



Break

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Brickstone University Reverse Harem Book

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One

Aly



It feels like my stomach is being sucked out of my body. All around me is darkness as I'm quickly pulled in a random direction by my gut.

The only thing keeping me from completely freaking out is the strong grip on my arm, holding me steady. Not that I am particularly happy with the owner of that hand right now but at least I'm not lost and alone in this nothingness.

As quickly as it started, it's over. The sensation ends and I'm no longer weightless. I collapse clumsily onto the floor in a heap, the hand releasing me immediately.

I glance up and see my mom is completely fine. Standing there like we didn't just somehow transport to this new location. Like she didn't steal me away from my mates who must be losing their fucking minds.

Her face, so similar to mine with brown hair, chocolate eyes and a button nose, looks fierce as she stares down at me. I think I see a little pity in her expression but honestly it's hard to tell. One thing is for sure, she's disappointed in me.

“Mom, what’s going on? How did you do that?” I demand, my voice coming out stronger than I feel.

She clucks her tongue at me and doesn’t answer, ignoring my question. Instead, she examines our surroundings, looking anywhere but at me.

We are in an all white bedroom, completely bare except for necessities like a bed. There’s no window, the only light coming from the fluorescent bulbs in the ceiling. It looks like there is an attached bathroom but it’s hard to tell from my position. Why did she bring me here?

The guys must be so worried about me. I disappeared into thin air with a woman they know nothing about. And Jeremy is going to come alive and I’ll be gone. He’s going to rage out, as long as he does wake up.

Fear runs down my spine. I know he woke up fine when Nic stabbed him but what if I’m different? What if for some reason he’s not waking up and I’m not there to help.

I try to take a deep breath but it feels like there is an elephant on my chest, restricting my breathing. They need me, I need to get back.

I stand up on shaking legs and face my mom. She finally brings her attention back to me and raises a brow in question.

“You need to take me back. Now!” I demand.

Again, her expression is almost pitying but why is she looking at me like that?

“I’m sorry dear, but we can’t go back,” she responds like it’s no big deal, just a minor inconvenience.

I’m about to scream in frustration, but she cuts me off with a scowl.

“You should settle in, I imagine a lot is about to come back to you. I’ll be back later.”

Without further explanation she turns and walks out the door. I’m standing there in complete shock when I realize she’s leaving me here.

“No! You will take me back right now!”

I go to stop her but my hand doesn’t even touch her before it moves back to my side on its own.

When I try my other hand, it stays locked in place as well. I’m about to scream and hope a neighbor hears me but my mouth won’t move. I can’t make a sound.

“Settle in,” she says, before leaving and locking the door behind her.

As soon as she’s gone, I’m released. Was that magic? Clearly she has powers but what kind? What is she? I brush my hand along my throat where I felt a burning sensation right before my mom showed up, it feels a little raised but nothing is bleeding.

The door doesn’t budge when I run at it, trying to tug it open. I jiggle the handle, kick the door and even try to break it down but nothing works. It sounds like the door is reinforced with steel.

I huff and inspect out the bed before collapsing on it. Only looking long enough to make sure it's safe.

My thoughts immediately returns to the guys. I can only imagine how they feel right now. I double check my pockets but I didn't have my phone on me and there's no way for me to contact them.

I wish our bonds have developed enough for the mind speak they mentioned or that we had added me to the pack bond. Running my hand over Nic's mark on my arm, I trace the swirls and feel a deeper connection to him.

I can feel his panic and fury, but he's also determined, I'm sure to find me. I don't want anything happening to them. I'm pretty sure my mom won't hurt me but I have no idea what she'll do to the guys. I need to get out of here myself before they're put in danger trying to rescue me.

Clearly, she's supernatural and has been hiding things from me. I was really hoping she didn't know either somehow. That means I can't trust her.

A memory surfaces, I'm in one of our many living rooms at home, my mom and I on the couch. She's stern as she stares down at me. I'm young, maybe eight or nine.

What's strange is that she's home. She was never home growing up.

She opens her mouth and says, "Aly dear, we are a family of hunters."

My shock pulls me out of the memory. I don't remember her ever telling me this. How could she tell me something so significant and I forgot? Did she plant it?

There's a spike of panic from my bond with Jeremy. I touch his pentagram and feel it even stronger, almost like it's my own. He's freaking out and his rage is palatable. I wonder if he felt my shock through our connection and freaked out? Or did he just wake up and the guys told him?

I reach up and run my fingers along the bite from Jay. He's lost in his sorrow. I've never felt my playful wolf this down. It hardens my resolve to get back to them. I can't leave them like this. They need me.

I so badly wish I had my bond with Kiran and Jax. I feel so empty with no way to connect with them. I have no idea how they're doing with this. If I had to guess, Ajax has defaulted to his problem solving mode. He's locked emotions away, so he can help find me.

And Kiran, I know he has a dark side. He's usually fun and playful like Jay but I imagine he's raging out now. The only thing keeping him from losing control completely is his twin's calm demeanor, if Jax loses it then I'm sure Kiran will shortly follow.

Another memory steals me from my thoughts of them, this time I'm in a gym with my dad. He and I are dressed in all black tactical gear and training in combat.

“You have to be prepared for anything. You never know when one of them will lose control. You need to maintain

yourself so you can defeat them,” he says.

He sweeps my feet out from under me and I smack down on the mat, hard. I wince at the memory of how terrible that bruise was.

Memory after memory keeps cycling through my head and I realize, these were repressed with magic. They’re training me and telling me all about supernaturals. They’re giving me all the information I could need when it comes to fighting the different species. I’ve always known what I am and what I can do, but they took that from me.

“Aly, the other creatures aren’t like us. They’re dangerous, and they won’t hesitate to kill you. That’s why we are teaching you to protect yourself,” my dad says before executing a move I fail to block. He ends up slicing my arm open with a throwing knife.

I always thought I got that scar from falling off my bike. Now I can clearly remember that never happened but it’s what I told everyone when they saw my stitches. Stitches my mom did herself.

I think about my dad’s words and the hate in his heart. But I know that’s not true. My guys would never hurt me, they care about me. I can’t see them hurting anyone unless they had to, to protect themselves.

A small voice in the back of my head reminds me that they don’t know I’m a hunter. What if they don’t want me anymore now? They always talked about hunters with pure hatred.

Even if that's true, I have a feeling it would be because of everything hunters have done to them. Not because they're evil themselves.

I'm sweating hard at the idea of my guys never seeing me again, never being held in their arms again. I didn't even tell them I love them. I was so stupid for waiting but I thought we had all the time in the world.

I walk into the bathroom to splash some water on my face. I need to reset, memories keep coming and I'm getting overwhelmed.

First thing I notice when I enter in the bathroom is the new mark on my neck. Sharp lines form crossing arrows in blood red. It's aggressive and fierce, reminding me of a deadly predator. But it also instills strength and confidence. I love it, but not what it represents. I don't want the mark of a race of people who hate supernaturals. Who kill them for no reason. The people who made the guys flee their old school. I reach up to touch it and feel the same scars from earlier, it's like my skin was cut open and healed to form the design.

I stare down at my mate marks. What are they going to do with me? A hunter mated to other supernaturals. According to my memories it's impossible but clearly they're wrong.

Fear slithers down my spine. Did my own mother bring me here to kill me? What will they do to my mates when she finds them?

She knows where they are. She could pop back for them anytime. What if she already has? What if she's holding them

here as well? I can't let anything happen to them or me.

Two

Nic



My mate pops out of existence right in front of my very eyes and I'm helpless to stop it. One second she's there and the next it's like a hole has opened up in my chest. I couldn't get to her in time.

My heart is pounding out of my chest with all this new information. Aly is a hunter. Her mom must be a hunter. Her mom took her, and we don't know where they are. Aly is in danger.

Danger keeps repeating in my head over and over. My sweet, perfect mate is in danger and I didn't protect her. I failed her.

We are all staring at the spot she disappeared from, frozen in shock. I don't think anyone can believe this is real, that fate would be so cruel.

A bone chilling growl pierces the air and I instinctively freeze. I glance over and see Jay has shifted and his wolf is circling the room, furious. He goes to where Aly disappeared

and some of her scent must be left because he lets out a whine before pacing again.

Kiran is absolutely covered in shadows. I can barely make out his form as they writhe around and lash out. They swallow him whole like I'm sure his pain is doing and if we can't get him to calm down we will have a deadly dark fae on our hands.

Ajax is rooted to the spot. His expression is completely shut down. If I had to bet, I would guess he's replaying what just happened to see what he could have done better. He's in his fae form, his pointy ears on display. He lost control, which he never does. This is a form Aly hasn't even gotten to see yet. Jax isn't concerned for his brother which is a red flag, he's always ready to calm Kiran down when he needs to.

And Jeremy hasn't woken up. But I know he is going to completely lose his mind when he does. He might go after us for letting this happen, I might let him. I deserve it for failing her as a mate. How could I have left this house unwarded?

We are falling apart when we need to be coming together and making a plan. The longer Aly is gone, the harder it'll be to find her. At least that's what they always say but when it comes to magic there're no steps to retrace, no path to follow. Either way, I need to step up, I need to lead us and get our mate back. It's the last part that really gets me. I need to get our mate back, I need my Aly back. She needs me to be strong.

