

# **My Promised Rejection**

## **chapter 41-50**

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[ 1,993 words ]

Candace POV

“I just don’t understand why, all of a sudden, you are pushing this Candace. I have made it perfectly clear that I will never claim a pup that isn’t mine,” he says. I refuse to allow Ace and that b\*\*ch to live happily ever after. I don’t want Della, but I can give her to one of the omegas to raise. Hell, since I’m expected to have a pup for Roman, I plan to have a nanny around the clock. I never wanted to be a mother. It was just a way to make sure I got what I wanted. Hell, I even poked holes in the damn condoms to make sure I ended up pregnant.

“I agree she wouldn’t be announced as our pup, but at least I can see her grow up Roman. I didn’t realize how much I would miss her. Besides when she becomes of age she could be useful for solidifying relationships with other packs. Many Alpha’s like to take chosen mates or mistresses.” A smile spreads across his face. “I knew you would make the perfect Luna. I’ll call Alpha Connor and demand a meeting,” he says.

“I want to go. I want to see Ace’s face when he falls apart because he loses his pup.” “Of course, my Luna,” he says. He picks up the phone and a few seconds later I can only hear Roman’s side of the conversation. “Alpha Connor, my Luna and I are requesting a meeting with you and your Luna.” His eyes darken, and I can only imagine the disrespect of that pr\*ck, Connor.

“No, this has nothing to do with the alliance. It is something far more important than some silly alliance. I expect the formal request to be honored as is expected in werewolf law, Alpha Connor.” He smiles and leans back in his chair. “I assure you that we have no intentions of causing problems in your pack. This visit is of a personal nature,” he says.

“Good, we will see you tomorrow at noon,” Roman says. When he hangs up, I can’t stop the smile that spreads across my face. I stand from my chair and round the desk. Roman pulls me onto his lap and slams his lips

down on mine. I kiss him back, but there is no spark between us. When he moans into my mouth, I know what’s coming. He stands with me in his arms and slams my chest down onto the desk.

I make no move to stop him when he flips my skirt up and rips my panties from my body. I picture it's Ace behind me as he runs his fingers through my folds. I can feel myself starting to get wetter when I imagine it's Ace's c\*\*k nudging my entrance. Human or not, Ace was always an animal in bed. He knew how to turn my body inside out. I miss those days. Lack luster s\*x is the price I've paid for becoming a Luna.

When Roman thrust forward, he wraps his arm around my waist and starts to rub my cl\*t. I focus on enjoying the sensation and the idea of Ace's rough hands on my body. I can feel my org\*sm building as he continues to pound into me. "That's it little wh\*re, take my b\*g c\*\*k" he growls. Big is a stretch, but I moan hoping it will get him there quicker. Praying that he won't continue to talk and ruin the fantasy.

A few more pumps, and we are both falling over the edge. Thank goddess for fantasies, or I'd never get there. He pulls himself from my body and right's my skirt. He spins me taking my lips once more. "Every time is better than the last with you, my love. I'm a lucky ba\*\*ard to have found such an amazing Luna." "I'm the lucky one Roman. I've never felt this way before. You are the love of my life" I say, fighting the urge to laugh as he pulls me into his arms.

I thought alphas were supposed to be smart, not gullible. When I pull back, he presses a kiss on my forehead before I head for the door. Once I'm in the hallway, I head right to our room. I pray this is the time that gets me pregnant, I'm hoping once that happens he'll find his pleasure elsewhere. Maybe after I get Della taken away I can convince Ace to be my lover so he can see her.

I smile as I make my way to our room. I step inside and strip out of my clothes. Once I'm showered, I pull my hair into a ponytail and pull on a new dress. My phone ringing pulls my attention away from the mirror, I smile when Ebony's name flashes on the screen. "Tell me that b\*\*ch found you two f\*\*king," I say before she can even say hello.

"Candace, I can't even get close to him. They are like joined at the hip. When I saw them this morning in the dining room, I noticed that Ace was marked," she says. I snap the eyeliner pencil I have in my hand. That f\*\*king b\*\*ch marked the man that is mine. My wolf growls feeling just as pissed. How dare that b\*\*ch mark him? "There has to be a time you can get them apart. Use Della if you have to."

There is silence for a long pause. "What do you mean use Della," she asks. "I mean see if you can get her to pull that b\*\*ch away from Ace or get one of the nurses to say there is an emergency. Just get him alone. Being marked she will feel the betrayal the minute he f\*\*ks you." "Fine, I'll try to get him alone" she says. "Ebo ny, just remember this is one and done. He is still mine, and I plan on making sure he doesn't forget."

"What the hell are you talking about? You are mated to Alpha Roman. Even if Ace would f\*\*k you which I highly doubt Roman would kill you for cheating" she says. "I have my ways of keeping Roman from finding out when I need a good d\*\*king. No one f\*\*ks like Ace. Just remember what I said Ebony. I would hate to end our friendship

permanently.” “I have no intention of falling in love Candace. I still have a mate out there. I just want to give him a try so you don’t have to get your panties in a twist,” she says.

I growl and she laughs before she cuts the call. I throw the eyeliner in the garbage and finish putting on my make-up. I head back into my room and grab my jewelry box off the dresser. I take the small key I wear around my neck and open the lock. I smile when I see the baggies of white powder. Roman won’t know a thing, I say to myself before closing the lid.

Olivia POV

My head is spinning, and I’m not sure about anything except the fact that we need to keep the council out of the pack. At least Xavier was honest about that much. “Miranda, how long will you be staying?” “I can be here as long as you need me to, Olivia” she says. “Ace, Della, and I were supposed to stay at my home in the human city for a couple of weeks while we figure out where we want to live.” “You won’t be living here” she asks, shock clearly written on her features.

“We hadn’t decided. I never expected to make this place my home. After everything that happened with my dad, I swore I would never live here. It has held a lot of bad memories for me, but honestly, now being bonded to Ace and having a pup that will likely have a wolf one day, I’m leaning toward remaining in the pack if that’s what Ace wants. I still have to go back to quit my job, but I’m sure I can work in the hospital here.”

She smiles and the more time I spend around her, the more I feel that, despite whatever happened to her in the past, she is here to help. I won’t let my guard down, and I’m not ready to trust her, but I think someday I might. “I think remaining in the pack is a good idea since the likelihood is the midnight wolf will be born this pack. It is why your mate is here. The goddess needed to bring you here. I know it’s hard to hear, but everything happens for a reason,” she says.

The sadness from earlier is back in her eyes. I’m about to ask her again about her past when she speaks. “Olivia, if you plan to return to the human city even for a short period, you need to be careful. The council isn’t the only one that knows of the midnight wolf. There are other supernaturals who want to ensure that such a powerful wolf doesn’t take control of the your world. Despite being powerful in their own right, they fear what such a being could do to the power balance,” she says.

Great, now I don’t only have to worry about the council but other supernaturals. “Can you be more specific when you say supernaturals?” She smiles before reaching for my hand. When our skin touches, it’s like flashcards in my mind. Vampires, fairies, elves, and witches appear and disappear. What the f\*\*k? When the images fade, new ones appear. Miranda on the ground sobbing as Xavier stands over a bassinet.

The connection is broken as she rips her hands from mine. “How” she whispers. “What was that?” “Please don’t ask me, Olivia. I told you before until Xavier man’s up I can’t talk about the past with you. Besides, just as yours is painful for you, mine is for me,” she says. She stands and I do the same.

“When you return from the human city, contact me, and I’ll come back to the pack. All I ask is that I be provided a cottage away from the pack house. I can’t deal with Evelyn’s anger even if it’s justified. She is just directing it at the wrong person,” she says with a smile. “Thank you Miranda. I’ll make sure Connor makes the arrangements.” “Thank you, Olivia” she says. I almost jump on the couch when she fades until she is gone. Holy sh\*t, my life is crazy.

A pounding on the door takes my attention away from the woman who just disappeared before my eyes. I open the door and Evelyn is standing there. “Olivia, I know you’re busy, but I need to talk to the witch,” she says. “First, her name is Miranda. Second, you need to talk to Xavier. He has whatever answers you need. You are not going to badger this woman to give you answers that your mate owes you. She isn’t the enemy. Go ask your mate his secrets.” She takes a deep breath before she bursts into tears.

F\*\*k, is my only thought. As if by magic, Xavier appears at her side. He glares at me, but I quickly put him in his place. “This is your doing. You are keeping secrets which are driving your mate nuts. Be a man and own whatever sh\*t you did. Miranda is not going to be subjected to bulls\*t because you don’t want to face whatever the f\*\*k happened.” I can see he isn’t happy, but he finally nods. “Come on Evie, we need to talk,” he says as he ushers Evelyn away from the door. My shoulders sag in relief. I swear it’s not even dinner, and I’m exhausted. I need to find Ace and Della. I need them right now. Hell who am I kidding? I need them all the time.

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

[ 1,721 words ]

Evelyn POV

As soon as we step out of the office, Xavier tries to wrap his arm around me, but I pull away. I feel like I did five years ago when everything fell apart. This is my punishment for abandoning Charles.

I gave up everything for this man, and he is keeping things from me. “Evie, please” he says, but my steps don’t falter as we make our way through the pack house to our new wing. I step inside and move to sit in a large chair in the corner, so he can’t sit next to me.

I place my hand on my bump, needing to remind myself to try and breath if not for me than for my pup. I can't lose her. Losing Olivia breaks me more every day. Hell, Connor hasn't stopped seeing me as a mother, but our relationship has suffered because of my choices. I look up into the eyes of the man I have loved for the last five years. I see fear and sadness as he makes no move to sit. Without warning, he comes to kneel at my feet.

