

The Pack Rule Number 1 No Mates -

[1,529 words]

2/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter Eighty-One DOMONIC

"Are we really going to do this?" Koda asks once we are seated in my hummer and clicked out of the lodge. Bridgette wasn't there. She had apparently gone home and thank God for that. The few times that I'd seen her since my father's visit last night, she'd done little more than hit on me at every turn.

"I don't know," say. Thinking back to the conversation I had with my father the night before. "We're at least going to play along for a bit. I need to make it clear that Draven isn't to be counted. "Courted?" Koda chuckles.

I shrug. "His words, not mine. My dad told me that Gabriel had been pushing for a change in power over the last year and the arrival of Draven has only spurred him on. The bastard met Draven on the train. According to my dad Gabriel was returning from a trip to California as an ambassador of sorts. Of course, I shared the recent trouble we've had in town and expressed my suspicions of what Gabe was really doing there. But my dad confirmed that Gabriel is their contact between north and south territories. Apparently the new wolves that joined this chapter of the Red Wolf Pack came from the Timber Wolf pack of northern California. They were outcasts. Pack members who were exiled but did not accept the position of moque. The trines had been silly enough for my father and his council to deem forgivable

My dad was not happy to hear that the killer was still around. The message on the wall of the dungeon was a pretty obvious calling card.

"I still can't believe that he named you Alpha. And absent all this time? What the hell Koda chortles. Then, his gaze turns serious as I pull out of the lodge parking lot and onto the backroad behind the building. "I thought we were here to take the ghs back, not take over another territory."

I grimace, not wanting to say much more about that. My dad told me that Draven is going to be difficult to convince to leave. That plus he and she have bonded over this past month. Not going to lie, the thought had me smiling. My father seemed to have a light about his eyes that went out years ago and I knew without asking what had put it there. Draven. It may be safer for them here, Koda. At least until we handle things in Port Orchard"

ing kidding me."

"You've got to be fucking

"Think about it. They're not far away, They're protected by a large number of wolves side eye him as we cruise toward a bridge at the edge of Crown Mountain "Have you thought about whether or not you're going to mark Emily?" He grits his teeth, shaking his head. "And be in as much pain as you were in when we leave without them? No thanks."

I can tell he's pissed. He really hoped we were here to take the girls back and truthfully, it was what I planned to do at first. Until I heard all my dad had to say about his place. They have guards that patrol the town all day and all night. They've never been attacked by any outside force. There are mated wolves that he and breed in this place without worrying over whether or not someone is out to get them. In fe years, he and the rest of our pack had built a safe and prosperous town. If our pack in Port Orchard had operated like this years ago? We may not have lost anyone.

As we approach the giant wall and wrought iron gate of the Village Du Loup Rouge, we are greeted by a young wolf armed with a sniper rifle and an expiece. "Think about it this way," I say, lowering my voice as I roll down my window. "You get to see your brother without sneaking around."

"Alpha Domonic," the young wolf says. "A pleasure to finally meet you. I'm Abraham. You can call me Abe. We've been expecting you

I nod, not saying anything before rolling my window back up. Alpha Domonic. Not sure that like the formal address. Traditionally, this is how an Alpha is greeted. But in Port Orchard, we go by our own set of rules.

Abe signals someone beyond the gate and the damn thing open to allow us through

I wonder how they would feel if they knew your Beta is at home with absolutely no knowledge of where we fe right now Koda comments.

"Teaditionalists," I say with a shrug.

Despite the early hour thir marketplace is alive with activity. These are at least twenty park members lining the streets on each side. Each of them stopping in their tracks to grek at us as we pass through toward town hall "Do you think they know? Koda grumbles as we park

The guard did," is all I say before I kill the engine and step out of the wide.

Chapter Eighty-One DRAVEN

Domonic could be here somewhere. I mean - Emily's right. I have absolutely no pain and my nausea even seems to have withered out in the last few minutes. I wonder, my senses have been much stronger in the last few days. Might I actually be able to scent his presence if I stepped outside? The possibility is not enough to urge me outdoors. Because, as much as I have longed for his arms around me, I still can't shake the pain of his lies from my heart. The fact that he put a goddamned diamond ring on that blond Barbie knock off, then threw me out while she lounged about in her underwear - is not something I'm ready to forgive

The need to punish him is still too great. And if I see him if he's close enough to touch? If he's right there in front of me and I get to look into his beautiful gray eyes? Or if I hear his sexy voice and see his adorable dimples? I might crumble. I will be putty in his hands. And perrt Jos lets not forget his muscles... there's not much of a chance that he left those in Port Orchard. Dann bin

I'm not ready! I dont think I'm strong mough yet! Maybe I can refuse to see him? The meaway. Maybe he's here for some other reason. Or maybe he's not here at all and

Just then, my phone rings. Adam.

"Hey," I say into the phone, only slightly breathless.

Adamspeaks in a hushed voice. "Our Alpha has arrived. Finally,"

gain, wait a minute. Who says he's here for me anyway? I mean he did send going some really backward wishful thinking?

I know I fucking knew it. I clutch the phone in a death grip then place it on speaker as I join Emily in the kitchen. She gives me a curious look when I place my phone down on the counter before her. "Domonic?" I quip, ignoring the shock in Emily's eyes and the bacon on her plate.

"Yes. He's just arrived. Our meeting is set to start any minute. Just wanted to give you a head's up."

Don tell him about..." I cut off my subconscious mind protecting me from the super bearing of wolf shifters. "Please," I say,

He sigh heavily and a slight commotion is heard on his end of the line. "When he sees you, he will know," he whispers.

Fuck I was afraid of that. I'm still not hip to all the rules of shifters, but somewhere deep inside me I had a hunch that a male would know if his female mate was pregnant. Then I won't see him."

"Deaven," he starts, and I can almost see him shaking his head in disappointment. Taware that he hurt you and by no meani him, but you need closure. Unless you plan to reject him outright, you need-

I interrupt. "I can do that? Like - reject him?"

11 force you to have to leave with,

"Of cours."

If I did, what exactly would that mean?"

"You would be in agonizing pain and being as that you're already marked, and pregnant, the act might kill you." He whispers, "It might kill him as well. At the very least, it will feel like you are dying every day for as long as you live. Much like I have been feeling until your arrival."

This shit is so strange, I sw

"But what would it mean?"

"We don't have time to discuss this area of wolf history right at the moment. Not to mention, rejection of a marked female has only been recorded once that I know of, and a very long time ago." He groans. "In fact I should not have mentioned it."

"Is he alone?" Emily chimes in T... Koda-

"Roda is here as well. Adam states softly. "They're in the parking lot. We don't have much time to talk." He sighs. Prepare yourself Draven. Text me when you have decided whether to see him not" He pauses, speaking to one of the others quietly before getting back on the phone. But, be forewarned. Whatever you decide, he is Alpha here and if he wants to see you, you cannot stop him."

Fuck Fuck. De

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[1,445 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1- No Mates Chapter Eighty-Two

DOMONIC

"Hello Domenic, Gabriel drills free his seat in the conference room. His absence of smile and arrogant attitude tell me he is just the same as he always was. A

prick

"Its Alpha Domonic, to you," I tell him as I take a seat across from him on one side the long table. I don't miss the low growl and tensing of his muscles as he glares at me through narrowed eyes. I throw him a wink and a grin just to piss him off a bit more and turn my attention to my father at the head of the table. There are fifteen men in this room. One too many if you ask me. "I thought you said this was a council meeting. Does that mean that Gabriel is also a member of your council?"

"Nice to see you boys haven't changed," Roda's father, Darryl, who is seated to my father's left, chuckles, nodding at his son from across the room. "Hello Koda, glad to see you son. You've grown." He clears his throat, "But I am a little confused as to what you are doing here. Am I to understand that you are the Beta now, and not Pwar

Paul's dad, Chase, goes rigid. Koda says nothing, but I can feel the heat coming off of him as he sits next to me. He and I both ignore the question. Back home we stretch the power pretty equally between the twelve of us. Unless of course, they don't agree with what I want to do, then I usually pull rank.

"Can we get this started already?" I ask "I have business I need to attend to. Someone. I'd like to see."

Gabriel laughs, standing to relinquish his seat to Paul's father Chase. "I have somewhere to be. Please excuse me, gentleman. I'll see you at the ceremony."

Ceremony? Oh fuck I hope not

Now, hold on just a minute, Gabriel, my dad says. "Should I take this to mean that you are withdrawing your bid for Alpha?"

My body tenses, my eyes snapping toward Gabriel who is suddenly visibly uncomfortable. The fuck. I mean I don't want to be Alpha here, but I certainly don't want him to be. He's weak and manipulative. A piece of filthy shit. If it were up to him all the humans would be slaves. Including the ones born to shifters. I grin at him as he makes his way toward the exit. "Is that right? Gabe wants a fight? Nah Can't be

Gabriel glares at me as he straightens his tie. "Withdrawing. For now," he hisses. "Provided that Domonic chooses to stay in power here and not in Port Orchard."

I can't help but shoot to my feet. "Where I go and what I do are none of your goddamn business. Let me know if I need to make that clear to you later,"

He chuckled, "And what? Brawl with me out in the city streets? We don't do things the way around here Domanic. Things have changed

"They can change the fuck back too, I growl, shaking my father's arm off of me as he forces me to sit down.

"You're are excused Gabriel," Darryl says, getting up to lock the door behind the Ertle fuck.

"Jesus," I snap, taking a seat. "No matter where that fucker goes, he's an asshole. Not sure how much of an asset he can be as an ambassador."

My dad snickers. "You're right, and that pretty much brings us to the purpose of this meeting

"I'm not moving up here, I say softly Meeting each pair of eyes around the table individually. "The twelve of us are not finished in Port Orchard -Not by a long shot,"

"I see," Chase says from the opposite corner of the room. "It's been five years already, Domanic. Don't you think your mother would want you to let it go? To move on with your life?"

grit my teeth so that I don't reach over and strangle Paul's father, "She probably would. You're right. But I chuckle-"I can't. An... I won't. I'm going to find him and dept care if it takes me my entire life"

"Well how about this then my dad chimes in, tapping his closed fist gently over the table. "You make monthly visits here. Solidify your position as Alpha. Because I've got to tell you"-he sigh "Gabrielis gunning for it. And so are a couple of others, "Well I didn't ask to be your Alpha." I grin. So what the fuck do I care?"

"Your mate is here," my dad reminds me. "She is a human taking sanctuary here. She under my protection for now. Your protection. But if someone else becomes Alpha"

1/3

Chapter Eighty-Two

Then I take her somewhere else.

My dad laughs, finally sitting back in his chair with an arrogant glint in his eye. "I don't think I have to tell you how stubborn that girl is. She may not want to

I roll my eyes, clenching my fists in my lap as I glare at him. Then I'll make her leave

She would be safer here," my dad bites out.

He's right. I know he is. But I miss her and I want her back. Then I take her hope, hirk to Port Orchard."

His chin hardens and I see somet

sadness swirl in the depths of his eyes. Dr. Have they gotten that close already? "T

I have to leave that up to her.

I sigh heavily, knowing for myself that Draven is going to be hard to conviner. She told me so out on my driveway that day. I can still hear her voice, I will never forge you for this. Not to mention, I might resent my dad for moving on with his life, but something inside of me enjoys hearing the way he talks about Draven. A if she's the daughter he never had.

Maybe she misses me to. Maybe that will be enough to get her to listen to me. I almost brought the goddamn ring with me. But then the sight made her more angry after seeing one on Margo's finger.

Fucking Margo. What a fantastic idea that had been. I am so fucked.

What ceremony was Gabriel speaking of? I ask warily.

La ring might have

Bartlett's father, Mike, clears his throat, drawing my attention. Er well- it's for you We arranged an assembly for the entire pack to witness their Alpha accepting his te

I swear to God. Will tradition never die

"Really," I chuckle. "I guess marking her wasn't enough."

My dad shifts in his seat, whipping out a cigarette and lighting up right here. The thing is, Domonic, a couple of the other wolves have expressed interest in her." "What?" I snap, gripping the armrests on each side of my chair. I kill them. "But she marked," I posl.

not happy with yo

In fact - the word

My dad nods, attempting to placate me with the raise of his hand. Understood. However - when the first arrived, she was not around here is - the was nonning from you."

"I fail to understand how that would make her fair game."

"Is that how this pack got so big? Koda asks, speaking up for the first time. "By taking on mates that didn't belong to them?"

The collective quiet that falls around the room has me baffled, "What the fuck?" I quip. "You can be serious."

"Calm down," Chase says, leaning forward. "It isn't like that. Not exactly. But whenever there is a rejected female, she is considered available for another to take. Especially if she has been previously marked and survived the venom."

My body begins to tense, my fangs aching to be released. The fury that I am feeling that moment cannot be described. What the fuck did even tell these people? I didn't reject her. She is not wanted."

Koda shakes his head, meeting my eyes. "What about the gel she came with? Emily. Has someone expressed interest in her as well?"

Darryl's head snaps to attention, his eyes locking on his son. "No. She is unmarked and would be of no use to any male shifter looking to procreate." He shrugs "Besides around here she is considered

"Enough!" My father fairly shouts his warning at Darryl "We're going off topic. He turns to me. I will not force Draven to see you." I shoot up from my seat and am about to leave when his voice stops me, "But it is the law for the Alpha to approve all unmarked females taking sanctuary here and, well, Draven and Emily aren't exactly separated. An official act, of course!

I smile for the first time. A full sale, one I know that Draven would love. 'Great. This point me in the direction of this human so I can grant permission for her

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Chapter Eighty-Three DILAVEN

"Why am I doing this?" I ask myself as I study my reflection for the thousandth time. Everything in my closet? As if that bastard deserves for me to look good. Not to mention, I would test when Domonic was on his way here to approve Emily- whatever the fuck that hideout across the street at Gabriels.

I grin at myself, Adam is so cool. I adore him and I think he will make a wonderful g

full length mirror in my bedroom. Why did I just spend an hour trying on when I haven't even decided if I'm going to see him or not. Adam told me to be mean. That way, if I don't want to see him I can stay hidden in my room

"Woss," Emily says, sauntering into my room wearing a cute white summer dress that he bought a couple of weeks ago. "You look hot."

"So do you," I say, noticing that this is the very first time I've ever seen her with eyeliner and manicure. The effect of the black outlining her obsidian colored eyes is truly breathtaking.

Do you think Koda will like it?"

inquires shyly

will," I smirk, twirling to admire the way my legs look in my blue jean booty shorts. My ass looks great in these things and if I do decide to see Domonit, I want him to remember what he gave up. The tight red crop top I'm wearing is racy and sexy and sure to make the blood boil. Hopefully, his.

Hopefully Draven? Really? Might as well stop pretending you're not going to see him, when you know you are.

"Tuck," I send myself in the mirror. "You are a weak ass bitch."

Emily chuckles. "Not weak. Hot as hell, and stubborn. But not weak. It'll feel good to see him. You know it will."

"Not if he's married," I say softly, not able to shake that thought from my mind. I turn to her and for the first time, I wonder if she likes it here as much as I do. I mean- I thought she did. But with what I learned from Adam about the other wolved I'm not really sure she should be here. Unless I can get Koda to mark her

And just like that I come up with a plan.