“Guys,” I start and my voice comes out harsher than I planned. I clear my throat and try again. “Guys, we need a plan. We need to find her.”

Through the shadows I see Kiran’s eyes shoot up to mine as he spits out, “what the fuck just happened?”

I’m not sure I have a great answer for that. What the fuck just happened is that in the span of two minutes we discovered what our mate is, she triggered her hunter gene and powers then her mom poofed her away from us. The answer is our mate was taken, and we need to find her. I don’t think that’s what he’s looking for though.

“Her mom took her. I would think that means she’s safe,” I try to reassure him. I can’t handle what comes next if he loses it right now.

“Safe! Safe! She’s not safe! She was snatched from right under our noses, and she’s with a woman she barely knows! A hunter!” Kiran snaps, his voice furious as he says, ‘hunter.’

“Aly is a hunter,” Ajax says firmly, but he doesn’t even glance at his twin.

“I didn’t mean it like that! Aly is different, she’s not full of hate. Her mom probably is and it’s not about her being a hunter. It’s about the fact that Aly has three mate marks decorating her body that those people are going to want to rip off!” Kiran is fuming. His shadows are out of control, taking over the whole room. I can feel the oxygen being sucked up by them as his anger builds.

I can feel all the blood drain from my face. Of course she's not safe, and it's because of us. It's because she's our mate. They won't want a hunter who's mated to their prey. Who knows what they'll think of her. Worse, what if they convince her we are evil, that she should hate us.

I must have said that aloud because Jax's anger shifts to me. "Aly would never hate us! Stop doubting her!"

Guilt pools in my stomach, he's right.

There's a noise coming from my left. I can't see through the shadows but I'm guessing it's Jeremy, which would indicate he's waking up. I step closer until I can see him, he's slowly coming to consciousness. I'm dreading this conversation and how he's going to react.

He searches the room as he sits up. He doesn't comment on Jay's shift or Kiran's shadows. Instead, the first words out of his mouth are, "where is Aly?"

When no one responds right away he continues, "Fuck! Did this scare her off?" He gestures to himself, indicating his momentary death, he sounds hurt but still I'm frozen to the spot. I need to tell him but I know he's going to be livid. I wouldn't be surprised if he starts foaming at the mouth.

"Jer, something happened," I start slowly, but he cuts me off before I can finish.

"Spit it out the fuck out Nic!" He shouts.

"Aly's mom showed up right after she stabbed you. She took Aly." I start with the shortened version, knowing that's

what he's looking for. We will have time to tell him everything after he rages out.

“Why didn't you stop them?!” He demands.

“She transported in and out within seconds. None of us were expecting it, and we couldn't get there in time,” I say and my voice cracks as I state my shortcomings, my failure.

Predictably, he loses it. His shift overcomes him and I have an enraged demon staring me down like it's my fault his mate is missing. And maybe it is, but I'm determined to get her back and soon.

His wings and horns are out. Huge, black, leathery wings like a bat and horns that point upwards, sharp and deadly.

Fire starts leaking from his hands as he loses control over his fire powers. He's a fire demon after all. We never got a chance to explain everything to Aly. I think we thought we had all the time in the world to ease her into things. We should have told her everything from the start. They could use this against us, she might see it as a betrayal.

We will get a chance to tell her everything, I steel my spine and remind myself. I have to keep pulling myself away from the edge of the pit of despair because once I fall, I won't come back.

I use my magic to put out the fire surrounding Jeremy. Each jet of fire he releases, I counter with water magic. I let him feel like he's destroying things without actually burning

our home down. It's draining, but he needs this to calm down enough to be reasonable. We can't get her back without him.

Without warning, he stops and marches up to me.

"I need to know everything," he demands.

The other guys gather close, sensing this is a turning point. Once we tell him everything, we can start planning. We can get her back.

"Aly," I pause, unsure how he's going to react, "is a hunter." If he handles this poorly one of us might attack him. No one can handle an insult to their mate right now.

He reels back in shock, like I hit him. At first, he's clearly in denial, staring at me like I'm messing with him. Then the pieces start to click for him too.

Her lack of powers, her fighting abilities, the fact that she didn't fit into any category we know.

"How do you know?" He whispers.

"Jax and I had actually just figured it out moments before everything happened. We found a hunter's mating mark and it's a replica of ours. The book said it hadn't been seen in hundreds of years, but we didn't check how old the book was, it could be thousands at this point."

He reaches up and touches her mark on his chest. His face is in agony as he gets a stronger connection to her current panic. At least we know she's not in pain, for now, but she is freaking out.

“What is she feeling? How is she doing?!” Kiran shouts, his shadows wrapping around Jeremy’s arm.

I stare at his eyes and they’re crazed. I think he’s dying for the connection we have to her. And I wouldn’t give it up for anything but at least he will be able to keep a clearer head than us. As we continue to be apart from our mate, the bond is going to react to the distance. I can already feel a twinge in my chest urging me to go to her. I’m sure Jay’s is worse since it’s newer than mine.

Jeremy is lost in his own moment, so I answer Kiran. “She’s panicking, but she’s not in any pain.”

Kiran and Ajax sag in relief. I didn’t realize how much knowing that helped me. I’ll have to keep them updated as we search for her. I think Kiran is going to tackle Aly and demand to mate right then and there when we find her. I doubt she’ll turn him down.

Jeremy finally looks back up at me, so I continue, “killing you triggered her hunter gene, even though she didn’t actually kill you. Her mark showed up and... so did her mom.”

He cuts me off, “how do you know it was her mom?”

Ajax answers before I can, “she looked just like her.”

“And Aly called her ‘mom,’” I add because I sense Jeremy’s anger.

Jeremy nods but I can tell he’s come to the same conclusion we have. If Aly’s mom is a hunter then Aly isn’t safe.

“We need to find her! Now!” He sounds like he’s barely holding onto control.

“We will. We need to make a plan and gather everything we know about hunters,” I say.

Jay whines at my feet and I don’t want to do it, but we need him.

“Jay, shift back. We need to get our girl back.”

It takes a minute but he complies, shifting back. He’s sunken, defeated and depressed after only a short time, but he’s going to need to get it together. We need him. It’s going to take all of us to get her back.

And we will get her back.

Three

Aly



I've been trapped in this room for hours. I finally relented and tried to rest but sleep never came. Instead, I'm being tormented by snapshots of my past that were taken from me.

They're all about training me to be a fierce and deadly hunter. About hating supernaturals, how to kill them, and why they're evil.

Except, there hasn't been a good reason yet. It's all about how dangerous they are or how they'll hurt humans, and we need to protect them. But I know the guys, and they would never do that.

I can't imagine them associating with people who do, and they've always talked about their families fondly. My parents made it seem like it's impossible for them to not be evil.

They were training me to be the perfect hunter warrior but only if I triggered the gene. Apparently, they weren't going to force me to trigger it, or at least not yet. The memory for why they didn't hasn't come to me yet, if there is one.

I'm not going to be the killer they wanted. I have mates and I understand more than they do about them. So what will they do with me now that I'm here?

Will I be killed for mating with the enemy? I can't rule it out but I doubt they would have kept me in this room instead of just getting it over with if that was the case.

They're probably hoping to convert me to their side. Except, who is in charge here? My parents or more hunters?

I was never very close to my parents or my aunt but I hope they would still protect me. At least not let me be killed.

If I can't get out on my own, I have no doubt my guys are coming for me, they'll be here in no time. I need to be ready for them when they come. Maybe I can get some information or plant some seeds of doubt in their hate for supernaturals while I'm here.

It's a nice idea but I can't do anything while I'm trapped in this room being accosted by memories. The door won't budge, there are no windows and nothing useful in the bathroom. I'm trapped here until they come back for me, like a prisoner. I guess that's what I am now, even if it's not a traditional jail cell.

I lay back on the bed and think of my mates. I need to distract myself and I already miss them so much I can feel the ache in my chest growing by the second, soon it'll be unbearable. We aren't meant to be separated like this. My bond with Jay hurts the most.

I need to find a way home and I need to do it soon.

Like an answer to my prayers the door opens, interrupting my thoughts, and I shoot up off the bed instantly. I rush towards the door but both my mom and dad are blocking it.

I don't want to hurt them but I'm not going to be trapped here any longer. I shift and do a round house kick, aiming for my father, but he catches my foot midair.

“Aly, stop. There is no need to fight. We brought food, and we just want to talk,” my dad says.

He sounds all reasonable and it makes me feel crazy for trying to escape. They locked me in here for who knows how long. It feels like hours but I've completely lost track of time at this point. I am starving, so I imagine it's longer than I think.

My mom holds the tray out in offering and I decide to take it. I won't be able to do much damage if I'm starving, who knows when they'll offer me food again.

They guide me back to the bed. The door shuts behind them, raising my hackles, if they just wanted to talk they wouldn't need to keep me trapped in here.

“Are you remembering all your training?” My mom asks, sounding fond of those memories.

Personally, I think they're shudder inducing but I can see why she feels differently.

“Yes, why did you make me forget it all?” I ask.

“That’s how being a hunter works. We don’t force people to complete their change, we just prepare them for when they do,” dad responds. He makes it sound like it’s inevitable which makes me think it’s not so much of a choice after all.

I stare at the food, unsure if I should eat it. I look up at them, assessing whether they would drug me.

“You first,” I say, shoving the plate over to them.

