

The Defiant Mate Chapter 31

Nathan POV

Nathan sat in his mother's private plane staring at nothing in particular. He was calm, Havoc was calm, just speaking with his children cheered them up completely, and knowing that Jay-la, although distressed and in need of her Mate's comfort, had not bolted from the pack with her children the minute she had woken up also kept them calm.

They were just a few hours away now, they would not be waiting til morning to meet her, they would be headed to wherever Jackson reported she was, they would not wait another minute for her to know what they were to her.

He would wake her from sleep, he honestly didn't care if she would be grumpy with him, he was going to stand and watch her, watch as even in her sleep some part of her would register his scent and Kora would likely wake her itching for her Mate, the minute she scented him out.

He had no idea how it was actually going to go. They certainly had issues to work through, but she had known him for 20 years that would surely come into play. Surely, somewhere inside her fear-riddled body, there would be a part of her that would be happy it was him. Trying to convince Havoc not to launch himself at her might be a bigger issue. He heard Havoc chortle at him. He was also happy, inside Nathan's mind, knowing he would be with his Mate had put him in a good mood. Not often that happened.

Nathan stared down at the text message he'd just gotten from his Beta, Jackson, a deep frown marring his handsome face "Jay-la is locked in the Luna Suite. Sorry boss had too.' and his calm and happiness, gone just like that, replaced by exasperation and worry for his Mate.

The last call he had received from his Beta, everything had been fine. Jay-la was having a late dinner with her father and the triplets.

Everything seemed okay. She had not tried to take them and run off, even though she knew he would be back at some point. Jay-la had even asked when he was going to be back. Jackson had bluffed her off with an unknown eta, although he knew that Nathan was on his way and only a few hours out, and she had not questioned it. Just seemed a bit relieved by the answer.

He hit the call button only to have it rejected, which was something you just don't do. No one dismissed an alpha's phone call.

Well, with the exception of Jay-la, he thought, she definitely would, but she had other reasons, fear-filled reasons which he had to talk to her about, make sure she knew that there was nothing to fear, that he meant her no harm, but he knew he could not address her fears until he came face to face with her.

A text came through in short order "sorry boss, don't need her knowing how close you are. Already angry and losing it."

For the love of the goddess, he closed his eyes and rubbed his temples. What the hell had happened in the last hour or so? He was still in the air a couple of hours away "what happened?" he texted back.

How much can possibly happen in an hour and this late at night, with snow falling on the pack, most of the pack members would be in their homes by now. Staying out of the cold.

"Kora let loose on Abbey. And Kora..well, boss a lot bigger than she used to be. Almost as large as Apollo is."

Kora was larger, and almost as big as Apollo. That was an utter shock, she had been such a cute tiny wolf, barely reached Havoc's chest when they had stood side by side. She almost always looked like a pup of a wolf, it was so cute, it had always amused him to no end, something they had all teased her about, how such a tiny wolf could have such a fierce human counterpart. Now it appeared Kora was not only just as fierce, but also had the build to go with it.

He could feel HavOC wagging his tail in his mind. He was happy with the news.

'Mate strong.'

Nathan already knew that, perhaps it was why his mother and father hadn't wanted a fight between them. Perhaps his father was right in the thought that even Storm didn't want to fight her, she was different than before.

"Why at Abbey?" he asked, though his gut was telling him he already knew the answer to it.

"Smelled Abbey on Vera's wounds, I believe."

"Abbey still alive? Her pup?"

"Injured, as is Johnny, both in the pack hospital, Ethan is with them."

He sighed, I guess Jay-la taught Abbey a lesson, one she really did need to learn, he supposed. He hoped that her unborn pup was alright. But his power-crazed sister had better have realised that she can't just go around unchecked and do as she pleased. Better have learned her lesson, she had put her unborn pup at risk and hadn't even known it at the time. Perhaps this would make her learn a desperately needed lesson.

"Will the pup survive?"

"Should do, she screamed she was pregnant, that's what made Kora stop, mostly took hits to her arms and chest area, so it should be fine"

"So Jay-la is locked in the Luna Suite because?"

"Anger rolling off of her, might rival Havoc's boss, in that department. It took Stephen to bring her down and fully submit using all his Gamma Charm ability, then Ethan and I, to get her up here, but the minute he stopped using it, angry again."

Goddess help us both, he thought absently, if the two of them went toe to toe when they meet up.

'Never' Havoc huffed at him I'm telling you Kora will want me.

'So much faith you have Havoc'

'She was made for me, supposed to be strong'.

'Our Mate is supposed to even us out buddy, not match your anger issues.'

"Is she still angry?" he texted Jackson.

"Yes, currently throwing furniture around the Luna Suite, it'll be destroyed likely by the time you get here"

"Stay there with her, what is the weather doing now?"

"Snowing hard, you might not get to land local."

Just bloody great, but he'd already heard as much from the pilot. He was just hoping the storm would blow over and they could land.

The storm, it seemed, was moving faster than expected and it might calm down or move away before they got to the landing trip.

"Keep me up to date and let me know when she calms down."

"Will do, boss, just get here asap."

Nathan leanded back in his seat. Nothing it appeared, was ever easy for the two of them, one set back after another. He truly hoped that Havoc was right, that Kora would want him right away. It will go along way to Jay-la wanting him as well.

His eyes fell on his mother and father. They were watching him trouble son?" his father asked through the mind-link. They couldn't risk a wolfen conversation with Rae-Rae on the plane even if she was currently sleeping, against her Mate.

"Yes, Jay-la and Kora found out Abbey was the one to hurt her mother. You can imagine the fall out after your encounter with an angry Kora."

"Abbey?" his mother asked right away, worried about her baby girl.

"Injured, and her mate. Both are going to be fine. You might want to call your wayward daughter," his mother nodded.

He got to listen to the call with his wolf hearing. Abbey was crying and sobbing the whole time. She stated she couldn't believe what Jay-la had done to her. He watched as both his parents' eyes had fallen on him and he shot through the mind-link 'what the hell did she think was going to happen? Nothing at all?

He heard his father verbally reprimand her for her actions, which was what landed her in her current situation. That she had to learn she couldn't just go about doing whatever she felt like and expect to get away with it.

She'd stopped crying and retorted with anger that she was an Alpha, that she answered to no one. Nathan sighed more with annoyance than anything. So that was what she actually believed.

Well, she did answer to someone, to him in fact, and she had, without his permission, laid hands on her future Luna's mother.

Hearing her words pissed him right off and he finally understood there was only one punishment that was going to put his power-crazed, power-hungry driven sister in her place, and he intended to act on it whether his parents liked it or not.

He held out his hand for the phone, "Abbey, you will report to me first thing in the morning...because you answer to ME" he grated out "I will relay to you your punishment directly. What you did was utterly without conscious thought to yourself, your unborn pup, your mate and to how Jay-la, your future Luna might feel or react to it.

Not to mention, you actually convinced a pack member to allow you to nearly kill her. That alone is punishable by years in the cells. Your injuries, as far as I am concerned, are your own fault."

Abbey, for once, did not say anything at all. He handed the phone back. He could feel another set of eyes on him and turned to find Micheal staring at him, a concerned look on his face at what he had just said to his sister. He knew he had stated things aloud which Rae-Rae might have heard but the girl would find out soon enough anyway.

His parents were staring at him too, he simply turned to them and raised an eyebrow. He had not spoken out of place, he was the Alpha, not them, he had no intention of imprisoning his sister.

Let them all wait for the consequences of her actions. Be damned, he didn't need to ask permission. She was his sister, but she was also a pack member and the girl was about to fall inline whether she liked it or not.

A text came from Jackson around half an hour later "she has calmed down, tantrum over."

"Good" he sent back, "I want Abbey in my office first thing in the morning"

"Yes, boss."

"And Hayden and his snow-plow waiting at the strip, to assist my arrival."

"Already there, boss, I sent him the minute I thought you'd get caught in the storm."

