

Tattooed 271

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"O-okay." She looked like she was second guessing her decision. Colt pulled her into a hug and she immediately buried her face in his chest. He looked at me and nodded as I opened the door and walked in. Alec slipped in beside me but shut the door quickly after him. Standing off to the side, he folded his arms like a damn bodyguard. Cassie had bandages everywhere. Her neck was completely covered and her face had yellow spots. Blankets were pulled up to her chest so I couldn't see what the rest of her looked like. An I.V. was sticking out of her hand. Zac must have taken a shower. His hair was brushed and pulled into a bun at the base of his neck. They obviously had given him a razor too because his beard was trimmed. There was some bruising but overall, he looked good. He was sitting with a chair next to Cassie and held her hand gentle. Both of them looked over at me as I came in. "How are you feeling?" I asked. "They gave me something to give me back my wolf. I am still very weak so she is struggling right now. I want to thank you for saving me." Cassie sounded weak but she tried to smile.

"You understand that since Rip was killed, the alpha title was transferred to you." JJ "I realized that. I'm assuming you want us to give it up." Cassie didn't show any emotion as she spoke. "It would be the right thing to do. You both are not in any position to run a pack, let alone make decisions about innocent lives. You have been in a cell, abused and starved for 19 years. The world has and abused in a different way. Mentally, you both need time to heal and adjust to life." "Child, we aren't going to argue. We don't want it but we don't want to give it up to anyone." Cassie tried to laugh. "Actually, Penny is here." I said. Both of them snapped their eyes to

me. "What?" "Penelope, your daughter wants to meet you. I believe it would be in your best interest to pass the title to her. She is just outside the door." "She wants to meet us?" Cassie looked scared. "She does. She doesn't have a single expectation from you. Penny is taken care of and doesn't need anything. She just wants to meet her parents. I have told her the basic of both of your stories. She knows she wasn't abandoned because you didn't love her but to protect her. Penny doesn't need a mother or father. I shouldn't need to tell you that she just wants to meet you and eventually develop a relationship." Cassie looked at Zac for a second before looking back at me. "Please bring her in." Nodding, I looked over at Alec. He went to open the door. A shaking Penny and Colt walked in. Both Cassie and Zac gasped as they looked at her. "This is Penny and her mate Colt. Colt is my twin an Alpha of Blue Fang Pack. If you haven't guessed, this is Alec and Alpha of Black Moon Pack, my mate." "She looks just like you." Cassie had tears in her eyes. "Penny, this is Cassie and Zac." I said, continuing the introductions "You are even more beautiful than I imagined." Cassie said. She was slightly sitting up but moved her hand so she could press the button. Zac got the hint and moved her bed upward a little so Cassie was in more of a sitting position. A shock of pain passed through her face. but eventually passed. "Do you need anything?" Penny asked. "No. Thank you. Please, come closer." Penny listened and walked closer but stayed out of hands reach. Colt went with her. "Can- can you tell us about your childhood?" Zac asked as he cleared his throat. "Oh, um... I had a good childhood, I guess. Although, I lived in the orphanage, I never needed anything. They always made sure we had plenty of clothing and I had many friends. When I got older, I

started getting into trouble. School was boring and well, Kris found me. She hired me to be her assistant and pushed me academically. She really turned my life around and gave me a purpose.”

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“Penny is incredibly smart and it just took someone to recognize it. She did all the hard work herself.” I chimed in. Alec walked up behind me and put his hands on my shoulders. He was really proud of me. “Are you going to college?” Zac asked. “I haven’t decided. Before Colt and I became mates, I was planning on it. However, with the responsibilities of being a luna, I might not. Colt has told me to enroll online and see how it goes but I’m not sure that is what I want anymore. I want to help young kids. Kids that just needed attention like I did. What Kris did for me. This is what I want my luna run to be about.”

