

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 49

ALPHA ISSACS POV

***Trigger Warning! ***

“Gentlemen, Thank you all for coming this evening. We have some special new arrivals for you to experience. They will be joining us shortly. Until then, please enjoy your dinner. Have some drinks, and if you need to, we have things to help you relax and to get you going.” I announced.

Tonight was our first official client gathering since moving to the US. There were some new faces, and quite a few old ones. It was the old ones who gave me hope for a good night tonight. They were big spenders, not only on girls, but drinks and drugs as well.

The older the client, the more Viagra we were able to sell.

Wolves had to take triple the amount as a regular human for things to work right, and at \$1000 a pop, it was easy money. The older ones like the newer girls. The younger, the better. Sometimes, due to them being newer, they would need to be slipped a little Wolfsbane to help them relax.

The client paid for those as well. Wolfsbane vials were \$1500 each, and just like the Viagra for the male, a strong she-wolf would need a couple vials to get her just to the point of cooperation.

“Alpha Issacs, good to see you my friend,” an older gentleman by the name of Grant Oliver called to me. He was a very wealthy man who had once been a pack member of the Blood Moon pack. He was exiled many years ago by the Alpha twins’ grandfather. I don’t know if he was aware the twins had triplet daughters, but if he did, would he know what they would look like?

“Yes? Mr. Oliver, it’s nice to see you too. What can I do for you, good sir?” | asked. He gave a hearty chuckle and at that point I realized that he reminded me of Santa Claus. I laughed internally, and listened to his request.

“Well, for starters, I am going to need a few little pills for myself to help me out, and, as usual, I want a new young one. So, throw in a special drink for her,” he winked. I assured him we would take care of him and started to walk away. “Alpha, a small brunette please. The blondes are getting boring.” he instructed. With a nod of my head, I turned from him and relayed the order to Hampton, the man in charge of my drug closet.

Once I had the complete order for the needed girls, I sent Rhonda and Tonya to collect my choices. The only brunette I had available was the triplet, and it made me sick at the thought of letting this old bastard take her innocence. I couldn't turn down the amount he spent on his membership in the club just for the girls, so the brunette he would get.

The kitchen staff started to fill the tables with food and drink, and I asked my guests to line up to receive their chosen escorts for the evening. Rhonda and Tonya led the girls into the banquet hall, each one in their designated robes. More than half of the girls tonight were new to the compound, and were experiencing this for the first time.

Their fear-riddled faces set something on fire within me, and I was feeding off their anxiety.

As the girls stood in line, I noticed our little brunette. She looked angry, and I had a feeling she was going to be my problem child. I knew she was mated to an Alpha, but she wasn't yet marked. That was good news for me. It meant that if he was looking for her, which I knew he would be, it would take longer for him to find her. I had met the triplet's brother and her mate once before, but on separate occasions. Neither impressed me much, and neither struck me as being smart enough to figure s**t out too quickly.

"Ladies, thank you for arriving promptly. Tonight, you will serve as escorts for our esteemed guests. You have each been assigned to a client based on certain requests they have made. When I call your name, please step forward.

Your 'Date' for the night will introduce his or herself to you, and you will spend the rest of the evening at their service.

Let's begin," I instructed.

I went through each girl, and when I finally got to the triplet, I made sure to change her name. With Grant being from Blood Moon, the last thing I needed was him to figure out who she really was. "Last, but not least, Ravenna Nightshade," I said. Her head whipped towards me and the look of confusion was showing. I glared at her, hoping she understood, and she gave a slight nod and stepped forward.

"Ravenna, your date for the night is Mr. Grant Oliver. Grant, Ravenna is one of our new girls, and is fresh and untouched. Be gentle please," I said, and I handed him his earlier purchase, and a bottle of wine. He took her hand and led her to his table. I could tell she was worried, but with his little helper, she would be relaxed in no time. Better yet, she would more than likely not remember anything from the night.

I watched the room, and my guests checking for any trouble. Everything was going pretty normal, so I decided to step outside to smoke. There were a few guards outside the doors, and I asked one for a light. "Anything exciting going on boys?" I asked. Each one replied with a hearty no, and I nodded my head in understanding. Since moving the pack to

Washington, there was barely any action. Not that I was complaining, but a little fight every great once in a while to break up the monotony would be fun.

Suddenly, I heard raised voices coming from inside, and I knew immediately who it was. The triplet. Tossing my cigarette, I marched back inside. Sure enough, she was standing over Grant, and he was on the ground holding his face.

“What the hell is going on here?” I shouted. She started to speak, and I held my hand up. I looked at Grant and said, “Why are you on the floor, Grant?” He stood to his feet, and smacked the triplet upside her face. I released a low growl, and he quickly apologized. “I apologize, Alpha. All I did was place my arm around her waist and she slugged me. It isn’t against the rules, and you should be teaching your girls to know better than strike your clients, he sneered.

I grabbed the triplet’s arm, and excused us. I drug her into the hall, and scolded her. “What the hell were you thinking?

He is one of my biggest clients! He has paid good money for you little triplet. You will go back there and apologize to him. You will spend the rest of the evening with him, and whatever he asks, you will do. Got it?” I screeched. She started to cower, and nodded her head. I slid my hand around her waist and led her back to Grant. She apologized, and they went back to his table. He had already poured her a glass of wine, and I knew it wouldn’t be long until they would be retiring to his room.

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Alette POV

I was just getting dressed after my bath when a tall blonde girl came into my room. “Miss, the Alpha requests your presence. Please dress in only the robe you were provided when you got here, and meet me in the hall, she requested.

My whole body started to shake, and I knew a panic attack was coming. “Stay calm, Lette.” I heard Alaska say. “Don’t let him sense your fear. Our mate is on his way,” she continued. I focused on that, and hopefully that will help me get through the night. More so, I hope he gets here sooner rather than later.

I returned to my closet, and undressed. I grabbed the dark red robe, and slid it over my naked body. The feel of the velvet repulsed me. I swear when I get out of here, I will burn anything velvet that ever comes into my sight. Once I was covered, I did as I was told. I left my room, and entered the hallway.

