

My Promised Rejection –

Chapter 31 - 37

c 31

[1,833 words]

Olivia POV

I attempt to stretch, but a heavy warm weight is wrapped around me. The events of yesterday come rushing back, and I realize it's Ace's arms that are holding me in place. I open my eyes and look toward my sleeping mate. I take the opportunity to truly study his features. He really is the most handsome man I've ever seen. His square jaw sports a neatly trimmed beard that makes him look rugged and s*xxy. My fingers itch to scratch my nails through it.

His skin looks like it's been kissed by the sun. His broad shoulders lead down to muscular arms. If not for his scent, no one would guess he isn't a wolf. His large muscular frame rivals most of the warriors I've seen. A knock on the door has me practically falling out of bed. Ace's arms tighten around me, stopping me from toppling out. He chuckles, and I wonder if he caught me ogling him.

I'm sure my cheeks are red as a tomato at the thought. Before I can ask him what he is laughing at, the door to the room flies open. Della squeals as she makes her way over to my side of the bed. "Oli, you and Daddy slept in the same bed. Did he hog the covers? Did his snoring keep you awake," she asks.

This time it's my turn to laugh. "Snoring, who said I snore," he asks, propping himself up on his elbow to look down at Della. His expression is one of fake offense. "Daddy, you know you snore. When I'm scared Oli, he lets me sleep with him, and he snores really loud," she says. "That's it sweet pea. I'm going to have to bring out the tickle monster since you are spilling all my secrets," he says. He presses a quick kiss on my temple before he slides out of bed.

Della squeals again as she runs out of the room with Ace hot on her heels. I can't stop the smile that spreads across my face. This is our life now. My hot mate and my beautiful daughter. I'm a mother. Excitement and worry flow through me in equal measure. I'm excited to watch her grow and always make sure she knows how loved she truly is, but what if I screw up? What if she ends up hating me because I'm not her real mom?"

"Don't you dare think like that. After all you sacrificed for our mate's and pup's happiness, do you really believe she won't look at you as her mother," Danica says. The sound of a throat clearing has me looking toward the door where a very smug looking

Rain is standing with her arms crossed. "So would you like to tell me what happened last night since I just saw Ace running out of this room," she says. "Nothing, we came back from the hospital, covered you and Della up, and went to bed."

A look of disappointment crosses her features. "Rain what did you expect? I'm not having s*x for the first time in your home." I immediately close my eyes when I notice her expression morph from disappointment to

shock. She rushes inside the room and climbs up next to me on the bed. "You mean the first time with Ace," she says.

"No, I mean the first time I ever have s*x, Rain. I don't know why you're acting so shocked. You have only ever had s*x with Kevin." "You're right, but I still don't understand everything that happened. How did you not know that Ace was your mate years ago," she says. I look down at the comforter before I look back into her eyes. "You knew and walked away," she whispers like it pains her to say it. I give her the short version of everything that happened.

She pulls me into a hug. "You are so strong, Oli. I don't know many wolves that could have done that. I hope Ace realizes how lucky he is to have you," she says. "We're both lucky. I can feel how much he already cares for me. I know in my heart he will never intentionally hurt me, Rain." "So that's why you never had sex with anyone else. Even with the rejection, the bond wasn't broken," she says.

"I didn't realize the bond wasn't broken. All I knew was nothing ever felt right, Rain. You know, I have gone on a few dates over the last five years, but I couldn't bring myself to give that part of myself to any of them. The closest I came was the guy I went to nursing school with, Brad. I felt like if I just did it I could let go of the feelings I was holding onto for Ace, but the minute he went to touch me, I felt like I was betraying Ace. At the time, I felt like a fool after the pain I felt the night before I rejected him."

Movement out of the corner of my eye startles me. I turn to see Ace stepping into the room. "Rain, do you think I could have a moment alone with Olivia before we get ready to head to the hospital," he asks. "Of course," she says, before giving-me a hug. She leaves closing the door behind her. How much of that conversation did he just here?

"Olivia, I swear to the goddess, you will never know how sorry I am that you had to feel that pain. You had every right to give yourself to Brad, and I'm sorry that I stood in the way of that," he says through gritted teeth.

"So you wish I had given my first time to Brad." "F**k no. I won't lie, the thought of another man touching you makes me want to find him and beat the sh*t out of him. It's not fair you were stuck in limbo because you tried to do what you thought was right for me and Della," he says.

“Ace, I promise you that I’m not sorry you’ll be my first. I’m glad that I didn’t simply get it over with. I know that I won’t be your first, but I sure as hell will be your last and that is what matters to me.” A smile spreads across his face and all traces of the guilt in his expression from a moment ago fade. He reaches out, pulling my body flush with his. “That I can promise you, Olivia. I can also promise you that I now understand that I have never loved another woman before you,” he says before slamming his lips down on mine.

His lips move against mine creating a delicious friction between us. He deepens the kiss as he moves his hands down, gripping my hips. I moan as he slides his tongue in my mouth, swirling it with mine. When we finally break apart, we are both breathless. I feel the nudge of Connor’s link just as my breathing returns to normal. “Olivia, are you still in the pack,” he asks. “Yes, I plan to check on Amber and Rain is finding out what the pup is this morning. Besides, Ace and I have to discuss our living arrangements.”

“Olivia, I need you and Ace to come to my office as soon as you can” he says. “Is everything alright,” I ask like I We just need to talk,” he says. “I don’t already know what he wants to meet with me about. “Everything is fine ‘S everything alright,” I ask like lure, let-Ace and I get dressed, and we will head to your office.” He groans, and I realize what I just said when he cuts the link. I can’t help but chuckle.

Once Ace and I are dressed, we both kiss Della before heading down to my brother’s office. When we step inside, Becca rushes over like she didn’t just see me last night. I smile as she whispers in my ear how happy she is about me and Ace finally being together. We take seats in front of Connor’s desk and Ace takes my hand in his. I can see Connor is struggling with what to say that won’t have me refusing to speak to Xavier, so I put him out of his misery. “I’ll talk to Xavier.”

“How” is all he asks. “We heard you both talking last night. You will never know how much it means to me that you refuse to keep secrets from me, Connor. It also means a lot that you think I’m strong.” “I meant every word I said Oli. I have no idea what he intends to tell us, but I think he understands how serious I am about telling you everything,” he says, “I wish I could say Ltrust Xavier the way you do, Connor, but I don’t.”

“I understand that, Oli, but we need to hear him out. I don’t like that he said you’re at risk. I won’t lose my sister,” he says. There is a firm knock before Xavier and Evelyn walk in. “I thought that your mother should be here for this conversation” he says, pulling a chair over for Evelyn. Ace squeezes my hand and Xavier takes seat. “Thank you for agreeing to talk Olivia,” he says. I nod not wanting this to turn into an argument.