“I know it doesn’t mean much to you but you should know that we are extremely proud of you. I’m so sorry I wasn’t strong enough to be there for you but you have turned yourself into this beautiful woman. I prayed to the Moon Goddess every day for your safety and happiness.” Cassie had a few tears run down her face. “I... I would like you to give me the alpha title but I would like you to move into the packhouse as a guest. Colt has agreed to build you a house for you both to live in. You can design it however you want. We will cover all expenses until you can establish an income. Zac, you are allowed to join the warriors under a probation period if you wish. Other than a few rules, you will be able to come and go as you please and we can get to know each other.” Penny kept her back straight and voice steady. I was really proud of her. “Thank you. Of course we are willing to give you the title. We just want a chance to get to know you and any kids you may have in the future. I might not have been able to be a mom to you but I hope you will allow me to be a grandma.” Cassie said as Zac stood up. He walked over to Colt, who moved Penny away. Not go unnoticed by Zac. “I won’t lie and say that I am warrior material. After all these years, I have an authority problem and skills that are not exactly meant for a pack.” Zac paused as he looked at Penny. “However, I want to work on building that relationship and being a better man. I’ll gladly join the warriors

as long as you understand that it’s going to be a process for me. I make no promises and might mouth off but if it means having a relationship with my daughter, I’ll do it.” He held out his hand for Colt. Colt looked at it for a second before taking it. “Thank you. I won’t be easy on you and I’ll push you and piss you off. I don’t take disrespect of any kind and will handle it. However, I do appreciate what you have done in order to protect Penny. Which is the only reason I am allowing this.” Zac nodded as he understood what he meant. After letting go of Colt’s hand, he walked up to us. “Kristen, I want to thank you for all you did for my li... for Penny.” Looking at Alec, he continued. “I apologize for being the one that shot you in the arm. I wasn’t trying to kill you but make it look believable to sell it. I understand the whole situation caused the life of an innocent man.” Zach actually looked apologetic over this. He took a step back and looked at Colt. “I am truly sorry about that young man’s life. I had hoped that you both would be able to kill the rogues and that would be the end of it.” “We can handle that on the practice field another day.” I said after the room was quiet for a moment. Zac nodded as he knew what that meant. “Would you like to transfer the titles now?” Cassie asked.

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“Yes, let’s get it done.” Penny agreed. “I, Cassie Atwater, Daughter of Alpha Ivan and Alpha of Midnight River Pack, denounce my title as Alpha. Passing it on to my only living daughter, Penelope Atwater.” Cassie raised her chest up in pain from the title leaving her b*dy. “I, Penelope Jeffrey, Luna of Blue Fang Pack, accept the title of Alpha of Midnight River Pack. After a moment of silence, Zac laughed. “What’s funny?” I asked him. Penny was breathing heavy as was Cassie. “All this trouble was because Rip wanted Darin to take the title when he died. Now, Penny is an Alpha and so is her mate. There won’t be a stronger couple in the world than they are. He made them the strongest.”

“Well, if they combine packs, which assume they are, won’t she lose the Alpha title and it will merge with Colt?” Cassie asked. “I’m not sure how that will work. Since she is an alpha female by birth I bet she will keep it.” I rested my head against Alec’s chest. “We are going to combine packs and drop the Midnight River name. There is too much death and destruction around it. I don’t want to remember it and all it cost me. However, if you would have been able to keep me, I am betting my childhood would have been completely different and full of pain. You probably did the best thing by me and gave me away. At least I had a shot at a good childhood.” That was probably the most grown up, mature thing I have heard from anyone in a long time. The fact that Penny recognized what would have been would be helpful in her healing process. Since she has to enforce them. “When will you be able to get out of the hospital?” Colt asked. “They believed later this week or next week. Her neck still needs some healing.” Zac sat back down. “Okay, I will have a room ready for you both. When you are feeling up to it, we can discuss a housing

situation.” Penny sounded like she was ready to go. “Thank you. Whatever you wish.” Cassie smiled at Penny. “Please come visit anytime you feel you wish to speak to us. I am going to respect whatever you do or do not wish to know but I would love to hear about your childhood more. What you like or dislike. Favorite foods or colors.” “I am going to have you transferred to the hospital at Blue Fang Pack tomorrow. I’ll come see that you are situated and comfortable.” That was Penny’s compromise and I was proud of her for it. “That would be lovely. It’s nice to have an actual bed.” Cassie patted the mattress. She seemed to not have realized what she said before she looked around the room at our expressions. “Oh, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to say something I shouldn’t have...” “You didn’t.....” Penny looked at me for help. “Cassie, I think we need to get back to the pack and finish going through some paperwork. We will be flattening the packhouse this evening and leveling some of the buildings tomorrow. Thank you for meeting us.” “Thank you for bringing Penny to meet us. We are forever grateful. Knowing we can live our lives together in peace is all I could ever ask for.” Cassie smiled at Penny before looking at Zac. “I never stop loving you.”

