

# **My Promised Rejection**

## **chapter 61-70**

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[ 1,726 words ]

Olivia POV

As we approached the gate, my heart starts to race. I know that Connor has alerted the guard that I'm on my way, but returning with six large men will spread through the pack like wildfire. I couldn't care less about the chatter. What I do care about is whoever was pretending to be Xavier and Miranda finding out about the king and his men. I have no idea what the hell they have planned, but I know it has everything to do with the midnight wolf.

Della is sitting next to Hudson and I smile when I see them whispering in the back seat. The guard notices it's me as he steps out of the small building and waves us through. I pull into an open space and smile when I see my brother and Becca waiting on the steps of the pack house. I slide out intending to get Della out next, but instead Hudson already has her in his arms.

We make our way towards the pack house and I notice many pack members watching as we approach. "Connor and Becca, this is Hudson, Liam, Morteci, Abe, Donny, and Isaiah. Gentlemen, this is Connor and Becca, the Alpha and Luna of the pack." Without a second thought, Connor and Becca both bear their necks to Hudson. "That isn't necessary Alpha and Luna. You are a part of my family and family doesn't bow. Besides, we need to keep exactly who we are a secret for now from the pack," Hudson says.

My brother smiles and I can only imagine what story he has cooked up. "I've informed the pack that you are retired Alphas that are visiting packs for research on pack laws," he says. I roll my eyes, but I can't stop the smile that spreads across my face. My brother was always good at making up stories. "Let's go to my office. The omegas will take your things to the home I've chosen for you. It is very close to Olivia and Ace's new home and there are enough bedrooms for all of you.

We make our way through the pack house and again members are watching the men. Many are women with lust in their eyes. They are good looking men, but there is no need for these women to act like they are in heat. We reach the bottom of the stairs when I hear a growl. I turn in time to see Liam pinning someone to the wall. What the f\*\*k did the pack member do to piss him off already?

My steps falter when I hear the word mate growled out by Liam. F\*\*k, I need to make sure he doesn't shift in front of the pack members who are starting to gather. I make it to his side and my eyes widen before a smile spreads across my face. "Liam, this is Ebony. She has been waiting for you. Tell your wolf to calm down, and she will go with us to the Alpha office." Me calling him a wolf seems to snap him out of his haze.

"She hasn't claimed us yet," he says, looking back at Ebony. "That's probably because you scared the hell out of her. Ebony, this is Liam. He has been waiting for you for a very long time. Do you think you can put him and his wolf out of his misery and accept him?" Liam growls low at me, calling him a wolf again, but I just smile. "Mate" she says and, without warning, he slams his lips down on hers.

I look to Hudson for a little help, who is busy smiling from ear to ear at his friend. "Hudson, a little help please." "Liam, let the poor girl breathe. Let's go to the Alpha office," Hudson says. Hudson's voice has him pulling back, but he refuses to let Ebony go. He lifts her into his arms, and she wraps her legs around his waist. I fight the urge to laugh as we make our way up the stairs. Well, that was certainly unexpected. Apparently the goddess agrees with these men coming to our pack.

Ace POV

I'm not sure how much time has passed, but I head back into the room. Despite my relief that Olivia hasn't returned, I know I need to leave this room. I have to figure out where the hell I am and what's going on. I slip on the sweatpants I find at the end of the bed. I move to the door, opening it slowly. A long empty hallway lies outside the door.

I have no idea where the hell I am. I've never seen this place before. How the hell did Olivia and I get here? I step into the hallway and something tells me to head toward the left. I make my way down the hallway, passing doors. When I finally reach the stairs, sounds are coming from the door next to them. Olivia's words from earlier replay in my mind.

She wouldn't really do that, would she? I move to the door, turning the handle. Expecting the door to be locked, but I'm met with no resistance. When the door opened a sight I thought I'd never see burns in to my brain. Olivia, my Olivia is riding that prick Nicholas. He smiles when he notices me. "What the f\*\*k are you doing," I scream at her.

"I warned you, Ace" she says with a moan. Despite my question, I'm not as angry as I should be. Why does seeing the woman that is my mate f\*\*king that a\*\*hole not have me feeling feral? I feel disrespected, but that is all I feel. Something else registers and I quickly close the door. I don't feel any pain. I felt no tingles when she touched me, and now I feel no pain while she f\*\*ks that a\*\*hole. That isn't Olivia, it can't be.

Olivia is my mate. The only woman I have ever loved and she would never betray me. I move rushing down the stairs to what looks like an empty pack house. I don't stop once I reach the bottom of the stairs. I rush toward the door that must lead to the pack yard.

As soon as I reach for the handle, Olivia's voice stops me. "You don't care even a little about what you just saw. I thought you loved me, Ace. I guess I was wrong," she says.

Her words only solidify my thoughts that she isn't my Olivia. I turn to face her. "Olivia, tell me about the first time you saw me." "I'm telling you that I don't think you love me anymore, and you want to reminisce. What the hell happened to you, Ace? You haven't been right since you were taken by that f\*\*king witch. Is this some kind of spell? I thought me f\*\*king Nicholas would wake you up, but I guess I was wrong."

Everything starts to snap into place. Memories of being taken by that pr\*ck Nicholas. Finding out that Cassandra was behind my father's imprisonment and my mother's death. Ryker, where the f\*\*k is my Lycan? I focus all my energy on reaching him. I feel his presence in my mind, but I feel like there is a barrier between us. A memory of Cassandra standing in front of me and us being surrounded by a pink haze pushes to the front of my mind.

My eyes move back to the faux Olivia. She stares at me like I have ten heads. "You have a Lycan, how," she asks. "You are a f\*\*king human," she screams. Just as the words leave her mouth, my head feels like it's about to explode. What the f\*\*k is happening? Banging like someone is taking a sledgehammer to a thick piece of wood by my ear has me falling to my knees. I grip my head, praying for the pain to stop.

Before I realize what's happening, I'm shifting. Ryker takes over and his eyes fixate on the woman now standing on the stairs. It's no longer the fake Olivia but Cassandra. He is in control and begins to rush toward her. "I thought you would die with your pathetic mother. I guess I didn't give that weak b\*\*ch enough credit," she says before she disappears, Ryker's growl fills the room. The place that looks like a pack house fades, and we are back in the cell.

Ryker and I both agree it's time to go home. I need to hold my mate and daughter before I go and tell Hudson he was fooled by this greedy b\*\*ch who wanted something that was never meant to be hers. He moves to the bars and with very little effort rips the cell door away from the hinges. We rush down a hallway until we reach a door that Ryker breaks easily.

When we step outside, screams ring out around us as members of the coven get a look at Ryker. We don't wait around to figure out how many of them have powers. I can sense they are witches and warlocks. How does Nicholas fit in here, I think as Ace runs at full speed. I'm not sure how the hell he knows where he is going, but I trust that he does. I sit back, my mind reeling. Guilt washes over me.

I was so concerned about getting answers I put myself in a position where I could have betrayed my bond. "No, it never would have happened. You knew immediately it wasn't our mate. I agree we were to c\*cky, but you didn't think for a moment of f\*\*king that b\*\*ch. Get that thought right out of your head. Not many men would have fought whatever the f\*\*k she used on us, but you did because you love our mate."

“She is all you want, and you know her despite the black magic that crazy b\*\*ch tried to use against us. She is ours,” he says. I smile to myself because he’s right. Everything about the fake Olivia felt wrong. Now I just have to wonder what Cassandra will try next now that she knows I’m Hudson’s son. She thought I would die with my mother, but now she knows I survived. This is far from over.

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[ 1,726 words ]

62 Ebony POV

As I step into the foyer, I notice Olivia and Della being held by a man I’ve never seen before. I’m just about to head back to the hospital and ask her about the man later when a growl has my body freezing. The scent of wild flowers fills my nose and my heart starts to race. Coral is pacing before she finally growls out the word “Mate” and my knees almost give out. Before I can even get my body to cooperate with turning around, I’m lifted and caged against the wall.

His arms are toned and muscular. As I move up to his face, my breath catches in my throat. He is the most gorgeous man I’ve ever seen. His eyes are black, and I know his wolf is in control. I’m not scared, but I’m not sure what to do next. I know he would never hurt me. “Liam, this is Ebony. She has been waiting for you. Tell your wolf to calm down,” Oli says, and color finally flashes in his eyes.

“She hasn’t claimed us yet,” he says to Oli before looking back at me. His deep masculine voice has shivers running down my spine. “Claim him Ebony. I want him. You want him,” Coral says. “Mate” I say, and without warning his lips are on mine. Holy f\*\*k, I’ve never felt anything like this in my life. The tingles are shooting to my core. I wouldn’t care if he took me here on the floor in front of everyone.

I swear he chuckles against my lips, but he couldn’t have heard what I thought. Our connection isn’t complete yet. “Liam, let the poor girl breathe. Let’s go to the Alpha office,” the man says from behind us. He pulls back, but his arms are still firmly wrapped around me. When he lifts me, I wrap my legs around him without a second thought. I bury my face in his neck and breathe in his scent. I fight the urge to run my tongue from his neck to his marking spot.

“Soon little one. Very soon,” he says, making my panties wetter than they already are. How the f\*\*k did he know what I was thinking? “Liam, I need you to put the young lady down and explain exactly what you are before this goes any further,” the man that seems to be in charge says. Coral whimpers and I feel the same at the thought of him letting me go. “No, I don’t want him to put me down. I don’t care what he is. He is mine.”

“Very well, but understand none of the pack know what we are, and we need to keep it that way for now” the man says. “I would never betray my mate or his friends.” The man smiles and Liam squeezes me tighter. “My king may I be excused or do you need me present for this discussion. My beast is not going to settle until my mark is on my mate’s neck,” Liam says. He wants to complete our bond. He knows nothing about my past. Worry washes over me and I wonder if he’ll still want me after I tell him, everything.