My wolf whimpers, but I can't let her give into him right now. She would forgive him anything. She only wants her mate. I won't give in until he tells me what the hell he has been keeping from me. He reaches for my hands, but I refuse to let him use the bond against me right now. "Evie, please. I love you," Xavier says. "You don't keep secrets from people you love. Now tell me everything that you've been keeping from me."

"I'll tell you everything, but I need you to promise that you will let me explain. You can't simply storm off and shut me out," he says. I nod and he takes a deep breath. "I wasn't lying when I told you that Miranda and I've have known each other for a long time. We were always friends, but when neither of us found our mates, we decided to give into feelings that we had both pushed aside waiting for our mates." I can't stop the growl that escapes me.

"So you had a romantic relationship with the witch. A witch you brought into the pack while keeping me in the dark." "I had hoped to leave the past where it belongs. Evie, I know how hard this is to hear because I endured it knowing how much you loved Charles" he says. "So you loved her. It wasn't just a fling to pass time or friends with benefits. You were in love with her." He drops his gaze to the floor before he looks back up into my eyes. Before he even speaks, I know the answer.

"Yes, I loved her. We had discussed marking each other after we found out that Miranda was pregnant with my pup," he says. My world begins to spin, and I can't breathe. "Evie, please breathe my love. Think of our pup. This is all the past. You are the only woman I love. The mother of my pup," he says, laying his hand against my swollen belly. I push his hand away and manage to get my breathing under control. "What happened to the pup?"

"The pup was never meant to be, just as I was never meant to be with Miranda. Just as you were never meant to be with Charles. The goddess doesn't take kindly to us screwing with her plans," he says. "Don't speak in riddles, Xavier. What happened to the pup?" "He was stillborn. It broke something in each of us. It wasn't long after that Miranda started to have visions of you. I had no intention of finding you, Evie," he says.

My heart feels like it's being ripped from my chest. He said that before, but I thought it was about Char and the pups, but no it was about her. It was because he loved Miranda. "It wasn't until she had the vision of you carrying our pup and Olivia's wolf that I knew I couldn't deny the bond. The goddess wanted us to be together," he says. Tears roll down my cheeks. He never really wanted me. He wanted the pup to replace the one he lost.

“Evie, please talk to me. I love you,” he says. “Stop saying that. It’s a f\*\*king lie. Everything was a f\*\*king lie.

You never wanted me. You wanted this pup.” “That’s not true. I swear the minute I saw you I wanted you. You were the only thing I saw. Every feeling I ever had for Miranda faded like it never existed the minute I stepped into that office.” I remember the feeling of losing the love I had for Charles the minute Xavier stepped into the office, too.

“So if she hadn’t lost the pup, would we be here right now, Xavier?” “That’s not fair, Evie. You had a whole family. You even fought against the bond when I found you. You said it yourself, you wished I hadn’t found you. I am the reason that Olivia hates you. None of this changes the fact that you are mine, Evie. I wouldn’t take back a moment of the time we’ve shared. I love you with every fiber of my being,” he says.

My mind is so torn. I didn’t wait for him and I did fight the bond. I wish he had just been honest from the beginning. I know he says he loves only me, but he must still have some feelings for Miranda. They shared a pup. They share their loss. Does he wish deep down that she was his mate? “No, I don’t. The love I shared with Miranda was one of friendship and familiarity. I won’t lie and say I wasn’t attracted to her because I was, but the love we shared was never deep,” he says.

“I think we both realized it after Jonathon was born. I’m sure that is the only reason she told me about the visions. It was a way for us both to walk away without being the bad guy. Our love wasn’t strong enough to survive the grief,” he says. Tears roll down his cheeks and I open my arms to him. We still have things to discuss, but I have no right to be angry with him for living his life when I did the same thing.

He lays his head against my bump. I run my fingers through his hair. “Evie, please don’t break our bond. I know I should have told you, but with everything that was happening it would have just added to the chaos.

Miranda and I were already finished and that’s how I justified not telling you. I can’t lose you, Evie or our pup” he says, rubbing his hand on my belly. “I still want to talk to Miranda.” “Evie, I swear” he starts to say, but I cut him off.

“It’s not about you. I need to apologize to her and Olivia. I treated her badly because of my own insecurities and fear. She is here to help Olivia and, if you’re right, our pup. Besides, she is the reason that we are together. I’m warning you though, Xavier, if there are more secrets you better tell me right now because if I find out later I won’t be so forgiving.”

He sits up on his knees and wraps his arms around me. “I swear there are no more secrets. Since you know about Jonathon now, I’d like to take you to visit him. He’s buried under a tree between the coven and pack.

Miranda keeps it protected so no one will bother his resting place,” he says. “I would really like that. Maybe we can all go together after I talk to Miranda.” He cups my face and presses his lips against mine.

The Next Day

Connor POV

“I still don’t understand why they can demand a meeting” Oli says. “It’s werewolf law that an Alpha must honor requests from non–pack members to meet as long as the wolf is not a known enemy.” “He’s a pr\*ck. Isn’t that enough” she says, and Açe chuckles. I know he is worried about this impromptu visit, but I considered him family even before we found out he was mated to Oli so I will protect him and Della. I have no idea the hell a\*\*hole Roman could possibly need to discuss.

The guard links me that Roman and Candace are at the gate. “Escort them to my office. I do not want them left unattended for even a moment while they are here.” “Yes, Alpha” he says before cutting the link. “Oli I know you want to stay, but I don’t need you being charged for beating the sh\*t out of visiting Luna. I promise I will link you as soon as they leave.”

“Fine, but I liked you better before you were all about these dumb rules” she says, and I smirk. Having the old Oli back is something I’m grateful for every day. Once they are gone, it doesn’t take long for the guard to show Candace and Roman in. Becca is seated at my side. Her eyes never leave Candace as she and Roman take a seat in front of my desk.

“Alpha Connor and Luna Becca. It’s good to see you both again,” he says. “I think we can skip the niceties, Alpha Roman. What can we help you with?” “After much discussion and taking into consideration my Luna’s happiness, I’ve decided we will be taking Della back to our pack,” he says like he is talking about the weather. Becca growls and I fight Cosmo for control. I lay my hand on her arm before she jumps across the desk.

“I’m sure I didn’t hear you correctly. Candace abandoned the pup. She has no claim to her now. Besides you cannot rip her away from her father.” “She is the pup’s mother. She has changed her mind. Don’t make this any more difficult than it already is, Alpha Connor,” he says smugly. “It isn’t difficult. Candace signed her rights away to the pup before she left. She no longer has a claim to Della. So you wasted your time and ours coming here today.”

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[ 1,902 words ]

Candace POV

"I have no idea what you're talking about. I would never give up my rights to my own pup. I simply left her with Ace because I knew how hurt he was by me leaving. He was destroyed. I knew he needed her to heal, but it was never meant to be a permanent arrangement. Roman and I just needed time alone together. I can't live without my pup." That b\*\*ch Becca rolls her eyes and I have to fight back the growl at her disrespect.

"I seem to remember things being quite different from what Ace said," Becca says. "Ace is a human who shouldn't even be part of a wolf pack," Roman says. Connor growls, and I can see his wolf is pushing to the surface. "There is no need for aggression, Alpha Connor. Honestly, this is between me and Ace." "Like hell it is. They are members of my pack. Besides, since you absolutely gave up your rights to the pup, she has been claimed by Ace's real mate," he says, emphasizing the word real.

"I want to see this paperwork that was signed by Candace," Roman says. My mind flutters back to the day I left the pack. I know I signed the damn paper, but I never expected that it would still be here after a year. Connor stands and moves to the filing cabinet. He shuffles through some papers before he pulls out a folder. My palms sweat as he opens it again, shuffling through the papers until he pulls one from the stack.

He offers it to Roman, who quickly snatches it from his hand. "Oh, and before you think about doing something stupid like ripping it up. Xavier backed all the files up on the computer. My stepfather is nothing if not thorough," Connor says. Roman's fist tightens around the paper as he scans the page. After a few seconds, he tosses it back on the desk. "This means nothing. She has the right to change her mind. You heard her reasoning. It is partly my fault for being so selfish when we first mated. I would hope a true Alpha would understand that a pup should be with her mother," Roman says.

I manage to force a few tears which stream down my cheeks. "She is my little girl, Alpha Connor." "So, let me get this straight. You signed her away and haven't looked back for five years. You expect me now to rip her away from the only parent she has truly known because of some misguided belief that gender makes you better equipped to care for the pup that is thriving in my pack under her father's care. Did I get that right," he asks.

"I think we should ask Della what she wants. I admit that I was blinded by my love for Roman, but he now understands how important Della is to me. I just want a chance to be her mother." "Are you sure you just don't want Oli to be her mother or Ace's mate," Becca says, and I can't stop the growl. Roman grabs my hand.

"Growl at my Luna again, and I will take it as an act of aggression toward my mate and pup. Which means I have the right to defend them how I see fit," Connor says.

"I apologize, Luna Becca," I say through gritted teeth. "This has nothing to do with Oli." "You will not call her Oli. You are neither friend nor family, Her name is Olivia to you," Connor says. "Fine, this has nothing to do with Olivia. I am happy that Ace found her." "We both know that's a lie. Just like you lying that Ace was your mate," Becca says. "Enough, I want the pup brought here," Roman says.

"You don't make demands in my pack. I've explained that Candace signed her rights away. Neither of you have the right to demand anything where Della is concerned," Connor says. I burst into tears and Roman pulls me into his arms. He growls, and I snuggle deeper into his chest to hide my smile. "If you don't bring the pup here in the next five minutes, Alpha Connor, my next call will be to the Wolf Council" Roman says.