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“How are you feeling?” I asked Penny when we got outside of the hospital. The cool air was gently blowing my hair in my face. “Not sure. Like you said, I don’t need them but part of me wants their approval. It’s weird. I always wondered if they would be proud of me.” “I think they were very proud of you. I think they are more relieved that you had a good childhood. Cassie couldn’t give you that. She could have kept you and you could have been killed or been beaten your whole life.” “It’s weird. Like, mentally, I know you are right. It’s hard to wrap my head around this. Knowing what they saved me from is probably the easiest way to understand why they did it. Cassie looked so broken and weak.” Penny was going through so many emotions right now that it was hard to figure out which one she was feeling.

“Like you said, maybe over time you guys can develop a relationship. This is a whole new world to Cassie. She might pick up on a few hobbies that you can learn too. If you wanted to, that is. This is all on your terms. You don’t have to do anything you don’t want to do.” Penny nodded but didn’t respond. The packhouse was coming up and everyone was standing around it. Emmy was standing on the stairs dishing out instructions when we walked up. “Good, you guys are back. Here is a list for both of you. On the list are members that will go with each pack. I have also made notation about housing or any wishes they have. Everyone has their vehicle packed with their belongings.” Alec took our list and looked over it. Glancing at Colt’s list, he had about an equal amount of people. Emmy indeed had everyone’s list that we needed to know. How many children, ages, dietary needs, a “I wasn’t sure about Sherry so I went ahead and assigned rooms at the packhouse for your pack.” Emmy said to Penny and Colt. “Obviously, you can change it but that is one less thing you need to worry about right now.” “Thank you.” Colt said after Penny failed to answer. Her hands were shaking and I started to think she

was breaking down. After all she had went through, her emotions were finally getting the best of her. “Is everything ready to go?” I asked quickly, wanting to get the topic off Penny to give her some time. “Yes, I did one last walk through. The office is cleaned out and boxes are in our cars, food is out of the kitchen and everyone has all their belongings with them. We are ready when you are.” Emmy looked around like she was looking for something. After meeting eyes with Jasper, he nodded at her and she looked back at me. “Yup, we are good to go!” “Perfect.” I said. Colt took a few steps forward to address everyone. “Thank you all for moving on a timely fashion. I am Alpha Colt to those who are unaware. This is my mate, Alpha Penny. I am the Alpha of the Blue Fang Pack and Penny is the Alpha of the Midnight River Pack. She is the only blood heir to the title. Alpha Alec is the alpha of the Black Moon Pack. My twin sister and Alpha Alec’s mate, Luna Kris. You have met Beta Jasper of the Black Moon Pack and his mate Beta Emmy. My Beta Jacob is not here currently but you may remember his mate, Beta Sherry. We are all available to help those who need it. Beta Emmy has already given us a list of people with who wishes to transfer to which pack. We will be merging the Midnight River Pack with our packs and the territory will be divided. The Midnight River name will be eliminated completely.” The crowd of people I endured was for this moment. To free all these women and children. It’s hard to see the bigger picture when you only have part of the information but looking back at it all, I was naive to believe it was just about Darin wanting me as a mate.

