

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 51

6 years later....

Sierra

“Mumma?” A tiny voice whispered sleepily next to my ear.

“Yes baby?” I said, cracking one eye open.

“I cant sleep.” Levi said, a pout on his face.

“Another bad dream?” Edward mumbled, his eyes still closed.

“Yeah”

“Come on in.” I said, pulling back the covers.

Levi scurried into our bed, making himself comfortable between us and sprawling out, leaving Edward and I on the edge of either side of the bed.

“Mumma?” Another tiny voice said from the doorway a few minutes later.

“Yes Xander?”

“I cant sleep.”

“Get in here, kiddo.” I yawned.

He, like his brother, seized the opportunity and took up what little space we had left on our king-sized bed.

“Thats two out of four.” Edward chuckled sleepily.

“Dont worry, the night is still young,” I sighed.

Six years had passed since I was made Queen, six years since I gave birth to our eldest pups. The time had flown by faster than I had expected it to. Since then, Edward and I have had two more pups, a girl, Stella, and a boy, Hunter, and I am currently freshly pregnant with pup number five, which I am making sure will be our last if I have to tie my tubes myself. My body was getting tired from all these pregnancies.

Ella and Jackson were catching up with us as well, having three of their own. Joy, Ben, and Jane. They were inseparable with our pups. Our Gamma William had two now also, Isaac and Ivy, who we were sure were going to be mates to our pups. Isaac and Stella were inseparable, as well as Ivy and Ben. Ella's sister Lauren found her mate, Justin, and they just had a pup of their own, Owen.

Edwards' sister Abby still has yet to find her mate. She doesn't let on that it bothers her, but I have found her staring at our pups with a sad expression on her face more than once. I prayed to the moon goddess that she would bring Abby her mate soon. My father and Sylvia were eating up every minute with our litter of pups, the proudest grandparents you'll ever meet. They have been happily living at the lakehouse and even took a few trips over the years. They were truly meant to be together, their personalities perfectly complimented each other, even though it was still a bit weird for us grown kids.

"Daddy?" Stella yawned, coming around the side of the bed to Edward. She knew he had a soft spot for his little girl.

"Come on in punpkin." He said, reaching down and picking her up onto the bed.

I could hear Hunter's pup monitor going off a few minutes later, obviously upset that he wasn't part of the group. He was so close to being able to climb out of his crib, but not quite.

"I've got him." I yawned and left my warm overcrowded sanctuary. I shuffled down the hallway, a fresh bottle in hand, rubbing the sleep out of my eyes. "Hey buddy." I said, picking up my teary-eyed boy. After a quick diaper change and a bottle in the rocking chair, Hunter was fast asleep, and I was wide awake. It was still early but the sun was starting to rise. I grabbed the pup monitor and headed outside, wanting to get a few minutes of meditation in before our hectic day would begin.

I sat cross-legged on one of the benches in the garden. I tried my best to focus but so many things were running through my head it was hard to focus. The past few years have been very taxing. A lot of good has happened, like our pups being born and establishing an alliance with King Carson finally, but a lot of heavy stuff has come our way too. We had frequent rogue attacks that we still didn't understand. We weren't any closer to finding answers to King Nathan and Hope's deaths. King Bruno was the same slimy piece of shit. I pitied his son Derek, who was now a man himself.

But all that aside, I just needed to focus on today. We had a lot of planning to do this week, it being the week before the summer solstice, a week before we hosted our fifth annual ball specifically for those who were still looking for their mates. Everyone was invited, no matter the kingdom which they came from or if they were mated or not. It has been going over very well the past few years. Many wolves find their mates, thus fulfilling it's primary purpose.

I took another deep breath, enjoying the crisp morning air, when my vision went blurry.

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We stood outside under a massive tent lit up with hanging lights. There was an enormous dance floor and enough tables spread out across the grass for everyone to sit. It was summertime, men and women were wearing flashy clothes in the hopes of finding their mate.

“I found him! I found my mate!” Abby exclaimed, the biggest smile on her face. She ran up to me and gave me a giant hug, nearly knocking me over.

“I knew you would!” I smiled, pulling away and regaining my balance. “Where is he?”

“Grabbing his jacket, I just had to tell you, you can meet him tomorrow morning. He is amazing!” She said dreamily.

“Well go, get out of here! Have fun!” I winked, waving her off.

“I wonder wh-”

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The baby monitor went off again, interrupting the rest of my vision. Oh Hunter. But what a good way to start the day, finding out that Abby is going to find her mate at one of our balls. She was wearing a fuchsia pink strapless dress in my vision. I had to remember that. I had to make sure she went again this year. Last year she almost didn't and I would hate for her to miss out on having her fated mate. I got up and headed back inside, finding my devilishly handsome mate tending to our youngest while the other three were still asleep in our bed.

“Thanks love.” I said, giving him a quick kiss while he rocked Hunter back to sleep.

“You disappeared from me.” He whispered.

“I was outside meditating, or trying to. I had a vision that Abby had found her mate.” I whispered back.

“Finally!” He said just a little too loudly, stirring Hunter.

“Shh.” I laughed while he winced. He carefully got out of the rocking chair and put Hunter back in his crib. He grabbed my hand on the way out, shutting Hunter's door as if it were made of glass.

“Breakfast?” He asked.

“Yes please!” I lit up. We headed into the kitchen, Edward made coffee and set the table while I made us breakfast sandwiches. We managed to make it halfway through our meal

before the pups started waking up. I made them pancakes for breakfast before my dad and Sylvia came over to watch the pups while Edward and I went about our day.

“What’s on the docket today you two?” Sylvia asked, scooping up Hunter and making silly faces at him.

“I’m leading training this morning, then have a phone meeting with King Jesse.” Edward said, taking a sip of coffee.

“I’m practicing my magic while he is training. Then I plan on wrapping up the final details for our mateball.” I answered, wiping Stella’s face off from the syrup she had left behind, much to her annoyance.

“Can we come?” Levi and Xander said in unison, their pleading eyes looking between Edward and I.

“You have your junior training classes.” Edward tried to douse the flame.

This was not the first time they have asked to be part of our training. The problem was that they wanted to practice their powers. The only place we could safely do that was at the training center, where it was very possible for them to be seen. We have been so careful all these years, keeping one hidden at all times, but it was getting harder the older they got.

“You know, these two pups do seem ready for some magic training.” My dad added, adding fuel to the fire.

Our boys looked at their grandpa like he was their hero while Edward and I shot each other a look.

“I don’t know..” I began.

“They will need to practice at some point. Xander had a meltdown last week that shot Stella into the wall by accident. Maybe we should give it a try. You are the only hybrid who uses the new addition anyway. You can lock yourselves in and put the blinds down.”

“Maybe I could bring my dad along, leave pup-sitting to your mom. She could have Abby help her.”

Edward nodded and I sighed.

“Okay boys, you can come and train with me, on one condition. Grandpa Andrew needs to come with us.” He started this mess after all. If I was going to train two rambunctious six-year-olds to wield magic, he could at least stand guard or keep one busy while the other uses their magic.

“Deal!” My father chipped in, the boys hollering in excitement.

“Go get dressed and brush your teeth, we will leave in ten minutes.” I yelled as they raced each other down the hall.

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Levi

“Okay, I made sure everything was locked up and the blinds down. I’m just going to use a portal to get us over.” Mom said to Dad.

“Sounds good, if you need anything, just link.” Dad winked, then kissed mom. Xander and I thought it was gross.

“Lets go you two.” My mom called. She stood in front of the living room wall, her hands started glowing purple and then the wall changed. Grandpa stepped through the big hole and Xander followed.

“Can I learn this?” My brother asked.

“Me too!” I said, stepping through the portal. That’s what mom called it. We were in a room I had never seen before.

“Eventually,” Mom said.

Mom and Grandpa showed us some really cool tricks. Mom had more than Grandpa. She said that if our hands glowed purple it was our witch’s side, and red was for our vampire side. Grandpa only had red glowing magic. Me and Xander had a little of both. We got to run around a lot. Mom showed us how to disappear but said we couldn’t use it unless it was for our safety. She said we would be grounded for a whole week if we tried it on her or dad. Mom opened another portal thingy and Grandpa took us back home for ice cream. Mom said she would see us later.

“Mr. William! Mr. Oliver!” Xander yelled. We ran over to them to say hi. Mr. William was happy to see us, but Mr. Oliver didn’t look happy. Mom says it’s because he doesn’t have any pups of his own.

“Look what we learned!” Xander yelled before disappearing.

“Xander! Mom said not to!” I yelled at my brother. He reappeared and stuck his tongue out at me.

“Alright boys.” Grandpa said.

“What a neat trick!” Mr. William said.

“What else do you two know?” Mr Oliver asked.

“Nothing that their mother would approve of them showing outside of the training center,” Grandpa said. He looked at us with his furry eyebrows up way high.

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Xander

“Will you play hide and seek with us?” I asked Mr. William and Mr Oliver.

“I have a few minutes.” Mr. William said.

“I need to make a call,” Mr Oliver said. He looked mad.

“One...two...three...” Mr. William started to count.

Levi ran to the kitchen so I went to dad’s throne room. I hid behind his big chair and waited. I could hear someone come into the room. I peaked around the chair and it was just Mr. Oliver. He didn’t see me though. He was too busy on his phone.

“Sir. The twins are learning to use their powers.”

Who was he talking to? He sat in dad’s chair. I don’t think he is supposed to.

“Yes sir. I will be waiting.” Mr Oliver hung up his phone and left the room.

I sat for a long time. It was boring. I could hear Mr. William calling me. He gave up. He had to go into a meeting with my dad.

“Lets go sport!” Grandpa called. Levi was already with him. I ran over to them and we went to go have lunch with Grandma.

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Edward

“How was training today boys?”

“Good, mom showed us how to disappear.” Levi said while chewing his chicken.

“Don’t talk with your mouth full.” Sierra scolded.

“Sounds really cool. Did you enjoy it?”

“It was a lot of fun!” Xander said, swallowing down his food. Sierra shot him a look.

I admired how hard she worked to make sure our boys turned into respectful men one day. Even during family dinner while everyone else was relaxing, here she was spoon feeding Hunter, cutting up Stella's food, and teaching the boys manners. I needed to take her out on a date soon.

"Then we had ice cream and got to play hide and seek with Mr. William." Levi jumped in.

"Wow! What a great day!" I said, happy that my pups had a good day.

"Dad, are we allowed to sit on your chair?" Xander asked, mulling something over in his little head.

"You mean my throne?"

"Yeah, I thought we weren't allowed?" He said, scrunching his face up.

"Well, one day I will hand over my title as King to you and Levi. Then you can sit on the throne."

"It's not a toy, it's a very high honor that must be upheld," Sierra added.

"Then how come Mr Oliver got to sit on dad's chair? I mean throne." Xander asked.

"Mr. Oliver was sitting on my throne?" I asked in a harsher tone than I had intended.

"Yeah, when we played hide and seek. I was hiding behind it and he came and sat down."

"Do you know why he was sitting on dad's throne?" Sierra asked, worry etched on her face.

"He was talking to someone."

"Do you know who? Or what he was talking about?" Sierra pushed.

"He was telling someone that we learned to use our powers." Xander shrugged. "Dont know who."

Sierra's silverware dropped from her hand onto her plate, making a clattering noise. "Oh Goddess, it's him." She whispered, panic in her voice. Her eyes were teary and she covered her mouth with her hand in shock.

"Thank you for telling me, Xander. I want you kids to stay away from Mr. Oliver from now on."

"Why?" Levi asked.

“Is he in trouble?” Xander asked.

“Yes, but he doesn’t know it yet. So I need you boys to promise not to tell him.” I stood up from the table. “Sierra, a word?”

“You two keep an eye on Stella and Hunter for a minute,” Sierra said with a broken voice.

I pulled her into our room and closed the door behind us so the kids wouldn’t hear us. I hardly had a chance to turn around before Sierra was crashing into me, sobbing uncontrollably.

“I know.” I said, rubbing her back.

“He has been in our own home all along!” She cried.

“And now we know and can fix the situation.”

“We’ve left him to look after the kids. What if something had happened?! What if he handed them over to those monsters?!”

“But he didn’t, all of our pups are safe and healthy.” I reassured her.

“I’ll kill him.” Sierra’s fear soon turned to anger, her veins and eyes staring to glow red. We have learned over the years the difference in her powers. Purple glowing magic was on her witch’s side, red her vampire. Red when she was upset or angry or out of control. Red was dangerous.

“We will take care of him, not to worry. But we need to move carefully. We don’t want a surprise attack. Until we know more, we will pretend like we don’t know a thing,” I said firmly.

I was just as pissed as her, but we knew now from years and years of my father, Hope, and ourselves looking for information on these Purebred Guardians, only to come up empty handed or dead. They were no joke. They weren’t found unless they wanted to be.

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Chapter 52

Sierra

It was the day before our mate ball, Edward had sent Oliver away to go ‘investigate a lead’ on the Purebred Guardians. Lie. I could hardly function knowing he was part of this. Edward was forced to send him away until I could cool down. I headed outside the palace to the west grounds to check on the setup process. The tent was up and tables were being

rearranged. The dance floor was being assembled and lights being hung. Everything was right on schedule.

“Hey lady.” Ella said, little Jane settled on her hip.

“Hey.” I echoed, my head still feeling foggy. I looked over my shoulder for the tenth time today, watching Abby and Sylvia who were looking over my pups while I wrapped things up for the ball. Levi, Xander, Stella, and Abby were playing duck-duck-goose, Ella’s pups quickly joining the game, while Sylvia watched Hunter, who was crawling around on a blanket with a binky in his mouth.

“Any new news on you know who?” She asked, just as equally pissed as me.

“Edward pulled his phone records and is personally going through all the messages and seeing if he can find any ip addresses that would lead us to them.”

“Do we know why or how he got involved?” Ella asked.

“We aren’t entirely sure, we think one of his uncles was a member of King Nathan’s staff. So it was taught behavior to hate hybrids, but he, as an adult, made the choice to join them. We took a picture of him while he was sparring and had it zoomed in. We found the tattoo. It was small, but it was there on his back amongst all the others.”

“Goddess...”

“It makes so much sense now, how they were able to find me, even at the coven. Edward told Jackson, William, and Oliver everything about me after the rogue attack.”

“So what are you going to do?”

“Edward is composing months of reports that make it look like Oliver was stealing money. We will lock him up and question him. When and if his people come looking for him, it will seem unrelated to us knowing that he is involved with the Purebreds. If he refuses to talk, he is dead. If he talks, he is dead. Edward and I are just deciding who gets to finish him off.”

“Does this ever end?” Ella asked.

“Does what end?”

“The constant looking over your shoulder, the constant waiting for something awful to happen, does it ever stop?”

I would have loved to tell her that I saw a vision of the Purebred Guardians being wiped out, but sadly it never happened. I wish I could tell her that I saw more good in the future than evil, but I was not an all-seeing eye. I had visions of whatever the moon goddess

decided I needed to see. Some things were trivial, others important, some I didn't feel like I should share. Some I prayed that were just nightmares instead of visions.

"I hope so." I sighed.

"And what are you ladies talking about? Anything juicy?" Abby asked, wiggling her eyebrows.

"Just deciding what to wear for the ball tomorrow night," I said.

"I know what I'm wearing, pajamas!" Ella laughed. She graciously offered to sit this one out and she and Jackson would watch the pups and have a movie night.