"That is why you're my Beta. Thank you Jackson."

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Jay-la POV

She was only wearing the tee-shirt that Jackson had provided her after her showdown with Abbey and Johnny.

The cold snow-filled night was biting at her skin, wolves were naturally warm creatures and could stand a bit of snow, but she had not been near snow in years and she guessed her tolerance was lacking, She had barely been outside 10 minutes and she was already rubbing her arms, and gritting her teeth. She knew Kora would be okay with it once out, because she had a beautiful thick coat of fur to protect her.

Jay-la was looking for a way down from the balcony. She had used to sneak out of her parents' house as a teenager, climb down the drain guttering pipe from the second floor,

and then back up and into her room when sneaking back in. usually had only done it in the winter to play a game of hide and sneak with the boys.

Well, today was no game of hide and sneak, it was for real. Though how she would get the children out of the pack in this awful weather she had no idea.

Alpha Nathan didn't have an eta, Jackson had said that he was dealing with Tony and Lauren. Well, they could be very difficult and now that they knew he was the triplets' father she could only imagine that they were going to put on the parent act where she was concerned.

Hopefully, they were so hard to deal with that he would be gone until the snow storm passed and the streets had been cleared. She could then take her dad's car and head for the Winter Moon Pack.

Hopefully, that would be her saving grace, but she had no idea when he was due back or how long this storm would take to pass. She also didn't have her mobile phone with her, to check the weather or even call anyone for help.

The drain pipe she was looking at was a good 10 feet away from the balcony's railing, a much more difficult thing to get to than the one directly outside of her childhood home, which had been right next to her window. She also had no idea if the thing was completely secured to the building, She could only hope and pray that it was maintained well.

If they miscalculated the jump from the balcony, they would fall 5 stories to the ground. It was not likely they would be unharmed by the fall, possibly even worse. They pushed that thought from their minds, preparing for the jump. Jay-la moved one of the chairs right up against the railing, so she could use it as a stepping stone onto the railing and not lose momentum when launching themselves out over the 10-foot gap. In a bid to be free.

Jay-la returned to the suite, closing the doors. She needed to warm up a bit first, seeing as the climb or slide to the ground would be in her body, she needed to be able to feel all her fingers and toes for as long as possible so they wouldn't just plumpet to the

ground from a great height. It wouldn't matter so much from the second floor, there was plenty of snow falling.

It would surely be deep enough to help a short drop to the ground softening the impact.

'We'll shift as soon as we're down', Kora stated.

'I know you will handle the cold a lot better than I will.'

'We'll make the jump too.'

'Yes we will' Jay-la relayed back to her, they had done plenty of agility and strength training when they had been here in the pack and running around leaping from fallen tree to fallen tree or rock to rock or leaping over other pack members, it was all good for them.

Jay-la walked into the bathroom for a hot shower to really warm up her core body temperature before their leap into the cold. She kept her hair dry and stood under the running water, keeping it as hot as she could, and stood there until she was toasty warm, then stepped out and dried herself on the fluffy towels that were laid out for use. Not likely for her but just ready, as were many suites for company or honoured guests.

It was now or never.

She took a deep breath in, to prepare herself for the bracing cold that she knew was out there, then opened the doors, and took a few steps back into the room, to gain more distance so she could really throw speed into her run. Kora pushed forward and lent Jay-la her wolf speed and strength and they ran, stepped and then leaped out into the open space between the balcony and the drain pipe. Her hands were stretched out towards it, the pipe was very cold and a layer of ice coated it, she could not get a grip with her human fingers.

Kora surged forward and her claws were out quickly. One hand had already slid off the pipe. The other hands' claws were scrapping on the pipe, they squeezed with all their might in an attempt to keep their grip.

Two claws punctured the pipe and the rest of her hand grabbed on to the pipe, she swung dangerously close to losing her grip, used her feet to steady herself hooking one of them onto the pipe and they took a shaky breath as they managed to bring up the other hand and cling to the pipe. She could hear it creaking under her weight and felt it start to give. They were too heavy. They were going to break it.

She turned her eyes towards the balcony in-case anyone had heard and was trying to get to her. Nothing, they would have trouble getting in the room anyway. Finally, her body stopped swaying and she placed the balls of her feet on either side of the drain pipe and loosened her grip and they started to slide down. It was a much quicker slide than she liked due to the ice that covered it.

Only slowed by the metal sheaths that anchored the pipe to the pack house walls, the first one bit into her feet and she felt the sting of it cutting one of her feet. She had hissed in pain, but endured it, trying to slow her descent.

Kora lent her some claws but this only seemed to weaken the pipes and they creaked even more, and started to shudder. They were only passing the third floor when she heard it tear away from the pack house, claws retracted instantly and her slide down increased 5 fold, the skin on her fingers was being sheered off by the layer of ice, the pipe ripped from the wall above her, she hit the next anchoring spot and prayed it would hold, slipped down past it and was at the top of the second floor.

She watched with wide horror-filled eyes as the anchoring shattered, so brittle with the cold, probably years old and never been replaced, her weight had been its breaking point. The whole downpipe collapsed and she was free-falling to the ground. Kora ripped out of her and shifted them in mid air, trying to save them. She was much more suited to a fall than her humans' body.

She turned herself over somehow during the shift. The goddess must really be looking out for them at this point. They landed in knee-deep snow, which softened their impact, and she was able to stand up and shake the snow off of herself, with a huff, 'Let's not do that again' Jay-la agreed. The pipes fell around them and buried themselves into the snow, the snow thankfully muted the noise. If it had been summertime, her escape would have been noticed by many.

One of the pipes hit Kora on the back and she snarled in response as it bounced off of her and into the snow. But they had made it, they were down from the Luna Suite, and no longer freezing cold either, warm under Kora's thick silver coat.

'lets go.'

Kora moved off in a slow manner, they did not want to attract attention to themselves, they would have to be staying low to the ground and watch for night patrols, though not many would be this close to the pack house, and most normal pack members would be in their homes sleeping blissfully warm tucked up in their beds, not wandering out in the snow fall.

It wasn't really a storm anymore, it seemed to have passed and was just faling in a normal manner, the wind had appeared to have died off as well, which she was thankful for. That would mean her scent wouldn't carry on the wind to any patrolling wolves out there.

The Luna Suite was off the back of the pack house and as she made her way around it, she kept herself low, hunkered down as best she could. Kora was much larger now and hiding in the drift or even moving in something this shallow was no longer in her favour. Long ago, this amount of snow would have been deep enough for her to hide in, creep along unnoticed and unseen.

They moved along the side of the pack house and peered around to the front cautiously. She could see by the front door Stephen and Ethan standing there, like they were waiting on someone. He was coming, not far off in all likelihood. They wouldn't just wait on anyone like that out in the snow and cold, it could only be the Alpha himself.

"No Beta," Kora mused.

'probably still guarding the Luna Suite.' Jay-la thought back, slightly amused. He thought he had her trapped, but come on, it was Jackson who had always helped her sneak back into her parents' house. It appeared he had forgotten.

'More likely, he didn't think we'd do a 5-story escape.' Kora chortled little do they know us anymore.

They slipped back behind the side of the pack house and moved away, out towards the edge of the forest, a risk of patrol seeing them but not of the Gamma and Delta. They clearly weren't expecting her to be anywhere other than the Luna Suite.

Keeping low in the snow, they moved stealthily, belly crawling through the snow as they were not interested in gaining either of those wolves' attentions. And setting off an alert for all patrolling wolves or his Beta for that matter.

Kora's ears pricked up at the sound of cars approaching, she stilled knowing his hearing and sight would be much more acute than his units. Hiding from him had always been an issue, his wolf was not something she had ever been able to hide from, especially once she and Nathan had started sleeping together.

It was like she was a magnet and he was drawn to it on instinct.