"You realize that Koda's your mate, don't you?" I ask him, taking a seat

it on the edge of my bed

Her smile falters slightly, her fingers wringing together the way doesn't change that he doesn't want me."

the way they do whenever she becomes very

nervous. "I don't know, I mean, yeah, I guess." She frowns. "But that

sigh, praying to God that Koda has been hurting for her the way she has been for him.

"Well, I think he does. He just needs the proper motivation to show it

'I doubt it," she says sadly, taking a seat next to me.

"There's something I need to tell you," I say. At first, I didn't want her to know about Cobriel's rumors, but now that I know Koda is here, I think I have to tell her. Maybe if she passes on the message to him, he'll do something about it. "When we first got here, you still had Leo's scent on you. From when he - well - you know - when he"

"Raped me," she whispers, closing her eyes. "Yeah, I've been paying attention. Tadros explained scenting to me the last time she was here. I figured that was why Demonic hated me so much when he first met me."

I nod, "You're right. But he didn't hate you. He was just I pause, not really sure why I'm defending the idiot-upset she was panicking and not thinking clearly. He didn't have all the facts. I reach over, take her hand. Much like the people out here don't." She tenses, her long lashes fanning upward in surprise. "What do

you

"Gabriel," I hiss, squeezing her hand. "He may have said some things about you to... to the rest of the pack,"

"To Reda?!?" She gasps

I close my eyes for a moment, shaking my head at her confusion. "No, Not Rods. Not Demonic. The people here. The people we're just getting to know." I lean toward her, continuing. He's been implying that you're lose."

1/3

Chapter Eighty-Three

For all of her gentle qualities the look I see behind her eyes is more than satisfying "What?" She snaps,

"Adam told me about it last night. He says it may become dangerous for you here if people continue to think that way of you

"He thinks I should leave

"Not Not at all. And just so you know, if he did, then I would leave with you. No question." I sigh, letting go of her hand and standing up to face her. "But I think it may be worth mentioning to Koda. Because he is your mate. Maybe there's something he can do to clear your Emily's eyes widen as she lifts her chin defiantly. He shouldst have to do anything. And I shouldn't have to defend myself against stupid rumors."

"I know, Em. But you should mention it. Koda deserves to keep you safe." Holy shit. What did I just say? Koda deserves to keep you safe. And Demonic doesn't deserve to keep me safe? What a fucking hypocrite I am.

But Emily doesn't make the connection, thank God. She nods. "Okay, I'll tell him get to talk to him. 111 ask him for help."

"Good," I coo, doing one last circle in the mirror before a sudden drift of pine and is invades my senses and my body goes rigid. "Shit!" I hiss. Right then my phone chimes and the message is clear. Adam

Hes on his way over. Be ready.

Thank Adam

Let me know if you need me to interrupt.

They're on their way

DOMONIC

The ride up to the little cottage next to my dad's place is short and uneventful. Most of the park members we see along the way-walking or driving - all seem to have heard about my arrival and can't help but wave at us as we cruise down the street. The closer we get to the girls, the harder my heart is pounding. There's something different in the air. I can feel it as we approach, and I could sense it in my dad when we left him at town hall.

"Cute little place," I comment as we pull into the empty driveway. I can see movement behind the glass, but I try not to focus on it as we get out of the car. I want my first glance at her after a month of being apart, to be up close and personal. Walking up to the door, I'm hit with her scent from all sides and I swear it's like I've been marching in a desert for days and have just spotted an oasis beyond the dune. She's so close and suddenly, I am reminded of how fucking miserable I was before I knew where she'd gone. When she was just... missing.

I reach for the bell but the door swings open in my face. Emily on the other side of it

"Hey," she says softly and I feel Koda tense next to me.

I can't believe I didnt see it before, because now it is obvious Rodas face is red with a blush and Emily's arousal is sartin enough to force me to take a step back. Shit. Don't feel right about scenting that.

"Where is she? I say, but I already know. She's in one of the back bedrooms. Taking a step past Emily into the house, I say, "Koda, take Emily for a walk. I need to ace Draven alone,"

"Be nice to her," Emily snipes as 1 glance back. "I mean it."

I almost laugh. Emily's tiny. Even shorter than Draven Who the fuck is she trying to care. "You be nice to him, I tease, receiving a warning look from Roda as Emily hiite the door.

Finally,

2/3

Chapter Eighty-Three

I step down the hall carefully, prepaling myself for what may come. That's when I notice that Draven's scent has changed. There's something from new. It's scent is so tacking strong that I nearly drop to my knees with the pleasure of it.

No way. She cant be. But all the signs are there. Signs that only a mate can recognize this early on

I round the comer and what I see sends a rush of hunger straight second

it through ine. My bills tighten, my dick hardens, and my fangs slice out and

out and in the bree

"Baby," I hiss. I step toward her and she takes a step back. I ignore that my eyes traipsing up her legs slowly, taking in every inch of her perfect caramel Bech before climbing toward her magnetizing green gaze. My body trembles with need. I'd almost forgotten how powerful thou green eyes could be

sic to my ears, despite the animosity in it.

"Domonic," she says, and the sound is like music to my

Taking another large gulp of the air around me, I kneel and lean forward before she can stop me, placing my ear on her belly and ignoring the sparks that fly ab my chest with just touching her

And there it is... barely audible and not yet completely formed

A tiny little heart beat.

The world falls away!

from me

and I close my eyes, my body shuddering with more emotion than I'm ready for.

Draven steps back, shoving me away in a panic. But of course, it's too late. I already know

I glance up at her from my place on the ground and say, "You're pregnant."

Chapter Comments

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[1,446 words]

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The Pack: Rule Number 1-No Mates

Chapter Eighty-Four

"Tes" I ans, nodding my bead and shaking the burn of tears from my eyes.

God bes beretful. When he stepped

Maxing my body like wildfe and I take a big deep breath of I

1. I choke out. "Why did you come?"

"Baby," he says apologetically, still on the foot.

God. I live it when he calls me

(feel special. It makes me feel like I'm his. But... I'm not. He sent me away

my center. At least he doesnt smell like her if he did two have had to punch him in the face.

Margo? E map, à boil of forsh rage. igniting at try cernet

Tack Marghe snaps. You and I both know she doesn't mean thin gaze down at me with stormy gray eye. Dit my dad tell you About

"He did," I nod, crossing my arms over my then

- standing to his full bright to

I the dose. But it doesn't matter. It's no excuse for your

Where are you going?" He kisses, latching

going around me

that feels wonderful. The beat, the muscles, his scent. All of it feels so perfect and soothing warmth that his embrace provides. Ignoring my anger and resentment. They have the right to touch me. No matter how much I

for a moment, I allow him to pull my body back against his. Basking in this and the lies. But really? Who the fuck am I kidding! He's not supposed to "Let me go," I whisper, even as his lips trace over my bare shoulder and tremors rack entire body, my core clenching with pleasure. God, that's nice. Every single day has been nothing

His breath is hot on my neck, his lips trembling as they trail toward my ear. "No, they won't. I've been loving you so much. Every bit of pain with you gone."

Lar," I seethe, pushing against his ironclad grip, even as he tightens his arms and lifts me off my feet to bury his face in my hair. "Stop it!" I whimper, struggling against him, my feet flailing in the air. But I'm only half fighting him, because it feels so much like heaven for him to hold me. It's a tentative attempt at best.

"That's right," he coos next to my ear. "I'm a lar," Stepping back, he wraps me around and we fall onto the bed where he pin me beneath him, holding my arms above my head with each of his hands. "But I'm not lying about that I've had nothing but reports from the moment you left me in my driveway. You were right, Margo isn't my mate," he admits, his gray eyes falling over my body so slowly that for a moment I forget to fight him. Every inch of me heats where we touch and I'm melting against him like warm butter. His muscular thigh pushes between my legs. "You are my mate. But you knew that. You knew." He groans, pressing his hips into mine, his erection grinding into my thigh

I grit my teeth, glaring at him as my eyes fill with tears. "I thought I did, but you told me it wasn't true. You told me she was your mate!" I spit, bucking against him and trying to shove him off me. You said you were going to marry her."

He flinches, closing his eyes at my words. "Damn it, I know. And I'm sorry. Please don't cry," he says, taking a deep shuddering breath. "It was hard enough to watch the first time.

"Let me go," I whisper, going slack beneath him. My eyes trail over his neck and that glorious tangle of hair that peels under the top of his shirt. I want to taste it so badly my mouth is watering

I don't want to," he whispers, leaning forward to press his forehead against mine. "I need you Draven. So much

"Why admit it to me now! I his "Because I'm pregnant?"

jaw clenches, "No, baby. I've needed you from the moment you left. Had you gone to Miami like you were supposed to, you would have known that the very same

His hands release my wrists and he props himself up on one elbow to gate down at me while he strokes my face with his free hands

I place both of my hands on his chest, ignoring the exquisite feel of his muscles against my palms. I told you I loved you and you sent me away," I reminded him. To get off me. Please"

1/3

Chapter Eighty-Four

He sighs, his hips hovering over mine for what seems like forever before he grunts and propels himself off of it it will never be

My chest is heaving as I leap from my bed and anal, "Not your decision to make. I do always reject you

"you"

For the first time since I've known him, I see true fear in the gray of his eyes. "What you wouldn't, he says, his voice goes

No. I wouldn't. But he doesn't get to know that right now, I refuse to admit it. Not

all the pain he put me through to

He steps toward me slowly, walking around the bed to block the door. It would kill me," he says, his face tracking shipping at the ache around my heart. I would die."

You don't know that," I say

He nods, his throat bobbing as he struggles to speak. "Yes I do"

I shake my head, relenting. "I don't want to reject you, Domonic. But I'm not ready to forgive you wither."

This time, his smile is wide and bright and everything Domonic "So what you're saying is that there is

A chance at what?!

"A chance that you'll forgive me?" He whispers, his eyes locking on my bare stomach

I look in irritation, scowling

fully. "You should have just been straight with me. I might have understood."

He nods, clenching his fists at his sides. When his eyes meet mine, there is so much sadness in them that I almost reach out for him. I've never seen him look so miserable. I knew you were going to hate me and I did it anyway. I chuckle darkly, crossing my arms over my chest. I don't hate

He studies me. "But you don't love me anymore, either."

Yes I do you fucking idiot Yes, I do. But instead of saying so, I opt for a change of subject. "Were going to have a baby

"We?" He questions, his gaze going hopeful.

I nod. "Of course, we. I'd never keep my child from his father." Then, just to be a bitch, I add, "You can visit him here whenever you want

Visit him?! Him?" He says incredulously.

I've developed the strangest time for new meat" I

I nod, smiling for the first time since he walked through the front door. "My senses have gotten stronger and I've informed. "Your dad says that means I'm having a boy. A shifter."

He laughs, "So you don't miss Port Orchard?"

"Oh I do. I definitely do, but would you allow me to go

back right now if I wanted to

His jaw tightens and I can see the answer in his eyes. "It's still safe yet," he says with a sigh

That's what I thought you would say," I hiss. "So maybe it's best if we cut this visit short"

He shakes his head, "You just don't understand."

"Then make me understand, Domenic! I snap. "Or at least try today"

He's on me faster than I can blink. Ripping me into his arms and dipping his head in to nibble at my throat. I can try, but his tongue darting out to my skin as I tremble in his arms.. 2/3

Chapter Eighty-Four

Fuck, it feels so good and I really don't want to stop him, but I know I have to. "Stop whimper. Please. I'm not ready yet."

He freezer, lifting his mouth toward the shell of my ear to whisper, "Okay, fine. But time, before he steps back, a sexy dimpled smile on his face. I know you still want

1 jerk back, glaring at him. That's disgusting. Domonic,"

not leaving this place until you are." his arms tighten around me one more I can smell you."

Tit He says, biting his lip. "I just thought you should know. It's

use pretending you don't want me inside of you, when I can tell that you do"

I should slap him. I'm contemplating doing just that when a chorus of growls and streams erupt from outside and we both head for the front door. Through the front window I can see two wolves tearing up Gabriels yard across the street. "What the fuck is going on out there?" 1 hiss, but I think I already know.

Perhaps telling Emily what Gabriel said wasn't such a good idea after off.

Because I'd recognize that huge black wolf anywhere, even if Emily wasn't shouting at him.

That's Kods and the other woll, the smaller gray one... is probably Gabriel.

Oh fuck.

Chapter Comments

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

[1,830 words]

he Pack: Rule Number 1- No Mates Chapter Eighty-Five

DRAVEN

I tumble toward the front door, stopping sheet when Domonic snatches me by the waist. He slides his hands over my stomach, wrenching me away from the foyer and into his

arms once again. Flipping me around, he slams his lips down on mine quickly before I can protest. Forcing my mouth open, he plunges his tongue behind my lips, a low grumble reverberating deep within his chest. Every thought in thy head dissipates and before I realize exactly what I'm doing. I'm kissing him back. Moaning into his mouth as his hands clamp down over my ass and reel me in the chaos of all that's going on outside, lading into the backdrop. breathless when he pulls away to look down on me with a wicked grin. He sets me aside. "You stay right here. I'm the Alpha, and I will handle it."

I watch him, speechless as he undresses right there in my living room. My eyes down over his body, athering to the sculpted golden flex of his muscles, then outlining the extravagant decorative ink across his shoulders, before finally landing on the swing of his beautifully crafted, semi-hard cock. "You're still not forgiven," I gasp, and he chuckles. My throat closes and I marvel at every inch of bare flesh hreveals before leaping out the front door before shifting in mid-air with a crack of muscle and fur. He's so fucking sexy. The bostad Ignoring his command for me to stay put, I step out onto the porch. Watching in absolute fascination as he inserts himself between both snarling wolves. People have gathered along the street and out on their porches to gak at the wildness taking place in the glaring sun of broad daylight Emily catches my eyes and stumbles toward me looking guiltier than she should. She is carrying what looks to be Roda's boots and clothes and smile to myself despite the seriousness of the situation. "It's my fault," she whimpers, as we watch the three of them circle. Hackles raised and fur bristling.

I shake my head at her. "No, its not." It's mine. "Is that Gabriel?" I ask, even as I'm neang the shredded Armani suit that stretches across his yard. He must have shifted right there on the spot

She nods, "Yes. He's bleeding. We need to stop this!

"Who's bleeding?" I can't see

can't see any blu

blood, at leas

at least not on Koda.

"Gabriel "she whispers, pointing toward his wolf's left hind leg, where sure enough, a long pash has his fur coloring a deep, dark red.

I chuckle, "What a shame." Take that you gossiping mongrel

I watch Domonic as he snaps his magnificent jaws at the pair of them, growling and snarling something I do not understand. I wonder if he's speaking to them." I say

curiously. Roda and Gabriel lower their heads, stretching their necks toward Dominic in a way that has me grinning like a fool. Domenic's auburn wwf is -

Footsteps soural on my right and my gaze fixates on a young boy with large frightened eyes. "K-Koda!" He shouts, his voice laced with worry.

Rodas head swivels in our direction and I could swear I hear him whine before the beautiful beast saunters away from the crowd toward where we stand on the porch. He rushes toward the boy and the two of them fall against each other in a tumble of fur and legs. The boy is laughing, giggling really and Koda is doing the one thing I never thought I'd see him do. He's licking the boy's face. Okay, shade. Toon Time for you to shut back

I wonder how long it takes to get used to this sort of thing. I comment, before Koda's head snaps up and his wolf glares at me. I flip him off with a smile.

