

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 81[1,360 words]

Chapter 81

Maddox stared at her tent for a moment as the crowd of rogues slowly dispersed. Finally he turned back towards Riley and Jaxon, heaving a sigh. He walked over, kneeling beside Jaxon first.

“Not even worth binding you,” he muttered, digging through his bag to pull out a length of rope. “Not like you can go anywhere with that knee.”

Riley saw it then, the way his leg bent unnaturally, the swollen, distorted skin around his knee. She cringed as

Jaxon groaned, leaning slightly to the side so Maddox could tie his wrists together.

When he was done, Maddox turned towards Riley. She waited, sure he was coming to bind her wrists again.

He tilted his head, his bright blue eyes considering her for a moment.

“You will come with me,” he said quietly, standing and reaching for her arm.

She instinctively flinched away, trying to avoid his grasp. But she was too slow, her reflexes blunted by the

wolfsbane. He grabbed her under the left arm and gently pulled her to her feet. She tried to jerk her arm away

from him, but his fingers tightened in warning.

“I won’t hurt you,” he chided, pulling her away from Jaxon. She wanted to resist, but her shoulder throbbed

painfully as he pulled. She nearly toppled over her feet, pain spreading across her back. Her right knee buckled with a painful gasp.

Maddox wrapped his arm around her waist, pulling her against him as he entered a nearby tent. It was

cramped inside the tent, but tidy. There was a pallet of blankets on the far side and two stools near the door,

along with a large hiking pack that had seen better days.

Maddox set her on one of the stools before sitting down on the one across from her. He assessed her for a

moment, scratching his thick beard.

“Where are you hurt?” he finally asked.

Riley debated what to tell him, not wanting to let on how sorely she felt. But he had just had to half drag her

in here when her own body refused to cooperate.

“My shoulders hurt, especially the right. My lower back and my right knee.”

He nodded. “Your clavicle was broken in the crash. I think the worst of it was healed before Cheree gave you

wolfsbane. Your right shoulder was dislocated but I did reduce it successfully. The knee and the back are

probably residual from the crash injuries. No one has hurt you since you’ve been here.”

“Wolfsbane is pretty harmful,” Riley pointed out.

Maddox rolled a shoulder. “Yeah, well, it’s also effective for captives. I’m sure your pack uses it as well when

they catch rogues.”

Riley frowned, watching him as he rooted in his canvas bag. He was right. Most packs used wolfsbane as well as the council when needed/ But it still seemed strange that a group of rogues would have some.

Maddox pulled out a container much like a tackle box and flipped open the lid. He extracted two pills and held them out to her. Riley just stared at his hand, not moving.

“It’s just pain relievers,” he said after a moment.

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Riley still didn't move.

+ Points >

Maddox rolled his eyes, snapping his box closed and sliding it back into his bag. He pulled out a bottle of water, extending that to her.

Riley still didn't move.

He laughed softly. "Not very trusting, are you?"

"I'm being held captive by a bunch of rogues and was just told I'm going to be killed in front of my mate.

Please excuse my skepticism."

He smiled, his teeth surprisingly white against his red beard. "The warrior says you're from the council. The

best warrior advisor, is how he said it. Is that true?"

"Does it matter?"

"It does." He leaned back. "See, Cheree is not a detail person, but I am. She only wants the basics to come up

with a plan, so she overlooks quite a bit. All she heard was the alpha had a second chance mate. She didn't

bother to inquire too much about you or your capabilities."

"What's your point?"

"My point is that Cheree didn't bother to hear that she just captured an incredible warrior. She also doesn't

realize that you could be an important bargaining chip."

Riley's stomach dropped but she kept her face passive. "I'm sure you've told her."

He shook his head. "See, the other thing is that I've been watching Cheree and I've had some questions. I've

been here for about five months and there are things that aren't adding up."

"Like what?"

“That child.” Maddox shook his head again, rubbing his neck. “I couldn’t figure out why she never even tried

some other way to get him back. A less violent way. I thought when that beta came out and made his offer, that she would jump at the chance to get him back. But she didn’t.”

“Because he’s not her son.”

“Well, I know that now.” He shook his head again. “She just said as much out there. She killed that kid’s

parents.”

“She hurt him too,” Riley pointed out.

He nodded. “I know. I talked *to* your warrior quite a bit about that child too. He said that the beta and his wife love him, that he is doted on by all the ranked members, Cheree claimed that he was severely mistreated,

abused. But he clearly wasn’t.”

“Evan is very loved,” Riley whispered.

Maddox sighed. “I realized that when I was trying to set his arm. He’s a strong little boy. Correct height and weight for his size. Other than his injuries from the crash, nothing suggests abuse.”

Riley frowned. “Are you a doctor?”

“I was.” He looked at his feet. “I was a doctor at New Sky until two years ago.”

“I was out at New Sky last year.”

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“So you know about the split between New Sky and Pine Valley?”

She nodded.

+ Points >

“I went with Alpha Landrew to Pine Valley, but it was a mistake. Most of my family was aligned with Landrew so I thought it was for the best. Alpha Brent would not trust me if I stayed and my family left, not with all the bad blood between the two alphas. But Alpha Landrew...” Maddox glanced away for a *moment*. “Well, he’s not the nicest guy and he has some pretty strange beliefs. I got called in to take care of someone at the pack house who had been clearly tortured. When I started asking questions, he banished me.”

Riley chewed her lip for a moment. She knew how hard banishment could be. At least she had the academy to go to. If she hadn’t, she would have been a rogue too.

“So here I am,” he sighed. “I thought I was helping someone right a wrong and now I realize that I am, yet again, on the wrong side.”

“What are you going to do then?”

He shrugged. “I’m not sure yet. I can’t do much for your warrior. That broken knee is going to keep him down. But you could get that child out of here.”

She scoffed. “How do you figure that?”

“Your scouts have been out. I spotted a couple in the trees. I haven’t told Cheree about them. I’m not sure anyone else spotted them. It’s not exactly a well-oiled machine out here. I did hear that a convoy rolled into your pack about an hour ago and I assume those are council members, coming to your aid.”

Riley felt her spirits lift immediately. Thank the Goddess for whoever was keeping Kent in line long enough to

wait for help.

“So, when the attack comes,” Maddox continued, “which should happen within the next day, you need to get out of here. And you need to take that kid.”

“I’m not exactly in fighting shape,” she grumbled. “Especially without my wolf.”

“Well, take the damn pain relievers.” Maddox extended his hand again. “I’ll get you something to eat and then

we can talk strategy.”

Comments

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An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 82[1,013 words]

Chapter 82

Chapter 82

1. R)

“The commander is here,” Leo said, having opened the door without bothering to knock.

Kent **felt** like he was being held captive in his own office. Despite his best attempts to convince everyone to get to Riley as quickly as possible, no one was listening to him. Penny had spent most of her time in the office with him, putting him in check every time he was about to lose his temper.

“I’ve got him in a guest room on this floor,” Penny said from her spot behind Kent’s desk.

Kent barely bothered to look up from where he laid on the couch, staring at the ceiling. He had been pacing the office relentlessly for nearly an entire day, barely eating or sleeping. Pax had been going crazy in his head, begging him to find their mate. Even though he could see the reasoning behind everyone wanting to wait for more warriors. After hours of crawling out of his skin, Kent had finally flopped onto the couch, unwilling to move again.

Wesley had immediately reached out to the council yesterday and the commander himself had insisted he

was coming straight away with all of his best warriors. It should have been a relief to have such immediate

back up, but waiting for their arrival had been painful.

“He wants to meet right away,” Leo replied. “Wes is bringing him up as we speak. Can we get Patrick up here

too?”

“I’ll mindlink him now.” Penny appeared in Kent’s line of vision. “You need to get up.”

“Why?” he grumbled. “No one is listening to me anyway.”

“You are the alpha,” she snapped. “Get up and stop pouting because no one is willing to run headlong into a

trap with you.”

Kent scowled at her, but he got up anyway. Penny reached out, straightening his hair with a huff, as though

he were one of her sons.