There were a large group of girls, mostly older and blonde, waiting for me. None of them spoke, and were in groups by robe color. There were only two other girls who had red robes like mine, and I joined them. I overheard one of the girls that was sent to retrieve us, and she had made a snide comment about how there were only 3 virgins this time.

The girl she was speaking to glanced at my group, and I knew she was talking about us.

The leaders started to move down the hallway, and descended the stairs. We were taken to a hallway outside a large banquet room, and instructed to stay quiet until we were called for. The tall one walked inside, and quickly returned. She motioned for us to follow her friend, and as we walked by she instructed us to not look down. "Maintain eyes forward at all times. Don't cause a scene," she said.

I was last to enter, and last to be called. When the Alpha called for me, he used an alias for my name. I stared at him with confusion, and his glare told me I needed to play along.

I was introduced to an average heightened male, who was grotesquely obese, bald and had a thick white beard. He smelled of cheap sandalwood cologne, and sweat. The Alpha handed him a small baggie containing unknown contents, and a bottle of wine. He led me to a table filled with food, and made us both a plate. "Eat up, little girl. You will need all the energy you can get." he laughed.

The perverted old fart was about to meet Alaska before I remembered I was gravely outnumbered. I gave him a forced giggle, and started to pick at the food on the plate. I kept avoiding his advances, and when he wrapped his arm around my waist and pulled me to him, I snapped. I stood up and punched him in the face, knocking him out of his chair. I started to scream at him for touching me without permission, and before I realized it, I was being reprimanded by the Alpha.

The Alpha's touch made my skin crawl. Just the idea of him being near me struck fear in my soul. He dragged me into the hallway and kept screaming at me, before finally threatening me if I didn't comply with his client's wishes. He led me back to the table where the pervert sat, and pulled out my chair.

Before he left, he reminded the pervert of the rules against harming one of his girls. The man who was my supposed owner for the evening apologized again, and handed me a glass of wine. "Let's start new. Cheers to a wonderful night," he said. I took the glass and clinked it against his. I swallowed the tart wine in on gulp, and tilted it towards him to be refilled. If I had to be in this situation, I would be drunk.

The wine must have triggered my hunger, because I started to eat more of what was on my plate. The old pervert tried to speak to me and tell jokes. I pretended to be amused.

How much longer do I have to endure this, I wondered. I was staring into space, trying to drown out what he was saying. My head started to feel woozy, and I knew I hadn't drunk near enough to feel this way. The last time I felt like this was that day at the beach.

“Alaska?” I called out to my wolf. “I’m here, but barely,” she replied. She was still kind of with me, but fading quickly. So I assumed it was Wolfsbane. “What’s wrong with me?” I called out to anyone who would answer. The rotund man started to chuckle. “Guess it’s time,” he said. He snapped towards a couple of the guards standing nearby. “Take her to my room, and undress her,” he ordered.

I tried to protest and fight, but I could barely hold my head up. No words left my mouth. The biggest guard picked me up and carried me out of the banquet hall. He continued walking down the hall to a door. On the other side of the door was a set of stairs going down into a basement-type apartment. He threw me on the bed, and removed my robe, leaving me naked.

I was growing more and more dizzy and discombobulated.

“Help,” I tried to say. It came out as a small moan. The last thing I remember was seeing the man who wanted me for his date, and given me Wolfsbane, coming out of the bathroom in nothing but his underwear. He was holding a whip in his hand, and instructed the two guards to tie me up.

He relentlessly hit me with the whip, causing me to internally cry out in pain. I could feel the tears streaming down my face, and the more I showed any type of reaction to the pain, the more he hit me.

I felt him crawl on the bed, and his stubby hands started to caress my body. I couldn’t open my eyes, and I didn’t want to. He started to move further down my body, getting closer to my private area. I started praying to the goddess to help me before I finally blacked out completely.

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Maddix POV

Talking to my mate on the phone made me feel a little better. I missed her so much, and I hated that I had been away from her and our daughter for so long already.

She had told me about things going on in the pack, and small milestones that our daughter had done. Willow could roll over by herself now, and was lifting her head during her tummy time. She had a pediatrician’s appointment and was given a positive health report. I was missing it all.

Saving my sister was worth it, but it didn’t sting any less. I had taken over driving so that Damian could try and rest. I knew my stress level was high, but I could only imagine what his was right now. He had a pretty eventful day, and added that to the stress of not being

with my sister, and not knowing her situation, he had to be ready to lose himself. I hoped that Alette knew what kind of man she really had.

I decided to call Addie, and see if they had heard anything.

She was sleeping, so I spoke to her mate, Miles. He informed me that he had just gotten off the phone with his dad, Alpha Victor Krenshaw, and his dad said that he sent warriors to meet us about 3 miles west of the Ross Lake border. I asked him to get word to the head warrior there, and give him my number. I needed to speak to them to get a game plan together.

Miles proceeded to tell me that Asteria's mate, Simon, had left for the meet-up. Asteria was beside herself, but Simon's dad insisted. The last thing I needed was an upset sister and an anxious brother-in-law to look after. I asked miles to watch over Asteria, and I would make sure Simon came out of this alive.

Damian started to stir, and when he opened his eyes, he looked as if he had seen a ghost. "They are hurting her!" he cried. I wasn't sure how he knew, since they hadn't marked each other, but he swore he could feel her pain. I asked him to elaborate, and he said he felt stings all over his body like he was being whipped.

I handed Damian my phone and told him to dial my grandma. Luke was sleeping, and I wasn't waking him up.

One thing you learn by being related to witches; never disturb their rest. He went to my contacts and called her number. I hoped she was still awake, and thankfully she was.

Putting it on speaker, I had him explain what he was feeling to her. I could hear her gasp, and she demanded we wake up Luke. Damian turned to shake him, and luckily he wasn't pissed that we woke him up. Grandma asked him to see if he could see what was happening to Alette, and just as before, he couldn't. "Gram, I am pretty sure she has been drugged. For most of this, I haven't been able to see anything where she is concerned. I'm sorry." he explained.

She told us she would call us back, and disconnected the call.

