

Chapter 63: Traitors, secret, and lies are no good for our pack.

Chapter 63 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

The boys who had guarded the bathroom left with their parents, both with matching scowls on their faces. Their parents were pissed they were involved with those hussies even before they pulled their shit with me. We didn't go too hard on them with the parents having enough of a punishment for them. We have them doing kitchen rotation instead of warrior rotation which made them freak out. Something about not being a girl was mentioned so their mom added on how much girl stuff they would be doing when they got home.

'Knock, Knock. Can we come in?' Draco linked. I could feel him just outside the door with a few others.

"Come in, you lot." I shouted cutting off Lucas's perverted comment about my being wet and in their clothes.

Draco walked in with Allie, Cass, and Cherry. Britt was still in the shower having a small meltdown with female guards ready for anything. They each took a seat around the room looking a bit glum. That's never good.

"How's your sister doing? I hate that she had to go through all of that." Allie asked rubbing her stomach unknowingly. She seemed to be doing that more and more. "Our pack is suppose to be safe and loyal but instead we are finding all the holes and dirty little secrets."

"Shaken but she is strong." Giving a small smile I moved on to a new subject. "How far away are you from birth?"

"Within two weeks. The time has gone by so fast." She radiated happiness from within her. "I am so ready to hold this boy and give them all sorts of lovins."

"Same but we want you both to come out of this healthy and strong so he needs to cook just a bit longer." Draco said bringing her hand to his lips and kissing it.

"You two are so adorable." Cherry said interrupting their love fest. "How about we talk business before the free porn?"

"Stuff it, Cherry. You are just wanting an invitation to join us." Allie winked at her laughing and pulled her hand back from Draco.

“Not join, replace Draco.” Cherry blew her a kiss.

“Ok, enough flirting.” Draco rolled his eyes and faced us from our seats behind the two side by side desks. “The three warriors aren’t traitors to the pack but they are shitty people who enjoy seeing others in pain so I went ahead and had them picked up while a few warriors searched their houses. They have hurt a few of the females here and told them if they said anything they would kill their families.”

“Where do you have them?” Leo asked looking pissed that something like that would be happening in the pack. “Have you figured out what girls they hurt?”

“The guys in the dungeons having fun time with a few of our trainers who had some new technique they wanted to try out.” Draco shrugged like it was nothing new. “The girls are being seen in the clinic and getting set up with seeing the therapist.”

‘This pack is falling apart. Maybe it is my fault?’ I cried out to Moonlight while keeping my face blank like I was still processing everything. ‘The pack needs a strong Luna and here I am letting all of these shitty things happen under my watch. What do we do?’

‘We get stronger in every way. We put ourselves out there for the pack and show that we are here to stay, to protect, and to love.’ Moonlight answered from her spot on the floor of our mind curled up in a ball. ‘All of this started before we got here but it isn’t anyone’s fault. This is a newish pack and this is just how things go as they are getting their feet wet with how to run things.’

Deal. Now lets get these guys back on track with the traitors and our plan to save Lindy.’ She agreed smiling before sleeping. My stress had been getting to her and making it hard for her to sleep.

“And what about the dead girl’s parents?” I asked interrupting their talk about what to do with the warriors and what methods to use to teach them a lesson. “Are they traitors and if so what is the next step?”

“Someone is in a hurry for answers.” Cass teased but stopped when noticing my serious face. “They are traitors but it seems not completely knowingly. From their conversation that was recorded they thought they were talking to another pack who wanted to help our failing pack. It seems Janet’s parents have strung a web of lies convincing them of the Alpha’s failures even before you got here.”

“And the next steps is to search their houses, find how the communicate, what they have shared, and so on. They are separated and put into different dungeons same with the others.” Draco stated pulling some paper out of his pocket. “

“Order the searches and send for Tiberius and Olivia so we can have a meeting.” I ordered Cass before continuing. “It’s time we went in for Lindy. Now that they have the information about a fake escape and we have anyone who could spill the truth put up we need to head out.”

“They are not going with us.” Leo stood up and stretched. “But you are correct. Draco grab a few trusted warriors. This is going to be a stealth operation so we don’t need many of us.”

“They are. Olivia can help me get in and Tiberius will be able to sniff out his mate or at least tell us if she is still alive. I will go get ready.” I left ignoring their rebuttals. I knew I needed them.

Chapter 64: Why are all guys so dramatic?

Chapter 64 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“They did what?!” Jackson yelled through the phone. “Those girls jumped my baby in the bathroom and it took you how long to get there?”

I pulled the phone away to reduce anymore pain in my ears. “I know. I...”

“You failed your sister. I told you to keep her safe!” He yelled loud enough I didn’t even need him on speaker phone. “I thought you were better than that.”

“Hey!” I was done making him feel better about the situation with Britt. “I told you it wasn’t the safest place and you said it was fine. That she could help protect herself and she did great. Shit happens. Get the fuck over it and stop treating me like shit. I am your daughter too or would you like to forget all about me again?”

“I didn’t forget you! And I knew you had outside attackers, but you didn’t tell me you caused all this drama at a pack you haven’t been at that long.” Jackson groaned. “I am coming to get her and bring her home. She isn’t safe with you.”

“We will let her decide. I’m not the one who had a fake mate bitch in my house treating her like shit and turning people against her. That would be you.” I hung up the phone and threw it across the room.

Ignoring the pain in my heart from the guy who was supposed to love me unconditionally and understand me, I finished my packing making sure it all fit in a small backpack. I had put on some of my old clothes that I wouldn’t mind getting torn up if I had to use some of the smaller space the crawl in through or the more dangerous hide outs. Any of the keys I had from when I left to some of the doors no one even knew I had keys too. I had the dungeon key and had a copy of the keys to most of the silver chains that were attached to the walls. Those things along with gloves, silver knives, and a few other special items to help make it through.

Olivia and Tiberius were waiting with my mates, Draco, and some trusted warriors. Allie wasn't going and she fought about it but she knew it wasn't safe. Cass was staying to run the pack and send back up if needed. Britt and Cherry were going to help out here but were waiting with everyone when I walked up.

"Hey, sis. Can we talk?" Britt asked looking like she had been crying.

"Of course." I pulled her into my side and walked over away from everyone. "What's wrong?"