My mom shakes her head like she’s hurt I would question them. Like it’s completely normal to lock your child up. I stare at her until she takes a bite and a sip of water.

I pick up the peanut butter and jelly sandwich they brought and take a bite before washing it down with a big drink of water. I’m parched and starving from being held here so long with nothing.

I sit there waiting for them to explain further. There is a lot sitting between us right now and I want to know everything they’re willing to confess.

I finish the food they brought and think about asking for more. Maybe I will after they spill some information.

After a long, uncomfortable silence, my mom continues, “don’t worry, now that you’ve made your transition, you’ll be brought completely into the fold here. You’ll have to leave Brickstone University but this will all be a much better and more exciting journey than human college.”

I stare at her, waiting for her to be joking. She expects me to drop everything and be excited about it? She thinks I’ll

leave my mates like they're nothing?

I'm furious, practically steaming mad at her audacity. The longer I stare at her the more upset I get at her audacity.

I'm about to bitch her out when a wave of calm washes over me.

It's okay, whatever is going on isn't that bad. I need to relax. What was I even mad about?

I feel my shoulders relax as my head goes loopy. I think the ceiling has stars on it. They're so beautiful.

"It took longer than I expected for that to kick in," my dad comments but I'm unconcerned. Whatever it is, it's no big deal.

"Yes, it did. We will have to remember to feed her again before this dose runs out. I doubt she'll be trusting enough a second time. I barely feel it from my small sip," my mom adds.

Trusting for what?

"Listen Aly, we are going to show you around the facility now. So you can see your future home, okay?" My mom asks.

Oh! That sounds fun! I nod or at least try to but I'm not sure my head is moving.

"You can stop nodding now," my mom says.

Oops, I guess I was doing it. I try to stand up and the world spins a little before righting itself.

“Here put this on,” my dad says, pushing a turtleneck sweater over my head. It’s itchy and hot but I don’t care. Why do they call it a turtleneck?

My mom and dad both grab an arm, supporting me as we leave the room.

They’re so nice, the best ever. The bestest ever ever ever.

“Glad you think so Hun,” my mom says and I jump a little.

Did I say that out loud?

“Yes, you may want to keep your thoughts to yourself,” my dad says.

I clamp my lips shut tight. Locking them up and throwing away the key. That was fun, I should lock more things up, so I can toss more keys away.

“Did we give her too much?” My mom asks.

“No, this is how it’s supposed to be,” my dad responds strong and confident.

We finally make it to the end of a long hallway to see a massive room. It’s full of people, hustling around like busy busy bees.

“They are busy, they’re searching for supernatural activity to send teams after. Their role is to monitor things from here to make our tactile teams more efficient.”

“Efficient at what?” I slur out trying to engage in conversation, I don’t want to be rude.

“Killing the other supernaturals of course,” my mom responds easily. She’s staring down at my arm with disdain. Is there something on my sweater?

It raises my hackles, there’s something wrong with that statement but the feeling floats away until I’m right as rain again. Rain rain rain, I should dance in the rain.

We start walking around the edge of the room until we go through a door on the other side. This room is packed full of weapons of all kinds. Every wall is covered in them from floor to ceiling. Pointy things everywhere.

“This is our cache of weapons. Honestly, it’s barely used since everyone has their own that they’re more comfortable with but it’s a good backup. You can never be too prepared when hunting monsters. Soon you’ll remember having been trained with everything in this room, once you decide which weapons you’re most comfortable with you’ll get your own.”

Sharp pointy things everywhere. I feel a twinge of fear then nothingness again. What would I have to be afraid of?

They grab my arms and pull me along again. I can’t take my eyes off of all the shiny weapons in the room, so I don’t see where we are going.

Once I can’t see them anymore I turn as we walk into a chamber, with seven seats up on a pedestal. The walls are stone carvings, ancient and intimidating, but I am still completely calm. Not a care in this world.

“This is the elder council’s chamber. They pass down knowledge to our people, make sure we are following our mission and rule over us. They have been informed of your... predicament and will help us resolve it,” my mom reveals.

“Predicament?” I ask, fumbling over the word. It’s such a long word.

Neither of them answer me but I don’t care. I don’t even know what I was asking. They lead me back to the bedroom. As we walk people stare at me but I’m not sure why.

They drop me off there before quickly leaving me alone once again.

Four

Kiran



We are all fucking useless. Utterly pathetic as mates and undeserving of Aly. We are standing around with barely any ideas and no usable ones.

We have no idea how to get her back, where she might be or what to do.

For the millionth time, Jay's anger ignites, and he says, "we should have added her to the pack bond! We would be able to talk to her right now!"

He's staring at Nic like it's all his fault. I know he feels the pain and guilt like it is. But we all decided to give her time. We thought we had it.

"It's not anyone's fault, we wanted to ease her into everything," Jax defends, voicing my thoughts.

We keep having this argument over and over and it keeps going the exact same way. Everyone goes back to racking their brain for anything helpful.

"What about a tracing spell!" Nic suggests, jumping up to gather the ingredients.

“We already tried that!” I snap. Is he losing his mind? Just what we need.

He barely spares me a glance as he pulls open one of his spell books. He flips to a different page than last time.

“They were blocking a regular tracing spell but what about this one,” he points to his book, “it’s based on a mating bond.”

I would like to blame him for not thinking of it sooner but if it works I’ll be too grateful to care. All I care about is getting to Aly. I need to see her to know she’s okay.

I’m cursing our lack of mating bond right now because I would give anything for the smallest connection to her.

“I’m going to need help, extra power from you guys. Hopefully they aren’t blocking this spell as well,” he says as he sets ingredients on the table.

“I wouldn’t get too excited,” Jax speaks up and I want to punch him for not believing in this, “they will see her mate bonds and know we are searching for her.”

We all ignore his reason and focus on Nic preparing the spell. He’s mixing ingredients with a mortar and pestle, smashing them together into a thin paste. He spreads out a map of North America, hoping she’s here. If not, we will have to do it again with a world map. I don’t want to think about her being that far from me.

“Okay, I need some of everyone’s blood.” Nic holds up the bowl waiting for our offering.

I use the wisps of darkness that have been surrounding me since she was taken to cut open my hand and drip blood into the bowl. I do it even though I know it's practically worthless. I don't have the mating bond with her, he really needs Jay, Jeremy or his own blood to be successful.

But if it gives the spell even an ounce more strength than it's worth it. Jax does the same, though I can feel the pain pouring off him.

I've kept my empathy on, so I can try to feel Aly through Nic, Jeremy and Jay. I bet you anything Jax did too, although I'm sure he's run out of juice at this point. It's draining and exhausting to keep it on but I'm being fed a constant stream of anguish, loss and worry to keep me strong.

I would give anything to feel some hope or happiness come from them, from Aly.

Nic starts chanting over the bowl once he's mixed all his ingredients. I don't know the magic language mages use, so I have no idea what he's saying. All I know is I might lose my mind if it doesn't work. More than I already have.

The liquid in the bowl comes together and hovers over the rim, my heart starts pounding harder in anticipation. This is it, we are going to find her.

It slithers though the air but as soon as it touches the map, it explodes, covering the entire map in the substance and ruining any hope I had of finding her.

I lose my mind, darkness leeches from me until the entire room is swallowed by it. I can't see or hear anyone and I have no idea how they're reacting. In the dark, I take a moment to collapse to the ground, feeling the loss of my mate down to my core. After expelling my pain, determination takes its place. We will find our Aly, bring her home, and keep her safe from anyone who would harm her again.

I suck the darkness back into myself to see the others haven't fared much better. The table is flipped over with a raging Nicoli standing over it. Jeremy has gone full demon as he punches the drywall. Jay has shifted and his wolf is shredding the floor. And my twin is collapsed, much like I was, with a lost look on his face.

"Get it together!" I shout, "we need to be on our A game to find her."

At my words, they all stop and slowly pull themselves together like I had to do. No matter what, if Aly is still alive and waiting for me to find her, then I will keep looking.

"Nic, what does that exactly mean?" I ask, bringing us around to problem solving.

"It means they're blocking my magic from tracking her, any magic I'm sure," he answers, gritting his teeth in frustration.

"Okay, so what are some other ideas?" I ask. I've never been much of a leader, never taking things too seriously but for my girl I'll be anything she needs.

“If we can’t track her magically, maybe we can find a way to do it like humans would,” Jax suggests.

And while it’s a good suggestion, no one follows it up with an idea. We live among humans and spend most of our lives acting like them, but we are used to solving our problems magically.

We all slowly sit down around the room, lost in thought. I’m still tapped into their emotions, so I feel the shift as soon as they react to it. Jay, Nic and Jer all suck in a breath and gasp. It’s quickly lost under their layers of horror but I felt the overwhelming sense of calm.

“What is it? What do you feel!” Jax demands desperately.

“Aly went from scared and determined, to suspicious, then unnaturally calm and unfeeling,” Nic confesses.

“I think she was drugged,” Jeremy grits out.

I feel my rage growing again but I’m determined to work through this, so she’s not stuck there any longer than necessary.

“Why are they drugging her now? It’s been thirty-six hours,” Jax asks.

“No idea, but it just means we need to get to her that much sooner. She’s vulnerable,” Jay answers.

None of us like the idea of Aly at the hands of these monsters without all her faculties. She was in trouble even at one hundred percent.