“With that, we will start the deconstruction of this pack with the packhouse. Please back up and we will let this bitch burn.” Colt said with more humor to his voice. We got off the steps and backed away a good distance. Colt took the gas and went inside for a little bit before coming back out. Spilling some on the porch, he did a little line of gas down to the grass and over where we were standing. Penny handed him the match. Just as he was about to light it, he looked over at me. “Want to do the honors?” “I do.” Taking the match, I felt a rush as it scraped down the side of the box. The flame instantly came to life. All the trauma I endured. All the mental games and scared feelings came up. I was letting everything go. Kneeling down, I whispered so low that I doubt anyone could hear me. “With this, I am letting go of all the negative emotions and feelings. I am healed and any trauma and do not hold any anger in my heart.” The flame touched the gas and instantly shot forward. I barely got to stand up before the flame touched the house. A large boom and gas ball exploded as the house erupted into flames. My hair was thrown back but Alec was there to catch me. My body didn’t blow back as far but enough that I was thankful that he was there.

No one really spoke but just watched the bitch burn. It was a turning point for everyone I think. The slight breeze made the smoke drift behind the house, giving us the best view. Windows broke as the wood was no longer able to hold the weight. The bricks fell to the ground, making a thud each time. I wasn’t sure how long we stood there but the moon was high in the melting the way the bricks would fall. Eventually, only the chimney stood and the rest was a pile of bricks and charred wood. “If you need a ride, there are vans available for you to take. If not, please follow each Alpha as we head back to our packs. You will get your assigned rooms and turn in for the night.” Colt said. “Those going to the Black Moon Pack, we will have a meeting at 9am to discuss a few different things.

Please be on time in the conference room. I’ll make sure there are signs marking it clearly.” Alec said. Everyone nodded. Alec and I walked over to our vehicle and waited. We watched as everyone else got in their cars and got situated. No one was getting into the vans so I assumed they all had their own way to get there. Only once everyone was in a vehicle, did we get into ours and slowly start driving out. Where Colt turned one way, we turned the other. Everyone followed behind us as we slowly made our way out, making sure everyone was following us. Most of our pack had already arrived back in our pack so when we got there, there was many people standing at the front of the packhouse to welcome them. My heart was filled as I watched our pack go to each vehicle and help them unload their items for them. Emmy was standing at the front door, telling our members where to take our new ones. Alec and I stood off to the side to make sure we were not needed. Our warriors were carrying luggage to rooms, and even some older teens were passing out waters and snack bars. It took an hour to make sure everyone was situated and finally, everyone else went to bed. I caught a glimpse of a few women putting out the signs to the conference room. Alec had sent out a mass message link, telling our pack to be there as well. “How do you think Zac and Carrie will adapt I asked started getting ready for bed “I think Cassie will adapt well, Zac will probably need an adjustment or two.”

I decided I didn't need any clothes to sleep in so I just stripped n*ked and got under the covers. Alec had his back turned to me as he was putting his wallet. Wanting to mess with him, I pulled the covers up around my neck and hide my b*dy.

"He's Colt problem so that's good for you." Alec took his pants and shirt off, leaving only his boxers.

"That is true." Alec sighed as he sl*pped under the covers. His hand immediately went to my hip as he scooted closer to me. "Hmm, no clothes tonight?"

I wiggled closer to him so I was pressed tightly against him. His hand moved to my as s and squeezed it tightly. "Nope. I didn't think they

were needed."

A deep growl vibrated his chest as he rolled me to my back. Rolling with me, he got on top and pressed his l*ps against mine. "Not too sore from last night?" Alec whispered in my ear.

"Nope. I think you need to try again." My claws scrapped down his back as he moved down my b*dy.

"Is that so?" His l*ps sucked hard on my sensitive spot under my breast. Making my back arch. threading my fingers through his hair, I pushed his head lower. "I see you are impatient tonight."

"F uck me, Alpha."

Alec's eyes met mine as they flashed black. He didn't even have to push my legs open as I spread them wider for him. My head snapped back as his tongue licked my c lit before sucking hard and shoving three fingers in. I felt my juices run out of me as he worked me. I wasn't prepared for him to pull his fingers out and gently insert int

was fully in my a ss.

"How does that feel?" Alec grumbled as his tongue entered me.

“Oh !” My hips moved on their own as I rode his face. He added. another finger in my as s, widening my as s. “ALPHA!” My org asm hit so hard that I was vaguely aware of him remove his tongue but his fingers stayed in me. He moved them so fast that I felt everything relax and allow him to fully f uck me in the as s.