"Hey, maybe I'll join you." Abby laughed.

"Not a chance! I need you to help me get the party started." I laughed.

"I don't know....every year is so disappointing when I don't find him. I'm wondering if I should just pick a chosen mate." She sighed.

"Trust the moon goddess. I know you will find him." I smiled.

"Wait...you know like 'you know good luck' or you know like you've seen it happen?" She narrowed her eyes at me.

"I just really think you should attend." I shrugged.

She eyed me for a minute before the pups came over and dragged her back for a game of tag, saving me from having to further explain myself.

"Goddess, I don't know where our pups get all the energy..." Ella said while watching the group of them run around. "Please tell me I'm done having pups." She laughed. "I don't think I can keep up with another."

"You are, but I'm not." I said, turning and rubbing my flat belly, which would soon be huge.

"You're pregnant?!" Ella exclaimed. I was finally a few weeks along and would start to show anytime now.

"Shh....we haven't told anyone yet." I laughed.

"Goddess bless you, five pups! I can hardly keep up with three!"

"I totally get that...this will be my last." I had mixed feelings about this being my last pregnancy. Part of me was ecstatic to not have to go through all the changes after this, all

the aches and pains of pregnancy, engorged breasts, postpartum mood swings, delivery in general. But the other part would miss feeling my pup kick for the first time, I would miss the new pup smell and all the cuddles that my newborn would give.

“Well, congratulations! I’m so happy for you guys!”

“Thank you.” I smiled. “And on that note, we had better get going. I need to feed these pups and get Hunter down for a nap.”

I collected my pups and we had grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup for lunch, which they loved. Hunter had pureed green beans that Stella said smelled gross. After lunch, I picked out the clothes we would wear to the ball tomorrow night and packed overnight bags for the pups, not that they needed much, especially sleeping just one level beneath home.

Edward came home soon after and decided it was a perfect night for building a fort out of the living room furniture. I loved seeing my mate as a father, the pups absolutely adored him. I thanked the moon goddess every day for the life she has given me, for the mate and pups and family that she blessed me with. I never imagined in my wildest dreams that my life was capable of being so wonderful.

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“Come on Abby! I need you there with me!” I pleaded. “It starts in fifteen minutes, you still have time to get ready!” I tried to reason.

“I don’t know....what would I even wear?” Abby huffed, opening her closet.

“I’m sure just about anything in your closet would be fitting,” I encouraged.

“I did get this one dress just last week that I haven’t worn yet...” She said, sifting through her overpacked closet.

“Perfect! Then I will see you there!” I exclaimed, giving her a quick hug and heading to the palace kitchen where I knew I would find my mate.

“And what’s this one?” He asked a waiter he had held hostage at the door.

“Cranberry-goat cheese canapes”

“Hmph.” He said, popping one of the hors d’oeuvres in his mouth, seeming pleased by the flavor.

“Edward, are you ready?” I asked, freeing the server from my mate’s cornering.

He grabbed three more bite-sized hors d'oeuvres before the server got away. "Do we really need to be there? Can't we play hookie in the kitchen?" He said between bites.

"As much as I would love to, we have guests who expect us to be there, we are the hosts after all." I said, standing up on my tippy toes and kissing his cheek. "Plus, the food is all heading that way anyway." I said, grabbing his hand and pulling him along while he finished eating.

Guests were already arriving as we approached the massive tent which was beautifully lit up by the rising moon and our white lights. Edward and I took a moment to formally greet our guests, then let the DJ handle the rest. This was meant for the unmated wolves after all. Edward posted himself near the food tables while I went around making sure everything was running smoothly and our guests were happy. I even saw a few people find their mates, which made all the hard work well worth it.

"Have you seen Abby yet? She said she would come." I asked Edward.

"Nope, I did catch King Carson and his daughters though."

"Hopefully Kelly can find her mate this year."

"Just look at the happy couple," King Bruno said, his typical creepy look in his eyes.

"King Bruno," Edward said dismissively.

"Now, now Edward. Is that any way to treat your guest?" He practically purred. I could see Edwards' face lite up in rage.

"Always a pleasure, King Bruno. I didn't see Derek, is he here?" I asked, sadly already knowing the answer.

"He wasn't able to make it unfortunately." He shrugged off.

Since my Luna ceremony all those years ago, Derek has been all but MIA. We have heard every excuse as to why he couldn't come to any of our events or the other kings' events either. Even when Edward and King Carson went to King Brunos' palace for negotiations, Derek wasn't present, which would be expected of the now twenty-one-year old who would take over as king in less than a decade. King Bruno was hiding something, and I don't think abusing his only son was the only reason.

"I found him! I found my mate!" Abby exclaimed and came running up to give me a hug, completely disregarding King Bruno standing right there.

"I knew you would!" I smiled, pulling away and regaining my balance. "Where is he?"

“Grabbing his jacket, I just had to tell you, you can meet him tomorrow morning. He is amazing!” She said dreamily.

“Well go, get out of here! Have fun!” I winked, waving her off.

“I wonder wh-”

“Mom!” I heard Xander yelling, his eyes searching for me among the crowd. What was he doing out here?! He found Edward and I and adjusted his course for us....and King Bruno.

“Stop!” Edward yelled, dropping his plate of food on the ground.

“Mom!” Another, very identical, pup of mine came running out soon after.

“Boys?!” Jackson called from the palace entrance.

“Levi took my hiding spot!”

“No I didn’t! He was cheating! I was there first!”

“Get back inside, NOW!” I hissed, both boys looking shocked. I tried my best not to yell or shut them down when they had a problem, but this was not one of those times.

“But-”

“But-”

Our twins said in perfect unison. Goddess help us.

“And who might these be?” King Bruno said, taking a few steps closer and squatting down to the boys. “King Edward, I do believe you failed to mention one of these boys.” He said all too smoothly. Even our pups picked up on his creepiness, backing up into Jackson, who came racing out looking mortified. “What are your names?”

“Levi.”

“Alexander.”

They hesitantly answered, looking at Edward and I.

“How nice to meet you both.”

“Get back inside.” Edward ordered. His tone left no room for debate. Our boys headed back in with Jackson who was linking us, profusely apologizing on the way, which we ignored, having an unspoken stare down with King Bruno.

“Well, it was a pleasure seeing you both, as always. I’m sure we will see each other again very soon.” King Bruno said cryptically, turning his back and heading to the entrance where a valet would be waiting to assist.

“Shit.” Edward sighed, scrubbing his hands over his face.

“Edward, what are we going to do?” I tried to hide my obvious worry while our guests were walking around.

“What we planned for. War. We knew this day would come, though I thought we would have had more time.” He sighed.

“Goddess...”

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Abby

“I cant believe I finally found you!” I said, dragging my hot mate towards my room.

He was so muscular and tall and had gorgeous blue eyes, the Goddess did well with him.

“Neither can I...” He said, his voice deep and velvety. Hopefully, like other things. “You live in the palace?” He asked, looking around.

“Yeah, my brother is the King.” I laughed nervously. “That doesn’t bother you, does it?”

“We could disown him.” My wolf Anna said very matter of factly.

“Not at all. Its pretty cool actually.” He smiled, making my knees weak.

“It has its pros and cons.” I shrugged. “Where did you say you were from again?”

“Oh, I grew up in the northern kingdom but eventually ended up in the western kingdom.” He answered with his brows knitted together.

“Yeah?” I asked, waiting for him to continue. He nodded, the mood getting awkward.

“Well, we’re here.” I said, grabbing my key out of my black clutch.

“Listen, I don’t want to rush things...” He started, scratching the back of his head and looking around nervously. “With marking each other at least”

“Me too.” I said quickly. Although I always wanted to find my mate, I didn’t plan on just jumping head first into marking each other like my mom and Andrew did.

“Okay, cool.” He said, licking his lips, his heated gaze burning a hole through me.

I unlocked my door, fumbling with the key, my hands shaking with anticipation. I let him go in first before shutting the door behind us. "Sorry it's a bit of a mess I wasn't expect-" My words fell short when I was spun around and pinned against the door, my mate's lips claiming mine. He hiked up my left leg onto his hip, his hand grabbing onto my butt and kneading it greedily. I dropped my clutch to the floor, my hands snaking around his neck. He pressed his body against mine, his thick member rubbing against my stomach.

"You look overdressed." He growled, his eyes black with lust raking up and down my body.

"So do you." I purred. I reached for his shirt, his hands stopping me.

"Shirt stays on." He said firmly, his eyes flashing with something dangerous. It almost felt like a threat.

"O-okay." I retracted, my mood faltering.

"Sorry," he said, shaking his head.

"Its fine." I said, looking away.

"Forgive me?" He purred, cupping his hand around my chin to turn me back to face him.

"Nothing to forget." I answered, leaning into his touch. "Why don't we go sit, have some tea and just talk maybe?"

"That sounds perfect." He nodded.

I led him inside and made us some lemon tea. We spent hours talking about everything and nothing. He was a very interesting man. He seemed to have all the right answers too. I was lucky to have him. Whatever earlier was about, I decided to let it go. I'm sure he has his demons, the same as everyone else, and I wasn't going to push him to open up to me sooner than he wanted to. When we both started yawning, I suggested we head to bed, offering to let him sleep next to me or on the couch, whichever he preferred. He thankfully chose me, which had Anna and I swooning.

"Goodnight, Abby." He said, his breath fanning the top of my head.

"Goodnight, Seth."

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Chapter 53

I sat in our living room closet in the dark sipping a cup of tea, my tired eyes threatening to close again. After our unfortunate run in with King Bruno and our boys, the night was ruined for me. I put on a fake smile and got through the mate ball, leaving at the first chance I got. Edward and I normally had an adult date night when the pups were gone for the night, but I couldn't this time. As soon as we left, I went to Ella and Jackson's floor and collected our pups, needing to be close to them. Of course, there were many protests from our sleepy copies, but they soon disappeared when we let them sleep in our bed. I was up most of the night tossing and turning. I'm pretty sure Edward was too.

Abby had sent me multiple text messages making sure Edward and I would be at breakfast downstairs with everyone to meet her new mate. Although I was beyond happy for her, my mind was elsewhere. King Bruno knew we had twin boy pups. He believed the legend was true. He wasn't going to stop until he got his way. War was just around the corner.

The legend, which took us a while to find amongst thousands of old books, spoke of twin hybrids who would rule the nation, bringing together harmony amongst all mankind. It talked about a great evil that only together could they defeat. It was vague overall, leaving a lot open to interpretation, like many others we had come across. Unfortunately, my interpretation told me that they were in fact the twins which the legend spoke of. I wanted to look past it all. To look past the fact that our sons were born into a position of power, that they were exceptionally gifted with their hybrid abilities, that Levi's name meant "joined in harmony." and Alexanders meant "Defender of man."

I knew I was powerful, I had grown so much stronger in the past few years anticipating something big to eventually happen. Although I didn't know her long, Adaline left a long-lasting impression on me. Her words often played back in my head. The biggest one being 'practice'. So I did, every morning. Even some nights when I couldn't sleep. I knew I was powerful, but powerful enough to stop King Bruno and his army? They were built differently in the south. King Bruno mercilessly trained his men, to the death even. Weakness was not an option. How many lives were we going to put at risk? Our men were undoubtedly strong, and we had more numbers than King Bruno, but would it be enough?

And then the question still remains as to who is leading the Purebred Guardians? Where were they located? How do we stop them? We have had dozens of random rogue attacks over the years which led us to believe it was them behind it all. But if they were in so many places, going unnoticed for so long, how come they have such weak forces? Something didn't sit right with me or Edward about it. We tried to capture some of the rogues but every time we did, they started whimpering and foaming at the mouth and died right before our eyes. Almost like a self destruct button was activated. Goddess, we needed answers and fast.

"Ready for breakfast?" Edward asked, revealing me from my hiding place. He took the liberty of getting our pups dressed and ready for the day, knowing I didn't get a wink of sleep last night, which I was especially grateful for, considering I knew he didn't sleep well either. I was soon flanked by the bunch, a million questions being thrown my way by our very excited pups. I almost dropped my empty cup, our pups all over me wanting my

undivided attention. “Take it easy on mom today.” Edward said to the bunch. They managed to fractionally regain the chaos, it was something at least.

“Lets go meet Aunt Abby’s mate.” I said with a yawn. I grabbed Hunter, who snuggled into me and held Levi’s hand, while Edward grabbed Stella, listening to her talk animatedly about goddess knows what, and Xander ran ahead pretending he was a ninja. Goddess I loved my pups. I knew then that no matter what was thrown my way, be it an extremist group or a fucking army, no one was going to hurt my pups.

- - - - -

“Alpha, Luna, pups.” Anita greeted, giving us a warm nod as she placed a basket of pastries on the dining room table where everyone but Abby and her mate were already seated, anxiously waiting to meet her man. We decided to start eating without them, the rest of us knowing how newly found mates can be a bit...preoccupied.

“I wonder if they’ll have pups right away.” Sylvia asked in a hushed tone.

“I don’t know. But you’ll at least have one more grandpup.” Edward said, reaching for my hand. We decided this morning to tell our family while everyone was together, though Ella already knew from our brief conversation before the mateball.

“Mommy, can you cut my waffle up?” Levi asked.

“Mine too!” Xander yelled.

“Your expecting?!” Sylvia lit up.

“Yes, but this is the last you are getting from me, Sylvia. I’ve paid my dues.” I laughed and began cutting up the boys’ food.

“This is cause for a toast!”

“A toast? Not without us!” Abby said, bursting into the room from behind me. “Everyone, I would like you to meet my mate, Seth.”

“Welcome Seth!” Sylvia exclaimed.

“Nice to meet you!” Ella said.

“...Seth?” My father said in a shaky voice. I looked up from cutting the waffles. My father looked stunned for a moment but then quickly sprang to his feet, rounding the table. I whipped my head around to see the stranger standing behind me who wasn’t a stranger at all.

“Seth?!” I exclaimed.

“Sierra?!”

“Oh Goddess is good!” Our dad shouted, pulling us both in for a hug.

“I don’t understand...?” Abby questioned.

I hugged my twin in stunned silence, my mind still playing catch up. My dad was saying something but I couldn’t process any of it. “How are you alive?” Was the first thing to come out of my mouth.

“Dumb luck.” He chuckled, his voice sounding broken.

“Everyone, this is my son, Seth!” Our dad exclaimed.

“We thought you were dead.” I said, releasing my brother.

“I thought the same about you both.” Seth said, looking between our dad and I, Abby possessively returning to his side.

“Tell me, how did you escape? And where have you been living all these years?” Edward stood, his typical distrust seeping through. He extended his hand to give him a handshake. “Edward, King Edward.” He introduced himself.

“King Edward, I have heard a lot about you.” Seth said, shaking his hand back.

“Yeah, how did you escape?” I asked. “Please come, sit and eat.” I said, pulling out a chair for him.

“Mommy, who is this?” Stella asked, standing on her chair and pointing to Seth.

“Your uncle.” I smiled, picking her up and sitting her on her bottom.

“We have another uncle?” My twins asked in unison.

“Mhm, let’s let him talk.” I said, putting my finger to my lips.

“These are all your pups?” Seth asked.

“Yes, Levi, Alexander or Xander for sort, Stella, Hunter, and pup on the way.” I smiled.

“Goddess...might wanna tell your mate to keep his hands to himself, give you a break.” He chuckled. “Who is he anyway?”

“Me,” Edward said, shooting him a pissed off look.

