," Xavier says. "It's not semantics. I respect you as

the former Alpha, Xavier, but you need to respect me as the new Alpha.” “Fine, I apologize for barging in. Actually, Ace and Olivia should leave so we can discuss Collette” he says.

“No, they won’t be leaving. Olivia is part of the reason that Collette is being banished. They should be here for this conversation.” “Fine then Olivia can stay but this has nothing to do with Ace. He needs to leave,” Xavier says. Before I can growl at his disrespect, Olivia does. Everyone’s eyes move towards her as Ace takes her hand in his. “Olivia what’s going on,” my mother asks. Olivia looks irritated by my mother’s question.

Olivia goes to open her mouth but, thankfully, Bart interrupts. “Alpha Connor, you can’t banish my daughter” Bart says. “I can and I have. She is probably being escorted to the gate as we speak. Kevin is very good at following orders.” “Connor, we need to discuss Collette’s punishment,” Xavier says.

“No, we don’t. My Luna and I both agree it is what she deserves. You appointed me as Alpha because you said you trusted my judgment and abilities. Now the first decision that I’ve made you are questioning me. I am Alpha now Xavier, not you.”

“I think you are letting your emotions cloud your judgment and being far too harsh,” he says.

“Maybe if you had actually punished such crimes in the past these behaviors wouldn’t have continued. Collette is toxic and a bully. She picks on omegas and I will not allow her to continue to bully pack members and defenseless pups. My decision is final.”

“Alpha Connor, Collette is my youngest pup and with Candace gone she is all that I have left. Please reconsider the severity of her punishment. I assure you she is sorry and will never say such vile things again,” Bart says. “You mean calling my sister and your daughter’s pup half breeds. Didn’t you tell Kevin that your daughter did nothing wrong by speaking the truth? Maybe you should join her in leaving the pack since you look down on half-breeds. I am half human after all.”

I swear all the blood drains from his face. I fight the urge to smile as he opens and closes his mouth like a fish out of water. Did he really think that Kevin wouldn’t tell me everything that was said?

“Connor,” Xavier says my name, pulling my attention away from Bart. “I am not happy with Collette or Bart for what they said and they both deserve to be punished, but you are taking this too far, Banishment is a punishment reserved for severe crimes,” he says.

“That is no longer up to you, Xavier. I appreciate your advice, but I will not be changing my mind. Bart your daughter was just escorted out of the gates if you would like to join her.” “You won’t get away with this he says. I take a step closer to him and he practically

p\*sses himself as Cosmo pushes forward. “Are you threatening me Bart?” “Of course not, Alpha. I just meant the pack will never support an Alpha that is so cruel as to banish a pack member for words that are said in anger,” he says before rushing out of my office.

## Olivia POV

As soon as the pathetic ba\*\*ard rushes out of the office, I want to leave right behind him. Evelyn’s eyes haven’t left where Ace holds my hand in his. As soon as Xavier suggested that Ace didn’t belong here, I couldn’t stop the growl from escaping my lips if I wanted to. I was glad when that pr\*ck interrupted Evelyn, but now with him gone I can see she is champing at the bit to ask her questions.

“Olivia, why are you and Ace holding hands,” Evelyn asks. “Evelyn, honestly, I’m exhausted after the events of the night and that is none of your business.” I release my grip on Ace to move toward Connor. I wrap my arms around his middle. “Thank you for having my back Connor. You are going to be an amazing Alpha.” He presses a kiss on top of my head. “Always Oli. I love you” he says. “I love you too.” I release him to hug Becca.

I turn back toward Ace, offering him my hand, which he immediately takes. I intend to leave, but Evelyn steps in front of me. “Olivia don’t do this. It’s a mistake. You are meant to be with your mate, not a human. Don’t make my mistakes,” she says. Anger bubbles up inside me and I see red. Before I can think better of it, I slap her across the face. I’m immediately pushed behind Connor’s large frame as a growl shakes the walls.

“Xavier, calm down. Atlas, you will not harm my sister,” Connor says. His voice is authoritative and his aura palpable to everyone in the room. A wave of guilt immediately washes over me. Evelyn is pregnant. I shouldn’t have hit her. I step around Connor and the guilt intensifies as I see the red hand print on Evelyn’s cheek. Xavier is behind her fighting his wolf for control. Evelyn’s eyes meet mine as I take a step closer. “I am sorry, Evelyn. I never should have hit you.” A sad smile spreads across her face.

“It’s alright, Olivia” she says. “Like hell it is. I want her punished for striking the Luna of this pack” Xavier demands. “Mom is no longer Luna and, honestly, after what she just said, I’m surprised, that’s all Oli did to her. She basically just said that everything she had with our father was a mistake. That we were mistakes, so I completely understand Oli’s anger,” Connor says.