“I know you don’t trust me, but everything I’ve done has been to protect you. I wasn’t exactly honest about finding your mother by chance.” I watch my mother’s eyes darken as she stares at the man who is her mate “What do you mean,” she asks. “My father formed an alliance with the Green Leaf Coven many years ago he says. “Witches” my

mother whispers. "Yes, light witches who derive their power from nature. One of the witches, Miranda, and I have become friends over the years," he says.

My mother growls and Xavier grabs her hand. She quickly rips it away. "Keep going. I'm interested to know about you and this witch," she says. "Evie, we have always been friends and nothing more. You are the only woman I love," he says. Her expression softens, but she still doesn't take his offered hand. "Among her powers is sight. She had a vision of you, Evie. She also saw that you had pups. I tried to stay away to let you live the life you had built, but I couldn't," he says.

"I understand that you two have things to discuss, but I'm here to find out why I'm at risk. You can try to justify your lies later, Xavier." His eyes flash black but quickly return to their normal color. He simply nods before taking a deep breath. "Her vision wasn't just about Evie having pups. It was about the type of wolf you are, Olivia," he says. "I'm a werewolf just like the rest of you." "No, you are a silver wolf. A special wolf chosen by the goddess herself. The guardian of the next midnight wolf" he says. What the f**k?

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[1,811 words]

Olivia POV

I can't have heard him correctly. "Olivia, did you hear me," Xavier asks when I'm silent for too long. Does he really think I didn't f**king hear him? I'm sitting three feet from him. "Olivia, are you alright, Evelyn asks.

"No, I'm not alright. This is all too much. Why can't any part of my life be normal or go the way it's supposed to? First you keep who I am from me until everything I love is ripped away. Then I lost my father because he drank himself to death to numb the pain the two of you caused."

"If that's not bad enough, then when I meet the man that is meant to be mine, he is already married to someone else. Not only is he married, but he has a pup that should have been mine. Now you're telling me I'm some kind of special werewolf that is going to be the guardian of a midnight wolf. I just want to be ferding normal. Why is it too much to ask for everything in my life to not be insane or so f**king hard?"

I stand with the intention of leaving to get my emotions under control before I completely lose it, but instead I'm pulled into Ace's lap. As soon as his arms are around me, L-sob. As he rubs circles on my back, a wave of guilt washes over me. I just told him we had to

let the past stay where it belongs and here I am bringing it up again. Acting as if he hurt me intentionally, which I know isn't the case. I'm just so tired.

"I'm sorry Ace. I didn't mean to bring up," I start to say, but he cuts me off. "Hey, no way. He lifts my chin, so I'm forced to look into his eyes. "I don't want you to hide your feelings to protect mine. That is not how our mateship is going to work. You have every right to be upset. Your pain is a result of the choices that everyone else has made," he says.

"Xavier chose to pursue your mom when he knew she was married. Evelyn chose to give into their bond despite building a life with your father. I chose to believe that conniving b**ch instead of waiting for you. The goddess chose to make you a guardian wolf, knowing all the bulls*t you've already endured. If you ask me, you have handled the sh*tty cards you have been dealt by other people's choices with more grace and love than anyone else in this room would have ever done," he says.

I press a kiss on his lips, feeling the conviction of every word he just said. When I pull back, he wipes the tears from my cheeks with his thumbs. "I love you, Ace. Thank you for not making me feel like I don't have the right to be upset." I bury my head in his neck and breathe in his scent. "I love you, Olivia," he says. After a few minutes, I pull back, intending to stand from Ace's lap and retake my own seat, but he keeps me firmly in place. I turn to face Xavier and, for the first time, I see real emotion in his eyes. "I'm sorry, Olivia," he says.

"I'm sorry that I was selfish. Atlas and I should have stayed away when we knew that Evie had a family. I'm supposed to be an Alpha. I should have had the strength to walk away like you did. I know I don't deserve your forgiveness, so I won't ask for it, but I am truly sorry for my part in your pain. I'm sorry that when you were forced to come here I wasn't honest about why it was so important you shift in the pack," he says. After a few seconds, Evelyn reaches for his hand.

She lays her free hand on her small bump before she looks at me, "Olivia, I'm sorry for all the pain I've caused you. You are my baby girl. I know you don't believe me, but I will always love your father." I wait for Xavier to growl, but it never comes. "We had an amazing life. Our family was perfect, and I don't regret a moment of my time with him or you and Connor. We were truly happy." She pauses for a moment before she turns toward Xavier.

"I love you, Xavier. You are my mate and nothing will change that, but a small part of me wishes you ne came to find me. A part of me wishes I was as strong as Olivia and walked away from you: Charles died because of our actions. Olivia hates me. My daughter hates me because I put our bond before my pups happiness," she cries.

"I don't hate you anymore, Evelyn. Don't get me wrong, for a very long time I hated you, but I had to let go of that anger for my own sanity. We will never have the relationship we did, but I intend on being in my little brother or sister's life." "I understand that, Olivia,

and I promise that if you decide to live in the pack, we won't bother you. You can see the pup as much as you want, but we won't force our way into your life," she says.

"Ace and I haven't decided where we will be living, but being around Connor, Becca, and our new sibling will definitely be discussed when we make our decision. Now that I'm back in control of my emotions, tell me exactly what the hell it means for me to be a guardian wolf?"

"Guardian wolves have silver fur, as you know. They are bigger than average wolves. In fact, most are almost as big if not bigger than an alpha wolf. The goddess creates special wolves for many different reasons. White wolves are blessed, red wolves are the goddess' earth-bound embodiment, silver wolves are guardians, and midnight wolves are the most powerful created. They can move between the realms and share powers with every supernatural that walks the earth," he says.

"If these midnight wolves are so powerful, then why the hell do they need a guardian?"
"Unlike other wolves who wait until they become adults to gain their wolf counterpart, the midnight wolf is born with theirs. They share every experience and are more in sync with one another than any other wolf. Midnight wolves are the rarest of our kind, which makes them a target for those seeking power," he says.

"Danica, did you know that this is what we were?" "I did, but I couldn't tell you until it was time. The goddess does everything for a reason, Oli. You have to know I would have told you if I could have," she says. I try not to be hurt by her keeping it from me, but I am. "Oli" she starts to say, but I focus my attention back on Xavier. "Does your witch friend know who the midnight wolf is or where to find them? Are they in danger? Should Danica and I be looking for them?"

Xavier smiles and, for the first time, it doesn't feel forced. "I believe the goddess led you to this pack because the midnight wolf will be born of a she-wolf here," he says. "Can't your witch friend tell you what the pup looks like? I thought she had visions. Seems she should be able to describe the pup I'm meant to protect." "The visions aren't perfect, and some parts are clearer than others. I've asked Miranda to come to the pack. She will be here in a few days to meet with you and Connor," he says."