She Burrowed herself into the snow with just her eyes peering out as they had always done when hiding, to watch for their on-coming wolves. Two cars pulled up behind the packs snow-plow. She watched as his entire family piled out, including Rae-Rae. Her heart skipped a beat. How was it she was here had Tony and Lauren caved in, or had he simply gone and taken her for his brother, she wouldn't put it past him? Now-a-days.

He was standing there, his head tilted, smelling the air, fear slipped into her, 'Havoc.' Kora confirmed, she whined a little inside Jay-la's mind, some part of her was tethered to him and since he had tried to call to her that day over the phone a part of Kora wanted nothing more than to go to him. There was no wind blowing in his direction, he couldn't possibly smell them, right?

They were a good 500 metres away, even with his sight and smell there was no way he could...his head turned slowly in her direction, scanning the area. Even as he moved on towards the pack house, he was still scanning the area. There was no moon out tonight and nothing to reflect their eyes to him, she prayed.

His father's eyes followed his son's but then touched him on the back and they all redirected their attention to moving inside and out of the cold. She briefly wondered how they were going to explain the noise of breaking into the Luna Suite to Rae-Rae, but let it go, the girl would understand one day soon enough.

The moment the pack house door was closed, they moved off in a much quicker manner. It wouldn't take him long to realise she wasn't locked in the suit and the hunt would be on. Her children were on the other side of the pack with her father.

They had been heading for her children, but stopped halfway to her father's house. That was the first place they would look. The second would likely be the pack hospital, where her mother was, where could she go? She had no idea where Brad lived in the pack, he'd still been with her parents when she'd left 6 years ago. Probably only moved out when he met Victoria.

Now she had a dilemma; what to do and where to go. She had been hoping that he would not be back until well into tomorrow or even the day after. Jackson surely knew the man was on his way. The bastard had lied to her about his arrival on purpose.

She had come to rely on him earlier, thinking he was back to being her friend, wanting to help her, but...he and Nathan were best friends, not to mention Jackson was the Beta, and likely in-charge while Nathan, their Alpha, was off pack territory, the man could do as he pleased, make up and say what ever he wanted to. And clearly he had. He'd tricked her, lulled her into a false sense of security.

The massive howl that ripped through the snow-filled night, brought Kora low. She laid down in the snow, her ears flat against her heard, her tail curled around her, "He knows."

Havoc was displeased and displaying it for all his pack to hear, She could well imagine every pack member who was awake was currently doing as Kora was, submitting to their Alpha's Howl. And those that had been asleep were waking up.

Then move Kora' Jay-la whispered at her urgently. Kora whined and whimpered, he was howling for her and she knew it, every fibre in her being was screaming to answer him 'no, don't do it, Kora,' Jay-la begged her. Knowing it was going to be a losing battle.

Kora couldn't fight it anymore than any other wolf in pack territory. It was for her and her alone and Jay-la knew it, because no other wolves were calling back to him. He was going to use her howl to locate her direction and hunt her down.

Kora stood and lifted her head, no matter how much Jay-la begged her wolf, the mighty howl that she let out, echoed through the pack, she could not defy him when he was calling directly to her like that, when he was so close.

She answered his call with one of her own, a howl so loud, so full of longing, and a need for her Alpha to recognise her and want her to be part of the pack once more, that it hurt Jay-la's own ears. She wanted to answer him, had wanted to call to him since that day in her office.

It was now truly a losing battle, his wolf Havoc would already be on his way. The moment she had answered him he would have heard her wolf's needs and longing for his approval, her desire to truly be part of his pack once more and he would be coming for her. Nothing was going to get in his way.

Run Kora, for the love of the goddess RUN! Jay-la yelled at her and when Kora didn't move, still standing there waiting for her Alpha to find her, 'For our babies Kora, please...' she begged, 'I want to see them one more time before they are taken away from us don't you.'

That thought got Kora moving and she suddenly realized what she had done, sprinted off of the mark and dashed through the snow with all her speed, away from where she had been standing, heading towards her father's house, He wouldn't do anything to them in front of the children. Surely he wasn't that cruel.

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Nathan POV

Stepping out of the car, Stephen and Ethan were waiting on the front steps to the pack house for him. Apparently, there was nothing from the Luna Suite since she had calmed down.

So, hopefully, when he opened the door everything would just fall into place, and they could sit down and talk.

Nathan was under no illusions, he knew that she was not just going to throw herself at him in a desperate need to have him, never going to happen. Though he had seen it many times before, felt it once himself a very long time ago. The instant connection, the driven need to latch onto your Mate and kiss the hell out of them, mark them and mate them, it was intense to say the least.

Jay-la though, had been through a lot and he knew, no matter what, there was a lot of stuff that needed to be sorted out and not just with him, but with his brother and his sister with her as well. Waylaying her fears probably wasn't going to be just as easy as her recognising him. Havoc had other plans, plans he knew Havoc was never letting him get in the way of.

Havoc surged to the surface the minute the car door closed, taking in a deep breath, 'Kora, popped into Nathan's mind.

I know buddy, they are in the Luna Suite. We'll go directly there.

'No. I smell Kora here.

Jay-la has been here, wandered all over the pack, you can just smell her scent everywhere' Nathan reassured him.

She had not been let out of the suite that much he did know.

Havoc turned his eyes towards the forest, searching along the tree line. Nathan saw nothing, just snow, 'Come on.

Let's go inside and get you your Mate. he tried to placate his wolf's increasing thoughts that Kora was out in the woods.

He'd always been able to track her, but Nathan knew where she was locked in the Luna Suite, Jackson would be steadfastly doing guard duty as instructed not to leave her alone. If she had gotten out, they would have told him right away.

He felt his father's hand on his shoulder and they moved off into the pack house. "Micheal take Rae-Rae directly to her room. I have to sort out HavOc and Kora," he told

his brother using their wolf's names so he would understand the meaning and its importance.

"Yes Nathan," he nodded and took his human Mate to the first floor where she would be staying until he had explained to her what he was and what she had to go through to be with him. Then he simply turned and headed for the elevator and headed to the Alpha floor. He was actually nervous, he realised.

"It'll be fine son," his father told him calmly, "just take it slow, no pouncing on her, like you probably used to, huh".

"Yeah!" though Havoc was steadfast in his faith that Kora would want him, he was not so certain Jay-la wouldn't try to reject him on the spot, she was afraid of him, and that fear was so ingrained into her it might outweigh her bond to him, he did not want nor would accept a rejection from her but it would hurt just to even hear the words or even see it in her eyes.

He stepped out of the elevator and his parents headed for their suite, which just left him with his Alpha Unit.

He could feel them all staring at him. 'go' havoc practically snarled at him 'need Kora now.

Jackson unlocked the door as he approached and went to push it open, frowned and Nathan sighed internally, what now?

He got there and found it was weighted from the other side, she had barred the door from her side. Goddess help me out a little. He rubbed his temples and shook his head, leaned his weight on the door as did Jackson, it budged but not much. "Jay-la please unbar the door:" he called through the slight gap, her wolf hearing would pick up his voice no matter where in the suit she was.

His tone was light, held no anger or animosity, just his normal tone, no alpha in it either.

Havoc surged forward and shoved with all his strength Mate naughty' he chortled. He really liked this side of her, he guessed. He seemed quite excited, too Nathan.

Apollo appeared next to him and the two of them used all their strength to shove against the door and it finally slid open, the furniture pushing across the room, enough to allow them to step through the door sideways. He stepped in through the gap, and looked at the mess. Every single piece of furniture in this room was up against the door. He shook his head and looked at Jackson.

Who simply shrugged, "I told you she was throwing a tantrum, I wasn't going to open the door to see what sort." He left Stephen and Ethan to move the furniture out of the way to properly open the door for when he was ready to leave.

He turned and headed for the closed door to the bedroom, it was most likely where she was, walked across to it and pushed it open. Nothing barred it, a bracing cold hit him right in the face, she was not in the bed, where he was expecting her to be, there was snow lying on the floor and the french doors to the balcony were open.