"Please don't make me go back to my old pack. I like it here." She started to sob shoving her face into my side with her arms wrapped around me. "Everyone here is so nice except for a few. And eating dinner with an actual family member has been so nice. Dad is never home and I was taking care of myself."

"Who said you had to leave?" It took a second to set in. "That asshole. Can I see your phone? I broke mine after hanging up on Jackson before coming back up here."

She handed me her phone smiling. "He does that but ever since the Matilda thing he has gotten worse."

I dialed Jackson's number holding Britt against me but it wasn't him who answered.

"Britt, baby, ignore your dad. He is an asshole and shall be dealt with." Gramps shouted making sure to be louder than Jackson who was yelling in the back. "He is upset he wasn't there to help you in your time of need just like he wasn't able to save your sister."

"We get that, gramps, but he has the emotional range of a toddler which doesn't help anything." I saw my sister roll her eyes at the phone. "Britt won't be coming back. She wants to stay here and that is what she will be doing. Tell Jackson to calm down and we will talk tomorrow. I need you to get ready. We are headed in tonight."

"You got it. Be safe." And he hung up.

"Yes, please be safe." Britt gave me one last hug and ran off toward the pack house with Cherry on her tail.

'I will watch over her. Don't worry. You focus on getting Lindy and her sister then get your asses back here safely.' Cherry linked as

she disappeared into the building.

'Thank you.'

'Moonlight, we ready for this?' I asked her as I joined everyone by the trucks.

‘You bet your perky tits we are.’ She laughed looking like she was already having fun just planning what damage we were going to cost.

Duncan wanted to go over the trip one more time before we got there. He had gotten a text that King Charles was going to be doing his part but one thing changed. Erin was going to come help us so he was already on his way there. Fingers crossed he makes it there on time because I won’t keep waiting forever. Our window isn’t the biggest.

“Have your warriors called to say anything about wolves leaving?” I asked getting into the SUV with my mates and Olivia. Tiberius was with Draco and the warriors in the other one.

“Working as planned. Several have been dispatched, including your fake parents and the Alpha.” Leo answered, smiling. “Wanna take out the Luna while we are there?”

“Nope. I want him to watch when I kill her.” I smirked.

“I call dibs on my soon to be ex mate. I will be rejecting him and the pack as we leave with Lindy.” Olivia had the first real smile on her face in forever.

“You go girl.” Lucas teased giving all of us a good laugh.

Chapter 65: Let’s save our friends and even make a new one.PT1

Chapter 65 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

Erin shifted back into his wolf when he finally made it to our meeting spot. Old man wasn’t even out of breath after this four-hour run. With this smug face we all knew he thought he was so awesome.

“Yea, Yea. Let’s get this dig started.” I gave him a quick hug before turning back to the warriors who had just joined us. The same ones who had been watching this pack for the last two weeks. “Tell us who left and where anyone else who might be an actual problem is.”

One of them pulled out a hand drawn map marking where the beta and gamma were which was as their homes. Not a big surprise. The only reason this pack had any power was their leader was insane, the warriors did all the work, and the crazy amount of members. Wasn’t going to help them tonight.

“The alpha, Luna, their son, beta’s son, and several warriors.” Another one answered. “They also took the pack accountant but no freaking clue on that one.”

“That would be my fake daddy so I guess no killing him tonight.” I rolled my eyes fighting a laugh. He would still get what was coming to him.

“They put extra warriors around the pack house and the leaders houses but tonight’s shift is full of trainee’s or the ones who half ass their patrols.” The first warrior spoke again with a smirk. “No visitors tonight but they should be tomorrow so this needs to happen now.”

“Deal.” I turned toward Olivia and Tiberius. They nodded, clenching their fists and readying themselves to get the job done. “You two are with me. Everyone else needs to spread around the pack lands out of sight. It will be just in case we need back up.”

“No.” Erin grabbed my shoulders forcing me to look at him. “I am going with you. End of story.”

“Gramps, I know this is hard-“

“I said I was going with you. I will find my own way in if I can’t follow the way you do.” He kept shaking his head every time I tried to talk. “Just stop and let’s go.”

“Fine.” He stepped back happy with my answer. Someone make him a temporary member so we can talk with each other.”

“Be safe.” Duncan kissed my cheek. “Don’t take any unnecessary risks.” He stepped back and started the steps to get gramps Erin part of our pack.

“Be fast.” Leo took his turn kissing my other cheek. “Come back to us.” He gave me one last look and went to help finish the ceremony with his alpha blood.

“Be brilliant.” Lucas chuckled before planting one on my lips. His own demanding the same hard love back. “Don’t make me burn this place to the ground.” He was dead serious.

I just nodded knowing that if I spoke I would cry or second guess them coming with us. We took off at a run with Erin grabbing the map. I knew where we were going but having the map was good. He wouldn’t be able to fit into the crack in the wall. Tiberius may have to go with him now that I thought about it.

Olivia pointed it out first with us barely stopping before running her over. Later on it might be funny but for now it cost us extra seconds we didn’t have.

“Yea, I am not making that. Neither is big boy here.” Erin whispered. “Follow me.”

Tiberius took off with him. I just had to trust that they would find a way in and they would both be unharmed when they did.

Olivia went first with me right behind her. Moonlight was keeping her senses up letting me know if she even smelled another animal. A little overkill but whatever keeps us safe. She sensed nothing which Olivia agreed with before coming out the other side.

‘Now we chose this spot because its closer to the dungeons.’ I linked her as we ran tree to tree.

‘Faster entrance means faster exit.’ She knew the plan.

‘Yup.’ We stopped once we made it close enough to the dungeon without being seen. ‘Keep an eye out for the rest of our group while I count the warriors.’

She started linking one of them to get an update. It seemed there were about six guards on the outside and when the doors were opened I saw at least two. They must have a few new prisoners in there. It was always over half full but with this many people patrolling, it seemed they might be at full capacity. We might have to stage a prison break.

‘They are almost here.’ Olivia looked over from her tree. ‘Are we waiting on them?’

‘Thanks for waiting.’ Erin linked as he and Tiberius each found a tree and started eyeing the warriors.

This was getting too complicated. It was time just to get it done. I wasn’t about to keep explaining everything step by step.