“You’re the queen?” Seth asked, his eyes going wide.

“Six years and counting.” I laughed.

“Well, I guess you made it out okay...”

“My story is for another time. I’m more interested in yours right now.”

“Me too.” Our dad chimed in.

“Well shit-, I mean shoot.” He caught himself, staring at the very impressionable pups.

“Where to begin....After our pack was attacked and dad beaten to a pulp, mom and I were taken as prisoners. They blindfolded us and tied our hands, then threw us in a truck and drove off. We were only a few minutes into our drive when we were attacked. I remember someone saying there were lycans, I could hear mom yelling. I panicked and ran. Ended up in the western territory and never looked back.”

“That must have been so scary.” Abby said, snuggling up under Seth’s arm.

“I thought I saw a lycan that day, but it was so long ago...If they fought the Purebreds...” I thought outloud, looking at Edward.

“King Bruno.” He said, matter of factly, his expression angry.

“I don’t know, all I know is that I made it out alive.” Seth answered, not knowing our silent meaning.

“If he had taken our mom...Edward...what would he have done with her?”

“You think he kept her?” Jackson asked.

“If he did, it wasn’t very long. I felt our bond break a few months after the incident.” Our dad answered grimly, Sylvia squeezing his hand trying to comfort him.

“But why only keep her for a few months?” I asked, my soul feeling sad for my late mother.

“I’d rather not think about it. I’ve heard awful stories of what he is capable of,” Seth added.

“I wonder if Prince Derek would agree to speak with us about it?” Edward asked.

“Like King Bruno would let him leave the palace, especially now.” I snorted “Plus, he would have just been born, he wouldn’t know anything about her.”

“I wonder...” Ella said quietly to herself.

“What is it?” I asked.

“Its nothing, a stupid thought is all.” Ella said, looking at Jackson, their eyes glazed over from linking each other.

“I don’t think it is.” Jackson said, his eyebrows shooting up. “Tell them.”

“Tell us what?” Edward asked.

“Okay well, we know King Bruno is obsessed with power and this legend....we never met Dereks mom...and, you probably don’t remember because you were in so much pain, but when he helped get you to the hospital years ago I asked him how he knew we needed help and he said he ‘saw it’....what if...”

“What if what, Ella?” I said a bit firmer, already knowing where she was going with this but hoping I was wrong.

“What if...he is your half brother?” Ella said quietly.

“You two do kinda look similar.” Abby said, contributing for the first time.

“Excuse me.” My dad said, throwing down his napkin and leaving the room like he was about to murder someone.

“I’ve got him.” Sylvia said, following after him a moment later.

“I think I also need some air.” I said, standing to leave.

“I’ll come with you.” Seth added, much to Abby’s disappointment.

“I’m sorry, I could be wrong...” Ella began to apologize.

“I don’t think you are, its just....a hard reality to swallow.” I nodded to her before Seth and I left.

“Where are we going?” He asked.

“The gardens.”

Edward

“Goddess, I feel so guilty, I shouldn’t have said anything.” Ella said, putting her face into her hands while Jackson rubbed her back.

“This could work in our favor if its true.” I said matter of factly. “I feel bad for my mate, and her mother, but I’m not sorry you said something.” I reassured her.

“Ugh!” Abby huffed.

“What’s wrong?” I asked.

“I know this couldn’t all be helped, but this was supposed to be about me and my mate! And now he is off with Sierra while I’m just sitting here. I just met him last night, not even twelve hours ago! I waited my whole life for him and he is off with someone else.” She huffed, again.

“I’m sorry that Sierra’s family reuniting after years of being separated because their pack was attacked is ruining your moment.” I said sarcastically. She rolled her eyes at me, earning a warning growl from Edmund, who was less than impressed with her attitude. I know today was supposed to be about her, but sometimes things change.

“Dont worry Abby, when you mark each other we’ll make sure to throw a big party.” Ella encouraged her.

“You haven’t marked each other yet?” I asked, my eyes fixed on her neck.

“We are taking things slow!” She snapped and left the table.

“I’ll go check on her.” Jackson said, always having a soft spot for our younger sister.

“And then there were two…” Ella sighed, taking a sip of her coffee. “And seven sticky little pups.”

I looked at all the small bodies at the table who had been quietly making a mess while we were talking. They were all covered in syrup and butter from their waffles. “Everyone is getting a bath.”

Ella helped me get the pups fed and then upstairs, making sure they didn’t touch anything. I put Hunter down for a nap and let the other three play while I worked in my office. I just finished the “proof” to have Oliver put away so as to not raise any alarm if there were any other insiders we didn’t know about. I notified all of our warriors that upon his arrival he was to be detained immediately. In the meantime, I had to consider who I might choose as my new Delta. I had a plethora of warriors to choose from, a few stuck out, but nothing was definite yet.

“Brother,” Jackson said, strolling into my office.

“How is she?”

“Pissed, but she’ll get over it.” He shrugged.

“Good.” I sighed. “Oliver should be back any day now.”

“Have you decided on candidates for your new Delta yet?” He asked, flopping down on my couch.

“I was just doing that now, actually.” I said, tossing another file into the maybe pile.

“What about your brother-in-law?”

“What about him?” I asked irritably.

“You tell me. You obviously have some thoughts on the matter,” Jackson said.

“I just think it’s odd is all. But I thought the same thing about her father too.” I said, flipping through a few finance reports, getting ahead for tomorrow’s work so I could hopefully take my mate on a date.

“Me too, about the brother, not the father.” He said, catching my attention.

“Oh? And why might that be?”

“Abby was asking me about men, and how they act. He was odd with her last night, not how mates should act towards each other. He didn’t want to mark her or take off his shirt even.”

“You do realize who you are talking to, right?” I deadpanned, remembering back to how Sierra and I’s relationship started.

“I guess you are right.” He shrugged.

“Plus, he is probably just as damaged as the other two were when we met them.” I sighed. “I’m trying not to read too much into things, at least for Sierra’s sake.”

“And if your mate wants you to make Seth your new Delta?”

“Shit. I hadn’t thought of that. My initial answer is no, but for her I might consider it. But he wouldn’t be named Delta anytime soon.” I rolled my eyes at the thought of choosing a stranger over one of my highly trained men.

“Well, I’ll leave you to it then. Just figured I would check in.”

He left my office, giving me more to mull over. Could we trust this new family member? And speaking of family, what were we going to do about the Derek situation? Did we need to know the answer or could we let it rest? Goddess, give me clarity.

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 54

Sierra

“Goddess, I just cant fathom it.” I growled, scrubbing my hands over my face. “Mom was alive long enough to have him though.”

“It’s crazy to think we might have a little brother,” Seth snorted.

“Two little brothers.” I retorted, never letting go of the few minutes that made me older. The thought bothered me though. I doubt that anything was consensual with King Bruno. My poor mom. Goddess, our family was a mess. We walked in silence for a few minutes, both lost in thought.

“The gardens are beautiful.” My twin said, looking over all of the greenery as we casually walked through the palace garden, trying to break the silence.

“Thank you, I added a few more exotic plants over the years, which have taken, thankfully.” I smiled, my arms wrapped around my center for comfort.

“Nice job.” He said, kicking a pebble off the path.

“So you and Abby, huh? It must be thrilling to have found your mate.”

“Unexpected is all.” He said, staring off into the distance.

“Is that a good or bad thing?” I asked carefully.

“I didn’t want a mate. I saw what happened to mom and dad. I don’t want that.”

“Have you told her this?” I frowned, disappointed that he would give up on love.

“No, but we agreed we would take things slow.” He shrugged.

“You might want to talk to her about how you are feeling, you don’t want to blindsides her.” I pleaded.

“Okay mom.” He snorted and rolled his eyes.

“Watch it.” I snipped back, not caring for his attitude. The mood grew cold, silence spread between us once again.

“Sorry. I haven’t had many people to answer to, this is new for me.” He conceded, letting out a long exhale.

“Its alright, I get it.” I said, more silence spreading between us. “Listen, I know we have been absent from each other for, what, eighteen years now? But you are still my brother and I want to offer you a room, well its more like a mini apartment, here at the palace. I don’t know what you have back home, if you plan to stay or not, but the offer stands.”

“Really?” His eyes shot up in excitement. “That would be wonderful.” He smiled for the first time today.

“Its settled then, I will personally see to it. Do you need any special accommodation?”

“Like what?” He frowned.

“Do you practice magic? I could set up a special room for you to work in. There is actually this great little shop a few-”

“No.” He shut me down.

“You don’t practice at all?” I asked, a bit shocked at the revelation.

“No. That part of me is dead.”

“Huh, okay.” I shrugged. Another story for another time, I suppose.

We walked for another half hour, having a light conversation and even sharing a memory or two from our childhood. Eventually, Abby found us and dragged Seth away. I made good on my word to have a room for him. I picked one further down the hallway from Abby if he ever needed to get away, because I’m awesome like that and also know how complicated relationships can be. I was about to head back upstairs to my pups when one of our younger warriors approached me, Zack, I believe his name was.

“Your majesty! Delta Oliver has just arrived, he is being detained as we speak.” He said proudly, standing at attention.

“Thank you. Tell the guards I will be down with the King shortly to interrogate him. Good work.”

“Lets fuck this traitor up.” Sienna growled. I couldn’t agree more.

“Yes Luna! Thank you Luna!” He exclaimed, marching off until he thought he was out of sight, then sprinting the rest of the way.

“Oh, to be young again.” Anita laughed, having seen the transaction. I shook my head with a smirk on my face, pulling out my phone.

I quickly texted Ella asking her to watch our pups, which she had no problem doing. I then linked my mate, telling him to drop them off with Ella and Jackson so we could go interrogate this bastard. I was ready to go without him when he finally stepped off the elevator, Jackson in tow.

“Things might get messy.” Edward said, a deadly don’t-fuck-with-me look written all over his face.

Edward

“Answer me!” I yelled, my alpha command seeping through. When I was met with more silence, I snipped off another finger, another blood-curdling scream filled the room. Sierra had left before any of the really savage tactics had begun. She tried to have a vision like she did with Darren once but didn’t succeed. After the first punch to the face, she gasped and I could feel her empathy through our mate bond. I ordered her to leave the room immediately, which she did without hesitation. I knew he wasn’t going to talk easily, though I had to give him credit, he was holding out longer than I had anticipated. Jackson was there playing a good cop while I was just pure evil.

“The pain will stop if you just tell us what we want to know...” Jackson said calmly, sitting backwards on a metal chair in the corner of the room.

“You threatened my mate and my pups, you think this is going to end well for you?! Tell me where they are located!” I barked.

“I-I don’t know!” He answered uneasily. “They don’t have a pack, they live everywhere, but there is a lab, a big lab.” His swollen eyes and broken nose made communicating more difficult but proved to be well worth it.

“Where?” I asked darkly.

“I wish I knew, believe me.” He winced. “Only a few have been there, it’s hidden by magic.”

“Is King Bruno involved with you?” Jackson asked.

“No, he is trying to kill us off, same as you.” He spat out a mouthful of blood on the ground.

“Why?”

“He wants to be responsible for creating the twins from the legend.” He coughed. “But you beat him too it.”

“The rogue attacks, explain.”

“I cant.” He shook his head.

“Tell me before I chop off your balls and feed them to you.” I threatened.

He gulped and nodded. “Thats us. They are watching your every move. That’s how we are able to take over packs so easily. We spend weeks, months, or even years watching how our target responds to attacks before we strike. You have shown them everything you are capable of already. Its only a matter of time.”

“When?” I growled.

“Soon. I was supposed to let them know when things changed....like when your boys started learning to use their magic. They won’t wait long now, we believe they are the chosen ones, the ones from the legend. Please don’t kill me.” He begged. Coward.

“Keep talking and maybe ill let you live.” I said, circling his chair. “How many?”

“Thousands.”

“How is that possible?” Jackson asked. Thousands of members in one extremist group was quite a bit.

“They take people, mess with their minds, then put them back. Your friend today is your enemy tomorrow. They have taken wolves from each territory, thousands.” He reiterated, his breathing getting shallow.

“Give me names. I want to know who runs the show.” I growled.

“I wont. Anything you do to me will be merciful compared to what they would do to me.” He said, accepting his fate.

“So be it.” I slit his throat with the knife in my hand, dropping it to the ground and walking out, leaving Oliver gurgeling in his own blood.

I stripped out of my clothes, leaving just my boxers, heading for the restroom to clean up a bit before finding Sierra. I splashed some cold water on my face and took a few deep breaths to calm myself and Dean down. There was an army of thousands of wolves ready to strike at any moment and not even a location to find them at, besides some lab which was hidden by magic. Goddess, could this get any worse?

“Is he dead?” Sierra asked, the bathroom door closing behind her softly.

“Yeah.” I nodded, looking at her through the mirror while I stood with my hands on the sink hunched over slightly, not wanting her to see my front, which was covered in blood.

She, of course, walked over to me, her steps soft and delicate. She plugged the sink and filled it up, then grabbed a few paper towels and got them wet. She began slowly and carefully wiping my chest down, trying to get all the blood off.

“Thank you.” She said quietly.

“For what?”

“For handling this.” She said, her eyes glued to my chest. “I couldn’t have done it.”

“It’s not your job to have to do,” I said quietly.

“Did he say anything?”

“A lot actually, no names though.”

“Figures.” She sighed.

“We’ll get through this.”

Sierra nodded and silently continued to clean me off. That night she tossed and turned, probably only getting a few broken hours of sleep. I got up early and called our parents, asking them to watch the pups for the day so I could take my mate out on a proper date, something we were well overdue for. Once the pups were taken care of, I spoke with Jackson and William about everything Oliver had said, placing orders to recruit more warriors across the entire northern kingdom and expedite training for the prospect of war, with King Bruno or the Purebred Guardians, whoever came first.

“Good morning beautiful.” I greeted my sleepy looking mate who had just shuffled out of bed. Sierra was finally starting to show with pup number five, making her all the more radiant.

“Good morning...Where are our pups?” She asked, sitting down at the kitchen island while I made her a cup of tea.

“With our parents somewhere in the palace,” I said, kissing her head and handing her the tea.

“Do we have a meeting I forgot about?” She asked, yawning halfway through.

“No baby, today is just for us. No meetings, no events, no pups, nothing.”

“Really?” She perked up. “Like a full-blown date day?” She blew on her tea and took a sip.

“You got it.” I smiled.

“Well, what are we going to do today?” She smiled.

“Anything you want, though I might have a thing or two up my sleeve.”

“Okay.” She smiled, setting her almost empty teacup down, standing up and grabbing my hand.

“Where are we going?” I asked while she led me down the hall.

“Bed.” She smirked. “But we are both overdressed.” She said in a sultry voice.

“Oh, I see. Well why don’t I fix that?” I said, yanking off my shirt. I grabbed Sierra by the waist and pulled her flush to me, nipping at her neck while my hands freely roamed beneath her clothes. “This was a good idea.” I purred into her ear.

“Goddess don’t stop.” Sierra moaned.

“I don’t plan on it.”

“Where are we going?” Sierra asked. Even after all these years together, she would still try to figure out any surprise I had planned.

“You will see in just a few minutes.” I chuckled and rested my hand on her thigh.

“I hope there is food involved,” my mate hinted.

Of course, I knew well enough to have food planned into our day. Food and sex. The two things she wanted most during pregnancy, and also the two things that were most difficult to do with four other pups in the house.