Luke knew what she was up to, and he wasn't happy she was attempting it alone. He briefly explained the spell, and said it would take a lot out of her. He called his mom and got her and his sister Ginger, to go and help our grandmother. Ginger's gift of location and foresight was much stronger than his, and when paired with our grandma's, it was very powerful.

We were getting very close to our destination, and my phone rang. It was Simon. "Alpha Maddix, we are ready for when you get here. There have been a lot of vehicles entering Ross Lake, but none has left in a while. How far out are you?" he asked. I explained we

were only 45 minutes away, and to make sure they were ready. There would be a very short briefing before we moved in. He said he understood and we disconnected the call.

Marion had called Luke, and said that Ginger was able to detect and see Alette through grandma's spell. "Luke, they aren't going to like what she has seen. They have whipped her badly, and a portly man has had his way with her multiple times. There was also a guard who took a turn after the man left. I'm sorry to be the one to have to tell you guys. Hurry and get to her. She is still unconscious," she explained.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I started to speed up, and Damian demanded that I pull over. I refused, but he grabbed the wheel. I stopped the car, and he jumped out and shifted. Thankfully, we were on a road with no traffic.

He ran into the forest and towards the Ross Lake pack.

Luke had me shift over to the passenger seat, and he sped faster towards our destination. I was in shock. I was able to call Simon back to warn him that Damian was heading their way in wolf form. I described his wolf, and hung up the phone. "Luke, I was too late. We were too f*cking late, man," I sobbed.

How was I going to look my baby sister in the eye? I had failed her. We were too late. I knew Damian was beating himself up as well. If it weren't for him fighting his dad, and then having to make sure someone was present to watch the pack, we would probably have made it in time. I didn't want him to blame himself though, it had to be done, or worse could have happened to my sister. She could be dead.

Damian was being restrained in human form when we pulled up. I ran up to him and grabbed his face. "Damian!

Calm down Brother! I need you fully here before we go in to get her and the others out! I need you to focus!" I yelled at his face. He was sobbing uncontrollably. "It's my fault, Maddix. Can't you see that?" he asked.

I pulled him into a brotherly embrace, and held him. I could understand how he felt, but before we moved forward, I had to get him in the right headspace.

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Damian POV

I couldn't stop Zion from shifting. Hearing those words come out of Luke's mother's mouth was like knives to my heart. They had hurt my mate in a way that no woman should ever have to go through. I was going to kill them all.

I was going to start with that pitiful excuse of an Alpha.

All Zion could focus on was getting to the meeting point, not realizing that we still had to wait for Maddix and Luke.

Going in blindly and alone was not a great idea.

It took me the whole run to convince him of that, and even if we were still upset, he wanted to do things right to limit any more risk to Alette or any of the other girls.

As we approached the caravan waiting for us, guns were drawn on Zion. I hadn't thought about just showing up in my wolf form without this exact thing happening. I recognized Simon running towards them. "Hold your fire!

It's Alpha Damian DeLuca!" he screamed. Maddix must have called ahead. I needed to remember to thank him.

Even though Simon had told them who I was, I shifted to prove it. My fury was still there, and Zion was still on the surface. The guards surrounded me, and tried to restrain me to calm me down. All it did was piss Zion off more. I started to thrash about, fighting them off of me. I heard car tires screech, and then I heard Maddix yelling my name.

He grabbed me and held onto me tight. He kept begging me to calm down, and think straight. He kept telling me that Damian needed to be fully present, not Zion and Damian.

Thankfully, Zion understood his words, because he started to fall back. When he did, I felt every emotion running through me at full hilt. "It's my fault, Maddix." I sobbed. Like a true friend and brother, he held me while I cried out. I needed this release and he knew it.

Reassuring me over and over, Maddix finally was able to calm me down. Luke offered me a drink of his herbal tea, but warned me there were calming herbs in it. Including very small traces of Wolfsbane. I thanked him but refused it. I needed Zion to be fully alert. Maddix plopped down beside me, and asked if I was alright. I shook my head, and gave a slight chuckle.

"No, man. I'm honestly not. I still blame myself, and v. probably always blame myself for this. Josh was my family. He and MY dad are the cause of her being here. I had to challenge my dad instead of coming to get her immediately. I didn't get here on time. If I had just thought more clearly instead of on impulse, and put her safety first, this wouldn't have happened," I explained to him.

He leaned his back against the vehicle we were sitting near and said, "Look, you weren't at fault for this. Alette knows it.

She would be pissed off if she heard you talking like that.

Trust me, any of my sisters pissed off is scary as fvck.

What has already happened, doesn't matter anymore. It's done and we can't change it. I blame myself too. Its now a whole different mission, and once this mission is finished, how you handle the after effects is what is going to be the pinnacle moment. You will both get through it. You are both strong as hell, and I can tell you love her."

Raking my hands through my hair, I fought off the tears again. "Thanks man. You are right. I love her with everything in me. I think even if there was no mate bond, I would still love her. Can we get going already?" I asked. He slapped me on the back and nodded his head. He got in the trunk and threw me some sweats and a t-shirt. I refused the shoes because I had a feeling I would be shifting again real soon, and why waste a good pair of shoes?

Maddix and Simon rallied the warriors, and everyone was on the same page. The omegas, women and children were off limits unless they became aggressive. They were not to be killed no matter what. Just detained. If they showe any kind of submission, they would be detained. The Alpha was to be detained and held for myself and Maddix to question, and anyone else could be killed on sight. I raised my hand to speak and said, "I need to find the man who drugged my mate. Luke, could you describe him to the others please?"

No one is going to touch him but me. I will be the one to end his life. Understood?"

Everyone nodded, and Luke described the man. "He is short, bald and has a bushy beard. He is overweight and wears glasses. There is also a large guard. Dark skin, a tight fade, and has 3 scars on his cheek. As if he was clawed at some point. Now that I am closer, I can see more inside the pack.

Both men are still in the room with Alette. The round man is sleeping, and the guard is in a chair watching TV. The room is in a basement. A lot of the johns are still in the packhouse with other girls who are being used as servants for these perverts. So please tread carefully," he explained.

We knew Luke was straining himself using this gift so much, but he insisted. Even when we gave him the option of hanging back. He grew almost angry at that suggestion.