‘Boys go left and we will go right. Take out the damn guards and head in. Take out any opposition quick and deadly. No one here has clean hands.’

Running I got the first one off guard jumping onto his back and snapping his neck. Falling along with his body I rolled before there could be a loud enough thud to draw attention. Olivia had ripped out one throat and was working on another. The last one on our side noticed us finally taking a second too long to figure out what he was seeing. I was on him and ripping his throat out before he had the chance to start a link to anyone. The guys were already crouched outside the door waiting on us. Wankers.

I wasn’t about to wait. I slammed the door open throwing myself at the two in the room only managing to knock one of them down. Tiberius was on the other ripping his head off with a tad bit too much aggression. We all stood and stared at him.

“What? He smells like Lindy and its fresh.” Tiberius growled.

“Grab the keys, Olivia.” I picked up one of the walkie-talkies to keep an ear out for anyone coming in or worrying there are invaders.

Ripping the cell door open he picked her up, holding her close to his chest. “Mate. Hurt.”

“Its gonna be ok. I can hear her pulse and it is strong enough to make it back to safety.” Erin soothed him wrapping his jacket over Lindy’s naked body. “Now let’s find her sister and let everyone out of here. Might as well make life harder for them.”

Most of the prisoners could walk on their own. Lindy’s sister was one who couldn’t. Erin and Tiberius couldn’t believe they would have a ten-year-old down here and even take part in beating her. They had no idea.

Opening the last cell, I stepped back toward the door to leave and have them follow but was stopped by them putting their hand on my arm. Looking back the prisoners eyes caught mine showing me he was an alpha but a several weakened one.

“Let’s get you out of here. I bet your pack is missing you.” I put his arm over my shoulder to help him walk.

“I can’t leave yet.” He croaked out. “They have my son. He is only seven. I have to get him back.”

“We will help you.” I stated ignoring the others groans. “Erin, Tiberius take the girls back to safety. Olivia will go with me.”

“No.” Erin handed Lindy’s little sister over to Olivia. “I will go with you. This is the last detour.”

“Deal. Let’s blow this joint and save a kid.” I handed the Alpha over to Erin. "What's your name?"

"Alpha Charlie of the blue crescent pack. Thank you for helping me save my son."

‘And kill whoever thought it was ok to steal a kid again.’ Moonlight added. I agreed.

Chapter 66: Revenge is just as satisfying as I thought Pt 2

Chapter 66 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“Ok, so when was the last time you saw your son?” I asked Charlie as we made it out of the Dungeon making a run for the trees. Now that everyone was let out everything was going to hell with the pack freaking out.

“When they took him from me a few days ago.” His voice was getting weaker by the minute. “They mentioned giving him to someone who would train him to be strong not the weakling I had him being. He was called a replacement son for an important family.”

‘He was taken to replace Dennis. I just know it.’ Moonlight was losing her shit thinking of a kid being hurt like we had. ‘Get there, get there now.’

She tried to push forward and take over but I ended out the victor even if it did wear me out. She was getting stronger but so was I. We were a team but I knew she hated not being able to help me in the past so her emotions were guiding her to take over and take out the people who hurt me every day.

“Gemma?” Erin asked letting the Alpha slide down a tree nearby before walking back to me. “What are you thinking?”

“Who else took in a kid in this pack? Who else would need a replacement son who only raised strong warriors no matter how it had to happen?” I looked him in the eye letting him see my anger and sorrow. “I know where to go. I can do this alone but I am fine with you coming.”

“I am coming. That’s my son and his name is Ryder.” Charlie snarled trying his best to get up but his body just wasn’t having it.

“Fine. We both go with her but once we get Ryder out I want you and him to find a hiding spot in the house while we take out the trash.” Erin groaned. “You aren’t going to let me hurt either of them are you?”

“You can take out my ex fake piece of shit father but his mate, the one who abused me for years, is all mine and she dies tonight.”

‘Gemma, are you ok? Olivia and Tiberius made it back with several wolves.’ Duncan linked worriedly.

‘I am fine. Found an Alpha in the dungeon whose son was taken as a replacement for Dennis.’ I linked Draco the same answer. His reply came in the form of a growl and some choice curse words.

‘Don’t take any extra risks. I know its about a kid, but things are getting heavy here. The pack knows someone is there so you need to get out.’

‘No, Duncan. I will save this kid from what I went through. Erin is going to help. We will be there shortly. Keep everyone safe and let me know if reinforcements or the Alpha shows up. And note that we will be getting out on the other side of the pack so have someone there to help.’

‘Got it. We will be there waiting.’ He sounded angry and resigned but it wasn’t like I came in here for the hell of it.

Erin helped Charles up and followed as we did our best to stay out of sight. We only had to take down a few wolves as we made our way across the way. All of them being wolves I had grown up with but none of them even acknowledged who I was. The snotty cheerleader who copied my tests from science class didn't know who I was even as I broke her neck. The bully who stole my lunch once a week called me every name except my own before I ripped his intestines out leaving him to bleed to death. I had thought. The last one being Dennis's best friend who had tried to rape me when I was sixteen but was stopped by Lindy who bit him over the head with a skillet. He didn't recognize me until the end as I held him and Erin ripped his heart out. I laughed in his ear as he died.

"There it is. The old house of horrors." I pointed to the two-story white house with a picket fence and a hidden dungeon that taught me looks aren't what they seem.

The window nearest to us was empty pushing us closer to the other window until we heard a whine. It was a child's whine before the sound of a slap hitting flesh before her voice followed telling the child to man up and quit acting like he was scared.

That's all it took for me to rip the front door open and rush in, catching her hand before she could hit the scrawny crying boy on the floor near the dungeons door. Her face dropped in shock seeing me there and standing up for anyone. The boy didn't run like I had hope he would instead he flung himself onto my left holding on for dear life.

"Ryder, you need to head back toward the door. "I said softly patting his head. "I have some unfinished business with this she-devil and it isn't something you need to see. Your dad is waiting."

"My sons name is Delvin and he won't be going anywhere." She yanked her arm back. She reached out to grab Ryder but I shoved her back with my hand to her chest causing her to take several steps back.