“Can’t you just tell him the basics,” Coral whines. I know she wants her mates as much as I do, but we can’t start our mateship with secrets between us. I didn’t even realize we were moving until I hear the door shut, and I’m finally set on my feet, but not for long. “Tell me about your past little one,” he says as he takes a seat on the couch, pulling me onto his lap.

I tell him about everything, including trying to come between Olivia and Ace. By the time I’m done, my eyes are focused on the floor because I don’t want to see the disappointment in his eyes. Two fingers lift my chin and my eyes finally meet his. “No one is perfect little one, and I won’t say that what you did was right, but by the sounds of things, you have made amends to the people that matter. Is that man still in the pack that did that to you,” he asks.

“Yes, but he and his mate stay away from me. They have two pups. They were too afraid of Candace to bother me after we graduated.” His expression turns grumpy. “Fine, I won’t kill him but if he even looks in your direction he is dead” Liam says. “I don’t think that’s necessary. It’s in the past. Are you sure you aren’t upset because I didn’t save myself for you?” “Ebony, the only thing that matters to me is being your last. I was not an angel and I have no right to expect a standard from you that I didn’t hold for myself,” he says. I can’t stop the low growl that escapes me.

Liam throws his head back and laughs. “Are you jealous little mate?” I attempt to slide off his lap, but he holds me firmly in place. “I promise you Ebony. The minute I found you, every memory from before you was erased from my mind. You are all that I see,” he says before pressing his lips against mine. I expect him to deepen the kiss, but he doesn’t, and I can’t help the disappointment I feel. He chuckles and I glare at him.

“How do you keep doing that? It’s almost like you can hear my thoughts.” “It’s not like I can, I can. Every Lycan has a power and mine is hearing the thoughts of those around me” he says. “Lycan, you’re a Lycan?” “Yes, does that bother you,” he asks. “Of course, not. I meant what I said in the office. You are mine, Liam. I just didn’t think there were any Lycans left. We are all taught about what happened to the king in school.”

“What exactly are you taught,” he asks, his voice laced with anger. “That the Lycans were wiped out because they were mistreating the wolves. Treating them as slaves, is what we were taught.” His eyes glaze over before he looks back at me. “Do you believe that now that you’ve met me,” he asks. “Not for a second. Are all the men with you Lycans?”

“We are all that is left of the royal Lycans after the attack.” “Oh my goddess, where have you been? That means you are a lot older than me. You have been waiting for me a lot longer than I’ve been waiting for you.

No wonder you didn’t wait.” His hands grip my face. “Ebony, all you need to know is that everything you learned about that day is a lie. I am the Royal Beta and that man who spoke to you in the office is the King.

As far as how long I’ve waited. I would wait another hundred years to find you,” he says.

Before I can overthink it, I turn to straddle his lap. I press my lips against his and I deepen the kiss. He moans into my mouth and I take the opportunity to run my tongue along his. His hands move down my waist and grip my a\*\*. He pulls back when we are both breathless. “Are you sure about this little mate,” Liam asks, his voice a mix of his and his beast. Instead of answering, I run my hand down between us and grip his clothed c\*\*k in my hand.

“You are mine, Liam.” I’m lifted, and he carries me over to the bed. He sets me on the edge and I reach for his waistband, but he stops me. “Not yet little mate. I need to get you ready to take me. Lycans aren’t just big in their beast form” he says with a smug smile. I roll my eyes but the clothes being ripped from my body has me staring back at my mate.

He bends pulling my a\*\* to the edge of the bed and dives in. Holy f\*\*k, is the only thought as he sucks my cl\*t into his mouth. Before I can even adjust, a finger penetrates me as he continues his assault on my sensitive.

It’s not long, and he adds two and then three fingers. I wiggle trying to get away from his relentless tongue, but he holds me in place. The org\*sam washes over me and I scream out Liam’s name.

Liam groans as he continues to lick up all the evidence of my pleasure. I squeal when his tongue circles my back entrance. “Don’t worry little mate, I won’t take you here today, but soon I’ll claim every part of you,” he says. Fear and excitement bubble inside of me. This man wants all of me. “More than you will ever know. You are mine, Ebony. Are you ready to take me? To become mine completely,” he asks.

“Yes,” I say, my voice breathy as I feel the blunt head of his c\*\*k at my entrance. I expect him to ease inside me, but instead he enters me in one thrust. F\*\*k I feel so full. There is a slight burn, but it only adds to the pleasure. When he starts to move, I can’t stop the sounds that escape me. “That’s it, Ebony. Let me hear what I do to you. Let the whole pack house know who you belong to,” he says. “Liam, oh goddess, Liam. I’m going to c\*m again,” I scream.

“Not yet. This time we c\*m together as I sink my canines into that beautiful neck marking you for everyone to see,” he says. I try to hold off the org\*sam that threatens to

explode inside me. After a few more seconds and hard thrusts from Liam, he tells me to c\*m and my body listens. The feeling of his canines breaking my skin have the org\*sam going on and on until I feel like I'm floating.

Coral pushes forward, taking control and sinks our canines into his neck. He roars as he empties himself deep inside my body. For the first time in my life, I feel complete. I say a silent prayer to the goddess for forgiving me and sending me this man. "We have both been blessed little mate," Liam says with a smirk.

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[ 1,564 words ]

Ace POV

I can sense we are getting close to the pack. I feel like we have been running for hours, but I can't be sure. Ryker has been in control the whole time. A scent that is all too familiar invades our snout and Ryker immediately stops running. We look around, but there is no movement, but I swear we can sense him. I thought she allowed us to leave far too easily. I had hoped the shock of us fighting against whatever the f\*\*k that pink powder was threw her for a loop but I guess that was wishful thinking. "Ryker, we need to get back to the pack."

"I'm not afraid of that blood-sucking pr\*ck. In fact I'm ready to deal with his disgusting a\*\*, right now," Ryker says. "I'm not afraid of him either. What I am afraid of is that crazy a\*\* witch. She knows we are a Lycan now. She is the reason that we lost our father and mother. We can't face her alone, Ryker. We are strong but she has powers." My words finally seem to sink in, and he takes off again. I can see the border of the pack when we are knocked off balance by that pr\*ck Nicholas.

Ryker manages to stay on his feet as we turn to face the ba\*\*ard who is baring his fangs at us. "I don't think that mistress gave you permission to leave Ace. She wants us to bring you back in one piece but that doesn't mean unharmed," he says. "F\*\*k you and f\*\*k her," Ryker says. "Such language. Do you kiss your little girl with that mouth Ace," he taunts me. He is too stupid to realize that Ryker is in control.

"You would do well to remember what a Lycan is capable of leech. Ace isn't in control right now. If you talk about our daughter again, I will rip your tongue and fangs out before I kill you slowly," Ryker says. Nicholas throws his head back and laughs. "I guess we are both full of surprises. I'm a vampire and you're a Lycan. A Lycan that was supposed to be dead. Looks like the goddess favors the weak," he says. Ryker growls and starts to circle him.

“You need to be careful, Ryker. He is not alone.” “I don’t care how many of these pathetic a\*\*holes come at me. I’ll kill everyone,” he says. I have no doubt he could take on the vampires. I just pray that Cassandra sent her puppets to do her dirty work. Nicholas lunges at us and Ryker easily grabs him by the throat. Fear flashes in his eyes before he focuses on something behind us. Ryker spins, never releasing his hold on the a\*\*hole.

Dumba\*\* number two tries to run his claw across Ryker’s stomach, but he easily dodges. He throws Nicholas. against a large tree before he grabs the pr\*ck. Without a second thought, he rips his head from his body. Claws dig into the flesh of our back as another rogue attacks from behind. Nicholas is lying motionless, but I’m sure he isn’t dead, only knocked out. Ryker flips the rogue off our back to the ground in front of us.

He lifts his paw and slams it down on the rogue’s head. The crunching sound has bile rising in my throat. “Better get a stronger stomach doc” he says, mocking me. The sound of movement to our left has him turning just in time to grab the rogue by his arms. He hisses and bares his fangs like a damn cat. Ryker roars and I stifle a laugh as the scary vampire pisses himself just before Ryker rips his arms off.

We look back by the tree and Nicholas is no longer there. F\*\*k, I really wanted to be done with that a\*\*hole. “Don’t worry, he won’t escape his fate,” Ryker says, before he starts running again. We shift before we reach the border, grabbing a pair of basketball shorts. Patrol guards are shocked to see me as the large brown wolf shifts. “You alright doc? I’ve never seen you out here. It isn’t really safe to be outside the border,” he says.

“Sorry, I didn’t realize how far I’d run until it was too late. I’ll be more careful.” He nods and shifts back before the three warriors take off. I turn around in time to see Nicholas step off behind a tree in the distance. I debate about giving Ace control to finish him before he can run back to his puppeteer, but I think better of it. The only thing that matters right now is getting to Olivia and Della. As soon as I hold my girls, we need to talk to Hudson. He needs to know about Cassandra’s betrayal. A feeling of dread washes over me. What if she goes after my father and his men since I escaped? I pick up my speed, which even in human form, has definitely increased.

When I finally reach the pack house, I notice a lot of pack members whispering. What the hell did I miss? Wolves love to gossip. When I reach the stairs, I take them two at a time until I reach the Alpha floor. When I don’t find Olivia there, I immediately head to Connor’s office. I knock twice before I push the door open. I’m shocked by the scene I find inside. Heads turn toward me and Olivia is out of her seat, rushing toward me.

I wrap her in my arms and hold her close, needing to feel her as much as I need my next breath. Needing to know she is safe even though I was the one kidnapped has played in my head every day I was gone. Little hands on my legs have me reaching for Della without letting go of Olivia. I hold them both close as I look at my father, who is sitting on the large leather couch with a huge smile on his face. I look around the room and everyone but Liam is here.