"I'm sure they will agree the pup is better off with her mother than some human," he says. A low growl has Roman tightening his hold on me. I pull back just in time to see that Becca and Connor are linking. "Fine, I will have Ace and Oli bring Della to the office, but when Della says she wants to stay with Ace, you will leave and never darken our door again," Connor says.

I smile because I know my daughter loves me despite everything that happened. Plus, I'll promise to buy her some pretty dresses and toys, and she'll be rushing to come back to the pack with us. "Fine, but you must abide by the pup's wishes when she chooses her mother despite that paper," Roman says. "Of course," Becca chimes in with a smug smirk on her face. I would love nothing more than to slap it off of her.

I've always hated that b\*\*ch. I still think she wanted Ace, but he would never look at such a fat b\*\*ch. A few minutes later there is a knock before Ace steps inside, followed by that b\*\*ch Olivia, who is holding my daughter. "Della my sweet girl. Mommy missed you. Come give mommy a hug," I say, but she snuggles deeper into Olivia's hold. My heart starts to race.

Olivia POV

"We can leave after Connor tells us what the f\*\*k Candace and Roman want. I want to try to pack as much as we can over the next few days." Ace pulls me into his arms. "Are you really sure about this, Olivia? I know how much the house means to you," Ace says. "I am sure. I have my photos and memories. My dad isn't in those four walls. I'll still go visit his grave all the time. We belong here. Della deserves to be around her friends and our family. We deserve that too."

He presses a kiss on my lips. Just as he starts to deepen the kiss, I feel the nudge of Connor's link. I quickly break the kiss. I'm sure my cheeks are pink and Ace smirks.

"Oli I need you, Della, and Ace to come to my office" he says. "I thought you didn't want me there, so I wouldn't kill that slimy b\*\*ch." "I don't, but Roman is threatening to contact the council if we don't let Della pick who she wants to live with. He and Candace are insisting that she never wanted to give up her rights no matter what she signed. I

already know she'll pick you and Ace. Besides, based on everything, I don't want the council in the pack any time soon," he says.

My heart starts to race. "No we don't. I'll let Ace know what's happening and we will be right there. I cut the link and I hate the panic in Ace's eyes. "Why would she want her now? I know it's not because she really wants Della. What the f\*\*k is her game, Olivia?" I wrap my arms around him. "I don't know, but she isn't taking our daughter. I'll kill her before I let that happen." "Olivia, you can't say things like that. I love you for it, but threatening a Luna is against wolf law," Ace says.

"I don't give a sh\*t about wolf law. I'll bite her f\*\*king head off before she touches our pup," Danica says. "Not helping Danica," Ace says. I pull back and look at him confused. "You heard Danica. How," I ask. "I'm not sure, but I can hear her thoughts just like I can hear yours unless you block me out. It must be the mate bond," he says.

I'll have to ask Becca later. I don't know enough to know if that's normal. I move through the cottage to Della's room. I smile when I hear her talking to Amethyst. I knock lightly before pushing the door open.

Bella, can we talk for a minute?" "Of course, mommy." "Candace and Roman are in Uncle Connor's office. They want to see you." The smile fades from her lips and her eyes glaze over.

"Why do they want to see me," she asks, her voice laced with worry. "Candace and Roman think that you should go to live with them, but we aren't going to let that happen." Before I can speak my next words, her eyes turn purple and things in the room start to fly off the shelves. "Della, I need you to calm down. Daddy and I will never let that happen. You and Amethyst need to remember that you can't let them know how special you are. Can you be a brave girl and go tell them where you want to live so they can go away?"

She looks behind me at Ace. "I want to stay with you and Daddy, I don't like Candace or Roman. This is my home," she says. "I know Della Bella, and we won't ever let them take you from us," I say before opening my arms to her. She launches herself at me and I scoop her up in my arms. Ace presses a kiss on her forehead before we head to the pack house.

When we reach the office, I take a deep breath. Even the sight of these two makes me sick. I don't know what their motive is, but it's not because this b\*\*ch all of a sudden wants to be mother of the year. She walked away from her pup for the last five years. "Della my sweet girl. Mommy missed you. Come give mommy a hug," Candace says, but Della tightens her hold on me. "Olivia put my daughter down and let her come hug me. You are not her mother, I am," Candace says.

"You are not my mommy. Oli is my mommy. I hate you. You hurt my daddy. I want you to leave and never come back," Della screams at her. "You've poisoned my child

against me, you b\*\*ch,” Candace says, taking a step toward me. Ace moves in front of me. “Enough, you will not talk to my mate that way, Ace says. Roman throws his head back and laughs.

“Your former pet is quite amusing, Candace. You should remember your place human,” Roman says. I feel something stir in Ace, but I can’t quite identify what it is. Before I can link him, Connor rounds his desk. “Get the f\*\*k out of my pack. Della has made her decision. As I said earlier, don’t return. You and your pack are now considered an enemy,” he says. I move to stand next to Ace and I swear his eyes look darker.

Candace screaming pulls my focus away from Ace. “This isn’t over. She is my pup. You are nothing, you half-breed” she screams at me just as guards surround her and Roman. “You have made a mistake here today, Alpha Connor. This isn’t over,” Roman says. What the f\*\*k was all this about and why do I have a feeling the sh\*t storm is just beginning with these two.

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

[ 1,512 words ]

Olivia POV

I smile as we pull onto my street. Even though it’s only been a few days, it feels like it’s been weeks. Ace and I weren’t going to leave the pack, especially after crazy one and crazy two were going on about how “this isn’t over.” I know Connor is worried that they will still call the council so he was happy for us to be away for a few days.

I still don’t understand what the hell Candace’s problem is. She hasn’t wanted anything to do with Della for a f\*\*king year. This has to be her way of punishing Ace for moving on but why? She is mated to Alpha Roman. I think she is just a spoiled b\*\*ch but I wouldn’t put anything past her. She abandoned her own pup.

I put the car in park after I pull into the driveway. Ace gets out first. He grabs his and Della’s bags from the trunk. I step out, and my neighbor is spying from her porch. She is a harmless older woman who is just nosy.

“Good afternoon, Ms. Franks.” “Good afternoon, Olivia. I see you have company. New boyfriend perhaps. You don’t have many men visit,” she says.

“Fiancée, actually,” Ace says, and I swear the woman looks like she belongs in a cartoon the way her eyes are bugging out. “Have a nice rest of your day, Ms. Franks” I say, pulling him toward the door before she starts asking a hundred questions. I may have manners, but she isn’t entitled to the details of my life.

Della is already standing on the porch with her doll in her arms rocking on her heels. "Once we get your bags inside, we will have to clean out the fridge and run to the grocery store. I'm going to make you both dinner.

Della you can explore while daddy and I take care of the fridge." I turn the key in the lock and push open the door. As soon as we step inside, Della tears through the house to explore and Ace pulls me into his arms.

"So you're my fiancée now, not just my mate," I say and he smiles. "Actually, I'm your husband, but I didn't want to give the old woman a heart attack." I look at him like he's crazy. "Bonded mates in the wolf world are considered married. Besides, I plan to tie you to me in every way possible. I've been thinking about this since you marked me. I'll be honest, at first I was upset that I would never see my claim on your neck, but I know I have to accept that I'm not a wolf," he says.

I go to open my mouth, but he presses a kiss on my lips before I can tell him that he is perfect just as he is.

Our bond is strong despite him not marking me. When he pulls back, he looks into my eyes before he drops to one knee in front of me. "Ace" I start to say when he pulls a ring box from his pocket.

"I had wanted to make this elaborate proposal at first, but then I realized that isn't us. The only thing I really want is my mother's ring on your finger and for you to be mine in every way possible. I want every human, wolf, and other supernatural to know that you are mine and I am yours," he says.

He opens the box and the most beautiful amethyst ring I've ever seen shines back at me. It makes me smile because it matches my wolf pup's eyes. The purple stone is surrounded by small diamonds and set in a white gold band. "It's beautiful Ace." Before I can stop myself, I wonder if Candace wore the ring when they re married. It doesn't matter because the ring is his mother's, but I can't stop myself from wondering.

He stands and slides the ring onto my finger and I push the stupid thought from my head. It doesn't matter. "This ring is the only thing my biological father ever gave my mother. Once she met John, the only father I've ever known, she put it away for the day I met my true mate. She always believed that I would have one. I guess despite allowing myself to be tricked into believing Candace was my mate, I knew in my heart that she wasn't. I couldn't bring myself to give her this ring. This ring was meant to be on your finger," he says.

"My mother would have loved you, Olivia. She would be so happy that I finally found someone who truly loves me and that I love. She was an amazing woman. When we have more time, I want to tell you more about her" he says. "I would really like that. I wish I had the chance to meet her, but I know, despite not getting the chance, she was an amazing woman to have raised a son like you."

He pulls me close and slams his lips down on mine. I feel the kiss all the way to my toes, but before he can deepen it, a giggle has us pulling apart. "Daddy, you were kissing mommy," she says in her cute little voice. He releases me and scoops her up. "I was, and now I'm going to kiss you, sweet pea," he says. He peppers her little face with kisses as she continues to giggle. I never let myself believe this moment would happen, but now I can't imagine not having both of them in my life.

An hour later we drive to the supermarket. As we make our way through the aisles, I notice a couple of women are practically eye f\*\*king Ace. I have to suppress the growl when one actually has the audacity to approach him when I step away with Della to grab cereal. I make my way toward him and as soon as I reach him I wrap my arm around his waist. He smirks as he wraps his arm around my shoulder. "Who is your new friend, hubby?"