My mother growls before she stands to her feet. I assume she is pissed about Xavier inviting another woman into the pack until she speaks. "You invited this woman without even talking to me. I may not be the Luna of this pack anymore, but I am still your mate. First you lie to me, and then you keep secrets from me about my own pup. Now you don't even talk to me about this woman coming here. I have no idea if she can be trusted around Olivia, Connor, or the pup in my womb. I don't care that she is your friend. I swear to the goddess that if anything happens to any of pups because you trusted this witch blindly, I will break our bond and leave without a second thought," she says.

She yanks her hand from his and moves to stand in front of me. “I know you don’t have to listen to me, Olivia, because you don’t consider me your mother anymore, but please make sure you don’t meet with this woman alone. Make sure Connor is with you” she says. “I will Evelyn. Why don’t you go rest? All this stress can’t be good for the pup.” She offers me a sad smile before she starts toward the door. “Evie” Xavier says as he stands. “Don’t follow me, I need some space,” she says.

Once she is gone, Xavier plops back down in his chair. His shoulders sag and he looks far from the uptight Alpha I’m used to him being. I should be reveling in his and Evelyn’s misery, but I can’t. I may not consider them my family anymore, but I’m not that angry teenage girl I once was, and I don’t want to be. Especially now that I know they are having a pup. My brother or sister deserves to know what it is to have a happy family like I did once.

“I know you have no reason to trust me after all that’s happened, Olivia, but I would never do anything to put you in danger.” “He isn’t lying, Oli. I can feel the truth in his answer, Danica says. “How could you possibly feel a truth?” “It is one of our gifts as a guardian wolf. We are like a living lie detector. We will also be able to tell if someone is a danger to the pup we are to protect,” she says.

“That will come in handy when we meet the witch. Even if Xavier believes she is good, that doesn’t mean she couldn’t be fooling him.” For a moment I feel regret flowing through me, but I quickly realize it’s not my emotions. “Oli, I’m sorry” Danica says. “You don’t have to be. I know you had to listen to the goddess even if it hurt me. I know you would never keep things from me if you had a choice. I’m not mad, Danica.” “I love you, Oli. I’m so glad the goddess chose you to be my human,” she says. “I love you too, Danica. Now we just have to figure out how to be a guardian and who we are meant to protect.”

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[1,651 words]

Ace POV

Olivia is quiet as we make our way back to the Beta floor. When we reach the door, she reaches for the handle, but I lay my hand on hers to stop her. Before I can say a word, she wraps her arms around my middle I do the same and hold her tightly to me. We both need this right now. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect what we heard in that

office. "I know this is a lot, Olivia, but I'm going to be with you every step of the way. We are in this together."

She pulls back, and her smile takes my breath away. "I really am sorry about bringing up the past, Ace. You're right about everyone else's choices affecting my life, but you had no idea we were mates. Xavier and my mother made choices that benefited them regardless of how much it hurt others. I never want you to feel like I think you are anything like them, because I don't," she says.

I press a kiss on her lips before pulling back to look into her eyes. "I love you, Olívia. I meant what I said about never truly knowing what love was before you. I never expected to feel the bond with you so strongly with me being human, but I do. The pull to be with you and to love you is like nothing I ever imagined. The tingles that dance on my skin every time we touch damn near takes my breath away. I promise you that I never thought you were lumping me in with Evelyn and Xavier. I never want you to hide how you feel from me."

I brush a piece of hair off her face before gripping the back of her neck with my hand. "I can't imagine what the connection will feel like when we are fully mated." Her cheeks pink and rub my thumb from my free hand across them. "I love to see your cheeks blush when I talk about making you mine completely." She opens her mouth, but before she can speak the door opens. Rain smiles as she steps into the hallway first, followed by Kevin.

"We are heading to our ultrasound so don't go far. We will be having breakfast with Becca and Connor to reveal the pup's gender. Della is watching cartoons in the living room," Rain says as she hugs Olivia and then me. I smirk when Olivia's eyes darken. I love how possessive my girls are of me. Wolves have a tendency to be jealous creatures, but I'm sure it's not helping that she hasn't marked me yet. Holy sh*t, I'm going to have Olivia's mark to show everyone that I am hers.

The excitement quickly fades when I realize I can't mark her. We will never share a complete bond because I'm human. When Candace refused to mark me because she felt it wasn't fair to have half the bond, it didn't bother me. At this moment though, knowing I won't share it with Olivia, guts me. Hands on my face brings me out of my thoughts. "What are you thinking about that has that look on your face? You were smiling one minute and looked like you lost your best friend the next.

"Oli, your back" Della squeals, effectively halting the conversation. "What am I chopped liver?" Della giggles as Olivia scoops her up. "You are so silly, daddy. I see you all the time," she says. "Well, now that daddy and Olivia are mates you'll see her all the time too." Della squeals as she squeezes her arms that are around Olivia's neck tighter. "Careful Della, don't hurt Olivia." "Sorry Oli," she says loosening her hold.

"You are fine, sweet pea. Your daddy is being silly," Olivia says. "Daddy, why do you call Oli, Olivia? She said her family and friends call her Oli. Aren't we her family now,"

Della asks. I smile reaching to take her from Olivia's arms. "It makes me feel special to call her Olivia. She has a beautiful name, and I'm the only one in our family that calls her by her full name. It's just like when I call you sweet pea. It makes me happy."

"Della, do you think that me, you, and daddy could talk about something important," Olivia asks before looking at me. I nod and Della, of course, is thrilled to talk. We have a seat on Rain's couch and I set Della between us. "Do you like living here, Della, in the pack?" "Yes, I have lots of friends. Plus this is where my nana, aunts, and uncles live. Are you going to live here with us now since you're going to be my mommy Della says.

I can see that Olivia is torn. "Olivia doesn't live in the pack sweet pea so we are trying to figure out if we should live with her or if she wants to move here with us. Either way, what matters is that we will be a family. If we decide to move to Olivia's house, you'll get to make new friends. So you'll have your friends here and your friends in our new home. Plus, we will always visit if we don't live here, so you can see nana and everyone else."

Olivia's eyes meet mine, and she mouths the word "thank you." "I tell you what Della. I have an idea. I'm a nurse in a big hospital in the human city. I have to give them a couple of weeks to replace me. While I do that, maybe you and daddy can stay with me in my house. You can stay in my old room that I used when I was a kid. Then, after a couple of weeks we will decide together where we are going to live."

"I think that sounds like a great idea. What do you think, sweet pea?" "Do you have toys in your room," she asks and Olivia and I both chuckle. "No, but I'm sure we can get some for you," Olivia says. "Ok we can stay at your house," Della says before she slides onto the floor and focuses on the cartoons. "We can head back to my house after we meet with you know who. I have a couple of days before I'm due back at the hospital. Oh, and don't think I forgot we didn't just finish our conversation. I want to know what caused that look on your face, but I can wait till we are alone" Olivia says before she moves closer, snuggling to my side.