He must see the question in my eyes. "My second is no longer mateless," he says. I look at Olivia and she smiles. "Ebony is Liam's mate," she says. I press a kiss on her lips because I know this is her doing. She brought my father and his men here. I know we have a lot to discuss, but knowing my family is here and safe in the pack is more than I could have hoped for.

Cassandra POV

I can't believe that ba\*\*ard fought through the spell. He should have been putty in my hands. He should have wanted to f\*\*k me immediately, but instead he fought against it. I've never had a man be able to resist me after breathing in the powder of desire. What the hell? How did I not sense his Lycan? As soon as Nicholas opens the door, I know he and the rogues have failed. I expected nothing less. I wanted Ace to feel the little victory before I crush him and everyone he loves.

In fact, I think I'll start with that ba\*\*ard Hudson' since he is of no use to me any longer. I grab a pouch filled with pink powder because I'm not going to miss this opportunity. He refused me because of that worthless b\*\*ch, but this time he won't be able to stop himself. I've seen him in all his glory and I want my taste before I finally deal with the King of Lycans and Wolves. I smile as I focus my power on teleporting me to the mansion.

I appear in front of the building that was Hudson's false salvation. Before I take a step, I realize something is wrong. The barrier which had nothing to do with protecting the f\*\*king Lycans and everything to do with alerting me if Hudson dare step outside is gone. It's like something powerful wiped it out. Impossible, I think as I rush up the stairs. I throw open the door and move from room to room. F\*\*k, I scream. He and the rest of his men are gone.

Who could have done this? Do they know another witch who can match my powers? How would they find one? No member of my coven would dare defy me. They know the penalty for disobedience. No, there has to be another explanation. I think it's time to personally pay a visit to the pack again. I have a feeling that Ace has found his dear old dad and, if that's the case, Hudson is definitely hiding in that damn wolf pack.

A smile spreads across my face as I close my eyes. "I think it's time to visit the pack again. Be ready to cause a bit of chaos, my love," I say before cutting my connection. I teleport a few minutes later to the large log cabin, and he stands on the porch smiling at me. I move until I'm standing in front of him. He immediately slams his lips down on mine and I melt against him. Even after all these years, he can still set my body on fire. It's too bad our pup died. Then again, it was male, so there was no chance of the pup being the midnight wolf.

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[ 1,904 words ]

## Xavier POV

I smile looking down at my beautiful mate asleep on the couch. She really is perfect. I notice the crinkle in her brow and I realize she is probably dreaming about Olivia again. She has never given up hope that their relationship can be repaired, but I am less optimistic. Olivia's anger and hate has morphed into indifference over the years. She is civil, but she has accepted that her relationship with Evie will never be what it once was.

Olivia speaks to me but she would rather not. I understand her feelings towards me. I'm the villain in her story, but Evie doesn't deserve to be shut out by her daughter. She still refuses to acknowledge that Evie is her mother even after all this time. I wish I could fix this for her, but it's been five years. Part of me hopes our pup will soften Olivia, and she will let Evie in again, but I'm not going to get my hopes up.

I wish Evie would accept what Olivia is willing to offer, but I'm sure I would feel the same if my own pup wanted nothing to do with me. Hearing Olivia say she will be involved with our pup is more than I expected. I guess knowing she would be our pup's guardian was a bit of a saving grace when it comes to the pup.

I want our pup to know his or her brother and sister. Connor won't call me dad and I understand that he feels that is a betrayal after losing Charles. No matter what, Charles was his father. I have no right to expect him to think of me as anything more than his mother's mate. His relationship with Evie is better than Olivia's, but it's still strained.

Evie whimpers and I run my fingers down her cheek. She often dreams of those days leading up to Charles' death. She still carries a lot of guilt related to his death. I know I screwed up constantly with Olivia, which I'm sure didn't help Evie's relationship with her. I carry the guilt of the pain I caused Evie and her pups. I'm sad that Charles died. He was a good father and husband, from what Evie told me, but he wasn't innocent in everything, which I think is why I had such a hard time with Olivia's behavior. He knew what Evie was from the beginning. He knew about mates. He knew what Olivia was to become and decided to agree to keep it from her.

I wish that Olivia could have seen the nights that Evie cried herself to sleep in my arms, wanting her daughter back. When she begged the goddess to bring Charles back to her pups, even though she knew it couldn't happen. Seeing her in such turmoil nearly killed me. Olivia was so focused on her own pain she couldn't even see anyone else's. I know she was still a teenager, but she wasn't even a little reasonable about seeing anyone else's pain.

I never had an example of a father. My mother died when I was a pup and my father was more worried about being an alpha than a father. All he cared about was power.

That's why he was so far up the council's a\*\*. I was a burden to him until it was time for my training. I never really knew what love was until Miranda. Or what I thought love was. Feeling what I feel for Evie now let's me know I had no idea what love was before her. She snuggles further onto my lap and I chuckle.

I'm just about to lift her and carry her into our room when there is a knock on the door. I manage to lift her and set her down on the couch and she stays asleep. I move toward the door, and I'm a little startled when I open it to find Miranda standing on the other side. "Miranda, is something wrong? Did you have a vision?" "I did. Can we talk in private?" I look toward Evie before I turn back toward her and nod.

I lead her into my private office but leave the door open so I can hear if Evie wakes up. She moves to shut the door, but I stop her. "I want it open so I can hear Evie in case she needs me." Something flashes in her eyes before she finally takes a seat. "Xavier, I'm sure that Evelyn will be fine for a few minutes alone. You are being a little over the top. Many she-wolves have been pregnant before," she says.

Her words grate on my nerves, but I push my irritation aside. "What did you see Miranda?" A smile spreads across her face and so a feeling of unease washes over me. "After Evelyn gives birth I've seen us together raising the pup together." Atlas growls and I'm sure my eyes darken. "That won't ever f\*\*king happen, Miranda. Evie is my mate and the love of my life."

"You said that about me once," she says with a snicker. "Miranda, I'm not sure what has gotten into you but there will never be anything between us. I should never have given into those feelings but now that I have Evie I will never want you or any other woman. You need to focus on finding your own mate." "If Evie is no longer in the picture, we could have what we lost. We will have our pup and each other again. It is what it was always meant to be," she says. My growl practically shakes the walls.

"Did you just threaten my mate, Miranda?" "I'm simply trying to correct what happened in the past. It was supposed to be you and me and our pup. That could happen now once Evelyn gives birth. She isn't worthy of you, Xavier. She had pups with a human," she says. Before I can tell her she is out of her f\*\*king mind if she thinks I will ever choose her, a growl has my head snapping toward the door. F\*\*k is the only thought I have as Evie steps further into my office, her eyes black as night.

Hudson POV

I stand intending to hug my son before I stop myself. I haven't earned that right, and I'm sure he has many more questions before I do. As if he can read my mind, he sets Della on her feet and releases his hold on Olivia, who is smiling at him. She must feel something through their bond. He moves until he is standing in front of me. "I'm glad you're here, dad. I was worried the witch would try to get to you after I got away," Ace says before he pulls me in for a hug. Tears prick my eyes.

I missed so much of his life. I trusted people I shouldn't have. I cost him his mother and here he is offering me forgiveness I don't deserve. I was meant to be this great leader of wolves and Lycans, but I failed at the most important job. I didn't protect my mate and pup. "I'm glad to be here, and I'm so sorry son." He pulls back, looking into my eyes.

"Nothing you did was out of selfishness or with the intention of hurting anyone. You were as much of a victim of what happened as mom was and as I was. I wish mom would have accepted your bond. Being wolfless didn't make her unworthy," he says. "I was a powerful king. I failed you both," I start to say, but he cuts me off. "We need to leave the past where it belongs. Mom wouldn't want you to dwell on the pain. She would want you to focus on the future with your family," he says.

Something flashes in his eyes and I can sense his panic. "As I said, I'm glad you're here, but what about the council. There is nothing stopping them from coming here if they can sense your power outside the barrier. I can't lose you after I just found you," he says. Before I can speak, my sweet granddaughter comes to stand next to her father.

"Amethyst will protect him, daddy. You don't have to worry." I smile down at this precious child that will carry the weight of our world one day and I vow she will never carry it alone. I will no longer be king, but I will stand with her until I take my last breath, which hopefully won't be for a very long time.

A knock on the office door had everyone freezing. I'm not sure why. We were in the Alpha's office, with the Alpha. I almost laughed out loud at my thoughts. Ace stepped back and retook his place next to Olivia. I scooped up Della and retook my seat on the couch. "Come in," Connor called out. When the door opens a man that is younger than me but older than Connor steps into the room.

"Connor, I didn't know you had visitors. I was looking for Olivia. Miranda needs to speak with her," the man says. I watch as Ace's eyes darken but I'm not sure why. Does he feel threatened by this man? He shouldn't. Even though I can sense he is an Alpha, I can also sense he is weak. He would be no match for a Lycan. "Xavier, these are my guests. Hudson, Morteci, Abe, Donny, and Isaiah. Liam is another guest, but he found his mate in the pack, so they are indisposed," Connor says.

Xavier has a look of disgust but quickly masks it. I fight back the urge to growl at him. "What brings you to my pack," Xavier asks, and I bristle at his claim of a pack that is clearly no longer under his control. "We are here in Alpha Connor's pack to spend time with my son." I know I'm being brazen, but I'm done hiding. "Your son is a member of this pack" he asks.

"Yes, my son, Ace, is a member of this pack and Olivia's mate." Something about the way he looks between me and Ace has my hackles rising. "You are very evidently a wolf and Ace is a mere human. You must be disappointed he took after his mother. The only reason he is living in this pack among the wolves is because one of my guards was her mate," he says.