“Get yourself together,” she grumbled. “I can’t do this for the both of us. If we want them back, we need to be

prepared.”

“My mate has been held captive by rogues for over a day,” Kent muttered. “Who knows what condition she is

in? Who knows what they’re doing to her?”

“The same can be said for my son.” She grabbed his upper arm and pulled him upwards with surprising

strength. “Go behind your desk and act like you know what you’re doing.”

Kent glanced up to see Leo standing just inside the door, watching them impassively. Kent shot him a dirty

look as he followed Penny’s directions and moved behind his desk.

Moments later his office was full of people. Wesley came in with the commander, Luke Whey, a tall, broad older man with graying hair and brown eyes. He was flanked by two head warriors, one of them being Doug Hart – a face Kent could have gone the rest of his life without seeing again.

Patrick followed shortly thereafter, sinking down into an armchair without a word. Max was still in the hospital. Kent had not gone to see him, but Penny had assured him that Max was going to make a full recovery, though it would take close to a week given the extent of his injuries.

Kent shook everyone’s hands as introductions were made before they settled into their **seats**.

Chapter 82

“So what is the latest intel?” the commander asked, wasting no time.

“They’re holding Riley and Evan in their camp on the northwestern border,” Patrick explained calmly. “It also appears that one of our warriors who we assumed dead during a recent attack is there as **well**.”

“We believe the warrior is the reason the rogues knew the boy was being moved,” Leo commented. “The warrior was chosen to accompany Riley to the council compound, so he knew all the details of the trip.”

They nodded as he listened. “How many rogues do we estimate?”

“Close to two hundred, but not all are in fighting condition,” Patrick replied. “Our forces wiped out quite a bit during the last attack. The rogues have numbers on their side, but not fighting abilities.”

“Do we know what condition Riley, the boy and the warrior are in?” Doug asked.

“Riley and Evan are able to walk and move about. Jaxon, our warrior, appears more seriously injured.” Patrick rubbed his forehead. “We’re assuming that Riley and Jaxon have both been dosed with wolfsbane as we are unable to mindlink with them and they haven’t attempted to shift.”

“How did rogues come to have wolfsbane?” commented the other head warrior, Alexis.

Wesley shrugged. “Rogues are able to get things through black market channels at times. It’s not common but also not unheard of.”

They nodded. “It sounds like we have good intel. What are your fighting forces like?”

“We lost seven warriors total,” Penny said, looking at the paperwork. “Four of our own, two council warriors plus one from Opal Lake. We currently have fifteen warriors recovering in the hospital. An additional twenty one were injured but have since been released, with nineteen of them in fighting condition right now. Total we have roughly seventy two warriors who can fight right now, plus an additional twenty one civilian pack members willing to fight as well.”

“We brought an additional fifty warriors from the council,” Doug said. “That should be enough.”

Kent felt his spirits lift. That was enough warriors to fight back.

“We need to discuss timing,” Alexis said, leaning forward from the couch slightly.

“The sooner the better,” Kent replied.

“Alpha is anxious to get his mate back,” Patrick jumped in. “But I agree. Riley and Evan have been there for over a day. Jaxon even longer. I don’t want to imagine what could happen if we keep waiting.”

They nodded. “I’m in agreement, but I want a certain element of surprise. I say we wait until the middle of the night, when the rogues are asleep.”

“I like that idea.” Doug looked at Kent. “How quickly can you have your warriors ready?”

“As soon as you need them.”

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 83[1,239 words]

Chapter 83

Night had fallen in the camp. Riley leaned against a tree, her wrists tied loosely behind her. Though the bindings weren’t tight, the position was uncomfortable. Maddox was sure that the pack would attack within the next day, but the waiting was unbearable.

Jaxon laid on his back nearby, his hands tied in front of him. She hadn’t uttered a word to him about their

plan for fear of being overheard. He had barely looked at her, staring blankly into the trees for most of the

day. She could read the defeat written on his face.

She had seen Evan a couple times throughout the afternoon, drug around with Cheree as she spoke to various rogues. He had been in tears almost every time she saw him, but she was grateful that he was

obeying the mad woman’s requests. Riley wasn’t sure she could watch him be hit again without doing

something.

Maddox had given her some bread and cold rabbit while in his tent, explaining the basic layout of the camp

to her. They had agreed that when the time was right, she should get Evan from the tent and run deeper into

the woods. He discouraged her from going towards the pack, as the rogues would expect that from her. Maddox had also insisted that she leave Jaxon, given his knee would make it impossible for him to escape. He promised Riley that he would do everything in his power to protect the warrior from harm.

Once they had returned outside, Maddox had slipped a small switchblade into her pocket and tied a strip of

rope very loosely around her wrists. When the moment came, she would be able to easily slip her hands free,

which was why she kept her back pressed to the tree – for fear that another rogue might realize her bindings

were not right.

Most of the rogues had settled in for the night. Many slept in tents, but some slept on pallets of blankets

under the stars. She could make out wolves prowling the perimeter, the camp's own patrols on the lookout for

possible attacks. She adjusted herself, using the light of the moon to focus on the tent she knew Evan to be

1. in. She hoped he was ok.

Suddenly a wolf nearby howled, the sound causing her to jolt away from the tree. Jaxon attempted to sit up,

but winced.

“What was that?” he muttered, looking over to Riley.

More wolves began to howl. All the wolves on patrol had joined in. Rogues leapt from their beds and

appeared from their tents, stripping their clothes as they began to shift.

“They’re here,” Riley gasped as she heard the first sounds of fighting. Snarls and growls filled the air. Riley slipped her wrists from her bindings just as Cheree ran from her tent.

Riley jumped to her feet, moving behind the tree as quickly as possible. Maddox darted from his tent, running towards where Jaxon was struggling to sit up.

“Where is she?!” Cheree screeched.

“What?” Maddox pretended to not understand.

“The Luna!” Cheree cried. “Where is she? The alpha has come. I need her.”

Maddox turned to the tree where Riley had been. “She’s gone. Where did she go?”

Chapter 83

More snarls and growls filled the air. Cheree turned to see the wolves coming into her camp, tearing through her wolves. Even Riley was astonished by the numbers she was seeing. How had they gotten so many warriors so quickly?

“Find her,” snapped Cheree, pointing at Maddox. “Find her and bring her to me. I’m going to look for the alpha.”

Cheree began to shift, taking the form of a large gray wolf with bright yellow eyes. The wolf turned, darting into the fight. Riley sent a prayer to the Moon Goddess that Kent ripped her throat out if she managed to find him.

Once Cheree’s wolf was out of sight, Riley turned and ran towards the tent that Evan was being kept in.

“Luna,” Jaxon gasped, but Maddox slammed his hand over Jaxon’s mouth before he could draw any more attention.

Riley barely spared a glance at Jaxon, her thoughts focused on Evan. She had to trust that Maddox would protect Jaxon as promised. She needed to get the boy away from danger as quickly as possible, which meant she had to push her worry for Jaxon to the back of her mind.

When she stepped into the tent she spotted Evan huddled on a pallet of blankets on the floor, tears streaming down his face. He sat up quickly when he realized it was Riley.

“What’s happening?” he cried, the sounds of the fight growing closer to the tent.

“It’s ok,” Riley whispered, hurrying closer to him. “I need you to be quiet. We have to run away right now.”

Evan sucked in a deep breath, biting his lip as he nodded. Riley looked him over, noticing a new bruise blossoming on his cheek. His arm was still in a sling.

“Can you climb on my back?” she asked, kneeling next to him. “Can you hold on with just one arm?”

“I can,” he said, scrambling to his feet. “I’m really strong. That’s what dad says.”

“Of course you are.” Riley tried to sound confident, even as her stomach twisted in knots.

Evan wrapped his good arm around her neck, looping his legs around her hips. She winced at the pain in her shoulders and back, but ordered herself to ignore it. She heard him whimper as she stood, his injured arm

pressed against her back, but he didn’t loosen his grip.