Olivia POV

An hour later the door opens and Kevin steps inside. I expect him to be beaming after hearing what his pup is, but he looks like every bit of color has been drained from his face. I jump up from the couch, rushing toward him. "Hey what's wrong? Where is Rain?" "She is headed to the Alpha floor for breakfast. She asked me to come get you guys," he says. "Then why the hell do you look like you need a couple pints of blood?"

"I can't tell you anything. Rain threatened to never let me touch her again if I said a word without her there.

She wants to tell everyone together," he says. We follow Kevin to my brother's floor. Kevin leads us down a hallway, and I'm shocked by the beautiful dining room that sits at the end of the hall. I never really explored when I was here, but I didn't realize the floors for the ranked members are like little apartments.

Becca and Connor are already seated when we step inside the room. Rain is practically bouncing with excitement. We take our seats and omegas bring out trays of food. Once everything is on the table, we all look toward Kevin and Rain. "Alright, we are all here. Tell us what we are having, a niece or a nephew." Rain's smile gets even bigger and Kevin is smiling now too. "One of each" they say in unison. "Holy sh*t your having twins. Did you know before today?" "Mommy, you said a bad word" Della says, and I freeze.

I know she said she wanted me to be her mommy, but hearing her call me it has warmth spreading through my chest. Danica is preening in my mind at hearing her pup acknowledge us. I turn to her, fighting the tears that threaten to fall. "I'm sorry sweet pea. Did you hear that Aunt Rain and Uncle Kevin are having two pups."

"I'm going to help take care of them. I'll keep them safe," Della says. "You don't have to worry, Della, the pups will be safe in the pack," Kevin says.

I notice her look down, but just as quickly, she picks her head up with a big smile on her face. "I know Uncle Kevin, but I'm a big girl, so I have to protect the pups," she says. "Well, they are lucky to have you as part of their family Della" Rain says. The rest of breakfast we talk about the pups and our plans to stay in my hogi for a couple of weeks. I can see the disappointment on Becca's face, but it's quickly gone when I may have a possibility of us living in the pack.

I don't know if I'm ready to let go of the house that is my last connection to my father, but how can I rip Della away from the only home she has ever known? Besides the fact that I'm a guardian wolf and the pup is likely part of this pack. It only makes sense for us to live here. I swore I would never live here but I guess things change. I push the thoughts out of my mind for now. We have time to ke a decision. I just hope meeting with this witch doesn't turn out to be a mistake.

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c 34

[1,867 words]

Olivia POV

Ace leans in close as everyone chatters around us. He is close enough that I can feel his breath on my neck. "After breakfast I was wondering if we could take a walk. I'd like to meet Danica if she's up for it, he says. I can't see his smile, but I can feel it in his words. I smile knowing he is teasing my wolf.

“You had better say yes, Oli. I want to meet our mate in my form too,” she says. I can’t help but chuckle at how eager she is. “Of course you can meet him in your form. He is going to think you’re beautiful just like I do,” I say. “Danica would love that. She is very excited for you to see her in the flesh, so to speak.” “Bring our pup too. I want to see her with my own eyes,” Danica says.

“Danica wants us to bring Della. She wants the chance to bond with her.” “Right after breakfast,” he says before returning to his plate. A few minutes later Ace pulls his phone from his pocket. I can only hear one side of the conversation, but by the sounds of it, Amber is finally awake. He disconnects the call, shoving his last piece of toast in his mouth. I stand at the same time as he does. “Olivia, you aren’t finished. You should finish your breakfast. You can join me when you’re done,” he says.

“I’m full, besides I want to meet Amber.” “Can I go with you to see nana,” Della asks. I reach my hand out to her after checking her plate, and she jumps up to take it. We make our way through the pack house and I notice a few stares when Ace takes my free hand. I roll my eyes when I notice Ebony sitting with a group of women. Despite hoping we can make it outside without a scene, she stands and starts toward us.

“Ace, why don’t you take Della to the hospital? I’ll catch up with the two of you in a minute.” I can tell he wants to argue but thankfully he doesn’t. I don’t want Della to witness whatever is about to be said. “Alright” he says, pressing a quick kiss on my lips before heading for the door. Ebony tries to pass me to follow him, but I step in her way.

“What do you think you’re doing? I need to speak with Ace about something important,” she says. I growl and she takes a step back. “First, it’s Dr. Morris to you. Second, he is my mate. Third, you have nothing to talk to him about since you were fired.” She glares at me and I wait for whatever witty retort she is about to say.

“You think you’re special, but you’re just a half-breed. He deserves to be with someone like me. I have liked him since we were pups. From what I hear, you didn’t even know you were a wolf until you were seventeen. That’s pathetic,” she says. “Are you done?” She looks confused by my question.

“Your opinion of me doesn’t mean sh*t but just so you know this half-breed will be the one that Ace is buried inside of tonight. It will be my mark that adorns his beautiful skin. You will never have what is mine.”

“Now, if you don’t mind, I need to catch up with my mate and pup. Enjoy the rest of your sh**ty day.” I turn to leave but she grabs my arm. When I whirl on her, Danica is pushing to the surface. “I suggest, if you want to keep your hand you take it off me of what I did to you in the supply closet will seem like a love tap.” She releases her hold on me. She goes to open her mouth, but a low growl has her dropping her gaze to the floor.

I look up in time to see Xavier approaching us. "What the hell is going on here? Are you harassing another pack member, Ebony," he asks. I fight the urge to roll my eyes. "I was just heading to the hospital to check on Amber. Ebony was reminding me of how to get there."

She immediately lifts her head and looks at me confused. "Thanks again, Ebony," I say, before walking away from both of them. I don't need him fighting my battles. He can't undo all that's happened by trying to defend me now. Besides, I can defend myself. Hopefully, after we meet with the witch, he and Evelyn can just keep their distance if we decide to move to the pack.

I also hope Ebony got the message this time. Ten minutes later I'm stepping into the pack hospital. I wonder what it will be like to work here if we decide to stay in the pack. My mind goes back and forth with what I really want but now is not the time to focus on that.

"Can I help you miss," a feminine voice asks. I turn to see an older woman with kind eyes waiting for an answer. "I'm here to see Amber. I know where her room is but thank you." She nods, and I make my way toward her room.

When I reach the door, it's slightly cracked, so I can hear the conversation. Part of me wonders if I should give them privacy, but part of me wants to make sure that she truly is as kind as Ace said. I won't allow her to hurt my mate and pup. "I am so sorry, Ace. I should have been stronger," Amber says.