She wasn't that crazy insane, was she? They were 5 storeys up. He could still smell her inside the room. Perhaps it was a trick. He turned and looked at the closed bathroom door, and headed for it. He could smell her again, and opened the door. But they were not there, the room was still warm and there was water droplets on the shower Screen.

'Kora, I smelled her outside' Havoc snarled at him.

"Here boss," he turned to find Jackson standing by the end of the balcony, there was a chair right in front of him. that sneaky brat, escaped down the drain pipe like old times.

Havoc was on the verge of ripping out of him, his anger boiling but directed at Nathan himself for not listening to him when they had gotten home, he had smelled her, looked directly into the woods and told him he could smell Kora.

Only Nathan hadn't listened because he was convinced she was in the Luna Suite.

He looked down the drain piping, and could see there were scratch marks on them, he could see where it had peeled away from the wall and she would have fallen the last two and a half stories to the ground. His annoyance at her stubbornness was rapidly turning into anger. She was here locked in the Luna Suite to await him to let her out and yet she had still taken it upon herself to defy him.

Havoc snorted 'my turn now!'

'Yes,' Nathan finally agreed, he was overplaying cat and mouse with his mate.

He felt Havoc pull forward and shift completely to his giant black wolf form, then he howled into the night air, loud and full of his Alpha's authority, a call directly aimed at Kora, a call she could not resist to answer.

He knew everyone in the pack would hear it, but only she would have the desperate need to respond to him. He waited. Ears up, tail still, head slightly down as he focused all his Alpha senses on being able to locate his mate when she called back to him. Nothing was going to stop him from getting to his Mate now.

It didn't take long, less than 30 seconds, it was massive and brought his head whipping up, it was filled with loneliness and need to be accepted, pain pulled at both of them and he was gone, dashing with all the speed he had out of the, suite, down the hall and the stairs, launched himself off the second floor hit the ground running and burst out through the front door uncaring of the damage he would cause and into his pack grounds.

His only thought was 'Mate' Her call had come from the centre of the town, though he had scented her off to the left of the pack house when they had gotten out of the car, she had not stayed there. He was on the move, he followed his Alpha sense and tracked the howl not he scent, he knew the minute he reached the spot she had howled from, there was a deep hollow in the snow where Kora had laid down before responding to him, and her scent was so very strong to him.

'Heading for pups.' Nathan told him without a doubt that was where she was going, he could tell from where the pack house was to where they stood now. Jody's house.

Havoc didn't need to be told where to go, his nose was filled with Kora's scent, he was off at a full run, he could get her before she got there, he was stronger and faster than she was, though that howl she had produced had been as loud as his, almost like listening to a female Alpha's howl.

He spotted her a few minutes late, running away from him at full speed. She was indeed massive and faster than he had last seen her, Mine: he roared in a massive snarl that nearly brought her wolf to a tumbling halt. His Wolfen Mate call could not be denied.

They watched as Kora stumbled and slid to a stop to turn and look at him. Havoc however, did not stop at all, was still in full, hunt his mate, mode and nothing was going to get in his way. Kora backed away slowly, her tail between her legs and head bowed slightly, her eyes never left his wolf.

Havoc skidded to a stop right in front of her, his breathing heavy on her, then he bowed his head down and he touched his head right to hers. It was soft and gentle, surprising even Nathan. Havoc licked her snout and moved playfully to nip at her ear. He had never seen Havoc do that before, not even with their last mate, his behaviour odd, to Nathan.

He moved about her stilled body, rubbed himself against her and felt her lean into him, sliding her head along his body, seemingly accepting him just like that. Just like Havoc had said she would. He purred loudly at her acceptance and she purred right back. Nathan felt relief sweep through him as he watched from inside Havoc's mind.

Then, to his complete shock, she bit the tip of his tail, flicked her tail right in his face and ran off towards the woods, away from where her pups were. Havoc snorted and gave chase Mate play with us.

Nathan could only hope it was playing. As his wolf chased after her, she wasn't running full speed away from him, even Nathan got the feeling she was taunting his wolf, playing with Havoc. She had answered his call with a need to be accepted, and accepted she had been.

Gifted Havoc himself as her Mate, he would never leave her. It appeared Havoc's faith in Kora was right on the mark. Nathan got to watch as the two of them ran around in the snowy forest. Kora allowed herself to be pounced on many times only to throw him off and run away again.

Nathan left his wolf alone, to bond with his Mate.

He had no idea what Jay-la herself thought about everything that was going on between their wolves. He could well ask her through the mind-link, but did not want to force his thoughts on her at this point. She already knew they were Mates now, so when Havoc and Kora shifted back.

She would be face to face with him, he must remind Havoc that they would be naked upon shifting back and return them to the pack house or to Jody's before relinquishing control due to how cold it was going to be.

Jay-la had not attempted to use the mind-link to talk to him either. He knew she could, but was currently choosing not to. She was probably not ready to talk to him.

Havoc mated Kora several times as they ran about playing with each other. She had easily submitted to him, hadn't even fought against it the slightest, it seemed Kora was happy with her goddess gifted Mate, that was his wolf Havoc. Nathan wondered if she accepted him so readily because they had pups already together or if she was just happy to have a Mate at all. Most wolves find their Mates early in life; females usually by the time they are 19, and she was 26. That is a long wait for a Mate. Even most male wolves would find their Mates by that age, only rarely did they have to wait.

Havoc was currently lying down next to Kora in the snow, his head resting on her shoulder. She appeared to be sleeping. Havoc, was not. He was lying there listening to his Mate's heart rate, and breathing, taking in her scent and generally just enjoying being in her presence.

'Havoc?'

Told you she would accept me.' he snorted, showing his human counterpart that he had been right all along. His tone was very superior.

Its late Havoc, we need to get them back to the pack house, I need to talk with Jay-la. you know that 'You'll not ruin it. he half growled at Nathan. I certainly will try not to, if you think I am, come forward and appeal to Kora's nature.'

Havoc huffed, stood up and nudged his Mate Kora. She turned her head and looked up at him. They couldn't actually mind speak to each other until Nathan and Jay-la mark

and mate each other. He could see why his wolf was worried. He too had no idea what was going to happen the minute Jay-la appeared and Kora was gone.

He nudged her again and she seemed to get the message, walked along beside him as they headed in the direction of the pack house. Havoc playfully nudged her on the way and let her nudge him back. They had this playful nature all the way back, he even allowed her to pounce on him at one point and sit right on him for a few seconds before she ran off and he would chase her. The pack house came into view and he could see Jackson standing there with, to his surprise, Ethan's little sister Margaret clinging to his side all loved up and staring at him like he everything.

He guessed the girl was back from vacation with her parents, she would have turned 18 while away, finally found his mate. It was pretty obvious from her hanging off of him, Jackson had an arm around her and was holding her to his side. That was a relief to him.

Jackson was watching the two wolves as they approached the pack house. It wasn't normal to walk into the pack house still in wolf form, but he was not going to have Jay-la exposed out here in the cold.

The Defiant Mate Chapter 34

Jay-la POV

Kora nearly stumbled over her own feet as a Mate call was unleashed upon her, loud and aggressive, something that could not be ignored. She skidded to a stop and turned to see who it was.

Havoc was running straight at her, he had not stopped as Kora had, Mate, she whispered, backing up slowly as he came straight at her.

No: Jay-la could not believe it, this couldn't be right, she had seen this wolfs human with her own two eyes, been no more than a meter away from him, only a desk between herself and Havoc's human counterpart. She didn't believe it. But she knew it to be true. Kora knew it was true.

Havoc stopped right in front of them, he smelled so good, like the smell of rain just before it fell, with a hint of oak and cinnamon.

He was her mate. But why hadn't she know it then, but knew it now?

'Kora be careful he will mate you.' Jay-la murmured to her wolf, though she already knew Kora was going to let him, for weeks now she'd had this lingering feeling of Havoc in her mind, and that howl she had let out tonight, had told him she was lonely and didn't want to be apart from the pack anymore, she wanted to come home.