“As always.” I laughed. I pulled off onto a dirt road, Sierra lighting up immediately.

“Are we going where I think we are going?” She asked excitedly.

“Maybe.”

I knew she would know where we were headed the moment I pulled onto this road. A few miles in there was a hidden cave with a small waterfall tucked into the mountainside. We were confident that this is where Stella was conceived. We haven’t been here in a while though and I thought it would be nice to visit for a picnic lunch.

“Goddess I love it here.” Sierra sighed and got out of the car while I unpacked the trunk.

I grabbed our picnic basket, courtesy of Anita, and a blanket. Sierra and I walked hand in hand to the cave and got settled in. We fed each other lunch, inevitably leading to round two of sexy time. Afterwards, we went skinny dipping. I felt like a pup again, splashing in the water with my mate. Our afternoon was filled with nothing but smiles and laughter.

“Thank you for this.” Sierra smiled, leaning into me as we walked back to the car. I took her hand and kissed it, savoring this time with my mate.

“King Edward. Queen Sierra.” A voice called from behind us. We turned to see who was calling us from all the way out here. Sierra’s hands were lit up purple, already ready for a fight.

“Gwendolyn?!” Sierra gasped, letting go of my hand and running to the woman in front of us. “Goddess, I thought you were dead!” She said, giving her a quick hug and looking her over.

“No, I and a handful of others managed to escape. I came here to warn you.” She said grimly.

“Warn me...from what?” Sierra searched her face.

“War.” She sighed.

“We are already preparing.” I said firmly, my trust in witches still uneasy.

“We would like to offer ourselves to your army.” Gwendolyn nodded to me. “You will need every able body you can get.” She warned.

“We humbly accept,” Sierra immediately answered.

“Are you sure we can trust them?” I asked my mate.

“I trust them. Plus, we have two armies readying for war. We can not afford to not take their help.”

“How many of you are there?” I asked.

“About a hundred. More being recruited as we speak.” She answered.

“How will we reach you when it’s time?”

“We already know when to arrive. I must be going now, there is much to do and little time to do it.” She said, opening a portal and stepping through it.

“When?” Sierra asked, her voice sounded pleading.

“Before your pup arrives, the battle will begin.” She said sadly.

“So soon!?”

“Trust your instinct. We will see you then.” Gwendolyn said, closing the portal, leaving us with more questions and less time.

Sierra tucked herself into me, fighting back tears. “Its okay, we knew this would be happening, we knew it wouldn’t be long. We just got extra help, this was a good thing.” I tried to reassure her. “Lets just focus on today, one day at a time.” I rubbed her back.

I tried not to let on how underprepared I felt. I had only ever offered aid in smaller wars, not be part of a bigger one myself. It was daunting. Not to mention, Sierra only had two and a half months, three max, before she was supposed to deliver. That left virtually no time for us to prepare. We needed to train more men, get a stock of supplies ready, figure out how to protect those who couldn’t fight. We didn’t even know where this battle was going to take place. I assumed it would be on our land. I would need to call King Carson and tell him to prepare for war. Maybe I could convince King Jesse to form an alliance finally too. He was always interested in what was going on in our kingdom, he would even suggest that he would help in times of need, but never committed to an alliance.

“Lets finish our date.” Sierra said, wiping her eyes. “If we are going to war soon, I want to enjoy the rest of this day with you. It might be a while before we get another day like this.” She said with a shaky voice.

I nodded and we continued on our date, the mood not nearly as light as earlier, though it felt more meaningful. I know Sierra said it a hundred times before, that we make it past everything. She had seen us celebrating anniversaries decades from now and holding our grandpups, but I still felt uneasy about what was to come. I didn’t like not knowing how things were going to happen, especially with a war involved. I spent the rest of the day savoring every minute with my mate, making sure I worshiped her body again before it was time to pick up our pups. Tomorrow I will worry about war. Today was about her.

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 55

Trigger Warning

Please be aware that this chapter contains sensitive content that may be distressing or triggering for certain individuals. Reader discretion is advised.

Abby

“Have you seen Seth?” I asked Anita while she was busy bustling around the kitchen.

Things have been crazy around the palace since Edward told everyone to prepare for war. He hasn't gone into many details, but he says he believes war will happen in the next three months or less. It seemed like everyone had something to do to prepare, everyone except me really. I didn't fight, I didn't work in medical, I didn't have any battle strategies nor did I handle negotiations. That being said, I have been pretty lonely lately while everyone else has been busy.

“No dear, I'm sorry.” She said, pulling out a large pan from the oven.

“If you see him, can you let him know I'm looking for him?” I asked, moving out of the way of a group of warriors who just came out of a meeting and were undoubtedly looking for food.

“Of course.” She smiled.

“Thanks.” I mumbled, walking away to go search for my mate.

It's been just over a week since we found each other. We spend time together, but Seth mostly keeps to himself in his room. Sierra said to be patient with him, and I'm trying to be, but this 'taking it slow' thing isn't working out for me. After our first night together, which was mostly platonic minus a heated kiss, Seth had been sleeping in his own room that Sierra gave him. I tried to hold his hand but it didn't ever last long. I would kiss him but he wouldn't encourage it any further. When I said I wanted to take it slow, I didn't mean sexually, I only meant about marking each other. I was no virgin, I had needs and the mate bond only made it worse. Those needs were something that my pink dildo just wasn't fulfilling anymore.

I checked the throne room, conference rooms, banquet hall, kitchen, game room, you name it. I even linked Sierra and Ella, asking them if Seth was with them on their floors. Nothing. I finally headed outside to the garden, it being the last place I didn't check since it had been raining outside. I neglected to bring an umbrella or hooded jacket, pissed off enough not to care what my hair looked like after.

“Seth!?” I called, walking through the large maze that was the garden. If it wasn't so rainy, I would shift to my wolf and let her see if she could track him. Any scent out here would be diluted by the rain. “Seth!?” I called out again. I turned a few corners before reaching the center where the waterfountain stood. I sat on the edge of it, my spirit feeling broken.

“Abby?” Seth asked.

I looked to where I heard his voice. Seth was standing at the edge of one of the many winding paths, soaking wet, same as me. Too upset to talk, I turned away and ignored him.

“Abby, what are you doing out here? You’re soaking wet.” He said, coming to my side. He kneeled down, trying to get me to make eye contact. “Are you okay?” He asked.

“Ha! Like you care.” I rolled my eyes.

“You shouldn’t be out here, let’s get you inside.” He said, grabbing my hands and trying to pull me up.

“No!” I yelled, pulling away. The hurt look on his face made my wolf howl in despair.

“I don’t understand...” He began.

“I need more from you.” I practically yelled.

“I thought we agreed to take things slow?” Seth bit back.

“Yeah, with marking each other!” I yelled. “I still want to spend time with you, get to know you, I want to be physical with you!”

“I thought we were?” He asked, a pang of hurt in his voice.

“I need more than just a quick peck or hand holding.” I huffed.

“Am I not good enough for you?”

“Thats not what I said!”

“That’s what you meant.” He said, running his hands through his sopping wet hair.

“I have waited my whole life for you! And it feels like you don’t even care about me, like you don’t even want me!” Tears began to fall, thankfully the rain concealed them.

“Not everything is about you! I have my own shit to deal with, things you wouldn’t understand in your perfect little life!” Seth yelled, a smug look on his face.

“Because you wont let me in!” I screamed in his face.

We were only an inch or two away from each other, our heavy breathing and the rainfall the only audible sounds.

“Fuck it.” Seth growled, smashing his lips into mine. His hand grabbed my jaw almost painfully so, while his tongue was practically down my throat. I hardly had time to catch my breath before I was being picked up, my legs wrapping around Seths waist while he all but ran us inside.

The moment we got inside, I hit hard against the hallway wall, my head spinning for a second and the air pushed from my lungs. Seth sucked hard on my neck and was dry humping me into the wall. I'm pretty sure I saw Williams' mate Rachael and one of their pups walking our way. She gasped and immediately shielded her pup's eyes, retreating in the opposite direction.

"My room." I moaned, unable to contain it despite all efforts.

"I don't do gentle," he growled. "And once we start I won't stop." I could feel his hard member shamelessly rubbing up against my core.

"Let's go." I moaned again, a slickness forming between my legs.

Seth all but kicked down my door, slamming it shut behind us, and throwing me down on my bed. He extended a claw and tore my shirt and bra off, nicking my skin a bit on the way.

"Ah! Easy!" I scolded.

"Hush." He warned, ripping the waistband of my pants open and yanking them off of me. He went for my thong next, this time tearing it off by hand, the fabric biting into my skin on the way. He stopped what he was doing, his eyes completely black, filled with lust, raking up and down my wet naked body.

"You're overdressed." I said, sitting up, I sensually crawled across the bed, swaying my hips, giving him a full show. I reached for his belt and undid it, then his jeans, yanking them down to the floor along with his boxers. "Mmm, goddess outdid herself." I purred, taking his hard girth into my mouth.

"That's right, take it all." Seth hissed, his hands grabbing onto my head and pushing me to go deeper. I fought gagging as much as I could but he was hard to keep up with. He unapologetically fucked my face, coming into my mouth without warning. I coughed and gagged, trying to catch my breath from the sudden burst. Seth stripped his jacket and shirt off behind me, letting them fall to the floor. At least he was feeling more comfortable with me to fully strip. I couldn't wait to see his abs, he felt carved.

Just as I had caught my breath, Seth climbed onto the bed, coming up behind me, pushing on the back of my neck so I was face down, ass up. I was expecting him to start eating me out, but instead he shoved his cock into my pussy, pounding me into the bed, completely blindsiding me. His fingers dug into the soft flesh of my skin on my hips, which he used as handholds.

"Easy!" I pleaded, my body not warmed up enough for what he was doing. He growled and spanked me hard several times, a stinging feeling left in its wake. "Please!" I begged, the air from my lungs being shoved out with each hard thrust. He grabbed me by the hair and yanked me back, one of his hands coming around my neck, the other flicking and pinching

my nipples. “Seth-” My words were cut short when he applied pressure to my neck, my breathing interrupted. He sucked hard on my neck, hard enough to leave a mark, overwhelming my senses.

I could feel my body responding to his touch, despite how aggressive he was being and how much I told him to ease up. He was hitting eye-watering depths, making me cry out. When he sped up, I prayed that he was almost finished. Not a minute later, he stilled inside of me, emptying his load. I gasped for air the moment he let me go, falling onto the bed. He pulled out of me and immediately headed to the bathroom, clothes in hand. I laid on the bed for a few minutes, my body aching, trying to process what just happened. Was that normal? I mean, he was my mate...if that is how he likes it...its different for me. I’m not a fan of sex being that rough. At least for our first time together, I wasn’t expecting that.

“Its late, im gonna get going.” Seth said, exiting the bathroom fully dressed in his damp clothes.

“You’re leaving?!” I said, appalled. I sat up on the bed, my body aching.

“Yeah, have a good night.” He kissed my cheek. “Thanks for tonight.” He winked and left my room, the door slamming on his way out.

What the fuck was that?! I sat on my bed for a minute, not sure if I should be angry or sad or confused or all of the above. I didn’t know Seth well enough to say if that was normal for him or not or if it was...well abusive. When enough cum had run down my legs, I decided to go shower. I looked in the bathroom mirror, there was a massive hickey on my neck, already turning an ugly purple, finger marks too on my throat and hips. Not to mention the torn flesh between my breasts from where he used his claw to rip my clothes off.

“Anna...”

“Mate hurt us.” My wolf whimpered.

“He did warn us that he wasn’t gentile...” I tried to justify, my eyes watering.

“You told him to ease up, he didn’t listen.”

“Maybe a communication error? We can have a safe word for next time maybe.”

“Next time? NEXT TIME?!” Anna scoffed.

“I want to give him a chance....he is my mate after all....”

“Your funeral.”

I took a long hot shower, scrubbing my skin until it turned pink. I felt violated, dirty even. I didn't feel appreciated and loved like a mate should be. My wolf ignored me the rest of the night, she was ready to reject Seth on the spot. I would be lying if I said it didn't cross my mind either. I felt completely alone. Who could I even talk to about this? Everyone I would ask is either busy or related or both. I eventually got out of the shower and dried off, my core aching and not in a good way. I tucked myself into bed, my mind racing and tears falling. I trusted the moon goddess, I wanted to work things out. Maybe I just had to be more open-minded....

Sierra

"Hey little brother! Sleep well last night?" I asked my twin as we sat down for breakfast in the palace dining room. Since Edward declared we were preparing for war, it was decided that we would have morning meals together to touch base before the day started.

"Great actually." He smiled.

I heard from Rachael that he and Abby were in the hallway getting hot and heavy yesterday evening. Neither of them came to dinner either, so I could guess what happened. No mark on his neck though, no Abby either. Odd.

"Where is Abby?" I asked, digging into my eggs.

"Probably recovering from last night." Seth smirked.

"Okay, TMI. I don't want details." I gagged, then laughed. "Why don't I make you a plate to bring her?"

"I suppose." He shrugged.

In no time, I had two plates made and sent Seth on his way. Ella and Jackson made it down to breakfast a few minutes later, along with our parents and Beta William and his family.

"So where do we stand with King Jesse?" Jackson asked.

"He is supposed to meet with us tomorrow afternoon, though, I'm not sure what else I can say to convince him to help us." Edward sighed.

"King Jesse will help, he is a good king. I have faith in him." My father said confidently.

"Oh? And what makes you think that?" Jackson asked.

"Gut feeling." He nodded.

Edwards' eyes rolled so far into the back of his head, I'm sure he was able to see his own spine. I appreciated my father's positive attitude, but I was with Edward on this one. Gut feelings don't mean much to me right now.

"King Carson has agreed to help with resources and troops." I threw into the mix, trying to diffuse another stressful breakfast.

"Yeah, but he is only offering a third of what he has, and he is a smaller kingdom than ours." Ella added, dampening the mood again.

"We have the witches help." I smiled.

"Yeah, but we don't know how many, how to contact them, or how much help they will actually be against wolves. We can't talk about battle strategy or place them where we find it to be best." Edward sighed.

"Does anyone, anyone at all have anything positive to say?!" I said, slamming my cutlery down, an awful clatter filling the room followed by silence.

"We have apple juice," Levi shrugged, taking a sip of his drink.

A fit of laughter broke out, breaking the otherwise tense mood. I began laughing then crying, my hormones getting the best of me. Fuck, I can't even blame hormones this time, I was just stressed. There was so much being thrown our way, so many people that I cared about and didn't want to see hurt, so much unknown, a person could only deal with so much. I hadn't slept much since Gwendolyn came to us, knowing that we would be at war while I was still pregnant tipped me over the edge.

"We have today and we have each other," Ella said.

"We have a heads up," Jackson added.

"We have a bright future ahead." Edward said, pulling me in for a hug.

"And we have apple juice." William added, a glass of it held high.

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 56

Abby

I sat at the dinner table by myself, pushing my food around the plate for the last half hour. It's been two months and things have been...messy with my mate and I. War was at our doorstep, anticipated to happen in the next few weeks apparently, by some witches'

prediction. Everyone was reaching their breaking point. I hadn't had anyone to talk to about Seth, except my wolf. I felt like my mate was bipolar at times. Some days he was sweet and we could talk for hours, others he was completely dismissive and I couldn't find him. Our sex life was...rough. And infrequent. Many sentences in this chapter have been removed because you are not reading them on J o b n i b . c o m. The few times that I did let him touch me, on more than one occasion he would leave immediately after and I would cry myself to sleep. I wanted his love and approval so badly I was willing to put up with his aggressive side. He was my mate after all, and the moon goddess doesn't make mistakes. But some days, a lot of days, this felt like one. I wish just once he would make love to me and not fuck me like I owed him money.