“That’s not what I meant at all. Look at all the pain I’ve caused Olivia by not waiting for my mate. I simply don’t want her to carry all the guilt I have over these last five years,” Evelyn says. “I told you a long time ago that I would never be you, Evelyn. I would never hurt the people I love for my own happiness. I meant every word and I still do.”

“You say that, but you won’t be able to fight the bond. You will just hurt yourself, Ace, and Della. Besides, if you have pups you’ll hurt them too. I don’t want you to know what

it feels like to have your daughter hate you, Olivia” Evelyn says. “I walked away from the bond, Evelyn. I did what I always promised I would do to not hurt the people that I love. I rejected my mate five years ago.”

My mother gasps and Xavier looks at me like I’ve lost my mind, “You rejected your goddess-given mate. How could you be so heartless,” Xavier says. “I’m going to explain this once and then we are done talking. You are no longer my Alpha and Luna. There is no reason for us to spend any more time with each other. Ace is my mate. Della is my pup. I realized he was my mate five years ago and, rather than selfishly rip his family apart for my own happiness, I rejected him.”

I look at Becca who smiles at me. “My best friend neglected to tell me that Ace needed to accept my rejection. Today we both figured out that our bond wasn’t broken. We have accepted each other. Now I’m exhausted and ready to find a bed on the Beta floor.” “Does that mean your moving to the pack,” Evelyn says, excitement clearly in her voice. My heart starts to race because that thought never even crossed my mind when Ace and I talked about accepting each other.

A strong arm wraps around my waist and steadies me. “Evelyn, I believe that is a discussion between me and Olivia,” Ace says. “Of course” Evelyn says, stepping toward Xavier. Ace leads me out of the office and I swear! feel like I ran a marathon, but I know after what Evelyn said about me moving here, we still have more to talk about. “Ace,” I start to say as he leads me through the pack house. He turns me to face him before pressing his lips to mine.

The kiss is sweet and quiets the storm of emotions running through my mind. He pulls back, and I look into the eyes of the man I never thought I would get to have. “We are not going to worry about living arrangements tonight. Kevin told me you were having a sleepover on the Beta floor. He invited Della and me to join you. We have time to figure out how we make this work, Olivia, but one thing I can promise you is that you are never getting rid of me,” he says: “That’s good because I’m keeping you both no matter where we live.”

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,741 words ]

Connor POV

As soon as Olivia and Ace are gone, I’m ready to lead my Luna down to our celebration despite the stern stare from Xavier. “Are you ready to join the pack, my love?” “We aren’t finished speaking,” Xavier says Cosmo bristles at his tone. We may be of Beta

blood but the minute we pledged and became Alpha something in us shifted. I could feel the power intensify along with our aura.

“What else could we possibly have to discuss Xavier?” “We need to talk about you banishing a pack member for a minor offense. We also need to discuss Olivia” he says. “Enough Xavier, my mother says, moving to stand in front of me.

She reaches up, taking my face in her hands. “You and Olivia were never mistakes. I’m sorry that I just keep saying and doing the wrong things. That is not what I meant at all. I would never take back my time with your father or having the two of you,” mom says. She pushes up on her toes, pressing a kiss on my cheek. “I love you Connor. God enjoy the party” she says. “I love you to mom.” I offer Becca my hand and lead her out of my office.

“What does that mean, Evelyn, doing the wrong things,” Xavier’s voice trails off as I close the door behind us. I have a feeling their conversation is about to get very heated. My mother loves Xavier but I can sometimes tell she wishes he would just shut the hell up. I hope having a pup of his own will give himself to focus on.

We make our way through the pack house toward the banquet hall. We are almost inside when Kevin links

“I’m sorry to bother you, Connor. I know you have family stuff going on, but we have a situation at Bart Mangan’s house,” he says.

I swear the goddess we just aren’t meant to attend our own celebration tonight. I tug Becca’s hand before she can step inside the room. “Becca, I have to go deal with something. Why don’t you go inside and find Rain? One of us should get to enjoy the party for us. I’ll be back as soon as I can.” “Don’t even start that bologna. We deal with things together. What’s going on?”

“I’m not sure exactly, but it has something to do with f\*\*king Bart, so it’s not good.” “Then let’s go deal with the pr\*ck” she says. I press a quick kiss on her lips before taking her hand in mine. It’s a ten-minute walk to the Mangan home, but I can hear the commotion before the house even comes into view.

“You are my mate. You will do as you’re told,” Bart screams as we step onto the porch. Becca growls as I push the door open. Kevin stands in front of Amber Mangan as Bart paces in front of him. “You will not stop me from taking my mate Beta,” Bart growls, I almost laugh because the years have not been kind to Bart. He is round around the middle and probably a foot shorter than Kevin. It wouldn’t be a fair fight even without Kevin’s Beta rank.

“No, he won’t Bart, but if your mate doesn’t want to go with you, she will not be forced by anyone, including you.” He whirls on me and I can see he is fighting his wolf for control.