He takes her hand in his as Della climbs up beside her. "We will talk more when little ears aren't listening, but you have nothing to be sorry for, Amber. You have always been kind to me. You are not responsible for your husband's or daughters' actions." "Thank you, Ace. I hope now that Bart's gone you'll let me spend more time with Della," she says, holding my pup close to her side.

"Of course, you can spend time with her. I also want you to meet Olivia, my true mate," he says. "I can't believe Candace lied about you two being mates. I know you say I don't have to be sorry, but I don't know how else to feel when my daughter caused you so much pain," Amber says.

I figure now is as good a time as any to make my presence known. I knock before stepping inside. Della practically jumps off the bed before rushing toward me. "Mommy, come meet nana" she says, grabbing my hand and pulling me toward Amber's bed. "Mommy" Amber whispers.

I expect her to be angry that Della is calling me mommy but instead she smiles. "You must be Olivia. I'm Amber Ace's." She stops herself from finishing. "Ace's mother-in-law and Della's nana. I'm Olivia. It's very nice to finally meet you. I'm glad you're feeling better."

A tear runs down her cheek as she offers me her hand. "It's nice to meet you. I'm glad that Ace found you. He and Della deserve to be happy after all my daughter put them through." It's strange when the strength of her

words washes over me. "Danica, what the hell was that?" "That's the power of perception I told you about.

That is the feeling we will have when someone is being truthful," she says.

"Are you alright, Olivia," Amber asks, her voice laced with concern. "I'm fine. I'm just glad that you're alright. You gave everyone quite the scare yesterday." "No one has told me anything. Did you figure out why I passed out. I assume part of it was because I rejected Bart," she says. Ace looks at me and then down at Della.

"Ace, why don't I take Della for a walk while you talk to Amber about her blood work." He smiles before he rounds the bed and press a kiss on my lips. Della giggles and I scoop her up in my arms. I lean her down so she can kiss Amber before I take her hand and give it a squeeze. "We won't be long."

Ace POV

As soon as the door is closed, I turn to face Amber. How anyone could harm such a sweet woman I'll never know. "Based on your expression, it must be pretty bad. Am I dying," she says, attempting humor. "Hey that's not funny Amber." "Ace, I have just rejected my mate who has been a ba**ard most of our mateship. I have two daughters who are despicable wolves. You have a new mate. She isn't going to want your fake mate's mother around, and I don't blame her. I might be better off," she says.

"Did you hear anything that Olivia or I just said to you? She wants you around Amber. We all do. I don't care if Candace is a b**ch and no longer my wife. You will always be my mother-in-law. Now I don't want to hear you say such things again. We are family and nothing is going to change that."

I take a deep breath just about to tell her that the man the goddess chose for her has been poisoning her when the door to the room bangs open and two people I had hoped not to see again walk in. "Mom, oh my goddess, what happened," Candace asks with faux concern. She rushes over to the side of Amber's bed while Collette stands stock still by the door. What the hell are they doing here? Does Connor know they are here?

I close my eyes and reach out to Connor through the Alpha link. "Connor, Candace and Collette are here." "I'm sorry I should have linked you. They showed up at the gates demanding to see their mother. I have no idea who from the pack told them, but I couldn't deny their request. However, if Amber wants them to leave you have my permission to call the guards" he says. "Alright, thank you," I say and cut the link.

When I open my eyes Candace is staring at me. “I assume you were checking with Alpha Connor about us being here.” she says smugly. I ignore her comment. “Amber, do you want me to give you privacy or do you want me to stay while these two are here?” “These two, how dare you speak about me like I’m beneath you. You are the human, remember. I dumped you for someone better. So don’t act all high and mighty because you found your mate,” she says.

“Enough Candace. You will not speak to my son that way,” Amber says. “He isn’t your son anymore. He is nothing to you. I am your daughter,” she says. “You stopped being my daughter when you turned into a conniving mean-spirited woman who lied about being mates with Ace and abandoned my grand pup,” she says, offering me her hand.

I take it as she turns back toward Candace and Collette. “The two of you can leave. I have my family right here,” she says, motioning to our joined hands. Candace looks like her head is about to explode and I can’t help but smile that she is getting exactly what she deserves.

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cc 35

[1,816 words]

Olivia POV

As we make our way back toward Amber’s room, a scent I had hoped not to smell again invades my nose. I scoop Della up and make my way toward the door. As soon as I’m outside, I can hear raised voices. I debate whether to take Della back to the pack house or go inside. “The two of you can leave. I have my family right here,” Amber says.

I smile knowing they need to see that we are her family. Della and I, the ones they feel, are half-breeds. I push the door open. When I step inside, all eyes turn toward me.

I cross the room to stand next to Ace, who wraps his arm around me. “Why is she holding my pup,” Candace says through gritted teeth. “She is Ace’s mate which means she is also Della’s mom, now. I’m not sure why you care since you left to be with Alpha Roman,” Amber says. Candace opens her mouth but shuts it just as quickly.

“I believe that Amber told you both to leave. Honestly, I’m not sure why my brother thought it was a good idea to allow you into the territory, because your mother has made it perfectly clear that neither of you have been kind to her. So you can either leave on your own or we can have the guards come escort you out of pack lands.” “Who the hell do you think you are? You aren’t even part of this pack.”

“Wrong, you two aren’t part of this pack anymore. You left to become Roman’s Luna and you have been banished. I’ve been part of this pack since I was seventeen. Now it’s time for you both to leave. Amber needs to rest.” The door opens and two guards step inside. “Please escort Candace and Collette out of the territory.”

“You have no authority rogue. This isn’t your family. That is my mother and my pup. Despite what he’s told you, Ace will always want me. He will always love me. You are just a fill in since he can no longer have me,” Candace says. A low growl fills the room. My heart starts to race when I realize I not only heard the growl but felt it. “How dare you growl at me? I am a Luna,” Candace says, assuming I’m the one that growled.

“You aren’t the Luna here. Now it’s time for you to leave.” “Fine, I’ll leave, but I’m taking my pup with me,” she says. “I’m not your pup anymore,” Della says, and I swear her voice is deeper. The room goes completely quiet.

“You don’t mean that, Della” Candace says, taking a step toward us. “Yes, I do. Mommies don’t leave.

Mommies are nice and make you feel special. Oli is my mommy.” I motion to the guards as I hold Della a little tighter.

The guard grabs Candace and drags her toward the door. “This isn’t over, Della is my pup,” she says. This time it is me that growls. She will touch my pup over my dead body. When the door closes, Ace reaches for Della. “I’m so sorry,” Amber starts to say, but I reach for her hand. “You have nothing to be sorry for. My brother, however, needs a swift kick in the a** for letting them into the pack.” “Mommy said a bad word again,” Della says.