Riley darted out of the tent once she was sure there were no wolves nearby. She rushed away from the pack

just as she and Maddox had discussed, heading deeper into the woods. She cleared the camp without being noticed, most of the fighting happening on the opposite side. She moved as quickly as possible, ignoring the

pain in her body as she picked her way through the trees. Luckily the light of the full moon helped guide her, allowing her to avoid the roots and brush that threatened to trip her.

Just when she was starting to think they were in the clear and she might set Evan down, a large gray wolf sprang in front of her. She braced herself, her heart in her throat until she saw the familiar trail of black along

his spine.

“Patrick,” she gasped.

Within a minute he had shifted, standing in front of her.

“Thank the Goddess,” he murmured, stepping close enough to pull Evan off her back. “Are you both ok?”

< Chapter 83

“Careful,” Riley warned as Evan whimpered again. “His arm is broken.”

Patrick sat Evan on the ground and knelt down in front of him to inspect the boy. He tilted Evan’s face side to

side.

“Where’s my dad?” Evan whispered, his voice trembling.

“Back at the pack,” Patrick replied. “He’s at the hospital but he’s going to be ok.”

Riley felt a rush of relief. Last she knew of Max, he had been climbing out of the car to fight the rogues by himself. She hadn’t wanted to let herself think of what had happened to him.

Suddenly a large black wolf broke through the trees, skidding to a halt in front of her. Riley was sure she had never seen such a beautiful creature in her life.

Comments

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 84[1,885 words]

Chapter 84

It took him less time than Patrick to shift back.

Riley threw herself into Kent’s arms, burying her face into his chest to inhale his rich sandalwood scent. He

held her tightly, burying his face into her hair.

“Are you ok?” he whispered. “Are you alright?”

“I’m ok,” she reassured him, nuzzling her face into his warm skin. “I’m ok.”

“I hate to ruin the moment,” Patrick said, standing up, “but we need to get them to safety.”

“How did you find me?” Riley asked, leaning back in Kent’s arms enough to see his face.

“A rogue in the camp said you were going this way,” Kent explained. “We found him with Jaxon.”

She nodded. Of course Maddox would have pointed Kent in the right direction.

More sounds in the woods drew her attention and Riley stiffened in Kent’s arms.

“It’s ok,” Kent said, rubbing her back. “It’s just Rex, Connor’s wolf.”

Riley vaguely remembered Connor, one of Kent’s lead warriors. She turned to see a large tawny colored wolf

appear.

“He’s going to take you and Evan back to the pack,” Kent explained, kissing her cheek gently. “I need to get back into that camp and make sure that woman is taken care of.”

Riley swallowed hard, not wanting to let go of him. “I missed you,” she whispered.

He kissed her forehead. “I missed you too.” He pulled her tightly against him. “I’ll come as soon as it’s over,” he whispered into her hair. “I promise I’ll be there as soon as I can, but I need you to get to safety.”

She nodded against his chest, inhaling his scent deeply before stepping out of his embrace.

Rex knelt down, allowing Patrick to lift Evan onto his back. Riley climbed up behind him, carefully wrapping one arm around Evan and lacing her fingers into Rex’s thick fur.

“Get them to the hospital,” Kent said to the wolf, who nodded in response.

Rex took off quickly, darting skillfully through the trees even with the two passengers on his back. He took a long way through the trees, avoiding the camp in a large loop as he headed back towards the pack.

Riley felt a sense of relief as they broke free from the trees, the town suddenly coming into view. She had a brief moment of thinking that this nightmare was finally over.

She barely registered the large gray wolf until it collided with Rex. Riley and Evan toppled off his back, rolling hard onto the ground. Evan let out a pained shriek as he landed on his already broken arm.

Rex was back on his feet quickly, turning to face the wolf that had just taken them down. Riley gasped when she saw the bright yellow eyes focused on her and Evan. Panic fueled her as Riley turned to pull Evan off the ground. Rex launched himself at Cheree’s wolf as Riley got Evan to his feet.

“We have to get to the houses,” she told Evan, pointing to the town up ahead. “The people there will keep us safe, but we have to run.”

Chapter 84

“It hurts,” Evan cried, but still he started moving towards the town.

“I know.” Riley pushed his good shoulder gently, urging him into a run. “We’ll go to the hospital. We’ll find your mom and dad.”

The promise of his parents seemed to do the trick. Evan began to run in earnest, as fast as his battered five-year-old body would let him. Riley ran at a jog with him, debating if she had the strength to carry him

when she heard the yelp of pain.

She wheeled around to see Rex not far from them, pinned on the ground as Cheree’s wolf tore into his

shoulder, her teeth coming dangerously close to his neck.

“Keep running,” she yelled at Evan. She turned back towards the wolf, running with all her speed. She barely thought as she launched herself towards the wolf, catching her around the middle and sending them both hard into the ground.

Riley rolled to her feet as the wolf did the same, her yellow eyes filled with rage. Rex tried to stand but his leg gave out with a whimper, his body sagging back down to the ground.

To Riley’s horror, Evan had not continued to run, but instead had run back towards her. He froze, seeming to

realize his error, but did not turn back towards the pack.

The wolf growled, crouching low and Riley knew she had no choice. Fighting a werewolf while in human form was a terrible idea, but Riley had to stop this woman from getting to Evan.

The wolf launched herself at Riley and she dove to the side, landing on her back. The wolf turned quickly and dove at Riley, but she was expecting that. She pulled her legs up and kicked out forcefully, connecting with the wolf’s chest. The wolf stumbled to the side and Riley pulled herself up to her left knee just as the wolf lunged towards her again. Riley kicked out with her right leg, her foot making a satisfying crunch sound as it connected with the wolf’s snout. The wolf reared back, momentarily stunned by the kick and Riley hurried to her feet. The wolf lunged again, faster than Riley was anticipating. She had time to throw her left arm in front

of her face.

The wolf’s fangs sank into her arm as she hit the ground with a heavy thud. The wolf snarled, shaking her head so fiercely that Riley was sure the wolf would rip her arm right off. The claws of the wolf sank deeply into her left shoulder, as though determined to sever the limb. She screamed in pain, struggling to get her legs up to kick the wolf off of her.

Suddenly there was a loud growl, a flash of red, and the wolf disappeared from on top of her. Riley gasped, sitting up quickly. A small, red wolf that she had never seen before tore into the gray wolf's side, biting and clawing fiercely.

Riley staggered over to Rex and Evan ran towards her, crouching next to the injured wolf. The red wolf and Cheree's wolf circled each other, growling loudly. The gray wolf attacked and the red wolf dodged skillfully.

"It's ok now," Evan said, smiling slightly.

"Why?" Riley glanced at his excited face.

"Because mom is here now."

She watched Cheree's wolf, confused by his statement until it clicked into place.

"The red wolf is your mom's?"

< Chapter 84

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Chapter 84

He nodded. "She's really fast."

Evan was right. Penny's wolf was exceptionally fast, tearing into Cheree's wolf with ease. Finally **the red wolf** landed on top, sinking her teeth into the gray's wolf throat. Riley used her good hand to cover Evan's eyes. **He** pulled her fingers away but by the time she dropped her hand, it was over.

The gray wolf laid motionless on the ground, Penny's wolf standing over her.

The red wolf came towards them and began to shift. Penny rushed over to them, grabbing Evan tightly into

her arms.

sorry." She stroked her hand down his back, tears "Evan," she gasped into his hair, "I'm so sorry, baby. I'm so swimming in her eyes. She glanced over his head at Riley, offering her a watery smile before her eyes dropped to Riley's arm.

"Why aren't you healing?" Penny released Evan and reached for Riley's injured arm.

"They gave me wolfsbane," Riley explained, suddenly realizing how bad her arm was. "I don't have my wolf right now."

"Shit." Penny wrapped her hands tightly around Riley's forearm, causing Riley to hiss in pain. "I'll mindlink for help."

Riley saw black dots dance in front of her eyes.

"Is she going to be ok, Mom?" Evan's voice sounded so small. It was the last thing Riley heard.