"His name is Ryder and his father is behind us with my grandfather, Erin. My real family you pathetic waste of space." I stepped between her and Ryder as he made his way slowly to Charles and Erin. "You beat me until all I had left was death knocking at my door but you didn't know I had my wolf at an early age. You didn't know she is an Alpha wolf did you?" She looked shocked.

"No way. You are too weak for that strong of a wolf." She shouted stepping into my space so her spit hit my face as she yelled.

"I was only weak because of you and your fucking family!" I punched her in the face smirking at the sound of a crack that told me her nose was no longer straight. "I was only weak because you made sure I was so you could keep taking all your anger out of me! You are the one you should be angry at. You have no children, no loving faithful mate, and no fucking class!" I grabbed her throat and squeezed.

"Plea...I...so..." She started to beg or maybe apologize but I didn't have the patience for it.

“Your time is up. I hope the Goddess deals with you the way I have dreamed about. Just know your death only tops my happiness. I have three loving and faithful mates, my birth family accepted me no matter who raised me, a pack who adores me as their Luna, and friends who defend me until no end. You have never had that and never will.”

“Gemma, hurry.” Erin yelled breaking through the red haze of anger.

“Ok, gramps.” I smirked and broke my ex fake bitch mothers neck letting her body drop to the floor. “Good fucking riddance. Next is your mate but Ill wait until he think he is safe.”

Chapter 67: Time to head out and get ready for the next battle

Chapter 67 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“How is she?” I yelled as we finally made it to the guys and the car to get the heck out of here. “Lindy? Her sister?”

Duncan jerked his head toward me and ran full out toward us. We weren’t going the fastest with us both having something on our back. Ryder acted like a touch little cookie but she had already done some damage so a piggy back ride was what he got and Moonlight enjoyed every minute of having the little warrior with us. She wanted to shift and have him ride but I knew he wouldn’t be able to hold on long enough to make it back. She made me promise he would get one before he went back to his pack.

“You made it! I was getting so worried.” He pulled me and Ryder into a hug. “Seems you have a passenger. How are you little Alpha?” He smiled at Ryder, gave one last squeeze, and stepped back.

Ryder ducked his head behind mine before mumbling that he was fine. His grip had tightened pinching my skin but I refused to show it. He deserved the right to be cautious and scared right now. I had dealt with worse but now all the pain ended in pleasure as I had watched the light leave her eyes. Ryder had thanked me when it was done which freaked out his dad but I got it.

“Hey, don’t be scared. We have you and your dad. No one will hurt you again.” Duncan promised putting his fist out and waited patiently for a fist bump.

“Promise?” Ryder stuck his head out looking at Duncan with a more serious face. “Promise? Break that promise and Gemma gets to stay with me forever and ever!”

We held back a laugh and Duncan agreed getting his fist bump. Erin and Charles made it with the help of Leo and Lucas who had ran to help them. Erin had to take out a few wolves making it here from the death house. He had a few injuries that would need fixed.

“Hey, little warrior, mind if I put you down for a minute to hug my mates and get us all in the car to get the hell out of here?” I asked watching Leo and Lucas eyeing us. They had slowed their pace down as we waited on Ryder’s reply.

“Please.... Don’t....” He whined.

“Ryder, buddy, come to me.” Charles argued from his spot by the car. He was barely hanging on.

“Its ok. He has been through a lot and I get it.” I nodded toward the SUV. “Duncan get him and Erin in there while checking their wounds to see if we need to do some emergency first aid.”

I made my way to the twins stopping in front of Leo first. I nuzzled into his neck as he kissed wherever he could reach with his lips before he grabbed my face kissing me like his life depended on it. Ryder made a gagging noise sending me into giggles forcing the kiss to end.

“Hey, no comments from the peanut gallery mister or I will be kissing you.” I turned toward Lucas stopping in time to notice his eyes changing between him and his wolf. “Lucas, I am fine. I am safe. And I learned all the training I have had with each of you really does help a girl kick ass.”

“Yea and how many wolves did you take out, my mate?” He stalked the rest of the way to me eyes blazing. “Did you protect this pup by killing a wolf or two? Did you fight your way back to us? Tell me what you did to make sure you made it back to us.”

“I killed several wolves without mercy. They deserved no less.” I smirked leaning in closer to take in his scent. “I also killed my fake mother for daring to hurt another child like she did me.”

“Good girl.” He kissed my lips softly before kissing my forehead. ‘I can’t do what I want right now for many reasons but when we make it home I need you alone. I need you beside me, on top of me, and under me taking every inch of me. Got it?’ He linked letting me know he was serious.

‘Yes, Sir.’ Moonlight was giddy.

‘We have to go. The alpha is headed back with the rest and a few extra friends.’ Draco linked. He must have run ahead to keep an eye on the road. ‘Get everyone in the vehicles and go!’

“Go! Get in!” I yelled putting Ryder in the back between Charles and Erin with me getting in the seat in front of them. “Did the rest already leave? Do we need to go pick them up?”

“Breathe. They are already somewhere safe and getting healed.” Leo sat beside me holding my hand but keeping his eyes peeled.

“Hold on.” Duncan yelled putting the car in drive and putting the pedal to the metal.

We burned our tires into the ground before getting enough traction to speed out of here. Duncan really meant to hold on because we hit every bump and hole in the road sending me flying almost the ceiling. The three in the back were in pain but nothing we could do about it right now.

‘How far out are they?’ I linked Draco praying it was enough to get some distance between us.

‘Not much. I will meet you at the designated spot. Tell those mates of yours to put some speed on.’

“Not much time. How far is the meet up spot?” Lucas smiled back at me calming my nerves.

“We will be fine. We are almost to our turn off that take us away from the direction they are headed.”

‘You ok, gramps?’ I could hear his wheezing and it sounded painful.

‘I will make it. Focus on checking on your own body now that the adrenaline is coming down.’

My body? I looked around my arms and legs not seeing anything. Leaning forward there was a piercing pain in my back.

‘Moonlight?’

‘Claws got us but the bleeding won’t stop. I don’t know why.’

“I can feel your distress. What’s wrong?”

“I don’t know. I think someone had a little something extra on their claws at the pack.”

My eyesight started to blur and my body started to burn.

‘A nap sounds good.’ Moonlight slurred and laid down sending our eyes closed.

“Gemma... Gemma!” Leo yelled shaking me.

“Nite nite.”