"She is nobody, my love. Did you find the cereal that Della wanted," he asks. The woman huffs and stomps her foot before she storms away. "I like how possessive you are of me, my love. I feel the same way. I thought I was just being a caveman, but I guess not," he whispers in my ear. "You are mine. We will be getting you a ring too, so the human women know your taken." He presses a kiss on my forehead and we finish our shopping.

Thankfully, the thirsty women keep their distance the rest of the time we are in the store. We make our way out to the car and I can feel a shiver move through my body. I look around as Ace loads the groceries into the car, but I can't see anyone who seems out of place. There are no scents looming close by that seem out of place. Maybe it's just Miranda warning me about other supernaturals that has me being paranoid. It has my mind playing tricks on me.

Unknown POV

"Have you found him?" "I'm not sure my king. I can't sense the beast within him, but he looks like Lorraine pup," Liam says. Liam is my second in command. "That doesn't make sense. He should have awakened by now. You are sure that the council never found out about him?" "I'm positive my king. Hell they are too busy acting like a bunch of pretentious a\*\*es. They haven't even begun to look for the midnight wolf," Liam says.

"They believe they have eliminated all royals, so the prophesied ruler of the supernatural world will never come to pass," Liam says. "I want you to find out if he is truly Lorraine's son, Liam. We need to make sure that we find him before the council does." "Of course, my king. I followed them at a discreet distance. It looks like they are staying in the human city. The woman with him is definitely a wolf," Liam says.

"I wonder why they are staying among humans. Wolves always want to be with their kind. Maybe she is weak.

Perhaps an omega.” “Whatever she is my king, she seems to be important to him. A mate perhaps,” says. The goddess does often like to pair up strong beasts with weak ones. “I don’t know how much...e we will have before he returns to the pack, but you must try to provoke him, Liam. Take a few of the others with you. We need to know for sure if the man is Lorraine’s son.”

“Yes, my king” he says before leaving my room. I look around, wondering how much longer this small cottage will feel like a prison. One of the strongest creatures and I hide here to survive. Soon I’ll return and every one of those ba\*\*ard’s will wish they never crossed me.”

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[ 1,921 words ]

Olivia POV

When we make it back to the house, I take Della upstairs to show her my old room. It still has a pretty pink comforter and girly accents. I’m not sure why I never changed it, but after I took my dad’s old room I didn’t see the need. I still have my dad’s stuff in the attic. I couldn’t bring myself to get rid of anything that belonged to him. I guess it doesn’t make sense to bring his clothes to our new house. I told Connor we would look at the house near the pack house.

I have no desire to live in the pack house. I want our own space. I’ll have to donate his clothes. I’ll just bring the pictures and other mementos that I want to keep. I push open the door and Della bounds inside. “This was your room, mommy” she asks. “It was until my daddy went to be with the goddess.” I know that’s probably not true sense he was human, but I like to think that she made an exception for him.

“I would be sad if my daddy was with the goddess,” she says. I pick her up and sit on the bed with her in my lap. “I was sad for a long time, but I know my daddy wants me to be happy. Heck, I bet he’s the one that sent you and your daddy to me. He knew you both would make me happy.” She wraps her arms around my neck and buries her head in my neck.

“I’m glad you’re my mommy Oli. You make me and Daddy happy too.” I press a kiss on her forehead. “I’m going to go make dinner if you want to play in here, or you can come down to the living room.” “Dolly and I want to play in here,” she says. “Alright, Della Bella, I’ll call you when dinner is ready.” I make my way downstairs and smile when I see Ace is just about finished putting the food away.

I step into the kitchen and wrap my arms around him from behind. He shoves the milk in the fridge before he turns to wrap his arms around me. It's wonderful but strange to have him in my space. I've lived here for five years alone. I'm excited and terrified of living in the pack, but I know it's the right thing for our family. "So, what are you in the mood for: chicken or steak?" "I would love a steak right now. I can help you cook though. I don't expect you to do all the work, Olivia," he says.

"I want to cook for our family tonight. You can cook breakfast tomorrow" I say, before I push up and press a kiss on his lips. "That's a deal. I'll go take a shower and change into my PJ bottoms and a t-shirt" he says. I grab everything I need and start to cook. As soon as I place the steak in the pan, a scent that seems out of place invades my nose. I can't quite place it, but it is definitely strong. I turn just as a hand goes over my mouth.

"Do not scream, or you will not like what happens. You and I are going to take a little walk. As long as you are a good girl, nothing will happen to you or the little girl upstairs, but if you do something stupid you'll both end up hurt. Now are you going to come with me quietly," he asks.

I nod my head. I have no idea what powers Della has or even if she can use them yet. Besides, I know Ace will want to try to save me and I won't risk him being hurt by this ba\*\*ard. I just wish I knew what the f\*\*k he was. He grips my arm but never takes his hand from my mouth. He pulls me toward the back door. I smi myself, knowing once we get outside all bets are off. I'll give Danica control, and she will go crazy wolf on this ba\*\*ard.

My smile fades when there are four men waiting outside for us. "Take her further into the woods. I will link you when you can bring her back. Remember what I said before you think about doing anything stupid, wolf," he says before pushing me toward one of the other men.

Ace POV

I smile as the water runs over my skin. Being here with Olivia and Della feels perfect. Not the place but being together like a family. Going to the grocery store. Making deals about who is going to cook. Looking forward to making love to Olivia once Della is asleep. It's all the things I've ever wanted. The things that never satisfied Candace. I'm so angry at myself for letting her be part of my life. For believing her when I should have known she wasn't my mate.

She and Olivia couldn't be more different. She is a selfish b\*\*ch who looks down on others while Olivia is giving and selfless. She is perfect, and I will thank the goddess every day for choosing such an amazing woman to be my mate. "Daddy" Della calls through the bathroom door. "What's wrong, sweet pea? Daddy is in the shower." "Daddy, Oli is in danger," she says. My heart damn near stops beating I turn off the water and throw the towel around my waist.

I swing open the door and my daughter looks visibly upset. I scoop her up and make my way downstairs. Smoke is coming from the kitchen and I set Della on the ground. When I get into the kitchen, I move the steak that is totally burnt off the burner. Olivia is nowhere to be found. I rush back to Della. "Honey, where is Olivia? How do you know she is in danger," I ask, trying to keep the panic out of my voice.

"Amethyst showed me a man taking her out of the kitchen and into the woods. I want my mommy," she says tears in her eyes. "Della, daddy is going to find mommy. I need you to go upstairs in the room Olivia showed you and lock the door until I come back. Promise me you will only open it if its me or mommy?" "I promise. she says. I know she is a special wolf, and I'm probably making a mistake not taking her with me, but she is still my pup. I can't take the chance of something happening to her. Besides, Olivia is her guardian and can protect her even if something happens to me.

I grab a pair of shorts out of the bag that is still in the kitchen. I slip out the back door and try to get my eyes to adjust to the dark. As soon as I step off the porch, I hear a low growl. I follow the sound despite having no idea what the hell I'm walking into. I would die to save Olivia. I love her and I can't lose her. A few more steps and the growl is stronger. I look around and take a step back when a man steps from behind a large oak tree.

"Who are you and what the f\*\*k do you want? Where is my wife?" "Don't worry, my friends are keeping her company." As soon as the words leave his mouth, a pain rips through me. I try to stay on my feet, but the pain is too much. I fall to my hands and knees. Growls erupt all around me, but I can't focus on anything but the pain. I swear my bones are breaking. What the f\*\*k is happening to me?

"Save Olivia," a deep guttural voice says. I swear the voice is in my head, but it sounds nothing like Connor. Besides, how would he know unless Olivia linked him? I can't even protect my mate. I'm pathetic here, rolling around on the ground. "Shut the hell up. We are not pathetic. We are strong, and we will protect our mate" the voice says. "Who the f\*\*k are you?"

"I am your other half. I've been dormant but our mate being in danger has awoken me. We are one as it that always should have been. My name is Ryker," he says. "How, I'm just a human?" "We don't have tin right now. Save our mate. Give me control," he says. "How the f\*\*k do I do that?" "Relax and focus on getting go," he says. I do what he says and after a few more snaps and my face feeling like it's going to explode. everything goes quiet.

I feel my body moving, but I know it's not me doing it. I also feel taller than I was a few minutes ago. Amia wolf? A chuckle lets me know I'm not. "Where is my mate," Ryker asks the man that hasn't moved. He bows before four men step through the trees with Olivia between them. When Ryker lifts his hand to her, I gasp. Our arm is covered in fur with long black claws on our fingertips. "Ace," Olivia says, looking as shocked as I feel.

“My name is Ryker mate, but Ace is safe. So is our pup. Now come to me,” he says. Without hesitation, she moves to stand next to us and wraps her arm around our leg. Tingles dance up our thigh and Ryker flashes dirty images in our mind. “Not now horn dog.” “Don’t act like you don’t want it too,” he says. I roll my eyes. “Focus on dealing with the a\*\*holes who just took our mate.” “They are no threat to us. Did you not see him bow and bring her back,” he asks.

“Who are you,” Ryker asks. “We are the only remaining royal guards, my lord” the man says. “Ryker, why don’t you give Ace back control so we can sit down and talk,” Olivia says. “Want mate,” Ryker says back. “I want you to, and I promise we will spend time just you and me. Danica wants her time with you too, but right now we need to find out what the hell is going on. I also want to check on Della” she says.