I'm just about to say the f\*\*k that man was her mate when Connor addresses him. "Xavier, is there a point to this visit other than you being rude to my guests" Connor says. I can't fight the smile that spreads across my face watching the rude pr\*ck be put in his place.

"I would be careful how you speak to me, Connor. I may have given you this pack, but you are not my son. I may not be the current Alpha, but I am still an Alpha and you will show me the respect I deserve or there will be consequences," Xavier says. Growls break out all around me and Xavier's confident facade slips. I can see he's a f\*\*king coward with false bravado who is about to find out what happens when you piss a real alpha off.

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[ 1,867 words ]

Evelyn POV

The sound of raised voices startles me awake. I'm glad because I've been dreaming more about Olivia and this pup growing in my womb. Flashes of the way Olivia looked at me the day she found out about Xavier has a fear growing inside me that my new pup will hate me once she learns how I've hurt her brother and sister. How I've hurt them for my own bond instead of protecting them. My daughter was so much stronger than I was. Miranda's voice breaks me out of my thoughts.

Why the hell is she here and in Xavier's office? I stand and move until I'm close enough to hear their conversation. My heart starts to race when she says after I give birth she will raise my pup with Xavier. I listen, praying that Xavier wouldn't betray me. I know he had feelings for her once. My body relaxes when I hear him refuse her and say I'm the love of his life. I love Xavier and I can't lose him.

Bile rises in my throat when she speaks again, but I push it down. I have no right to be upset. Charles was once my love. His relationship with her was before me. Her next words have the blood freezing in my veins.

She wants to get rid of me all together. I take a few deep breaths and steel my spine before I step into the room. I can feel my wolf just below the surface. She is angry and she wants blood, but we can't shift because of the pup.

Hearing her talk about my pups has a growl tearing from my throat as I step into the room. Two sets of eyes snap toward me and I move intending to slap this b\*\*ch across the face. Before I can reach her, Xavier is up and has me in his arms. "Think of our pup,

my love. She has powers. I'll deal with this. You have nothing to worry about. I love you and I will protect you and our pup," he says.

"Of course, she has something to worry about. She is a worthless wolf with no powers. Once she gives birth she'll be easy enough to deal with," Miranda says. Xavier's hold on me tightens before he turns to face the b\*\*ch that has a smug smile on her face. His eyes are black, letting me know that Atlas is close to the surface. Without warning, Xavier lunges at her, wrapping his hand around her throat. I feel unsettled as the smile never leaves her face.

"Xavier, this could have gone much differently had you started thinking with your head instead of your heart. The child will be powerful and deserves to have me as its mother," she manages to croak out. Just as the last word leaves her mouth, Xavier flies across the room, slamming into the wall. I attempt to move toward him, but I'm rooted to the spot I'm standing on. It's like my feet are glued to the floor. "Such a stupid mutt. I was willing to keep him around because he was a decent f\*\*k, but he chose you so now he can suffer," she says.

I place my hands on my belly. "Please don't hurt him or my pup. Why are you doing this?" She throws her head back and laughs. "Power, of course. Don't worry Evie. I'm not going to hurt Xavier or your pup. Feeling your bond snap after you give birth to my pup will be a much more satisfying justice for him for choosing you over me than just killing him," she says.

"You can't, I won't let you touch my pup." She throws her head back and laughs before she takes a step toward me. She lifts her hand, running her finger down my face. I'm frozen in place and I can't do anything to stop her from touching me. My skin crawls as her finger moves down my neck, over my breastbone, until her hand flattens on my round belly. "Hello sweetheart. Mommy is here," she says. "No, she isn't yours."

Her hand moves up and wraps around my throat. "She is mine and you are nothing. This pup deserves a mother that is worthy of her. Your pups hate you and you're weak." I fight the tears that threaten to fall, but I lose the battle. "Don't worry Evie, you have about a month before the midnight wolf is born. You'll be well taken care of before she's born," she says. "Get your f\*\*king hands off my mate, you b\*\*ch," Xavier says, rushing toward us.

I feel a tingle before he reaches us and I know she is taking me. "I love you, Xavier," is the last thing I say before I feel like I'm being pulled into darkness. "Please goddess don't let her do this. Don't let her take my pup, my life from me," I say before I let the darkness completely consume me.

Olivia POV

Something is definitely not right. Xavier would never say that Connor isn't his son. Despite my protests because of my father, he and Atlas accepted us as his pups the

day we met. Connor is on his feet and moving toward Xavier, who looks like he wants to be anywhere but here all of a sudden. “Cassandra,” he whispers, his voice laced with panic. I’m not sure if anyone else heard it or if their growls drowned out his whispered word, but I heard it clearly. This ba\*\*ard is working with the witch that took Ace.

“That isn’t Xavier, Oli. Amethyst just told me that she can sense a shimmer spell,” Danica says. My body stiffens as Connor comes to stand in front of the faux Xavier. “How dare you talk to your Alpha with such disrespect? I am not your son. Is that what you just said to me, Xavier? You have a new pup coming, so now you don’t need me or Oli to be part of your family” he growls out.

I can feel the hurt flowing off my brother in waves. He may never have called Xavier dad out of guilt, but he accepted him far more than I ever did. “Connor step back” I say, moving toward them. “Olivia,” Ace says his voice laced with concern. “I’m fine love.” I can see Connor doesn’t want to move, but he does as I ask. This time I’m standing in front of the pr\*ck. “What do you want, Oli? Have more hatred you want to spew at me because of your pathetic human father who killed himself,” he says.

Connor roars from behind me along with multiple other growls. “Uncle Connor, no, Della says, but her voice is definitely a mix of hers and Amethyst. I’m not sure if it’s her power or aura, but the whole room is frozen. “It’s not possible. She is a half-breed,” he whispers, and I know he’s realized that Della is the midnight wolf.

My heart starts to race. He can’t know who she is. She is too young, and the witch has something to do with this. A tiny hand being placed in mine has me looking down at my daughter. “Mommy, it’s alright. He can’t hurt us,” she says. “What the hell is wrong with you all? Do you really hate me so much that you think I would hurt you? I’ve been there for you all these years” he says, but his voice is weak.

Before I can stop her, Della reaches out her little hand and touches his, Panic flashes in his eyes and whatever spell was placed on him falls away. A man I’ve never seen stands in his place. He is definitely an Alpha wolf. His features are familiar but I can’t place them. Connor pushes past me, grabbing the ba\*\*ard by the throat and slamming him against the wall.

“Who the f\*\*k are you and where the f\*\*k is Xavier,” Connor asks. Despite the fear clearly evident in his eyes, he smiles smugly at Connor. “Who I’am isn’t important. What is important is that your mother is probably gone by now, while you’ve been here more concerned about dealing with me. The poor thing is probably scared out of her mind for herself and her pup,” he says.

Connor staggers back before he takes off for the door. Hook between the man and the door, but Ace grabs my hand. “My dad will stay here with that ba\*\*ard. Let’s go,” he says, grabbing my hand. “Take that ba\*\*ard to the cells and stay with him. If something has happened to Evelyn, he is going to pay for it,” I growl before I head out the door with Ace on my heels.

When we reach Evelyn and Xavier's wing, the sound of things crashing mixed with sobs has my chest aching. When we step into the office Connor has Xavier restrained as he screams for my mother. "She took her. That f\*\*king crazy witch took my mate. I can't live without her," he screams. His eyes meet mine and, for the first time, I truly see Xavier. Not Xavier the Alpha or Xavier the evil man that stole my mother, but the man that is broken about losing his mate.

I can't imagine what he is feeling because I can't even bring myself to think of losing Ace. "We will find her, Xavier. We will bring her back" I say. His eyes meet mine and I see both hope and regret. "Please Olivia, please bring her and the pup back to me," he says. Connor releases his hold on him only to pull him in for a hug. Once they release each other, I look at my brother. "I had Hudson take the ba\*\*ard to the cells."

"What ba\*\*ard" Xavier asks, his eyes turning black. "Cassandra didn't come alone. A man under a shimmer spell to look like you came with her as a distraction." He looks clearly confused. "Who the hell is Cassandra? Miranda is the one that took your mother." Pieces start to fall into place. Could they possibly be the same person? "Right now the only person who can give us answers is in the cells, Oli," Danica says.

Without a word, I turn leaving the office and tearing through the pack house. I can hear the pounding of feet behind me, but I don't need to look to know that Ace, Xavier, and Connor are on my heels. The guard hesitates when he sees me but quickly moves from guarding the door. I rush down the stairs and down the hallway that leads to the cells.

When Hudson sees me, he and the other man stand concern written on their faces. The pr\*ck is sitting on the cot smiling like he won. I'm just about to tell him he couldn't be more wrong when a gasp from behind me has the words dying on my lips. I turn just in time to see Xavier fall to his knees, staring at the man inside the cell. "How" is the only thing he manages to say, his eyes looking haunted.

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[ 1,876 words ]

Xavier POV

This can't be happening. I can't lose Evie or our pup, is the thought on repeat in my head as I follow Olivia through the pack house. Why would Miranda do this? Who the hell was Olivia talking about when she said Cassandra? As I round the corner, my eyes look toward the cell that Olivia is standing in front of. All the air is knocked from my lungs and I can't breathe. It's not possible for him to be here. He's dead. I was there when they burned his body.

I fall to my knees and the only word I can bring myself to say is “how?” This has to be another trick of Miranda’s. His laugh sends a shiver down my spine. It’s still the same cold sound that lets me know what he is about to say is anything but funny. “Still pathetic I see. You and your brother were such disappointments. Always concerning yourselves with what is right instead of what is necessary,” he says.