Chapter 68: My old pack has really seen the darker side.

Chapter 68 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

Waking up was no walk in the park. The pain started radiating from where the claw marks were all the way to my toes before I woke up screaming. The lights were blinding, and the noise made my brain feel like it was ready to explode.

I tried to speak but only a croak came out. Just needed a drink or my saliva back to actually wet my lips. Maybe I should just try to link the guys. I tried searching for our connections, but they were barely there.

‘Moonlight?’ She had to be there. ‘Moonlight, where are you?’

Nothing. Nothing in reply. I couldn’t feel her not even a tiny bit. My wolf, my best friend, my sister was gone. What happened to me?

“He...he...lp.” Finally getting a word out even if it was almost a whisper.

“Moonlight...gone...please...” I cried out feeling each tear as they hit my cheeks.

“Gemma!” Erin yelled from somewhere in the room but I couldn’t place where. “Call the doctor. Now!”

He had made it to the side of my bed bumping into it in his haste. The pain from the movement was intense but I was more focused on the loss of my wolf. Was she gone for good? I couldn’t deal with that.

“Duncan, Leo. Get the hell over here. Leave the traitors to deal with your warriors.” Erin growled before throwing something across the room making my body jerk when it hit the wall. “Sorry. It was just my phone. Everything is ok now that you are awake.”

“Moonlight...gone...” So hard to talk. “Dr... Wa...”

“Oh, shit. I bet you need a drink. Forgive this crazy forgetful man.” I heard his chair squeal across the floor as he got up to grab me something to drink. “Can you lean forward to drink it?”

I shook my head no. “Need-“

“I got it. Don’t strain yourself right now. You need all your strength.” He chided me only to make me grin.

He pushed the straw into my mouth as he gently lifted my head. The water felt like the best thing I had ever tasted as it soothed my throat and cooled my burning chest. My head started to clear and everything that had been too loud for my eyes and ears was dimming.

“Moonlight.” I cried out when he pulled the straw back. “She’s... I can’t feel her.”

The door slammed open with Leo and Duncan running through it saying my name over and over before making it to me. They didn't slam in to the bed but tried to drag me into a hug. Only my scream of pain had them stopping in my tracks.

"Why aren't her eyes open?" Leo worriedly asked as he lightly swiped his fingers across my forehead. "Did she pass back out?"

"Did they figure out what was wrong?" Duncan just grabbed my hand and held it lightly in his. "Please be ok, my love. We need you."

I wanted to answer them. I wanted to let them know about everything and to ask them what the hell was going on. Nothing came out. The only change was the weight I felt in my heart was getting heavier and heavier.

"Hey, get your hands off me." A voice I didn't recognize shouted getting louder and louder as though they were getting closer. "I said I was headed here with a few answers. No reason to rough me up."

"Get in there and fix my mate. If she dies, so do you." Lucas growled before my door slammed. "She is the only thing that matters to me."

I knew he loved me and that his love ran deep but this made me feel even better after some of the crap he had pulled. This was just how he showed his love. With the dad he grew up with I should have known at least one of them would have issues showing their feelings but being overprotective was one of the ways he did.

"Lucas." I whispered but it seemed to be loud enough they all stilled. "Leo. Duncan."

They were at my side in seconds. They left room for gramps which made my heart swell. They accepted him. Now if he was Jackson they would have shoved his ass to the side.

"Are you hurting? Do you need something? Anything?" Lucas worriedly started barking out orders but I stopped him.

I put my hand on his arm. "Stop. Slow down." I swallowed hoping the soreness would go away. "Water, please. Then talk."

"While you are getting her something to drink I will give you a quick update." The voice from before who now seemed to be the doctor. "The claw marks on her back are of a normal wolf shifter but they had their claws covered in some kind of mix of poison. One of them being wolfsbane but the others we haven't figured out yet."

"Then figure it out. My granddaughter will not be dying like this." Erin shouted from his seat beside me sending more pain my way.

“I am calling the King and he will send his best doctors here to help.” Feet stomped sounding farther away until a door slammed.

“Please know that we are still working on it and I have my best people on it. For now we need to keep her calm and comfortable.” I heard a few buttons beep from beside me. “Gemma, are you in pain? We can do more meds to help relax you.”

Meds. It must be the meds. Meds. It must be the meds. ‘Moonlight, please!’ I shouted with everything I had. I kept shouting louder using different voices. I even tried calling her the biggest bitch of the century nothing.

Something must have worked because before I knew it my eyes were flying open as my body jerked up until I was sitting breathing heavy and Moonlight was all the way in the front of my mind with her eyes showing through. A growl ripped through my body sending even my mates a few steps farther from us.

“They did this. They did this with black witches. They will all die. Die they must or we will all fall!” She snarled before falling back to the very back of my mind to rest. This time it seemed I wouldn’t be losing her.

I turned to the doctor who seemed to be an older man who looked ready to piss his pants. “Please keep searching for what the poisons were. The pain is almost unbearable but I can’t lose my wolf again. I won’t do it.”

“But Gemma!” Duncan whined hating the idea that I was in any type of pain.

“I said No. I was a mess without her and wanted to die. I won’t be that way again.” The tears started again and this time I let everyone see them. “We need to be stronger so once this is over we will train harder and get this over with. Now I need more rest and someone needs to update me on our friends we saved.”

"I will go get an update on them and grab Erin. He has barely slept or ate anything since we have been here." Leo pulled me into the softest hug I had ever had with light kisses on my neck. "We all missed you. We had to threaten Allie's life to get him to go back to the pack and update everyone. He was torn up and wanted to go back to kill them all until they told us what was happening."

"And Lucas was all for it huh?" I teased rubbing his arms and getting his scent all over me. I was going to be needing all of them to help me through this. "Where are we?"

"I hear you talking about me. You wanna get in trouble?" Lucas teased half-heartedly. "We are about two hours from our pack. We couldn't risk you getting any worse."

"That's all you do. That is also why you will be staying with me while Duncan heads to check on my friends and Leo heads back to our pack." Leo started to get up to argue but I held him against

me. "Leo I need you leading and helping our pack. They might attack us and they need an Alpha. The calm one."

"Fine. Its because I love you that I listen." I snorted knowing better. He listens because he is a good man.