He bends and nuzzles Olivia with his nose against her marking spot. F\*\*k, we can mark her. I’m a beast of some kind and I can mark my mate. “A beast of some kind. We are a royal Lycan, human. The last of our kind,” he says. If I was on my feet I would probably be on my a\*\* right now after hearing that. A royal Lycan. How is that possible? “Are you ready to shift back, Ace?” “Yes, just tell me how.”

“Picture yourself in human form,” he says. Thankfully, turning back is a lot less painful. As soon as my hands are normal, I pull Olivia into my arms. “You scared the hell out of me. I thought I lost you, Olivia.” “I’m fine. Let’s go find out what they want and check on Della. I’m trying not to freak out, but that was a lot,” she says. I chuckle and press a kiss on her forehead. “Plus, we need to get you new shorts.” I look down and realize I’m naked. She giggles and we rush back to the house. Holy sh\*t what the hell just happened?

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

[ 1,781 words ]

Ace POV

I’m still having a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that minutes ago I was a Lycan. “No, I was a Lycan,” Ryker says. “You know damn well what I meant.” We step into the kitchen and Olivia immediately heads toward the stairs, making me smile. She loves Della as much as I do. I whirl on the pr\*ck behind me. I don’t care who Ryker said these f\*\*king ba\*\*ards are. They scared the hell out of Olivia and me.

I grab the a\*\*hole by the throat and slam him against the wall. “Why the f\*\*k did you touch my mate if you’re some royal guard?” “My lord, I had orders. We never intended to harm the wolf,” he says. “That wolf is my mate and if you ever touch her again it’s not

Ryker that you will have to fear.” “Yes, my lord. I apologize for upsetting you,” he says. “You will apologize to my mate.” “Of course, my lord.”

I release him and take a step back. “Where did the other men go?” “They returned to the king. We were simply supposed to provoke you to see if you truly were a Lycan. We couldn’t sense your beast earlier, but you look so much like Lorraine” he says. A can’t stop the growl that escapes me. “How do you know my mother’s name?” The sound of footsteps has me turning just in time to see Olivia stepping back into the kitchen.

“I told Della you would go open as soon as we are done down here.” I nod before I feel the nudge of her link.

“Della says that you can trust the guards but don’t tell them about Amethyst until you meet the king,” she says. I turn back toward the man. “What is your name?” “It’s Liam. I am the king’s second. I have been with him from the beginning,” he says. “How long has that been,” Olivia asks.

“I am one hundred and fifty. I’ve been by his side since I turned thirty. I also want to apologize for scaring you, my lady,” Liam says. I nearly choke on my own spit. “One hundred and fifty years old, how?” “We live a very long time, my lord, unless someone kills us, but even that is hard to do,” he says. A sadness washes over me and I realize it’s not my feelings. I turn toward Olivia, but she is hiding her emotions from me. I move toward her, not caring that we have an audience.

“What’s wrong,” I ask, and at first she tries to brush it off, but she must realize I felt it. “I’m a wolf. We don’t live as long as Lycans. I don’t want you to feel that kind of loss,” she says. I pull her into my arms and press a kiss on her head. “I don’t mean to interrupt but you won’t have to worry about losing each other. Once you are marked by a Lycan, your lives will be intertwined. You will live as long as he does. One cannot survive without the other,” he says.

“This king you keep talking about. Why did he send you here and why do you know my mother?” “Perhaps we should sit. What I have to say might be a lot to take in,” Liam says. We make our way into the living room.

Olivia and I take seats side by side on the couch. I hold her close to my side, knowing I’m going to need her close for whatever the hell I’m about to hear. Liam takes the chair across from us. true king

“I honestly don’t know how much I can tell you about the king. I’m sure he wants to be the one to tell you about himself and how he knows your mother. What I can tell you is that for the last thirty years of wolves and Lycans has been in hiding. He was a fair king who didn’t think himself better because was a royal Lycan. Many years into his reign he was approached by members of the council he formed to help him. rule. Half were wolves and half were Lycans,” he says.

“The wolves felt that the kingdom should be split and one of the stronger Alphas should become their king. They insinuated the king favored his own kind and felt they were better suited to rule the wolves. The king did not agree,” he says. “So let me get this straight. The king who was a strong Lycan, made a council made up of wolves and Lycans that eventually turned on him,” Olivia asks.

“Yes, they murdered most of the Lycans using black magic. They believed that the king died that day, but my men and I were able to get him out of the castle. Some of the Lycans fled but most died. That’s when the council decided to take over. It’s said there is an alpha that pulls the strings but no one knows for sure because he isn’t part of the council. He has kept his identity hidden if the rumors can be believed. He wanted

to be king but with no royal blood that can’t happen,” he says.

“Holy f\*\*k, this sounds like something out of a movie” Olivia says. “When can I meet this king?” “I will head back to the cottage tonight. I’m sure he will want to meet with you as soon as possible. I will have to bring you to him some time tomorrow.” “Why can’t he come here? How do we know this isn’t a trap” Olivia asks. I can feel her fear and anger. I take her hand into mine.

“The cottage has been enchanted by a light witch. It protects him from being detected by those who wish to harm him. In all honesty, now that your Lycan has been awakened, you are at risk. You are a powerful Lycan. If the council or any other supernaturals feel that power, they won’t hesitate to try and kill you,” he says. “Don’t worry Ace. One of my many talents as a royal is to mask my existence. Everyone will continue to think we are human until you don’t want them to,” Ryker says.

“Fine, we will meet him tomorrow evening. We need time to take care of things in the morning. I won’t bring our daughter to meet someone I don’t know or trust.” “Of course, I’ll take my leave. Be safe until I see you again,” Liam says before he bows to me. I follow him to the door and lock it behind him.

When I turn around, Olivia is just standing in the doorway looking at me, her face completely unreadable. I feel nothing through our bond, which means she has put up a block. Is she angry that I am a Lycan. Does she think I knew and didn’t say anything? My heart starts to race as I take a step toward her.

When she folds over with laughter, my steps falter and the panic rushing through me worsens. I know how much she has been through. Does she think that being with me now is just too much? Goddess, I wish she would let her block down. “Just ask her what the f\*\*k she’s thinking. She isn’t going to reject us. She loves us,” Ryker says, like I’m an idiot. “Olivia, are you alright?”

When she manages to get herself under control, she stands up straight and the smile on her face has my body relaxing. I pull her into my arms. “You just scared the hell out of me. Why the hell weren’t you talking, and then you started to laugh. I was panicked. I

thought you were going to leave me.” She looks at me like I’ve just grown ten heads. “Why the hell would you ever think that? Ace, I am your mate. I marked you for goddess’s sake. I’m not going anywhere,” she says.

I kiss her, letting my body completely relax. When I pull back, I look into her eyes. “I just know this is a lot, and you’ve been through so much.” “Hey, don’t do that. Whatever happens now is for us to face together. I may not be a Lycan, but I’m pretty tough. I’m a guardian wolf, remember” she says with a huge smile on her face.

“All I remember is how lucky I am to have you.” “Goddess, do you have to be so mushy? We are supposed to be a beast and not the one from the cartoon,” he says. I can’t help but roll my eyes. Having him in n ad is going to take some getting used to. I look back at Olivia. “So what had you laughing so hard?”

“Candace left you because you were just a human, and she wanted a ranked wolf for a mate. She is going to sh\*t kittens if she ever finds out that you are a royal Lycan, and she could have become a royal,” she says. We both growl this time. “Never, she is nothing to us, and she never truly was. The minute I awakened, I would have found you. You are ours Olivia,” Ryker and I say in unison. What the f\*\*k was that? “That was us answering as one,” he says.

“Daddy” Della’s sweet voice says from behind Olivia. I release my hold on Olivia and kneel on the floor. I open my arms and she rushes to me. “Mine,” Ryker says as he breathes in her scent. That’s when I realize the strawberry vanilla scent that has been driving me crazy wasn’t Olivia’s shampoo. It’s her scent. I’ll have to ask her later what I smell like to her. Della smells like wildflowers. It reminds me of my mother. She would take me to the clearing when I was a boy and read to me. I never noticed it before, but now that I have Ryker I can smell everything.

He pushes forward and I give him control. He wraps our arms around Della. “Hi daddy Ryker,” she says, her voice a combination of hers and Amethyst. “Hello my little ones. I have waited so long to meet you.” “We knew you would come when daddy Ace needed you,” she says. Ryker gives me back control. “Della, you knew daddy was a Lycan?” “Of course, daddy.” “Why didn’t you tell me?” She giggles, looking between me and Olivia. “I’m just a little girl daddy. Would you have believed me before you knew about Amethyst? Besides, the goddess is the boss daddy. She says when we get to tell secrets,” Della says.

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

[ 1,745 words ]

Olivia POV

Needless to say, I didn't get much sleep last night. Ace and then Ryker were insatiable, not that I'm really complaining. I never knew being mated could feel like this. I feel loved and desired 24/7. It's an amazing feeling. I still can't wrap my head around the fact that Ace is a royal Lycan. Why was Ryker dormant? Who was Ace's father? Did his mother know that his father was a Lycan?

I feel like I know better than anyone how Ace is feeling right now. I had no idea I was a wolf until days before shifted. Everything I knew about my life wasn't even close to the truth. I should have been told when I was a pup what I was instead of being kept in the dark. As much as Ace is trying to stay calm for mine and Della's sake, I can feel the torrent of emotions rolling through him.

I know he has more questions than I do. I think his biggest worry that keeps repeating in his mind is what happens now. I think the man Liam kept referring to as the king is the only one that can give us answers to all our questions. "Are you ready to go Olivia," Ace asks, breaking me out of my thoughts as I finish tying my shoes.