“You aren’t real. This is a game that Miranda is playing because of the pup. Who are you?” “You really are dense. You still think this is about the pup she lost. She never wanted the pup. Hell the pup wasn’t even yours, Xavier. Once we found out it was a boy, Cassandra started having visions about your wh\*re of a mate,” he says. “The pup wasn’t mine.” “What’s the matter, son? Thinking about how heartbroken you were when the pup died, thinking you lost your son” he says, his smile evil.

“You are disgusting. What was the point? Why even include me in your little love triangle?” He throws his head back and laughs. “Love, still such a little boy believing in a fantasy. Love isn’t real. Power and status are real. Once your brother died and Cassandra started having visions of you and your little mate, we assumed your daughter would be the midnight wolf. It’s the only reason I knocked the witch up to begin with,” he says.

“Who the hell is Cassandra?” “Ask the Lycan King standing behind you? He knows her well, don’t you my king,” he says and bows condescendingly. The man growls as he steps toward the cell. “I should have known a snake like you would be involved in this mess. I didn’t recognize you at first because time hasn’t been kind to you, William, but the minute you spoke I knew exactly who you were. So desperate to become king, you would do this to your own son. You would take his mate from him,” he says.

“Do you think I care about him in the least? He and his brother were a product of what happens when you accept what the goddess gives you. Their mother was an omega and my father insisted I accept her. So sure of the goddess’ wisdom. He insisted she would make me stronger. All she did was produce weak Alpha pups. I knew I was right the minute I broke our bond,” he says.

“What the hell did you just say?” A sinister smile breaks across his face, and he steps closer to the bars. “I said your mother was weak and pathetic. She caught me f\*\*king her best friend. She was already broken from the pains of my betrayal, so I put her out of her misery and rejected her. She lasted three days because she was so f\*\*king weak,” he says.

“You ba\*\*ard. She loved you. She wasn’t weak, she was kind. She was your f\*\*king fated mate. Everyone in the pack loved her except you. You were f\*\*king monster that spit in the goddess’s face. You think you can be king. You are nothing but a sad little man parading around like an Alpha. You and your wolf were never worthy of my mother or this pack.”

Atlas finally manages to take control. "Open the f\*\*king door so I can show him what a real Alpha wolf can do, Atlas growls. Olivia steps in front of us. "Don't hurt her, Atlas." "Do you think I would hurt our pup? Even if she doesn't feel the same way, she is mine." "Atlas, I know you're angry and scared, but if you kill him we won't find mom." Did she just call Evelyn mom? Goddess, I wish she were here to hear it even if it was a slip of the tongue.

Atlas gives me back control. "Drag him to the room at the end of the hall." I notice fear flash in my father's eyes for the first time since he started spouting about how pathetic I am. "You wouldn't dare. You never had the stomach for torture, pup," he says. "I'm not your pup and you'd be surprised what you can do when the love of your life is missing. You'd be surprised how far you will go for answers and to punish the ba\*\*ard that helped take her."

The man he called the Lycan King swings open the door and William backs up until he is grabbed by two of the men. "Cassandra, please. Help me," he calls out. I almost laugh until she answers. "Sorry William, I have what I want. Besides, I've grown bored with you and your ramblings about being king," a feminine voice says from behind us. I turn just in time to see Miranda turn into a woman I don't recognize and then fade from view.

"F\*\*k, they are the same person. I thought you said you've known Miranda since you were children," Olivia says, accusation in her tone. William's laugh has us all turning back toward him. "Memories she planted so you would be easier to seduce. You met her just before she got pregnant with my pup," he says, and I stagger back.

Before I can stop myself, I lunge forward, landing a hard punch to his jaw. "She left you to die. So I have a feeling you won't be laughing much longer, you pr\*ck," I say standing over him. The two men drag him into the room and chain his arms and legs. I pace as Atlas flashes images of what he wants me to do to my sperm donor in my mind. "Enough, we need answers. Everything you're suggesting has him bleeding out in seconds."

"Fine, but once we have the information, he is mine," he says but I make no promises. "Xavier, I know you don't know me, but I understand your anger. I lost my mate because of William and Cassandra. I lost seeing my pup grow up. As much as you want vengeance for all he has done, you need to stay in control until we get the information we need to find your mate," the man William called the king says.

"You are King Hudson" I say, and he nods. "He and Gregory said you were killed because you were unfair towards the wolves. They insisted that in order to protect our kind they had to enlist the help of a coven and eradicate the Lycans. It was all a lie wasn't it?" "Yes, William was power-hungry. I didn't know which members of the council were involved, but I suspected Gregory since he pushed so hard for the separation of the kingdom. Did they ever mention any of the other council members that supported their decision," he asks.

“No, but I’ll make sure to ask, my king” I say, showing him the respect he deserves. “He is not our king. He is a f\*\*king Lycan, not a wolf” William screams, spittle flying from his mouth. I cross the room, grabbing the short silver whip. Everything but the handle is pure silver. William’s eyes get big as I come to stand in front of him.” Where is my mate?” “Do you really think even if I knew I’d tell you,” he asks.

I pull back my hand and bring the whip across his stomach. His shirt falls to the ground and his skin sizzles. He screams and I smile. “I’ll ask you again. Where is my mate?” “I’m not sure. Probably in the coven, although if I know Cassandra she is hiding her someplace only she will know. Please don’t hit me again, I don’t know where she took her,” he pleads.

“What’s the matter, father, can’t take what you loved to dish out?” I crack the whip again, this time across his thighs. Blood pools staining what’s left of his pants as his skin burns. “Xavier, I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have betrayed you. Please forgive me,” he cries. It’s my turn to throw my head back and laugh. “You aren’t leaving this pack in one piece, let alone alive. Now what members of the council know and agreed to your plans to kill the king?”

“Just Gregory” he says, but his answer is too quick. “He’s lying, I can feel it,” Atlas says. This time I bring the whip across his chest and his whole body shakes. “Please no more. Please I’ll tell you. Just let me go,” he says. “This isn’t a negotiation. This is you f\*\*king answering my questions, or I take you apart piece by piece and enjoy every minute of it.”

“Fine, Augustus, is the one that came up with the plan. We all agreed I would be king and they would be my advisors. We would rule the wolves together. The other council members were against the idea. They had no idea about the attack until it was done. We blamed it on the witches and vampires. When Augustus attempted to appoint me, the other council said that without royal blood there would be no king. In fact, they thought I orchestrated the attack, which is why I was in hiding,” he says.

I look back at Hudson and he nods. I turn back and look at the man that helped create me. I’ve done everything in my power to be nothing like him. I walk over to the table and don gloves to protect my hands. “Lower him,” I say to no one in particular. The two Lycans do as I say, and I come face to face with William for the last time. He starts to thrash when he notices the silver rope in my hands.

“Don’t do this, Xavier. I’m still your father.” “No, I have no father. I only had a mother and brother. You are nothing to me. I’m going to find my mate and I’m going to love her the way you should have done with your own, but you will be long gone. My only hope is the goddess has something even more painful waiting for you.” I wrap the rope around his neck and pull it tight. Not enough to cut off his air supply but enough to burn through his skin.

He screams as the rope burns through each layer and with every inch the blood rushes over us until his body goes completely limp. His head lulls to the side and I breathe a sigh of relief that he is actually dead this time. That is until the realization that I'm no closer to finding my mate washes over me. Goddess, please let me find her.

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[ 1,768 words ]

Evelyn POV

My eyes fly open, and I sit up in a bed that I've never seen before. The last thing I remember is that b\*\*ch Miranda threatening to take my pup and mate. I slide off the bed and move to the large wooden door. I doubt it will open, but I try it anyway. It's locked. I move around the room opening doors and looking out the windows. The world outside looks like we are in the middle of a lush forest. I don't see any other buildings around.

I'm just about to try to link Xavier when the door to the room opens and a woman I've never seen steps inside. She is carrying a tray of food which she sets on a table in the corner of the room. She turns to face me and I can see sympathy in her eyes. "I'm sure you are hungry, Evie. I brought you a sandwich and some milk," she says. "I'm not eating or drinking anything you give me. I don't even know you and that crazy b\*\*ch I don't trust at all."

"I'm sorry you were brought here, but I promise you are safe. My name is Cassandra, and I'm a witch here in the coven. No one will hurt you while you're here," she says. "Please, I heard Miranda telling my mate she was going to get rid of me so they could raise my pup together. Your promises don't mean sh\*t to me. You are working with her."

"No, I'm a prisoner as much as you are. Miranda is my cousin, but my powers are nothing compared to hers. I have to follow her orders, or I'll be punished. She can be cruel, but I promise she doesn't want you harmed. In fact, she told me if you don't eat and drink or anything that happens to the pup, she'll kill me. Evie, she told me she made it clear to you she wants your pup. So you are safe until you deliver the pup," Cassandra says.

Is that supposed to make me feel better?

"I can't eat right now. Everything that's happened has my stomach unsettled. I'm just going to lay down." "Alright, I will bring you something for your stomach and more food in a few hours. I know you don't believe it, Evie, but you can trust me. Hopefully, in time, you will come to believe that and we can become friends. You are going to be here for a

while," she says before she leaves. I hear the lock engage, and I sit down on the side of the bed. I place my hands on my swollen belly.

My daughter decides now is the moment to let me know she is with me. She kicks and tears spring to my eyes. "I will protect you, my sweet girl. I promise I'll do everything I can to get you back to your daddy, sister, and brother." I fight the tears that threaten to fall. Maybe this is my punishment for all the pain I've caused my pups and Charles. I'm destined to suffer for all the suffering I've caused.

I curl in a ball and rub my hand over my belly. My eyes start to feel heavy again and sleep consumes me. I must be dreaming. Pack members are flitting about, and I'm standing with my pup in my arms. Xavier's arm is wrapped around my waist. Connor and Becca are sitting on the ground with their pup sitting between them. I smile when I see Olivia and Ace walking toward us. Della is running around them and Olivia is smiling.