I look back at Della but it’s the fear in Ace’s eyes that has me moving toward him. “Della, why don’t we go see Aunt Becca?” I turn back to Amber. “We will be back later to check on you, but if you need us you let the nurses know to call Ace. I don’t care what time it is, Amber, you call.” “Why do I feel like you care more about me than my own daughters really do,” she asks. I lean down and hug her. “Blood does not make family.”

Della and Ace hug her before we head back to the pack house. I’m grateful when no one stops us as we make our way back to Connor’s office after we drop Della off with Melissa, who I really like. I knock and a few seconds later a disheveled looking Becca opens the door. I smirk at her and her face flames red.

“If you’re busy, we can come back later.” “No, come in. We were just having an argument,” she says. I raise my eyebrows. “Fine, we were making up after an argument,” she says. I follow behind her and Ace closes the door. “Why were you arguing?” “She gave me hell for letting Collette and Candace step foot into the pack. I’m sorry Oli, Ace. I let the past cloud my judgment. I thought about the pain of losing dad. I thought about how angry you were and how you could have sent me away before I got

to say goodbye, but you didn't. I let myself believe they actually cared about what was happening to Amber," he says.

I hate the pain and sadness I see in my brother's eyes. I round his desk and lean down to wrap my arms around his neck. "Now how am I supposed to yell at you for letting b**ch one and b**ch two into the pack when you apologize before I get the chance." He laughs as he squeezes me tighter. "Connor, I understand why you did what you did, but Candace made a comment while being dragged away about taking Della. I can't lose my pup," Ace says. I release Connor to turn back toward Ace. "She will never take our pup," I say my voice a mix of mine and Danica's.

He pulls me into his arms and a wave of guilt washes over me. Candace has left him and Della alone for a year. Now that he has found me, she wants Della. Why does she care that I'm in the picture? She obviously doesn't love Ace or Della. What is her problem? Is she really this petty to try and hurt Ace for moving on?

"Olivia" Ace says my name and, by the tone, I don't think it's the first time. "I'm sorry I didn't hear what you said." "Tell me what you were just thinking about so hard that you didn't hear me while I'm holding you in my arms," he says.

"Why does she all of a sudden want Della? Is it because we are mates? Does she still want you or does she just not want you with me?" Lust and anger swirl in his eyes as he pulls my body flush with his. "I don't give a f**k what her problem is. You are mine, Olivia. I'm never letting you go" he says. A throat clearing has Becca giggling. I turn in Ace's arms to face Connor.

"As glad as I am that you two are mates, you are still my little sister, so let's keep it PG in my presence," Connor says. "Really, after the number of times, I've caught you and Becca. It's payback time." Becca giggles again and Connor has the good sense to look embarrassed.

"Anyway, I assure you both that she has no right to Della. Xavier is meticulous when it comes to pack paperwork. Before Candace left, he ensured she would not be able to return for Della if she abandoned her. I have the document she signed giving up her right to claim her," he says. A feeling of relief washes over me and I can feel Ace relax behind me.

"Now I know you two plan on returning to Oli's home for a couple of weeks, but we have just finished construction on a house that I had built next to the pack house. I think it would be perfect for you guys, but there is no pressure. As much as I would love to have you here, Oli, the decision is yours and Ace's, but if you want to see it just let me know," he says. I walk over and press a kiss on his cheek. "I will. Thank you, Connor."

I hug Becca before Ace and I leave the office.

Ace POV

I can't believe that Candace would even suggest she would take Della from me. She doesn't even want our daughter. I know Olivia's right, but why? Why doesn't she want me to move on? Why doesn't she want me to be happy? She left me. Hearing Connor say that she signed her rights away gave me a sense of peace but also a feeling of sadness. She has no connection to our pup if she could so easily give up her rights to her. When we step into the hallway, I pull Olivia into my arms.

I press my lips against hers and kiss her like she is the air I need to breathe. I don't ever want her to think about leaving me because of Candace's threats. I can't live without her. When we break the kiss, I press my forehead against hers. "You are mine, Olivia. I don't care what the hell Candace says I will not let you go." She goes to open her mouth and I press another kiss on her lips.

"Promise me that you will never sacrifice your own happiness again Olivia. We are in this together. Promise me that you will lean on me just like I plan on leaning on you." "I promise. Leaving you was never a thought in my mind, Ace. I just hate that she is trying to hurt you because of me," she says. "The only thing that would hurt me would be losing you and Della. Now should we go grab our daughter, so I can meet my beautiful wolf mate?" Her eyes darken, and I smile, knowing that Danica is excited to meet me.

A few minutes later we make our way to the clearing that is currently covered in wild flowers. Della is practically bouncing out of her shoes with excitement. "Alright, you two turn around," Olivia says but winks at me. Does she want me to look? Goddess, that's not a good idea right now. I turn fighting the urge to peak at the woman that is mine. A low growl has me turning around to come face to face with the most beautiful wolf I've ever seen.

Della rushes over, wrapping her arms around Danica's leg. Danica bends so I can reach her head. I run my hand through her silver fur that feels like silk. The same tingles that I feel with Olivia I feel with Danica. When Della steps back, Danica lies down in front of us. Della starts to climb onto Danica's back and I smile. I sit in front of her, and she rests her head on my leg. I press a kiss on her snout. She purrs like a cat and I can't help but chuckle. Life is never going to be boring with either of my mates.

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c 36

[1,682 words]

Olivia POV

Watching Danica play with our pup has my heart feeling full. I never expected to have this. I had adjourned to the fact that Ace and I were never going to happen, but here we are. Little feet tickle our ribs as Della begins to climb on our back. I'm a little shocked when Danica stands after Della has her hands dug into our fur.

"What are you doing?" "Our pup wants to run. She wants to know what it will be like when she shifts," she says like the answer is obvious. "I don't think that's a good idea, Danica. What if she falls off? She is too young to be trusted to hold on tight. She could be hurt if she falls."

"I won't go fast. I'll trot. Besides, I would never let anything happen to our pup, Oli," she says. "I know you wouldn't intentionally let anything happen Danica. That is why it is called an accident. She is too little. She is only a pup. I know you want to give her what she wants, but sometimes the answer has to be no to protect her. We have to be the voice of reason even if it disappoints her."

"Spoken like a true mother. Sweet pea, we can't run today, but-I promise someday soon we will," Danica says in our mind. I'm just about to tell her that Della can't hear her speak when Della answers her. "You promise mommy." It's Della's voice but a little deeper. Just like she sounded at the hospital. My heart starts to race. Why would she be able to link us? She is too young to have a wolf.

My mind wanders back to the hospital when I swear she growled at Candace. I know I felt the rumbling in her chest as I held her close. "Danica, tell me what the hell all this means." "You know what it means, Oli. You have to be brave and say it," Danica says. "Della is the midnight wolf."