Kora would not reject the father of their pups, not now. He was her goddess-gifted Mate.

Havoc's behaviour towards Kora surprised Jay-la, although he had come racing after her and she fully expected him to just aggressively mate the hell out of her wolf on the spot, he didn't. He was being gentle with her, a little playful and quite loving. He purred at Kora, and she purred right back.

'Well, now what do we do?'

'Play' Kora piped up and suddenly bit the end of Havoc's tail, then hit him in the face with her tail and ran off, though Jay-la knew she was not running to get away, she was running to have him chase her. It was what wolves did when mating, playing with each other.

There was no stopping it, Kora was not about to give up control even if Jay-la asked her to. So she didn't just stayed in the back of Kora's mind quiet and let her be with her Mate.

She had no idea how she was going to deal with his human counterpart, or even what Nathan thought this very minute, didn't want to know, needed time to try and process everything. Nothing made sense to her at the moment. Shouldn't she have been able to scent him out when in his office? Or he her, for that matter, he must be as shocked as she was.

The only good thing she guessed was that Havoc was never going to let him hurt her, or punish her, so there was some safety in that. She would have to wait and see. It

appeared he either had no control of Havoc at all or he was just allowing them to bond and mate as she was. Jay-la had no idea, was too confused at this point.

She sighed, Kora and Havoc ran about playing and mating each other many times. Kora was so happy, Jay-la didn't think she had ever felt her this happy, right this minute she was running at will through her own pack, with her Mate, knowing her pups were safely tucked up in their beds.

Havoc was her Mate.

Jay-la's train of thought suddenly changed. If Nathan was her Mate, that would make her.. the future Luna.

Her mind moved to being here in the pack today. She'd been placed in the Luna Suite. Jackson had asked her if she'd rather he put her in the Alpha's Suite? That couldn't be a coincidence. Surely not. Had stated Nathan would kill him if he'd put her in his bed, Jackson had even joked about Nathan wanting to punish her in the fun way. That bastard knew, oh he was going to die.

They all knew she suddenly realised, which meant Nathan also knew and had informed all of them, but why had he not told her that day, something else was going on, maybe he didn't want her? That one thought brought pain to her heart, she had to stop thinking about it, focused on nothing. Just sat back there in Kora's mind and watched them and tried desperately to keep her fears at bay.

She had no idea of how long Kora and Havoc played and mated, just that at some point she could see the pack house coming into view, the show-down she had been dreading was coming, at least it wasn't going to be done with her children around. Did she even want to talk to him right now? She didn't know.

'He's your Mate, he will not hurt you Jay-la' Kora piped up, speaking to her for the first time since finding out Havoc was her mate.

He was so angry, Kora. You didn't see it. she sighed.

'Maybe you misunderstood it. Havoc wants us, trust in him.

Havoc strolled right into the pack house and, to her surprise, so did Kora. Wolves didn't usually come into the pack house, shifted outside, then came in. They were headed for the alpha's office. She shivered as she recalled the last time she was in there. 'It'll be okay', Kora said softly.

She watched as Jackson opened the door and stood aside while Havoc strolled into the office without a care in the world. Kora followed him, he was her Mate and she was going wherever he went.

She heard the door close behind her and heard him shift 'wait,' she begged Kora, she wasn't ready.

Didn't even know if she could do this. A large part of her was filled with fear and wanted to run, right out of this office, she could feel Kora's resistance to the thought she was having.

He was standing in front of her now, completely naked, watching her wolf. She had not shifted as he had done, he had probably expected her to, she realised.

Kora was happy to look at his naked body, her head tilted as she assessed him completely from head to toe, he chuckled at her wolf.

Then he walked over to her and hunkered down 'How about I put some clothes on, huh' he smiled right at her and ran his hands over her head and scratched behind her ears for a minute, making Kora purr. You got bigger I see' his tone was light and playful 'But still very pretty a hint of seductiveness could be heard in his tone.

He winked right at her, then stood and walked off. She turned and watched him 'I might just eat him myself,' she murmured to Jay-la playfully. 'See he is not mad at us.'

Jay-la sighed, he'd didn't appear mad, but she could only recall the last time she'd seen him. Kora had not been with her, she hadn't seen it. Couldn't understand what she had felt or seen that day.

He was back wearing jeans and a tee-shirt, 'Kora, I left the door to the bathroom open, why don't you go in and shift, I would like to see.... my Mate his voice soft and gentle,

nothing in it that made Kora think she couldn't trust him, she turned and headed off to do as he said.

She shifted the minute she was in the bathroom. Jay-la closed the door to keep him out. She was naked and needed a minute still.

Things were not going as she thought they would.

There was a shirt in the room, it was his. He'd always been taller than her, a good foot taller. The shirt would cover her completely but she would still be naked under it. She pulled it on, there was nothing else, it smelled like him. She had once loved walking around in his room in his shirts. If he tried to forcibly mark and mate her, there wasn't much to go through. And he would be much stronger physically. She bit her lip.

Stop that he is not going to, did Havoc?" Kora sounded annoyed now.

'No, but.'

'No buts. I will make you go out there.' Kora was warning he not to do anything to ruin her and Havoc's bond.

Jay-la looked at her appearance in the mirror, washed her face, she was less than ready for this meeting, her hair she smoothed out as best she could, but really that was all she could do. At least it was warm in here. The entire pack house, as did the majority of homes, had heated flooring, to help with wintertime.

She could feel Kora starting to get impatient, and sighed 'I'm going already!' she muttered to her wolf, then turned and stepped out of the bathroom to finally face him. Her heart was hammering in her chest, unfortunately not from pure excitement of the Mate Bond.

He was standing over by the couch, he had lit the fireplace. Had she been in the bathroom that long? Or was he just used to doing it, and could do it with ease. He was watching her every move, she noted he looked a bit on the tense side. Maybe he didn't know what to expect either. She didn't say anything, didn't know what to say to be

honest. Just kind of stood there and watched him wearily from near the door to his office.

“Come in,” he said, “please sit, we need to talk I believe” he was gesturing to the couch by the fireplace.

She looked at the door and wondered if Jackson would still be standing on the other side of it. She heard him sigh heavily.

“Jay-la please, I know things aren’t great right now, but I know you don’t understand everything that’s going on either. Please sit.. am not going to touch you, will never hurt you. I assure you, you are safe in this room with me.”

Her eyes moved back to him, met his blue ones for maybe five seconds and fell away, she knew what he was to her right this minute, knew what he had been to her all those years ago, and how he’d felt about her the day he’d made her leave. But none of that actually comforted her right this minute. All she could think about was the last time she had been in this office, his anger towards her.

She caught movement in her peripheral vision and shot her eyes to him. He’d taken a step towards her, she backed up, a hand reaching for the door handle she knew was back there somewhere.

Watched him stop moving and look at her hand, heard him swear softly.

“Please don’t run” he sighed, “It hurts every time you run away from me”

That’s rich, she thought, considering he was the one to tell her to leave and never come back, how could it hurt him? It certainly hadn’t the day he had ordered her to, it had only hurt her. She could feel tears brimming at the reminder of the pain she had felt that day.

“You don’t know what pain is.” she shot at him a little angry.

“Yes I do, Jay-la. Believe me. I do.”

“No you don’t. I lost everything that day. My family, my friends, my pack, the man..” she stopped speaking and shook her head.

“What did you lose that day? Nothing is what.”

“I lost one of my closest best friends that day, Jay-la. Because I acted on an impulse, without thinking is all. I am sorry for that, I really am.”

“There is only one reason you’re sorry, beg my pardon, three reasons you’re sorry the sarcasm came out of her with every word, he was only sorry because she had been pregnant, because they now share pups.

“That is not true, I didn’t even know about them when I was trying to get you to come home” he ran his hands through his hair and sighed, “I know this is all screwed up, but we can fix it.”