"She is my family, and the rest of those girls need all the help they can get. I'm in this to the end," he stated.

Respecting his decision, we didn't bring it up again.

I climbed into the back of one of the trucks and asked for everyone's attention. "Members of Northern Star, thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping us today. I can't promise things will go smoothly, but I can promise that we will have your back. What is happening inside Ross Lake is criminal. No one should have to live the way the captives

are living. No one should be treated the way these women are treated. You have your instructions, let's go kick some ass!" I yelled.

I'm coming, Alette.

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Maddix POV

1 month later

It's been nearly a month since we rescued the people of Ross Lake. I say people because it was more than just the girls who were kidnapped for the hell they were put through by Jameson Issacs and his clients. He is being held at Spirit Mountain. I have given Damian authority to handle what happens, since Alette is his mate.

My sister is a shell of herself. She isn't the lively wild child we knew her as. She even dropped out of school. She said that her place was with Damian, and she had barely left his side. He told me that she has panic attacks if he is away from her for longer than a couple of minutes. Riley has suggested we send mom's old therapist to Spirit Mountain to help her work through this.

My parents were pissed when they found out what happened. More so that they weren't notified, but understood why. Mom agreed with Riley, and is going to talk to Peter. Lette knows him, and trusts him. Hopefully, he can help her. Phoenix wants to be the one to help her, but mom feels like it would cause him too much trauma, and Alette won't fully open up in fear of hurting him.

George and Henry continued to run things for me until I could grasp what had just happened. I needed my wife and daughter close to me, and I swore that I would make sure they were always protected from people like Jameson Issacs.

"Babe, you need to eat something," I heard Riley say. She brought me some of my favorite corn chowder and garlic knots, and a pitcher of sweet tea. These were my comfort foods, and all that was missing was blueberry cheesecake.

I thanked her, and did my best to eat as much as I could.

My phone rang, and Riley picked it up. She has been monitoring my calls for me.

This time she handed me the phone. The look in her eyes said I needed to take it. "Hello? This is Alpha Maddix," I answered.

“Mads? Can you come to Spirit Mountain? Please?” a timid voice asked. It was my sister, and she needed me. Riley just nodded, and mouthed that she was coming along with me.

“I will be there tomorrow, sis. Are you doing alright?” I asked. She told me she was, but she just needed to see me.

“Mads, don’t bring anyone other than Riley and Willow. I can’t handle that right now. I love River and Phoenix, but it’s already too much with mom and dads being here smothering me,” she said. I promised it would just be us, and I disconnected.

“She told me to make it just us, but I feel like we should take Peter with us. Maybe see if she will go through with the counseling.” I told Riley. She shook her head. “No, Maddix. You just promised her. Going against her wishes would just make her further withdraw from us.” I knew she was right, but the overwhelming obligation I felt to help Alette, outweighed everything else right now. In my heart I had failed her by not getting to her faster, and I knew Damian’s guilt about that was deeper than mine. Grandma said we just needed to give her time, and had sent some healing potions to Spirit Mountain for Alette’s wolf.

Alaska hasn’t made her presence known since the day we rescued Alette. I think that contributes to Alette’s depression. Maybe having people she feels safe with will help Alaska come forward.

I decided to call my other sisters. I knew they were planning on going to see Alette, but wasn’t sure when. I call Asteria, and she picks up the phone pretty quickly. “Hey sis, where are you and Addie?” I asked. “Hello to you, too big brother.

We are at home, why?” she replied. I explained the phone call I had just received to her and asked if they could wait a few more days to head down to Alette. She agreed, and promised to see us by the weekend.

After speaking to Asteria, I came up with an idea. Mom and our dads were already at Spirit Mountain, so I decided to talk to them about maybe having a family BBQ this weekend. Riley and I would get there in the morning, and we would have a couple of days before the rest would get there. I messaged Phoenix and River, and they said they would be there. I know Alette isn’t feeling festive, but I think a small get-together might bring her a little more out of her Alpha, Brother, Father shell.

That night, lying in bed with my mate, I felt a calmness come over me. A calmness I hadn’t felt since the day my sister was taken. I prayed that this was a sign of things to come, and I snuggled in closer to Riley. I took a deep breath, and that was when the scent hit me. I sat straight up and looked at Riley. “Babe, are you pregnant?” I asked her.

She smiled brightly at me, and nodded her head. “5 weeks,” she said. Things had been so crazy that she hadn’t had time to tell me. I was going to be a dad. We are having a baby. Finally, something good is happening to someone in the family. I pulled her into a deep

kiss, and that night I made love to my wife. Riley was the best thing that happened to me, and I was going to prove to her over and over how much she really meant to me.

The next morning, we ate breakfast as a family. The house omegas loaded up my car with our luggage, and after we finished our meal, we drove off towards Spirit Mountain. I held tightly to Riley's hand as we traveled. We spoke of the future, we talked about our journey with each other so far, but most of all, we spoke about family. She loved my family as much as they loved her, and I knew she would help as much as she could to help Alette find herself again.

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ALETTE POV

Night of Rescue Flashback

I felt guilty riding in a comfortable car while the other girls rode in the back of a military truck. They were just as much a victim as I was. When I voiced my opinion, Damian assured me they would be taken care of. However, we didn't have enough cars to accommodate them all. "Can Hillary at least ride with us?" I asked. He nodded and asked if Luke could go get her. When they got back, she looked terrified until she saw me. "Please ride with me," I asked her. She eagerly nodded and climbed in next to me.

Her eyes darted between the three men in the car, and I whispered to her that she didn't have to be afraid. I explained who they were, and she instantly relaxed. My plan was to make sure she either got back to her pack, or come with me to Spirit Mountain. Both of us were going to need all the support we could get.

Instead of making the long trip home, we drove to Northern Sun. It was the closest pack to Ross Lake, and Simon's dad was Beta. There we would be able to figure much more out.

We were given top-notch accommodation while the girls were put in a make shift dorm. Again, guilt riddled me because of that. Hell, even at Ross Lake we still had our own private luxury quarters.