She looks happy and beautiful. My eyes move down her frame and I notice a slight bump. My daughter is having a pup. I expect her to go to Connor and Becca, but instead she walks towards me. When she finally comes to stand in front of me, she takes her sister from my arms and leans in, placing a kiss on my cheek.

"Nana Evie, I'm going to be a big sister Della says. I reach down and scoop her up. "Yes, you are, and you're going to be a great big sister." "Mom, we find out what the pup will be today," Olivia says and my heart squeezes in my chest. She called me mom. "That's so exciting, Olivia. I can't wait to know what my new grandpup will be." She looks at me confused. "Mom, why are you calling me Olivia? You've always called me Oli" she says.

The feeling of happiness quickly fades, and I know, despite this feeling real, it is all in my mind. "Evie, it's time to wake up." My eyes flutter open and a hand on my arm has me pulling away. My eyes focus and Cassandra is looking at me with a concerned expression. "Evie, it's been three hours. Miranda wants you to wake up and eat something," she says.

"I really don't care what the hell Miranda wants. She has taken me away from my family." "You mean your mate. You really don't have a family anymore," she says. I stay silent, but her words bring the dream rushing back. "I didn't mean to upset you, it's just that Miranda said your son tolerates you and daughter hates you. That must hurt. I don't have any pups, but I'm sure that can't be easy. Maybe that's why Miranda is so hell-bent on taking your pup," she says.

"She can't have my pup. I love my son and daughter. She knows nothing about my pups, and she has no right to say such things. Get out and don't come back." "Evie, I can't do that. You are going to get us both in trouble" she says, reaching for my hand. I back up until my back is against the headboard. "Don't call me Evie. We aren't friends. I don't care if you get in trouble. I'm not eating or drinking anything, now get out."

I can see she wants to say more, but instead she stands and leaves the room, locking the door behind her. The tears her words conjured fall and, despite my protests, she's right. Olivia has stayed true to her word to never let me back into her life, not that I blame her. Charles was a good man and great father. I would have done so many things differently if I was given the chance, but I won't be. I just pray that if I don't make it back alive this pup will believe that I loved her just as much as I love Olivia.

Olivia POV

F\*\*k we are no closer to locating where that b\*\*ch took Evelyn. I replay my interactions with Miranda or f\*\*king Cassandra. Whatever the f\*\*k her name is, she is dead when I get my f\*\*king hands on her. Strong arms wrap around me and I turn burying my head in his chest. Fear and sadness wash over me. My mom must be so scared for herself and her pup. She may be able to defend herself in a normal fight, but this is a witch and a powerful one.

"We will find her, Olivia," Ace tries to reassure me, but there is no way he knows that for sure. We don't know the first place to even look. "Ryker can take us back to the coven. I may not remember how the hell we got back to the pack but my Lycan does," he says. Hudson steps into the hallway that leads back out of the cells. "Xavier needs a minute alone. He is on the verge of losing his sh\*t, and I can't say I blame him," he says.

"He has lost his mate and pup and found out his power-hungry father has been alive and plotting mayhem for over thirty years. That's a lot for any person to take in," he says. "Why are you so calm? My mother is gone, and you are acting like it's no big deal. She is pregnant and probably scared out of her mind," I say before I can stop myself. I know he doesn't deserve my anger, but it doesn't stop me from unleashing it on him.

He pulls me from Ace's arms and wraps me in his own. "I'm sorry, my daughter. I didn't mean to sound uncaring, but you are forgetting an important detail. Your daughter is the midnight wolf. She is more powerful than ten Cassandras combined. I am not worried about your mother or the pup because I know we will bring her home safely with my granddaughter's help," he says before pressing a kiss on my forehead.

Ace growls and Hudson chuckles. "Calm down, Ryker. She is my daughter. I am allowed to kiss her forehead.

Now there is nothing more that can be done tonight. I'm confident that Evelyn is safe because Cassandra still believes she carries the midnight wolf. Tomorrow we will talk with Amethyst and come up with a plan to get your mother back where she belongs." Ace pulls me back under his arm and we go in search of Della.

Once I have my pup in my arms, we make our way back to the guest room on the Alpha floor. Ace heads into the shower while I grab Pjs for Della. "Mommy, are you worried about Nana Evie," Della asks, and my steps falter. I set her down on the bed and kneel in front of her. Hearing her call my mother nana makes me sad again. She deserves to

have a chance to have both her grandmothers, even if Evelyn and I will never have the same relationship. "I am, but I know that we can all help bring her back home."

"Amethyst said the same thing. She said that nana made you sad. Are you still mad at nana for making you sad, mommy?" How the hell do I answer that? "Honestly" Danica says before stepping back. "It's complicated, sweet pea. Nana made some choices when I was younger that really hurt me." "Did she say she was sorry," she asks, her question so innocent. "She did say she was sorry but sometimes sorry doesn't make the hurt better."

She is silent for a few minutes and I can tell she has more questions, but I'm hoping she'll let this go. Her eyes change and Amethyst's purple ones stare back at me. She reaches out her little hand and the minute our skin touches, my body is engulfed in light. What the hell is happening now?

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

[ 1,862 words ]

\*\*\*\*\*Trigger Warning for Torture\*\*\*\*\*

William POV

Where the f\*\*k am I? I look around an unfamiliar room and the minute I try to move I realize my arms and legs are still restrained. Memories of that ba\*\*ard Xavier torturing me come rushing back. I didn't think the weak little pup had it in him. So worried about his precious mate. The b\*\*ch didn't even wait for him, and yet he would go against his own blood for her. Where the f\*\*k has he taken me? This definitely isn't the torture room in the pack house.

Mates are a weakness and not a strength. I thought I taught him that. Both the pups that f\*\*king low-ranking b\*\*ch produced were f\*\*king weak. Hell, I had to kill Randall myself after he heard my discussion with Augustus. I couldn't risk him alerting the other council members. Besides, he was of no use to me after producing a female pup.

I should have never marked Gwen despite my father's orders. I should have mated with a proper Luna. I could have kept the omega to please my wolf, but my father believed he knew better. Refused to give me my birthright if I didn't take my goddess given mate. She wasn't worthy of being with me.

The sound of movement outside the room and the appearance of a door where only a wall existed just seconds ago has my heart racing. Am I back in the coven? It can't be. Cassandra wouldn't do this to me. She was in love with me, but I could never truly be

with a witch. She was a good f\*\*k and a nice distraction while we waited for the Midnight Wolf of legend to be born.

The door opens and the fear that ripples across my skin has me pulling at my restraints. A woman with jet-black hair and scars covering her exposed skin steps into the room. "Who the f\*\*k are you? Where the f\*\*k

am I" I scream, but she simply smiles at me. "Oh William, for a wolf that is so big and bad you sound like a scared little b\*\*ch," she says. "How f\*\*king dare you speak to me that way? I'm a f\*\*king Alpha."

She throws her head back and laughs, causing a shiver to run down my spine. When her eyes meet mine again, they are cold and black. "Before we have our time, I have two people that want their turn with you, and I'm a firm believer in retribution,

she says. "What the" I start to say, but the words die on my lips as Gwen and Randall step into the room. "No, this isn't possible. You are both dead." A smile spreads across Gwen's face. "What's the matter, William? Are you seeing the ghosts of your past," Gwen asks.

"This isn't real. It can't be." "It is very real, dearest father. Xavier finally got to do what I've wished I could do for decades. He ended your pathetic existence. The difference between us and you are the goddess holds us close, but you will never know that feeling. All you will ever know is pain and suffering for all you have done. You took me from my daughter," he screams in my face. A hard punch to my stomach has me wanting to double over, but the restraints won't allow me to.

I groan trying to catch my breath. When I manage to look up, Gwen is standing so close I wonder what she is planning to do. When my eyes meet hers, I swallow a lump in my throat. Her eyes are black and cold. Before I realize what's happening, a burning pain rips through my stomach. I scream before I look down in time to see Gwen pulling a large blade out of me. "What the f\*\*k are you doing," I scream.

She looks up with a sinister smile before she plunges the knife into me again. "I'm showing you just a little of what I felt every time you f\*\*ked some wh\*re. I wish I could make you feel the anguish and worthlessness! felt every time. Why didn't you just reject me," she screams as she stabs me again. If I'm dead, how does this hurt so much? The bitter laugh that comes from behind me causes a sinking feeling in my chest.

"Did you not believe Randall when he said you would only know pain and suffering? You will never know the peace and love of my sister's realm. You will be another plaything for me for the rest of eternity. The good news is, no matter how much you bleed or how much pain you endure, you will feel like you are dying all over again until you end up right back here," she says. "Please," I say, despite knowing it will do me no good.

“Do you know how many times I begged you to stop hurting me and our pups, but what did you do,” Gwen asks. The answer is, I laughed in her face or hurt her even more, but I don’t dare say that. This time, when the blade penetrates my side, she twists it. Blood pours down my body until the floor beneath me is covered in the crimson liquid. I can feel myself slipping away, and I pray that nasty-looking b\*\*ch is wrong about me coming back.

A few seconds later I gasp air once again filling my lungs. My eyes fly open and tears spring to my eyes. The woman steps forward with an evil smile on her face. “Let me introduce myself, William. I am Tanith, the Goddess of Vengeance. Mine and my sister Nemisis will be the faces you see for the rest of eternity. Now I know that Gwen wanted you to feel the torment she did. She may not be able to visit it upon you, but I can,” she says.

She reaches out her hand and I thrash, trying to stop her from touching my head, but it’s useless. The minute her skin touches mine, I’m consumed by feelings I’ve never experienced. I’m bombarded with feelings of sadness and devastation. It’s hard to breathe. The feeling of the blade would be welcome in place of this soul-crushing agony. Is this really what she felt? I can feel tears pour down my cheeks as I stare at the woman that endured this for years.