"I'm ready, I just have to grab my resignation letter." I move toward the printer that is in my dad's old office and print the letter I wrote before we went to bed last night. I really wanted to give proper notice, but with everything that is happening with Della and Ace, there is no way that can happen. I spoke with a few of the girls I work with, and they agreed to cover my shifts, which I'm so grateful for. I would never want to leave my coworkers or patients in the lurch.

I grab the paper off the machine and sign it quickly. We have to head back to the pack to drop Della off with Amber before heading to the hospital. Once Della is fastened into the back seat of the car, Ace drives back toward the pack. It doesn't take long for us to pull up to the gate. I smile when Amber is waiting outside on the pack house steps. She looks so much brighter since all the wolfsbane has cleared her system.

I pray she finds a chance at happiness with someone who will actually love her. We step out and Ace grabs Della. We make our way over and Amber is smiling from ear to ear when Della yells "nana." "Hello sweet pea. I'm so glad we get to spend the day together. I thought we could go to the playground before we have a picnic," she says, and Della squeals. She looks back at me and Ace. "Thank you for asking me to keep her. I've missed spending time with her," she says.

"Of course, you are her nana, Amber. You can spend time with her anytime you like," Ace says. She reaches out and grabs my hand. "You are an amazing young woman, Olivia. Not many women would allow me to," she starts to say, but I cut her off by wrapping her in a hug. "You are part of our family, Amber. I wouldn't have it any other way." She tightens her hold on me. After a few seconds, she steps back and I smile.

"Della, have fun with nana. Mommy and daddy will see you later." She waves, and we make our way back the car. The drive to the hospital is in comfortable silence. I won't lie and say I'm not nervous. I really like my supervisor, Jane, and I hate disappointing her,

but I have to put my family first. I smile as the light catches my ring when I look down at my hand. Ace places his hand on my thigh and just that little connection quiets my nerves.

“Do you want me to go in with you?” “No, it won’t take me long. I’ll talk to Jane and grab my things from my locker. Then we can head to the realtor’s office.” “Are you really sure about selling the house, Olivia? Maybe you should think about it for a little longer. We can go back once a week and keep it maintained, he says, I lay my hand on his cheek. “It’s time to let go of that part of my life. My memories of my dad and my childhood are in here” I say pointing to my temple.

“All that matters now is our family. That’s what my dad would have wanted for me. He always just wanted me to be happy. Even when his life was falling apart he worried about me. A part of him will be with me wherever we live.” I press my lips against his before getting out of the car.

I make my way through the double doors and down the hall that leads to the offices. I knock twice before Jane calls out for me to come in. “Olivia, I wasn’t expecting to see you until tomorrow.

Can I help you with,” she asks. I hand her the letter and I can see the disappointment flash in her eyes. “I hope this isn’t what I think it is,” she says. “It is, and I really wanted to give you time to find someone new. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, I won’t be able to give two weeks, but I’ve managed to cover all my shifts so you won’t have to stress.”

“Is there anything I can do to help so you’ll stay? I really hate to lose you, Olivia. You are an amazing nurse and the patients love you,” she says. “I appreciate that, Jane. Honestly, I’m sad to leave. I love this job, but I have family stuff that I have to deal with. I can’t thank you enough for giving me an opportunity and for all I’ve learned. You are an awesome boss.”

“Well, I guess all I can do is wish you luck. If you need anything please don’t hesitate to call me. You’ll always have a job here, Olivia,” she says, extending her hand to me. I shake it, fighting back tears that threaten to fall. “I’m going to grab my stuff from my locker. Have a great rest of your day, Jane” I say, before heading out of her office.

I make my way toward the break room, talking to a few of the nurses I’m friendly with on the way. They all wish me luck and, despite feeling a bit sad, I know this is the right decision. I step into the break room and head over to my locker. I empty everything into my bag. I’m just about to cross the room when the door opens and f\*\*king Dr. Edwards steps inside.

“Olivia, what a pleasant surprise. I thought you were off today,” he says. That’s not creepy at all you know my days off, I say to myself. “I was, but I needed to collect my things. I’ve handed in my resignation.”

“Resignation, why on earth would you do something so stupid,” he asks. Danica tries to push to the surface, but I hold her back. “I don’t think my decisions are any of your business, Dr. Edwards. Now if you’ll excuse me, I need to go.”

“Actually, this is perfect. You were always spouting off about maintaining a professional relationship since we worked together, but now we don’t work together. I will pick you up at seven tonight for our first date,” he says. “This guy is f\*\*king delusional,” Danica says with a growl. “Dr. Edwards, that is not happening.”

“Olivia, I told you to call me Nicholas and it is absolutely happening. We will be good together, you’ll see,” he says. “I’m not sure if you are intentionally trying to piss me off, but if not bravo because you are doing a phenomenal job. I’m not dating you, not now, not ever. First, I’m engaged and second, I have no interest in dating you.”

I move to step around him and he blocks my way. “Engaged, when the hell did that happen? You weren’t engaged a few days ago. I think you are just playing games,” he says, stepping closer to me. “Dr. Edwards, I’m warning you to get the hell out of my way, or you are going to regret it.” A sinister smile spreads across his face and my heart starts to race.

“I am one of the head doctors in this hospital, Olivia. You should be thrilled. I’m even interested in you. I’m sure your fiancée is just some low-class bum that can’t compare. I’m going to give you one last chance to do the smart thing, or I promise you I’ll make sure no hospital will hire you in a fifty-mile radius,” he says. The minute he takes a step closer and reaches his hands out for my shoulders, I bring my knee up.

He groans as soon as my knee connects with his balls. He staggers back and this time I don’t give him a chance to stop me as I step around him and out of the room. My heart rate starts to slow just as Ace starts making his way toward me. He pulls me into his arms. “Are you alright? I could feel your fear and anger. What the hell happened?” The door to the break room slamming open has both of our heads snapping in that direction.

“You b\*\*ch” the pr\*ck says as he stalks toward us. “Nicholas,” Ace says, halting the a\*\*hole in his tracks. “Ace, what are you doing here?” “I’m here for Olivia. Why the hell are you calling my fiancée a b\*\*ch?” Ace says, anger rolling off of him. The a\*\*hole goes to open his mouth but closes it quickly. “It was just a misunderstanding. I need to get back to the ER,” he says. Scurrying away like the rodent he is.

I know Ace is going to want an explanation, but we need to get out of here first. I can’t have my mates losing their sh\*t in a human hospital. Ace wraps his arm around me and leads me out of the hospital. Well, at least I never have to see that creep again. That is another good thing about resigning.

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[ 1,617 words ]

## Ace POV

After we finish at the realtor's office, we head back to the house. I wanted to talk about that pr\*ck Nicholas, but I knew that Olivia was worried about what Ryker or I might do if she told me what happened in the car.

Once we step into the house, I lift her into my arms. I make my way into the living room and sit on the couch with her on my lap. "Now are you ready to tell me what that d\*ckhead did that made you so afraid and angry?"

"I've worked at the hospital for a year. He became the head of the emergency department about six months ago. Not long after that, he started pestering me to go out with him." I tighten my hold on her and breathe in her scent to try to calm my anger. Even if she dated him, I have no right to be angry. "I would never date someone as egotistical and self-absorbed as Nicholas Edwards. I told you I really didn't date," she says.

Guilt washes over me. She takes my face in her hands. "We are past that. It was my choice and I'm glad. I love you, Ace, and I'm glad you were my first and last," she says. Ryker practically prances in my mind. I fight the urge to roll my eyes. "So, despite me constantly shooting him down, he continued to be persistent in asking me out. The day before the ceremony was the last time I saw him, and again I made it perfectly clear our relationship would only ever be professional," she says.

With every word the anger grows. How the f\*\*k does he not take no for an answer? "After I spoke with Jane and handed in my letter today, I headed to the locker room to get my things. I was almost done when the pr\*ck stepped into the break room. I was hoping to get out of there quickly, but I had no such luck. When I told him I resigned and was leaving, at first he called me stupid, but then he was happy."

"If we weren't working together we could date. He told me he was picking me up at seven tonight," she says. This time I don't stop the growl that was building in my chest. Olivia presses a kiss on my lips and my body relaxes. She pulls back and takes a deep breath. "I told him again it wasn't happening, and he adamantly disagreed. Insisting we would be good together. That's when I told him I was engaged. He thought I was lying. He said I was just playing games and stepped closer to me," she says.

"He told me if I didn't go out with him, he would make sure I couldn't get a job as a nurse in any hospital in a fifty-mile radius and stepped even closer. I wasn't going to let him get any closer, so I kneed him in the nuts. That's when I rushed into the hallway." "I'm going to kill that ba\*\*ard. What would he have done if you hadn't been strong or trained?" "No, he doesn't matter. I'll never see him again. He isn't worth it," she says.

I know she's right, but it doesn't make it any easier. Everything in me wants to kick his a\*\* for even thinking about touching our mate. Ryker wants to rip him apart. We both need to get ourselves under control. "Now tell me how you know the a\*\*hat" she says and I smile.

"He and I were in medical school together. He has always been an a\*\*hole who thought he was better than everyone else. He also thought that every woman in our class wanted him, which a lot of them did. I know he isn't a bad-looking guy, but it was like they couldn't resist him. I'm not sure what the appeal was because, outside of his looks, he is disgusting to the bone."

"I'm glad you won't be around him anymore. I don't trust him. I always got a weird vibe from him can take care of yourself, but if Danica lost control to protect you, Xavier would lose his sh\*t. h on and on about the wolf word being exposed to humans. As much as he tolerates me, he doesn't trust humans."