My aura fills the room, and he immediately drops to his knees. I pull it back when I notice Amber joining him. "Amber, do you want to leave the pack with your mate?" "She is mine. We are mates, she goes where I go and, since you've banished our daughter, we are leaving," Bart screams from where he is kneeling on the floor. "No, she is not a possession and she has a choice. Amber, it's your decision." "I'm not leaving my pack. In fact, I no longer want to be his mate. He is an abusive pr\*ck. He has turned our daughters into abusive pr\*cks" she says.

Cosmo is pushing to the surface. "You said he has been abusing you, Amber. What has he done to you?" Her eyes move from me to the man that should be her safe place. "He treats me like a maid, tells me how worthless I am, and if anything goes wrong he uses me as a punching bag," she says. I close the distance between us and wrap my hand around his throat. "You dare harm another pack member of the Red Moon. Not only a member but your own mate. You encouraged your daughters to become just as vile.

"I would love nothing more than to snap your neck, but I have a feeling living with what's about to happen is a far worse punishment for a piece of sh\*t like you." I look toward Amber and nod. I, Amber Mangan, reject and break my bond with you, Bart Mangan." I feel when Bart's legs give out, but he doesn't hit the floor because my hand is still around his throat. "I don't accept your rejection," he croaks out.

"You will accept, or I'll snap your neck, breaking the bond for her." "You can't do that. It's against werewolf law," Bart whines. "I'm not forcing you. I'm giving you a choice. You can break your bond, or I can punish you for abusing your mate by breaking your neck. The choice is completely yours." He looks between his mate and me before I can feel his body slump in defeat. "I, Bart Mangan, accept your rejection."

His hand flies to his chest, and he screams as the bond is ripped away. I look toward Amber, who is wrapped in Becca's arms. She is doing far better than Bart. "Bart Mangan, you have thirty minutes to gather your belongs. You are banished from the Red Moon Pack. If you return you will be treated as a trespasser and punished as such. Kevin makes sure he leaves my territory." "Of course, Alpha," Kevin says as he pulls Bart from my grip and leads him upstairs.

I turn back to Amber, who is clearly sobbing as Becca holds her. "Amber, I think you should stay in the pack house tonight. You should be around pack members while you heal from the broken bond." She turns to face me. "Thank you, Alpha. Honestly these are tears of happiness. I'm finally free of him. I agree to go to the pack house, but only because this place holds too many painful memories for me. I'd like to either move into the pack house or into a small cottage. I don't need much," she says.

"Nonsense, we are practically family. You will be provided with a comfortable home." She looks at me confused. "I have always considered your precious granddaughter as my niece, but today she truly became one to me. "I don't understand." "Ace found his true mate. My sister, Olivia, is his mate." Her eyes get big, and she covers her mouth with her hand.

“Oh my goddess, he got a second chance mate. I’m so happy for him. After what my daughter did to him, I thought he would never find that kind of bond again. I know how rare it is for humans to be mated to wolves,” she says. “Amber, Candace lied. Ace was never her mate,” Becca says. Amber staggers back, but Becca steadies her. “I’m so sorry. This is all my fault. If I wasn’t so weak and stayed when I shouldn’t have. I should have taken the girls and left him long ago,” Amber says, tears streaking down her cheeks.

“Amber, Collette and Candace had two examples, and they chose to be like Bart. You can’t blame yourself for their sh\*tty behavior. Now let’s take you to the pack house. I have a feeling you weren’t at ceremony and haven’t eaten.” She drops her eyes to the floor. “I’m sorry, Alpha. Bart forbade me from attending. I’m sure he planned to spend time with whatever tart he’s been screwing,” she says. Both Becca and I growl.

“Are you saying he has been betraying your bond,” Becca asks. “Yes, for longer than I care to remember. In the beginning, the pain was unbearable, but after the love I had for him died, so did the pain,” she says. Footsteps on the stairs have me on the verge of letting Cosmo take over. How dare this pr\*ck betray his mate? Does Xavier know this is happening in the pack?

As soon as Bart steps into view, I have him pinned to the wall. “You are despicable. How could you betray your mate?” Kevin growls from behind me. “Look at her. She used to be beautiful and thin.” His mouth shuts quickly as I press my forearm against his throat. “You might want to take a look in the mirror because werewolf men aren’t supposed to be pudgy and short” I say looking down at him as his face starts to turn shades of red and purple.

“Alpha, please don’t kill him. I want him to live in the misery of the broken bond. I want him to live with the knowledge that I’m going to be happy and never think of him again after today,” Amber says. I pull my arm back, and he gasps for air. “Get him the f\*\*k out of my pack. Tell the warriors if he steps foot in my territory to kill him on sight.”