A soft whine comes from the kitchen, and we all stiffen. What was that?

Jax recovers the fastest. “Bailey!”

We all run into the kitchen to see Aly’s pet sitting there in distress. I can’t believe we forgot about him.

“What kind of mates forget about their girl’s pet,” I say, disgusted by us.

“We’ve been distracted,” Jax defends but I know he feels just as terrible as me.

“What if something had happened?” Jay whispers.

I reach down and pet Bailey. He comes to me for comfort easily. I can feel concern and distress coming from him as I try to console him.

Nic moves into the other room to fill his bowl with food and Jay grabs something from the fridge. When I look up I see him tearing a piece of lunch meat into tiny pieces for him.

“He deserves a treat,” Jay defends.

We are all dotting on him, to make up for our mistake but also because he’s a link to Aly. A part of the girl we are all dying to feel a connection to.

When we move back into the living room, he follows us. He sticks right by my legs, bringing me the comfort like he knows I need it.

“Okay, so we need to find a human way to track her. Obviously none of us know what that is but let’s start

researching,” Nic says but his voice breaks at the end.

We all split up to grab computers and do our work but quickly we all find our way back to the living room. None of us want to be alone right now.

I’m googling everything I can think of but it seems like without getting the police involved, there’s nothing. And we can’t involve them, her parents took her and there’s a lot more in play than just an abduction.

There’s a hard pounding at our door that makes all of us jump up. Each of us prepare for a fight, who else would be pounding on our door like that?

“Who do you think it is?” Jay asks.

None of us have an answer. I think we all went to the worst case scenario and it’s hunters here for us, but they wouldn’t knock, so who else would it be?

Nic gives me a nod and I slowly move to the door. We don’t have a peephole so I can’t check who’s out there. I slowly ease the door open, all of us prepared for anything, except who it really is.

Anna busts into the room, stomping right past me and ignoring the scowls on our faces. We all try to relax, not wanting her to know how on edge we are.

“Where the hell is Aly?!” She shouts.

Five

Jay



“Where the hell is Aly?!” Anna shouts, staring us all down like *we* are holding her captive. I want to rage at that idea considering who really is.

Nic puts both of his hands up, placating, but she walks right past him and starts searching our place. She’s looking everywhere, like we have her stashed under the couch, and she just needs to stare hard enough to see her. Anna pulls up short when she sees our destroyed living room but doesn’t comment. She goes right back to hunting for her best friend. I’m not sure how to explain the scratches or burn marks decorating the room, so I’m glad she doesn’t ask.

“Anna, listen,” Nic tries again.

“No, I’m not leaving until I see her. She’s been gone for days and I haven’t heard from her. She’s not answering any of my calls or messages and I know that means she’s in trouble. The fact that you’re all standing here without her confirms it. I don’t want to hear your excuses, I want my best friend!” She sounds enraged and if my heart wasn’t broken and I could feel

anything besides pain, I would be grateful she's such an incredible friend. She's walking into what she perceives as a dangerous situation for Aly.

Currently, she's just a problem. How are we going to explain this to her? Stop her from going to the police, maybe even reporting us. I'm pretty sure we will end up behind bars being investigated if she tells them the five guys she's dating were the last to see her, at the very least it won't be good. Humans tend to balk at the idea of multiple men in one woman's life. If we are busy dealing with that, we won't be finding Aly and that's all that matters. She's my world and I won't let anything get in the way of getting her back.

"Anna! Calm down! She's not here," Jeremy snaps at her, and she finally pays attention to what we're saying.

"Then where the hell is she?" She demands. She's screaming so loud I hope a neighbor doesn't come over to check.

I hate that we are about to lie to her but it's better for everyone if she's not concerned and seeking Aly on her own. We need her to go back to her normal life and leave us to find her on our own.

"Her parents showed up and dragged her home, they probably took her phone. We can't get a hold of her either," Nic explains.

It's a great explanation, I hope she buys it. It's close enough to the truth, just not the whole story.

“Her parents came and got her?” Anna asks, sounding skeptical. I have no idea how much Aly has talked to Anna about her relationship with her parents.

“Yes, we hope she’s back soon, but she’s with her parents now,” Nic says again.

“Then what happened here?” She asks, indicating the room. It’s torn up from my wolf, there are holes in the walls and a table is flipped over. It looks like a tornado came through the room, destroying everything.

“We got in a fight,” Jeremy says, not offering more explanation than that.

“If you hear from her will you let us know? We miss her too,” Jax’s soft voice breaks at the end and Anna softens towards us.

She glances at Ajax with pity before taking in what a mess we all are. I know we are all an absolute disaster, more than a normal person would be but hopefully she thinks we are lost without her. Which we are, just on a bigger scale. She nods then heads for the door and lets herself out.

We wait a minute before I ask, “do you think she believed us?”

“At the very least she felt bad for us,” Jax says.

“She smelled suspicious, even when she left,” I confess.

“Well, we did our best. It’s not like we could tell her the truth. Hey Anna, your best friend was actually taken by her parents and is being held captive. We are doing everything we

can to get her back but you can't tell anyone including the authorities because we are supernatural! That would have gone over so well," Kiran says, his voice heavy with sarcasm.

Jeremy scoffs his agreement.

I hear a heart rate pick up and I curse myself for being so careless. I'm too strung out, I didn't even use my senses to make sure she was actually gone. A rookie mistake but I'm not surprised I made it considering I can't think straight with my mate gone.

Before I can warn the guys, Anna presses the door all the way open and stares at us with piercing eyes.

"Tell me everything."

We all freeze, having no idea how to handle this. If anyone was going to tell Anna, it should have been Aly. But we've basically spilled the beans since she was ease dropping so what else can we do?

Jeremy ignores Anna and focuses on Nic. "We could do a memory spell."

Nic shakes his head immediately, "those are dangerous and could have side effects."

Jax observes Anna before saying, "we can tell her. She cares about Aly, and she'll keep the secret to help keep her safe. Right Anna?"

Anna wrinkles her nose, offended, "I'll do anything for Aly. Now explain what I just heard!"

We all search around for someone to have a reason not to, but honestly, we are all too exhausted to think straight. We need all the help we can get and Aly trusts Anna, so we will too.

“Supernaturals exist, Anna,” I start.

Nic and the guys fill in the rest. Telling her everything, about mates and hunters. All the basics of the supernatural world. Then we tell her about Aly’s mom and that we have no idea where she took her. We tell her everything we’ve tried and that we are at a dead end.

Anna takes it all in, never interrupting us. She takes it better than most humans ever would. The more we talk about Aly being gone and her mom taking her, the more determined she gets. I can smell determination wafting off of her. Once we finish, her shoulders are back and her gaze hard, ready to charge into battle to get her best friend back.

“Okay, I’m human, so I’ll help you find a way to get her back if nothing magical is working. I understand we can’t go to the authorities but there are lots of shadier ways to do it. Let me think on it and get back to you guys. We are going to find her. There is no other option.”

Her determination renews something in me. I didn’t realize how lost and depressed I was feeling with her gone, how hopeless I felt about getting her back. But I know that having Anna on our side is going to be the turning point we need.

Anna leaves, this time for real. I check and listen for her heart beat to make sure.

“Do you think we did the right thing?” Ajax asks.

“Yes,” I say confidently, “she is going to help us find Aly and that’s what matters.”

My mate bond which has been pounding painfully since the moment she left, begging me to find her, pulses with hope. I’m getting my mate back, my heart and soul, and nothing will stop me.

Six

Aly



I think I fell asleep because it feels like I was just woken up. It actually feels like the drugs are out of my system, my thoughts completely my own.

I look around and I'm in a new place, somewhere I've never been before. It's a bedroom with white walls and a plain black bed. The furniture is all black giving the place a very modern vibe.

Did someone save me? Am I free?

When I focus on the bed again, I realize I'm not alone. He definitely wasn't there a minute ago but I don't mind. I'm just happy to see his face.

"Jeremy!" I shout, jumping on the bed into his arms.

"Aly? Baby girl, I've missed you so much!"

This is the best, the only thing better would be if all my mates were here. But at least I have Jeremy.

"I've missed you too," I whisper, leaning in to give Jeremy a soft kiss.

“Where are you?” He asks.

What does he mean? I’m here with him, shouldn’t he know where we are? Why don’t I know?

“I don’t know,” I confess. All the details are murky, not quite clear enough to share. I can’t really remember anything except I’ve been kept apart from my guys for too long and now I’m here with Jeremy.

I lean in to kiss Jer again. I’m not going to waste this moment I’ve been given.

He kisses me back with passion. Biting my lip hard enough to draw blood before sucking it into his mouth. He pulls me tight onto his lap before reaching his arm around and spanking me on the ass.

Heat rushes to my core but I’m not about to admit that.

I pull back slightly. “What was that for?”

“For leaving me. For leaving us,” he responds before doing it again, and again.

“I didn’t do it on purpose,” I complain but it doesn’t stop him. He leans in and bites the soft tissue of my neck, on the other side of Jay’s bite mark.

“Don’t leave me again,” he demands.

“I’ll try,” I respond.

He bites a little harder. “Not good enough. Promise.”

“Okay, I promise,” I say.

He soothes the bite with soft licks. He's got my body all revved up and ready for him thanks to his punishments.