Who are you kid?" I ask the boy who cant be more than ten years old.

The kid smiles, his dark blue eyes twinkling.

In she

Holy

Koda's brother,"

I wonder how many of the others have family here in this place. "Well tell your brother to go inside and humanity" please. In Em's room, not mine."

Koda growls at me for a moment, stepping past me and into the house, with Emily on his heels. I wonder if she got to see him naked...

"You're the new ma that everyone's talking about at school, aren't you?" Ryder says, beaming up at me from the grass.

Here we go with that word again. Luna Heaven help me. "I-I don't know, I think-"

"Yes, she is," Domonic says, sauntering past me, the naked muscles of his ass winking at every female on the street.

1 glance around. Gabriel is gone. Probably went inside to lick his wounds. But the crowd of onlookers still remains and if I thought they were going to be bothered by the made of a few minutes ago, I was wrong. They look odily pleased. As if something for them has changed for the better and I can't imagine what. The females

Chapter Eighty-Five

though the young women

the street, tury hook a little

cinated. They lack hungry and I have a feeling I know who for filt

"Come inside kid," I say belone spinning mound to glare at Domonic's half naked fo it. His shoes and shirt still litter the floor, kyler walks in behind me and I steer him Toward the follway. Emily stands mitside of her bedroom doen, bei back against

at the talde. "Kola will far out in a secund,' I say tipping my heal lier thumbs nereely, Arally? Why didn't the go in and help

They Ryder, how have you been?" Domonie s voice grabs my attention anyway In

I'm happy to see that he is feally weating his shirt. Well, not hapur Mor

Ryder shrugs, staring at the floor. "Okay I gorss. Are you guys finally here.

ere to stay?" tanks, the hope in his voice, barely contained.

Domonie x jave clenches, his brow fummwing. "Not quite buddy. But well definitely be around more.

Ryder's face falls in disappointment, but his joy is back the moment Kola steps out the hallway to weap him in a hug. The sight warms my heart and 11 smiling at Domsonic despite the fact that I'm pissed at him.

"1

was on my way to school when I saw you attack Gabriel," Hyder says w

ps when Koda relears him. "Are you going to be i

here when I get out?"

I find myself

Every pair of eyes in the room lands on Domonic, "We're staying the week," Domanic say.

"The week?!" [Snap, ignoring the happy whoops coming from Kesla's brother in the kitchen. "Like the whole week?"

Domenic Bushes his dimples. The whole week, he says, grinning. Provided we call here'-he pauses, winking-with you."

Yes!" Hyder says, hugging his brother again before racing toward the door. He gazes up at me aderingly and I can't help but blush. "Can I come meer right after

000

my waist in a bac

"Of course you can," I say, gasping as the boy throws his arms around my waist

"Thank you Lana," Hyder gushes and refrain from correcting him to avoid wasting more time. I'm not a complete jerk. I can wait until the kid leaves... then I'm

"Wait a second," Koda says to his brother. "Dom, tous me the keys so I can drop him at school."

"Oh, you can take. Dom with you," I say retly, ignoring the devilish smirk on Domenic's face as he hands Koda his korps,

not done talking

"No," Domonic whispers, leaning next to my ear. "Were in

"The hell if we're not, I hissed between clenched teeth.

Koda follows Ryder outside, then as if he's just lost a battle with himself, he turns around. "Are you coming. Emily?"

"M me?" Emily asks shyly, her face the color of a ripe tomato.

"Yes, you" Roda says. "We're not done talking either."

Koda reaches out, taking her hand and I swear I see her trembling as she steps out fren. She grants me a dazzling smile before shutting the door and unce alone with Domonic. ece again, I'm

"So tell me," Domonic coos from behind me, his beeath Gening hot across the side of my face. "Who did you dress like this for? His hands slide up the outsides of

thighs slowly, dipping into the bottoms of my shorts to trace circles along the cleft of my ass. "Because it better not have been Gabriel"

I stiffen, fighting against the urge to moan and lean back against his delicious body. As it is, I'm not putting up a very strong front. I'm supposed to be punishing this prick and I'm losing my touch. Tikant normally wears as much for him," I say sidely. He prefers ng naked." That may have been a very stupid thing to say

Domonic's hands still, the bit touch of his fingertips causing gooseflesh to pop about my skin. "You better be joking," he growls out.

2/3

Chapter Eighty-Five

I use his temporary paralysis to step away from him and turn around. I'm lying, nothing." I admit, walking into the kitchen to start a pot of coffee. "I did dress like this for anyone but myself, I lied yet again. Then I glance back at Domonic to see his attention frozen on something on the other side of the glass. Or rather. someone, Gabriel is freshly dressed and walking across the street toward my house. Oh shit. He probably thinks Domonic left

I try to step toward the front door but Domonic is much too quick. He's positioned behind the door and out of view of the window before Gabriel even steps onto my lawn. "Domonic," I warn him, speaking as loudly as I can. "Don't do anything that's going to cause trouble for me here." All I can do is hope that Gabriel heard me talking. I don't really like the idiot anymore, but I don't need any new enemies either. Especially if Domonic will be gone in a week. But I remember Adam saying these cottages were all built pretty thick and drenched in some sort of fire barrier pi

Domonic glares at me, his hand on the doorknob as he waits for the knock that we both know will come. And... it does. Fuck me.

Domonic opens the door with a satisfied smirk. "Can I help you, Gabe?"

Gabriel startles, his face a mask of indignant rage. "Alpha," he spits angrily. His eyes flat over Domonic's shoulders to land on me. "I was hoping to have a word with

Draven."

"She's busy. Anything you need to say to her, you can say to me. I'll pass on the message."

"I'm not busy," I snap, stepping forward.

"Yes," he argues. "You are."

"I'll come back another time," Gabriel hisses quietly.

No, you won't," Domonic commands, his gray eyes lighting with a swirl of golden color. "My father told me about your... inquiries. Asking after my mate." Domotic chuckles, stepping forward and forcing Gabriel to take a step back. So I thought you should be the first to know." Damonic continues, his voice low and deadly. The decided to accept my position as your Alpha, after all,"

I can't help but gasp. What?!?

Chapter Comments

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12

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The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

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The Pack Rule Number 1 No Mates - Billionaire One 86

[1,819 words]

Chapter Eighty-Six DOMONIC

The Bash of anger I see rising in Garbiel's eyes makes me want to press him further. But I can't yet. Now's not the time. Im here alone with heaven, the way I wanted to be

and I have a few things I need to make clear to her before she tosses me out on my ass. "Is that se" Gabriel chirps, looking beyond me toward Draven. And have you told the council of your decision?

Don't you worry about what I've told the council and what I havent. I mile, leaning in to whisper in his ear, "Just be sure to keep fifty feet away from my mate at all times. Or I will rip your fucking throat out." "You will learn, we do things differently around here," Gabriel whispers, stepping back toward the sidewalk with a glare.

The lack of will you little shit. I make a point of watching him as he retreats across the street to lock his front door before driving toward town hall. I've never liked His mother died a year before mine did. In a boating accident that claimed here as well as his sisters. Gabriel was twenty-four at the time and it was never really made clear to me what happened. But as far as I knew, his father had been somehow blamed for the incident and was banished from the pack. I was only seventeen at the time, so I wasn't really privy to all the details. But I remember my mother crying over the loss of her friend for days. I also remember, that Gabriel didn't. Maybe he just isn't the sort to openly grieve...or maybe he's a fucking sociopath.

m going to have to remember to ask my father about that incident. For some reason, it seems important

Is this the only cottage that was available?" I ask without turning around. I don't want Dreven this close to the bastard if I can help it

e snaps, lifting a steaming mug of coffee toward her plump round lips. Im not moving, even if it isn't."

I sigh and turn around to lock the door behind me. Pulling out my phone, I text Koda and tell him not to return until I call him. I need to be alone with Draven a little longer. When I slide my phone back in my pocket, I notice her eyeing me. Her gute is hot and alive and I burn everywhere it touches. I can still smell her arousal, however not as urgently as before. She really is fighting this. "Can I have somu?" I ask, walking toward the kitchen to take the mug out of her hands.

"Help yourself," she snorts, leaning back against the counter to glare at me as I sip her coffee. I can feel her studying me as I pass her mug back to her and grab one of my own. "Did you fuck her?"

I flinch, hiding a smile as I pour the coffee. I know who she's talking about, of course I do, but it's been awhile since I've watched her lose her temper. "Did I fuck who?" I tease, taking a deep drink and burning my tongue in the process.

"You know who, Demonic." She snaps, then with a roll of her eyes she stomps away from me. Fuck this, I don't want to play your games."

"No," I answer, watching the sway of her hips as she stalks toward the front door. "Of course not. Ever since the day you walked into the bar, my dick only stands for

She laughs, staring out the window like she's waiting for Koda and Emily to save her from talking to me. "Of course," she chuckles. "You say that like you expected me to know better."

"Draven," I start, placing the cup on the counter and making my way toward her. Her long black hair sways seductively over her ass as she spins on me.

"Stop!" She says, her eyes filling with tears. "You don't get to throw me away one day and pick me up the next. I'm worth more than that"

"I know," I admit, taking a seat on the sofa. "Can you at least sit with me and allow me to try and explain?"

"You never wanted me," she goes on, ignoring my question. "And I knew that, From the moment I met you, I knew you were going to hurt me. And you did. My heart_clenches painfully as the tears escape her sparkling green eyes. "Even after everything I told you about myself! Everything we went through together." She hisses, "None of it made any difference. You treated me like a fucking weakness. Something you needed to hide. That you were too afraid to protect." She chuckles humorlessly, piping the tears from her face. "Margo was just the fucking icing on the cake. And now you think, because you've realized your mistake - that you can just pop into my life and take over."

My jaw clenches. She's right. That's exactly what I was hoping to do. "Are you going to tell me that it didn't hurt you to be away from me?"

She shakes her head, taking a seat on the far side of the couch. Of course it hurt. But not any more She shru 1 got used to it, Domani, You will too

than it did when you ripped me to pieces in front of that bitch"

1/3

Chapter Eighty Six

my hands I decide to tell her the whole truth. I am an asshole and a piece of shit. I used Margo to make you hate me.

bead in trattation, I mach across the couch to force her into my arms and onto my lap. Locking my arms around her, I hold her close to my chest. The did the night she told me about ber stepfather. "You don't understand, Draven My mother was murdered and she wasn't the only one." I say, garing up into her

I have to find out what happened. I have to know who killed her."

a't you understand how afraid I was to...." I swallow thickly, choking back the sob that always comes when I speak of my mother. I close my eyes. I my vernance. Leaning my head back on the couch. I release my hold on her. I dont want to speak about it anymore. I can't, I host didn't want to

I feel her get up off my lap and step away from me. Suddenly my entire body is cold and my heart thumps with new pain. She really

I am try to forgive you. Domenic," whisper Draven and my eyelids Etter open to watch her from across the room. But its going to

take

time

(you, baby," I shudder. "More than I ever imagined I would."

I don't know if I belie that Domotic. I'm going to need you to prove it."

staring at the bare expanse of her legs. I want them locked around my waist tonight while I bury myself inside of her heat. My dick is growing tably stiff as I sit here and The fare of her eyes tells me she has noticed. "I want you, Draven. Bad." and I can see in her eyes that she wants me to. My body has been aching for her for a fucking month and I need to feel her all around me. She down on her lip as she approaches. "I don't think"

I beg "hat let me touch you." I whip my shit off, knowing that the sight of my naked chest might make it a little harder for her to say no- especially with Shing I've been doing at home and the heat in her eyes tells me I'm on the right track. nd you get be?" She says throatly, her yes perusing my body shamelessly

father says from the kitchen and I use the fact that I didn't think in lock the back door. I noticed that too

"Fucking bell," I hiss. "Do you ever knock?"

Put your clothes on Domonic," my dad says. "Gabriel was good enough to stop at Town Hall on his way to the city and inform me that you've decided to accept your position. I cant tell you how happy that makes me." Motherfucker. I cant even bend forward to reach for my shirt because my balls feel like ten pound weights and he's talking about positions. "That's why you decided to

trupt what was about to be a very good morning?

Dave Laughs, flipping me off behind my dad's head. "Thanks Adam Saved by the bell. And Fil Domonic, your dad doesn't have to kork. Ever."

dad says, flopping down on the couch next to me and snickering at my obvious discomfort. "What's the plan? Are they coming up this afternoon, or w? Because I can push the ceremony back as "Wait!" I stop him. "What the fuck are you talking about?"

Draven scolds. "I really appreciate it if you'd watch your language in front of Adam

Servously? The fuck?

wanting to argue with the object of my erection. "What are you speaking of, father dear?"

Chapter Eighty-Six

Drawn gurgles, falling into fits of laughter as she pours my dad some coffee.

"The others," my dad says as if it should be obvious. For you to take your rightful place as Alpha, the rest of the pack needs to be here to witness the ceremony."

"The ceremony?" I repeat. "You were serious about that shit?"

Domonic Draven warns

"Sorry baby," I apologize with a smirk, loving the way she glares at me. It's fiercer than it is angry and I feel a surge of relief just with her playfulness.

"They need to be here Domonic. They are the closest thing you have to brothers and each and every one of them is a stronger wolf than any that reside here," my dad says, his eyes shuttering with worry.

"I already told you," I remind him. I can't make this my permanent home. Not yet."

"I understand that much Domonic, I know that! He snaps. 'Alphas go off on business trips all the time. As long as you can make your visit here a monthly habit, nobody should make waves. That's not what worries me

Then what is it?" I whisper, sensing there is more than just a play for power at stake.

Try and understand-all a lot of the wolves we have merged with here are keen on tradition. The old ways. Gabriel champions them. He has their support!" My father sighs, I know he said he wouldn't challenge you for Alpha, but I'm afraid he will the moment you leave, One of the twelve should be here at all times, to defend your position, should he make a move in your absence Fuck. I hate poties. "Or did you forget who rules when no Alpha or Beta is present My dad asks, taking a deep drink of his coffee. "The Luna does."

Shit, He's right. I can't leave her and my unborn baby without protection. She'll need a bodyguard. A woll I know and trust. One of us twelve. Till have them here by Jonight

Chapter Comments

10

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[1,710 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1- No Mates Chapter Eighty-Seven

DRAVEN

63%

tongon is my attempt to allow Demonic and his dad their private comeration. I kone they wouldn't mind my butting in, but I'd much before they remember I'm standing here and center their words. Aside from that, I'm going to have to get away from Domunic tr at least a moment or two - so that I may make a private phone call. Bart will nevilto know

what's going on here. I don't want to accidentally hurt him in some way. I'm pretty positive that Domonic has figured out who sent us here, but I won't admit it until I've spoken with Bart. And their discretion

toward the upcoming vermons, I tune them out and whip get my phone to text Em

where are you guys? I need you to head back here ASAP I know how much more alone time I can bear before I hop back on that pony

LOL We're at the

anover. At a furniture store of you can believe it. Roda says we're supposed to be killing time. For what? I don't know. I think your pony

than likes. Adam is here and they're talking about some midnight ceremony that's supposed to take place tonight. So about Roda...?