Bart visibly swallows as Kevin reaches down and yanks him up. My body relaxes as soon as Bart is out of my sight. I turn smiling at Becca and Amber. “Let’s go see if they saved us any food from the celebration ladies.” Amber looks down at her dress and winces. “You look beautiful Amber. Don’t let that ba\*\*ard make you think any different” Becca says. “My mate is right. Now lets go eat because I’m starving.”

We make our way down the path toward the pack house when I notice Amber start to lean on Becca. Before she can hit the ground, I scoop her up in my arms. “Amber” I call out but she’s passed out. I’m sure its the events of the night but I can’t be sure what that ba\*\*ard has been doing to her. “Ace, I’m sorry to bother you but I need you at the hospital. Something is wrong with Amber, Candace’s mother,” I link. “I’m on my way” he says before cutting the link.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,954 words ]

Ace POV

I don't think I've ever been this nervous in my life as we make our way through the pack house. Holding Olivia's hand feels surreal. Like a dream I never thought I would get to have. Part of me is afraid I'm going to wake up and none of this will be real. The only reason I have no doubt it is are the tingles dancing on my palm. I still can't believe the goddess gave me, a human, a mate. A twinge of guilt has me squeezing Olivia's hand tighter.

She stops just outside the door that leads to the Beta floor. "First, we may not be fully bonded, but you're not good at hiding your emotions. You have to stop feeling guilty. We can't change the past. We can only move forward Ace. Second, we need to talk about what you are going to tell Della before we walk in there holding hands. I have no problem waiting to tell her we are mates until she gets used to me being around," she says.

I step closer, invading her space but not touching her. "I will do my best to let myself off the hook for being an idiot but its going to take time. As far as Della goes. She already wanted you to be her mother before I realized we were mates. Apparently, my daughter has more insight than I do. We will be walking in there with your hand in mine to tell our daughter that she gets to have her wish."

Olivia's eyes turn black and I smile. "My pup," Danica says before she gives control back to Olivia. Before she can say anything else, I bring my lips down to hers. This time, I pull her body flush with mine as I move my lips against hers. Her body melts against mine and all I can think about is how amazing it's going to feel when I make her mine completely. When she moans into my mouth, I know I have to break the kiss before I embarrass myself like a teenage boy.

I pull back and place a kiss on her nose. Her dazed look makes me smile. I'm glad to know I affect her as much as she affects me. The door to the Beta floor opens, startling us both. We both jump as if being caught by our parents for making out, but instead it's my beautiful daughter. "Oli, I've been waiting for you. Aunt Rain made popcorn. Daddy, are you coming to our sleepover too," she says, bouncing on the balls of her feet.

"Yep, Olivia invited me." I scoop her up in my arms, hating that I had to let go of Olivia but needing to hug my pup. She lays her head on my chest and Olivia stares at us with a mix of hope and love in her eyes. I wrap my free arm around her waist and lead her inside. When Rain comes into view, she looks between us shock clearly written on her face. Her hand that was on her swollen belly now pointing between us.

“What is happening here,” she asks causing Della to pick up her head. “Is Kevin back from dealing with Collette so we can tell the three of you at once?” “He just linked me. They are dealing with Bart, but he didn’t really get into what that meant” Rain says. “That’s alright we’ll tell him when he gets back.” I set Della on her feet and crouch down so we are eye to eye. Olivia does the same.

“Della, do you remember how earlier you said you wanted Olivia to be your mommy?” “Of course, daddy. I have a good memory,” she says, like I’m being silly. I swear sometimes she acts like a teenager instead of a six-year-old. “Well, Olivia is daddy’s mate. The goddess chose her just for me and you.” Della looks between us, her face giving nothing away at first, but then a huge smile crosses her face.

“Oli is going to be my new mommy,” she says, and my chest aches. How could anyone abandon this precious little girl? “If you want me to Della Bella. I would love to be your mommy,” Olivia says. Without warning, Della launches herself at Olivia, knocking her on her butt. She holds Della tight as tears streak down her cheeks.

The sound of sobbing draws my attention to Rain. “Damn pregnancy hormones,” she says, wiping her cheeks.

“I’m so happy for you both. You deserve each other. Oli, you owe me a story later about how all of this is possible,” she says, hands now on her hips. I chuckle while Olivia nods at her friend. “Now I’m sure you both want to get out of your fancy clothes. Oli, I laid out a pair of my pajamas for you, and I’ll grab something from Kevin’s clothes for you, Ace, while Oli showers. Unless you planned to do that together,” she says.

Olivia places her hands over Della’s ears. “Rain, little ears, you horn dog. Besides, the first time we are together, we won’t be with so many people underfoot,” she says, her cheeks the prettiest pink. I swear I’m going to need the coldest shower on the planet if she keeps blushing like that. “Alright, Della Bella, I’m going to go shower and get my PJs on. I won’t be long,” Olivia says. She presses a kiss on Della’s forehead before she stands.