"You all listen because you are amazing men. You just humor me because you love me."

They all nodded and came in for cuddles. We would be parting soon enough.

Chapter 69: Time to go home

Chapter 69 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

It took two days of arguing and fighting with my mates and the doctor to be able to come back to our pack. I would rather be here in our own small hospital than a few hours away from everyone I know. Allie was just a day or two away from giving birth. My sister was with Cherry but they both needed me there. I needed to be there. My pack needed me to be there. I ended up having to threaten to close up shop on my vagina for months, which put them straight to work.

"We are just about there and I have been told we have visitors." Leo mentioned, quickly looking at me before putting his eyes on the road. "Maybe just a small painkiller to take the edge off. Maybe help you sleep. Now that you will have a room to yourself with no extra noise, you might be able to focus on healing."

"I will not be taking a painkiller. You know why." I told Leo who got visibly more upset. "And I don't want a room by myself. I want a room that I share with Lindy. Her sister is better and staying by her side. Olivia and Tiberius keep having to go back from room to room to check on us. I want one room so all our visitors can be in one room. The room across from us I want to be Charles and his son."

"But here one room you'll get more rest and we won't have to wait our turn to see you. Lucas explained it like I was a 2-year-old. "I know that it seems like were being bossy and demanding, but we need you to get better. Our wolves are stressed out and were not able to focus on the pack. That's what you asked of us isn't it?"

He was right. I did ask that they focus more on the pack than me because I knew I was going to get better. I had this gut feeling that they may not do the big attack, but they would be doing something small and petty to get back at us. Not only had we taken their prisoners and killed several of their warriors I had taken away the Luna's best friend. Lindy had made sure that she

brought her sister, so we had to have some of their gamma bloods. The icing on the cake was the fact that Olivia was able to renounce being in their pack while we were there, and she was able to reject her mate because she was back with the pack, he was in. I love little loopholes.

“So, who are all the visitors?” I was done with the past conversation, so time to move on. I needed them to talk more instead of me so I could keep doing my best to hide the pain from every dang bump and pothole we hit.

“King Charles didn’t just send the best of his medical staff. Oh, no. That just wouldn’t do.” Leo laughed with Lucas angrily muttering under his breath. “He had to come with them. He brought along your dad and a few family members you haven’t met yet. It seems your dad has some loose lips when he is upset so a few more members got to hear that your back after hearing about how you weren’t up your sister’s ass all day every day.”

“Great.” I rolled my eyes. “He starts in on me again I will not hold Moonlight back. She wants to hurt him. She wants him to feel even a smidge of what we went through growing up so he can start apologizing and treating us right.”

“I think she should anyway.” Lucas laughed. “I can hold him down if you need me too. He is on my shit list along with a few hundred other wolves who hurt you.”

“I bet that list even has the guys who looked at me too long or not long enough.” I chuckled, making myself wince from the movement.

“Here we are.” Leo pulled onto the long driveway. “And we already knew you were in tons of pain. You don’t hide it very well.”

“Oh, shut it and park already. I have some people to see.” I finally caught sight of Britt and Cherry waiting in front of the hospital with people I didn’t know. I had hoped to see Erin but it seemed he was still busy being awesome.

Erin had already gotten here. He got released after half a day in that dang hospital. He made a promise to help train the warriors and teach us better ways to guard the pack. He swore he wouldn’t let anything happen to me again. He felt as though he had failed me by me getting hurt again on his watch. He didn’t listen when I argued so I gave up. I will let Britt help me get rid of his guilt.

The car was barely parked before I was running and groaning to the girls. I lost it. I started crying and talking about everything while holding them to me. They were doing the same so none of us actually heard a word of what each of us was saying. That didn’t matter. I didn’t know I could get this close to someone let alone all these different people and that they would love us back.

“Hey, Hey. Its ok, sis. Everything is ok.” Britt whispered to me as we finally dialed everything down. “We will always be here for you. Stay strong and get better so we can fight off the shit heads together.”

“Thank you. Let’s get me in a room with all the girls and catch up with the new doctors take all my blood.” I stepped back ignoring the rest of the people around me. “Ill meet new people later. Lucas?”

“I got you. Head on in with the girls and Leo.” He walked up pushing past Cherry to kiss my check. She just laughed. They were more alike than they both realized.

Chapter 70: Silence is my friend but my loved ones are my solace

Chapter 70 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“I know I shouldn’t have said anything. That you weren’t ready for more of the family to know.” Jackson said as he pulled his seat closer to my hospital bed. “I was just so angry that something had happened to Britt and I wasn’t close enough to even do anything. I hate being so helpless.”

‘And yet he doesn’t apologize for being a jerk to you. How did I not know how self-centered our dad was?’ Britt linked glaring daggers at our dad.

‘I am sorry you have to deal with this. You did nothing wrong.’ Erin linked as he slapped Jackson on the back of the head.

“Where did I go wrong with you?” Erin scolded Jackson. “You have two damn daughters even if one was lost to us for years. You think you have any right to treat one better than the other? To worry less about one or to treat one like shit even after making your no promises and warning you shit may go down? Get over yourself and see Gemma. See that no matter who raised her or where she grew up she is still your blood, our blood.”

Jacksons gaze dropped to the floor. “I know that. I know I have two daughters who are just as important.” He growled out in frustration. “But I didn’t get to watch Gemma grow up and experience life. I didn’t see all her bruises and cuts from falling down. I didn’t get to see what made her cry and what made her laugh. I didn’t see all her firsts and lasts. Its different.”

I couldn’t do this right now. “Get out. Jackson, just get out.” I stated calmly keeping my eyes on the wall. “I just can’t do this right now. I am weak from all the blood the doctors took and my wolf is in a deep sleep. All I want is to be surrounded by my loved ones and right now you aren’t one of them.”

“I do love you. You are my daughter. I just...” He ran his hand through his hair grabbing it roughly. “Just give me time to come to grips with it. My wolf already has and he hated being away from you.”

“Dad, just go.” Britt stood up and walked to the door opening it for Jackson. “She asked you to go. Maybe this will jog some common sense into your brain. I really am disappointed in you. I never met her before she came back and I instantly knew who she was to me.”

He just nodded and left the room, closing the door quietly behind him. Britt dissolved into tears and fell into my side. I pulled her onto the bed with me whispering comforting words.