Comments

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 85[1,055 words]

Chapter 85

Pax ran fast, tearing his way across the field into town as fast as his legs would take him. They had felt **it**,

Riley's injury, though they had no way of knowing what was happening. Pax was frantic, unable to speak **to** Rose and aware that Riley could not heal without her wolf.

The front of the hospital was full of doctors and nurses rushing through the wounded warriors to determine

who needed treatment immediately. Kent shifted, rushing up the stairs, glancing around frantically.

Penny had mindlinked him that she had gotten one of the runners to take Riley back to the hospital, but

hadn't been able to tell him the severity of Riley's wound. Only that she was losing too much blood.

"Alpha!"

Kent wheeled around to see one of the nurses, Angie, Wesley's mate waving him towards her.

"They've taken her inside," she yelled towards him.

He ran inside, rushing through the doors into the emergency room of the hospital, looking around.

"Here," said a woman whose name he couldn't remember, pushing a pair of shorts into his hands. "Put these

on and I will take you to the luna."

Kent needed no more instructions. He pulled the shorts on and the woman hurried down a hallway and into a room. Laying on the table was Riley, blood covering the left side of her face and neck. Her shirt had been cut away and he could see deep gashes on her left shoulder. He moved closer, staying clear of the doctor and nurses who were working around Riley's arm.

He gasped when he saw it. Her left forearm was mangled, blood pouring out of the wound.

"How bad is it?" Kent asked.

"Bad," muttered the doctor, not looking up. "We've just done one flush with the wolfsbane antidote, but we don't know how much she's been given. She can't heal right now without her wolf. She's losing a lot of blood."

Kent briefly wondered if Riley felt this helpless when he was hurt during the last attack. He ran his fingers through her hair and her eyes fluttered open.

"Kent," she rasped.

“It’s ok,” he whispered, leaning over her so she wouldn’t see the doctor working on her arm. “I’m right here.”

“Kent,” she whispered again before her eyes fluttered shut.

“I love you, Riley,” he murmured, kissing her forehead, not sure if she could hear him. “I love you so much.”

“Alpha.”

He turned to see the doctor, still working on Riley’s arm.

“We’re taking her up for surgery to try to stem the blood loss,” he explained quickly. “We need to take her now. You can’t go.”

Kent swallowed hard and nodded, reluctantly stepping back as they began to roll her bed away.

**

Chapter 85

Riley moved her right hand first, her fingers touching something soft. She rubbed whatever it was in her fingers, trying to force her eyes open. It was as if someone had sewn her eyelids shut, making it almost painful to open them.

The room was dim. A machine beeped softly somewhere to her left. She turned her head to find the soft material that she was stroking was hair. Jet black hair on the head of the man who had clearly fallen asleep sitting next to her, his head almost in her lap.

Mate is here, Rose said softly.

Are you ok? Riley asked quickly, relief filling her at the sound of Rose’s voice.

I’ve had better days, but I’ll survive.

Riley rubbed her fingers into Kent’s hair, scratching gently against his scalp.

“Mmmm,” Kent mumbled, tilting his head into her fingers like a cat.

She continued lightly scratching his scalp until he started to wake, slowly lifting his head. He stared at her for a moment, his eyes clearly lost in the fog of sleep before he seemed to register that she was awake.

“Riley,” he gasped, launching himself from the chair and onto the side of the bed. He pulled her tightly into his arms, burying his face into her neck. “You’re awake,” he murmured into her skin.

She wrapped her arms tightly around him. “How long was I out?”

“Almost two days.” Kent began kissing her neck, up her chin and then showered her face with kisses, causing her to laugh. “You are never, ever, ever leaving my sight again,” he insisted in between kisses.

She laughed harder, pushing at his face to try to stop him. “I’m fine, Kent.”

“Penny said you fought that wolf in your human form,” he said sharply, pulling back. “Do you have any idea how stupid that is? You could have been killed.”

“Connor’s wolf was hurt,” Riley pointed out. “She was going to kill him if I didn’t do anything.” She gasped, pulling back a little. “How is Connor? And Penny? And Evan? And...”

“They’re fine,” Kent cut her off with a slight smile. “They’re fine. Connor is already healed and back with his mate, Evan was in the hospital for a day. They had to operate on his arm to set it properly, but he’s going to heal up alright. He and Max are already back home. Penny didn’t even get hurt too badly. Just some scratches that healed up fine.”

“Leo? Wesley? Patrick?”

“All fine,” Kent assured her. “We lost some warriors, sadly, but we can go over that later when you’re not in the

hospital.”

“How did you guys get so many warriors so quickly?” Riley couldn’t stop thinking back on the battle

“Your commander brought them.”

“Commander Whey? He’s here.”

Kent nodded. “Came with Doug Hart and Alexis Kemper and about fifty warriors. More than enough for us to

launch an attack on the camp.”

“Thank the Goddess you waited for them.” Riley ran her fingers down his face. “They expected you to come right away. She was going to kill me in front of you. I’m so glad you waited for help to arrive.”

Chapter 98

He winced. “Well, that wasn’t me. I would have come out as soon as possible, but everyone else felt that we

should wait. I would have gone except Penny convinced me to wait.”

Riley smiled slightly. “It sounds like we owe her quite a bit.”

Kent kissed her gently. “I owe Penny a debt that I’ll never be able to repay.”

Comments

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 86[2,614 words]

Riley was released from the hospital in the late afternoon. By the time they got back to the pack house, it was dinner time. While Kent tried to persuade Riley to have dinner upstairs, she insisted on going to the dining hall, wanting to see everyone with her own eyes to be sure they were all alright.

The dining hall was louder than usual with all the extra warriors. Extra tables had been pushed in and there was barely any room to move around. Riley was scanning the crowd for familiar faces when a small force barreled into her.

“Riley!”

She smiled at the mess of dark brown hair. “Hi, Evan!” She tousled his hair and he looked up at her with a big

grin.

“Are you ok? Mom said you were going to be ok.”

Riley smiled, kneeling down so she could be on eye level with him. “I’m fine. Just got out of the hospital and I’m all better. How about you? Are you alright?”

He shrugged, motioning to his arm, which was casted and in a sling anchored to his front. “My arm hurts, but

the doctor said everyone can sign my cast. Will you sign it?”

“Of course, will.” She could still see the bruises on his face. Werewolf pups didn’t heal quickly like adults,

since they didn’t get their wolves until around age sixteen. So Evan would have to heal with time.

“Hi Riley.”

She looked up to see Max standing over them, a smile on his face. There were no signs of injury on him,

which was a relief to Riley. He must have healed up quickly.

She stood up and Max pulled her into a tight hug. “Thank you,” he whispered. “Thank you for taking care of him. For saving him from that woman.”

When he released her, she was swept into another hug. She barely had time to register who it was until they

spoke.

“Thank you Riley,” Penny said into ear, squeezing her tight enough to crack a rib. “I’m so thankful you were

there with him, that you got him out of that camp.”

“Careful, Penny,” Kent chuckled, “she’s still healing.”

“Sorry.” Penny let go but still held onto Riley’s arm.

“I should be thanking you,” Riley said. “I owe you my life.”

“We can call it even.” Penny reached out to tousle Evan’s hair.

“Let’s get some food.” Kent placed a hand on Riley’s back, guiding her over to the food.

They sat with Max and Penny, their boys, and Patrick and Lana with baby Lily. As they were eating, Wesley and Angie came to join them, followed not long after by Leo. They were crammed tightly around the table, laughing and talking. Riley felt a sense of peace as she watched everyone, leaning her head on Kent’s

shoulder.

1.4

Chapter 36

Just as she was going to suggest to Kent that they head upstairs, Commander Whey stepped up to the table.

“Hello, Riley,” he said warmly with a smile. “I’m glad to see you’re doing better. I think you had us all worried

there for a minute.”

She straightened up to smile at him. “I’m doing much better, thank you, sir.”

“We’ll need to talk tomorrow,” he said, glancing around the table at everyone. “But for tonight, I think we

should just be happy this whole ordeal is over.” His eyes landed on Evan who was sitting in his father’s lap,

but he said nothing, turning to leave.

“Let’s go to bed,” Kent murmured in her ear. “You need to rest.