“That’s it, c um for me.” Alec said in a husky voice. Without warning and without waiting for me to come down, I felt something enter me before it started vibrating. When and were he got this toy, I had no idea but he was moving it in and out of me so fast that I could barely

stand it.

Only when he removed everything from in me that I was able to look just in time for him to shove his d ick deep in my p ussy. His eyes rolled back in his head as he pumped in me. Taking one leg, he pulled it over him as he straddled the other leg, my b*dy was twisted but he never stopped pumping in me.

Only when I was ready to c um again did I feel him fully insert himself, shooting his seed in me. I felt each pulse of his seaman shoot out of him but he kept going in and out. I was so close but not quite there. Alec pulled his d ick out and quickly inserted it into my a ss as he put the vibrater into my p ussy.

“Oh f uck.” Alec groaned as his claws sank into my hips. I was

completely filled. It only took three more pumps before my or gasm hit again.

How Alec managed to turn me again was beyond me but. next thing knew, I was on my hands and knees. The vibrator was still in my pu ssy and his he was still f ucking my a ss, only he was completely ir

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Alec stayed true to his word and out did himself from the night before. Everything was sore as I got dressed. The shower was good but there is only so much you can do when you have something shoved up your as s and p ussy at the same time.

“Why are you walking so gently?” Alec was smirking at me. His chest was bare and only had shorts low on his hips. The way his arms were rested against the top of the door frame and he was leaning forward at me, had my panties wet.

“I’m not. Last night was good.” I tried to sound neutral. Alec growled before he let go of the door and was on top of me in an instant. I was only in my bra and panties so when he advanced on me, I was putty in his hands. One of his hands wrapped around my neck and the other ripped my panties off and shoved a finger in me. My legs opened to his touch as he pushed me against the wall.

His l*ps never left mine as he freed himself and shoved his d ick into. was so sore but d amn if he didn’t feel so good. His movements were soft as he f ucked me hard against the wall.

“OH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!” I moaned in his mouth. He kept going. I lost track but my head was swimming. My face was tingling and I couldn’t feel my legs, yet, he kept going.

“Have you had enough?” His voice was thick with restraint and

amusement.

“I...” Words were not forming for me to speak. With each thrust, I was more and more lost. Finally, only have my third , did Alec finally cu m in me. His movements caused my legs to give out as he lowered me to the floor. I didn’t have the strength to stay standing.

Alec was laughing as he walked out. Now, that was a good f ucking.

You have a few minutes to be

down there.”

“How are you standing?” I glared at him.

“I’m a man, love. making your legs go weak and numb is what I live for.”

“You did a good job.” I said breathlessly as I patted his hand before I

fell over.

“Now that everything is calm down, can we talk about having a baby?” Alec dropped that bomb on me as he tossed some clothes on my

head.

“Seriously? It’s not like you are being safe and using a condom.” Pulling the clothes off my head, I looked at what he gave me. It was a sundress. The cotton spaghetti strap dress was white with

sunflowers on it. It flowed down to my mid-thigh. “A dress?”

“It will be easier to keep making your legs go numb all day.” Alec yelled at me as he walked out of the closet.

“All day?” I was both excited and appalled.

“I want a baby.”

“What if I have twins?” Slipping the dress over my head, I was able to put some sandals on before I tried to stand up. My legs were still a little shaky. Unfortunately, Alec was finding it funny to watch me

stand.

“I want like ten kids with you.” He was leaning against the bedroom door as I took small steps.

“I’m not sure about ten.” Looking at myself in the mirror, I fixed my hair and what little makeup I had on.

when you nipples start working then you can have what

want but if i am going to be changing my b*dy for them, there jettei be at least one that is my musí que

“Wal, but of the ten, fi sure there will be one

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“You’re crazy.” I laughed as we came down the stairs. People were coming and going but everyone was laughing.

“Go sit down and I’ll grab you some breakfast.” Alec said to me.

“Thank you.” He slapped my as s as walked away. As much as I tried glaring at him, I couldn’t keep the smile off my face.