“Let’s give them some time.” Duncan instructed everyone.

“I would like Olivia and Cherry to stay, please.” I looked at them both to make sure they agreed. I got a small smile and a nod. “And can you have some good food sent to us? I am craving a big fat bacon burger with loaded fries and a sweet tea.”

Lucas laughed. “I love that you eat. Be strong, baby girl.” He looked over at Olivia with a frown. “I am trusting you in here with them. Don’t make me regret it. And text us what you all want to eat asap.”

“I will stand outside the door.” Tiberius stated and left without a reply. I did catch a smile on Lindy’s face so I had to hope things were going well.

Once everyone was gone it felt like I could finally breathe. Between the doctors, nurses, pack members, and loved ones I never got a moment alone. Being with my girls was the next best thing which I was fine with. It will still hard sometimes to be around people who want an actual reply to something when I was so used to my small, confined places where silence was my only friend other than my wolf. Now it was her who was silent and everything around me was loud.

“Gemma, are you ok?” Lindy asked from her own hospital bed. “That was rough. I had secondhand embarrassment and rage.”

“Let’s not focus on me. How about you tell me how things are going with Tiberius?” I winked at her causing her cheeks to go pink. “I told you so many times that your mate would be an awesome guy who would do anything for you.”

“You were so right.” She sighed. “But I am so sorry he gave shithead any information about your pack. I ripped his ass.”

“You should have heard it. I was dying laughing.” Olivia stated sending off the text for our food. We always got the same thing from burger joints. “She told him off while apologizing and being excited about finding her mate. She was smiling some of the time, growling the other. She even smiled, growled, and cried at the same time for a bit of it.”

“How is that even possible?” Cherry asked completely confused. “I feel like you would either drown in your tears or your growl would sound like a laugh.”

“It is possible.” Britt added in turning toward the group. “Been there, done that. Also, Olivia can you add on a big ass thing of mozzarella sticks? I need me a good cheese pull.”

“Added. And now I think it is time for some girl dishing time.” Olivia smiled finally seeming relaxed. “I need something to distract me from the last bit of pain from the rejection.”

“I am so sorry Hun. How is your wolf handling it?” I asked hating that I hadn’t checked in sooner.

“Already telling me to get under a wolf to get over the last one.” We all laughed. “This pack has so many hotties.”

“Right.” Britt shouted before giggling.

“Ok, so tell me who is free and who is attached?” Olivia looked at Cherry. It didn’t take her long before starting in on all the tea.

Chapter 71: Witches shout stick to witch business not wolf business

Chapter 71 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“Someone in my old pack used a potion cream thing on their claws full of silver, nettles, wolfsbane, and other random crap. They aren’t that smart.” I growled as the doctor gave me my first shot of meds to counter act what was done to me. “I want to know what witch’s coven is on their side.”

“I didn’t hear of any before I got out of there.” Olivia stated throwing her hands up in the air in surrender. “I do have one or two friends there I might be able to contact and find out.”

“No. We can’t trust it. You are no longer apart of their pack.” I looked at Lindy and her little sister, Lydia. “Did you hear anything even while in the cells?”

“I didn’t hear anything about witches or a coven helping them. I can say I wouldn’t put it past the Alpha and Luna in their quest for more power.” Lindy answered shaking her head.

I looked at Lydia as she shrank back. She wasn’t the best at having the attention on her from her family life and from the time of the cells. We were going to have to help her with that just like this pack did me.

“Lydia. Don’t be scared. No one here will ever hurt you.” I turned on my side to face her straight ahead. “This pack saved me. They saved me from thinking it was my fault that I was beat on, spoke down to, and all around treated like shit. They lifted me up just like they will do for you. I promise and your sister knows how I feel about promises.”

“You don’t break them. That’s it. If you do, that’s it. Trust revoked.” Lindy shrugged. “It’s a good way to life. You will know who has your back and who doesn’t while only ever making that mistake once.”

“What do you say, Lydia? Want to help us take out that shitty pack while growing brave and strong in this pack?” I winked at her getting a small giggle. I would take that as a yes.

“The bad guards would whisper when they thought I was asleep.” She looked up at me. “I couldn’t sleep cuz I have nightmares. So one night they were talking about how easy the witches were to give up some silly little spells and potions. And easy enough to end up in bed...”

“Skip that part, young lady. Dirty perverted asshats.” Lindy growled. "And I will scare all your nightmares away from now on. You should have told me."

“Sorry, Sissy.” Lydia hugged closer to Lindy before continuing. “They mentioned they traveled a few hours to get there and that the witches were a bit different. They lived by water. Everything else was dirty talk sissy said not to talk about.”

“Thank you, Lydia. You are a brave and loved girl.” I pulled my phone out and dialed Leo.

“Everything ok? Did you have a reaction to the new meds?” He hurriedly stated in a freak out.

“Calm down, turbo. I need you to look up water witches that are a few hours from that shit pack. Ones that dress weird and are easy.” I rolled my eyes causing all the girls to giggle. “And do we have any books on witches? I don’t know much about them.”

“Fine but you have to do something for me. To help me.” I could hear the smirk in his voice. “And a few. I have a few friends who have more knowledge than the books will ever have. I will give them a call.”

“Ok, what do I have to do for you? And keep it pg. We have young ears.”

“Jackson and Erin have been dealing with the family members who came to see you and meet you...again... Could you please have a sit down with them?”

I rolled my eyes. “Fine. Invite them over but you bet your cute ass you and your brothers will be here with me. Jackson isn’t invited.” I hung up and groaned.

Two seconds later my phone beeped with a text from Leo. ‘We are headed your way.’

“Damnit. They are headed here. Now. Why can’t I drink while on these meds again?”

“It will be ok.” Olivia laughed. “I will take Lydia down to the cafeteria with Tiberius to give you all some space. I have been dying for a cupcake.”

“Me too!” Lydia jumped up, kissed her sister, and ran straight into Olivia almost knocking her over. “Can I get a chocolate one?” Olivia nodded

“Be good.” Lindy smiled as they walked out the door. “Sorry I can’t leave the room. I guess you should have had a room alone.”

“Hell no. I might need you to talk me down. This many new faces? People who think they know me even though we haven’t seen each other since I was 5? Fuck that. Be my strength.”