The rumors Gabriel spread about me being loose. One minute he and I were walking and talking, enjoying the breeze along the path and the next minute he was barking out of the woods toward Gabriel's house to confront him. Did Koda say to him?

Not entirely sure, but I did hear the word mate. Koda hasn't said anything else about it, so I can only hope he claimed me.

What he marked you?

Emily-

No. And I don't think he's planning to. He almost kissed me. At least, I think he was going to, but that's when he got Domonic's text.

Well, of course, Domonic strikes again.

"Who are you texting?" Domonic asks from the couch.

Shit: Sipping my phone in my back pocket I flip Domonic off "I need to walk to the market to get some more beef. You guys can finish up this conversation while I'm gone." I say, grabbing my purse from the hall closet: Domonic chuckles, "Oh no you don't. If you're walking-I'm walking"

I glare at him, rolling my eyes heavenward as I make for the front door. "Imperfectly capable of shopping alone, thanks.

copter Eighty-Seven

Domonir leaps from his seat, grabbing his shirt off the floor and putting it back on. I'm going. I need to see the grounds anyway. Meet a few of my... subjects.

Adam rolls his eyes, standing and straightening his tie as he does. "Heaven help us. Please try and take this seriously Domonic. He turns toward me with a wavering

1. I.e. "You should pick out a dress for tonight. You will need to be appropriately dressed for the ceremony"

"Why? It's not for me," I snort.

Domonic and Adam exchange a wary look. "You"-Adam says-are precisely who it's for

You've got to be kidding me "What?" me, my back going rigid straight. "How is that? I thought it was for Domonic?!"

"It is, it is!" Adam insists, walking up to me with concerned eyes. "But it is also for you and your mate, his mate." He sighs, reaching a hand out to lift my chin. Draven, I know you and Domonic aren't exactly together at the moment, but- "The hell if we were not!" Domonic snaps

Adam ignores him. "-in the eyes of the pack members, it is safest for you to at least, stay together. We must show a united front. If any of the wolves sense weakness, or upset, among you two, it could get dangerous." His eyes softened for a moment, zeroing in on my stomach before lifting his head to meet

my gaze. Especially now that you are with pup."

we

Tina, concede. For you and the baby, I'll pretend we are a happy couple."

Adam grins, grabbing me in a fatherly hug. Over his shoulder, Domonic is silent as a tomb and what I see in his face has my heart stuttering. He looks... vulnerable. His brow furrowed as if he's in pain. A solemn quiet seems to have settled over him and I have to shake the guilt that washes over me. I guess my sins have upset

We welcome to the club asshole.

Domonic, when the rest of the boys arrive, we'll need to meet in Town Hall before the ceremony. There are a few things we'll have to go over first," Adam informs, him. "What time should we expect them?"

Domonic is still staring sadly at the ground when he answers. They should be here around six. His eyes lift toward mine and a barely perceptible frown turns his

Adam nods, the only smiling face in the room. I'll see you then. Take care of my grandpup," he says, before stepping outside and leaving the two of us alone

"Are you ready?" I ask, pulling my keys out of my purse and placing my hand on the doorknob.

Ready? He asks, with a shake of his head.

"To walk to the store. I remind him. 3

Shit. He really looks at

Its eyes lift to mine. Yes. Of course,"

We leave the house and hit the sidewalk. The late morning sun is high in the sky, baking my skin with a soothing heat despite the beginnings of a winter chill in the air. Strangely enough, I m not at all cold in what I'm wearing. My body seems to be running hot these days and I'm curious as to whether or not it has to do with the pregnancy. Oddly enough, Domonic walks quietly beside me, all of his earlier bravada gone with the wind. Neither of us speaks until we hit the main drag, passing the school and the hospital on our left as we head into the marketplace at the center of townL

How often do you walk alone? Domonic asks, eyeing a few young wolves that have stopped to stare at us from various comers of the block.

"Everyday," I answer with a smirk. "I like to walk. You know that."

'I'm going to buy you a car."

I don't drive," I whisper, shoving his arm with my shoulder.

I'm going to teach you before I lerve," he says.

And why does the thought of his leaving burn fresh pain into my chest? I knew he was going to. "Back to Margo" I can't help but stipe

He spins on me, snatching me by both arms and forcing us to a stop in front of there. "Look at me, Driven." I shake my head, my lip trembling and shattering iny previous attempts at remaining alool "Look at me!" So I do, ignoring the looks of her patrons as they enter and exit the store on each side. His eyes are heavy-

2/3

Chapter Eighty-Seven

lidded the gray irises wirling with n

"What?" I his through clenched teeth.

with doubt - aT

simply and for some reason those two little words said right now, while my mind is swirling with the familiar scent of him, and my heart is heavy it takes for me to cry Hot, silent tears stream from my eyes and in a shuddering Breath as he pulls me against his body. Baby Fork" I lean against his chest, burying my face in his shirt while I work to control my emotions. Fucken pregnancy sucks. When did I tum into such a weak little crybaby? His arms close around me and as much as I hate to admit it, they are exactly what I need. The warmth of his hands as they stroke my back, Ells me calm and my tears run dry. I whimper into his chest. "I want never to have to think about her agai. Never. I want you to take the memory I have of her one of my head. Take it and bury it somewhere far and deep."

He presses a kiss to my temple and whispers, I wish I could baby, I do, I wish like hell I hadn't done things the way I did. I don't want to pretend with you. I want my baby back." He sighs, pulling away from me to look down into my eyes. The best I can do is go home, actually kill her, and bring back her head for you to bury

My body finches, my eyes narrowing. "W-What

He smiles, those deep dimples that I love flashing across his beautiful face. I'm dead serious. That's how little she meant to me

dirk an eyeboom. "Let's try not to be ridiculous."

He laughs, phing me in one more time to whisper in my ear. "I swear to God I'd kill her if you asked me to. And that... is exactly how dangerous you are."

invisible light bulb flashing bright over my head as we stand apart and enter the store. Ignoring all the strange looks we get from shoppers a till have that apartment in Miami? The one you wanted to send me too

Domonic is chin, narrowing his eyes at me suspiciously, I do. But I've decided that's too fucking far. That place is no longer on the table for you"

Í laugh, shaking my head. This hot. "Not for me, I say. Scouting at him as we head for the butcher. "Margo."

"Margo?" He quips. "What do you mean?"

Silly limle man, are you really that clueless? "If she really means nothing to you," I challenge. Then send her fat ass to Miami in my place." and clerku. 1

There are

nice for her

dimples again. A sly smile spreads across his lips as he leans forward and nibbles my ear before whispering. "I bought that place for you. It's way too

I shove him away with a glare. "Good, then maybe she'll stay there forever."

He nods, crossing his arms over his massive chest, "Okay, done. What do I get in return?"

I can't help the laugh that erupts from my chest with his nerve. "You get to sleep on my couch tonight instead of my porch."

He shakes his head, his gaze traveling over me slowly as he bites his lip. Leaning into me, his hands cup my ass and pull me into his hips so that I can feel the rock

in your bed tonight." hard girth behind his jeans. "No baby, it's been a whole damn month since I've tasted you. In

I smirk, thinking of all the ways I can torture him. We'll just see about that.

Chapter Comments

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

[1,033 words]

Chapter Eighty-Eight

DRAVIN

Demonic A silty feminine voter sounds a Dominic

I push against his chest to peer behind him and the sight

bothers me: What I don't lie is the plane she's giving me in phrase dispiral one of my being.

whispers, studying my features before taming word

hours, jumping forward to the owl

You've got to be kidding me

m Dominica shoulders an be net

up on him. Het dark brown gar Exudes on me and k

I'm sure he can tell how I'm beris

at toward the back of the turke :

to go ahead and in ever be

an, Demooict I want to talk

Tanya tuo an pick out several choice cars of steak

It head in their direction, bell benton latening to myself not to turn around and colect my selections from the butt,

● boss. Like a physical presence, in

esses into me from behind to soutie ma

bear nothing a blot of

"I take those for you, baby, Domonic's voice in low and breathe at be reaches an

I mest look relieved, because the dimplied smille be given.

and the kaloury from my syste

Hemmirin, taking one of my hands in his and tugging toward the debut counter. des.

So long in you understand that I will be

"Uh-huh," I grumble, stratbilly glancing around in search of Mos Tama. The more camusudly crowded this munting and I wonder if that mything in die wo

Domonic chuckles, side-eyeing me as we step into line befund a couple tocing a fir

Hes the new Alpha I hear some

"What he doing with her?" Somebody rhr seyn.

My brow furrows in aritution, my pui bwening to Placing the meat on the conyor belt, be woups

ing sigh. The pur of Den

prond is a newfound doceffe Dumont bizan,

insecurity to feeling. I'm

on I don't belong here a

vich, wondering at this any shipped stars or suspicious onlooker. They were nice to me?
Whers dumped? V

We pay for the groceries and step into the cool crisp moting hand in land. The num
window slides down to sewal £nllys

1/3

Chapter Eighty-Eight

been feeling horribly emotional the past few days and I wonder if females

- subanj hem at worse than normal butun mothers do. Maybe the hond changes in my
body are fucking with my Chi. That must be what it is. sandr kann somienna exclly
pushed around and the old Depren would ban answered those noseey shoppers inside
the more with a big unforgiving smile

Tu

Koda leight, pulling ontours and

Dhenonie says, diding his body closer

and throwing his arm around my shoulders. It's thick and packed with

I alare up of him. She hasn't changed."

the domary in front of the cottage. Im led to see Gabriels car is still gone and most of my
neighbors seem

-market. I'm not feeling up to the sting of prying eyes.

sar before we braded to the store. "I forbid to get a

whispers. "Emily picked it out

I use my lips, thinking that there's a

tas of difference between her tastes and my own. "Whose idea was that?"

ked something you would like. Its tight and spandex and everything Draven." She wiggles her eyebrows. "Talu got ya little something

Domonit tons, his jaw going tight with annoyance. I better beatser."

Hozzle, giving Emily an approving nod. She meets my eyes in the side-view mirror and catch her silent squeal of excitement that says she has something she dying to tell me. The two of us tumble out of the car and head straight for the house, leaving the boys in the driveway

Studying the street and the rows of cottages, I join Koda behind my car, unlocking the trunk when he passes me the keys. This pack is a lot bigger than ours was, comment, counting at least twenty homes on this street alone. I'm still not clear on how this happened." Koda nods and for the first time I notice the dark purple hickey fading out at the base of his throat. He notices me staring and clears his throat, his face coloring with something that looks like a blush. "What fuck are you gawking at?" He hisses, fighting a smile as he reaches into my trunk for five different bags.

1 chuckle, shaking my head before taking a seat on my bumper to stare out into the hills behind the town. "I don't want to live here," 1 admit, changing the subject th

I honestly have been trying to ignore.

Koda sighs, "Our lives are in Port Orchard."

I want Draven safe," I whisper. "I want my baby, safe

Kotlinches, his gaze widening as he takes a seat next to me. "Baby?"

I not, surprised that Emily didn't spill the tea herself. Maybe that girl's alright after all "We're keeping it on the down for now. My dad says it coedd pose a problem should the pack find out beloer they've had time to accept Deaven as their Luna." 1, she's not their Luna," Koda snipes possessively. "She's our Luna."

"Well,

I sigh, "Our fathers built this place, Koda. They built it for us. Or didn't you get that fum our moting when we first got here."

Th

mean we have to accept," Kuda points out

"I know." Shaking my head, I per over my shoulder to make certain the girls are still de. They are. "But we have to at least for now. I refuse to endanger Draven's liff again. I know we came here to bring them home, but with a baby on the way I changed my

mind." Roda begins a steady tap of his foot that tells me he's barely holding his frustration in check. 'T'd hate to take Emily away from Draven. They're good for each other?

Of they're going to separate, I chide him. For tonight at least, I want to be alone with Draven. And I think you need to be alone with Emily too."

2/3

Chapter Eighty-Eight

Roda stands to face me, his dark blue eyes falling serious. "About Rainier's sister" He trails off.

I shake my head, wagging my finger in front of me so that he remains quiet. "I don't think Rainier knows she's out here. Last he heard, she and her mother joined some park in Colorado"

He groans, "Well someone ought to tell him before he gets here tonight. And what about Draven? Does she know about-

"No." I snap. "It's too soon. She still hasn't totally forgiven me and if I tell her about Tanya right now-it will only make things worse"

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[1,760 words]

DOMONIC

What do you mean you're not coming? I hiss into the phone as quietly as I can. After Koda and I unloaded the Hummer, I took off into the woods to make

of private phone calls. One of which was threatening to cost me my new phone. Forcing myself to gentle my grip on the damn thing. I take a deep calming breath. "Give the order. We are all to be present for this thing."

"If I go... and I have to see that bitch and her spoiled brat of a daughter, I'll unload a home of her bullets into each of their heads," Rainier spits. "7 mean, fuck. Domenic! Who are they living with??? My dad?"

I sigh, massaging my temple as a headache threatens to surface. I don't know. When Tama ambushed me in the store, Draven was with me. I didn't want to be talking to be.

Kainiet chockles. Good. I hope Draven kills her."

"Well, Draven is the one

- one who need you here. Not me. My dad says this is the best way to keep her safe in my absence and I

hast bring her the fock home, Dom! Screw that fucking dog pound they ve bail. I hear the shattering of glass before he growls into the phone angrily. Fucking - Christ; 11) do it," he says. "Il be there. For Draven. But if that bitch, or my cheating prick of a father tries to talk to me, I'll snap their necks and damn the

"Til talk to my dad. I'll tell him to keep her away from you."

I can practically see Rainier counting his bullets over the phone. And find out if my dad's the one who brought her over. Find out if he's taken her an his

I nod: I promise. But you have to get here to find out or Ill take the knowledge to the gave brother"

"Fuck you. Don'

"Once more thing," I say as I head back toward the cottage. I buried something

behind the station. Right outside the dumpeon door. I seed

What is it

1 smile to myself as approach the backyard gate leading to Dravens age. "A ring bought it for Draven the day I fucked myself I marked the spot with Shouldn't be hard to End."

Rainier laugh. "You marked it? Not with your piss I hope."

Just bring

Yn, Alphu Domonic live to

Fuck you dickhead

I hang up the phone and stomp into the backyard, catching Draven panicked gaze through the screen door. Her eyes inter me and I take a moment to relish the way it feels just for her to smile in my direction again. (happiness upon sight i

Thank God youre back. Come in She commands. "Hurry: Emily's got her frying pan out and whenever the grises it up in here I end up poking m

Then should you come out here with me? I say, smiling as she wraps herself and me. Her breasts crush against es the

ecause your scent is the only thing that secules my nausea,

That fact pleases me in the strangest way and not wanting to miss the moment, I be up into my am and,.,.,.ward her bedroom. Have you eaten yet?" I ask ben.

1/3

Chapter Eighty-Nine

spert, bet anurald gaziskating on my throat as she relaxes in the i

Tatering her bedroom, I kick the door si

slut behind me and set her down on the comt of the bed. "Good, because it's my tum."

des her frail, biting her lip

the eyes the front of my pants. "Donsonic, no, she warms, crossing her legs an

n if to deny

me what he gone to have.

Do not tell mur no, baby. Please Dropping to my knees in front of her I stroke my hands over the velvet of her legs, moaning as I sent her arousal top fighting

Emily and Koda are in the kitchen, she complains.