Emmy and Jasper were already sitting at the head table and the room was about 3/4’s full. As I walked up to them, Emmy got a smile on her face. “Look at that beautiful dress!”

“Alec picked it out.” I said as I took my seat. “How’s my little niece or nephew?”

“Good. Getting big.” She did look like she popped over night.

“You are a beautiful pregnant person!” Jasper said has he put his hand on her belly.

“You are just happy those hormones have leveled out.” I laughed.

“That is a plus.” Jasper nodded and Emmy shook her head.

“I was not that bad.” We both looked at her like she was crazy.

“If Godzilla was emotional, that was you.” Jasper said.

“Oh? So I am big and fat like Godzilla? You think I look like that?”

Emmy rounded on him right as Alec came over.

“What is going on?” He whispered as Jasper tried to backpedal.

“Jasper said she was emotional like Godzilla with hormones.”

“S hit, how many brain cells did he lose?” Alec looked over at them.

Too many, I guess.

mu ffin.

We listened to them argue for a few more minutes before people stopped coming in. This room was the biggest we had and it was completely packed full of people.

“Thank you all for coming!” Alec stood up and started talking. “Firstly, I would like to welcome all the new members we have acquired. Before this meeting is up, we will have you all denounce your ties to Midnight River Pack and join ours.” Alec paused, waiting for anyone to speak up or object. “If you wish to participate in any extracurricular activities, you are welcome to join in. There is a youth warrior camp coming up for teens who wish to participate. It’s not required but if you want to be a warrior when you become of age, I suggest you do it. It is not limited to just males, however, there is a beginner’s class that might be more suited for women who want to learn self defense or just learn to fight. We also have cooking and other activities you can do. Otherwise, we will have jobs available for those who need it. Please speak with Beta Emmy for more information on all of that. You are also welcome to email her. It is posted with mine

and Kristen's emails in the information log at the front door. Lunch is

served between 11:30am and 12:30pm. If you are nice to the kitchen staff, you might be able to get something earlier or later, otherwise the kitchen is open 24 hours to those who need it. The only requirement is you clean up after yourself. We have not had a problem with that in the past and I would not like to start it. Dinner is served between 5:30pm and 7pm. Room service is reserved to those who are on bedrest from either injury or other means. You can

request a to-go order, otherwise it is completely based off availability. The staff are not your servants to order around and should be treated with respect."

"Alpha?" There was a woman's voice in the back that raised her hand.

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Mary nodded and sat down. Alec waited for another question but everyone was quiet. "Next topic is general rules. At the packhouse, all the walls are completely sound proof. There is a recreational room. and a gym in the back of the packhouse that is open to everyone. Teens usually have a pizza night and hang out, play games on Saturdays. They might have a bonfire. As long as they don't get rowdy or cause issues, I let it happen. It keeps them off anything bad. Obviously, Kristen and I are available to everyone 24/7. If it isn't an emergency, try to limit stuff to business hours but you will not be punished if it is outside of that. There are many things that are happening around here that need our attention. Because of this, we

will not be in the office on a regular schedule. Email will be an efficient way to get ahold of us."

"I have a list of events and activities that I made a flyer." Emmy stood up and showed Alec. "They are available in a pile in the back."

There was a few whispers and concern looks like they thought Alec was going to punish Emmy for interrupting. "Thank you." Alec said as he gave the flyer a quick overlook. "Beta Emmy has printed out flyers that are in the back for taking. There is a list of all activities that are coming up. Kristen still hasn't had a luna ceremony and we had to cancel a few things that are going to be made up. Please see the flyer

and there is her contact information as workers will be needed.”

S hit, I totally forgot about my luna ceremony. “Thank you.” I said to Emmy. “Add prom and add a BBQ to it as a welcoming party for all of our new members.” Emmy nodded and wrote it down.

“Starting today, things are going to be hectic around here. We will have a funeral service to those who lost their lives. We will bury my parents, Alpha Marc and Luna Erin as well as the warriors who died

anything. Just please come pay your respects. After the funeral, anyone is free to continue to get settled. Any questions?” Alec looked around.