She looks at me and I don’t give her a chance to overthink things. I pull her in and give her a quick kiss. “I’ll be here when you get done.” She smiles, following Rain down the hallway and out of sight. “Daddy, is Oli really going to be my mommy now,” she asks, a tremble in her voice. I scoop her up, holding her close. I hate the pain she has had to endure at such a young age. “She is, sweet pea. She loves you very much already.”

“I love her to daddy. I’m glad she is my mommy now. Candace was a meanie like Collette,” she says. I don’t think I’ve ever heard her call Candace by her name. “Well, you won’t have to see either of the meanies again. Now daddy is going to take a shower so we can have the best sleepover ever.” I press a kiss on her forehead just as Rain steps back into the room. “You can use the bathroom in our room, Ace,” she says with a smirk.

I set Della on the couch and head toward the hallway. Rain grips my forearm as I start to pass her. "I'm glad you both found each other, Ace. Olivia is strong, but the past still haunts her. She needs to know that she can trust you with her heart. You need to let her love you the way a mate should. I love you both," she says. I pull her into a hug as much as her round belly will allow. "I love you too, Rain."

I head down the hallway and into Rain and Kevin's room. I smile when I see a pair of lounge pants and a tank top. I head into the ensuite bathroom and strip out of my clothes. I wasn't kidding about the cold shower. I step under the spray that feels like ice water and wash in record time. When I step out, I dry just as quickly.

Once I'm dressed, I head out to the living room. My steps falter when I see Olivia in a pair of boy shorts and tank top. F\*\*k me, it's going to be a long night. I notice her eyes roam over me.

I may not be a wolf, but I work out every day, and I'm in good shape. I'm just about to take the seat next to her on the couch when I feel the nudge of the Alpha's link in my mind. I wondered if it would work for me after Connor took over, since I had to drink Xavier's blood for it to work the first time. Xavier was actually shocked it worked, but since my father was part of the pack he insisted we try joining me in the pack when I turned eighteen.

"Ace, I'm sorry to bother you, but I need you at the hospital. Something is wrong with Amber, Candace's mother. "I'm on my way" I say, cutting the link. "Ace, were you just linking," Olivia asks. "Yes, I can link with the Alpha only. I'm not sure why it worked but I'm grateful it did. I need to go to the hospital." I look at Della, who looks worried. "Nana Amber isn't feeling good. I have to go check on her. You stay here with mommy and Aunt Rain."

Goddess that felt like the most natural thing to call Olivia Della's mom. "Rain can you keep Della. I want to go with Ace to offer help. Besides, I haven't been in the pack hospital since the last time I was a patient," she says. I go to open my mouth but close it when she is already sliding her sandals back on. I follow behind her, fighting back the groan at the way her a\*\* looks in the f\*\*king shorts.

Get yourself under control Ace. Now is not the time to be ogling your mate. "Olivia, I appreciate you wanting to help, but you realize this is Candace's mother I'm going to see. I do. I've been a nurse for over a year, Ace I've dealt with difficult patients. I can be professional no matter if she acts like her daughter or not she says, shocking me. She is a nurse. "I had no idea you were a nurse. I guess we have a lot to talk about, but that's not what I meant."

"Amber is the sweetest woman, I just meant it might be awkward for you and I wouldn't want it to be." "Ace if she is Della's nana, then she is part of our family. We will have to be around each other. I would never hold her daughter's actions against her, she says

just as we step into the pack hospital. I spin her toward me, kissing her. Giggles have us breaking apart. Some of the nurses chatter as we approach the station.

“Which room did they put Amber Mangan in?” She is in room four Dr. Morris Ebony answers clearly irritated looking at Olivia. I pray she doesn’t say anything stupid to Olivia. She has asked me out several times since Candace left, and I’ve shot her down each time.

I grab Olivia’s hand and lead her toward room four. When I step inside, I smile seeing Connor and Becca sitting on each side of Amber’s bed. Connor looks toward Olivia and then at me. “Oli, I didn’t expect you to come” he says, looking at me like I’m nuts for bringing her. “Chill out Connor. Amber is Della nana and right now she is a patient who needs care. I’m here to help Ace.” Becca smiles before she pulls Olivia in for a hug.

I move to the bed and cringe when I see how frail my mother-in-law looks. She hasn’t been able to come to see us as much since Candace left, but she never looked like this. What the hell did that battard do to her? “Olivia, we are going to need blood work to start. Once we have the results, we will have a better idea if there is anything significant going on.” I show her where the supplies are, and she is quick and efficient at obtaining the blood. An hour later the results have me feeling sick. She has a significant level of wolfsbane in her blood.

Share to your friends

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

[ 1,477 words ]

Olivia POV

When Ace walks back into the room, I can tell by the look on his face that the blood work isn’t good. “Ace, what did her blood work show,” Becca asks. “She has a significant amount of wolfsbane in her blood,” he says. Growls sound around me. Connor looks like he is on the verge of shifting. Becca looks like she is going to be sick.