Then you better stay quiet," I say, smiling to myself, because despite li protests, her head has fallen back and her legs have uncrossed. Sliding my hands greedily anay die hare skin of her thighs, I move closer. Rubbing and massaging until she's laying flat on her back with her knees bent over the edge of the bed. "Fuck I've musted pin," I say, whipping her jean shorts and thing off in one notion.

the gaps, propping herself up on the be

bed with her elbows and giving me a tantalizing view of her hardened nipples through her shirt. Im not going to fuck you

Well see about that I smirk, sliding my tongue over my bottom lip as I bite down. The sight of perfect pussy in the shuttered daylight wavering from her Her window has my mouth watering, so I say nothing. Instead, I throw off my shirt and pans her back down on the bed with one hand while using the other to drag sleeveless top down over her

breasts. The sight of them frives me. They're just as perfect as I remember. My phone rings in my buck pocket, but I ignore it in that I demuldn't. Bravo in panting, her chest heaving and I lazily caress her breasts with both hands, groaning as the soft pillows of her fish tease my fingerta the closes her gyms and I rip her body closer to the edge and below my waiting mouth

"Domonio," she moans, and that's what does it

ide Gine hand toward her sex, squeezing and fondling her breasts with the othes. Dipping one finger into her soft wet beat, I'm shocked at the sturching intensity foured between her legs. She's on fire and so am E. She can say we're pretend if she wants to, but I know that were not. God I love Arr. The thought is enough te mur pause. I don't want to koe this moment. It's been more than thirty days since I tasted her and I want to savor every drop of her honey. The beauty of beer tais my Barath away as I pump one finger then two into her pussy with measured strokes. She tighter than I remember, if that's possible and the realization sends a message stranda to my balls. Fuck, I want to bury myself in her so badly my dick is vibrating for else. Her long, black hair falling over the side of the bed like a satin curtain reminds me of what I imagine a goddess to look like. Dipping my head between her silken thighs, I remove my finger and taste her greedily as I unop my pants to stroke my punishing erection

the moans, as my tongue lashes her, circling the hud of her pleasure as I choke my shaft.

"Qport," I command, my fangs slicing out. I drag the tips of them over her the center of her pleasure, tersing when she shudders against my mouth.

"Demonic," she gasps, coming up off the bed when my tongue dives into her heat, plunging over and over in perfect unison with every stroke of my td. Fuck Sh shouts and I smile against her sex, releasing my dick to take my place between her legs

My chest is leaving as I press her upward on the bed and kneel between her legs. Her eyes snap open, meeting the fire radiating from my gaze as I struke mysel

her entrance. The tip of my dick already dripping. "Please, baby," I beg. "Please.

The hot hit sparkling from her eyes and her perusal of my body has my spine tingling with need. Her hands fit the bed covers as she noch. "Okay,"

Tank fock I don't know what I might have done if she'd said no. Propping her legs up so the her knees are bent, I remain kneeling as I pump into her slowly lour with a string of curses as her pussy clenches around my shaft, milking me within the searing heat of her core. "Jesus Christ," I spit, my hands latching oman ter knees with a bruising grip and I pump in and out of her with more viciousness than I intended. I wanted to take it slow, but I don't think is possibe the raises her high, covering her mouth with her hands as I plunge deeper and deeper inside. For some mason, the sigh of her fighting to stay

silent pull me over the edge and release her knees to clutch her hips to mine as I pound into her feverishly. The moment her climax hits, her inner walls become viselike, swollen with pressure explode into a river of black starlight. My vision quivers, going dark as I roar my release. The sound bounces off the walls on an echo of pleasure and I shudder inside

her, before falling next to her still form on the bed.

We lay there, the two of us panting, my vision is still dizzy with pleasure. My fangs are aching with venom and begging to mark her again, I should have, and I would have if there had been time, but my climax came much too soon. My body was parched, dying with thirst for her and I just couldn't control myself.

I think she says between gasps I needed that

I cackle, flipping over to cover her with my body as I lean down to nip at one earlobe with my teeth. "And I think - no more pretending. We are together." Her body tenses as if she's about to argue, but I stop her by reaching down to grab her naked mound in my hand. She gasps, meeting my eye with fire in her gaze. Thus it is with me. And you can be angry with me if you want and pretend to hate me. But you are mine baby. Always"

Her lonely perceptible nod sparks a warmth that gathers in my

chest and squeezes my heart, "I know," she says, "I think I always knew."

2/3

Thu Nov

Chapter Eighty-Nine

Cher moans as she kisses me back. This time when my phone rings, I reluctantly tear myself away to whip out my phone.

She appears into the bathroom to start the shower. Washing me off, are we? I chuckle to myself, before turning my attention back

hi

How long have you now been? I've been waiting for twenty damn minutes!" Medad's voice is tired and tense with unease, I am going to need you and Kode to

...I thought we agreed to meet at me

mason we need you"

sher Wolf Pack has just arved hem."

Appanty Getrial invited him here for a

jes gold. As far as I knew. Marking Ceremonies had been banned long ago All they did was breed rape and murder. "What kind of pack still practices that

mum box and I told him that he's been misinformed. But he angry Domunic, and he isn't alone. There are twenty more wolves at our gates,"

I'm going to kill you.

Chapter Comments

11

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

[1,394 words]

Chapter Ninety

DRAVEN

The sight of Demonic missing when I step out of

shower sends a little shover thraich my heart. Where did he get Dersing turtleneck - moch like I used to wear - I stumble out of my room da kein Emily in the panden our nechers on the left side. The Hummer int per of jeans and

doveway and right

"So," Emily sports. Looks be someone give in after all."

I was an exercise in forgiveness. Nothing more, I and the look the gives me is arreck disbelief

"Oh," she says sarcastically. Twoont incare. My apologies. Lin."

shoving her playboy, 1 tum my eyes toxind the street. My cheeks heat with pleasure at the memory of my under, images of Dor

steps and walk toward the driveway. "Where did they go?"

Emily shrugs. "Town Hall. Adults called for them. They said they'd be back."

Huh Sh off the ridiculous sense of loss I felt when I discovered Domonic got down the sidewalk Someone is walking

Fucking Tau Really?

"Where's Domonic?" Tanya asks, with a haughty Little scowl. She's pretty I guess, but for damn skinny. Not a hint of a hair is cut in a fashionable bob that swooshes and shines with every little movement. What the hell are you doing here? How do you even know where I live?"

She laughs, shaking her bob and sneering at me ungraciously. "Everyone knows where the towi

The town? She's got to be kidding. I chuckle, because I know she's aiming to me mad and I refuse to give her anything she wants. Especially if in Domonic. Took, I don't know you and I don't care to. But Domonic isn't any of your business. Don't come around here again." Tanya smiles, stepping closer to me with a shake of her head. "You don't get to tell

what to do. Fake Luna"

I drop my arms close to my sides, clenching my fists and attempting to control mye to slug her across her pointy little chin. I wonder if the ma strength. They can't shift, so maybe they re just like us regular humans. But then again, they may not be, and I am pregnant, so I probably shoulder

don't want to.

Take Luna?" I chuckle. "That's cute. We'll see how fake I am after tonight."

Her eyes dilate, her body going rigid. "You must be confused, you see, I was bom to make me his Luna. If he picks anyone it will be me."

Red Wild Pack. I gave Dömsonit my virginity

Is that what he's supposed to be doing tonight? Picking his Luna? Well, its a good thing already know who he's going for. That had to have been a long because I can assure you, things have changed," I say with a chuckle, noting that Emily has Shandoned her roses to stand at my side. You prve him you taunt with a slow nod of my head. "Classic. Now, was that befine or after he led to you about mukung you tuna

Her eyes narrow into slits and I have to smile and I realize I've hit my mark. If there were Dumonic must have played her somehow in the past. But the crazy in her eyes in

tach a bitch I might pity her. I mean not stupid - wing for any sympathy

It's obvious he's been fucking you. But that's only because I left him. Now that I'm back - I'll be the obvious choice. After all, Marister and you are just some human nobody he's been wetting his dick with."

Getting a little tired of hearing that ribe. But Rainier's sister? Okay, so I wasn't expecting that. But, Jess. The mouth on this cunt!

"Some nobody?" I laugh. I'm honestly getting and with her now, it may be time to drop the bonbon her delusional au

1. "Tim ha mate." And I'm p

Her eyes grow wide, the shock causing her to flap her gums like a fish out of water. - What?! That can't be true." Her menacing blue lights with viole

The boys of Port Orchard don't take mates. You're lying!

1/3

12958 Thu, Nov 14.

Chapter Ninety

int-posed to tell anyone, but fuck it. This caked for it

"My tiep father in on the comme il

and when I find out that po are lying are both of yo

to tossed out of this town.

ubt that. His that plans to stay.

Ido. "But you do need to leave.

siden. My brody femmes, my sla

dening and I realize I may have to fight her after all.

Emily whisper. Because pas know, pro cast"

deation, keeping Tanja in my

Rose Emily holding. "Nah." I reach to my left and snatch the hose out of

And that's exactly

pile out of the cottages to boner in theu yardı. Her arıt

salır. Tanya is dripping from head to toe, her make

laid in front of her face as I attempt to drown her on the sidewalk. Once she

she spits, "You will regret that bitch. " up oozing off her face, Glaring at me,

the flash of her eyes tells me shes going to be more trouble than thought

Tanya stalk down the street. That was beautiful."

Lidat volt kaung Rainier had a sister.

welling me about her and her mother while you were by forging Donsonic-you're really loud by the way."

I chuckle, giving her a playful shove, "he one told you to listen."

"Him," the hums, flatting her lips into the quirkiest of stiles. "Right. Anyhow, Koda said Rainiers dad cheated on his mom when he was young. With a marked female from their pack who had just lost her mate. Apparently, Rainier's dad is a big el slimeball. Tanya, was a result of his infidelity."

she's his half sister?"

"Yes," Emily infams as the pair of us go back inside and fill against the couch.

Hah," I say, the wheels tuming in my head as I'm pursected with new doubts. And bere I was thinking once you go mate that's all that you date.

I mily laughs, "Everybody's different I guess. I mean I would hope so, but who knows

I wonder if the lost her mom in the fine too

Emily shakes her head. "No., Koda told me about that tou. These were only twelve families living in the pack mansion back then. The Alpha's, the Bets, and the Gammas. The Omegas lived in the back houses behind the mansion."

"Well damn," I pripr. "Tm jealous. After barely a day together, Rodas told you more than Demonic's ever family came from Drezis."

er told me." I shake my head. "So that me

means that Gabriel's

Emily shakes her head. "No. According to Koda, Gabriel's father was a Vagabond. Whatever that means."

"So Rainier's mom died and Tanyas didn't."1 remark. "I wonder if the two of them are close.

"No. Kesla says Rainier hates Tanya and her mum. That in fact, they were banished from the pack the day after the fire."

Then what the fuck is she doing Are?" My brow furrows. "I wonder who banished them. Adam, I guess."

"Actually," Emily says, "Koda said the banishment was Thomas idea. Rainier's father, Thomas

"Thomas..." I tap my chin, picturing the man's face as it was the day we met them in Town Hall. The man was sort of creepy. His eyes were strady on my boobs for half of that fint meeting. "And now she's back. I wonder if her mother is back too."

2/3 Chapter Ninety

tha fucking suit my dad made me change

"Have a seat," I tell the man who has Just been intredared to me as Alpha Michael, 1 I lâe a damn pen we got to Town Hali, my dad had two of them ready. One for me and one for Roda. Limiran, the suit fits well enough, but it s just not my style and I can tell Boda in thinking exactly the same thing. Despite that he has not said a word.

Michael and his Beta - a scrawny runt of a shifter named Rafael - take a seat across (rom Koda and mur, and the the terhe council member, wound sales at me. A cocky asshole of a gain that tells me he tends to underestimate every Alpha he meets. His eyes are a swirling hazel and his light lesen bar cropped atop his head. Like a soldier's might be. Right away, I sense a weaker energy from him. My wolf senses picking up on a lesser vibration and i my dad didn't notice it first. Michael's body is too loose, ton practiced, Il immediately know why

"You're not an Alpha," I say with a glare and the man loses ha smile. "So what the fuck are you doing here?" Chapter Comments

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[775 words]

3/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter Ninety-One

DOMONIC

The twelve councilmen around the room seemed to tense at my admonition. Michael's cocky smile wavers and Rafael begins to pant. Chuckling at the fear that fairly coats the air around them, I stand. "Who are the wolves you've brought with you?" Michael clears his throat. They are pack and fan their Alpha."

My father studies him carefully before his eyes turn toward me and he asks Michael, "How did you come to be Alpha?"

Michael glowers at me. "I was elected when Alpha Benjamin disappeared two months ago."

"Elected?" I cackle, meeting Hoda's eyes in amusement. "A mayor is elected. To be an Alpha you must either be born one, or defeat

Michurel smears at me, despite that Rafael is looking more and more nervous. "There was no Alpha left to defeat."

"What happened to his Beta? Ask smoothly, rubbing my chin as I stare at the piece of shit from across the table.

Dead," Michael says. "We found him at the edge of the woods, near the train station Timber."

I watch him carefully. From the way he taps his foot to his constant need to adjust his tie. He isn't used to wearing a suit, that much is obvious. He's even less used to it than I am

"Two months ago? Paul's father, Chase, questions ambiguously.

"I need to speak with councilman Adam for a moment, I say, standing up and gesturing for my dad to follow me out into the lobby for a moment. "We'll only be a minute.

Exiting the room as slowly as I can with my dad behind me, "Thins where is your pause-
"my office?"

I follow him down the hall on the left, ignoring the flirtatious stares I'm getting from the primarily female staff in this place as I do. Each and every female I pass seems to stop and stare at me with hearts in their eyes. But they are nothing compared to Draves and I don't so much as smile. Once we're in the office I take a cool few seconds to admire the interior. Its modern. The desk is black glass, as are the end tables between each of the four armchairs - everything else is sleek back leather unless you count the few tribal ceramics strewn along the walls. Nice enough, I guess.

"What is it, son?"

I turn my attention to him. "How long has Gabriel been visiting that joke of a pack?"

"Twice a month for three months," he says.

his eyes steady on

on mine

I nod. "Enough time for him to coince a bunch of malnourished wolves to turn on their Alpha and Bets is what I'm guessing. I groan.

My dad chuckles, "Come now, do you really think Cabriel is strong enough to defeat an Alpha wolf?"

I shake my head, "No, I don't. But I do think

ik he's evil enough to manipulate one into stepping into danger. The only way to know for sure would be for me to go down to California and see for myself"

My father has the nerve

the nerve to look impressed. "You're right.""

"How many are we?" I ask knowing that the gestion is long overdue.

"A little more than three hundred, using the females and the children, my father and I ga. "Fifty Gammas - Gabriel being one of them."

Seriously?" I stort, I want to laugh. "A ridiculous upgrade for Gabe and that's a huge number for a pack, dad."

"Not in comparison to the thousands of humans outside these walls - it isn't."