I swear I feel like I can't breathe. My pup is the midnight wolf. The one that will be sought out for power. The one that will need to be protected from those that want to use her. No one will hurt her. "No they won't. You need to breathe Oli. The goddess chose us to be her mother as much as she chose us to be Ace's mate. We will protect her with our lives," Danica says. I wish it were that easy.

How am I supposed to tell Ace this? He just found out he has a wolf mate. Then he found out that I'm a guardian wolf. Now I have to tell him our daughter is to be the most powerful wolf to walk the earth. That is more than a little bit much to take. "Della knows how to keep Amethyst's existence a secret. Don't forget they have been together since her birth. Her wolf is able to keep her scent masked to protect her identity. We can only share this with the people we trust Oli," she says.

"What about the wolf Danica? She will be here tomorrow. What if she isn't what Xavier thinks she is? What if she wants Della's power?" "Then we will know. We will use our powers to discern her real intention before she can breathe the same air as our daughter" she says. I have a thousand questions running through my mind.

“Can she shift?” “She hasn’t yet, but Amethyst wants to try. She wants you and Ace to be there when it happens. She is scared but she knows she’ll be brave if we are with her,” she says. How can such a young pup shift? I remember how painful the whole experience was, and I was almost an adult. Panic washes over me.

“Is this why that b**ch wants her so badly now? Could she know? Could someone have told them about the midnight wolf?” There is a moment of silence and I wonder why Danica isn’t answering me which is doing nothing to quell the fear bubbling up in me. I won’t let that b**ch touch my pup.

“No, she doesn’t know. She is just a big meanie Amethyst says. She doesn’t want Ace to move on. She wants him to be alone. Even though she has left him, she doesn’t want you to have him. In other words, she is a spoiled b**ch who doesn’t want her toy, but she doesn’t want anyone else to have it, Danica says with a growl.

“How does Amethyst know all this?” “Her powers far outreach ours Oli. She can sense thoughts and feelings. She knew what she was thinking in the hospital today. She was practically screaming it in her mind. She only wanted to take Della to hurt Ace. To punish him for choosing you. She never really wanted a pup and that hasn’t changed,” Danica says. I pray I get the chance to beat her a** for the pain she has caused Ace and Della.

“We need to shift back Danica. I have to talk to Ace. He needs to know everything. I won’t keep anything from him.” “I would expect no less. He is our mate and as much of a protector to our pup as we are,” she says before she relinquishes control. We lie down and Della hops off. Her easy smile eases some of the tension,

Without a second thought, I shift back. Della giggles before she turns away from me. Ace’s eyes don’t leave me as I reach down and quickly dress. As soon as I’m dressed, he walks toward me. He pulls me into his arms and presses a kiss on my lips. “You are beautiful, Oli. I’d like to lie and say I thought about turning around, but I won’t ever lie to you. I couldn’t take my eyes off you,” he whispers.

A shiver runs down my spine. “As much as I can’t wait for a time when little eyes aren’t watching, we have a lot to discuss. Can you take us someplace private? Maybe your cottage.” Worry flashes in his eyes. He offers his hand to Della before he takes mine. He leads us down the path, but this time he leads us away from the pack house. It doesn’t take long for us to reach a small cottage. It’s cute with blue shudders and a wrap-around porch.

It’s a place I can see myself living, though I’m sure if we decide to have more pups we will need something a little bit bigger. I push those thoughts a side and focus on how the hell to tell Ace everything I just learned.

He releases my hand and steps onto the porch. He quickly unlocks the door and we all step inside. I smile when I see pictures of Della on every wall. "Daddy, can I go play with my toys," Della asks, and I wonder if Amethyst told her to give us privacy.

When Della looks toward me and her eyes are black, I have my answer. I forgot that Danica said she can hear thoughts. That is definitely not good. She is too young to be hearing some of my thoughts about Ace. "Olivia,

what happened? One minute everything seemed perfect and the next you looked panicked," he says. "We need to talk about Della."

"What about Della?" "Maybe we should sit down for what I have to tell you." "Olivia, just tell me. You are freaking me out" he says. I decide to just blurt it out. "Della is the midnight wolf." He stares at me like he's never seen me before. I wonder what he is thinking, but it doesn't take long when he throws his head back and laughs.

"That isn't funny, Olivia. You had me going for a minute. Now tell me what really happened," he says. I don't speak, just giving him a minute to really think about what I said. Even if we aren't bonded, he knows I would not make a joke about our pup.

"You're serious. It can't be. It makes more sense for your mother's pup or one of Rain's pups to be the midnight wolf. Della is half human. Besides, Candace wasn't even a ranked wolf," he says as he starts to pace. Danica growls and Ace's head snaps toward me. "Did you just growl at me?" "You're damn right I did. I'm half human and your human. Do you think that makes us less than because last time I checked I'm a guardian wolf?"

Ace POV

"Of course, it doesn't make you less than, I'm just confused about how this could be happening. I've sever

seen even a hint that Della has a wolf, isn't that what Xavier said? He said the midrige wolf is sways with its human. Wouldn't I have noticed? What kind of father wouldn't have notice? On steps in front of me and grips my face in her hands.

"Don't think I didn't notice you didn't include that you aren't less than in your statement, but we will table that discussion for now. Second, Della's wolf is very powerful. I had no idea the even existed until she spoke to Danica," she says. "What do you mean?" "She linked Danica. Since we are essentially two souls in one body unless she blocks me I can hear her thoughts. I heard Amethyst answer Danica when Danica told her we couldn't run with her on our back," she says.

Holy f**k, how can this be real? "Amethyst" I whisper her name like a prayer. I shuffle through memories. trying to recall if Della ever spoke about Amethyst and I assumed

she was imaginary, but she didn't, not once. "Yes, daddy," she says in my head, and I stumble back.

My breathing quickens and panic overwhelms me. My daughter is the midnight wolf. How am I going to keep her safe? "Silly daddy, you are stronger than you think," she says with a giggle. Olivia wraps her arms around me and I immediately pull her close. I bury my nose in her hair and breathe in her scent. Goddess help me keep it together.

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[1,659 words]

Ace POV

"Are you ready to meet Amethyst Ace? I think that Della is on the stairs waiting to come back down," Olivia says to me. I pull back panicked. "Do you mean, like I just met Danica?" She smiles and it instantly calms me. "She hasn't shifted yet but Amethyst wants to try soon. I think we should wait until after the witch leaves," she says. I nod and she turns calling Della to come. A few seconds later my sweet little girl steps back into the room.

"Hi daddy, are you mad at me," she asks. I crouch down so we are eye to eye. "No sweet pea. I'm not mad at all. I'm sorry that I didn't realize you had a wolf. I feel like I should have realized it before now." "You weren't supposed to daddy. It was supposed to stay a secret until we found our guardian," she says, reaching for Olivia's hand. She reaches her other hand out to me. "Now that we are a family, Amethyst says she doesn't need to stay a secret anymore," she says.