“Actually, Alpha Alec, since we are all here.” Emmy stood up. “Luna Kris wishes to have a BBQ party as a welcome to all of our new members. Give everyone a chance to meet and mingle. Find a club or activity you want to participate in. However, due to what I have planned and different events, the BBQ would best be scheduled for tonight.”

“Okay, BBQ tonight.” Alec agreed. He was a little confused but I doubt it bothered him what was going on. Emmy must have said something in the mind-link because he quickly changed his mood. “Does everyone know what to say to denounce your ties?” Everyone nodded. No one stated they didn’t. “Good, please denounce your ties and I will accept everyone as a whole.”

Across the room, those who needed to denounce their ties did. Many clutched their chest as the pain was clear. Some kids started crying. as they felt their mother’s pain but some were still running around, smiling.

When everyone relaxed, Alec spoke up. “I, Alpha Alec of the Black Moon Pack, accept everyone here as a pack member.” He kept it short and sweet. Many murmurs spread of them accepting him back. I felt each one like a knife through my heart as my head exploded

again with more and more people.

Putting my head down, I closed my eyes as I processed this. Passing out wasn't an option but this time wasn't near as many people as it was when I did it with Alpha Marc. At one point, Alec put his hand on my shoulder, trying to take some of the pain away but eventually, it faded and I was just left with a pounding headache.

"Thank you all for coming. If you could please proceed to the funeral, we can pay our respects." Alec finished as I looked up at him. He was still holding my shoulder but looking at everyone.

As soon as he was done talking, they got up and silently walked out of the room. Most of everyone grabbed a flyer. We got up and followed everyone else out of the room and down the walkway. Where Black Moon had their funerals was more in hidden place along the tree line. We had to navigate a few hundred yards until we came up to it. All the bodies were laid out on a bed of wood and straw.

No one spoke as they found a seat and we made our way to the front. Jasper tried to hold the torch but wasn't able to so his dad, Beta Andrew did it for him. For some reason, that felt more appropriate.

"Thank you all for coming. I understand there is a lot going on today. Please stay for a short while but you are free to leave after the burning begins." Alec said. He walked around to talk to Andrew for a moment. Alec took a moment next to his dad and mom. He said his

final goodbyes before moving on to each person who died. There was so much turmoil in Alec as he spoke to his dad. He was angry he died. but part of him accepted it without question. His mother wasn't as painful. I think it was because of her wolf. Alec knew it was soon after if one mate dies, the other follows. Saying he expected it feels wrong but they are happy together in their after life,

"Each of these sacrifices lead to our victory. Alpha Marc... Luna Erin...

1/2

of their class. Fought with their hearts and was the best man they could be. I was proud of stand next to them on the battle field. Their ultimate sacrifice saved so many lives that it is not possible to count. It brought peace to our area of the world. Saved women and children from abuse in all forms and created a brighter future to our next generation. Luna Erin... mom. She was the sweetest soul. She had a way of turning dad's abrasiveness into something sweet. She truly cared about each member and fought to make each life count. Finally, Alpha Marc. I owe him everything. He taught me to fight, that being a

leader isn't someone that just yells at people below them. A leader is someone who encourages, supports and stands beside his fighters. At the end of the day, due to situations out of his control, mistakes were made but that didn't mean he lost his love for each person. He died trying to save his warriors. I was... am proud to call him my father and my alpha. May the Moon Goddess allow me to be half the alpha he was."

Alec stepped aside and looked at Andrew. He shook his head no so Alec nodded for him to light the fire. Andrew did just as he was told. Starting with Alpha Marc, then Luna Erin until each person was

engulfed in flames. Alec sat down beside me and put his hand on my thigh. Wrapping my arm around his, I just rested my head against his shoulder.

After about ten minutes, people started to get up and leave. One by one, everyone made their way out and it was only us four left. Andrew finally left after Alpha Marc was unrecognizable.

Finally, Alec got up and moved each b*dy to their hole and covered them up. Most of it was done so it didn't take too much man power to accomplish it. Jasper wanted to help but he was in no position to do anything. His face was looking better, less bruised and even was sitting up straighter.