He settles me against him so his hard length is digging into my core. I can feel how badly he wants me and I'm pretty sure he will have a wet spot from my need.

I wish we didn't have clothes between us.

I feel the heat from his body soaking into me. All our clothes have vanished. Was that magic? Is Nic here? I glance around but it's just us.

Jeremy's eyebrows are drawn together, and he has a little wrinkle between them as he stares at where our clothes disappeared, confused but I quickly bring his attention back to me. I don't care what it was, a girl has needs and it's been too long since I've seen my mates.

I grind against him, bumping the head of his cock against my clit with each pass. It feels incredible but I want him inside me.

The next time I push back, I buck my hips so his tip is at my entrance. Then I slowly push forward, impaling myself on him.

He groans as I slowly work my way down his cock until I'm flush with his body.

"Fuck Aly," he groans.

I pick myself up before dropping back on him again. I keep sliding up and down him at a slow torturous pace.

“I want you so bad,” I tell him.

He gives me a cocky smile, “you have me, baby girl. Use me.”

I slide back and forth against him, using his cock to hit my sweet spot every damn time. His piercing is in the perfect spot to drive me fucking crazy.

My orgasm starts to build, making me falter. He grabs my hips in a punishing grip, keeping me rocking against his body.

He keeps speeding up, pushing my body to its limits until I come screaming around him. I clench so hard he starts swearing but holds himself back from joining me.

He pulls me off his body and I whimper at the loss. I don't know what he's doing but I want to be back on his cock as soon as possible.

He must see the pout on my face because he laughs at me, in a very sexy way that lets me know I'm in trouble.

He flips me around and moves me up his chest before pressing down on my back forcing me to lean forward.

“You were a very bad girl leaving me like that, show me how sorry you are.”

He presses my head down until I'm level with his dick but pauses letting me choose. I take the obvious route and lick up his shaft. I can taste myself on him and I love the idea that he was just buried inside me.

I give a few more cat like licks to drive him insane, and he straight up growls from behind me.

“That’s not a very good apology baby girl, maybe you aren’t really sorry.” He starts to pull my hair back, tugging me away from my prize. I fight him, making the sensation stronger by leaning forward and wrapping my lips around him fully. I suck him deep into my throat and when he hits the back, I swallow around him.

“That’s a good girl,” he praises and I suck harder. His words turn me on so hard I can feel myself dripping. My pussy is basically eye level with him, so I’m sure he sees the results of my arousal.

I start a rhythm, up and down before swallowing. Then I pull away and start again. Every few times I hollow my cheeks and try to suck him dry.

His groans are obscene and I know he’s loving every second of this punishment. It’s a punishment I wouldn’t mind repeating.

I feel a finger circle around my opening and I jump in surprise. I wasn’t expecting him to do anything to me but I’m not complaining.

I didn’t even realize I stopped sucking him until he pauses his circling.

“Don’t stop Aly.”

I pick back up where I left off, trying to focus while he teases the hell out of me. He keeps circling me, playing in my

wetness without giving me any real satisfaction. He avoids my clit and I feel empty.

I suck him hard before pulling off with an audible pop. I groan and try not to whine but I need more.

“Jeremy! Please!”

I immediately drop back to his cock and keep up my attentions. As soon as my lips wrap back around him he plunges his fingers into me. I purposely keep my lips tight on him as I groan, letting him feel the vibrations.

He moves his fingers in and out of me, following my pace. When I swallow around him, he curves his fingers and hits my g-spot, driving me crazy.

I take a risk and leave his shaft to give attention to his balls. As soon as I do, he pulls me back against him and seals his lips to my pussy.

He eats me out like his life depends on it as I move back to his shaft but keep fondling the balls with my hand. I pay special attention to the tip, sucking it hard, and he does the same to my clit.

He keeps sucking hard on my clit while he brings his fingers back into the mix. I swallow him down and he explodes in my mouth. I swallow him down as he ruthlessly plays with me.

He brings his other hand up before plunging a finger in my ass, setting me off. He works me through my orgasm then licks me clean after I come all over him.

I collapse from exhaustion and pleasure. Jeremy easily maneuvers me so my head is laying on his chest and his arms are tucked tight around me.

He leans in to kiss me, deeply and I know we can taste each other in the kiss.

I open my eyes and the room starts seeming distorted. The edges are fading before my very eyes. Even Jeremy doesn't seem as solid anymore.

I look up and see his eyes are as panicked as mine.

“Jer? What’s going on?” My voice breaks at the end because I have a feeling I know.

I can't understand his response.

“Was this just a dream?” I whisper.

Jeremy looks at me in horror before he grips me tightly, like if he holds on long enough, I won't disappear before his eyes.

“Aly, my bond can tell we are together. It's real, even if it's a dream. Where are you?! Tell me where you are, so we can come get you!” His voice is strange and distorted but I can still hear the panic in every word.

“Jeremy, I don't know. I'm sorry,” I cry as he gets further and further from me.

“We are coming Aly! I promise!”

It all fades to black.

Seven

Jeremy



It's been weeks since Aly was taken. Every day I can feel her being drugged. She's in a mindless calm and I can't do anything to help. I hold on tight to the memory of our dream together, a moment I got to have with her. But it's ruined by the fact that I failed so miserably. I thought it was real, that I had her back with me. The outside details didn't matter until I realized I could have spent that time getting information to find her. To have her back for real.

Every second away from her brings more pain. The mate bond is stretched thin and there is an ache deep in my soul. I need her back and I need it now. The mate bond is demanding I go to her but I don't know where she is. I wish we were at the point of communicating through our thoughts. Jay was right, we should have added her to the pack bond.

We've been working together with Anna every day but nothing has helped. We haven't been able to find a human or magical solution that works.

I can't believe I wasted so much time pretending to hate Aly that I could have spent with my mate. Now I'm not sure I'll get a second chance but if I do there's going to be no space, I'll be stuck to her like glue. We are making up for lost time.

Anna busts in our front door, completely at ease with us. She has shown no fear since learning what we are. Her only focus has been helping us find Aly and I find myself grateful for her help.

"I have it!" She shouts.

"Have what?" Jay immediately asks, looking up from his book.

"A way to find Aly!"

We all jump up and meet her halfway. Every one of our expressions is expectant. I'm trying my best not to get my hopes up but at this point that's impossible. Anna hasn't been this excited about an idea yet.

"I have her mom's phone number," she says.

Disappointment settles in my gut. Has she not picked up anything we've told her? She can't just call Aly's mom and ask her where she is. I'm about to turn around and walk away, leaving the other guys to shoot the idea down softly. If I say something right now it's going to come out harsh and maybe cruel.

I sneak a quick peek at the guys, Nic is patient, Kiran confused, Jay who still looks eager and Ajax is lost in thought.

None of them are going to spit the truth out, leaving me to deal with it.

“Anna,” I start, but she completely ignores me.

She turns and focuses on Ajax. “You can track the call. It’s human and I doubt they’re defending against it.”

Can he really? Is that possible? We all turn our focus on Ajax who is completely lost in thought.

Anna is practically dancing with excitement, she really believes in this idea.

“If he can, what will you say to her mom? You can’t lead on that you know anything,” Nic points out.

“I’ve thought of that too! As far as I know, Aly has been missing for weeks. She missed Thanksgiving and hasn’t been in contact. I’ll call her mom distraught and worried, asking her for help.”

Thanksgiving passed? We’ve been completely consumed in this. I wonder what our parents are thinking right now? It’s a human holiday but still it’s a break from school.

“It’s genius, she might even be worried about humans getting more involved,” Jay says.

Ajax looks up at all of us. “Yes, I can do it. We should do it soon. I’ll need to get the program ready.”

At that, he turns and runs upstairs to his computer cave. He’s got everything set up in there. I turn to follow but Kiran cuts me off.

“I know we are all anxious to see if this works but Jax will work better if we give him space. We want him to get it right as fast as he can, he doesn’t need more pressure.”

He’s right, so I head to the couch instead. The rest of them join me. We sit there in awkward silence.

No one says anything or tries to break it. An hour later Jax comes downstairs.

“Come on up, let’s do it from my room,” he says, but he hesitates while contemplating Anna. He doesn’t want to have a girl besides his mate in his room. But just this once, it’s going to have to be okay because that’s where his complete set up is. And we need Anna for the call.

I mind link him. *Aly won’t care if you have Anna in your room to help us find her.*

He looks at me and nods before leading the way up. We follow him into his room and see his computer and two other screens all running.

“I had to hack into a program to use it,” he explains before reaching for Anna’s phone.

She hands it over, and he plugs it into his computer.

“Okay, Anna are you sure you can do this?” Nic asks, assessing her.

She’s nervous but determined as she stares at the phone. She takes a deep breath and nods. “Yes, let’s do it.”

“We need to keep her on the phone long enough for the program to run. So Anna don’t let her hang up until I tell you. Everyone else, no reacting to anything we might hear. This is our chance, let’s not screw it up,” Jax directs. He’s in his element here, and he’s confident. I have no doubt if Aly was here, she would be all over him. I push that thought aside with a pang in my chest.

Anna takes a deep breath and dials the phone. It rings all the way through to voicemail. Nic shakes his head no and Anna hangs up. Disappointment spreads like a disease through my chest.

“Call again,” Nic demands.

Anna does as instructed and again it goes to voicemail. Do we keep calling?