Kent stirred as the morning light filtered through the curtains, casting soft gold across the room. Riley

snuggled into his side, her breathing slow, strands of her hair spilled across the pillows and the hollow of his

chest. One arm draped across his ribs, her fingers twitching lightly like she was still in a dream.

He watched her, not daring to move, not even wanting to blink really. After everything in the last couple

weeks, he was just relieved that she was here. That she was his.

His hand slid over the smooth skin of her back, pushing up his shirt that she had worn to bed last night. After

they got to the room last night, she hadn’t really spoken too much, just climbing into bed and falling quickly

asleep.

Riley shifted against him, pressing closer, her leg slipping between his. The movement was instinctive,

sleepy, but it made his breath catch. His hand paused just below the curve of her spine, fingers splayed

against her skin.

She mumbled his name, her voice rough and soft all at once. “Kent...”

He smiled. “Morning.”

She tilted her head, her lips ghosting over his collarbone. It was barely a kiss, but it unraveled something in

him.

“Riley,” he warned, or pleaded, he wasn’t sure. “You just got out of the damn hospital.”

“And?” Her fingers curled into his side as she planted another soft kiss on his chest.

“And you need to recover more,” he tried to reason.

“That’s not what I need.” She shifted, kissing his neck softly.

He tightened his grip on her shoulder. “What do you need?”

“You.” It came out as a soft moan. “Inside me.”

Goddess help him, he couldn’t resist that. He dipped his head, brushing his lips over hers, the kiss starting

light until she pushed against him, her tongue prodding against his lips. Her hands slid up his back, nails

grazing just enough to make him/shiver.

He rolled to hover above her and her legs hooked around his hips, pulling him closer. He groaned against her

mouth.

Kent kissed her like he’d never get another chance, because for a moment he had feared he wouldn’t. He touched her slowly and deliberately, running his fingers under her shirt to feel the dip of her hip bone, the soft.

Chapter 86

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Chapte 86

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2/4

Chapter 86

skin of her stomach, the tender skin of her breasts. He buried his face against her neck, breathing in her

scent.

"Kent," Riley groaned, tilting her hips against his.

P

Kent's mouth found hers again, harder this time, less patient. Her lips parted for him with a soft, desperate sound that made his c**k throb.

"You feel that?" he murmured against her lips, guiding her hand down between their bodies to where his desire for her pressed hard against the thin fabric of his boxers. "That's what you do to me."

Her fingers curled around him through the fabric, causing him to groan, forehead dropping against hers. His control was slipping, unraveling by the second.

He stripped off his boxers in one fluid motion and then eased the shirt off her body. He dipped his head to

capture one of her n*****s in his mouth, flicking his tongue on the bud. She keened under him, her back

arching up off the bed.

"Please, Kent." She was pleading now. "I need you inside of me."

“Where?” he teased, running his finger to the apex of her thighs, drawing one finger along her seam. “Right

here?”

“Kent,” she rasped.

“Or here?” He dipped his finger between her folds, flicking her clit softly. She arched again, her eyes fluttering

shut. “Or... here?” He slipped a finger inside her, feeling her warmth.

“Stop playing,” she nearly cried, her eyes flying open. He couldn’t help but chuckle at her, knowing that she felt as desperate for him as he was for her.

He withdrew his finger and quickly pushed his tip to her entrance. She canted her hips upwards, pushing against his ass with the heels of her feet. Finally he gave in, sinking into her, slow and deep, inch by inch. Her breath hitched, nails biting into his shoulders. He stilled, taking in her heat, the way she clenched around him, the look in her eyes as she stared into his eyes.

“Riley.” His voice was rough and hoarse. “You feel like heaven.”

She wrapped her legs tighter around him and moved her hips, dragging a ragged sound from his throat. He began to thrust long, deep strokes that made her whimper and cling to him. But she met every one with growing urgency, her body writhing beneath him.

“Kent... harder... please,” she gasped.

He bit back a curse and gave her what she asked for. His rhythm turned rougher, more desperate, the only sounds were the slap of skin, her moans and the sound of his name falling from her lips.

Her hands were everywhere – his chest, his hair, his back – pulling him closer. He pressed his forehead to hers, drinking in every sound. Her breath stuttered, thighs tightening around him.

“Come on, Ri,” he murmured. “Let go for me.”

So she did. Her back arched, mouth falling open, her walls tightening around him. The way she came undone beneath him stole the last of his control. He only managed a few more strokes before he came, spilling inside

of her with a heavy groan.

He stayed there for a minute, supporting his weight on his forearms so as not to crush her, his forehead

resting against hers as they both caught their breath. She drug her fingers slowly up his back. He kissed her softly before rolling to the side, dragging her halfway on top of him. She rested her head on his chest, no doubt listening to the thudding of his heart.

Riley smiled against his chest. "I don't want to leave this bed again."

Kent let out a rough laugh and kissed the top of her head. "Then we won't."

H

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Comments

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An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 87[1,626 words]

Chapter 87

Kent and Riley were enjoying breakfast in the dining hall when Penny approached.

"The alphas of New Dawn and Opal Lake arrived this morning," she said to Kent. "I set them up with breakfast

in your office. They wanted to see you first thing. I told them you were already at breakfast, and they said they'd wait."

Kent nodded. "I'll head up when we're done."

"Why are they here?" Riley asked, sipping her coffee.

"They lost warriors in the battle," Kent explained. "Opal Lake lost two, New Dawn lost three. They've come to

escort the bodies home."

“How many did we lose in total?”

Kent frowned. “Too many.”

Penny answered gently, “During the last two battles, we lost six warriors from allied packs, seven council

warriors, and five of our own. There were far more injuries. The hospital was overrun. Even Lana left the baby

with Patrick’s mother to help. Luckily, everyone seems to be healing well. New Sky has already collected their

fallen, and the council commander will handle the rest.”

Riley nodded, noticing how Kent stared at the table, his mouth a hard line.

“Speaking of the commander,” Penny continued, “he requested a meeting, but I told him the visiting alphas

had priority. He plans to meet with everyone afterwards.”

Kent sighed. “I shouldn’t keep them waiting.” He stood, but Riley reached out and touched his arm.

“Can I come?”

He smiled at her. “Please do.” He offered his hand, and together they headed to the elevator.

They were still holding hands when they entered the office. Alpha Dawson from Opal Lake sat on the couch,

sipping coffee. He was mid-thirties, with reddish-blond hair and sharp brown eyes. Alpha Jake lounged in an

armchair, his sandy brown hair falling over his forehead.

Both alphas rose as they entered.

“Good morning, Alphas,” Kent said, releasing Riley’s hand to shake theirs. “Please meet my mate and Luna,

Riley.”

Alpha Dawson smiled warmly as he shook her hand. "I'm glad to see Alpha Kent has found a new mate. I

know it was hard when Luna Lily passed."

Kent smiled at Riley. "The moon goddess blessed me with a second chance."

Alpha Dawson's eyebrows lifted slightly. "A second chance? Truly a blessing. It's a pleasure to meet you,

Luna."

Riley returned his smile, feeling the genuine warmth he projected. "Thank you. It's nice to meet you, too. I look forward to learning more about Red Moon's allies."

"I dare say the best warrior advisor the werewolf council has already knows quite a bit about us," Jake said,

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Chapter 87

leaning forward with a firmer handshake than Riley expected, his green eyes dark.

"A warrior advisor?" Dawson asked. "Is that how you two met?"

Kent nodded as he moved behind his desk. "Riley was sent to assist with the rogue issue. She's an exceptional warrior and highly knowledgeable."

"She is," Jake added. "She came to New Dawn last year to help settle a border dispute."

"Well," Dawson said, "it sounds like you have found an exceptional mate, Alpha Kent. And it's *good to* know our allies have such a talented member. Perhaps next time we'll ask for your help before involving the

council."

Riley smiled as she sat near Kent's desk. "As long as things are calm here, that shouldn't be a problem."