I put the guilt behind me since it was just one night, and just a sleeping situation. They were given gorgeous clothing to wear, and personal assistants. They were free to roam wherever they wanted, and not treated like servants or prostitutes. That was a bitter pill to swallow. Technically, we were all not prostitutes, even if it was against our will.

At breakfast the next morning, I was notably sick. I had bad tremors, my head ached, my body ached, and the smell of the food made me sick. Damian took me to the pack doctor, and he confirmed it was an effect of coming off of whatever I was drugged with. He said

that it would probably last another day, but gave me some medication to stop the nausea, and said it would help me be able to eat. It was important to maintain my strength through all the detox.

Damian didn't leave my side, partially because I wouldn't let him. He is my safety, and his scent of spiced apple cider helped keep me calm. He kept asking me if I needed space, and I adamantly refused. That was the last thing I wanted.

However, at one point, I had no choice. He had to attend a meeting with Alpha Kernshaw, my brother and another Alpha that was local. He said that I could come, but I knew part of what they were going to be discussing, and I didn't want to even hear his name.

I told him that I would just go find Hillary and the others, and assured him I would be fine. I let him kiss me, and that is exactly where I went. Northern Sun looked a little different from the last time I was here. Surely, the changes that were made by the new alpha. The last time I had been here was for Phoenix's grandfather's funeral send-off. I never liked the feeling of this place when the former Alpha was in charge. He was a weird man, who led this pack almost into the ground.

The training building aka dorm wasn't far from the pack house, so I made it there quickly. When I entered, I expected to see more girls inside. However, there were only a few.

"Where is everyone?" I asked one of the girls sitting on her bed. "Most are getting fresh air, a couple have actually found their mates, several are speaking with the Beta about staying in the Northern Sun permanently, and then there is us. We aren't ready to venture out yet," she replied. I nodded in understanding, and asked about Hillary.

"She was one of the girls who found her mate. He was a warrior, and she felt safer with him. You know, some of the girls are still terrified. I don't sense any danger here, and that gives me comfort. I just don't want to see the way people look at me. I can't stand to be seen as pitiful. I'm an alpha's daughter, you know. Well, I was," she told me.

"You were? Who is your father?" I asked. She looked to the ground and replied, "My father was Alpha Issacs." My mouth hit the floor, and at the moment I couldn't believe what I was hearing. "Your father treated you this way? How could he? I am so sorry." She shook her head and said,

"See, pity. Please don't be sorry. My father didn't want me.

He only wanted my brothers. I had another sister, but one of his clients turned out to be her mate, and she was able to escape. She promised to come back to get me, but we moved to the states before she could."

I sat on the bed next to her and held her hand. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean for it to come out like pity. I didn't mean it that way. I'm glad you were rescued too, but I will have to tell

my mate who you are. Maybe you will be able to reunite with your sister. What happened to your brothers? Oh, by the way, my name is Alette.” I apologized.

She leaned her head on my shoulder and thanked me.

“Thank you, my name is Hosanna. It’s alright, I understand that it’s a sad situation. As soon as I turned 14, he started to make money off of using me. Even though he is my dad, I haven’t looked at him like that in a long time. The past 3 years have been hell for me, and even if I found my mate, he wouldn’t want used goods like me. I have come to accept that. He ended up having 2 of my 5 brothers killed, and the rest are in a human prison for murder. They will never get out, she said.

My heart broke for her. 14 years old? Jameson Issacs was a worse monster than I could have ever imagined.

“Hosanna, when was the last time you spoke to your sister?

Did she give you her mate’s name?” I asked. She told me that it had been almost a year, and that her mate was the Alpha of a pack in Idaho named Hidden Pines. Again, my heart sunk. Hidden pines had been wiped out by rogues with no survivors 6 months ago. My friend, Cameron, lived there and was among the ones who died.

After breaking the news to her, I heard her whisper through her tears, “I am totally alone now. Where do I even go?” I pulled her close to me and told her she was coming with me to Spirit Mountain. I told her that my sisters and I were now her sisters, and we would take care of her. She laid down on the bed and continued to cry, and I just laid with her and held her. I felt the goddess put us in each other’s lives for a reason, and I would make sure she was taken care of.

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ALETTE POV

FLASHBACK CONT’D

Hosanna moved from the dorm to the pack house. She wasn’t right next door to me, but close. Hanging out with her helped keep my mind off of what happened, but I honestly would have rather been hanging out with my mate. Damian had been so busy trying to get everything in place with all the rescues, and the trials of our captors.

I also wanted my sisters. I understood why they couldn’t be with me, but I needed to feel our bond up close and personal. Alaska was trying to heal everything, including my mind,

but I had to keep reminding myself that she went through it too. The drugs affected her as much as they did me.

Today, I decided to stay in our room. I didn't want to see anyone other than Damian, and honestly, if I could avoid speaking to anyone at all I would be happier. I could feel myself withdrawing from life, and Damian was trying his best to help me, but he could only do so much. The best thing that Damian could do was just stay close. The sense of safety I got from him was more than I could ever need at the current time.

****TWO WEEKS LATER****

We are going home today. Finally. I was given the option of returning to school immediately, doing school from Spirit Mountain. In the end, I chose to drop out of college all together. It was my choice, and honestly, Damian was upset about it. So were my older brothers. My parents were fine with whatever I wanted, and let me know they were coming back to the states. They were meeting us at Spirit Mountain and were going to stay for a while,

My sisters are finally here, and I think their mates have asked them to finish school online. Their safety wasn't something Miles and Simon were willing to put at risk.

Jameson Issacs and the people working for him at Ross.

Lake were being held in the cells, but our mates and brother, Maddix, found out that his business was much larger than initially thought. There were more people involved who were still out there, and as long as they were, there was still a threat.

The cars were loaded, and those coming with us to Spirit Mountain to live were situated on the buses. Hosanna and Hillary were riding with Damian and I, and they would also be staying on our floor with us. The three of us are very close, and when Damian isn't with me, they are.

I bid goodbye to my sisters and their mates, and we drove away from Northern Sun. I was thankful for their help, but being there, knowing Jameson Issacs was being held in their cells still made me so uneasy. Every day became more and more difficult. Hopefully, being in my own space would help me.