“Anna is distraught right? So she would continue calling in her panic. It’ll get her attention,” Jay says.

Nic agrees, voice hard he says, “yes, keep calling until she picks up.”

We are all going to be devastated if we don’t even get a chance for this to work. Anna calls five more times before there is finally an answer. We all jerk in surprise, including Anna. We had gotten used to the ringing with no response.

“Hello? Who is this?” The woman snaps.

Anna looks around before starting, “oh thank goodness! Is this Mrs. Jensen?”

Anna sounds panicked and relieved at the same time. I'm not sure how much is acting versus showing how she actually feels, but she's doing a good job either way.

"Yes, who is this?" She asks, clearly suspicious.

"This is Anna Larsen! I'm Aly's roommate. I've been so worried, I can't find her anywhere!" Anna starts to fake cry and it's impressive.

"Oh, you're looking for Aly?" She sounds confused, and she's not doing a good job of pretending to be worried about her daughter, she seems annoyed.

"Yes, she's been gone for over two weeks now. I haven't gotten a call or text, I'm so worried. We need to find her. Do you know anything?"

"Yes Aly is with us. No need to worry." She sounds like she's about to hang up. Like that would be enough reassurance for a distraught friend. She's a piece of work.

We all look over at the computer but it's still working. Jax motions for her to keep going.

"She's with you? Can I talk to her? I've been so worried. I can't believe she wouldn't have told me!"

Aly's mom hesitates. Nic holds up a piece of paper that he wrote 'police' on.

"I was about to call the police," Anna adds.

"No!" She shouts then seems to pull herself together. "No, no that won't be necessary. Aly is here."

“I need to talk to her,” Anna insists.

“Listen, I’m very sorry to have to tell you this but Aly has been in an accident. She’s in the hospital and not accepting visitors. I wouldn’t expect to hear from her any time soon.”

She’s clearly about to hang up when another voice sounds from the phone. This one male.

“Janet! It’s time, we need to get Aly ready.”

Get Aly ready for what? What are they doing to her. I squeeze my own phone so hard it shatters in my hand. But I keep it together and don’t make a sound.

The computer finally stops and Jax checks it. He’s relieved and happy as he gives Anna a nod.

“Goodbye Anna.” And the line goes dead.

“Did we get it?!” I shout as soon as the call ends.

Jax looks up with tears in his eyes and smile on his face.
“We got it!”

“Fuck yes!” Kiran says while Nic and Jay hug.

I turn to Anna and even though it’s out of my comfort zone, I’m too grateful not to say anything. “Thank you so much Anna.”

She smiles up at me, tears of relief spilling down her face.

“So, when do we go?” She asks and we all freeze.

“Sorry Anna, it’s way too dangerous. We can’t bring you,” Nic reasons.

“You need help!” Anna tries but I think she knows it’s pointless.

“Yes, we do. I think it’s time we tell our families and get some back up,” I say.

As much as I don’t want them in danger either, we need help. The five of us can’t storm a hunter facility alone. I wonder how my mom and dads are going to react to me being mated? They’ll probably try to hug me and celebrate. I get a chill at the thought.

The guys nod, and we all prepare to tell our families everything they’ve missed.

Eight

Aly



My head is spinning around the room while my body sits on a bed. I'm watching it and I don't even care, let my head do what it wants. I can't control it anyways.

I finish the last bite of toast and down the remaining water in my glass. It's so nice my parents are bringing me food. They never did this before but here they are taking care of me.

I think about wondering why they would, what's wrong, but that's silly. It's no big deal, I should just enjoy it.

"Aly dear," my mom starts. Why isn't her head spinning around the room like mine? "What are these?" She points to my arm.

I try to focus on my arm and I swear it's almost moving. It looks like a bunch of colors swimming together, almost angrily. Swimmy swim swim. I want to swim. I wonder if there is swimming here. I start to do the motions but my mom grabs my arm to stop me. How rude, I was swimming.

"I think we really did do too much this time," my dad complains.

“Well we wanted answers so we should keep trying. If we can’t get them this time, we will do less next time,” mom responds.

I’ve started swimming again without the arm my mom is holding hostage. Swim swim swim-ity swim.

“Stop saying swim Aly dear,” my mom sounds frustrated. But how could she be frustrated? Everything is so zen, so chill, so relaxed.

“Focus on me,” she tries again, “how did you get this mark?”

She’s pointing at my arm again. Is there something wrong with it? Is it going to fall off? I start crying thinking I’m losing my arm. But just as quickly I remember I don’t care if I lose my arm. It’s no big deal.

“Let’s do less next time,” dad says.

My mom stands up with a sigh. “Get some rest. We will be back later.”

My dad and mom walk out. I stare at the ceiling, watching the room spin around me.

* * *

My parents are sitting in front of me watching me eat my meal.

“Hopefully this lesser dose works,” dad says.

“How are you doing Aly dear,” my mom asks. She’s staring at my eyes, I wonder why.

“Good,” I respond and it’s true. I feel good, there’re no worries in the world, I’ve got food in my belly and my parents are here. What more could I need?

“Good, good. Listen I have some questions for you, okay?” She asks.

I nod, of course I’ll answer her questions. Anything she wants to know, I’ll tell her. Because it’s all chill and nothing really matters. She needs to relax and get on the same vibe over here.

“What is this?” She asks, looking down at my arm. The arm covered in swirls of magic from Nic.

Nic! I miss Nic, I wish he was here. Where is he? I’m sure he’s doing great, just like me.

“Nic? Who’s Nic?” My mom asks.

I don’t remember answering out loud... Did I? I’ve been on cloud nine for what feels like forever but for the first time worry works its way into my brain. Should I not be talking to them about Nic?

“Is he one of your... mates?” My mom sounds disgusted. Does she not like my mates?

I miss my mates. I miss Nic’s demanding presence, he would know what to do right now, Jay’s easy humor that always makes me happy, Kiran’s flirting that brings a smile to my face, Jax’s sweetness, and Jeremy’s strength.

“Focus Aly. How did they convince you that you guys were mates?”

Convince me? I touch the mark from Nic and I feel his confusion and heart break. He's in pain? What's wrong?

"She looks confused," my dad whispers but I hear him.

"It's okay Aly. We are going to help you. Those horrible boys lied to you, we will break whatever they did so you're free."

Break? Lied? My guys would never lie to me. I can feel the mating bond, I know it's real.

Oh my god. They want to break my mating bond? I can't let that happen. I need to stop this. I need to get back to them!

Calmness presses in on me from all sides but I need to fight it, I need a clear mind to survive this.

But it's okay. I don't need to worry about it. I'll be fine, they'll be fine, everything is fine.

No! No I can't. I can't fight it. I think they drugged me. I can feel it pressing down on my mind.

I know I can't fight it. I need to stop the next dose. No more eating or drinking until I have a clear head. I repeat that command over and over in my head even when it stops making sense.

* * *

My parents bring in a tray of food. They stare at me after setting it down. Why are they watching me?

I don't know why or care but I promised myself I wouldn't eat or drink again. It feels pointless but I try to trust myself so.

They keep staring at me.

“What?” I ask, confused.

“Eat up dear, we don’t want you to get hungry,” my mom responds.

I take a pretend sip of water, and they visibly relax, so I do it again. After a couple fake sips they seem a lot calmer.

But I need to sell it.

“Whoa! Is there a bird in here?” I ask pointing behind their heads. I’ve actually seen birds in here the last few days so it’s a real possibility.

They both turn to investigate and I take the chance to dump my water out under my pillow. I bring it up to my lips and pretend I just finished drinking as they turn around.

“Okay well we will let you finish your meal in peace,” my dad says, leading my mom out of the room.

Hmm, seems like they only cared about the water but just in case I take my food to the bathroom and flush it.

I’m hungry but it’s not unbearable. If nothing happens after skipping this meal, I’ll eat the next.

* * *

I can think. For the first time in a long time, I can actually use my brain. I remember them drugging me, how high they’ve kept me. I don’t know why except the obvious answer of compliance. They want me to behave.

I can remember everything that happened. They were asking me about my mates. My mom said they were working on breaking the bond. I need to get out of here, I can't let that happen.

I need to escape. I try to remember everything I saw when they gave me a tour. There were tons of people gathered in the main rooms. I want to get to the weapons room but I don't think I'll be able to make it undetected. I need to avoid those areas and find another escape.

I stand up and check the door but it's locked. I was hoping they might have gotten lax while I was drugged but I guess not.

Okay, so the door is locked and I need to get out undetected. What are my options?

All my teachings have come back since my transition. My parents trained me in combat, taught me about the different supernaturals and even about my powers as a hunter. Unfortunately, until I triggered the gene I didn't have the powers to practice with, so they aren't that helpful. It would be incredible to know how to transport right about now. The only thing that I can use to my advantage is the combat training.

I'm going to have to fight my parents next time they come. As soon as they open the door to deliver a meal, I need to knock them out and run.

Part of me feels sick at the idea of hurting my parents but the other part of me acknowledges that they've held me captive and plan to break my mate bond. It needs to be done.

I didn't pay attention when I was drugged up, but they used a small, white key card to leave the room last time they were here. I need that card.

I open every drawer and cupboard to search the room for anything I can use as a weapon. I find nothing. They clearly had this room prepared for just this reason. I'll have to use my body and the element of surprise as a weapon.