“We?” she raised an eyebrow at him. “That implies”

He cut her off in a rush. “Don’t Jay-la” he was shaking his head. “Please don’t reject me” his hands were out in front of him, “Just give me a chance to explain, I can explain. All of it, I promise.”

Jay-la stared at him, he actually looked like he was pleading with her. She stared at him for a long minute, “Did you order Abbey to hurt my mother?” changing topic was better than him trying to convince her to stay at this point. She needed time to think about everything.

“No, and she is going to be severely punished first thing this morning. I was extremely pissed off when I heard what she had done.

“How can you let her just go about and hurt people in the pack, how is it she thinks it is okay?” Jay-la asked.

“I had no knowledge of what had happened here. Actually, it happened while I was unconscious due to wolfs-bane injected into me. The Alpha unit can attest to that. None of them had any knowledge of it. I assure you I would never allow that. What Abbey did, going to your parents and convincing them to allow her to attack your mother in a bid to get you to come here, was nothing I would ever approve of”

“Wh...What?” Did she hear that right? Her mother and father allowed it. No, she must not have heard right “I don’t understand.

Did you just say they did this to me? Made me feel like that” she shook her head, no. No, they would never.

“sh!t! I’m sorry, I thought you knew you did attack Abbey. I just assumed you knew. Oh Jay-la, I would never have told you like that, I’m so sorry,” he stepped towards her quickly.

Jay-la held up a hand to stop him. Why would they do that to me? Her eyes moved past him around the room and looked at the clock on the wall, nearly 5am, then moved back to him. He was standing no more than a meter away could probably reach out and touch him if she wanted to. But this was too much. She had to go and talk with her father. It couldn’t be, she didn’t believe it.

She spun on her heel and yanked the office door open, brushed past Jackson who had been there the whole time, “No, no, no. I don’t believe you.’ she was saying as she headed for the front door.

“Jay-la wait.” he called after her, she could hear him following her and right this minute didn’t care.

His hand wrapped around her arm to halt her, and she reacted on instinct, spun around and slapped him right in the face. His head whipped back, his blue eyes went wide with shock and he let go of her arm, just stared at her.

“Don’t you dare stop me” she grated out angrily, she didn’t even know who she was angry with at this moment, him? Her father? Her mother? Her brother? Abbey? Herself even? She was just angry. How could anyone do something like that?

She stalked out of the pack house and headed directly for her family home. She would find out the truth from her father himself.

She banged into the house, her family home. She knew he was up could hear him with her wolf hearing. He was in the kitchen. She glanced up the stairs, turned her head and

listened her children were all still sleeping. She stalked her way through the house towards where she knew he was preparing breakfast. Her feet were completely numb from the cold, but she just didn't care at this point.

Jay-la also knew that the Alpha was following her, as was Jackson, either one of them could have given her father the heads up she supposed, probably had. She didn't care, even Kora was angry along with her now. She too, could not understand why they would put them through that much pain and grief and for what to just get her to come home.

Hell Nathan could have done that simply by walking into a room with her. That twitched her brain a little... she pushed it aside, shook her head as if to clear it and refocused on getting answers from her father.

He turned to look at her, a smile already on his face, it was gone in an instant. "Baby girl, what is wrong?" he asked.

She pointed a shaking finger at him as she strode right up to him. "Did you do it? Did you allow mum to be injured just to get me home, for him?" she grated out the last two words. She knew they were standing behind her, could smell them both. He more so, being that he was her Mate.

She watched his eyes move past her to his Alpha and Beta. Then back to her, "Baby girl, please understand...'

She cut him off with a s***h of her hand. It was all she needed to know. "I trusted you and you let Abbey shoot mum up with a lethal dose of wolfs-bane, are you insane?" she screamed at him.

"Well actually..." he rubbed his hands over his face "I was the one who hit her with the wolfs-bane. I couldn't let anyone else do it.

Ivy and your mother wouldn't either, they only trusted me to make sure it wasn't a lethal dose but close to it"

Jay-la couldn't believe what she was hearing, it was true they were in on it. They did this to them, she had nearly completely lost herself in her grief over all that was going on and they did this to her on purpose. She stood staring at him, anger was rolling off of her, she heard Kora snarl in displeasure at what they had gone through. Saw him back up a step.

"I'm sorry baby girl, we just wanted you to come home," he pleaded with her. "and honestly, I didn't think you were ever going to. Abbey told us the Alpha was your mate. Neither of us believed her. You'd known each other before, how was it possible? She explained you were here on pack territory and that's how he knew. It took some convincing, but eventually we believed her, but Bradley was useless at convincing you. So it was put forward by Abbey that if Vera was actually injured, seriously, you would sense it yourself and then we would be able to get you to come here."

Jay-la just stood there and stared at him, they were all in on it, she couldn't believe it, and she had left him here with her triplets, trusted him with her children, hugged him and cried all over him with so much joy at seeing him, being with him and now to feel so betrayed by him.

Hurt and it wasn't just her that hurt. Kora was hurt by them, and her emotional distress had affected her children too. Her fists balled by her sides in anger as she stared at him in disbelief. She really wanted to lash out at him, give him a good beating as she had done Abbey, but her children were up stairs, if she started a fight with him they would hear it and get scared.

She felt a hand touch her gently on the shoulder, knew it was the Alpha and growled at his touch, she was not wanting his hands on her right now, she knew what he was trying to do, a mates' scent, a mates' touch could help calm you down. She had yet to accept him so it would not work to the extent he thought it would, couldn't without her wanting it too, she supposed. He'd have more luck sending his Gamma her way.

His hand slid down to the small of her back to stroke her in gentle circles. "Jay-la let's not fight here, the pups are up stairs." He spoke to her softly, soothingly. She had seen her father do this to her mother on many occasions to help calm her down.

Oh, she just wanted to punch him right in his handsome face, break a bone or two, she knew where her children were. Her green eyes turned on his blue ones. "If you want to keep that hand, I would remove it" she growled at him. Kora may want her mate, may want Jay-la to accept Nathan, but that didn't mean she couldn't break something in the mean time.

Kora was also angry about the situation going on around them.

She would not likely hurt her Mate but she would likely allow Jay-la to throw a punch here or there if she thought it would not hurt her and Havoc's bond in anyway.

Their goddess-given bond was sacred, Jay-la knew it, Kora knew that Jay-la believed in fated mates and that she would not do anything to hurt Kora herself, so some leeway would be given to her with their so-called Mate at certain times, like right this minute, she didn't want to calm down, so him trying to use the bond on her was annoying more than calming.

His hand fell away from her, she had already proven she would hit him one, had done so already, she was actually a little surprised to see that he took the hit and didn't go all alpha mad on her.

Havoc pushed forward all of a sudden and stared right at her.

Whether he was warning her or trying to get to Kora she couldn't tell, he didn't seem angry, just physically showing himself. Kora suddenly surged forward and Jay-la was shoved back, ah that was it, she felt herself being moved by Kora into Havoc's waiting arms. That bastard knew he could calm her wolf and it was working. She practically melted into him. Burying her face into his neck and breathing him in.

What the hell happened to my feisty wolf?' she muttered to Kora.

'Our Mate bond is strong, and we needed to calm down or a fight with dad or Alpha would have ensued!

Jay-la sighed just great, 'I don't want to wake up in his bed Kora, do you understand me.'

Kora chortled at her I would never: but there was pure mischief in her voice.

For the love of the goddess, Jay-la face palmed herself in Kora's mind, which only made Kora giggle out loud for all to hear. 'untangle yourself and give me back my body,' Jay-la muttered.

She did relinquish her body back but did not untangle herself. And she found herself standing in his arms, her face still buried in his neck, she pushed hard at his chest to get out of his arms. A growl came from him and when she looked up it was still Havoc.

"Let go, Havoc," she stated firmly.

"Mine," he stated gruffly back.

"Kora is yours," she confirmed to him.

A large hand was all of a sudden on her face making her look directly into his eyes, half blue, half green "Kora is mine.. you are mine... Accept me, then he turned her head and slid his nose all the way down her neck right to where he would bite her, to mark her, claim her for himself, leave that pretty silver filigree on the crook of her neck for all to see.