“What the hell is wolfsbane?” “It’s a poison specifically harvested to harm wolves. It makes both human and wolf counterparts weak, but it’s worse for the wolf,” Ace says. “It can actually kill our wolves in high enough doses. It is against pack law to even possess it,” Becca says. “Are you telling me that ba\*\*ard was poisoning his own mate? Where the f\*\*k did he even get it,” Connor asks. “I’m honestly not sure. It’s not like it grows in the forest” Becca says.

“Why would he want to kill his own mate?” “Based on the fact that she wasn’t deathly ill when you went to the house, I think she has built a tolerance to a high level of wolfsbane over time. I’m not sure about the condition of her wolf until she wakes up, but

based on everything, I'd say he has been giving her a small amount every day to keep her weak. I don't think he was trying to actually kill her," Ace says.

It's my turn to growl. "Why the f\*\*k would he need her weak? What was he doing to her?" Becca's eyes get big before she looks at Connor. "He was dulling the bond and making sure she would never have the strength to leave him," she says. "Dulling the bond," I repeat her words.

"Amber said he's been betraying their bond since her pups were small. It's very painful. It's said to be the worst pain a wolf can endure both physically and psychologically. She said that the pain has lessened over the years, which she thought was because she no longer loved him. I wonder if he is dosing her every day to f\*\*k other she-wolves in the pack," Becca asks.

"If he dulled the pain and made her weak, she would be less likely to care about his infidelity," she says. It's my turn to growl. How dare that ba\*\*ard do something so despicable? Connor's eyes glaze over. When they return to normal, he looks like he is about to lose his sh\*t. "Kevin said the ba\*\*ard shifted and ran as soon as he was thrown out of the gates. Had I known what he had been doing, I would have just killed his a\*\*\* Connor says. "Connor, there was no way you could have known," Ace says.

"Connor, you're the reason that ba\*\*ard will never be able to hurt her again. What do we do to help her, Ace?"

"We need to flush as much of the wolfsbane from her system as we can. I've never treated a wolf with prolonged exposure, but it's at least a starting point. I'll call some of the other pack doctors if you can get the IV fluid hung, Olivia," he says. "Of course," I say. I press a kiss on his cheek before heading out of the room. and back toward the supply closet he showed me earlier.

I start to gather my supplies when the door opens behind me. "I don't know why he brought you here with him. You aren't really even part of the pack. You aren't even that pretty," a snarky voice says. I turn coming face to face with the nurse from earlier. Ebony I think her name was.

"Excuse me." "You heard me sk\*nk" she says. "It's a good thing I don't give a sh\*t about what you think. My opinion is the only one that matters. Ace also thinks I'm very pretty." If looks could kill I'd be dead, it doesn't last long as a smug smile spreads across her face.

I prepare myself for whatever vitriol she is about to spew at me. "Even if he wants to f\*\*k you now, it won't last. You are just a distraction. Ace is still in love with that b\*\*ch Candace. I should know since we f\*\*ked. but he didn't want a relationship. If he didn't want me you have no chance," she says.

I growl taking a step toward her. I fight Danica for control. "Even if this b\*\*ch f\*\*ked him, we can't kill her. He had no idea we were mates. What happened before we accepted each other is none of our business, Danica. can feel she doesn't agree, but thankfully she relinquishes control to me.

"Ace is mine. You would do well to remember that. Whatever happened between you in the past is just that, the past. I am not Candace, and I'll never walk away from my mate." Her eyes get big, but she quickly schools her expression. "He isn't your mate. You are a liar just like Candace. He is a human. He'll never believe your lies after that b\*\*ch Candace tricked him. I don't care who you are to the Alpha, you should just head back to living with the humans. No one wants you here," she says.

I throw my head back and laugh. "Is that the best you got because it was pretty pathetic. Now I'm only going to warn you once. Stay away from my mate." "Do you think I'm afraid of a wolf that is more human than wolf. because I'm not?" Before I can think better of it, I pull back my fist and punch her square in the face. She screams and blood pours from her nose.

"You f\*\*king hit me, you b\*\*ch' she yells in my face. Before I can even open my mouth, the door to the room flies open. Ace looks between us and pulls me out of the room into his arms.

"What the hell is going on here," he asks, his voice laced with anger. "She is insane. She hit me Dr. Morris. Look at me, I'm bleeding," she says. "That's funny that you would speak so formally to a man you supposedly f\*\*ked." "Excuse me," Ace says, glaring at Ebony. "Dr. Morris, I didn't," she starts to say, but I cut her off with a growl.