I set up near the door, around the back so when they open it they won't immediately see me but I can get the jump before they realize I'm not in bed.

I wait and wait and wait. Nothing happens for so long my legs start to cramp up. I do some light stretching from my position, not willing to be caught off guard.

I hear some footsteps near the door and when I press my ear against the gap I can hear voices.

"That's Janet and Jack's girl in there. The one who got tricked by some supernaturals into thinking she's their mate. How can any hunter be so dumb..."

The voice is female and gone before I can catch anything else. How fucking rude, I am not dumb. These idiots are dumb for thinking there's no way something like this could happen.

I know from the memories I'm getting back of lessons with my parents that hunters believe they don't have mates. They can't fathom that my mates might be real. But clearly what they're being taught is wrong because I completely trust

my guys. Guys who have been worried sick about me for who knows how long.

I didn't care about all the emotions coming through the bond when I was drugged up. Now, I can feel how miserable Nic, Jer and Jay are. I can only imagine how Kiran and Jax feel but I'm sure it's just as bad. Maybe even worse without a connection to me. I know I'm more worried about them since I have no idea if they're okay or not.

They have a sense of confidence coming from the three I can feel, so I know they haven't given up on me. I won't be waiting for them to save me, however, I will be making my own escape.

After what feels like hours of standing at the ready by this door, I finally hear footsteps followed by a soft beep that sounds like a keypad.

I take a quick step back and ready myself at the door.

Nine

Jax



Slowly all of our parents show up at our house on Brickstone's campus. They were all shocked to find out we had found our mate and that we share her between our species. Of course, they were all instantly accepting. It's what brought them together in the first place, protecting my mom and dad's love.

Mom and dad fell so in love they didn't add anyone else to the relationship, which is incredibly rare. I don't think anyone was eager to join their mixed pairing, but they were enough for each other.

Jay, Nic and Jeremy, however, all have multiple dads and one mom, something I've always been a little jealous of. So we have a team here to help us get our mate back. We were all scolded about not keeping life changing secrets but it didn't last long. They can see our misery from being separated from our mate. Nothing they say can be worse than that.

I can't imagine the pain they're in but things are clearly worse for Jeremy, Nic and Jay since they have the bond wearing on them. The longer they're apart the more pain

they're in. It's clear as time goes on, and they become more irritable and snap at anything. They aren't themselves.

Finally, Nic's parents arrive and everyone is here. We gather in the living room.

"Where is she being held?" One of Nic's dads asks, Matthew. He's domineering and a natural leader, clearly where Nic gets it from.

"She's in Texas, the middle of nowhere. There's nothing listed there on a map," Nic explains.

We did everything we could to find information on where she's being held. There's nothing, they completely erased any trace of themselves.

"We couldn't find anything, so we are going in blind. We should get closer and scope it out," Nic looks at his dad Jonah as he says it.

Jonah is a transport mage. He can get us closer so we can do that. Every mage has a specialty, something their born with. Like how the shifters aren't all wolves, they can be anything. Or how demons can come in all types, like Jeremy is a fire demon. A pang of guilt hits me, this is all stuff we should have told Aly. Maybe the information would be useful to her right now. But instead, we only gave her small pieces, so we didn't overwhelm her.

She doesn't even know Jeremy is a fire demon or Nic's specialty is water. And they're even completely mated.

I'm pulled out of my guilt when I hear arguing.

“We should all go!” Matthew says glaring at Nic.

“No, a small group can gather information before we all attack. We don’t want them to know we are coming. Hunters can transport, they could leave with her, and we will be back to square one.” Nic’s voice is strong and sure, I agree with him instantly. We aren’t doing anything that risks us getting Aly back.

Matthew calms down and nods his head. We can all see Nic is right here, more than that he’s not backing down on this.

“Jay, Kiran, dad Jonah and I will go. We will get as much information as we can before coming back. Then we plan our attack and leave as soon as possible.”

I want to go so badly but I know I’m not the best for the job. It’s night and Kiran’s shadows and Jay’s eyesight will help the most. I’ll just be in the way.

They take off, leaving the rest of us behind to stand around awkwardly. My mom and dad make their way over to me. Mom pulls me into a hug and dad pats my shoulder.

“How are you doing my baby?” My mom asks and I let her call me her baby. Her hug is comforting when I’m feeling so lost.

“I just want her back. You guys are going to love her. I know it,” I say.

They both smile at me, “of course we will.”

Not one of our parents batted an eye when we told them our fated mate is a hunter. They’re the most open and

accepting group of people, and we are lucky to have them. They all promised not to tell anyone, understanding this is a delicate situation.

“You know you won’t be safe here when you do get her back, don’t you?” My dad asks.

It’s something I’ve been thinking a lot about, and they’re right. Her mom probably told them where she found Aly. I wouldn’t be surprised if they’re planning an attack on us right now. But we couldn’t leave. If Aly got away, this is where she would come, we couldn’t risk not being here.

But once we have her, we will need to find a safe place to hide out while we plan our next move. I haven’t talked to the guys about it yet but as soon as we have her back, I will.

“I know,” I say.

“You can use the cottage,” my mom offers.

They have a cottage from when they were in hiding themselves. No one knows where it is except for our parents and it’s not in their name. It’s perfect.

“That would be amazing. Thank you both.”

“I’m sorry you have to go through this,” my mom says with tears in her eyes.

I shy away, not wanting her pity. This is worth it, everything is worth it for Aly. I see Jeremy being loved on by his family. He has a giant pout on his face as he tries to get away. I should probably save him.

Mom sees where I'm focusing and let's out a soft laugh.

“Let's go help him.”

We make our way over, and they back off once we all get there. Jeremy is relieved to see me, relaxing his tense body and coming to my side. Nic and Jay's parents are talking across the room.

There's a small flash that's only visible to someone as sensitive to light as me and Kiran, so I'm sure our parents saw it too. Then the four of them are deposited back into the room.

They're completely fine and I let out a breath I didn't know I was holding. We all stare at them waiting for an update.

“There are hunters patrolling the facility but not many. We will only need to take down one to get inside. Clearly they think being off the map will keep them safe, there isn't much security. We leave tomorrow at dusk.” Nic is completely in alpha mode and I'm grateful. We need his planning and direction.

We sit down and go over all the details they gathered. Making plans and talking through issues. In the end, we have a solid plan that utilizes everyone's strengths.

We are coming for you Aly, just hold on for us.

Ten

Aly



My father steps through the door first, which is unfortunate. When it comes to hunters, the females are stronger and I could have used the element of complete surprise against my mother.

Not wasting the opportunity, I execute a perfect round house kick to his temple. My father goes down like a bag of bricks, out cold.

“Jack! What the hell?” My mom sounds confused, but she still comes around the corner prepared. She’s in a fighting stance, facing off against me.

“Aly what the hell are you doing?” She demands.

“I need to get out of here mom. You can’t keep me here. It doesn’t have to be like this, we don’t need to fight,” I try to reason with her. If she would help me escape like a real mother, we could avoid a lot of issues. Actually, if she hadn’t brought me here we would have no issues.

“You can’t leave. I don’t know what those boys brainwashed you with, but they are not your mates! Hunters don’t have mates! We are trying to help you.” She sounds like

she actually cares but if she's going to keep me locked up and drugged I'm not going to believe her.

At no point did she try to reason with me or talk about what happened. She let the hunters take control of the situation because she trusts them more than me.

“They are my *mates*, mom. You need to believe me,” I demand.

Her eyebrows draw together in confusion before she gives me soft eyes in pity. Fuck that!

I strike while she's confused, throwing a jab for her jugular. She easily blocks me before aiming a kick at my head. I roll away at the last second, avoiding a knockout exactly like my dad's.

She's not pulling punches, so I can't either.

I go to swipe her legs out from under her, but she twists away. She is the person who trained me, so it would stand to reason that she knows all my moves. But, lucky for me, my mates are protective, and they also trained me, giving me moves she knows nothing about.

She's backing towards the door, clearly trying to get away and lock me back up in here. I can't let that happen, I've completely lost the element of surprise if she warns anyone.

“Why did you drug me?” I ask, trying to draw her attention to my face and away from my movements.

She might actually feel bad for a minute but it quickly fades.

“You would have been difficult. The elders believed it was better for you to be compliant. They didn’t want anything like this happening and clearly they were right.”

Fuck these elders. Shouldn’t they be patient and wise. They should want to know about my situation, to learn from it. Clearly they just want the status quo to continue.

“You drugged me! I’m your daughter and you drugged me you psycho!” I restrain myself from screaming but just barely.

A small part of me is glad I got this moment to tell my mom how insane I think this whole situation is. But most of me wants to get out of here and back to my mates.

I pounce, aiming for her throat with my hands. Predictably, she ducks and like Jeremy taught me, I tackle her to the ground instead.

I don’t have long before she retaliates. I know hunters heal quickly, otherwise I don’t think I could do this to the woman I call mom. I punch her in the temple, knocking her out cold.

I scramble off her. “Sorry mom.”

I quickly search her and my dad. I find the key card in her back pocket but no weapons. I guess they took precautions, not bringing weapons in to visit the prisoner. It’s inconvenient but at least they didn’t completely underestimate me.