Jay-la blinked at his actions, completely shocked, and wondered if it was he or Nathan who made that statement, or were they actually both talking at the same time. She wasn't game to state

No at this point. She had the distinct feeling that if she tried to in any way shape or form, decline him he would mark her whether she like it or not. But if she said yes, goddess, he was going to mark her too. There was no way to answer him without his fangs plunging into her neck.

He was challenging her to defy him, and demanding her to say yes at the same time, she could feel his mouth on her neck, goddess her skin was on fire from where his mouth moved in soft kisses on her mark spot, it was getting to be to much, she had to pull away or she was going to let him mark her whether she was ready or not whether she wanted it or not she could hear Kora purring inside of her, she wanted this more

than anything. Jay-la knew if he marked her Kora would push forward and mark him back. Damned wolves and their need to mark and mate each other.

All of a sudden she was shoved away and Nathan was staggering backwards, "I'm sorry Jay-la, Havoc was a little out of control."

Her hand was already touching her mark spot, it was soft and hot, and shot bolts of lightning through her own fingertips when she stroked it, he had not punctured the skin, but he had certainly left a mark on her, that was for sure. A love bite for all to see. The skin was too sensitive for there not to be. Kora huffed, annoyed at the lack of being marked by her mate. She was also annoyed with Nathan for stopping Havoc from uniting them.

The Defiant Mate Chapter 35

Nathan POV

Trying to rein in Havoc why he was trying to Mark Jay-la was not an easy feat, it had taken all his willpower to fight his own beast, his own natural instincts for that matter, he wanted to mark her, and with Havoc in full control and his mouth on her mark spot a part of Nathan had wanted Havoc to do it, take the blame for it, but Nathan knew he couldn't allow it to happen this way, their wolves were already mated, it wasn't like she was going to rip Kora from Havoc.

She had said as much, Kora was his. So it was just a matter of time before she herself came around to the full sway of their goddess-gifted Mate Bond. He was staring at her, watching her now. Havoc was practically rolling around in his mind, amused with the situation he had created.

That bastard was playing games with their mate, Nathan suddenly realised.

You can't do that to her. he muttered to Havoc.

Why look at her, all flushed and hot and bothered.

Nathan's eyes moved to his Mate, she was indeed flushed and he could smell her arousal in the air, faint. But there, she was standing there staring at him, her breathing was heavy, her pupils were dilated and her heart rate was accelerated, but it was the way she was touching her mark spot that got his undivided attention, her index finger was running along it in slow stokes, he was hard pressed not to smile at her, at her reaction to his wolf nearly marking her, perhaps Havoc had nearly swayed her.

He knew what it felt like when your mate touched you, feeling like your skin was all electrified, with bolts of pleasure wherever they touched you, and the more aroused you became the more intense the sensation was. She hadn't said anything to his apology for Havoc's behaviour and was simply staring at him.

Havoc had marked her with a love bite, nothing more but it looked good on her, goddess he wanted to just walk over there and pick up where his wolf had left off. Do it' Havoc ur*ged him playfully.

Nathan took a step back and allowed both he and her some space. "Jay-la, please stop doing that," he asked after a minute passed and her hand was still on her mark spot, the scent of her arousal was driving him nuts. If she continued to enjoy the feel of her mark spot he would not be able to stop himself from actually marking her fully.

She seemed to blink back into reality and her hand snapped away from her neck, she shook her head but did not apologise to him. "you need to contain your wolf." was all she said on the subject. Her voice was soft, not a hint of anger in it at all, her arousal seemed to have removed her anger at the current situation.

Her head tilted slightly and he could tell she was listening to something. He tuned into the surroundings and could hear the children were awake upstairs.

"Jay-la, what do you want to do?" he asked, referring to the fact that his children were about to come face to face with him for the first time.

"Out" she suddenly snapped to attention, then hurried over to him and grabbed him by the arm, dragging him to the back door, and shoving him outside, he just let her, completely surprised by the fact that she was willingly touching him.

“I haven’t told them about you yet. I need to do that before they see you.”

“Well actually…”

Jackson interrupted him “Lets go boss, We can get you showered and cleaned up and Jay-la can talk to them over breakfast.”

“I didn’t agree with that,” she snapped at him.

“Jay-la, I would like a proper introduction, today please.”

Nathan told her as Jackson was pushing him away from her, away from his mate and his pups. He didn’t much like it but she had said she wanted to tell them about him first, so okay, let’s give her the chance.

Their happy chirpy voices were so loud they must be in the kitchen with Jody by now, it was no wonder Jackson was pushing him away.

“Jayla, if you don’t want to stay here, after this morning’s event unfolded, you and the children can use the Luna Suite.”

He said before turning and leaving.

He walked in silence for a bit, Havoc was settled in his mind, calm and happy in the knowledge that Jay-la was going to be easily marked at some point, it was just a matter of seduction. You remember how to do that right? Havoc shot at him.

Yes Havoc, he shot back. what is with your sudden attitude change where Kora and Jay-la are concerned?

Havoc snorted at him she’s my mate, I want to play with her like we used to, but more fun now.

‘You were never like this last time you were mated,’ Nathan Commented.

Kora’s different, more fun, mischievous even.

Nathan shook his head and left Havoc to his own thoughts.

He could not figure him out. It was like all of a sudden he was a completely different wolf. How many personalities does his wolf have?

Just one.' Havoc snarled at him, clearly following Nathan's thoughts 'just happy now. he stated.

"So that was interesting, Havoc nearly marking what is yours?" Jackson interrupted his thoughts.

"He apparently wasn't going to, just playing with her."

"Didn't look like it, from where I was standing. Jody looked nonplussed about it either."

"I didn't think so either. And I don't particularly care what Jody thought after what he did to her, sent her distress levels way off the charts, bloody stupid all of them," he scratched the back of his neck, then rubbed his eyes. He was actually tired, but the sun was up and he had been awake all night, so what could he expect? "Do you think she will tell them?"

"Who knows, but she can't run away now." he laughed" Kora is smitten by Havoc. That much was clear. She'll never allow Jay-la to leave. Il can presume from the way he strolled her into the pack house and Kora's response this morning in the kitchen, she and Havoc Mated yes."

Nathan laughed "Yes, many times, she didn't even so much as argue about it, not one fight, nothing."

"Then I guess Havoc's faith in Kora wasn't blind, he was totally sure that she would accept him right away, and she did." Jackson half laughed.

Nathan nodded he'd had doubts about it, but Havoc had never doubted Kora's ability to want him as her mate. He was never letting her go now, that was for sure. He was curious to see how she would react to him half shifted or in a rage. But that was a future problem.

“By the way, I got a link from Ethan” he chuckled, completely amused by something, cleared his throat and continued “Abbey is in your office with Johnny waiting for her punishment.”

Nathan had actually forgotten about that for the moment with all that was going on. Should he wait to punish her with Jay-la there? so she could see he meant it, when he said he would punish her.

“You and Margaret, hey?” Nathan smiled at him and jabbed an elbow into his side.

Jackson grinned at him, “So it seems,”

“Ethan know yet?”

“Probably she went running up the stairs yelling for her mum, all excited, when I headed off after you and Jay-la.”

“He’s going to pound on you, drill you about being faithful and not womanising around.”

“Please, like I would hurt my mate like that, she’s freaking hot, with that red curly hair to her waist and that curvy figure, Va-va-voom. She is perfect in all the right ways.”

Nathan laughed out loud, “yeah talk like that about his little sister and see what happens.”

Jackson grinned and wiggled his eyebrows at Nathan “Oh lord you’re going to, aren’t you?”

You know it boss, got to cause mischief, he was laughing to now, “it’s why Jay-la and I get along better than any of you and her. We’re both mischief makers.

Nathan couldn’t argue on that one, but he would be able to argue about her and Jackson having a better relationship than he and Jay-la once he had Marked and Mated her, they would be closer than anyone.