"Oh yes you did. You thought you were going to intimidate me, make me question Ace, and have me running away from the man that is meant to be mine. That will never happen. He is mine." "Ebony, would you like to explain why my mate thinks that we had s\*x" Ace says. Despite his calm tone, I can feel the anger rolling off

him in waves. "I saw how destroyed you were after Candace left. I just didn't want her to lie to you like Candace. You're human Ace, she isn't your mate," she says.

I try to step toward her as Danica pushes to the surface, but Ace keeps his arm tight around my waist. "We are not friends, Ebony. I have never allowed you to call me Ace, so don't start now. You are a nurse and lama doctor. That is the only relationship we have ever had. The fact that you tried to cause problems between e and my mate means that I can no longer trust you to work with me," he says.

"Dr. Morris, I'm sorry. I was just trying to protect you. I care for you," she says. "Leave Ebony. I have a patient that needs medical attention and, frankly, I don't have time to deal with meaningless bulls\*t. Olivia is my mate. I will never want any other woman but her. I don't want or need you doing anything for me," he says, She looks like she wants to say more, but thankfully she rushes out of the room. I step out of Ace's hold and back

into the supply closet. “Are you alright, Olivia. I swear to you, I have never even thought about her that way, Ace says from behind me.

I turn with everything I need in my arms. “I meant what I said to Danica Ace. If you had slept with her I wouldn’t hold it against you. I wouldn’t like it but you had no idea we were mates. She was never going to change how I feel or how much you are mine. I refuse to let anything come between us again.” A smile that looks like he won the lottery spreads across his face.

He gives me a quick kiss, and we head back to Amber’s room. I hang the first bag of fluid and look down at the woman who looks like she is peacefully sleeping. I think about all she has endured at the hands of a man that was meant to love her. I say a prayer to the goddess to heal her body and spirit. A prayer to give her a second chance at happiness.

Share to your friends

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

c 30

[ 1,798 words ]

Olivia POV

“Are you ready to head back to the Beta floor,” Ace asks, bringing me out of my thoughts. Amber has received three bags of fluid and her vitals look good, but she hasn’t woken up yet. Her repeated labs showed the wolfsbane levels are dropping, but we won’t know if she will completely recover until she wakes up. “Do you think we should leave her here alone? What if she wakes up?” He smiles as he comes to stand in front of me.

He offers me his hand and I take it. He pulls me to stand wrapping his arms around me. “I’ve already spoken to the nurse assigned to her, and she knows to call me immediately if Amber wakes up. It would be better for us to be rested if something changes with her condition,” he says. “She is alone, Ace. How do the people meant to love her treat her so badly?”

“I don’t know, but she won’t be alone now. With Bart gone, she can spend more time with me and Della” he says. I look into his eyes. “She can spend time with the three of us. I know what it is to feel alone. If it wasn’t for Becca I probably wouldn’t have gotten through it. We can do that for Amber.”

He cups my face in his hands and presses a soft kiss on my lips. He pulls back before pressing his forehead against mine. “You are amazing, you know that. After everything

you've been through, you didn't let it jade your heart. You still care about people. Even people you don't know. I honestly have been avoiding spending time with pack members because I'm so angry with myself and Candace. It's gotten better, but until today it still lived right here," he says, pointing to his heart.

Hay my hand against his chest over his heart as he continues to speak. "The only time I wasn't angry was when I was with Della. Otherwise, I hated being around everyone who knows what happened," he says. My chest aches for my mate. Danica flashes images of finding that b\*\*ch and beating her a\*\*.

"I feel like either the pack members feel sorry for me or they think I was a fool for thinking a human deserved a mate. I am so grateful that the goddess brought you back to me, Olivia. I will spend the rest of my life showing you just how much you mean to me," he says. "We are both blessed to have this chance, Ace. We won't waste it." He pecks my lips again, and I check Amber one last time before we head back toward the pack house.

Ten minutes later we are stepping into the pack house. As we make our way toward the Beta floor, a loud growl has my steps faltering. Without a second thought, I head in the direction of the sound, which happens to be toward Connor's office. Why the hell is he still awake? It's almost eleven.

The closer we get to the door, I realize it's cracked open. Connor sounds angry, and it doesn't take long for me to realize why. "You have no proof that Bart was the one dosing her with the wolfsbane. What you are saying is all speculation. Wolves are innocent until proven guilty," Xavier says. "You have to be kidding me. Who the hell else would be poisoning her," Connor asks. I ball my fists at my side as he once again defends those a\*\*holes.

Ace wraps his hand around my forearm. I'm not sure if it's to ground me or to stop me from rushing inside. "I'm simply saying we need more proof before we even think about involving the werewolf council. Besides, you've banished him. If he did do it, he can no longer harm her," Xavier says. "I don't understand why you are so opposed to involving them," Connor asks. What the hell is the werewolf council? There is so much I don't know.

"Connor, I need you to trust me. There are things I can't tell you yet, but I promise you that everything I've done is to protect Olivia. I know she will never see me as anything but the man that destroyed your family and took your father from her, but my wolf and I consider her our pup. I accept that she will never forgive me, but I refuse to put her at risk," Xavier says.