"I agree," Kent said. "Her skills shouldn't go to waste." He took a breath. "Now, let's address the real reason for your visit. I want to personally thank you for your sacrifices. Red Moon owes a debt."

He expressed condolences for the fallen, and they discussed the battle, skimming over the more sensitive

details involving Evan.

After a while, Alpha Jake rose. "I should get to my warriors. It's a long drive home, and one of them is about

to become a father."

They all rose. Handshakes were exchanged, and as Jake turned to Riley, he said, "Luna, would you mind showing me to the barracks?"

Out of the corner of her eye, Riley saw Kent stiffen.

She smiled at Jake without glancing at Kent. "Of course. Follow me."

They waited in silence for the elevator. When the doors closed, Jake spoke.

"So... you're mated now?"

"I am," Riley said evenly. "Kent is my second chance mate."

Jake raised his brows, looking genuinely surprised. "Didn't realize you'd had a mate before. Guess you're

blessed, too."

They exited the elevator and headed for the back doors.

Jake kept his voice low. "I have a question."

"What's that?"

"You met Alpha Kent before his trip to my pack, right?"

"Yes."

"So you knew you were mates?"

"Yes."

He stopped, facing her. "Then why didn't either of you say anything when he visited? I said some things..." He rubbed the back of his neck. "Things I wouldn't have said if I'd known."

She smiled at his discomfort. "I know what you said. Kent told me. So did Leo, the council's head warrior. We're good friends."

Chapter 7

Jake's face reddened. "Still... I owe you both an apology. I acted like an **ass**. But why didn't you tell me? Was it

a secret or something?"

Riley crossed her arms. "Jake, you probably shouldn't run your mouth about people you barely know. Mate of

not."

He had the decency to look sheepish.

She sighed. "It was a secret. I didn't want to accept Kent at first. It's a long story, but we agreed not to tell anyone until I decided."

Jake studied her for a long moment. "For what it's worth, I think you made the right choice."

"I thought you said Kent was an ass."

Jake shrugged. "He is. But when the moon goddess sends you a mate, especially a second chance, you don't walk away. Even if he *is* an asshole."

Riley laughed. "I think you can find your way from here, Jake."

**

Once Alpha Dawson had left, Kent sent for the others to meet him in his office with Commander Whey.

"We can't begin to thank the council enough for all the help you've sent, especially these past few days," Kent

said once everyone was seated.

The commander nodded. "We're always willing to help a pack in need." He exhaled quietly. "But we don't need to exchange pleasantries. I'd rather get straight to the point."

His gaze swept the ranked members of the pack. "The council, and your allies, lend help under the assumption that the pack in need is *fully transparent*. When you aren't forthcoming," his voice sharpened slightly, "people get hurt. That's exactly what happened to that child... and to all the warriors who lost their lives trying to save him."

“We’re aware of our mistakes,” Kent said, struggling to keep his voice even. “At the time, we thought we were

doing what was best.”

Whey, shook his head. “No. You were protecting yourselves. Protecting your beta. You thought about your

own consequences, not the cost to others.”

“We know,” Max cut in, his voice rough. “We didn’t disclose having Evan four years ago because we didn’t want Kent to face punishment for the camp incident. But this time? Kent and Patrick *wanted* to tell the

council. It was me. I begged them not to.”

“It was a decision we made together,” Patrick said quietly, meeting Max’s eyes across the room.

“What’s done is done.” Kent forced the words out, his heart pounding. “I accept full responsibility. At this

point, let’s move on. Let’s talk about what happens now with Evan, and with the pack.”

Whey studied them a moment, then nodded. “First, we’ll need to confirm the boy’s origin. Since we have the remains of the rogue leader, we can compare their DNA. We’ll see if she was truly his mother.”

Riley shifted forward in her seat. “Actually... about that.”

Everyone turned to her.

She explained what Cheree had said in the rogue camp. Everything she’d learned about Evan’s origins.

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Chapter 87

When she finished, the room was silent.

“So... he really is the missing alpha pup from Green River?” Wesley asked, voice low.

Penny pressed her hand to her mouth, tears swimming in her eyes. “What does that mean for him?”

“We’ll need DNA to be sure,” Whey replied. “I’ll reach out to the current alpha of Green River. If Evan isn’t related, there should be no issue with the beta family adopting him. But if he is their missing child... what happens next will be up to their alpha.”

“What’s he like?” Leo asked. “The current alpha.”

“He’s reasonable,” Whey said. “But even reasonable men can lose themselves when it comes to family.”

Penny gave a soft, broken sound, and Max wrapped his arm around her shoulders.

“First step is the DNA,” Riley said gently, watching them. “We’ll go from there.”

“I’ll reach out to Green River right away,” Whey said. “If he’s told the child might be alive, he’ll come quickly.”

Kent nodded. “He’s welcome here.”

Once everyone left, Kent leaned forward, dropping his head into his hands.

Riley came to his side and rubbed his back in slow circles.

“You can’t keep beating yourself up for this,” she whispered.

“I can,” he said hoarsely. “I should. I killed those rogues that day. I put Max and Penny in this position.”

“You didn’t kill Evan’s parents,” she said softly. “*She* did. You saved Evan. You saved him from a monster who hurt him. And you gave him to people who love him like their own.”

“I still should’ve come clean,” Kent said, voice cracking.

“That was four years ago,” Riley said gently. “You can’t change the past. All you can do now is keep moving forward.”

He leaned back, looking up at her with tired, aching eyes. “I love you.”

She smiled. “I love you too.”

**An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 88[
1,293 words]**

Chapter 88

It took three days for the alpha from Green River to arrive. Three days filled with funerals for fallen warriors. Three days in which Max and Penny disappeared from daily life, clinging to their boys as if they could stop the world from changing. Three days where Riley did her best to keep Kent focused on the present and not spiraling into all the worst-case scenarios he kept creating in his head.

Patrick remained the rock of the ranked members, his steady presence the glue holding the pack together.

Meanwhile, Leo and Wesley quietly prepared to leave, a reality Riley still struggled to accept. The idea **that** Leo, her confidant, wouldn't be just a short walk away when she needed him felt like a painful loss she wasn't ready for.

When Commander Whey finally led the visiting alpha into Kent's office, everyone else had already been waiting anxiously for ten minutes, even though it had felt much longer.

The alpha was a tall, rail-thin man, his bald head and pale face almost giving him a ghostly appearance, but his bright blue eyes softened the effect.

"This is Alpha Ty of the Green River pack," Commander Whey introduced him.

One by one, everyone introduced themselves. Alpha Ty took a seat by the door, his serene gaze sweeping over

them.

"I've already spoken at length with Commander Whey," he began, his voice steady. "And I understand you have concerns about the boy. Please know that I have spent four years searching for him. My only priority is his safety. I have no intention of uprooting him or causing more harm. I know, after hearing what happened with the rogues, that he's likely in a fragile state. His well-being comes first."

Kent nodded, taking a deep breath. "We care very much for him. My beta and his mate have given him the

best life they could. If we had known who he truly was when we found him, we would have returned him

immediately. We sincerely apologize for not declaring him and for depriving your pack of your heir."

Alpha Ty studied Kent for a long, stressful moment. "I'm not here to judge you," he said quietly. "I just need to

see him. I need to know he's alright." He looked down briefly, his voice trembling. "He's the son of my best

friend. David was closer to me than a brother. I made him a promise before he died to look after his son and I

intend to keep it."

"He's a great kid," Penny said, her voice barely above a whisper. Alpha Ty turned his gaze to her.

"Kindest boy I know," she added, smiling through tears. "Always thinking of others."

"He's tough too," Max said. "Even as young as he is, you can see he's going to be an incredible warrior."

Alpha Ty's smile was bittersweet. "David was an exceptional warrior. His mate, Marie, was one of the

sweetest souls I ever met. Their son is special, more than just by lineage. David and Marie came from long lines of original alphas. Their child is a true alpha. He's destined to be stronger and faster than most."

Penny hesitated. "Do you... have a picture of them?"

Alpha Ty's face brightened. "Of course." He pulled a worn photo from his shirt pocket and passed it to Max.