1/2

joost part I would agree with him.

dar atua du leave, then we'll luck them up"

citator, then an ver to our hand to seek justice for him. That sort of

unjust. It could have been handed a

by quede. You were safe at home with your mother

der and angry. But trust or her has good sun to be "

1 su berlace the may be las is just going to mave

wother shaven ally I cant you to have, torunác. You how at of my strength coupled with your mother's mind. She win a MURAD MATS. THE

not here for this, dad. This is not what I signed up

I need to be part of her life. Of my grannie's life. Plone, you must try

Gerband and my wythur's networy behind, but looking at him now - after all I've learned about the mate bond - Fin

Tent promior to take her way from here but can promise that if I do - you are welcome to come with w

Anandinom i test you and the other counces to one. Send someone to fetch Gabel- wherever he is- ang 14 hurts laim. tai just going to gir hún a chance to prove that he bus lupta in his blood." Chapter Comments

12

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[140 words]

2/2

The Pack Ride Number 1 No Mates

Chapter Ninety/Two

They

nyc. They

tyr the

"What?" setul proge, watching my ding with things. We to you

nanging all the chains so they int preset anta ade

cine free four

mony, not for you to question my role

na hit. For of at, Marking Centmonies have been en

Phaser Virtuel bags as Kada pres the terry for to ever side of the

emely borking the ego

didnt come here for any

the cat, trying to look nordalan

oulders, pretending bes

jour Beta and the

have to do is

1/2

Chapter Ninety-Two

I don't know

dür happen

His muscles expand and he prepares to ou

da Berumint 1 Horse I don't. The lar
cts God 1 dont & bunch of our SetLA ME
ranching Kadas limetise por dive across the men
om an Alphalt I spit, peessing into him hard enough
""When did be

Festules The Dones and Emil

Chapter Comments

11

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bark temer than be can

Sad E

the corners aher midnight

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[1,209 words]

Chapter Ninety-Three

He turns menund, panting but lewathi aral ruldông lái nick jrandeisen 1 just ripped fili donder not of its socket and his head in berging vorlessly to the left so

bably snapped ones of his stead of ding he winces sepiny. "Yes"

of all, shop acting like a pussy. Yourer a wolf and you'll beul." He utum

chút closer and lean into his ear. "If Caluiel calls your Make us you act normal - do not let on that anything has changed. But then, you call me ant to know everything that underlanded lathe hack has been doing. Understood?"

"Now if you dietten?" I smile, ma hing not to strangera lús tie. Then I will personally send a few wolves down next week to investigate your Alpha's dis

Glaa happened in your females the we have a deal?

"Lifeal," I say, nealding at Roda so he can reset the furniture. I pull my shirt back on, leaving it unbuttoned as I head for the door. "Nose, get the fuck out."

The pair of them scramble like a couple of battered school children, walking right past my dad as he steps into the room. "I'm not even going to ask "They'll be love," Lajul p, tussing him his fancy jacket at 1 glance kround at the empty Jobby. "Gabriel's been up to a hell of a lot more than just trying to steal my lshing, I have no idea. But I'm damn sure poing to find not."

"What do you want to do??)

Nothing yet

yet," I inform, glancing past him at the quiet of the lobby. "Is everyona gora?

"Yes, Let everyone petite early so they can prepare for the ceremony. There is still much to be done."

"Okay," I say with a deep sigh. Staying my dad, my bow cases with worry ty. He reath did build all this for me, but... I don't want it. I really don't. I like the way de things in Port Orchard. Were happy there - well, not without Draven - but it's still fur hegne. "Has anyone found Gabriel yet?"

+

My dad shakes his head. He's usually gone during the day. When he's not out on Park business, he works long hours at his Law Firm in Vancouver

He continues, "Gabriel has been the go between between the rest of the world and our private little town for some time now. He also spends time working in the University Lab down the street from his office."

My ears perk up and Rod and I exchange a wary look. So there really is a lab out here, I wonder what type of lab it is. "A lab? Why?"

65

He shrugs. The one thing we haven't built here yet, is a hospital. We have a small infirmary, headed up by a few of the pack females who've been studying pack medicine - but we don't always have the supplies we need. When we first colonized here, we merged with the remaining members of the Blue Ridge Pack on the other side of the mountain. They had suffered a devastating loss - much like we did for years ago and were in need of a new start. One of the Blue Ridge females, Cadence, has been

working on a degree in Genetics. Because of this she's able to order most of what we need in terms of medicine from the lab without being questioned.

1/3

Chapter Ninety-Three

"So Gabriel and this female, they're dise?"

My dad grimaces, "Well, no. Not really, Cadence despises him, but really, most of the male pruputation does. Herm the pack."

"I'd like to speak to her," I say, the wheels turning in my head as I begin to wonder if Tiedoira knows of thin spends most of his time?"

"Well, we don't follow him. Until recently, we haven't had any reason to question his jedynet, Demonic. II for one with as much responsibility as he has been given to want more of a role in Cat pack. With you and to someone from our ortonol pack that was young enough and ambitious magh to lead on that front." He s long as I did I never actually thought you'd show up."

he was pushing"

I flinch, the truth of his words hitting me harder than I'd expected them too. My dad may have run thom the memory and -but he hadn't abandoned me. Not wally. It was I who had abandoned him. Im sora did."

He smiles, the acceptance of my apology clear in his eyes. Teacher reason I'm so geful for Deaven. I'm not here I thank God for her everyday. Not only is she delight to be around, but shes ghen he a mace to bug You and ΠΕ

hart Pups

DRAVEN

"We have to make another run to the store Em!" I confirm, gazing into our virtually empty

this baby seems to enjoy and I will not be sharing it. If the guys are going to be her fodry- and Domenica snacks and God knows what else."

"Why?" Emily asks, her eyes fitting toward me from her spot on the couch where she been lounging don't have to do shit for them.

My eyes jerk toward her, my brows furrowing in silent question. But the situ

the state with me or not?"

she was just working. Titch, are you gonna walk to

She chuckles. Fine, let's go."

The two of us set off for the market with a couple of large reusable shopping bags and Doctor him know where assume that hes busy and I don't give it any more thought. If I know him like I think I do, he'll be outside the damn market he's not - it won't matter because the place is literally down the street.

Shaking of

But the moment Emily and I step into the market, a strange chill rides up my spine head wivels taking in the butting shoppers and the cler stare my way. What the fuck? Maybe I'm imagining things, but I could swear the temp paranoia, I steer Emily toward the beer aisle. One of the Gatekeepers - Jason I think his shopping cart like a college frat boy. I've only met him a few times, but he's always been nice awareness intensifies Something is wrong here.

"Hey Jason. Off work today?" I smile, hoping like a fool that I'm wrong about the looks

ine, out of uniform and stacking o

chen Emily and I approach and be

He snorts, turning to glare at me with a snarl of his lips before pushing out of the ale like his life depended on it

"What the fuck was that? Emily hisses.

"Something is wrind, isn't it?"

be it w

Emily gumbles. "Maybe it was the whole Tanya thing?"

1. d. For some reason I don't think so, no. This seems like more of a Gal

I shake my head.

"Let's just get out of here. We can send the guys back alone."

1 nod. "Yeah. Lagree. Let's go."

Wathend another word the two of us head toward the front of the door. In the back of my min

scious of the the steps. I notion the

213

Chapter Ninety-Three

pbience of clerks, the absence of worden, and the nudde

intomatic doors and they don't open. Of fuck

appestarice of males, bur

"What the hell?" Emily maps the pair of in go as far as trying to pry the fees

A voice spits next to my ear, dark and vicious, and unmistakably male. "Where the fu

Chapter Comments

KKN

OMG is it gabriel? someone else?

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

[1,133 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1-No Mates Chapter Ninety-Four DOMONIC

I'm on my way toward the restroom to change back into my regular clothes when it ime, a jolt of feat and panic that slides bet blurring my vision and causing my fangs to ache behind my gums. The intensity of the ghostlike emotions for me for a second and soiting. What the fuck? For a moment, I stumble and Kodash arm whips out to keep It's painful. My head is throbbing and there's an acute sort of pressure behind my

"What is it?" Kodash asks. "What's

on my feet. "Ah." I hiss, winding

'I don't know, I... think. L. fuck!' My body crumbles and I hit my knees. I close my eyes that I might make some sense out of what I'm feeling. Never having experienced anything from the reverberating heightened awareness that someone else is transmitting "Shit" I grow. Then I hear it. Like a breathless whisper that echoes between my

feeling the strange new emotions to wash over me, to take hold of this before, it takes me a minute to separate my physical

out, willing my body to relax so that I might ground myself

"Domonic" The voice says.

Draven. And right then I know, She needs me. She's counting for me. The girl," I spit out. Shaking off my initial discretion and tumbling with the jeans my hands until my phone drops out of my pocket. I lift it off the ground and read a text message from thirty minutes ago. Fuck. I quickly in and then tense my body so that I can feel my limbs again..

The market. They're at the market. Another surge of extreme panic foods me and arts my tongue have to get to them now!"

bling is very, very wrong. "We have to hurry," I hear. "We DRAVEN

The man's mouth bumps against mine as he presses my body against the glass door and. work to control my breathing. The voice of this brigand sounds familiar, but for the life of me I cannot place it. My heart thumping in my chest as I scan the parking lot through the glass door for any sign of Documer.

Get the fuck off of her! Emily moves to strike him, but before she can even lay her go asshole?" She screams, struggling as best she can. To be honest, I'm pretty fearless side of her Jason is quick to cover her mouth, effectively shutting

she's restrained by none other than Jason, the off-duty paid. Tet

For as pretentious as Emily turned out

never have expected that

"Hey!" I shout, barking against whatever shifter has me pressed against the glass. He ran back a step before heading to the side. Now, for me to try and see anything, I have to shift by inch and right, and my side of my head. My line of sight is basically limited to the produce face into the glass pane and twisting my

g happens to be Linear to God

"I don't think I will," he says cruelly.

1. me. They probably receptor the r

Through the windows I can barely make out the potholed fiom of a dew pack. locked in place and they cant get yet they don't leave, just umply wande don't know what happened to all the shoppers who were in bete a few minu

with heading out early. No problem for them to leave Emily and me in here with a couple of pryches, I purus. I think. to the morning - back to the ride deră who was whispering about me when Domonic and I were shopping. Somehow I know that bach is still here somewhere. Keeping the doors locked. Keeping mimjone else out of the front of the sture,

Trying for a diplomatic approach, I un, "I dont know what I've done to offend you, but you need to let Anything I've done to wrong you, we can work i

Pls just let us go"

The stranger chuckles, "You want to know what offends me? A human whore who run to a pack of shifters crying wolf, Cla

the first Alpha she comes actos. You are a fucking shua

"That's not true?" I plead. "You're making a mistake." I choke out. Then, thinking of Alpha is on his way here right now, and when he gets here - hex going to shup you the about this" Lie 1 can't wait to tell him about this- § 1 live through He chuckles. "I'm not stupid birch. The new Alpha in busy dealing

wing from her mute -

happen to these fools when Domonics out about this, I say. The twig. You should leave. It let us go and I ne I won't tell him anything

Butt Today's your lucky day. I'm not going to hurt you. Just gonna toy with you a hit, and relay a

de sure of that. He wont be com

ling to yo

hat shut the fuck up and listen - as more words of you. None," he spits. "It docter who the message is from A

1/2

12:58 Thu, Nov 14.

Chapter Ninety-Four

He shakes his head as if he can't believe that I tried to interrupt him during his
threatening speech. 164 weat wafta

inbreath and creeping into my pores. Like his mon and sandalwood for some reason, it
stings my nostrils. Scorching into my

muscles ripping around in my head hunting for precisely the right trigger. As if it's seeking
when a wittottches a soml?

from the new Alpha. He's not for you, wonderland? If you don't and you going to find bits
and pieces of your Erle Blond friend all over the mountain

My entire body goes rigid, freezing my insides. Everything goes cold. Like my body. I can
scarcely breathe. "Fry"???" I scream, realizing for the first time struggling ferociously now that
I know that they've probably killed Emily!!! Where are you! I cry out, whimpering through with
this ceremony tonight

sliver of ice cracking through the center of my chest and then prickling. In the last three
minutes, I haven't heard so much as a ping

whimper, a squeal, an intake of breath. Anything. But there's nothing. Not even. They are
going to kill you," I whisper. My back pocket vibrates as I begin to cry and Dominic Plax
My eyes flood with the burning salt of my tears and my vision sob. You don't know bone
in on any little word I might be able to hear

Just the Jewry rancid breathing of the soon to be

right then that Dominic has probably just gotten my throat. They are going to rip you to shreds,
piz. I purde, my throat closing

words as I feel his fangs on my neck. "You just don't listen, do you pet? I said, no more
words." Then, in the flash of the stranger growls, cutting off my hips my head back by
my hair and he slams my forehead into the glass. Now... all that I see... is black.

Chapter Comments

10

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

[1,632 words]

12 58 Thu, Nov 14 of

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates Chapter Ninety-Five DOMONIC

When we roll up to the market, all I can see is the small throng of pack members that crowd the front entrance. The doors are closed, the lights are dim, and there not a single sign of movement inside. My heart aches in my chest. that the fuck had happened beve? Koda and I leap out of the Hummer, leaving it running and. diving toward the front of the market. What I can see through the dnk of the tinted glass clenches my throat with fear. Deaven's body lays crumpled on the ground just inside.

"What happened here?" I hear Koda ask, not truly expecting an anRUPT.

I reach for the doors, using all my strength to pay them opens with my fingertips. A sfying snap sounds around me as I break the latch and I slide the doors open with ease. "Baby" I shout, pulling her into my anus and lifting her from the ground. "Who did this?" I screech. She's breathing and her pulse is strong, so I release the breath I had no idea Id been holding and place her in the backseat of my car. She has slight lump on her forehead, but she's otherwise unharmed. But still, my body tenses with anger. Is she okay?" Rodrank.

"I think so," I hiss. "Grab as many of these people as you can. We need to know what happened."

La minute," koda says, taking a deep whiff of the air. "Where's Emily?"

1 spin around as Koda shifts into his massive black wolf right here on the pavement, his clothing shredding around him. He races into the store, niffing at the ground near the door before stalking toward the back of the market with a growl.

I scan the crowd, my eye catching on a well-built male with the hint of a smirk on his face. "You" I hiss, wasting no time as 1 grab him by the collar of his shirt. 35 fangs slice our threateningly and I throw him against the side of my car with enough force to dent the passenger door. "What are you smiling about?"

The sideways smile from a moment ago melts into a frown. A muscle in his jaw ticks nervously as he clamps his lips together, shaking his head. "T-Im not smiling.

1 chuckle, shaking my head at him and stepping in close. "Who did this?"

He swallows anxiously, his body trembling. I wasn't in the store. I don't know."

"You saw something," I snap. "Tell me what you saw."

He shakes his head, "I just got here," he says, his eyes shooting left and right skittishly, "All I know is that girl is a troublemaker and she probably deserved what happened to her. Whatever it was."

I could smash him. I could reach my hand up around his throat and squeer hard enough for his head to pop off his neck, but I don't. My eyes go dark and lean in close to whisper. Do you know who I am?" He trembles. "Th the new Alpha?"

"That's correct," I say softly, glaring down on him. "And that troublemaker do you know who she is?"

His eyes light with defiance. "N-not really. Gabriel says-

'I do not give a salty Etle fuck what Gabriel says. What do you say?"

1-I dont know I just-1-"

That troublemaker you are refering to, is my mate, I announce, catching more than one stare from the onlookers. And is going to be your new Luna."