I take a step toward the door, but Ace holds me in place. I look at him and he presses his finger to his lips.

“Xavier, I do trust you, but I need to know what the hell you’re talking about. Hell, so does Olivia. Keeping secrets from her is what caused her pain years ago, and I refuse to let you do it again, even under the guise of protection, Xavier” Connor says.

My heart is ready to beat out of my chest. What the f\*\*k does he mean I’m at risk? At risk of what? “Fine, but i need to make some calls before we talk to her. Hell, she might not even want to hear anything I have to say, Connor” Xavier says. He sounds sincere, but after all that’s happened, I can’t bring myself to trust this man. “I’ll talk to Oli, but there better not be any half-truths, Xavier. Whatever you say better be the whole truth. My sister isn’t weak. She is one of the strongest people I know,” Connor says.

Tears run down my cheeks listening to my brother. “I never thought she was weak Connor. I had no idea how to deal with an angry teenager who had every right to hate me. I screwed up at every turn. I won’t lie to her, Connor,” Xavier says. The sound of the chair scraping against the floor has me turning toward Ace. We make our way toward the stairs, my mind reeling after hearing that conversation.

When we step inside, I smile seeing Rain and Della sound asleep on the couch. Ace moves around me grabbing a blanket to cover them. He turns taking my hand and leading me down the hallway toward the room I showered in earlier. We step inside, and he closes the door behind us. “Are you alright, Olivia?” I turn to face him.

“I don’t know. I’m not sure how I feel. I just don’t understand what the hell he could be protecting me from. I don’t trust Xavier. Everything that happened in the past won’t let me. He and Evelyn are selfish. I have to believe that whatever he has to tell me serves some purpose for him.”

He pulls me into his arms and I melt into him. I feel complete and safe as he holds me. My mind quiets as I take in his scent and a wave of exhaustion overwhelms me. Without warning, Ace lifts me bridal style and carries me over to the bed. My heart starts to race again as he lays me down. I’m not sure exactly what I expect, but him basically tucking me in isn’t it. He leans down and presses a firm kiss on my lips.

When he pulls back, he looks into my eyes. “When I make love to you for the first time, we will be completely alone and won’t have to rush. You’re exhausted Olivia and need sleep,” he says. A shiver of anticipation runs down my spine. He presses a kiss to my forehead before he stands to his full height. When he steps toward the door, Danica whimpers. I can’t help the disappointment I feel. I don’t want him to leave.

“Ace, we may not be making love tonight, but there is no reason you can’t hold me while we sleep. I really don’t want you to leave. I need you.” can’t see the expression on his face, but I giggle as he rushes back toward the bed. He pulls the covers back and slides in next to me. I snuggle into his side and lay my head against his chest. No matter where it is, this is all I want. We will have to talk, but we will figure it out because, no matter what, I’m never giving this up.

## Candace POV

I can't believe that pr\*ck banished my sister and father in one night. Roman was more than happy to take them in, but they will hold no rank in our pack. I've set them up in one of the nicer cottages for now. My head is still pounding from listening to my sister whine. I head into the bathroom intending to soak in the tub while Roman is out patrolling. My phone ringing is doing nothing to help the pounding in my head.

I pull it from my pocket and smile when I see Ebony's name flash on the screen. "Hi Eb, tell me you have good news." "The b\*\*ch broke my nose. I thought you said she was weak and had never trained," she says. "She hasn't lived in the pack the past five years. She can't have trained. What the f\*\*k happened?"

She tells me about them showing up at the hospital and her claiming Ace. I may not want to be with him because I want an Alpha mate, but that doesn't mean I want that b\*\*ch to have him. I knew at that damn ceremony when she looked at him, they were mates. I expected her to tell him, but instead she walked away. She was probably afraid he would reject her for me, which he would have. Ace has been in love with me since we were fifteen.

"You need to try again. You want to f\*\*k him, don't you," I say through gritted teeth. I don't want Ebony to f\*\*k him, but I need her to get him to betray his bond with that b\*\*ch. Right now, he intends to move her in and have her take my place. That isn't f\*\*king happening. Zila growls her agreement. She grew to love Ace, but like me she wants the title of Luna. We were made for better things than to be mated to a lowly omega or human.

"You know I do. I've wanted Ace as long as you have. Even if he isn't a wolf, he is s\*xxy as f\*\*k. I just don't understand why you are encouraging this Candace. You clearly aren't happy about the thought of him f\*\*king me," she says. "I'm not, but I need his bond broken. I refuse to allow that b\*\*ch to have him. He will always be mine" I growl. "Fine, but it won't be easy. He made it pretty clear he only wants her," she says. "Then we will have to make sure that we find a way to make him want you just as much as he wants her."

Share to your friends

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