"Has he said that to you," she asks, her voice laced with irritation. "No, not directly, but Xavier isn't a hard man to read." "Goddess, he is such an a\*\*hole" she says. I smile and press a kiss on her lips. Before she can deepen the kiss, a knock on the door has me standing and setting her on her feet. I move to the door and when I open it Liam bows. "My lord, I'm here to escort you to meet the king," he says.

"Just call me Ace. How will we get there? Do you have a car? Do we follow you?" "Yes, I'm parked not far from here. The location is about an hour from the human city so the car makes the most sense, seeing as we can't shift," he says. I lead Olivia out to the car. Despite my outer calm facade on the inside, I'm freaking out. Who is this man to me? Can he be trusted? What if all of this is an elaborate trap? What if Olivia is in danger because we blindly follow this man?

I round the car and slide into the driver's seat. "I can feel your anxiety through the bond. We can do this. No one is going to hurt me. We are both strong and so are Danica and Ryker. I don't believe this man is a threat, but if anything happens we fight side by side," she says. I press a kiss on her lips before I back out of the driveway. I pull behind the car that seems out of place, and we drive in comfortable silence.

Ryker stirs the closer we get to the destination. "This Lycan isn't a threat Ace. I can feel a familial connection," he says as the car in front of us pulls down a dirt road. "What the hell does that mean?" "It means we share his blood. He is related to our father in some way," he says. The nerves that seemed to have settled after my talk with Olivia in the driveway are back with a vengeance. My mother told me nothing of the man that was my biological father.

Hell, I don't even know if she realized he was a Lycan. The car comes to a stop in front of us, and we are surrounded by trees. Liam steps out of his car and we do the same. "We need to travel on foot for about ten minutes more," he says. Olivia offers me her

hand, and we follow Liam into the trees. My heart is racing as we make our way through the forest. I have no idea what to expect. Liam comes to stop and turns to face us.

“The cottage is just through the trees. Don’t be alarmed when you feel the barrier when we get close to the cottage. It is the only thing that protects the king from being found by the council,” he says. We step through a line of trees and a large cottage that seems out of place comes into view. I hold Olivia’s hand tighter the closer we get to the cottage. Liam wasn’t kidding about the strange feeling when we neared the stairs that led to the porch. It felt like I stepped through warm water.

### Olivia POV

Holy sh\*t, that was freaky. It felt like we were wading through a pool of warm water. Liam steps to the door and pushes it open for us to step inside. I’m not sure what I was expecting but the man that greets us is an older version of my mate. They share many similar features. Hell, they could be brothers except for the man’s salt and pepper hair.

The man stares at Ace for a long time before he finally speaks. “I’m so glad you came. We have a lot to discuss. Please follow me to my office” he says. There are a handful of men milling about but none make the move to follow us. The man pushes a rustic-looking wooden door, and it opens to a large office. As soon as we step inside, he turns to face Ace. “Hello Ace, my name is Hudson. It so good to finally meet you,” he says. He reaches out his hand and they shake.

He turns to me with a huge smile on his face. “You must be Ace’s mate. It’s a pleasure to me u,” he says, reaching his hand out to me. A low growl has him dropping his hand, but the smile never leaves face. “I know you don’t trust me yet, Ace, but I hope in time you will,” he says. “Hudson, this is Olivia. Since you already know my name, I’m going to assume that Liam told you,” Ace says.

“Liam did mention your name, but I’ve known your name since the day you were born, Ace. You have grown into a fine young man” he says. “I’m trying not to be rude, but how do you know me? My Lycan says he feels a familial connection, but I know nothing of my father or his family,” Ace says. Hudson leans back in his chair and the smile on his face grows even bigger. “I know because I’m the one that chose your name. I am your father, Ace” he says.

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[ 1,825 words ]

Candace POV

“Candace, you need to sit down. You need to show the council that you are distraught, not angry. They should be arriving any minute,” Roman says. I know he’s right, but my blood boils every time I think about that little b\*\*ch choosing that wh’re and Ace. How dare she choose her over her own mother? I had intended to allow

her a comfortable life when she came to live in our pack, but after such disrespect she will become a true omega.

Hell, when we have pups she will be their personal maid. A knock on the door brings me out of my thoughts. Kyle Roman’s Beta pushes open the door and two men who look bigger than most alphas step into the room.

Kyle moves to stand next to Roman while I stand on the opposite side. “Councilman Finn and Gregory. Thank you for coming out so quickly,” Roman says. “Of course, Roman. Anytime pups are involved, the council takes it very seriously,” Finn says.

“Please have a seat,” Roman says, and both men take the seats in front of his desk. “You both know my Beta Kyle, but I don’t believe you have met my Luna, Candace. Councilman Augustus was present for our ceremony since my father’s death was so sudden,” he says. “It’s a pleasure to meet you both. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your help getting my pup back.” “Let’s not jump the gun. We need to understand the circumstances of the pup remaining with her father in the first place,” Gregory says.

I keep my face impassive despite the anger bubbling up inside me. She is my pup. I don’t give a f\*\*k why I left her, I am her mother. “Of course, I understand. I grew up in Alpha Xavier’s pack. I unfortunately fell in love with a human who was allowed to reside among the pack.” Roman growls, and I reach out my hand, placing it on his shoulder. Everyone in the pack believes I am his fated mate. I have no intention of telling the men seated before us any differently.

“We were happy until Roman came to the pack to meet with Alpha Xavier. I scented him, and obviously I couldn’t fight the bond. I felt terrible about hurting Ace. He was a good partner and an excellent father. Out of pity, I allowed my daughter to remain with him. I didn’t feel right ripping her away from him after leaving him after so many years together. I never intended for it to be permanent, but I was forced to sign a paper giving Ace sole rights when I left the pack.”

“She is my pup and I can’t live without her any longer, no matter how much it will hurt Ace.” Tears stream down my cheeks. “How long ago did you leave the child,” Gregory asks.. “It has been about a year since Roman and I have been mated.” “So, why have you decided now that you can’t live without your pup,” Finn asks. Roman looks up at me and places his hand over mine. “I will answer that question,” he says.

“It was my fault that it took us so long to request Candace be reunited with her pup. I was being selfish. I hate the thought of my mate having a child with a human, but I know

now that I'm hurting my mate by keeping them apart. Besides, the pup is a girl. When we have a son, he will be the next Alpha, so the pup will not need my claim," he says. "So you don't intend to claim your mate's pup," Finn asks.

"Of course, not. The pup's father will still want to be involved. I wouldn't want another man to claim my pup. She will be treated with all the respect a member of the Alpha family deserves, but she won't the rank. I can't take that away from my own pups or Ace," Roman says. If I didn't know better, I would actually believe him.

"I'm sure you understand that we will have to visit Alpha Connor's pack and speak with Ace and the pup is what, five years old now, based on what you've said, Gregory says. I burst into tears and Roman immediately stands wrapping me in his arms. "Luna Candace, I apologize if something I've said upset you?"

Gregory says.

I bury my face in Roman's chest. "We tried to resolve all of this without involving the council a few days ago. We tried to reason with Alpha Connor, but he insisted that the paper Candace signed was binding. They also brought the pup to the office and, based on things she said, we believe they are poisoning her against Candace. Ace has found his mate and she has the pup calling her mommy. It has caused Candace a great deal of pain," Roman says.

"We will look into this matter and get back to you both in the next few days, Finn says. When I hear the door click shut, I pick up my head and smile at Roman. "The tears were a nice touch sweetheart" he says. "I thought so. We should have Della here in a few days. She will be punished for calling that bitch mommy the moment she arrives."

Ace POV

"Excuse me, did you just say that you're my father?" "I did. I'm sorry that I haven't been able to be there for you, Ace, but I'm sure you realize that circumstances were out of my control. You're here now and that is what matters," Hudson says. Does he really think it's that easy? He says he's sorry and all is forgiven. He hasn't even explained what the hell happened and why my mother wasn't here with him. She was good enough to knock up but not to keep.

Anger surges through me and I can feel my control slipping. Before Ryker completely takes over, Olivia slides onto my lap. I breathe in her scent, getting myself back under control. After a few seconds, Ryker settles in the back of my mind. I look back at Hudson, whose eyes are focused on me.

"So that's all I get. Two useless words and some platitudes about difficult circumstances. I think you owe me more than that. If my daughter was away from me, I would do whatever it took to find her, to be with her. So explain to me why my mother

ended up with John. Was he even her mate? I feel like everything I've ever known was a lie."

"I loved your mother, Ace. She was my mate. Despite what she told you, she was never human. She was wolfless. The day I found her, she had been cast out of her pack because she was considered worthless. I did everything I could to get her to accept our bond, but she refused. She believed she wasn't good enough to

stand by the Lycan king's side. I tried to tell her many times how wrong she was, but she wouldn't listen."

"Despite not wanting to accept the bond formerly, she stayed with me. Only my closest guards knew of our relationship. There was a lot of distension happening among the wolves and Lycans, especially with the wolvern council. They wanted to appoint an Alpha to be their king, but I refused. The goddess chose me to rule, and I could not simply hand that duty over because the wolves felt I wasn't fair. They had no real proof of my favoritism of the Lycans because it was untrue. They simply wanted power" he says.

"A few days before the attack, your mother told me she was pregnant. I was over the moon Ace. I thought that she would for sure accept our bond, but she was worried that you would take after her. Cassandra, a witch that lived in my kingdom, came to me the morning of the attack. She told me that my more powerful than me. He would be a great leader of our people. That in order to keep you attack, your mother needed to be far away from the kingdom," he says.