****Present Time****

We have been home for close to a month, nothing has changed for me. I don't know if it ever will. I'm starting to lose hope, and that thought makes me more sad.

My parents have been here since we got back, and they are making me crazy. Especially my dad, Liam. He is the one I usually find comfort in, but that only lasted about a week, and one day I exploded. I was so tired of hearing, "Things will be OK. You will heal in

time.” Then there was my favorite. “Things will get better once you just put it behind you and forget about it.” That one came from my mother. I lost my sh*t with that one.

My mother had been through something similar in life. She had been raped, beaten and degraded for YEARS, but had the gall to tell me to ‘just forget about it and move on’. I’m sure I took it completely the wrong way, but with the way I feel about everything AND myself, I couldn’t take it any other way.

I’ve since apologized to them all, but had to give them boundaries. So far they have respected them. Daddy Loki has really stepped up for me. He doesn’t pry, he doesn’t make me try and talk, and most of all, he just lets me be.

Most times we just sit in silence. He will read or work on his laptop, and I will just sit with him.

“Your brother, Riley and the baby will be here tomorrow,” he informed me. I gave a genuine smile, and told him that made me happy. I could use some baby cuddles. Riley video chats me daily, and sometimes multiple times a day.

I couldn’t ask for a better sister-in-law. Well, other than Lindy. Phoenix hit the jackpot with her. She sent a lot of soups and dinners to me with Henry and Celeste when they came to visit last week.

I can remember the food at the restaurant we met her in, and I think hers is far better.

“Daddy?” I called to him. He sat up and looked over at me.” I think I need help. I can’t do this on my own. I don’t feel like me, and as every day goes by, I feel worse. I don’t know who to trust though, and before you mention it, no to Phoenix. It keeps being brought up, but I know for fact that I couldn’t talk to my brother about something like that,” I cried. He left his chair, and sat next to me on the sofa.

“Birdie, we all know a person. All you have to do is approve.

He will be here in a day,” he said. I knew he was speaking of Peter. My mom’s old therapist and friend. I had spoken to him quite a bit before, but as my mom’s friend, not a therapist. He was good at his job, he helped mom. More times than I can count. I decided to have him come, and I volunteered to call Maddix.

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Damian POV

The phone call with Alpha Krenshaw and his Beta was a productive one. I hated that we had to leave before a decision was made on Jameson Issacs, but I needed to get Alette out of there. I hated seeing her going through this downward spiral, but I understood. Anyone in her situation would do the same. I miss my free-spirited mate, and deep down I know she will be back to herself soon.

Liam informed me of Maddix and Riley coming tomorrow, and that the rest were coming this weekend. I was excited to meet the rest of the family, and I think Lette needed more of her family around. Especially her sisters, and niece. She talks about her sister-in-law Riley a lot, and I know she confides in her. We plan on talking to Alette about possibly bringing her mom's therapist and friend Peter to Spirit Mountain for her to speak to, and I hope she allows it.

My office door flew open and Buck stood there looking like the cat who ate the canary. "Uh, D? We have a problem, he said. I kept staring at him, and he didn't say anything else.

For someone so smart in so many ways, it makes me question every other aspect of his intelligence. "Are you going to tell me?" I ask. He started to chuckle and said,

"Alette's friend, Hosanna, is freaking out. Like trying to kick people's asses freaking out," he explained. I c**cked my eyebrow waiting for him to finish once again, and this time he got the hint. "Alpha Krenshaw's son, Miles, had just arrived with Luna's sister. He brought along his younger brother, Linc. Apparently, Hosanna is his mate. He was away at school when you were all in his pack, and didn't know she was one of the victims. He grabbed her and kissed her when he discovered who she was. She has now lost her s**t. You may want to come help rescue him," Buck laughed

Oh, boy. I retreated from my office and made my way to the common room downstairs. Sure enough, Hosanna was having a panic attack. Hopefully she didn't try to beat my ass for trying to help. "Hosanna? It's me, Damian. Calm down girl. It's alright, Linc here isn't going to hurt you. I promise. You trust me, don't you?" I told her. She nodded her head. She still wouldn't allow me to approach her though.

I did the only thing I knew, and asked Buck to get Alette.

She had blocked everyone from linking her, and right now, I wish she hadn't.

It wasn't long before Alette came running around the corner.

I stayed with Hosanna as close as I could, but when she saw my mate she rushed to her. For a moment, I saw my mate being somewhat "herself".

"What's going on, Hosanna?" she asked. Hosanna looked towards Line, and explained that he was her mate. Alette looked at her strangely and asked, "Is that a bad thing?" Hosanna shook her head, and said that he had startled her when he came at her, and it triggered a panic attack. Alette motioned for Linc to come over to them, and patted the floor for him to

sit. "What is your name?" Alette asked him. He told her his name, and she cupped Hosanna's face.

"Hosanna, this is Linc. Linc, this is Hosanna. Now, you aren't strangers any longer. Linc, you are going to have to be very patient and go easy with her. She was part of the Ross Lake victims. The worst part is Jameson Issacs is her father. So, I'm sure you can understand that she has lived under cruelty her whole life. She has trust issues, and I won't allow her to live in fear. I hope you understand," Alette said.

The stressed look on Linc's face fell to a soft one as soon as the realization hit him. He reached for Hosanna's hand, and she gave it to him. He looked her deep in the eyes and stated, "Hosanna? That is a gorgeous name. I am sorry that you have been through all of that bullshit. I will never let another soul harm you in any way. I will stand beside you and treat you like a queen. That is if you will let me. You will never be forced to do anything you don't want to.

However, I want to get to know you, that is if you will let me.

Give me a chance to prove to you that I'm a good guy?" he asked with a shy smile.

Watching the interaction between them, and my mate navigating the situation to make sure her friend feels safe brought a feeling of pride. As much she felt she was losing herself, I could only see her fighting to get through her hell and help others too.

The new couple left to go to a more private but public area I had a feeling they would be fine as soon as Hosanna could see past his aggressive excitement.