"Hey, what are you doing here all by yourself?" Sierra asked, claiming the seat next to me.

"Just...thinking."

"Well, I'm good at listening, lay it on me." She said, grabbing a roll off the table.

"I doubt you want to hear it, its about your brother." I sighed.

"And you are my sister and, with everything going on, I have neglected our relationship, which I'm sorry for. But I haven't been busy enough to notice you don't seem yourself lately. So spill." She said, taking a bite of her roll.

"Its just....its like he is invested in our relationship one minute and gone the next. And we are...intimate....but there is no intimacy, at least not on my end." I admitted, setting my fork down.

"Have you confronted him about this?" Sierra asked, her face scrunched up.

"Kinda... I don't know. It's like I tell him what I want or don't want, but it's as if he doesn't hear me. Like I tell him I want more intimacy, but he doesn't seem to understand. Or I tell him I want to spend time with him and he suddenly disappears."

"So how do we get the boy to listen to what you are actually saying..." Sierra paraphrased, mulling something over in her head.

"I guess. I trust the moon goddess, but I don't know how much more of him I can handle. I get it, he has probably been through some hard stuff, but how can I be helpful and understanding if he won't tell me what's going on?"

"It took me some time to fully open up to Edward, be patient with him. I'm sure he will open up when he is ready. But, as for getting him to hear you. I have a thought." She said, grabbing another piece of bread. "Our mom used to do this with us, worked every time. Its extremely annoying, but effective. I use it on my pups now."

"What is it?"

“If I tell them not to do something, or if I need them to really hear me, I ask them to repeat it and then ask them to tell me what that means. So if I have told Xander to get off the table, and he doesn’t, I ask him to repeat what I just told him, which these days he knows better and listens the first time, but if he doesn’t, I ask him to tell me why I asked him to get off the table. His responses are ‘because its not safe’, ‘because its rude’, ‘because we don’t live in a zoo’. I know it sounds childish but it works.” She shrugged.

“Huh....maybe. I guess its worth a shot. Thanks.” I gave a weak smile.

“Anytime, now if you’ll excuse me, I am off to a meeting with King Jesse.” Sierra said, standing to leave. Her bump getting quite large, a visual reminder that war would be soon.

“Another meeting with him?” I asked, preplexed.

“As many as it takes to get his alliance.” She said, waddling away.

“Good luck!”

“Thanks, you too!”

I got up from the table, a new found fire in me. I needed to find my mate. I checked a few places on my way to his room, on the chance that he was somewhere else. I knocked on his door and could hear rustling. The lock clicked and the door swung open, my hot mate standing there, a confused look on his face.

“Hey, whats up?” He asked.

“We need to talk.” I said, barging my way in. It was the first time I had been in his room. It looked very...impersonal, empty even.

“About what?” He asked, closing the door behind me.

“Us.” I said, sitting at his kitchen table that had just enough room for two. “Sit.” I said, my arms crossed.

“Alright.” He clicked his tongue. As soon as he was seated, I began.

“Do you believe in the moon goddess?” I asked.

“Of course, more than anything,” he answered.

“She made us mates for a reason, Seth. You have not been a great mate to me and that needs to change.”

“Look, I’m just going through some stuff-”

“Stop with the excuses. I am a person, I am your mate. You need to treat me better if not for one title, than for the other. I want us to work out, but I need more effort from you.”

“Like what?”

“I want us to move in together. I want passionate lovemaking. Not just a rough fuck fest. I need you to care about me, talk to me more. You can’t disappear without telling me anymore either. I’m tired of searching for you like a lost pup.”

“Okay.” He nodded.

“No, not okay. I have expressed this to you before. Tell me what I just said.” I practically barked, taking Sierra’s advice.

“Make love, talk, tell you where I’m going.” He listed off.

“Do you think you can do that?” I pleaded.

“I can...im sorry.” He said, looking me in the eyes.

“Okay.” I let out a breath I didn’t know I was holding, my hands shaking from the adrenaline rush that came with having a serious talk with my mate. Had this gone any other way, I would have probably rejected him on the spot and asked him to go back to where he came from.

“Come here.” Seth said.

I hesitantly got up and rounded the table, sitting on Seth’s lap. He tucked a loose strand of hair behind my hair, staring thoughtfully at it. “You are so beautiful.” He said just above a whisper. I wanted to cry. My emotions were on a roller coaster today. Seth gently cupped my face, his lips meeting mine in a soft kiss. I melted into him, returning his kiss, my hands caressing his chest and neck. He picked me up bridal style and placed me on his bed, climbing on top of me and deepening our kisses. His fingers played with the waistband of my jeans before popping the button open, sliding my pants and panties off, and settling himself between my legs. He surprised me and licked my already wet slit, making me moan with pleasure. This was the first time he had given me oral and Goddess was it overdue. His tongue worked its wonderful magic, hitting every right spot. He slipped a thick digit into my core, then another, working me up to a climax.

“Seth!” I cried out his name, coming hard over his fingers. He pulled out, licking his fingers on the way back up, while I stripped out of my top and bra.

“So sweet.” He hummed in appreciation. He dropped his pants and boxers to the ground, his cock hard and ready to go. He climbed back on the bed, ready to progress, when I stopped him with my foot on his chest.

“Loose the shirt.” I breathed heavily, still coming down from my orgasm. Seth stared at me for a moment, his eyes almost pleading with me not to make him do it. But I wasn’t letting this go. “I want you for you, I don’t care what you look like.” I reassured him.

He let out a heavy sigh, but began pulling off his black t-shirt, his eyes never leaving mine. My eyes, on the other hand, immediately darted to the abnormality.

“What...what is that? What happened?” I sat up, taking a closer look at his pecks. On his chest there was some raised tissue, going from his heart, over his shoulder to his back. It looked like a wire. There was something bigger underneath his skin too. It had a green light that illuminated through his tissue.

“You cant tell anyone, promise?” he pleaded.

“Of course.” I nodded.

“I lied when I said I escaped the Purebred Guardians. Some Lycans did take my mother, that part is true. But I never got away that day. When the Lycans attacked, the Purebreds moved me to a different vheical and continued on their way.” He sighed, staring at the green light.

“To their lab?” I asked.

“Yeah. I was their gunniepig for a while. This device prevents me from freely using my magic. Thus making me not a hybrid anymore.”

“Oh Goddess...” I said, carefully touching his skin. “Does it hurt?”

“Like hell. Running helps distract me from it, hence the disappearances.”

“Can you have it removed?” I frowned.

“I don’t think so, not without it killing me. They wrapped it around my heart, they told me if I tried to remove it, the device would kill me before it even left my body. It has sensors that, when removed, will ‘self destruct’.”

“Seth....I didn’t know.” I apologized.

“Well, now you do.” He smiled sadly.

“Maybe we could have one of our doctors look at you. They are cutting edge. Or maybe Sierra could use her magic and make it disappear or something.” I began blabbering off ideas.

“Abby, you can’t say anything about this. I don’t want any unwanted attention. If you tell Sierra or your brother they will question the hell out of me, asking me things I cant

answer. I just got my family back, I don't want to lose it because they don't trust me." He pleaded.

"Alright...for now." I pointed a finger at him. "When all this is over I want second opinions."

"Deal." He said, kissing my pointed finger.

He worked his way up my arm, kissing every few inches until he reached my neck, licking and sucking it gently. I laid back down, spreading my legs open, inviting him in. He broke from my neck, only for a moment, slowly slipping himself inside of me. He laid back on top of me, putting most of his weight on his arms.

"Seth.." I moaned, wrapping my arms and legs around him. He slowly made love to me and I savored every minute of it. He kept the pace slow and deep, my moaning uncontrollable. I could feel my canines extending as we neared our peaks. I was just about to come, and I could tell so was he. Without thinking, I sank my teeth into him, marking him without asking. He stilled for a moment, his body trembling. My eyes were wide in horror. I retracted my teeth and licked his wound, sealing it with my saliva. "I'm so sorry-" But before I could finish my apology, I felt his teeth pierce my skin, sending me over the edge. I saw spots and came harder than I ever had before, and from what I could feel, so did Seth. "That..was...amazing." I heaved for air, my eyes still seeing black spots from the overwhelming pain and pleasure accompanied with marking. Seth pulled out after a minute of catching his own breath, wrapping his arm around me and pulling me flush against him, my back to his front. We stayed like that in silence, sleep eventually taking the wheel.

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Seth

I climbed out of bed as soon as Abby fell asleep, retreating to the bathroom to check my neck. Low and behold, there on my soft tissue, sat two puncture wounds courtesy of my mate. Shit. This wasn't good. Goddess, why couldn't she have just rejected me? I have tried everything to get her to hate me! This wasn't how things were supposed to go! I should have just stuck my ground and kept being a dick. So what if she rejected me? I'm sure Sierra wouldn't kick me out over a mate bond rejection. I don't need this right now. This wasn't supposed to happen! But how could it not? As much as I wanted to say that I hated her, the trust was, Abby was the light of my life. Goddess, the things I would do for her. I wish I could spend a lifetime worshipping her. But this isn't a fairy tale and I'm not prince charming. I needed to get out of here. This room was stifling. I quickly threw on some clothes and headed outside in the dead of night. I took big gulps of the crisp night air, thankful for the reprieve.

"Hey, what are you doing out here?" Sierra asked. She was sitting cross-legged, floating a few inches off the grass.

“Needed some air. You?”

“Needed some clarity.” She sighed, returning to the ground.

“How did you do that?” I asked, perplexed.

“Levitate? Lots of practice.” She shrugged.

“What else can you do?”

“Come with me and I’ll show you.” She said, opening a portal.

We stepped into a massive gym. It oozed magic. There must be a spell over the building, just like there is one on the castle. The gym was completely empty, minus a few yoga mats on the side of the room.

“What is this place?” I asked while I took everything in.

“This is where I practice my magic. Watch this.” She smiled, throwing her hand up, a bolt of light shooting out of her hand, a firework exploding in the airspace above us.

“Wow, that’s incredible.” I whistled.

“I can teach you.” She offered.

“Not for me, thanks.” I dismissed her offer.

“My offer will stand.” Sierra added. She showed me a few party tricks she had, the small display an indication of how powerful she really was, even in her very pregnant state.

“So does your magic have any limits?” I asked.

“Not really. The more I practice, the better I get. As long as I’m not angry, my magic stays in check. Or delivering a pup, my magic falters during birth”. She shrugged, waddling over to grab a bottle of water. She tossed me one too, even though I had only been standing and watching.

“And if you are angry?” I asked, cracking the bottle open.

“I’m more of a time bomb.” She deadpanned. “Unpredictable and dangerous.”

“So what you just showed me, that wasn’t dangerous?” I laughed uncomfortably, my eyebrows raised in shock.

Sierra shrugged while she gulped down her water. “All depends on how I direct it.”

“Interesting.”

“Okay, your turn, what is going on between you and Abby?”

“Why, did she say something?”

“She was very upset at dinner tonight. Seth, you can’t string her along, you need to mark her or reject her and put her out of her misery, its not fair to play with her emotions.” Sierra chastised.

“Well, actually, we just marked each other.” I sighed.

“Shouldnt that be a good thing?” Sierra laughed uncomfortably. “Why does it sound so grim coming from you?”

“I wasn’t expecting it, I guess I just don’t feel ready.” I shrugged. “Can we go back? I need to go for a run.”

“Sure.” She nodded and opened a portal. “Seth, I’m here if you ever need to talk. I don’t know what you have been through, and I’m not asking you to share if your not ready, but I have been there, dad too. Life after our pack was attacked wasn’t all hearts and flowers. I understand the cruelty life sometimes offers.”

“You wouldn’t understand me.” I shook my head. I turned to run, but not before catching Sierras’ disappointed, pitying look.

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 57

Sierra

After Seth left, I went back to meditating. War was any day now, my due date was less than a week away and I could feel Braxton hicks starting, preparing me for labor. We were out of time. Negotiations with King Jesse didn’t go as we had hoped, we didn’t have a solid answer if he would help us or not.

I closed my eyes, willing myself to have a vision of what was to come. I would take anything. Unfortunately, nothing ever came. Nothing relevant anyway. I had a vision of Edward and the kids making ice cream sundaes, and another of Levi and Xander playing tag on the lawn, but nothing about the war.

Edward linked me soon after, beckoning me to come to bed. It was late after all. I passed many guards on the way back, all ready to defend our home and our lives. I was pleasantly surprised to find a pup-free bed, needing my mate to myself right now.

I quickly stripped out of my clothes, getting ready for bed. "Any day now." I sighed, rubbing my swollen belly. I slipped on a silky cream nightgown and stared out the window a moment, my mind racing.

"Come here." Edward sat up and flicked his head, his arms outstretched ready to receive me. I cuddled into his embrace, taking a few deep breaths of my mate's intoxicating scent. "We have done all the preparing we can, we are ready when it begins." He said, rubbing my back.

"Mhm." I hummed, my mind too distracted to care.

"Try and get some sleep love." Edward said, kissing my forehead and pulling me back to lay down with him.

"If tonight was our last night together, what would you do?" I asked, just above a whisper.

Edward stilled behind me, my words hitting hard. He moved my hair off my shoulder, revealing my marking spot. He kissed it sensually, his hand finding the strap of my nightgown and pulling it down gently. "I'll show you."

- - - - -

I woke up early, but not as early as my mate apparently. He was already in the bathroom, showering and getting ready for the day. I yawned and stretched, my limbs stiff. I could use a shower too. I joined Edward, our steamy oasis distracting me for just a few minutes. He got out before me, heading to the kitchen to make coffee before our day began. When I heard tiny voices, I shut off the water and got out, dressing before I had four sets of hands banging on the bathroom door looking for me.

"I'll meet you downstairs for breakfast." Edward said, giving me a quick kiss before heading downstairs, Levi and Xander in tow.

"Okay..." I nodded. I finished getting myself ready and then tackled Stella and Hunter. I put Hunter in a stroller, my pregnancy making it hard to hold my very squirmy little boy.

We were the last to arrive for breakfast, Edward, Jackson, William, and my father all in deep conversation about preparations. Ella was busy with her pups, Rachael too. Abby and Seth were sitting next to each other but facing opposite directions. I didn't dare engage in their lovers' quarrel, my mind couldn't handle it today. I instead helped my pups get breakfast and cut up any food that needed it. We were nearing the end of breakfast when Edward made an announcement.

"I just wanted to thank you all for all of your hard work and diligence. I know these times are less than appealing, but we will get through this together. That being said, Sierra is due to deliver anytime now. We have been told war will begin before she delivers. We have done all the planning and preparing we can. I want you all to take the rest of this

time to spend with each other, your family, your friends. No more meetings, no more worrying.”

“Hear, hear!” Jackson smiled softly, a glass of juice in hand.

“Levi, Xander and I also have a surprise. We took the liberty of dragging out the bounce house and slip-n-slide and Anita is going to set us up with ice cream sundaes around lunch time. Everyone is welcome.”

I looked at my eldest pups, who had the most devious looks on their faces. I can't believe they managed to keep this to themselves the entire morning.