Relief washes over me when her hand is gone and with it the agony. I look at Gwen and Randall for the first time, feeling something other than disdain. “I’m sorry,” I manage to whisper. Gwen throws her head back and laughs. “You thought I was weak, but you couldn’t handle a speck of what I did. I wish I knew who you were when I agreed to accept our bond because I would have walked away. Not for myself but for my pups. They deserved better than a ba\*\*ard like you. You can keep your sorry because it means nothing,” she says, rage evident in her eyes.

I watch her turn her back towards me and move to a table I hadn’t noticed before. When she turns around she’s holding what I can only describe as large scissors. “Gwen, please don’t do this. I see I was wrong. This is not you. You were always so kind and gentle. Don’t let my actions change who you are. Don’t become a monster like me,” I plead. Despite her silence, her intentions are written all over her face.

She closes the distance between us and once she is standing in front of me, Randall turns away. “Gwen, you aren’t a monster. Don’t do this,” I continue to plead as she cuts what’s left of my pants and underwear away. I fight against the restraints as she reaches out and grabs my c\*\*k. Again, tears rush down my cheeks, this time in fear. “After today, I will enjoy my afterlife. I will watch over my son and his children. I will never think of you again,” she says. It’s over in seconds and the pain is worse than I could have imagined.

I scream, and I’m not sure how long I last but I can feel myself fading quickly. Randall steps in front of me and runs the blade from earlier across my neck. This can’t be my fate to die over and over. To live through all this torture every second of eternity. I feel

myself being sucked back again and my lungs feel with air. This time, the only one in the room is Tanith. "My turn" she says and I know for sure I regret everything.

Olivia POV

The light is blinding, but just as quickly as it came, it's gone. My hand tightens on Della's the minute I realize we are no longer in our room. I look down and Amethyst is smiling back at me. "You don't need to be afraid mommy. This place is special" she says. "Amethyst, where are we? Daddy is going to be worried when he realizes we are gone." "We are in the goddess's realm and I already let Ryker know we are safe," she says.

I almost choke on my words, but I finally manage to spite them out. "The goddess's realm." Before Amethyst can answer, a beautiful woman with long flowing red hair steps into view. "Hello Olivia" she says. "Moon Goddess, is this real or am I dreaming. I can't be dreaming, I wasn't sleeping." She chuckles and extends her hand to me. "This is very much real my child. Now I've brought you here for a little chat, but I also have a surprise for you at the end of our talk," she says.

I place my hand in hers and a sense of peace I've never experienced washes over me. "You have been through so much, my sweet girl. I'm sorry for all the pain you've endured, but I couldn't be more proud of you." Now I'm confused. "Aren't you angry I tried to reject the mate you chose for me?" She places her hand against my cheek.

"It took bravery to sacrifice your own happiness for the happiness of your mate and pup. I knew you would find your way back to each other. It was only a matter of time. Besides that, Candace is a nasty thing and I knew she would show her true colors eventually." A look of sympathy flashes in her eyes. "I can feel how torn you are, child. Torn about your feelings for Evelyn," she says.

I go to open my mouth, but she raises her hand and I snap my mouth shut. "I'm not telling you that you have to forget the pain she caused you, but you need to heal. You have never had an honest conversation with Evelyn that wasn't rooted in anger. You deserve to be happy, my child, and making peace with the past is part of that journey. Now I promised you a surprise. If you turn around its behind you" she says. As soon as I turn around I fall to my knees. "Daddy."

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[ 1,770 words ]

Olivia POV

“Hello Oli girl” he says. Tears stream down my cheeks as I stare at the man I lost five years ago. How is this real? How can he be here? He moves until he is standing in front of me. He reaches down and pulls me into his arms. For the first time since I lost him, everything in my life feels right, I’m in my father’s arms. “I’ve missed you daddy” I say unable to control the sob that escapes me. “It’s alright Oli girl. I’ve missed you too, but I’ve been with you every step of the way,” he says.

I pull back and look into his eyes, which look so much like mine. “I’m so sorry, Oli. I was so selfish,” he says. I’m sure I’m looking at him like he has grown another head. “You have nothing to be sorry for, dad.” “Yes, I do.

Just like your mother, there are many things I would do differently, but one thing I would never change was you and your brother. No matter how much it hurt to lose your mother, you and your brother were my greatest joy in life,” he says.

“I lost sight of that in my grief, but I shouldn’t have. I should have been stronger instead of drowning my sorrows in a bottle. You and your brother deserved far better,” he says. “It’s not your fault. She left you. She broke your heart.” “Oli girl, even though your mother caused me pain, it doesn’t excuse what I did. I was supposed to be strong for you. You needed me and instead of making sure I was there I was making myself numb,” he says.

“You have to forgive Oli” he says. I go to open my mouth to tell him I have, but he gives me a look I remember well. “You may have said the words, but your actions show something totally different, Olivia. I want you to forgive Evelyn and Xavier for you, not them. They have to make their own peace with what happened.”

“How can I forgive them? I know you say it’s your fault, but it’s not. She should have walked away from him. She should have told him she was happy. That she had a family she loved, but instead she threw us away.”

“No Oli, she accepted what was always meant to be hers. Her gift from the goddess. I knew there was a possibility she would find her mate, but I couldn’t walk away from her. I loved Evelyn with my whole heart. Before she felt the pull of the bond, we were happy Oli. I know you remember the good times we had. I’m not asking you to start calling her mom tomorrow, but I’m asking you to talk to her, Oli. Tell her why you are so angry. You deserve to have that conversation just like the goddess said.”

“Why weren’t we enough dad? Why couldn’t she walk away from him?” “I don’t know the answer, Oli. I’ve never known the pull of the mate bond and I don’t know what your mother was feeling when she left me. I was angry too, Oli. I should have had an honest conversation with her instead of letting the pain cloud my judgment. I’m not saying I still wouldn’t have been hurt, but I might have been able to get past the pain had I just listened to what she had to say,” he says.

“What if I can’t dad? What if I can’t get past what she did?” “I told you, Oli. This is for you, not her. Evelyn lives with what she did every day. The guilt and hurt never leaves her, Oli. She is living in a hell of her own making. She needs to forgive herself. She isn’t a bad person. You know that in your heart Oli she just wasn’t as strong as you. As much as Xavier is dull as a post he isn’t a bad person either.” I can’t help but giggle at my dad’s description of Xavier.

“Evelyn is about to bring your sister into the world and that little girl deserves to have both her mother and sister. I’ve held her Oli. She is perfect. I know she isn’t my blood, but she is my child because she is your sister. She is the child I always wanted. I’ll be watching over her too,” he says.

I wrap my arms tighter around him. “As much as I want to hold you forever, Oli girl, it’s time for Amethyst to take you back to Ace” he says. The tears pour down my cheeks again. “I’m so proud of you, Olivia. Proud of your strength and the woman you’ve become. You are selfless and smart. I know you’re sad that I’m here, and you’re there, but I promise I’m with you every day. I watch over you and my heart is full, knowing you are my daughter. Despite mine and your mother’s mistakes, you have become the most amazing young lady. I love you, Oli,” he says.

“I love you daddy” I say, holding him a little tighter. “Are you ready, mommy,” Amethyst asks. I pull back and look down at my daughter. My dad bends and Amethyst hugs him. “Thank you for bringing her to see me, Amethyst” he says. “I knew she needed to see you, grandpa,” she says.

My heart squeezes in my chest. Hearing my daughter call him grandpa means everything to me. He kisses her forehead and then mine. “Tell Connor I love him, and I’m proud of him. Remember what I said, Oli girl” he says. “I will dad.” Amethyst slides her little hand in mine, and I’m once again engulfed in light. When I’m able to open my eyes, we are standing back in our room.

As soon as Ace sees us, he hops off the chair and wraps us both in a hug. “I knew you were both safe, but the irrational part of my brain was still worried,” Ace says and I smile. When he pulls back, I can see the concern in his eyes. “You’ve been crying,” he says. “I have but happy tears. Amethyst took me to the Moon Goddess’s realm. I got to see my dad.” I swear I can’t stop the tears from flowing again and Ace pulls me back into his arms.

“I’m so happy for you, Olivia. Do you want to talk about what he said,” he asks. Goddess, I love this man. He leads us all over to a sitting area and keeps us both on his lap as I tell him everything that happened while we were gone. A feeling of exhaustion washes over me and I pull Amethyst into my arms. “Thank you sweet girl. I love you so much.” “I love you too, mommy. I’m going to give Della back control. She wants a hug too,” she says.

The purple of her eyes fades and Della is staring back at me. "I love you sweet pea" I say hugging her close. "I love all three of my girls," Ace says, kissing both, our foreheads. Once we are all in bed, it doesn't take long for sleep to take me under. My body and mind completely at peace with the past and present.

Evelyn POV

I don't know how much longer I can wait to eat and drink. My stomach rumbles and my mouth feels dry. The only consolation to this nightmare is my baby girl is moving all over the place. As I turn on my side, I can feel Summer stir in my head. She hasn't really spoken to me since we were taken. I thought maybe that crazy b\*\*ch had injected me with something to block her.

"Evie, you need to eat and drink. I know you're worried, but Amethyst said that the witch won't harm you while Calliope is in your belly," Summer says. "Who is Amethyst and why is she calling my pup Calliope," I ask. "She is the true midnight wolf. She is our daughter's pup. She is the one that will help to get us out of here. We can trust her with our lives, Evie."