I helped my mate off the floor, and I scooped her up in my arms. She let out a slight giggle, and cuddled her head into my neck. "Damian?" she said. "Hmmm?" I replied. "Can we go to our room to talk please? I have made some decisions, and want your input," she finished

Not answering her, I just carried her upstairs. When we entered the room, I sat her down and she climbed onto our bed. I laid on the bottom of our bed and propped my head in my hand. "What's up, sweetheart?" I asked.

She crossed her legs under her and she got comfortable.

"Well, first, I want to have Maddix bring Peter here," she said. I nodded and told her he was already coming. "What?" she retorted. "Maddix had already made arrangements for Peter to be there for the BBQ this weekend. Ya know, just in case," I said. She squinted her eyes at me, but didn't argue.

"Second, I want to know what they are going to do with Jameson. It's been over a month, and nothing has been done. The council had already agreed to his sentence, yet it hasn't been carried out and there has been no talk of when it will. Why?" she stated.

I had no answers to give her, and unfortunately, she wasn't getting them today. The border sirens started to wail and Buck was in my head.

"Alpha, Damian! We are under attack, and by the looks of it, we are outnumbered, he yelled. I asked if he could tell by how many, and he never replied. I asked Alette to contact her parents, but she never had the chance. Loki and Liam came barreling through our door. I told them what Buck had told me, and Melian grabbed her to take her to the safe room. Alette refused to go until she knew her friends were also safe.

I begged her to just listen, but I also knew she wasn't going to budge. Melain said she would make sure she was safe. I linked several of our guards to have them help gather everyone, and Alette's fathers and I ran out into the pack grounds. There were so many attackers that I wasn't sure where to head to first. Until I saw Buck. He was in the thick of it, and was definitely holding his own.

As I fought my way through, I tried to find a sign of whom this was and why they were attacking. Then I saw him.

Jackson Oliver. This didn't make sense. Jameson wasn't at Spirit Mountain. He was in Northern Star.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 57

Maddix POV

When George and Henry arrived at where I was holding Jack, I was still sobbing. I kept apologizing to them both, because I should have been there when the attack started. The situation with Alette has really kept me away from my pack. I've neglected my duties, and George has had to pick up all my slack.

Guilt ridden, I stood up and carried Jack to the pack hospital so that the coroner, Dr. Hall, could prepare his body for his send-off. I stayed with him the whole time. It was Henry who finally approached me and put his arm around my shoulders. "Maddix, this isn't your fault brother. Jack chose to fight, and with the size of the wolves attacking us, he was no match. He died with honor, protecting his pack.

Let's not forget that. Mom and Dad can't get here until Tuesday due to weather in Switzerland. Dr. Hall is going to have to place his body in the cooler until his send-off," he said.

I just kept staring at Jack's body. He may not have held a high-ranked position, but it didn't change the way I saw and felt about him. This must have been what it felt like

when my dads, and uncle Rico lost uncle Nick. I nodded my head to Henry, and I placed a kiss on Jack's forehead. George and Henry did the same.

I needed to be alone for a few hours and get my head together before heading back to Spirit Mountain. Mom and Alette decided to postpone the BBQ until tomorrow, and then straight after we would return home. I had to find a way to explain to my sister that I couldn't just come running at the drop of a hat anymore. I wanted to help her and be there for her, but my pack needed me more right now.

I filled up the bathtub in our room, and filled it with eucalyptus oil. I once again allowed the tears to flow, and I called out to Franz.

"Franz? Is there such a power to help heal broken hearts? Broken souls? Things would be so much easier if there were," I said. He sighed and replied, "Maddix, you take too much on as your own burden.

Sometimes, you have to let people handle things on their own. Like Lette. You helped save her from the situation she was in. However, you cannot be the one to save her from herself. That is what her mate is for, and her mate is a good man. Trust him to do the job, even if she gets mad."

I knew he was right, and Franz always spoke the truth. It didn't make me feel any better, but I knew I had to let go a little.

I needed to call Riley, and after I finished my bath and dressed, I did just that. "Hey babe, I just wanted to let you know we are alright. Well, most of us. We lost quite a few people. I haven't gotten full count yet. Um, there is something I need to tell you. We lost Jack. We also lost your helper, Allison. I'm sorry, my love." I explained to her.

I heard her gasp at the other end, and then she asked me to give love to George and Henry for her. I told her I would, and that we would be heading back in a few hours. I just wanted to check over things a little more. A knock on my door caused me to end the call.

"Come in," I yelled. The door opened and it was George.

"Maddix? Is it OK to come in please?" he asked. I nodded my head, and he sat with me on the sofa. "I'm exhausted, Mads. I work nonstop, and I need a break. My loyalty will always be to you and Blood Moon. You, your parents and siblings are my family. I just don't know If I can carry out my duties as Beta anymore, Maddix," he said somberly.

"Listen to me, George. There is nothing in this world that would cause me to look at you any differently. If you feel in your heart that you need to step down, then I will respect it.

How does Henry feel?" I asked. He shook his head and told me he wasn't sure. He hadn't talked to him. I asked him to stay on until after Jack's send off, and I would try to find

someone else to take over. I asked him to walk the grounds with me one last time, and he happily agreed.

Our walk was beneficial to us both. Not only were we making sure our pack was safe after the attack, but we were able to talk more. He explained more about how he was feeling, and we came to an agreement that he wouldn't step down, but would step back from duties for a while.

Henry agreed to step into his role temporarily on the condition George got a full medical evaluation to make sure the fatigue wasn't caused by something else.

George agreed, especially since he remembered that his mother had always been sickly. I knew the stress didn't help whatever was wrong, but I promised him that things were going to change.

Everyone was ready to head back, and I made sure Henry understood that George was to rest. My grandma will be in Blood Moon tomorrow, and I asked her to check on him as well. If anyone could figure it out; it would be gran.

The trip back to Spirit Mountain was quiet. The guys were either passed out or in thought. About an hour into the ride, Damian spoke to me. "Maddix, I'm about 100% sure who attacked your pack," he said. It definitely caught my attention, and I asked him to continue. "I think it was my uncle. Josh was killed because of not being able to fully deliver all of your sisters. I'm sure he blames them. I will do my best to find out. If he doesn't know Alette is my mate yet, I can get out more information. She isn't going to like being held as a secret very much, but if it helps, it's what we will have to do," he says.