“Bounce! Bounce! Bounce!” Little Jane smiled, trying to jump out of her height chair.

“Can we go now!?” William and Rachael's son Isaac asked, his excitement earning a few smiles around the table.

“Lead the way.” William laughed.

In addition to the bounce house and slip-n-slide, there were also a variety of lawn games spread out, our palace staff and warriors enjoying the day while Edward manned the grill, much to Anita's protest, cooking up hotdogs, burgers, and corn on the cobb. I sat in a long lounge chair, my lack of sleep catching up with me. Ella and Abby were on either side of me, we were having good conversation while watching our pups run around and have fun.

“So Abby, is there something you want to share with the class,” Ella said, pointing to her neck.

“Oh, yeah. Seth and I marked each other the other night.” She said sadly.

“Why does that sound like a bad thing?” Ella asked, looking at me for an unspoken answer.

“I don't know...I thought we were on the same page...we had a fight and I told him what I wanted and needed in our relationship and he seemed to be okay with it...I marked him after without asking, but he marked me back, he didn't seem to have a problem with it...he has a lot he is going through I guess....I don't know.” She rambled on, her mind just as distracted as mine apparently.

“Where is he anyway?” I asked, scanning the sea of bodies.

“He went for a run, says it helps him.” Abby sighed.

“Ice cream is served!” Jackson announced, scoop in hand.

All the pups went racing to the table that had half a dozen different flavors of ice cream and at least thirty toppings. I thought they were going to run poor Jackson down on the way. I laughed and watched my mate try to scoop the ice cream, only getting a tiny bit out at a time. Anita rolled up her sleeves and scooped it like a champ, hoots and hollering coming from the pups. She served most of the pups by the time Edward had one sad little bowl. He came over to me with a sheepish look on his face. I sat up and he wormed his way in behind me in the lounge chair. I leaned back onto him, enjoying his closeness. He took a bite of ice cream for himself and then offered me a spoonful, which I eagerly took.

“This is nice.” I said while watching Levi and Xander play tag with each other. They were the best of friends, thinking in complete unison, only on rare occasions turning on each other. The goddess had better help their mate one day. She is going to have her hands full with those two, they are double trouble for sure.

“Much needed.” Edward hummed, enjoying his ice cream. He finished the bowl and set it on the ground, his hands resting on my bump. Our pup kicked hard, taking my breath away.

“Goddess.” I complained, readjusting to a better position.

“Come on little one, be nice to momma.” Edward said, rubbing my belly gently.

We decided to wait to find out the gender, boy or girl, we didn’t care, we just wanted to be surprised. Though I was confident it was a girl. My visions may have tipped me off, but I didn’t tell Edward that. I still wanted him to be surprised. Our pup kicked again, harder this time. I sat up and swung my feet over the edge, catching my breath, Edward rubbing my back. This pup wasn’t the worst pregnancy I have had. The worst was probably Hunter. He actually broke one of my ribs while in womb. His delivery was horrible. The twins were easy by comparison. Speaking of which, where were those two?

“Levi? Xander? Location check!” I yelled.

“M-m-mom...” I could hear Xander’s trembling voice call out to me.

“Mom! Dad! Help!” Levi called, racing around the side of the palace.

Edward and I exchanged a weary look before taking off in the direction of our pups. Levi followed closely behind us, fear in his eyes. I could hear Ella and Jackson rounding up all the pups, getting a headcount before my pulse was throbbing in my ears, overpowering anything else. The moment we rounded the corner, I felt all the life being sucked out of me. In front of us was a man in a cloak, the same man who we had been looking for all these years. He had a portal open behind him and Xander in his grasp, a silver blade pointed at his neck.

“Xander!” I cried.

“Mom.” His voice shook, he looked like he was trying to stay strong, but he was only six, he shouldn’t have to be strong at this age.

“Whatever you want, just let him go.” Edward said, his hands raised in a defensive stance.

“Your mate.” The man in the cloak ordered.

“Deal.” I said without hesitation, taking several steps forward.

“Take me instead.” Edward pleaded.

“It’s not you I’m after, not yet at least.” The man sneered. I couldn’t see his face, but his voice almost sounded familiar.

“But-”

“Edward, its fine.” I said, tears streaming down my face. I was only a foot away from my pup and the man. “Let my son go.”

“Put this on first.” He said, tossing me a large ring.

“What-” I began to ask.

“It’s a collar, put it on.” He snapped. “Be a good little bitch.”

With shaky hands, I managed to get the collar on. I felt humiliated, but I would do anything for my pup. There was only about three inches of wiggle room, not nearly enough for me to pull off. It clicked in place, a green light appearing, whatever it was supposed to do, I guess it was activated. It burned slightly, telling me that there was silver involved, or maybe even wolfsbane.

“Here is your pitiful offspring.” He said, shoving Xander towards Edward and grabbing me instead. Edward picked him up and Jackson came and collected him.

“Sierra!” Edward yelled.

“We will see you soon.” He smiled wickedly and dragged me into the portal. I could see Edward sprinting for it. He jumped at the last second, just missing it before it closed.

“Who are you?!” I snapped.

“Tsk, tsk. Is that any way for a lady to talk?” The cloaked man pulled out a handheld device and pressed a button, an electric shock surging through me.

I fell to the ground, trying to catch my breath. I tried to use my magic but was unable to. “What is this?” I asked, panic obvious in my voice.

“Dr. Hemsworth’s special gift made just for you.” The hooded man said. “Unfortunately for you, that means no magic.”

“Who are you?” I squinted my eyes, trying to see past the shadows cast by his hood.

“No need for this while we are here I suppose.” He shrugged, pulling the hood down. “Its not like you’ll be leaving.”

“Councilamn Aurthur?!” I gasped.

“So surprised? I guess I overestimated you.” He sighed. “Pity. Nevertheless, we must be going. Follow me.”

“And if I don’t?” I practically spat, feeling so betrayed. Not a second later, the same electric shock rushed through my body, this time it was much more intense. I fell to the ground again, my body protesting to the shock. I held my bump protectively, hoping that the shock didn’t cause any damage to my pup.

“I think you get the picture.”

I stood on shaky legs, following after Councilman Aurthur who was all but running through the massive building. I looked around, trying to take in as much of my surroundings as possible. It looked like a factory, actually more like a lab. There were large barrels marked with biohazard labels in what looked to be the garage. We walked down a hallway and up a set of stairs, ending up on the second floor. We passed a few large sterile-looking rooms with beakers and tubes and tables with straps where someone’s head, hands, and feet would go.

“Hurry up!” Councilman Aurthur yelled, already waiting for me at the end of the hall.

“Why am I here?! What do you want with me?!” I asked, hurrying to catch up, not wanting to be electrocuted again.

“You are a gift for Dr Hemsworth to use as he pleases. He is excited to see you. But truthfully, I needed to get you out of the picture before I collect your pups. My apprentice tells me you are far more powerful than we expected. Wouldnt want to drag things out or make a bigger scene than necessary.” Aurthur said.

He led me through another door. This one was reinforced with a guard posted on either side of it. He scanned his finger and eye, then punched in a code, allowing the door to click open. My stomach clenched when I saw what we were walking into. It was a long hallway filled with nothing but prison cells. As I walked down the hall, I noticed that every cell was filled but one. Mine. The other cells were filled with a variety of species. I’m guessing most were hybrids like me.

“Get in.” Aurthur said, holding the door open for me.

I reluctantly stepped inside, feeling as though my fate was sealed. Aurthur was about to close the door when a voice called out.

“One more,” he said.

“Seth?!” I exclaimed, grabbing onto the cell bars to get a closer look.

He ignored me completely, carrying in an unconscious Abby and gently setting her on the bench inside our cell.

“You haven’t gotten rid of her yet?!” Aurthur exclaimed.

“She could be used as leverage if needed.” Seth shrugged.

“I don’t understand?!” I pleaded. Seth paused and his eyes flicked for a moment before he continued on his way. The door swung closed, one of the guards locking it, while he and Aurthur left. I looked over at Abby, who had a nasty gash over her forehead, but otherwise looked okay. I shook her a few times. She stirred but didn’t fully come to. I decided against waking her, figuring we might be here a while and would need to save energy.

While Abby slept it off, I paced the small room, my mind spiraling out of control. I tried to link Edward but wasn’t able to reach him. I must be too far away. It felt cold here, although it was summertime and warm where we lived. Were we in the east maybe? Or was this place just strictly temperature regulated? How could I not have seen it? How could I not have known Seth was involved!? I should have listened to Abby more, goddess. I was so stupid to trust him! To just let him into our home so easily! And then there is Aurthur. I always had a gut feeling that he couldn’t be trusted, but I could say that about most of the council! It’s no surprise how he got away with it all these years. He was in the perfect position not to get caught. I needed to find a way out of here and fast, I pulled on the cell doors, only to be met with resistance.

“Goddess, what else could go wrong?!” I snipped. I barely got the sentence out when I felt my water break, a puddle forming on the ground. I closed my eyes and rested my head against the metal bars.

“You just had to say something.”

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 58

Edward

I ran towards the portal, praying that I could reach her in time. I dove for it, tumbling to the ground having just missed it.

“Fuck!” I roared, the ground practically shaking.

“King Edward! Its King Bruno! He has an army headed our way!” One of our warriors yelled as he ran towards us.

“Get the women and children inside!” I barked. Goddess, this can’t be happening right now! “Summon the warriors!” I got to my feet and grabbed Xander, who was standing there crying, having just seen his mother taken in his place. I helped everyone inside, doing a quick head count.

“Where are Abby and Seth?” I yelled.

“I haven’t seen them. Abby went to look for Seth over an hour ago.” Ella said out of breath, a multitude of pups clinging to her for support.

“Do we know how many men King Bruno has?” I yelled, grabbing a few potions Sierra had made in preparation for the war. I handed them to Rachael who was in charge of looking after our pups with Ella. The potion would temporarily make the user invisible, coming in handy should King Bruno’s men make it into the palace. But he would first have to breach the protective barrier that Sierra placed a few months ago. It would shield us from any larger weapons that King Bruno or the Purebreds might try to use, like a catapult or a tank. I had no idea what he was prepared to do, what lengths he would go to try to get my pups or my mate. I wasn’t ruling anything out. King Bruno liked to fight dirty, that much I did know.

“There are hundreds coming from the south, and more coming from all around us. We are being surrounded.” Jackson yelled.

“How is that possible?!” I barked, locking up all the doors and windows and nailing them shut as an extra measure, along with a dozen other warriors. I pulled my phone out of my pocket, calling King Carson for the aid he promised, while nailing another board onto a window.

“King Carson! It’s Edward, we need you now!” I pleaded.

“I’m afraid I cant help you, we are under attack, I must go!” He quickly hung up the phone, my mind racing. Goddess, what the hell is happening?!

“King Edward. We are ready to fight with you.” Gwendolyn said, appearing out of no where in front of me. I almost knocked her out, my adrenaline rushing, trying to get everything in place as fast as possible.

“Great.” I sighed, rushing to the next window. “King Bruno and his army are on their way, they will reach our pack borders in the next ten minutes. We need to hurry.”

“They are not your only adversaries. The Purebreds are heading this way by the thousands as well.” Gwendolyn announced nonchalantly.

“What?!” I growled. I expected a war against both rivals, but not at the same time! We would be so outnumbered it would almost not be worth fighting!

“Edward, we have to go!” Jackson yelled.

“We can take it from here.” Gwendolyn said, my piece of plywood and nails levitating in the air.

I didn’t bother taking the time to pretend that it was normal or that I even cared. I needed to get to the battlefield with my men. I booked it out the door, Jackson and William with me. We hoped to keep the battle contained in the open fields and away from our city, so that was where we and all of our warriors were headed. When we finally made it to the battlefield, everyone was lined up in groups of twenty-five awaiting orders. One of the men ran up to me and gave me some armor, though I didn’t think it would be long before I shifted, making it almost pointless to put on. My men all had a sword with them, though some were like me and preferred to fight in wolf form alone. I personally felt it to be disrespectful to the moon goddess to fight any other way, but in a time of war, whatever my men felt most comfortable with was fine with me.

“Warriors!” I yelled, “Today is the day we have been preparing for. I regret to tell you that there has been a slight change of plans. King Carson is also under attack, we will not be receiving help. Half of you will go with Beta Jackson, the other half will stay with me. We are fighting against two armies today.” I could feel the unease among my warriors. I can’t blame them. This was a shit show at best.

“This half follow me!” Jackson pointed and took off into a run, half our army with him.

I could see King Bruno and his army across the horizon. I took four men with me, one carrying our flag, as well as William. King Bruno and several of his men broke off from his army and met us in the middle.

“King Bruno, what is the meaning of this?” I asked, praying it was something other than wanting my pups.

“You already know. Hand over your twins and we will leave in peace.” He deadpanned.

“You know I cant do that.” I growled at his suggestion.

“Cant or wont? There is a difference. Are you even considering what’s best for your people? From the looks of it, you are outnumbered. You are breaking your oath as king to protect your people, Edward. Tsk task, what would the council have to say about this?” He said cynically.

“You might be willing to throw away your family, but I’m not. I’ll see you on the battlefield.” I sneered, turning and heading back to our men.

“I look forward to taking over your kingdom!” King Bruno called, laughing menacingly, as he and his men retreated back to their army.

“This is bad.” William said, more to himself than anyone else.

“We can’t give up, we can’t let him win,” I growled. We made it back to our men in no time, their unease still present. “Prepare yourselves! Watch each other’s backs, say a prayer to the moon goddess. She will ultimately decide our fate today. We have her favor. She blessed us with our gifted twin pups. That is why they are here. King Bruno wants to take them from us. We can’t let that happen. WHO IS WITH ME?!” I yelled, my men hollering in support. “LETS GO!” I took off into a sprint at the front lines, running head first into King Brunos’ army who was already sprinting towards us. Goddess help us.

Jackson

“This half follow me!” I yelled, sprinting towards the palace where we knew the Purebreds would be heading for. The palace was surrounded, a large group of men trying to tear down the doors and windows, some shifted, others not. “Attack!” I yelled, shifting midstride and letting my wolf take the lead.

I barreled into the mass, biting off a head and tearing into a throat on the way. It didn’t take me long to notice how much stronger these wolves were compared to the rogues the Purebreds had been sending our way all these years. This was bad.

“Beta! These look like our own people!” One of our warriors yelled out, in a fist fight with someone.

I shifted back, grabbing a Purebred off one of my men and throwing him to the ground. “They very well might be. But they are trying to take the heirs to the throne. We need to stop them, no matter who they are.” I hated having to say it, but if our people had been compromised by the Purebreds, they needed to be stopped. We hadn’t had the chance to see what technology was being used on them or if there was a way to reverse the effects, so for now our orders were simply to protect the pups, no matter what. There were far too many to try to take prisoner at the moment.

I shifted back, my wolf revving to go. There were so many Purebreds, and they just kept coming. As I tore into another neck, I looked around and could see a number of bodies lying limp on the ground. Our men were fighting their hardest, but it wasn’t enough. We needed more help.

“Beta! There is fire!” Another warrior yelled, pointing to the rising smoke in our city.

Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

“We can handle that.” A woman dressed in gray said, floating off towards the rising flames, her hands lit up in a purple color. This must be the witch army Edward and Sierra had mentioned. A multitude of others went with her, and when I turned around I saw fifty others with glowing hands engaged in battle. It might not be enough, but it was something. Hopefully, Edward was doing better than us.