Penny gasped, covering her mouth as tears filled her eyes. "He looks exactly like his father."

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Max nodded, swallowing hard. "Exactly like him."

Alpha Ty's voice grew softer. "David and I were like twins. We even shared a birthday. After losing his first mate, David thought he'd never find happiness again - until Marie."

Riley, sitting close to Kent, caught his intense stare before turning back to Alpha Ty.

"What happened to his first mate?" Penny asked gently.

Alpha Ty's expression darkened. "She was killed during a rogue attack, just months after they bonded."

Riley straightened slightly. "Actually..." All eyes turned to her.

Carefully, she recounted what Cheree had admitted, that she had killed both of David's mates.

Alpha Ty listened in stunned silence before finally nodding. "I suppose I shouldn't be surprised... but it still hurts. Looking back, the signs were there. Cheree was obsessed with David. I've lived in the aftermath of her

destruction."

"It's just so awful," Penny whispered, clutching the photograph.

"They were so young," Alpha Ty said. "Only twenty-three. I tried everything to find their son. I sent out search parties, called on my alliances, but he vanished."

Max cleared his throat. "What was his name? Their son's real name?"

"Robert," Alpha Ty replied, his smile faint. "Robert David Hunter."

"We've been calling him Evan," Penny said. "What about his birthday?"

"December 11th."

Max's eyes widened. "He's older than we thought. Much closer to our first son's age."

"When we found him," Penny explained, "he was so malnourished, we could only guess."

Alpha Ty's expression crumpled slightly. "The commander told me what condition he was in. It kills me, knowing he suffered so much."

"Would you like to meet him?" Penny asked softly.

Alpha Ty's whole face lit up. "I would love to. Does he know I'm here?"

"He does. We explained that you were from his birth parents' pack. We didn't tell him everything yet, but he's

ready to meet you."

Max stood. "I'll go get him."

As he left, Penny asked, "Does he have any family left in Green River?"

"Two great-uncles, but they're elderly and uninterested in raising a child. David's sister died in an accident

when we were kids. Both sets of grandparents are gone. Marie was an only child."

The door opened again, and Max led Evan in, his small hand gripping his father's tightly.

Alpha Ty's eyes widened, drinking in the sight of the boy.

"Evan," Max said gently, kneeling, "this is Alpha Ty. He was your birth father's best friend."

Evan gave a shy wave, pressing closer to Max's side.

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Ty knelt, his voice thick. "You look exactly like your father" Tears shimmered in his eyes. "I've been looking for

you."

"I've been right here," Evan whispered, causing Ty to chuckle softly.

"Indeed you have." Ty wiped his eyes. "Are you happy?"

Evan nodded but then turned to Max and suddenly burst into tears.

"Please don't take me away," he sobbed, burying himself in Max's arms.

Max hugged him tightly. "It's okay, buddy. No one's taking you anywhere today"

Ty stood, pinching the bridge of his nose before kneeling again.

"I would never take you away from your parents," he said firmly. Evan peered at him, sniffing. "As long as you're happy, you will stay with them."

Penny dissolved into tears, hugging Evan and Max as tightly as she could.

Ty turned to Commander Whey, his voice steady. "I think Evan should stay here. I support the beta family

adopting him formally."

He looked back at Max and Penny. "But I have two requests."

"Anything," Max whispered.

“First, I would like Evan to visit Green River regularly and to stay connected to his heritage. Second, when he comes of age, I’d like him to return and lead the pack as its rightful alpha.”

Max and Penny nodded, tears streaming down their faces, relief plain in every movement.

Commander Whey clapped his hands together softly. “This is good news. I always knew Alpha Ty was a

reasonable man.”

Turning to Kent, he added, “The council will still issue a written sanction. You’ll be under supervision for three years, and all ranked members will be on probation for one year. If anything even hints at misconduct, you’ll lose your positions. But otherwise, life can return to normal.”

Kent exhaled deeply, nodding. “We will comply with anything the council requires.”

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Comments

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 89[1,010 words]

Riley was about ready for bed when Kent opened the door, his face practically glowing with excitement.

“I have something for you,” he said, smiling wide.

“What is **it**?”

“I’ll show you.” He held out his hand.

She sighed, amused. “Right now?”

“Yes,” he said, beckoning her with two fingers. “Right now.”

She slipped her hand into his, and he tugged her into the hallway, half-dragging her toward the room she’d first stayed in when she arrived.

“Are you kicking me out already?” she teased.

“Never,” he said, pausing to give her a quick, heated kiss. “Open the door.”

“Why?”

“Just open it.”

“What’s in there?”

“Goddess help me, woman!” he groaned. “You make me crazy. Just open the damn door!”

Laughing, she batted her eyelashes innocently. “Where’s the fun if I can’t drive you crazy?”

Kent growled low in his throat and then shoved her back against the closed door, his mouth crashing into hers. His kiss was wild, demanding, his tongue claiming her as she wrapped her arms around his neck, pulling him closer. His hands slid under her shirt, fingers tracing burning patterns across her skin.

He pulled back suddenly, kissing a path along her jaw to her ear, dragging a ragged gasp from her lips. His teeth grazed her earlobe and then... he stopped as abruptly as he started, stepping back with a wicked smirk.

“How’s that for driving someone crazy?” he murmured.

“Asshole,” she muttered, trying to steady her racing heart.

He just laughed. “Open the f*****g door, Riley.”

Rolling her eyes, she finally turned the knob to step inside and then stopped, stunned.

The bedroom furniture was gone. In its place stood a beautiful oak desk flanked by two overstuffed burgundy armchairs. A deep gray couch stretched along one wall; a small table and chairs occupied the other.

“What is this?” she asked, forehead/creasing.

“Your new office,” Kent said like it was the most obvious thing in the world.

“My office?” she echoed, raising a skeptical brow.

“Yeah.” He grinned. “Since some of our allied packs found out that my new luna was one of the council’s best advisors, they’ve been asking if they could hire you for consulting before having to involve the council. I told them it might be possible.. for a price.”

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She blinked at him. "I don't get it."

"Packs hate dealing with the council," he said. "They want solutions without oversight. You could start your

own consulting business. Help them, get paid, and still do what you love. On your terms."

Riley stared at him, heart swelling. She glanced around the room again, taking it in.

"You did this for me?" she whispered.

"Of course," he scoffed, stepping behind her and wrapping his arms around her waist. "I'd do anything for you. I love you."

She turned in his arms, hands linking behind his neck. "I love you too."

Their lips met in a soft kiss. It started sweet at first, but Kent quickly deepened it, pulling her flush against him. His mouth was hot and demanding, his hands sliding under her shirt to splay against her bare back. When he broke the kiss, he trailed his mouth down her neck, nipping at her pulse until she moaned and arched against him.

Kent growled low in his chest, his fingers finding the curve of her breasts.

Riley shoved him away playfully, leaving him blinking in surprise.

"Feeling crazy yet?" she teased breathlessly.

He scowled, adjusting the obvious bulge in his pants. "You are a pain in the ass."

She smirked. "Is that what you have?" she asked, her gaze dropping pointedly.

He stepped forward, crowding her back against the desk. Grabbing her hand, he pressed it between his legs.

"Why don't you find out what I have?"

She rolled her eyes. "I have a pretty good guess."

Kent ducked his head, his mouth latching onto her neck again, kissing and biting in a way that made her knees weak. Riley gripped the edge of the desk behind her as he stripped her shirt away, then her bra, his hands and mouth everywhere at once.

He sucked one of her n****s into his mouth, drawing a gasp from her lips, then straightened just long enough to pull off his clothes while she shed the rest of hers.

She hopped onto the desk, leaning back on her elbows, her legs spreading for him. Kent stroked himself slowly, watching her, hunger darkening his eyes.

Riley dipped her fingers between her legs, stroking herself as she tipped her head back and moaned. She pressed the heel of her hand to her clit, her hips lifting into the touch.

Kent swore under his breath, stepping between her thighs. He caught her wrist, guiding her slick fingers to his mouth and sucking them clean with a groan.