"Can Amethyst talk to you now, daddy," she asks. "Of course, she is my pup too." A few seconds later I'm staring into eyes that match the color of my pup's name. "Amethyst, your eyes are beautiful." "Thank you daddy. I'm so glad you finally know about me. I'm sorry I couldn't tell you before, but the moon goddess said that Della couldn't tell anyone, especially Candace," she says.

It's strange to hear Candace's name come out of Della's mouth, but giving birth doesn't make you a mother, so I understand her need to not call her mommy. "Well, I'm glad you could tell me now. I love you just like I love Della." She smiles before she launches herself at me. I hold her tight. "I love you too, daddy," she says.

When she releases me, she walks over to Olivia. She reaches her arms up and Olivia bends to scoop her up in her arms. "The goddess is proud of you mommy. She said that

the sign of true love is to put someone else's happiness before your own. You loved daddy and us so much that you left. She said you are very brave. You won't ever leave us again, right," Amethyst asks, her voice sounding like a mixture of hers and Della's.

I smile because the goddess is absolutely right. Olivia is amazing. "I will never leave you, Della, or daddy again. You are my pups and daddy is my mate," she says. My heart beats a little faster hearing her promise our pups to never leave. I still can't believe the goddess chose me to be her mate. "Can we tell the rest of the family about me now? The goddess says it's alright." I notice Olivia's body stiffen. Before she even speaks, Amethyst smiles at her.

"I mean Uncle Connor and Kevin and Aunt Becca and Rain" she says. "How" I say and Amethyst turns toward.

"She can hear thoughts and feel emotions. Amethyst, there are some things that you shouldn't hear when adults are thinking," Olivia says. I notice her cheeks flush and I fight the urge to smile. "I'll only listen if I need to mommy. I didn't mean to be bad," she says. A pit forms in my stomach. Why would either of my pups think that they are bad? I've never used those words.

"Hey sweet pea. You are never bad. There are just some things that are for adult ears only. Why would you think you were bad," Olivia asks. I move closer so I can see Della's face. I know without a shadow of a doubt that they are answering together when I see one eye is purple and one is ocean blue. "Candace said that we were bad a lot when she was around," they say.

I tighten my fists at my side. I have never wanted to hit a woman in my life, but I'm glad she isn't in front of me because I might not be able to stop myself. How dare she hurt my daughters? A low growl has the girls giggling as they wrap their arms around Olivia's neck. Her eyes meet mine and they flash black. Danica is just as pissed as Olivia. She takes a couple of deep breaths before she presses a kiss on Della's forehead.

"You are never bad. You two are the most special pups on the planet and not because you are the midnight wolf but because you are mine and daddy's pups," she says. She sets Della on her feet. Olivia's eyes glaze over and a few seconds later she smiles. "Hey Della Bella, Aunt Becca wants to know if you want to have a sleepover tonight, if it's alright with daddy," Olivia asks before looking at me. "You don't need my permission, love. You are her mother. If you say yes, then it's fine with me as long as Della wants to." She smiles as Della bounces up and down singing about a sleepover.

We both chuckle. "Alright sweet pea, go pack your overnight bag. Then we can go see Aunt Becca." Once she is out of sight I step into Olivia's space. I wrap my arm around her waist, pulling her body flush with mine. "I think my best friend, your sister, is trying to give us some time alone. As much as I love her for it, I don't want you to feel pressured."

A smile spreads across her face and, despite my efforts to keep myself under control, my c**k twitches behind the seam of my jeans. She leans in, so her mouth is near my ear. "I asked her to take Della, Ace. I'm not interested in waiting. I am yours and you are mine. After tonight, we will be bonded and nothing but death will separate us," she says. I slam my lips down on hers, needing her to feel exactly what her words do to me.

After a few minutes, the sound of little feet on the stairs has us pulling apart. I keep my arm around Olivia's waist, not ready to let her go, and offer my free hand to Della. We make our way back toward the pack house, which only takes about five minutes. When we reach Connor's office, everyone is already waiting inside. Della squeals before taking off toward Becca.

Becca peppers her face with kisses before she sets her back on her feet. We take our seat on the couch as Della continues to bounce around the room hugging everyone. I smile knowing that despite what she is, she is still a happy little girl. "So, I know you must have something important to tell us since you asked that we all be here, but Becca and I figured this would be a good time to share with our family that we are having a pup," Connor says.

Olivia squeals, jumping up off the couch and rushes over to Becca. I stand and make my way over. I'm happy for the two of them. "Congratulations" I say, pulling Becca in for a hug before bro-hugging Connor. "How far a long are you," Olivia asks. "Just a few weeks. We aren't going to tell anyone else until I'm a little farther but I couldn't keep it from you guys," Becca says.

"Now what did you need to talk to us about," Connor asks. "Della, do you want to tell them?" "Yes, please" she says, taking off her little book bag and setting it on the floor. She closes her eyes and a few seconds later when they open, Amethyst is in control. Becca stumbles back. Connor looks like he saw a ghost. Rain is smiling from ear to ear and Kevin just keeps opening and closing his mouth. "I'm Amethyst," she says.

"Holy sh*t" Connor finally blurts out. "Uncle Connor, that's a bad word," Amethyst says. His eyes blink before he looks at me. "Our pup is the midnight wolf." Becca kneels in front of Amethyst. She stares at her for a long pause before she pulls her in for a hug. Once she lets her go, the others hug her too. "We can't tell anyone else yet. The goddess will let me know when it's time to reveal myself to someone. Until then, to protect Della and all of you, it has to be a secret," Amethyst says.

There are nods all around the room. Everyone seems to be stunned to answer in words. "I'm going to give Della back control, but we are both excited about the sleepover. Can we watch movies and have icecream," Amethyst asks. "Of course we can. Whatever flavor you like," Becca says. Della's eyes return to their beautiful blue, and she rushes over to hug me first and then Olivia. "Are you ready, Della? Uncle Kevin and I will take you to get into your pj's while mommy and daddy finish talking to Uncle Connor and Aunt Becca.

She waves at us before she leaves with Kevin and Rain. “Holy sh*t” Connor says again and I can’t stop the chuckle. “I felt the same way when Olivia told me.” Connor looks at Olivia who retells everything that happened when we were in the clearing. “I’m not sure if I really want the witch here now that I know Della is the midnight wolf. I don’t really care if Xavier trusts her,” Connor says. “I agree,” Becca says.

I look toward Olivia. “Danica thinks we should meet with her. We won’t let Della be there, but with our gift we will be able to tell what her true intentions are. It’s better to know our enemies. If she has been using her relationship with Xavier to get close to the midnight wolf, then she needs to be dealt with now as opposed to allowing her to continue to be a threat to our pup,” Olivia says. Holy sh*t that was f**king hot. Thank the goddess for sleepovers.

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