His eyes dare wide, as he begins to crumble in fear, dropping toward the ground as if to kneel at my feet. "I had no ideat I-Im sorry!"

A shrill howl fills the air, catching my attention. It's Koda and he's no longer in the store. In fact, it doesn't sound like he's even in tom. He must have scaled the wall on the border and headed into the mountain beyond. Hes in the forest somewhere. But why?
1/3

Chapter Ninety-Five

He picks up on the first ring. "Domonic?"

"I need you at the market right na

Something has happened"

"What? My dads voice is cold with bay. "Whats happened:

1 found Draven unconscious, inside the mpty market, but thes okay. I need you top down here and take her home."

Three minutes later, my dad and Chase pull up to the market in a black Beamer. Before my dad is even all the way out of the car, I'm fully naked, ignoring appreciative stares of the stray females as I ready myself to shift. What the hell

Chase asks as he approaches.

I tell him and focus on my dad. "Emily is missing" I inform him pointing toward the backseat and then toward the cottage. The boys will be here in about hour. If I'm not back by then, send them East into the woods to join us." "Where are you

"I have to help Koda search. Take care of Draven and I'll meet you as soon as I can then turning to Chase, I say. Find out what these people know! The pair of them nod. And I spin around, glaring down at the trembling, frightened shifter that I dented my car with tre you ready?"

He finches. "For what

I smile. To join the hunt." DRAVEN

I awake to a room full of voices and the feel of a cold rag over my eyes. The sensation feels so nice that I sigh contentedly and sink slightly deeper into the downy softness of the bed. My movement silences the room around me and for the first time remember that I'm not supposed to be in my room. I'm supposed to be at the market with Emily. Not in my bed. Why am I in my bed?

I jolt upright, the rag falling into my lap and my eyes flying open as my head goes smming. "Emily?" Sur, maybe a bit slower next time

My vision is slightly blurry and it takes a few winks before I can see clearly.

"Hey kiddo," a familiar voice says.

I do a double take, the room suddenly coming into focus as someone approaches me on the bed. "Bart?" I squawk. He nods, taking a seat next we sounds horrible. My that is dry and raw, my limbs slightly sore. My hand ramver my belly as if to make certain all my parts are in "I'm okay," I say, shaking my head to clear it. I smile up at my favorite bartender and let his arms enclose me in a long-noited bear hug

He pulls me in close, lifting me into his lap so I can bury my face in his neck. "I missed you too, bidde."

"You're here," I say softly. And Jesus, did I swallow gravel?

Tm here," he says.

She's awake? Adam's voor sus from the doorway.

I confirm, pulling back, as my gan falls around the room

me gingerly. God my right place. Theut

starts. "Do you remember what happened

Adam's face is troubled and he and Chase pile into the room to take seats on opposite sides of the bed. "Deaven?" Adam star

I flinch, my mind winding back slowly. "We were at the market... Emily and L Thing -lp, shifting through the scattered moments as my

2/3

Chapter Ninety-Five

reboot-"weird. We didnt feel comfitable. We were leaving, but someone stopped

"Someine?" Chase pipes up

"Tason," I nod. "Jason the off-duty guard was there: He-a soh chokes my throat "had illy. The market was empty! The duons were locked. Someone was holding me against the wall. He smelled like smoke" Smocke! Bart interipts.

1 nod, "-and sandalwood. At least I think it was sandalwood. He said he had a messig for me. He told me... I tril off as it finally hits me, my memory pounding in from different corners of my brain. He said to stay away from the Alpha or else." My yes fill with tears. "Where's Emily? Lery out. "They're going to hurt her! Be said I'd find pieces of her all over the mountain if I went to the ceremony tonight. Sherr la she? Did they take her?"

Adam shakes his head, ignoring my question as he stands and confers with Chase in the doorway, I turn toward Bart. "Where's Domonic? Did he

Bart nods. "Domonic found you. He had Adam bring you back here. You've been out for a few hours."

"But where's Emily?" I ask again, hating that everyone seems to be ignoring my question. "A few hours??? Jesus!"

Bart swallows thickly, bolding onto my shoulder as if he expects his answer to send into a fit of rage. "Emily... wasn't there."

Fuck," Thiss, trying to stand up just to be pressed back down with two of Bart's hand instead of one. "Let me go! I have to find her!"

"You are to stay here, Draven. Damn it! Bart scolds. There's nothing you can do. You can't shift. Koda, Dom, Paul-all the rest of the guys - they're ond looking for her now! You have to trust them. They'll find her

"what if they don't?" I whimper.

"They will" Adam cuts in. He turns to Chase. "Call an assembly of the guard, I wantem in the courtyard in five minutes. I want everyone questioned about this. The ladies that run that chicken coop of a market too! Even the council members."

"Shouldn't we wait for the guys to get back?" Bart argues. "Just in case any of the try to start trouble?"

Adam appears thoughtful, holding his hand up to pose Chase as he stands. That's a good point. Those young wolves - if any of them are involved - they might prove hard to deal with His eyes meet mine. "Draven, do you think you would be able to recognize the man involved if you caught his scent again?"

Bart snorts. "She's not a shifter! How the fuck would she scent anyone?"

Adam and I both ignore him, meeting each other's eyes across the room. I nod. "Abs fucking-lutely."

Chapter Comments

KKN

oh god i hope they find emily.

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11

POST COMMENT-

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[1,256 words]

Chapter Ninety-Six

After tracking Unity's were though

wd for half an afternoon we finally lost in the river. Four of us were scouring the opposite shoreline, hoping that korven tud taken her muted upstream to the other side, but so far that they want yielding any results. Koda was frantic, his movements panicked. He a moment to ground himmell, but I wasn't going to be the one to tell him hitting back into my human form at I near the summit of one beny glance around at my brothers to call them to attention.

trop." I say softly. One by one they gather around me, shifting back into their human forms. Koda, however, remains as his wolf. Gazing up at the streaming rapids note there seems to be a forking ahead. As if there is a fork in the ever up top and a second waterfall on the other side of it. They didn't find the waterfall," I print out. Searching the ground as carefully as I can near the point of the over where we lost her scent, I look for something different. Espe, rahi indentations, paw prints. Anything. And that is when I realize. There seems to be a shadow behind the fall. There's a cone up there," I hiss, and Paul, my Beta and longtime best friend cuts in...

The can't go into a cave without knowing where it leads. Well, I mean-he

Koča growls, his rumble an unmistakable protest to Pel's local thinking

the eyes of Koda's attentive black wolf-we shouldn't

that my father might have found out. Den might. She might have information we need." I met her blazing blue glare with

going away from me to study the water and the rocks, as if looking for the best way to climb in.

We can let him in alone." Quinn says, idling up to me. "I go with him."

and. "Good idea. You go with him, Rainier and Lief climb to the peak and find out where the other waterfall leads. After watching the four of them disappear,

back to the whelp from the market, whose name I still haven't bothered to learn, ask him, "Is Blue Ridge near here?"

He sighs, exhaustion riding his features. The other side of the mountain. But it's abandoned. It's nothing but ruins."

T

I smile, "You will lead Timmons and Grant to these ruins so that they can see for themselves? I almost miss the flare of fear that I see in the whelp's eyes, because De schooled his features swiftly, but catch it. Of course I do. So I push a little. In fact, I think Andrew and Logan should go with you too. Because if you are lying,

the place is still inhabited I will take all four of them to tear you apart the way I want them to."

how he flinches, his eyes going wide with fear. "You can't do that! Please! There might be people there, I don't know. Not everyone wanted to be absorbed by Red Wolf

not my fault if they are still three?"

But you said it was in ruins, les actes "Ruins don't house people, little wolf. You're lying

The whelp glances, James reference to the fact that his wolf is half the size of one of our
nating "My name is Lenny! But, the. So there are people there. But they are rogues son
made them that way when he left. He forbade them to join us, leaving them mutilated, to
live as they pleased."

thinking the name sounds somewhat familiar. "One of the gatekeepers? What the fuck
does he have to do with anyone going rogue? And why in

fuck would he leave people mutilated? Hex post a Gamma. A soldier. Besides, I thought
the pack disbanded because of a tragedy."

"It was definitely that. But not all people were allowed to recognize it as such." He
smirks. Those who rebelled against new leadership were taud. A portion of bone mach
for a lifetime of freedom. Jason') Law. Sure, Jason is a Gamma now, but he was nece
the Alpha of the Blue Ridge Pack."

Jon's low" I chuckle. "You're bo

tre kidding me.

"he says with a determined shake of his head. "Jason was a great leader. He kept most
of the women reminded of their place. Locking his Luna away in a

ter she caused trouble."

at the fuck? Do the council members know of this? I hiss

The whelp nods. One of them does. Councilmen Thomas and Ambassador Gabriel
came to visit our pack six years ago. They liked the way Jason can things. They said it
was the best way for the more powerful wolves to live. With the women as slaves and
the men as their masters."

Six years ago? The year before our mothers were murdered. Thomas? Rainier fathers
Christ. Rainier's going to kill him for sure. Suddenly I'm grateful that Hartlett insisted he
stay behind with Draven, even if he was the one who went her to this God-forsaken
place. It's a relief that he's there with her, but one of us is

ing to need to head back to inform my dad of Thomas treachery. He will need to be
dealt with the moment we return.

1/2

12:59 THU, NOV 14

Chapter Ninety Six

My lungs begin to tingle with disgust

times. My

with roll realization and the whelp and I glare down at the little midget, "Waste pride of him, Jason, I of the young wubers who had hoped to bid for Alpha in my absence. Our was Gabriel... could the other have been Jason? They for, can barely contain their disgust. Plastering a fake smile on my face and stretch to my full height, towering over. Glancing down at my brothers I see

manage the pack?" the food at my feet, Tell me more. What other ways did

The idiot grins, his eyes growing excited first. Sometimes, if the female was lubricated.

Eight, he shared her with the his front. "How I loved these days, they were the best." He sneers at

That was found, he tested. She was never allowed to be marked unless he had her

ledore returning her to her mate for marking" He sighs, as if those memories "But now that you're here, I pressing he will not be made Beta as promised;"

1. be. You can fucking count on that."

"What_the_fuck," Pad says in complete awe, "This is crazy. I'm the Beta you little girl and me, he won't be

Grating the whelp by his neck, I lifted him

the ground. The legs fail as he gargles helplessly in my grip. His eyes bulged in warning of his urge to shift. "Lenny, where is Emily? You are going to tell me where she is and who book her, and you are going to tell me now, I snarl as my claws rip from my hands. "And I am going to cut you apart a piece at a time, until you die,

sharp claws down his chest. Opening him up deep enough to

Lenny strains, his muscles expanding as he begins to change, but before he can he reveals his interior. "I wouldn't recommend roughing right now Lenny, I say. Nevermind shifting. Doing either is likely to force your insides out."-

That's when we hear it. The seven of us who are still at the river and I drop Ley in a heap on the floor as the rest of us collectively turn toward the sound. A crackle of brush, a carefully placed step that sounds in the deep dark of the forest, Someone is watching. We see him just before he speaks.

"Hose original," a voice sounds from the edge of the woods. "I've seen that done in by your father. He did it to mine."

Chapter Comments

11

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[939 words]

Chapter Ninety-Seven

sen behind Emily's BBC,

e down when the courant in bond. These are twenty-four garkan a

bios pratding je aterron in boer of a small lake that on fed by the biler beind it. Torches
ice in in various parts of the yond her glow with wa

1792 span bebind you. Ecce of me!

end of the land te number when you por fused"

tcha" 1 sex, taking a deep breat

The coured

night of the prension when I walk up. Adam and 1 start on the far left, moving
precociously across the line as I take

des. The gardinen protan Kinng straight word with confidence as of each and every one
of them knows they aren't pai

fact, none of them and of ping Adam a number, I shake my head and the resistance 1
pectuted any of these men for the Edopping and although, I'm happy I'm not left
standing in front of a The line of men in suddenly.

says. I seed to gger

a nude" Adam says addressing the crowd. "But let me be

rket this afternoon, you will a

Alpha to deal with

down, looking left

I to question each others notes. The End on the far left raises his hand and I'm instantly on

the

oking surprised, others

en looking imitated. hey are completely ignorant Some of them must know something

Thomas slags toward Adam, "I have to go and check on Tanya, her mother is having a la

- Bese for their questioning

keeping her indoor I can take Draven back to be cottage along the

mae. "Is that alright with you? Or would you the to help i

question the pand"

pof the hatred spewed against me and Emily earlier today in the mat. Td rather head back,

1/2

Chapter Ninety-Seven.

Adam smiles, "I think that's the safest bet. Thomas will take you

Thomas, Rainier's Inter. They father for a moment,

mysel that he is one of the miginal table that lost his wife in the fir. I was her wir dad. He cont de af had relates never been purt daughter is a bit of a spoiled cunt. Hed handly be the best dad naise a spoiled bites 1 and, following Thomas toward his Mark Beaner "Just a moment," Thomas says, disappearing inside the darkened vehicle then undable) the door for the so that I can dink in after hin

He smiles at itse as I click my seatbelt into place and we pull away from the cost pad and turn toward the road leading to theft of will you? ile says as he texts on his phone while manruveta ugh the darkened phonet. "Back into the backseat and grab the shopping bag i plum daught inside that I'm hoping to beile her with.

I chuckle, eyeing the backseat and the colored tissue paper that perks out of a shining silver gift here thing, I wry, turning my body to part behind

As I do. I'm forced to lean in closer, taking a breath as I meet against the seatbelt sepoes my shoulder. My nose tingles... the scent of sandalwood senses. The stoke is not there, but the sandalused is stronger than ever. I freeze mid turn, my hand on the gift bag as I d. Could it be? Thomas

"Something wrong" Thomas asks and gl

over my shoulder to meet his eyes in the rear-view mirat.

"Nothing," he grabbing the bag and placing it comfortably on my lap. I think Loverstretched a macle, is all."

What should I? Of God 11 could be him! The sandalwood in the same. But the absence of smoke... does it matter? Could he have tried to dopus Adam, Dumonic, Koda, Emily, and I are the only ones who are supposed to know about the pregnancy. So none of the others should be aware see better, everything better, right now. But... what if somehow, Thomas found out about it? Adam told me that females pregunt with wolf-shihen smell like no other when they're carrying. Maybe somehow, Thomas found out and attempted to trick me so that none of the others would suspen

Thomas, eyes crinkle as he studies me, his car slowing as we turn onto my street. Tell me," he says. "What was the purpose of your surveying the gard? What d you hope to learn?"

pregrant

I swallow thickly as I count the houses. Knowing that mine is still eight cottages down. Too far for me to jump out and scream for Bart. If I were would chance it, but... I am. So, I don't. I caught a glimpse of the guy who was holding me in the market. Adam hoped that I might be able to recognize him if I him again

He smiles, shaking his head. "And you couldn't?"

I shake my head as we edge closer to my house. "I couldn't."

"Such a pity," he says, as he raises something toward me with his left hand, pointing it at my stomach from his lap as he hits the gas pedal and we speed part house. "You might have been able to save yourself if you had."

My ears burn, my muscles clenching. "Where are you taking me?" I shout, my head swiveling toward him as my eyes catch on the gun in his hand. "Oh God."