CRACK!

A terrible sound caught my attention. I turned to see in the distance the east cellar doors being flung open and a group of wolves heading in. Who forgot to block those!? I growled in frustration, linking a few of my men to follow me so we could stop the intruders.

“Ella!” I linked.

“Yes, Jackson?!” She answered sounding panicked.

“They broke into the east cellar doors. We’re on our way to stop them now.” I warned her.

I knew they had a few warriors posted inside, but they were the younger, newly shifted wolves who insisted on being part of the war should it come. We weren’t turning down any help, but we also weren’t monsters, putting those who we considered to still be pups in the front line. We never thought they would be able to breach the palace, between Sierra’s spell and all the reinforced doors and windows, plus an army to get through first.

“We have a few witches here still, ill send them that way.” Ella linked back. “I love you, be safe.” Her voice shook even through our linking.

“I love you too.”

My paws kicked up dirt, picking up the pace to protect my mate and pups. I was met with resistance when I got to the cellar doors. I peered inside to see a long metal bar that had been placed between the door handles, stopping us from opening it.

“Here” a witch said, the doors being ripped clean off. “Go in, I will make a new door. One you can only come out of, not go into.” She began chanting some spell, the doorway glowing. I led the way in with my four warriors on my tail. Seeing things like that made me wonder why Sierra ever lifted a finger. I have seen her pregnant and standing on chairs to get into high-up cupboards. Why the hell wouldn’t she just use magic!?

My nose twitched, catching a whiff of the unfamiliar scents. We were catching up. When we reached the ground floor, I sent two men to the left, two to the right, and I continued straight. I didn’t know exactly how many had gotten in, and I wasn’t taking any chances. I found one Purebred corning one of the young warriors. I lept into the air, biting down on his head and tearing it off on my descent.

“T-thank you Beta.” The warrior said with a shaky voice.

I could hear fighting to my left, feeling relieved that I had split us up and more Purebreds were being stopped. Continuing along, I killed two more Purebreds and heard more fighting to my right. My warriors didn’t call for help, so I assumed they had it handled. I shifted back, catching my breath for a second, my head buzzing from the adrenaline rush. When I heard the fighting getting more intense, my feet carried me into a jog, heading towards the rustling. I turned the corner, my breath hitching and blood running cold. I looked down, a silver knife embedded in my abdomen, a Purebred halfway down the hall standing over my warrior’s dead body, his arm still extended from throwing the blade. I dropped to my knees, my body falling against the wall, breaking some of the fall. A blast of purple flew by my head, annihilating the Purebred where he stood.

“Beta!” I heard someone call, my vision going blurry, darkness taking over.

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Abby

“Abby, what happened? Are you okay?!” Sierra asked the moment she saw me come to. My head hurt like hell. I carefully touched it, my hand red with blood.

“Where are we?” I asked, Sierra helping me sit up.

I looked around, noticing that we were in a large cage, wait no, a cell? What were we doing in a prison cell? My memories soon came flooding back, my mood darkening.

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“Seth?” I called to my mate, weaving through the garden maze in search of him. “Seth? Are you out here?”

No answer again. Figures. As soon as Edward came over with ice cream and got cuddly with Sierra on her lounge chair, I went to look for Seth. I have spent the last fifteen minutes looking for him with no luck. I rounded another corner leading me out of the garden, my eye catching a strange green glow coming from the edge of the forest. I looked around and didn’t see anyone. I could only hear the kids laughing and playing. Despite my better judgment, I decided to go see what was causing the glow.

Quietly, I stalked my way in, the green glow getting brighter and brighter the further in I went. I could see a clearing up ahead, it looked like a man was standing there. My foot stepped on a twig, giving away my position. The man’s head snapped in my direction. I was about to run when he called my name.

“Abby?” Seth said.

“Seth? What is this? What are you doing out here?” I asked, shielding my eyes slightly from the obnoxiously bright green that was blinding me.

“You shouldn’t be here!” He growled at me.

“Excuse me?” I said, putting my hands on my hips. “What the hell are you doing out here? I thought we talked about you just disappearing? I have been looking for you for almost twenty minutes!” I snapped.

“Is this her?” Someone asked.

I didn’t realize he was standing behind me until he spoke. I jumped and turned around, staring at the large male. He had an alpha aura, but he was no one that I recognized.

“Yeah its her. I’ll deal with it, just keep her quiet while I finish this.” Seth said, not even looking in my direction. He sat cross-legged and began levitating and reciting something in another language.

“Why not just kill her? Master wont let you keep her.”

“She could be leverage if needed. Just do what I say, Victor,” Seth said without opening his eyes or even turning his head.

“Fine.”

“What?!” I panicked, my brain still playing catch up with the conversation.

The man moved so fast I didn’t have time to run, he put a gage over my mouth and tied me to a tree. I fought him as hard as I could, but I was no warrior. I wish I hadn’t neglected training. Edward always encouraged me to, and I always turned him down thinking he was paranoid. I kicked and threw a fit at the ropes that were biting into my skin, getting absolutely nowhere. I could hear screams in the distance from where I had come. What was happening?

Seth continued what he was doing, while I continued to struggle. I noticed the green glow was coming from him and what he was doing, it looked like a portal in front of him.

“Struggeling wont do you any good.” Seth said, still levitating in front of the portal.

“Mmmm!” I tried to growl, the gag making it impossible to do so. I extended my claws hoping that I could tear the rope. Unfortunately, I came up short with each swipe I tried to make.

“Stop fighting and I will remove the gag.” Seth said, the glow gone but screams and yelling still in the background.

I nodded and stilled. Seth kept to his word and removed my gag. “Why?” I asked, gulping in fresh air.

“So naive, just like the rest of them.” He sighed and shook his head. “When I was captured by the Purebreds, I made a deal with them in exchange for my life. I would work for them to achieve whatever goal they wanted, they would spare my life. Of course, my twelve-year-old self couldn’t possibly imagine the things they would do to me to make me what I am today. But they kept true to their word and let me live. I worked hard, proved myself, and I am second in command of the Purebreds. The only catch is, I can’t freely use my magic, they control when and how I use it with this device.” He said, tapping his shirt.

“Seth, we can help you get out. You don’t have to do this.” I pleaded.

“I don’t want out. I finally have an unimaginable amount of power thanks to the good doctor. He enhanced my powers, making me virtually unstoppable.”

“But what about your family? What about me?” I cried.

“I mourned them many years ago. Nothing changes that.” He scoffed. “You, on the other hand, were an unexpected player in the game..” He cupped my chin. “Purebreds aren’t allowed mates, not this high up the ladder, they are considered a weakness. I didn’t want you to keep me, I did everything to try to get you to reject me. Even though I want you more than I have anything else in my life. My orders are to get rid of you.” He said, cutting the ropes, setting me free.

“You’re letting me go?” I asked, rubbing my wrists.

“No, they just never specified when or where I had to get rid of you.”

“What-” I looked up at the last moment, a fist connecting with my head, sending me sailing to the ground. My head spun and my vision went black. This certainly wasn’t good.

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 59

Sierra

“I can’t believe he did that! I can’t believe he is one of them!” I growled, breathing hard through another contraction.

“Take it easy.” Abby said, encouraging me to sit down. She seemed oddly okay for someone who was just betrayed by their own mate.

“Standing is better right now.” I gritted my teeth.

“What are we going to do?” Abby asked, panic in her voice.

“I need to get this fucking collar off, I can’t use my magic with it on.” I said, pulling at it for the hundredth time since I got here.

“Let me see.” Abby stood and looked over the metal ring around my neck. “It looks like there is a screw here...if we can find something to unscrew it, we might be able to get it off.”

“There is nothing in here.” I groaned, another contraction hitting. I learned over the years that the more pups you had, the quicker they seemed to come. There wouldn’t be much time before I needed to start pushing. “Talk to me Abby, I need a distraction.” I practically begged.

“Remember that time we had a girls’ night? Ella, Lauren, you, and me?” Abby asked, immediately jumping in to try to distract me.

“Ha, you mean the first time Ella and I left the pups with our mates?”

“Yeah, my brothers wouldn’t stop linking you two. They even came by twice to ‘say hi’.” Abby laughed.

“Edward had a blowout diaper with both twins.” I laughed, my contraction subsiding.

“I loved spending that time with you guys.”

“Life was a lot easier then.”

Even our hard days were easier than this. I had no idea what was going on at the palace, but I knew it couldn’t be good. I could feel Edwards’ wrath and pain, lots of pain. I probably didn’t help matters, going into labor as soon as I got locked in a cage in a test lab somewhere that can’t be found. The goddess had better have something up her sleeve.

“How are we going to get out of here?” Abby asked, looking over the cell.

“I don’t think we will.”

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Edward

Edmund lept over three more of King Bruno’s warriors, taking two down on his descent. We were absurdly outnumbered, but that wasn’t going to stop us from fighting to protect our family and kingdom. Our men were well trained, skilled in war tactics, but there was only so much training could do when we were outnumbered at least one to five. I passed through a sea of dead bodies, some his men, most mine. This wasn’t going well. We

needed more help. Edmund was on a mission for blood, seeking out King Bruno. As king, he should have been on the front lines with his men, but I didn't see him anywhere. Coward. If I could just find him, I know I would win in a fight against him. Edmund weaved through the crowd, a line of men forming in front of us. I turned to go the other way, another line forming.

"King Edward! I do believe it's time for you to surrender," King Bruno announced.

I looked around, those who were left of my army were being held with silver blades pointed towards their necks, two of his men for every one of mine. The rest of his army formed a circle around us, ready to strike. King Bruno was completely unscathed, having not participated for even a moment. I shifted back, ready to go after King Bruno with everything I had left in me. I was bitten and stabbed a few times, apparently. I could tell from the blood dripping out of my flesh and down my naked body. My adrenaline and unbridled rage had done its job well, I hadn't felt a thing or even noticed I was injured until now.

"Over my dead body," I growled.

"Grab him." King Bruno barked.

I was soon surrounded by ten men, all fighting to get me to my knees. Even as an Alpha, ten strong men against one injured wasn't a fair fight. Two men were holding each of my arms, two standing on each leg, cutting off circulation, and two with knives pointed at my throat. King Bruno smugly skulked his way over to me, drawing his sword. Bastard couldn't even have enough respect for our kind to use his wolf to kill me apparently.

"Any last words?" He smiled sadistically.

"Fuck you!" I spat.

King Bruno punched me square in the nose, the familiar iron taste filling my mouth. "Dont worry, I'll take good care of your mate and pups." He lifted his sword, ready to strike. I only blinked, and King Bruno was suddenly on his back on the ground, the wind knocked from his lungs.

"What the hell?" I said to myself and Edmund.

I watched closely, only catching a wisp of color flashing by, running over King Bruno again and taking down four of the men holding me.

"What is that?!" One of my opponents yelled from the ground.

"Vampires." Edmund growled.

“Goddess, I cant handle a third army!” I yelled back, feeling like all hope was gone. Another flash went by me, taking down the rest of the men holding me. I sprang to my feet, ready to fight the bloodsuckers.

“King Edward. We are here to help.” Cyrus said, appearing before me with a group of fifty or so vampires. I had only met him a handful of times over the years. He was Sierras’ mentor many years ago.

“Why? How did you know?” I questioned, looking around at King Brunos’ men, who began moving closer to us.

“For Sierra.” He nodded, “And you might not know this, but my home is close to here. I’d like to have somewhere to sleep tonight. So we will fight.” He shrugged.

“Great, but even with your help we don’t stand a chance! We are fighting two armies!” I barked, hating the words as they left my mouth.

“What is that noise?” Cyrus asked, his ears twitching.

“What noise?!” I growled.

In the distance, a faint trumpet sounded, and drums. War drums. I looked to the west where the noise was coming from. On the horizon stood three men. Who was that? They had a flag with them...King Carson maybe? Could we be so lucky? The trumpet sounded again, hundreds of warriors surging forward towards the battlefield.

“King Jesse!” William yelled. He, being closer to the fast approaching army, could see their flag before me.

“Attack!” King Bruno yelled. While he retreated away from the fight.

I took off after him, refusing to let him get away. My body ached, it bled, and tore, but I was not going to let that stop me. King Burno was going to die today. His men tried to stop me. Cyrus and his vampire friends did their best to clear a path, getting stuck in battles themselves. I fought my way through what felt like a never-ending sea of enemies, King Bruno getting further and further away.

“Get back here you coward!” I yelled, sending a right hook into someone’s jaw, causing them to tumble to the ground, getting out of my way.

“Stay back, he’s mine.” Prince Derek roared, a small group of warriors wearing mismatched armor stood by his side, blocking King Bruno’s path. He is much older looking since the last time I saw him. He no longer looked like an abused teen, malnourished and frail. He looked like a grown man, fierce and powerful.

“Traitor! I should have killed you the moment you were born!” King Bruno sneered.

“Well, now is your chance. Fight me!” Derek said darkly.

“Grahhhh!” King Bruno swung his sword, Derek narrowly missing his wrath.

I fought off more of his army while trying to keep a close eye on King Bruno and Derek. If Derek lost the battle, King Bruno might get away. I wasn't going to let that happen. He threatened my pups, he is attacking my pack, threatening my kingdom, and is just a rotten son of a bitch who needs to die.

“You are a pitiful excuse of a man!” King Bruno yelled, swinging his sword.

“Maybe I am, but I learned it from you!” Derek sneered, using his own sword to counter his father's assault. He seemed equally matched in skill and strength too.

“Alpha! Its King Jesse!” William linked me, panic in his voice.

Shit. I looked around, my eyes landing on King Jesse who was surrounded by a dozen of King Brunos' men. I shifted and took off in his direction. The closer I got, the more time seemed to slow down. I watched helplessly as King Jesse succumbed to his adversaries, taking a sword to the chest, falling to the ground. King Brunos' men continued along, looking for their next victim, while I came to a skidding stop in front of King Jesse. I shifted and leaned him back, his breathing rapid and shallow.

“King Jesse!” I cried out.

“Dont waste time with me, go..kill..that..bastard.....my men...are yours...” King Jesse said with his final words, his body going limp, his eyes unmoving.

Fury reigned down upon me, I could see King Bruno and Derek still going head to head. I would not let King Jesse's death be in vain.

“Derek! End this!” I commanded, grabbing a sword for good measure from a fallen warrior on my way to them.

“With pleasure...Aahhhh!” Derek swung his sword, sweeping King Bruno off his feet, his sword aiming at his father's throat.

“You wouldn't kill your own father!” King Bruno declared, spitting out a mouthful of blood. He looked to be in rough shape. Derek didn't hold back.

“You killed my mother, this is for her.” He said, plunging his sword into his father's throat, leaving King Bruno gurgeling while he stood over his dying body. He waited until King Bruno was officially dead before withdrawing his sword and cleaning it in the grass.

“Thank Goddess, you can stop this mess!” I sighed, knowing the title of Alpha and King would now fall to him.

“No, I cant.” He sighed. “These men are evil. They wont listen to what I have to say, Alpha or not. They must all die.”

Ella

“Something is wrong, I can feel my mate, he is hurt.” I said in a hushed tone to Rachael and Sylvia, who were with me in the safe room with our multitude of pups.

“Its not safe to leave.” Rachael said sadly. Her mate was out there too. I had no doubt that she was feeling the same as me.

“I cant just sit here. I have to go.” I said, standing up.