I had never thought about that scenario, but it made perfect sense. "Let's deal with this after this weekend. I just need a break with my family. Our family," I told him. He agreed and we finished our drive in silence.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 58

Damian POV

While Maddix was dealing with the situation with his Beta and pack, I made a few phone calls. I called to check on my mate, then I called my friend from school to ask him if he would check into something for me.

I had a feeling my Uncle Norman had a hand in the attack on Blood Moon. He wasn't going to let Josh's death go unpunished. Josh was killed by my dad because of Alette.

He couldn't avenge his death by challenged my father, so the next thing would be my mate.

I'm pretty sure Norman doesn't know she is my mate, so it would only make sense to go after her pack. My friend is from Norman's pack, and I need to know what he knows about the situation. He said he was at school, so he wasn't sure if it was them, but he would surely look into it for me.

We drove back to Spirit Mountain in silence. We were all exhausted. I explained my theory about my uncle to Maddix. He said we would look into it, but also said something that shocked me.

"Let's deal with this after this weekend. I just need a break with my family. Our family," he said. I had to agree with him. We all needed a break, and I needed to make things right with my mate.

I had been keeping her close, but at arms length at the same time. Other than small kisses, hugs or cuddles, I haven't done anything to try and help her feel wanted. I had overheard her therapist talking to Melian. Lette thinks I am thinking differently about her. She feels like I won't want her since she is now tarnished. Her words, not mine.

I didn't realize that was how she felt. It's not true. I want her more than I've ever wanted anything in life. I had just been trying not to be respectful after what she had just gone through. However, I was going to show her just how much when we were finally alone.

Finally, back in Spirit Mountain, we pulled in front of the pack house and went inside. The house smelled of Italian dishes and it smelled amazing. The best smell of all was of coconut and chocolate. The strong scent of my mate. I followed my nose to the library, and there she was curled up in her big chair sleeping.

I got on my knees in front of her and softly kissed her cheek. Her eyes fluttered open, and a smile spread across her face. "You're home," she whispered. I kissed her lips this time and put every emotion I had into it, so she knew I meant it. "Hello to you too," she said. Her face dropped as if something was wrong, and I immediately cupped her face and reassured her everything was fine.

"Alette, I'm sorry, my love. I haven't been my usual self towards you and for that I'm sorry. I promise you to start showing you just how much I love you, and how much you mean to me. Every single day. I have been handling you with kid gloves because I am afraid of making your trauma worse. I haven't tried to mark you or make love to you because I was afraid it would make things hard on you. I'm telling you right now, I'm not going anywhere. I am here for eternity. You, my gorgeous woman, are stuck with my big ugly mug for life," I expressed to her.

Her eyes widened, and her lips started to tremble. "How?" was all she said. "What do you mean, How? How can I love you? How can I overlook what happened and still want to be

with you? It's easy, Alette. I love you because you are funny, you are kind and fierce all at the same time. You make my heart want to beat out of my chest when I look at you.

Zion and I feel an overwhelming need to touch you all the time, and we fight daily not to ravish your body and make you completely ours. Then, there's how can I overlook what happened.

I can't, but it wasn't your fault at all. I can't forget what they did to you, but what they did, doesn't define what we have. I would make love to you and mark you a hundred times over if you allowed me to. All you have to say are the words, my love. I'm following your lead," I replied.

"That isn't what I meant, Damian. Who told you that I felt like that? Only my therapist has heard those words leave my mouth," she sneered. She was angry. I threw my hands up in defense and replied, "Whoa, Alette. No one told me anything. I have been feeling this way, and I notice everything you do. I do pay attention to you, whether you think I do or not. I promise it's just my observation."

I couldn't throw her mom or therapist under the bus because I was afraid she would shut down completely. She seemed to accept my response, and apologized. She said we needed to talk after dinner, and I told her that we could spend all night talking if that is what she wanted.

I took her hand, and we walked down to the dining hall with the rest of the family. During dinner there was a lot of laughter and joking around. It was good to see her laugh.

The sound of her crazy laugh always made me laugh harder.

Mid-way through dinner, I excused myself. I went into the office that was my father's and opened the safe. I took out a small red box and opened it to show an antique engagement ring and wedding band set. It was my mother's set. I always knew dad kept it in this safe, because Sandy had no access to it. I stuck it in my jeans pocket, and went back to join everyone.

I passed my gamma on the way back, and he asked to speak to me. "Damian? Can I speak to you as a friend, not my Alpha?" I knew it was serious, so I replied, "Of course, Caleb. Always Brother." He fidgeted for a moment and he sighed. "I found my mate, but I don't know how to deal with it. It's Alette's youngest brother," he admitted.

"Caleb, there isn't anything wrong with that. I don't look at you differently, and the goddess is never wrong. Does he know?" I asked. "I don't know, D. He keeps staring at me, but left abruptly with you guys when Blood Moon was attacked. I haven't had the chance to talk to him, he replied.

Something told me River knew, but hadn't made a move. He was probably just as afraid as Caleb. I could understand why, but even just meeting each other and talking through

things wouldn't hurt. I encouraged my Gamma to speak with River, and see how it went. They were very much alike, and the worst that could happen would be that they rejected one another. I didn't see that happening.

Dessert was on the table by the time I returned, and Caleb left my side and sat by River. I saw River stiffen, but when he looked at Caleb, he finally said the word my Gamma longed to hear, "Mate"

Not to take away from their union, I had a task of my own to take care of. I took Alette's hand, and kissed the back of it. I asked her to stand, and I faced her towards me. I asked for everyone's attention and when I had it, I started to speak to my mate.

"Alette Lily Young, we have been through so much since the second I found you. Through all the craziness, I was always sure of one thing, that I wanted you more than I wanted air to breathe. When everything happened, I lost the biggest part of me and I knew I wouldn't be fully whole again until you were back where you belonged. By my side," I began.

I started to go down on one knee, and she began to sob. I cleared my throat and finished what I started. "I never want you to be away from my side ever again. So, in front of our friends and family, the ones we hold dearest to our hearts, I am asking you to be not only my mate, not only my Luna, but also my wife. Will you marry me, Alette?"