My mind feels like I'm swimming through mud. My mother was a wolf. Even if she didn't have one, she grew up with wolves. Why the hell did she lie to me? "Ace your mother loved you. The morning I sent her away, she begged me to protect you. She knew what the council was capable of. She didn't want them coming for you before you could shift. Cassandra performed a spell to make your Lycan dormant. I'm still not sure why it took so long for him to awaken, but there has to be a reason. The spell should have fallen away when you turned twenty-one," he says.

"Can't we ask the witch who did the spell?" "Unfortunately not. The last thing she did before the council killed her was ensure that only a Lycan could step foot in this place. It is a prison as much as it is my salvation, Hudson says. "That doesn't make sense. I had no trouble crossing the barrier," Olivia says. He smiles and, for the first time, I really look at him. He truly does look like he could be my brother. Why was my mother so stubborn? If she had accepted their bond, the cancer would never have taken her.

Olivia wraps her arms around me and I fight back the tears that threaten to fall. "To answer your question, Olivia, the minute you accepted Ace and you marked each other, his blood mixed with yours. It makes you an honorary Lycan for lack of a better explanation," he says. I'm just about to ask him about the council when my phone rings. I pull it from my pocket and Connor's name flashes on the screen.

“Connor, what’s wrong?” “The council has arrived and are demanding to speak with you and Della. I’ve explained that you aren’t here and vaguely alluded to the same about Della, but they refuse to leave until they speak with you. I’m so sorry, Ace” he says. “This isn’t your fault. The only one to blame is that b\*\*ch, Candace,” I say with a growl. “Ace, did you just growl” Connor asks. “I’ll explain everything when we arrive. Olivia and I will be there as soon as we can.”

Anger flashes in Hudson’s eyes. “What the hell is happening” he asks. “My daughter’s egg donor is trying to take her away from me.” Hudson’s eyes flash black, and I can see he is fighting his Lycan for control. “Do you need me to send Liam with you? I wish I could go back and protect you and my granddaughter,” he says. “We should be fine. There are still things we need to discuss. We will be back as soon as we can.”

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[ 1,727 words ]

Olivia POV

I can feel Ace’s anger as Liam leads us back to the car. “Are you sure you don’t want to come with you, my lord? My loyalty is to you as much as it is to King Hudson,” Liam says. “Liam again, please just call me Ace and, as much as I appreciate the offer, alerting the council of your existence is not a good idea right now. We will be back as soon as we can,” Ace says, reaching for my door.

An overwhelming feeling of being watched has me looking around. My heart starts to race. “Danica, am I losing it?” “No, I feel it too, but I’m not sure what it is. Whatever it is, it isn’t nearly as strong as us or the Lycans. It’s keeping itself hidden out of fear. “Olivia, what’s wrong,” Ace asks through our link. “There is something out there watching us. I’m not sure what it is but Danica and I both feel it.” This time it’s Ace looking around.

“Liam, get back to the cottage. I’m not sure what the hell is out here with us, but Olivia senses something, Ace says. “It’s probably the vampires. They are always looking for a way to get to the king. We believe that the council is working with them. It’s not the first time they have sent supernaturals to try to break through the barrier. Now you need to go and protect our princess,” Liam says and I smile. Despite the cluster\*\*k of our first meeting, I feel we can trust Liam and Hudson.

Ace pulls open my door while watching Liam head back through the trees. Once I’m in my seat, he rounds the car and slides into the driver’s seat. He grips my hand as he pulls back onto the road. The feeling doesn’t subside until Ace pulls onto the main road.

The ride to the pack feels tense. We are both worried about the lies that Candace has spewed to the council. “I don’t give a sh\*t what the council says. They won’t take our pup,” Danica says.

“Of course not. Della is ours and no one will take her from us.” When we finally pull up to the pack gates, Kevin is waiting. The gates open and Ace quickly parks the car. “You both need to be calm. Going in there angry isn’t going to help the situation. None of us are going to allow them to take her,” Kevin says. We both nod and follow Kevin inside. When we reach the office, Kevin knocks once before pushing the door open.

I step inside first, followed by Ace, who hasn’t let go of my hand. Two men that look much older than Xavier are seated in front of Connor’s desk. Connor stands walking over to greet me. He pulls me in for a hug. “Stay calm, Oli,” he says. If he only knew it’s not only me he has to worry about now. He is going to freak out when he finds out about Ace. He pulls back and motions toward the men. “Oli and Ace, these are Councilman Finn and Gregory. They are here to discuss the custody of Della,” he says.

I fight the growl that wants to escape my throat. “Thank you both for agreeing to return to discuss this urgent matter. Olivia, I realize that you are mated to Ace, but what is your relationship to Alpha Connor,” Finn asks. “Of course, we want this resolved as quickly as possible,” Ace says. “I am Connor’s sister.” “I hadn’t realized that Luna Evelyn had two pups. Do you live here in the pack,” Gregory asks.

“I didn’t before, but I do now.” “Can I ask why,” Gregory asks. “Is that really relevant to Della’s custody?” “I believe it is. Della may grow to have a wolf. If you haven’t lived in the pack for a reason that leaving it again, that’s a concern for the pup’s well-being,” Gregory says. I tighten my fists at my side but keep myself under control. “I’m currently in the process of selling my home in the human city. Ace and I are fully mated, and I consider Della my pup. I will never leave them, unlike Candace.”

I can tell that Gregory doesn’t like my dig at Candace. “Well, you aren’t truly mated since Ace is human,” Gregory says. I can feel Ace’s anger through our bond. I take a step closer to him so he can breathe in my scent. “The bond is complete regardless of Ace being human. It is solid and strong. Now I’m sure my brother has already informed you that Candace signed her rights away to the pup when she abandoned Ace and Della. So what other questions do you have?”

“Luna Candace has said that she never intended to allow her pup to remain here permanently. She felt she had no choice when she left the pack to be with her mate but to sign the paper. She also acted out of guilt for the pain she caused you, Dr. Morris” Gregory says. Without warning, Ace throws his head back and laughs.

The room goes silent as my eyes meet Gregory’s who looks irritated by Ace’s laughter. “Do you find something funny about this situation, Dr. Morris” he asks. “Absolutely. I think it’s hilarious that Candace can lie like it’s her job because not one thing she said to you is true,” he says. “What exactly did she lie about Dr. Morris,” Finn asks this time.

Ace POV

I shouldn't be shocked about the lies that b\*\*ch has fed the council, but I am. She even told them that Roman was her f\*\*king mate, which couldn't be farther from the truth. "Everything she told you was a lie. Before she left me to be with Roman she had told me we were mates. That is why I married her. Unfortunately, because I am human, I had no idea she was lying until the day she left the pack. She also informed me that day she had rejected her goddess-given mate, who was an omega in this pack when she turned eighteen."

"As far as leaving Della behind, that had nothing to do with feeling sorry for me. She told me she never wanted a pup, but she figured having one would tie me to her. She even poked holes in the condoms to ensure it happened. I love my daughter and I would never take back having her, but I sure as hell wish it wasn't with that conniving woman." Olivia's growl has me pulling her close to my side. I never told her some of this, not because I was trying to keep it from her, but it didn't seem important.

"If all this is true Dr. Morris, then why did we watch the Luna practically fall apart when talking about missing her pup? I understand you love your pup, but don't you think she deserves to be with her mother? I understand you have a mate now, but she isn't the pup's real mother," Gregory says, practically snickering at Olivia.

"I want to snap this pr\*ck's neck. He is a slimy ba\*\*ard. I can't get a read on the other one yet, but this one was definitely involved with what happened to our father," Ryker says. "I think we should speak with the pup."

Candace also believes that your mate is poisoning her daughter against her. I'd like to see for myself that the child actually wants to remain here without her real mother," Gregory says.

If he says real mother one more time, I may not be able to stop Ryker from taking over. "I'll go get her," Olivia says before she pushes up on her toes to peck my lips. Just the small contact quiets some of the anger rolling through me. When the door clicks shut, Gregory speaks again. "I mean no disrespect Dr. Morris, as I know you are part of the pack, but the truth is you are a human. It is likely that your daughter will have a wolf someday and will need a real parent that can show her what it means to be a wolf," Gregory says.

"Gregory" Finn says his name as if in warning. "What Finn, I am simply stating the obvious."

Dr. Morris came to be part of the pack, but that doesn't make him one of us." "No, it doesn't, but that doesn't mean I'm not the best parent for my daughter. You keep saying that Candace is her real mother, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. A mother doesn't abandon her daughter for any reason, let alone a rank. Olivia has been more of

a mother to my daughter in the short time we have been mated than Candace ever was.”

I'm grateful when the door opens and Della steps into the office. She immediately rushes toward me and scoop her up. “Daddy, I missed you.” “You just saw me this morning, silly girl, but I missed you too, Minet mommy too,” she says, looking back at Olivia. A throat clearing has us all looking back at the two councilmen.

Della, my name is Finn and this is Gregory. We are from the Wolf Council. We are here because your mommy, Candace, wants us to bring you to her pack. Della immediately wraps her arms around my neck. Fighter No. 1 doesn't want to live with Candace. I want to stay with my daddy and mommy she says. Pyker and I don't like seeing our pup this upset. “Della, Candace is your mommy. Has someone told you that Olivia has to be your mommy now,” Gregory asks.

Della picks up her head and looks at Gregory. “Mommies aren't supposed to be mean. They aren't supposed to tell you that you're bad all the time. Mommies aren't supposed to leave and say bad words like half-breed to their pups. Oli is my mommy. She loves me. She is nice and likes me. Her daddy was a human like mine Della says, and I can't help the smile that spreads across my face. I press a kiss on her forehead. I look back at the two men and I can tell that Finn seems to be satisfied with Della's answers, but Gregory is far from done.

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