“If you open the door, someone might see you. We can’t risk it,” Sylvia said.

“We can get you out.” Two identical voices said.

I looked over to see Levi and Xander staring in my direction, waiting for an answer.

“How?” I asked skeptically.

“We can open a portal for you.” They answered together. It always freaked me out when they did that.

“Are you sure?” I asked hesitantly. I knew the twins had some training with magic, but had no idea to what extent or if they had any control over it. Sierra and Edward were very quiet about what the twins knew regarding magic, even from us.

“Its easy.” Levi shrugged.

“Uncle Jackson needs us,” Xander added cryptically.

“Okay, but let’s do it away from everyone.” I nodded, heading over to the corner of our safe room where there were no pups.

Levi and Xander followed me over, they held hands and, with their free hands, they flicked their wrists, similar to how Sierra did. The portal they opened was much smaller than what Sierra typically did, but it did the trick. I looked through the shimmering image, I could see a few bodies on the ground, one of which looked like my mate. I awkwardly stepped through the portal, looking around for any enemies before I rushed to my mate who was gasping for air.

“Jackson!” I cried. He looked pale and had a large dagger in his abdomen, lying in a pool of his own blood.

“Ella...” Jackson managed to get out, a shaky hand reaching to tuck a loose strand of hair behind my ear.

“It’s okay, you’re gonna be okay.” I sobbed, any chance of me hiding how badly this looked went right out the window.

“I..love...you..” He coughed.

“I love you more. You have to hold on for me.”

“Aunt Ella? We can help.” Levi said.

“Goddess! You weren’t supposed to follow me!!” Dread came over me. If anyone found them, it would be game over. “You need to leave!! Go back to the safe room!!” I whispered-yelled.

“But Uncle Jackson needs us.” Xander said, yanking the blade out of Jackson’s flesh. My mate groaned in pain, holding his injury.

“Xander!!” I exclaimed. He was only going to make this worse.

Levi joined Xander’s side, one eye glowing purple from each boy. “Mom does this for us when we get hurt,” Levi said. He and Xander touched Jackson’s wound while chanting some spell. My mind was racing too fast to even comprehend what they had said. Jackson quivered, his wound glowing purple, the same shade as the boy’s eyes. When they removed their hands, I carefully wiped away the blood that stained my mate’s skin. The once deep puncture wound was gone, his body healed.

“Goddess...” Jackson said in amazement, floored by the miracle.

“How do you feel?” I asked, my attention on my mate.

“Better, weak still, probably from all the blood loss. But I don’t feel like I’m on death’s doorstep anymore.” He chuckled, trying to stand to his feet.

“You could probably use some blood.” I added, helping him to stand. He shook like a leaf, his body might have been healed, but it needed more blood to function properly.

“What are you all doing out here?” Seth asked, appearing out of nowhere. I jumped, startled by his sudden presence.

“Jackson needed help. The boys weren’t supposed to follow,” I interjected.

“They saved my life.” Jackson added, his face still pale looking.

“Are you good now? Do you need medical attention?” Seth asked skeptically.

“He could use more blood, but we can’t leave the boys.” I shook my head.

“Here, get to the hospital. I’ll get the boys back.” Seth offered, opening a portal to a hospital room.

“Are you sure?” I asked.

“Absolutely, go.” He nodded.

“Wait, have you seen Abby?” Jackson asked from the other side of the portal. “We haven’t seen her.”

“She is being taken care of,” Seth answered, closing the portal. That was good enough for Jackson. He visibly relaxed at Seth’s words. I was happy to know she was okay too. She was supposed to be in the safe room with us but never showed up. We had to shut it before anyone found us.

“Lets get you to the blood bank.” I said, grabbing the door handle. I immediately retracted my hand, the handle feeling hot. “Ouch!” I yelled.

“What happened?” Jackson asked. The smell of smoke began filling my lungs. He reached for the handle, retracting just as fast as I had. “Oh shit...” Jackson said, his eyes going wide.

“What is it?” I asked, panic in my voice.

“The hospital is on fire.”

The Alpha King And His Second Chance

Chapter 60

Sierra

“You’re doing great, just keep breathing.” Abby coached, a hint of worry in her voice.

I was sitting in the corner of our cell, my dress hiked up, feeling ready to push. My brain couldn’t process anything else at the moment except to try to get this pup out of me.

“Someone, please! We need help!” Abby yelled for what felt like the tenth time.

“What is all this noise?!” A guard finally approached, an attitude in his voice.

“She is giving birth! We need towels and warm water and something to cut the cord with!” Abby blurted out while I started pushing.

The guard looked a bit traumatized, quickly leaving and returning a few minutes later with some supplies he managed to rustle up. “Here, but don’t expect anything else.” He sneered, his cold shoulder returning.

Abby grabbed the bag of supplies he had brought, sifting through everything. “Okay okay okay. Towles, a pair of scissors, bottles of water...ughh” Her voice shook.

“Abby...” I began, my words cut off by a feral growl that came from somewhere deep inside me. I pushed again, the familiar burning sensation coming back to me.

“Oh goddess, I can see a head! Push, push, push!” She half panicked, half encouraged, getting a towel ready to catch my pup.

“Ahhh!” I fought back a slew of curses, pushing with everything I had left. My vision was spotty from holding my breath, but I wasn’t stopping. Abby reached down and scooped up my pup, placing her on my stomach. I held her close, crying tears of joy while Abby cut the cord and helped clean off my little girl.

“She looks just like you.” Abby noted, while also silently crying.

My little girl wasted no time in latching onto me, cooing every now and then. Her eyes were a vibrant green color, her hair a dark brown, matching her daddy’s, but everything else resembled me.

“What are you going to name her?” Abby asked.

“I’m not sure, Edward and I had a few names picked out but never settled on one.” I sighed, looking over my tiny bundle. Goddess, I couldn’t let them have her. We needed to find a way out.

“Hey Sierra, I have an idea.” Abby said quietly, scissors in hand.

Seth

“Uncle Seth, where are we?” One pup asked.

“This isn’t the safe room,” The other noted. I never did bother to try and tell them apart.

“We are going to go see your mother and aunt.” I deadpanned, leading them towards the holding center where my sister and mate were being held. My informant, Oliver, told me that the twins were just beginning to learn how to use their powers. I lived with them for almost three months and never saw them use a lick of magic, so I assumed they would be harmless. No need to collar them like their over-powerful mother. Plus, anything they could possibly throw my way would be a drop in the bucket compared to the power I

possessed. The less danger they thought they were in, the better. I didn't know what Arthur or Dr. Hemsworth planned on doing with the twins, nor did I care, but I assumed he would want them in mint condition, so to speak. The sooner I could get them into a cell, the better.

"Are we going to save mom?" One asked, guilt written all over his face. This must have been the one Arthur grabbed initially. We needed to get Sierra out of the way before we could go for the twins. She was much too powerful, probably even more than me, which was saying something. Damn moon goddess had to let her be born first.

"Something like that." I mumbled, turning a corner with the boys close behind me. I linked the guards to leave their posts a few minutes ago so I could get the twins in without them questioning anything. The guards, thankfully, were nowhere to be seen. I punched in my code and let the door swing open, my nephews going through first.

"Mom?" One called out.

"Xander?!" My sister's voice echoed down the long hallway.

The two took off, running towards her voice. I quickly opened a portal before they could even make it halfway down the hall, leading them into an empty cell next to their mom. They couldn't see each other but they could still talk and hear one another. I walked past the boys, the looks on their faces priceless. A mix of confusion, anger, and worry. They frantically called for Sierra, who in turn told them to stay put and not worry. I could hear a pup crying, gaining my interest. I had to see this.

"Well, well, I believe congratulations are in order." I said to my sister, who was holding her newborn pup. She was propped up in the corner of the room with many bloody blankets surrounding her. She looked exhausted.

"Please just let my pups go." Sierra cried.

"You know I can't do that." I shook my head.

"Why not? Oh, that's right, your second in command. Being someone's good little bitch." Abby spat.

I would be lying if I said it didn't bother me. Dr. Hemsworth spent years experimenting on me, trying to take away every ounce of empathy or really just feelings in general that I had. He was mostly successful. I felt indifferent most of the time. Except when it came to Abby. I had a full spectrum of emotions with her. She made me want to be a better man, to be a better mate. It made me wonder if I should stop working with the Purebreds and run away with her. But I was in far too deep to do that.

I stared blankly at Abby, who refused to look back at me. Finally, the newborn pup broke my focus, its crying becoming difficult to maintain focus. That's when I noticed the

disturbed-looking screw on Sierras' collar. "What is this?" I asked, opening a portal and stepping into Sierra and Abbys' cell. I saw a pair of scissors on the ground. She must have used those to unscrew the screw in her collar. I don't know who was stupid enough to have given her scissors and leave them behind, but they were about to be fired. "Cant have you trying to cause any trouble now." I said, tightening the screw with my own magic. I was given full magic privileges by Dr Hemsworth and Arthur for this mission. Normally, I was limited on how much or when I could use my magic. It was a nice treat. "And, I'll do you a favor, I'll take the pup too." I smiled, reaching for the pup. Dr Hemesworth would love this.

"No!" Sierra yelled, her grasp on her pup tightening.

Abby began punching and kicking my back, her strength that of a pup. When that didn't work, she dove for the scissors and pointed them at me, as if it would cause me any harm. Ha! "How exactly do you think this will stop me?" I asked my mate, using my magic to grab the scissors from her hands and throw them across the cell.

"Youre a monster!" Abby cried. "I wish I had never met you!"

Her words sent another jagged dig into me, the mate bond making it hard for her words to not affect me. I hesitated, not knowing what to say or do. I had orders to kill her. Deep down though, I knew I could never do that. I would rather have her locked up for good than to get rid of her.

"Stop hurting our family!" Two voices said from behind me, a small blast knocking me off my feet.

I turned around and saw both boys standing in Sierra and Abbys' cell, a portal closing behind them. I guess I underestimated them. I wont let that happen again. With a flick of my wrist, I grabbed both boys and pinned them against the wall at my eye level. They looked shocked and scared. Sierra was crying in the background, begging me to let them go.

"I think these pups need a lesson in manners and pecking order." I said, flinging them across the cell. They landed hard, whimpering in pain. They tried to hit me with another pitiful blast, which I successfully dodged.

"You think you can stop me?" I laughed " There is nothing anyone can do to stop me, I'm-" My blood ran cold, an unfamiliar feeling rushing through me. Fear? Pain?

"Abby!! What did you do?!" Sierra screamed.

"Aunt Abby?" The boys looked past me, their faces filled with confusion and worry.

I turned to my mate, she had a bloody pair of scissors in her hand, her wrists cut. She slumped to the floor, the color draining from her face. "Abby!" I yelled, going to her side. I

propped her up in my arms and grabbed one of her wrists to try to stop the bleeding. “We can fix this...” My voice sounded broken. Water droplets fell onto my mate. Wait, no, it was tears. My tears. What the hell?! I began to feel lightheaded and hollow inside. Almost as if the life was being sucked out of me. I could feel my magic spiraling out of control within me. Even if I knew a healing spell, I don’t think I could successfully perform the spell right now.

“Help!” I begged, looking to my sister for help.

“I cant...” She cried, touching her collar. I tried my best to focus on breaking her collar off. It took two tries but I finally got it off.

Sierra carefully stood, handing her newborn pup to her boys, whispering something to them. What I don’t know, all I knew was that my mate needed help. Sierra gingerly crouched down and began trying to heal my mate.

“We could have had a beautiful life together,” Abby said.

“Dont leave me.” I cried, “Why would you do this?”

“Someone had to stop you.” She said, taking the scissors and using what was left of her strength to plunge the metal tip into my heart.

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Edward

My men, the vampires, and King Jesse’s men fought to the death, successfully taking down the rest of King Bruno’s army with the help of the new alpha, King Derek and his handful of followers. When King Bruno died, his army began to falter, becoming weak and easier to kill. Or maybe it was because of the miracle of having an army join our cause at the final hour that our men found their second wind. Whatever the reason, I didn’t care. We just won a war. There was just one to go now.

“We still have the purebreds to deal with. If you are all able, we need to get to the palace immediately.” I said to King Jesse’s Beta, Felix.

“We will honor our fallen king’s wishes. We will fight with you.” Felix nodded.

“Great. I don’t know where that smoke is coming from or if it is being handled or not. Could you and your men go check it out?” I asked Cyrus.

“Yes Alpha.” Cyrus nodded and took off in a flash with his group of vampires.

“Thank you!” I yelled at the wind.

Our army took off towards the palace, dread filling my gut at the sight before me. The front doors were wide open. There were many men from the Purebred Guardians who were outside, just waiting for us. I could see dozens of our fallen warriors lying dead on the ground. Some eclectic looking witches as well. Looks like they were having just as much of a hard time as us, except we got lucky and had an army join us during our final hour.

King Jesse's men ran head first into battle, what was left of my army intermixed. I bolted for the front entrance, needing some reassurance that my pups were still safe. I could only hope that they hadn't been found. We mowed through the Purebreds, our battle just as bloody and savage as the war with King Bruno's army. I eventually managed to get inside my own palace, twice as many Purebred warriors were on the inside than there were on the outside. This was bad.

My staff had specific instructions to hide themselves in some of the hidden passages we had secretly made in the weeks leading up to the war. I didn't see any of their bodies, so I took that as a good sign. Unfortunately, I couldn't safely check. Not without blowing their cover or linking in the middle of a battle. It felt as though the Purebreds just kept coming. I guess Oliver was telling the truth about one thing. There were thousands of Purebreds. If half went to attack King Carson, probably solely to prevent them from helping us, then the other half were here with us.

It was a long fight, but we managed to overthrow the Purebreds within the palace, and even captured a few for questioning.

"Where is my mate?!" I spat at the three Purebreds who were tied up in front of me.

"Like we would ever tell you." One laughed.

"She is probably already dead!" Another one taunted.

This was getting nowhere. I knew Sierra was still alive, I could still feel our bond, though it did feel weak, which was alarming.

"Make them talk." I said to William. He gave me a devious smile while I headed towards our hidden safe room where Ella and the kids were supposed to be. I needed to see them with my own eyes.

I swept the palace as I went, making sure there were no hidden warriors ready to jump out at me. When I reached the top floor, I grabbed a pair of shorts and slipped them on, not exactly wanting my mom and pups to see my goods if I could help it. I walked into Sierras study and found that everything looked perfectly in place. Thank goddess. I felt along the newly installed decorative rock wall, looking for the pressure point that would open the hidden door. I found it without a problem, and announced my presence from the outside before pushing the slab of rock that triggered the door.

“Edward!” My mom’s voice rang through first.

“Did you find Sierra?” Andrew asked.

Two of my pups ran and crawled over to greet me, but there were two missing. “Where are Levi and Xander?” I asked, checking over the little faces again just to make sure I didn’t miss them the first time I looked.

“We dont-” My mom began.

A shimmering light appeared, my pups running through a small portal, panic in their eyes. It closed just as fast as it had opened, my twins talking a mile a minute at the same time.

“Woah, woah, woah!” I said, kneeling down to their level. “Slow down, one at a time. What happened? Where were you?” I asked, looking between my boys. They exchanged a weary glance and then they both looked at Levis’ jacket that was wrapped up in his arms. Levi held the bundle out for me to take, which I did, my eyes going wide when I saw the tiny pup who looked just like my mate squirming around in the makeshift swaddle.

“Mom said to call her Abby.”