“You got it, bestie. I can’t wait to see you with your wolf back. I missed your fiery spirit.” She laughed. “Remember when we took a trip to the water to shift together for the first time. Our wolves were so clumsy we knocked each other into the water while Olivia’s wolf laughed so hard she slipped and fell in on top of us.”

‘Yea at least we got away with our acting skills. Being that clumsy on purpose sucked.’ Moonlight rasped from her deep lumber. ‘Totally worth it though. I miss those wolves.’

‘Moonlight! Oh my god! Moonlight!’ I screamed at her.

‘Not so loud, girl. I am better step by step but I need some more quiet and rest.’

“You got it. Thank you for coming back.’

‘Thank you for not giving up on me.’

“What’s that smile on your face for?” Lindy asked.

“Moonlights gonna be ok. That will get me through this next meeting.”

Chapter 72: My dad is a loser attractant. What the heck?

Chapter 72 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“You look just like your momma, Natalie.” My dad’s older sister, Jenna, said as she cupped my cheek. She didn’t seem to read that me pulling my head back was a sign to let the hell go. “We missed all those years of growing up.”

“Jenna, please don’t touch her. This is new for everyone, and you are too close for her comfort.” Erin chided his oldest child. He was tense, which was making me even more tense and angry. “And her name is Gemma.”

“Oh dad. It’s fine. Right, Gemma?” She winked at me.

“Actually, it’s not. Please step back out of my bubble.” I kept my face blank. She seemed nice enough and maybe one day we could be friends but right now she was a pushy old lady who needed to stay in her lane.

Her face dropped with some anger, but it was quickly replaced with sadness. She let my face go and stepped back into her mate, Dean, arms. He had kept his distance and only gave a nod when being introduced. It made me like him even more.

“We know it must be strange to be in a pack who cares for you and to find your family again. We missed you over the years.” My mom’s best friend since she switched packs when she found Jackson. Emily was her name, and she swore they were like sisters, but I had a gut feeling about her.

“Family is who you make them from my experience. I hope one day we might be close enough for that but there is a lot to work through.” I answered while digging my nails into the palms of my hands. I wanted to try to find out why I had this feeling, but I needed to do it calmly in case I was right.

“And we will be here for every step. You dad especially.” She looked around again with a hint of agitation in her eyes. “Your mates really should let your dad have a break from training to come spend time with you.”

“No.” Both Britt and I answered. She had made it here the same time the group had and made sure to squeeze onto the bed with me showing the family her support was with me. It made me feel so freaking good.

Erin had pulled a chair to the other side putting the back to the wall so he could face the family. Both of their support showed me what kind of life I would have had with them, and I hated that I missed it. Although the trauma I went through made me appreciate this much more and see the other family for who they are. Only a few were actually here for me and were speaking the truth about

missing me.

“No?” Her mouth dropped open in surprise as she placed her hand over her chest. “Why wouldn’t your father be able to be here? He missed you so much.”

“It’s really none of your business, Emily. This was only supposed to be for family, so I don’t even know how you got an invite.” Britt rolled her eyes at Emily. “You only defend dad because you want in his pants which is disgusting since he screwed Melinda like she was in heat every day.”

I gagged doing my best to hold back my puke, but my laughter wasn't helping. Erin did his best to scold Britt for being so mean, but my puking laughter was too loud. He groaned and told Emily he was sorry for Britt's bluntness but that she had a point.

"I wanted to see my best friend's daughter after all these years." She shouted crossing her arms over her chest.

'Liar.' Moonlight moved a bit forward in my mind. It was enough to finally feel the warmth of her presence.

"My wolf says you're lying. How about you try that again?" I snarled at her.

"Like your wolf knows anything. She doesn't know me or my wolf, but she could." She turned her glare into a pitiful smile that put me on edge.

'Her wolf is barely hanging on. Its like she is locked away somewhere and has been for a while.' Moonlight huffed using what was left of her strength to investigate further.

"Hey!" Emily shouted looking afraid for the first time. "Tell your wolf to get the hell away from mine. You have no right."

"You had no right!" I shouted, making sure I was louder than her, getting everyone's attention focused on me including the guards outside the door. "No right to lock your wolf away. No right to have a witch bind and subdue your wolf who only wanted you to be happy. Who was there for you every second of every day. You are a pathetic excuse for a wolf, and I will not stand by to watch her suffer anymore."

"You did what?" Erin stood up calmly but the violence in his voice showed he was anything but calm.

Everyone was dead silent around us. My aunt actually looked enraged, which helped me relax a bit with her still in the room. My uncle, Bradley, was being held back by his mate, Jeffrey. It seemed everyone just put up with her but now that she had actually done something like this, they saw her for what she actually was. A worthless waste of space.

"I had to. She wanted to mate with the wrong man, and he wouldn't accept our rejection." She stomped her foot. "I am meant to be with Jackson. Even his mate knew it and still got with him after everything we had been through together. She was whore and the apples don't fall far from the tree with these two."

Everything that happened after was a blur. I could feel myself throwing my sheets back to tear her apart even if everyone would end up seeing my naked ass in this damn hospital gown. But I shouldn't have worried. Britt was there first slamming her up against the wall by her throat snarling so loud I thought she would rip her throat out with her human teeth.

“Britt, Calm down honey. Charles is on his way.” Erin laid his hand on Britts’ back trying to calm her after he nearly ran into her. He didn’t waste any time getting to her. “She will pay for her actions. No one does that to their wolf and gets away with it.”

‘One more minute and she will be free. She wants to leave her human. I can’t talk her out of it.’ Moonlight cried out. I could feel how little strength she had left before she was going to pass out again.

‘How does one do that?’

‘Dying.’

‘Fuck that. I bet one of the witches here can do something even if it means she joins you until we find someone worthy of her. Would you mind?’

‘No. She has been locked up so long she is almost like a pup again from her power loss. It will give me some practice.’

I looked back over at Erin and Britt as they battled over killing her or waiting. Guess I had to break the news and ask for some help.

“Hey. Don’t kill her yet. We need her alive and a witch or two.”

Everyone’s eyes landed on me, so I waved and went on to explain everything. I hated having to deal with ignorant people, but it was all I did recently.