A feeling of relief washes over me hearing that my pup isn't the midnight wolf. I don't know if Xavier will be disappointed, but I'm relieved. It's hard enough to be a wolf without having to carry such a heavy burden from the time you're a pup. My heart breaks a little that Della will have to bare that burden. Olivia may not think of me as her mother anymore, but that little girl is my grandpup. "You have to keep playing along. Cassandra has to believe that Calliope is the midnight wolf, Evie," Summer says.

"What do you mean, Cassandra? Miranda is the one that took us. Cassandra is the one that said she is a prisoner." "They are the same person, Evie. She is lying to us. Miranda is just a shimmer spell. Cassandra has hurt a lot of people trying to take the midnight wolf. You can't let her know you know Evie. She needs to believe you've accepted being stuck here until you deliver our pup," Summer says.

"I won't let on I know anything. I just want to go home, Summer. I want to see Xavier, Connor, Becca, Ace, and Olivia. I want to tell them I love them. I want to talk to Olivia. I want her to know I understand why she is angry, and I'll accept whatever role I can play in her life. I won't keep being selfish to ease my own guilt. I just want her to be happy," I say tears springing to my eyes. This time I let them fall.

I'm not sure how much time passes before the door to my room opens again. Cassandra steps inside with a tray filled with food and tea. "Evelyn, can you please eat and drink something? Miranda is going to punish me if you don't this time. I promise you it's safe" she pleads. She picks up a sandwich and takes a bite before she drinks the tea..

After a few seconds, I slide off the bed, making my way over to the small table. I sit down without a word and start to eat. I notice the corner of her mouth rise in triumph. I

can't wait till Olivia knocks that smug smile off her face. My daughter is a force to be reckoned with and this b\*\*ch is going to find out first hand.

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c 70

## - Chapter 70

[ 1,860 words ]

Cassandra POV

"I don't know if I can deal with that whiny b\*\*ch for another month. If I didn't need to make sure she ate and drank for the health of the pup, I'd put her to f\*\*king sleep so I wouldn't have to pretend I'm as pathetic as she is. I still can't believe that Xavier chose that mutt over me."

"I didn't truly want him, but I was still a better choice than that f\*\*king she-wolf that mated with a weak human. I still don't understand how Olivia was chosen as a guardian wolf. She is a f\*\*king half-breed." "Mistress, why don't you just let me deal with Evelyn? Use a shimmer spell to turn me into a small child. She is glib enough to trust a child without question," Nicholas says.

"For now, I'll continue to deal with her, but it's a promising idea for the future if she continues to get on my nerves. Thank you pet. Come to my room tonight, and I'll reward your willingness to please me." He smiles before leaving my room. Goddess, they are all so easy. It doesn't take much to get a man to do as you please. Praise, s\*x, and promises of power, and they are all ready to get on their knees to do your bidding.

Nicholas has somewhat of an excuse because he is weak and spelled, but Xavier and William were supposed to be these strong Alphas. They were just as easy to manipulate. They both wanted different things but were more than willing to give me what I wanted for different reasons. Xavier wanted to be loved. Some memories

of a childhood that never happened had him wanting to hold me close since William was a heartless ba\*\*ard.

William, on the other hand, wanted to use me for s\*x and power. He thought I was really in love with him.

Don't get me wrong, the s\*x was good, but he meant nothing to me. He was another pawn in my plan, and he actually believed I would make him king. I can only imagine the torture he endured before Xavier finally ended him. The only one that I couldn't get to follow me around like a little puppy was Hudson.

I remember the one and only time I approached him about being more than just friends before I realized that wolfless b\*\*ch was his mate. I had the persuasion powder and even that couldn't get him to give into lust.

Flashback

I make my way to Hudson's office. I've decided if he is willing to take me as a chosen mate and make me his queen, I won't have to follow through with my plan. It only makes sense that our pup will be one of tremendous power. I'm a powerful witch and he is a Royal Lycan. I knock on the door and push it open.

Hudson lifts his head from his papers and smiles at me at first. Then I watch him take in my outfit and the smile quickly fades.

"Cassandra, why are you dressed like that to come to my office," he asks. I ignore the irritation I hear in his voice and shut the door behind me. I'm wearing a white silk nightgown. "I wanted to make a proposal and I thought you would like it." He sits back in his chair and motions to the chairs in front of his desk. I want to round the desk and sit in his lap, but instead I take the chair he motioned to. "Hudson, I've been thinking. I know that Lycans can live hundreds of years before finding the mate, the goddess destined for them."

"I know how difficult it is to want that connection but be denied it. My beloved was a wolf who rejected me because I'm a witch." I see sympathy flash in his eyes, but I ignore it. "I propose you take me as your chosen mate. I can bear you many children and, if we are lucky, one might be the next Queen of Werewolves. Imagine the power we would have. No one would dare come against us. I would be a good mate. I find you handsome and would enjoy pleasing you, my King."

I go to stand intending to round the desk, but a low growl has me retaking my seat. "Hudson" I start to say, but he raises his hand to silence me. "Cassandra, you are a beautiful woman, and I'm flattered that you would even consider becoming my chosen mate, but I've found my fated mate. Lorraine is my mate," he says. He can't be serious. The wolfless b\*\*ch who isn't fit to clean his room is his mate.

"Hudson, I'm so sorry. I can't imagine how disappointing that must be." His eyes darken, and I can tell his Lycan is fighting him for control. "Cassandra, I'm not disappointed at all. I already love Lorraine. If it was up to me, my mark would already be on her neck, but she is having a hard time accepting that she is fated to the King. I'm hopeful in time she will accept our bond," he says.

He can't be serious. He would rather have a weak fated mate instead of a strong chosen mate. "Hudson, I mean no disrespect, but what will the kingdom think if you make Lorraine your queen? She doesn't even have a wolf. Can you imagine the ridicule both of you will endure? She is fragile, Hudson." He slams his fist down on the desk. "Enough Cassandra," he says.

"I consider you a friend and an ally, but nothing would ever make me go against the goddess. Lorraine is perfect and there will be no further discussion about her not being good enough to be queen. I would also appreciate it if you kept this between us until Lorraine is ready to accept our bond," he says. "Of course, my king," I say, standing ready to leave his office. Anger courses through me. How dare he accept that pathetic b\*\*ch.

I turn to leave just as the door to the office opens. Lorraine stands in the doorway looking between us. I can see the hurt and sadness in her eyes before she turns to leave. She doesn't make it five steps before Hudson has her in his arms as she fights against him. "Lorraine, my love, nothing happened. Cassandra didn't realize we were mates and now she does. You are the only woman I will ever want," he says. I slip past them before I do something I'll regret. He'll pay for not choosing me.

## Flashback Ends

Even though she refused to allow him to mark her, he was loyal to her. She at least recognized she wasn't worthy of a king. It's too bad he was so stuck on having his fated mate. We may have created the midnight wolf together. He wouldn't have been weak with me by his side, but instead he refused me.

It was then I planted the bug in Augustus's ear. Told him how Hudson looked down on the wolves. How he felt the Lycans were superior in every way. Gave him examples of how he favored the Lycans. When I got William on board, it was easy to convince Gregory since they were like brothers. Gregory trusted William even though William would have betrayed him for his own gain. I chuckle to myself thinking about that ba\*\*ard asking me to save him. He was no longer useful to me, so there was no need to save him from his fate.

I will say that having the three of them at my beck and call to do my bidding made me feel even more powerful back then. Speaking of Augustus, I think it's time he visited the Red Rose pack. I wave my hand appearing outside the council gates. As I approach, the guard looks concerned. "State your business witch," he says. I tighten my fist at my side, fighting the urge to turn the pr\*ck into a true mutt. "You can tell Augustus that Cassandra is here to see him. I have news of a threat to the council."

The guard's eyes darken before they glaze over. When they return to normal, he moves to open the gate. "You will follow me, witch. Do not try anything, or you won't make it out of this place alive," he says. I fight the urge to roll my eyes. I could snap my finger and kill his weak a\*\* in an instant. I follow him into the large stone building. I honestly could have just appeared in Augustus's quarters, but his mate and I don't get along. She believes that Augustus is an honorable man, and I'm evil. If she only knew the truth.

Hell, if I didn't need Augustus to deal with the wolves so I can focus on Evelyn and the midnight wolf, I'd already have wiped the council out, but for now I'll pretend he is still important to the wolf kingdom. Now that William's dead, I'll tell him he can even become king once we finally eliminate Hudson. He'll jump at the chance to finally end the mighty king. When we reach the large wooden door, the guard knocks twice before pushing it open for me."

When I step inside, I smile. Augustus is already on his feet and moving toward me. "Cassandra, to what do I owe this unexpected visit," he says, reaching for my hand. "I have some interesting news to share with you." "The guard said you were saying there is a threat to the council," he says.

"It seems Lorraine's pup didn't die with the wolfless b\*\*ch. In fact, he is a Lycan." His eyes darken, and he leads me over to a large couch. "Where is this Lycan" he asks. "He lives in the Red Rose pack. Up until recently, they believed he was human." "Ace Morris" he says the name like a prayer. "Yes, not only has his Lycan awakened, but he and his mate have managed to convince Hudson to leave the barrier."

“How could he possibly get through? You yourself are the one that created the barrier to keep Hudson in. It was better than a quick death,” he says. “I don’t know, but something powerful had to help him move through the barrier because it’s still in place. We can’t let him undo all we have done, Augustus. He isn’t worthy of ruling over the wolves. Now that William is dead, I think you should become King. We have waited long enough.”  
“William is dead, how he asks.

“We were trying to see exactly what Hudson and Ace knew. I was able to keep myself hidden with the shimmer spell but he was caught. There were too many of them to save him” I say as a tear rolls down my cheek. “There, there, my child. We will make this right. I will take Gregory and Omar with me to the pack. I will not let William’s sacrifice be in vain. It’s time we finally kill the king,” he says.

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