He mind-linked Jay-la for the first time in 6 long years, Jay-la, I have Abbey in my office, did you want to be there for her punishment?

He knew she heard him, could sense down the link that the connection was intact and quite strong, probably due to them being Mates.

Probably not a good idea to put me or Kora in a room with her. she simply answered back You are the Alpha, punish how you see fit.

He frowned at her words You are the Luna, do you want a say, in it? he asked, trying to keep cheekiness out of his voice. And just reminding her she was to be his Luna.

No. she answered and severed the link.

He frowned, was that a no to him calling her the Luna, or a no to her having a say in it. He thought it had to be the later, or he would be feeling like crap right now, and he was pretty darn certain Havoc would bu*rst out of him and run right back there and Mark her against her will, whether their pups were in the room or not.

He strolled into his office, Ethan's eyes locked right on to Jackson, who smiled right back at him, "Morning Ethan, have a nice family breakfast did we? Get some good news?" his tone was all smooth as silk, and there was an amused twinkle in his grey eyes.

Ethan said nothing, just narrowed his eyes at him for a minute, then turned to Nathan, "Abbey, as expected boss."

Nathan locked eyes right on her, saw her swallow hard, she was healed, he noted from her wounds that Jay-la and Kora had inflicted upon her yesterday. Why Johnny was here he had no idea. He had not requested him to come to this meeting.

He walked over and sat behind his desk, just stared at Abbey fora solid minute, he watched her start to get fidgety and restless, she was uncomfortable in his presence, that was for certain. He watched Johnny reach out and put a hand on her to comfort her.

"Abbey, what you did was reckless and unacceptable, I have every right to banish you from this pack for attacking another pack member..without due cause."

"wh, what...you can't do that." she stuttered.

“As the Alpha, I can do what I please, I can punish as I see fit.” he used Jay-la’s words.

“Mum and dad would never let you.” she snapped at him, her Alpha aura shooting out of her and directly at him.

“Where are they? They know you were brought here to be punished. I don’t see them here to defend your actions, do you?” he stated flatly, ignoring her aura. She might be pushing it at him, but she was also scared right this minute, she could not overpower him in anyway and he knew it. He was also a little surprised that neither of his parents were there this morning.

He watched as Johnny turned pale, Jackson looked more than shocked by Nathan’s comments. As did Ethan.

“You, Abbey, blatantly with no regard for your own safety, your unborn child’s safety or the safety of other pack members,” he indicated to her mate. Who he knew had, had to come to her defence and ended up wounded because of her actions, “need to learn a lesson about respect.”

“I was just trying to get her here for you,” she yelled at him, getting angry now.

“Hmm were you. Or were you just so power-crazed that you thought you could get away with anything?”

“They will never let you banish me, I’m pregnant,” she stated flatly.

“So, even now you believe you are above your Alpha, and are UN-punishable? Interesting Abbey,” he nodded. “but you are right on one thing. I will not banish my pregnant sister... I will, however, DE-rank you.”

There were several gasps heard throughout the room.

Abbey shot to her feet and glared at him. “I dare you to try it,” she screamed at him.

Nathan stood from his chair and stared down at his sister, his full Alpha aura on display, he felt Havoc push forward to aid in asserting his power over his sister, and blasted her with all his Alpha Aura, “I Alpha Nathan Browning of the BI00d Moon Pack. Officially

strip you Abbey Browning of Blood Moon Pack of your Alpha title and reduce you to that of Rank Warrior. No longer will you be above anyone in this pack. To do as you so please. You will answer to me for every insubordinate action”.

He watched as she staggered backwards and fell to her knees. She clearly had not believed he could do it, let alone would do it. Tears were pouring from her eyes, he knew it hurt to be de-ranked, but she must learn she can not do as she pleased, that there are repercussions to her actions.

“How could you?” she cried up at him.

“How many times Abbey did mum and dad blip over your blatant insubordination and reckless actions, I will not be like that. You brought this on yourself.”

Johnny was trying to pick her up off the floor but she wasn't getting up. He watched her eyes glaze over, knew she was calling for back up, looking for help from her parents.

Would they he had no idea, but they knew he had been displeased and was going to punish her, they just didn't know how.

“It's no wonder she runs away from you.” Abbey shot at him angrily. “you're so cruel.”

“Do you really want to push your luck Abbey? I can make you an omega if you like,” he grated out.

She gasped at him, he saw the horrified look she was giving him.

“Get her out of my sight Johnny,” he told her Mate.

Johnny helped her up, she reached for him to carry her, but his injury, still not healed, wouldn't allow him to. Nathan glanced at Jackson. ” Help your brother out, would you?”

He simply nodded and walked over and picked Abbey up and walked out of the room with her still crying. It would have hurt but not so much that she would still be crying about it. The tears were because she couldn't believe he had actually punished her, his wayward sister had never been truly punished ever, a slap on the wrist here or there,

but not actually punished formally. This was a great shock to her. She had suddenly realised she did have to answer for her actions and she simply didn't like it.

One down, he thought and sat and waited. It didn't take long for his father to come into his office, no mother, that was curious. She was always Abbey's biggest defender. "really son to a warrior."

Yes, she will learn she does have to answer to people, now she has to answer to Delta, Gamma and Beta bl00ds as well as Alpha's. So much for answering to no one.

His father shook his head, but that was it. Sat in the chair in front of Nathan's desk "How'd it go with Kora and Jay-la?"

Nathan raised an eyebrow at his phrasing of the question.

"Oh come on Son, Havoc was on the hunt, we all heard his call and Kora's back, he was off to get his mate, did he?"

"Yes," Nathan nodded. "Jay-la needs more time."

"Then give it to her."

"I intend, too."

"Now, just for some clarification, "Havoc did Mate Kora yes.

"Yes, father, why?"

"Just making sure she's not gonna go running off on you again, her wolf, your wolf mating means neither of them would let it happen."

Nathan agreed with that.

How he was going to deal with Jody and Vera he did not yet know. He was extremely unhappy with what they had done to get their daughter back here. They did not know of her current emotional state and probably didn't think it would affect her so much, but it had affected her, so much distress had poured out of her. She had actually not been

able to cope. He would have hated to see what would have happened if Stephen had not been there to calm her down.

Nathan also knew that he could not do anything to her family without discussing it with her first. So, for now, those two had to wait. He was tempted to further punish Micheal, but the boy it seemed, was scared enough.

His raging even without Havoc Mad scared the life out of his little brother, showed Nathan that he would not fall out of line anytime soon. He would be demanding that Micheal apologise to Jay-la today at some point. Whether he did it in front of Rae-Rae or not was another matter, he still didn't know what Jay-la had told the girl to get her to change her mind. Only Rae-Rae knew that.

Certainly didn't go telling her about Micheal's storming down her apartment with her children inside. That would not have gone down well with Rae-Rae. He did know although Rae-Rae was here and happy to be so, it actually was Micheal who had upset her, not Jay-la as Micheal believed, so his attitude towards her that day was uncalled for and Nathan would demand he apologise.

He stood from his desk. "Why is mother not here trying to beat me up for de-ranking her daughter?" he asked his father, walking around his desk and heading for the door.

"I imagine she agrees with you," his father shrugged.

"You could have punished her worse, being de-ranked is nothing when your parents are still the former Alpha and Luna, and she is mated to a Beta, so its not like she lost anything. I or your mother never had the heart to punish her, but we always knew t some point she would tick you off to no end and you, would punish her. Just glad you didn't toss her in the cells to be honest."

"Trust me, the thought crossed my mind. If she wasn't pregnant I would have." He was tired and needed a nap. Headed to his suite and mind-linked Jackson, on the way 'going for a nap, wake me if Jay-la wants to talk, or brings the children to meet me otherwise, see you at lunch time.

'Right boss.

'I had her phone on me last night, find it and give it to her, in case Lauren calls.'

'will do.'