With a growl, he wrapped one hand lightly around her neck, pulling her upright to rest his forehead against hers. His other hand guided himself to her entrance and he pushed inside in one rough, delicious thrust.

Riley gasped, her body stretching around him, pleasure spiking sharp and fast.

Kent held her hips with one hand, the other sliding up to pinch and roll her n****e. His pace was brutal, the angle perfect, every thrust driving deeper. She clung to him, legs locking around his waist, gasping his name:

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“Kent,” she moaned, “you feel so good in me.”

*f**k, Riley,” he growled, voice wrecked.

He slid a hand down to her clit, circling with skilled fingers as he thrust harder, faster.

“Come for me,” he whispered roughly against her throat.

That was all it took. Stars exploded behind her eyes as she came, her whole body clenching around him. Kent followed with a ragged groan, spilling inside her, holding her tight.

She collapsed against his chest, breathing hard, his arms winding around her protectively. He rubbed slow, soothing circles on her back as they both caught their breath.

Riley smiled against his skin.

“I think,” she murmured, “I like this office.”

An Unwanted Second Chance Ripped 90[1,440 words]

Chapter 90

It had been four weeks since Alpha Ty and Commander Whey had left. Leo and Wesley had left as well, taking Wesley's new mate with them as well.

Kent had insisted that they take the last week to visit Riley's old apartment to pack up her belongings. He could tell that Leo's departure had hit Riley hard and he wanted her to visit with her friends. Plus, he wanted to see where she had been living, to take in what her life had been like before they met.

He had gotten to meet Leo's mate Leah and their daughter, Abby. Leah had been overjoyed that Riley had a mate, but Kent could tell both women were upset that Riley would be moving so far away.

Kent had helped her pack up the belongings in her tiny apartment. Most of her furniture, she had chosen to donate, pointing out that she had most everything she needed at Red Moon.

Riley had grown tired during the trip. At first Kent assumed she was just feeling down about leaving behind the life she had worked so hard to create for himself. But as the days continued and she began to sleep more, complaining about a sour stomach, Kent began to worry.

Barely six weeks before, she had been battling a debilitating illness. Both of them had assumed that she was cured after they completed the mate bond, but now Kent wasn't so sure. He tried to appear calm for her, but he was a nervous wreck, anxious to get her back to the pack and have Lana take a look at her.

When Max had picked them up from the airport, Riley had curled up in the backseat, sleeping soundly for the whole drive. Kent sat in the back with her, her head tucked under his arm as he talked to Max about different pack issues.

Eventually the subject turned to their trip and Kent told Max about visiting the council compound and his fears about Riley's recent illness.

"I don't know, Kent," Max commented as the trees thinned and they reached the outskirts of Red Moon's town. "Like two months ago she was this single, bad-ass advisor for the council and now she has literally had to give all that up. On top of that, she got seriously

sick, had to accept a mate she wasn't sure she wanted, got held hostage by a crazy rogue woman and almost died. Now she's trying to adjust to giving up her old life, planning for the luna ceremony and starting a new business. Maybe she just needs to rest for a little bit."

"I want to believe that," Kent murmured, stroking her hair. "But then the last time she insisted it was just

stress, she nearly died."

"Talk to Lana if you're that worried." Max shrugged, winding his way through town. "But I'm probably going to

take her side on this one."

Kent rolled his eyes. "You always take her side."

"What can I say?" Max chuckled. "She's grown on me."

Kent shook Riley awake as they rolled to a stop in front of the pack house. Her eyes were bleary as she

blinked away the sleep.

"How did we get here so fast?" she murmured.

"Time flies when you're sound asleep," Max quipped, climbing out.

"So we got the final DNA results back," Max said as he unloaded the suitcases from the trunk. "Evan is the

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missing alpha pup, but no shocker there."

"How do you feel about that?" Riley asked, stretching her arms.

He shrugged. "It's not like we didn't already know. It's just strange, you know. Everyone likes to think that their kid is special, but mine really is. I've been reading about true alphas. He's going to be way stronger and faster than any of us. But it's more than that. True alphas have terrible tempers and can be violent if they don't know how to control their emotions. They can actually be pretty dangerous"

"He'll be fine," Kent said, sounding more sure than he felt. "We will get him anything he needs as he gets older. Right now, he's five. So I think we have a few years to figure things out."

Max smiled. "Well, right now we'll just use Riley. He'll listen to anything she says." He grinned at her. "You're his hero. All he ever talks about is watching you fight the wolf without shifting. He thinks it was the coolest thing he's ever seen."

"Glad my near-death experience impressed your kid." Riley rolled her eyes.

"You're back!"

They turned to see Patrick walking down the steps, smiling.

"I was just headed out to see about a minor rogue situation. But Riley was the one they actually requested."

Kent frowned. "What's going on?"

"Patrols found a rogue on the western border requesting an audience with the luna. Jaxon has him and

Jaxon insists that Riley needs to talk to him. He says Riley will understand."

"I can go out and see what it's about," Riley said.

"No," Kent said, his tone sharper than he intended. "You'll stay here."

"He's requesting my presence," she countered, "not yours."

"I don't care," Kent growled, clenching his teeth. "You're not going."

Kent knew his tone was a mistake the moment the words left his mouth. If he had learned one thing about Riley, it was that she did not like to be told what to do.

Before he could say anything else, she turned on her heel and began walking away.

"Where are you going?" Kent yelled after her.

"Wherever the hell I want," she called over her shoulder.

Kent groaned, tilting his head back to look at the sky.

"Just go with her." Max sounded annoyed. "Stop telling her what to do."

"The rogue asked for her anyway," Patrick pointed out.

"No one in this pack takes my side anymore," Kent grumbled, following after Riley.

They shifted once they reached the woods, reaching the Jaxon and the rogue in a matter of minutes.

Once they had shifted back to human form *and* dressed, Kent and Riley approached the rogue.

“Maddox.” Riley beamed at the rogue with a mess of dirty red hair and thick, curly beard. “Glad to see you’re alright.”

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“I could say the same for you,” the rogue replied.

“I remember you.” Kent’s eyes widened, remembering the rogue that crouched over Jaxon’s body, pointing Pax in the direction that Riley and Evan had gone.

“Nice to meet you, Alpha,” said the man. “You seem much friendlier than the wolf that wanted to rip my throat out. I’m Maddox Newell.”

“Maddox saved my life,” Jaxon said, leaning against a tree. “I recognized him right away”

Maddox smirked. “I’ll admit, I was waiting for you in particular before I approached a patrol. I figured with everything that has happened, I might be killed on sight.”

Kent shrugged. “Possible, though we do discourage it if the rogue isn’t a threat.”

“How’s the boy?” Maddox looked at Riley.

“He’s doing well,” Riley replied. “Back with his parents.”

“Good.” Maddox nodded. “I’ve been worried about him. He didn’t deserve any of that. Is his arm healing well?”

She nodded. “Maddox is a doctor,” Riley told Kent. “He helped treat me in the camp. He also devised the plan to help Evan and I escape. I wouldn’t have gotten out without him.”

Kent stared at her for a moment, digesting that information.

Finally he turned to the rogue. “I owe you a debt I can never repay then.”

“Well, that works in my favor.” Maddox’s smile faded as he drummed his fingers nervously on his leg. “I have a request.”

“Anything,” Kent said firmly.

Maddox swallowed hard. “I would like a place in your pack. Rogue life has been tough and I just want a place that is permanent and... and safe.”

“Done.” Kent turned to Jaxon. “Bring Maddox to the pack house. Ask Penny to find temporary living arrangements for him. I’ll speak to the hospital director. We can always use good doctors.”

“Really?” Maddox’s eyes widened.

“Of course.” Kent smiled. “You saved my mate and my beta’s son and protected one of my warriors. I would gladly do more if you want.”

“No.” Maddox shook his head quickly. “That’s more than enough.”

“Good.” Kent nodded at Jaxon. “Follow my warrior and we will get you taken care of.”

“That was very good of you,” Riley murmured as they headed back to the pack house.

He glanced at her. “I like to think I’m not always an asshole.”

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