The fatherly glint in his eyes is gone as the smirks at me, the dark brown of his irises dilating to black. His fangs flash in the light of the street lamps as he heads for the main gate. "Behave yourself Draven and no harm will come to you or your pup. Is that understood?" Tears fill my eyes as we race past the front gate of the Village Du Loup Rouge - the unguarded gee because all of the gatekeepers are in the courtyard.

"Draven?" He growls.

All I can do is nod. "Understood."

Chapter Comments

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10

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[875 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1- No Mates Chapter Ninety-Eight

DHLAVEN

62

My heart is slamming my chest as we race into the night, crossing the bridge to the puntain at we hja land even once and as much as I want to final a way to fight him, I know Di 11. The baby in the

the highway. I havent taken my eyes off the gam important thing to me right now. Nothing else.

a dirt road just before the Red Wolf Lodge and parks next to a ling black SUV, Shutting off the engine he gestures toward me with his gun. "Get Hake the ling with you." Thod, doing as told without hesitation. He follows me out of the vehicle, his gun still trained on me. "Pull out your phone and throw dat is bont of me." Again, I oblige him, stinging when he stops it into the ground with his right foot. Smashing the glass and the plastic beyond repair.

Why are you doing this? I can't help but ask. He ignotes me, signaling for me to step toward the SUV,

Get in the backseat," he says

I turn toward the other car, and despite the pitch black windows, my hyper sensitive eyes are able to see the movement behind the glass. Someone is in there, but I can't make out the features. "Hurry up!" Thomas hisses, pressing the pan into my back urgently.

I do as told, opening the backdoor and tumbling inside. The door slams behind me and my eyes go straight for the man seated at the other end of the bench seats.

"Hello beautiful," Tason spits. His bright amber eyes glowing with satisfaction as he points a pistol toward my head. "My, my, my, but you are a fine prize."

"Whores Emily?" I snap. Anger that I can't control is inside of me despite the gun in his hand.

He chuckles, ignoring me as Thomas climbs into the front seat and starts the engine. We peel out in a cloud of dust, leaving his car and my shattered phone behind as we turn back onto the highway. Thomas voice floats back from the front of the car. "There's a wig and a passport in pocket"

gift bag Draven. Take them out, put the wig on and the passport in your

o this! I can promise

"Why?" I squeak. "Where the hell am I going? If this is about becoming Luna or about staying away from Domonis, you don't have to do t

Shut the fuck up," Jason snaps, placing his gun to my temple, "Just do as you're told. Follow my orders and you may still become Luna after all." He sneers, licking his lips as he gives me the once over. "I don't think I have any others quite as pretty as you. You've been marked by an Alpha, and are perfect for breeding. Play your cards right and not only might you get to keep that pup in your womb, then I'll pupa couple more in there for you after. If you don't? And you make this harder than it needs to be? I'll beat that little bastard out of you first and the only pups you ever know, will be mine."

I shudder, nodding at I realize I

I'm going to have to play along as best I can. Pulling out the hair net and short blond wig in the bag, I do my best to hide my long black mane and prop the ugly blond bob on my head, lifting my eyes toward the highway we're on, my gaze catches on the signs pointing toward the Vancouver International Airport and a new wave of landing hits me as my chest begins to ache,

Where are we going?" I ask as calmly

cam. "What about your family, Thomas? What about your daughter?"

He chuckles from the front seat. I don't care about that little bitch. Never did. Sheher mother can rot in hell."

My eyes bulge. "What? But I thought

"You thought wrong. All of you did. Enough with the questions. You are a member of a new pack now, so consider yourself lucky." Thomas growls. "And understand that you will die if you don't do every little thing you're told."

DOMONIC

I'm about to shift and jump into the trees to attack Gabriel when I feel Draven's paid again. ungles over me in a maddening rush. But my body is more prepared for it this time and I don't stumble, however, I do pause and that is all Gabriel needs to say the one thing that keeps me frozen in place,

"Attack me and your bitch dies, Gabriel says smoothly, lifting a high powered rifle the he had hidden at his side. "I'm not stupid enough to think I can kill all of you with this thing, but I definitely get you, Donsonic."

Prmrn? My body goes cold. "What have you done?" 1 hiss, my chest aching as a wave of longing pounds into my heart. My vision swions with anguish, my teeth

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Chapter Ninety Eight

i pave cuts upward, toward the

Lat your blond. They a je

now but I have plants be them as well. Bux, thepin strong and we stum

the thought you weer her frend

fter Deat

Serving that ant my best charre - 1 leap for it. "Wired m alive?" I about to my beaters, hoping to kill that they nes

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[1,087 words]

2/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter Ninety-Nine DRAVEN

When we arrive at the airport, the SUV rolls toward what appears to be a private gate. Although Jason has lowered his gun, the damn thing is still pointed at me and I know without being told that any sudden movement will get me killed. Almost as if he can read my mind, Jason laughs, sliding closer to me and hanging his free arm around my shoulder.

"Can't wait to get you all alone and in chains, princess."

I have to fight the chills that race up my spine. My entire body wants to retch from the contact and from the words. Instead, I take a calming breath, concentrating on the steady aching of my heart that began the moment we left the confines of the cursed god town called Red W

A man steps up to the SUV to check passports and despite the wild pleading that I pull themagh my eyes when he looks at me, he nods us through. Damn him, the idiot. The SUV proceeds beyond the gate, stopping about a hundred yards from a small, tembly private looking plane.

"Get out," Thomas mutters. "But don't forget your pup's life depends on your good behavior.

I nod stiffly, closing my eyes for a moment as I force my body through the motions, Sivicane will come for me. Dowanle will never atap locking for mor. I know this in my heart and that is the one thing that gives me strength. I'm not going to fight then. I'm going to bide my time. I'm going to be the very sweetest little pet they have, until I can either escape, or Demonic finds me. I don't give a fuck if it takes me years. I will be with Domonic again. I swear it

If only I could make a phone call Dann it. Who knows how long I'll have to play this before I can figure out a way to get a message out. I imagine it won't be easy. But can do this. I can get through this. I have to..

The foon shines bright against the clouds of winter as we pile out of the SUV and match toward the small plane on the private runway. Thomas is at my back and Tason at my side. The bastard is actually pulling me along like we're a couple, with our gers intermined no less. What a joke. Even the slimy smile he sends my way appears loving.

Schooling my features, I try my best to keep my lip from rising in digt of him the way it wants to. Halfway up the air stairs I have the wild notion to shove the bastard over the side, but then, I remind myself that he is a shitter and will no doubt survive the fall. Deuble done it

The plane is luxurious and despite the situation I am momentarily starstruck. Growing up in Miami I've been on my share of luxury yachts, powerboats, limes..... but planes like this one, I have never seen. Six egg shaped cubicles line the cabin, three a side. The seats appear to recline into beds and the privacy panels have little doors. Just how for are we going?

Jason steers me toward the Erst seat on my left and deposits me into the cool leather.

"Seatbelt, my pretty," he smirks, his amber eyes flashing as he licks his fat pink lips. The fest time I met him was the week of the full moon. Cabriel introduced him. as the captain of the guard. The administrative gatekeeper. A glorified security guard in truth. "Droven, I'd like you to meet Jason. He's the captain of the giant. If you ever feel threatened, or are in need of an escort, he's your man," Gofriet had said.

Even then I was wary of him - Jason. He's much bigger than the rest of the shifters in the Village Du Loup Rouge. Nearly as big as the twelve, but not quite. Study him, I think of all the little snippets of scattered information I've gamered about Alphas over the past few weeks. If you ask me he fits the bill. Muscles that bulge and wind with each movement, the authoritative air that pulses around him, the device, the exuberant confidence - all of it points to the word... Alpha. Even Thomas seems to look toward him for approval. The asshole might have been handsome too with his ash brown hair and yellow-brown eyes -(he wain't a complete sociopath.

So what might have turned an otherwise prime specimen into a fucking psychopath? Who knows and who cares. But then again, the science of evolution shows that every now and then there's a fuck up in the DNA. So maybe that's what he is. A gene fuck-up. Yeah. That's i

After closing the hatch, Jason takes the cubicle nest to mine and Thomas seats him just behind me. I guess it would be too much to ask for a stewardess to be Jonings on this trip. Still, I'm sure there is a pilot up front, because planes don't by themselves. So maybe, if these two fall asleep, I can... no, no I can't Shaking off the thought, I place a hand over my stomach. Think of the baby. Heroes only endanger my child

Taking a deep breath I unshade the windy as the engines fire in the back and movement commences beneath my seat. The jarring speed of the craft as we fly down the runway vibrates with finality, intensifying the aching in my chest as a moment of vertigo falls over me Suddenly, a sharp spasm of pain ensues. My body is literally ripped from my seat as the world collides around me. Foreign pain tears through my insides like bullets shredding my skin. 1 scream, my back arching up off my seat as my vision doubles, bring and folding into itself like the flash of nightmare stepping into my

consciousness. It feels like I am bleeding, like my torso has been torn in ribbons, but glance down tells me my body is fine. There is no blood. No flesh, No bullets.

1/2

Chapter Ninety-Nine

I shake my head, the squsts subsiding - reducing to a dul ache thun se

"Sit down. Thoma" leurs vice commands from on let. Sheka market temub 1

Thomas straightens, letting pr of es chin as he trips, fammes, with n

When the hell does that

struggle for composure

nate bond wash 1 more) egilined to me, but some of it a whatever just happened, didn't happen to me. I hopened i

Di God

Chapter Comments

11

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[1,194 words]

Chapter One Hundred DOMONIC

Crushing Gabriel with my weight as I land, his rifle still spitting death from its tip, I ignore the fire in my chest and the rush of blood that soaks my fur to lock my jaws on his wrist. One snap of my razor sharp teeth and he is no longer shooting anything. Instead, his gun and his hand lay severed together and the only noise to rival the waterfall are his screams. I inhale a deep breath, pushing my strength outward. Fighting the urge to slump down and die where I stand. My vision blurs, my limbs crying for support as I tumble off of him and toward the feet of my brothers that surround me.

Shifting back into myself, I reach to my left and rip the front of Gabriel's shirt ralding the fabric to the around my chest so that I might start healing. I don't count the holes in my flesh, but I can feel their bum. There must be Eve, six... no, seven... different points of entry Glancing up at Koda as he shifts back to kneel beside me, I hiss. The off his wrist and grab his hand. We need him alive."

Koda glares down at Gabriel, kicking him in the ribs then the head, knocking him out and cutting of his incessant wailing. He doesn't need the hand. He can live without it."

I chuckle, despite that I'm quite rally bleeding to death. "Take it anyway. As a bargaining chip. Because he's going to take us to Deaven."

Π

Quinn nods, coming up on the comeration in his human form. "Co, Koda. Find Em We can deal with this."

Korda grimanga, turning toward the peak Gabriel spoke of then shifting to rai

the mountain. I hear him howl into the night, calling on Raiber and Lief to join hum on the other side of the waterfall. That leaves just six of my brothers to help haul Gabriel back to town. One glance to my right tells me that Lenny won't be of any use, Stems he got caught in the cronder and tou for many bullets to done. Ha entur forehead is missing. There are some things that eveinų

Can you

throwing a ling Gabriel over his shoulder Lär

1 flip him off, sitting up to check.

fur me, Gabriel must not have had

Instead, he ended up killing the whap and

tues. "Or do you need to be

possomonja; so my body is already pushing the lead out of my chest. Lucky fut he should have hit something vital with as many times as he blasted me. and a bullet to the braut jau mutter what material it's made of) might have actually been fatal. Had the bullets been detely be walking anywhere.

Speaking to Gabriels uniform as I stand and mys, I w. You should have used silver bullets and a glock, Gabe."

. I need to know what's happened to Draven and

Toward the Altering clouds that pass over the wining moon. A

sense of foreboding grips me as I apprehend the long wall that was the village yard, lating in my now healing flesh.

The ache in my chest is pumping

Anger

endlessly tunnels my vision, centering it as it leaps by one, shutters turn toward the as I approach. Despite the fact that the the str

taken bet. I can feel it. Even if Gabriel had died as much, I would

sure and more intensely with distance.

as I prowl into the quiet courtyard, One

quake of the earth as our heavy paws mark the ground.

they are. In both human form and wolf form. And they we

> End me some clothes. He sormoen off just as Gabriel's body is tossed over the

happened to Cabre

the clothes I sent the guard for.

(be dirty. Instead, I dies myself and search the courtyard for Thomas. Unsurprisingly, I don't see

mentary release of frustration that fairly shake

If the guardsmen were scared before, the

1/3

Chapter One Hundred

are terrified me as they track test tech other for someone to jus

The rest of thy lembres,

Paul, James, rialsiel, and I pile into Chairs cat then one down the luck, any from be content and

pack mates. Shaling into the driveway next in my fathers cas, I are forget though the window. The dismant i doorway and lenening the squads of little tipler and my dedented linking father,

You were used to protect heit Thiss,

Tammi" I beat my father the

That I can't, I'm too angry. I lift Tartlett to his feet by his throat. "I prve pore one

Bartlett's steady gaze is unwavering, guilt, flashing behind his eyes. He innt fighting

Domonic! It's not his tall," my dad says. "Its mine. I sent her with Thomas. I had no ie

And I do. God help me. I do.

Bartlett shakes himself off, lifting his chin as he stands before me. "No," Bartlett seyt, his brown eyes locked with mine. "We night who sent her here in the first place. So go ahrail. Do what you want to me. Because me if you kill me, I don't think I can forgive can't kill you." I grumble. want to, but Draven would hate me."

"My wrist is healing you bastard! I want my hand hack!" Gabriel screams, earning a sip to the back of t

Turning around slowly, eyeing Gabriel. He's right. His wrist is healing and the fact puts a tinitter smile on my face. "Don't you worry abo

open again for you so that your hand can be sewn on W, and only of, you're willing to experate."

"What happens if I do? Hah? What will you give me? Because I'm done being the council's bitchboxj,"

"If you do? You get to leave. Go gue. Find somewhere else and live your life, with both your hands." I shrug, steppings leave, gorur, find somewhere else to live, with no hands... and... I'm thinking, no fert."

"I dont think anyone would fuck him in that condition," Paul says. "So we might as well take his dick too?"

Koda's ten year old brother Ryder snickers from behind my father, only losing his smile when I send him a sharp look at yder une student you were telling me about. Send her over here with her sewing kit

My dad neds, glaring at Gabriel with cold fury. "Good luck, boys. Try not to get any blood on the furniture."

Once he's gone, I step into the kitchen to find the dullest knife available. "Bartlett," I say, "Held Gabe down so that those two can get drunt. Im tired of Incken their bal

Paul chortles, flipping me off as he heads to the bathroom for their discarded clothes

Coming back into the living room, with a serrated blade in my hand, I kneel in front of Gabriel, and grab his wrist in an iron grip. "Now," I say, wiping the sweat from Gabriel's brow with the flat side of the knife. "Where did they take my mate?" Gabriel scowls, his eyes battered back and forth as he takes a deep breath. "You need me to get there. There's no way you'll find it alone

"Okay," I sigh, feigning calm, when in reality my

my heart is pumping like a stampede of wild horses. " then, maybe we should wait to give you your hand

"What?!" Gabriel shouts. "No! I want my hand, please. It hurts even though it's healed I need my hand.

2/3

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