They’ve been bringing me clothes every couple of days and taking advantage of my high to make me dress in them. At least that means my clothes aren’t disgusting, otherwise I’m

sure I would stand out even more. My parents are dressed in regular clothes like mine so hopefully that means everyone is.

I listen at the door but I don't hear anyone in the hall. Doesn't mean they aren't there, just that they aren't being loud. I scan the key card and the door clicks open.

I peek my head out the door to check the hallway. I don't see anyone, so I step into the hall before shutting the door behind me. It automatically locks, trapping my parents inside. That should stop them from alerting anyone until I'm long gone.

Right outside the door are my parent's weapons. I guess they never thought I would get out of the room. I pick up the smaller scabbard and sword, putting it on my own back. It must be my mom's compared to the larger one next to it. I quickly unlock the door to toss my dad's sword inside. I don't want anyone to see it sitting here and getting suspicious.

Now the moment of truth, which way to go to get out of here. I think, but I am not certain, that my parents went right to show me the facility. So I think left is my best bet.

Or was it left they took me? Everything is sort of fuzzy from the drugs. I'm not going to get clarity, so I need to trust my instincts, which means going left.

I take off in that direction, wishing on the stars that I'm right. It's a long hallway that goes on forever as I follow curve after curve. At the beginning there were a couple doors similar to the one I was behind but now there's nothing.

I see someone walking towards me from the opposite direction. She's about my age, taller than me at probably five eight and incredibly fit. She's already spotted me and isn't racing toward me with her weapon raised, so I can only hope she thinks I belong. We are both dressed in street clothes with weapons on our body, so I can see why she thinks so. It's good to know people clearly don't know everyone here. It'll make things easier for me.

I walk at a brisk but hopefully not suspicious pace. The halls are completely empty of rooms for me to try but the girl had to be coming from somewhere.

Against all odds, I actually find a door at the end of the hallway.

It requires a key card to enter so hopefully my mom had access to whatever this is. I press my ear against the door but I don't hear anything from the other side.

I take a deep breath and pull the sword free from its sheath. I swipe the card before shoving it back into my pocket. The door clicks open and I slowly push through it. It leads to another hallway with numerous doors coming off it.

What are these to?

I step inside and let the door shut behind me. I need to hurry, they probably have security cameras around this place.

I check each door but there's nothing identifying on them. No way for me to tell which might lead to an exit. I'm afraid to start opening them in case there are people inside.

I keep going down the hallway, checking every door for some sign. If I had to guess an exit would be at the very end of the hallway, so I take my chances and run to the end.

Again, there's no way to know but I need to take a chance. I take a deep breath, send up a prayer and open the door.

It unlatches and I'm dropped into unfamiliar territory. There are wide open plains as far as I can see.

I don't know how I'm going to get home from here but I'm grateful to be outside for the first time in weeks. I take my first deep breath in forever and step out of the doorway completely, letting it shut behind me.

All around me hunters materialize with their weapons raised and pointed at me. They're furious and among them are my parents. My heart drops, they've already found me.

They're standing next to an older woman dressed in all black. Considering how long it takes for supernaturals to show signs of aging, she must be ancient. I'm guessing she's an elder I keep hearing about.

She opens her mouth and declares, "Aly Jensen, you have been sentenced to death by execution for your crimes against the hunter race!"

My parents jerk their heads to the elder, clearly in shock. At least they didn't want me dead.

"Wait!" My mom shouts but it's like the decree was a command. The hunters surrounding me start to converge on me.

I raise my weapon, if I'm going down I'm taking at least one person with me. I send a pang of love and apology to my mates with bonds, hoping they share it with Jax and Kiran.

I wish more than anything I could see them again. Be surrounded by their love and strength. Tell them I love them, something I absolutely should have already done.

My parents jump into the fray and I think they're coming to kill me themselves. But they turn and stand next to me, facing the mob as well.

"We are sorry Aly. We shouldn't have brought you here," my mom whispers before lunging and stabbing someone with her sword.

I attack as well, following her example. I'm a little sick, I don't want to kill anyone but in this case it's them or me. This is why Jeremy and the guys insisted on teaching me how to deliver a killing blow. Still, when I can, I deliver a sharp hit against the temple to knock my opponent out.

At first, they clearly think we will be easily overwhelmed, so most of them stay back. I'm really only facing two at a time.

I spin out away from a stomach strike and it nicks my arm instead. I'm bleeding but it's nothing too serious. Blood drips down my arm like a sleeve.

I nail that man against the temple sending him down immediately. The woman fighting with him goes for my legs and I have to jump to avoid her slicing my Achilles tendon

I'm aiming for her temple, like I did with the man, when she moves and I slice her neck instead. Blood gurgles out as she drops to the ground, clearly dead.

Even though they're trying to kill me, that must be the final straw against me because everyone starts to charge me at once.

I'm officially out numbered and there's nothing I can do about it.

Eleven

Aly



I'm surrounded on all sides with no options left. My parents, while better trained, are outnumbered and going down with me. I hate that they finally came to my aid just to be killed in front of me.

Someone throws knives in my direction and I barely swerve being hit in the chest. Instead, one hits me in the thigh and another slices into my arm, again. I tug the one in my thigh out and ignore the radiating pain from the wound.

I swing my sword cutting someone down but leaving my back vulnerable for attack. Someone takes advantage and pulls my hair back, exposing my neck.

They press their blade against my neck, clearly expecting me to freeze but I've been trained better than that. I smash my head back against their nose making them stumble away.

When I turn around to make sure they stay down, I see their nose bleeding everywhere.

More people run out of the building, joining the hunters in taking us down. I'm surrounded on all sides with no options

left.

I feel absolutely defeated when I see more people running from the surrounding fields. How many hunters are there?

This mob continues towards us at breakneck speed. Why do they need to rush when we are clearly outnumbered?

Someone stabs my stomach, making me collapse to the ground and my mate bond sings. Does dying mean I don't have to feel the pain of being separated any longer?

I stare at the approaching group, something about them demanding my attention.

They have wolves. Either real life wolves or shifters are coming this way. Is this help? Is that possible?

The group starts attacking the hunters, drawing attention away from my parents and I but the man who stabbed me still stands there staring down at me.

“Attack!! This is an attack!” Someone next to me yells before charging, sword raised at the newcomers.

I grab my stomach, staunching the blood flow until I can heal. The man raises his second dagger, aiming for my heart when something jumps in front of me and latches onto his forearm. Teeth rip through muscle as the man goes down.

My savior turns around but it's not a shifter like I expected, it's Bailey. His lip is pulled back, showing his sharp teeth as he growls but as soon as he sees I'm no longer in danger he turns back into my good boy. What is he doing here?

“You have a familiar?” My mom asks, staring at Bailey in absolute shock.

“A what?” I ask but before she can answer someone with horns and wings is coming this way. Maybe I’ve already died. Except, my parents teachings come back to me that demons have an alternate form, depending on what type of demon they are.

Most have horns and wings but others like vampires just have fangs. It’s very complicated.

If this is a demon and my mate bond is happy, does that mean this is Jeremy? Will he be fast enough to save me from bleeding out?

He drops to the ground in front of me wrapping his wings around me. He gives me a quick once over before swooping down to pick me up. He takes off in the air.

“Aly! I’m here baby girl, I’m here,” Jeremy reassures me but I’m not sure I even believe he’s real.

We land off to the side of the fighting that’s now in full swing. How is this happening?

He looks down at my stomach and pales.

“You need healing, here share my blood.”

He cuts his hand open on his horn and presses it against the wound. Immediately, I feel relief, I no longer think like my organs are going to fall out of my body.

“You’re here,” I marvel.

“Of course we are, we’re all here for you. We brought our parents. We need to get you out of here.”

“Wait I need to get,” but before I can tell Jeremy about Bailey, the dog in question appears in front of me, “Bailey!”

Jeremy stares down at him and pales, “I promise we didn’t bring him!”

“No time, we will figure this out later.” I pull on his arm to get his attention. I point to my mom and dad still fighting. “Jer, I know she took me, but they tried to save me. Can we save my parents, please?” I’m begging him but it doesn’t feel right to leave them behind. I don’t want to see them dead when they finally joined my side. Yes, it took them too long and I haven’t forgiven that, but they made the right choice in the end.

He glances back between them and me, laying in his arms, over and over, conflicted.

“Jeremy, please!”

He stares into my eyes before nodding. He sets me off to the side before standing up and searching for something. Bailey sets up as a guard in front of me.

He must be using mind speak because Nic is there a minute later as Jeremy strides back into the thick of things. Bailey gives me a short lick then disappears again, am I hallucinating?

“Aly!” Nic rushes me and hugs me tight. It pulls on my healing wound but I don’t mind. I’m just relieved to be back in

his arms. It looks like he's bleeding from a cut on his arm but other than that he's fine.

“We need to go, you made things easy being out here. As much as I hated seeing you surrounded, you did good fighting your way out Princess.”

I preen under his praise. I wasn't enough to get myself out on my own but I know I made things easier for them. They didn't have to storm the building, just join the fight outside. I did my part and I don't have to do it all alone, my mates came for me.

A small part of me doubted that they would but I should have known better.

“How do we get out of here Nic?” I ask.

He surveys the area, taking in every detail. He's clearly thinking through the best plan of action. It's one of his greatest skills.

“One of my dads can teleport us out of here, but we need to get away first,” he tells me.

“So we need a distraction?” I ask.

“Yes and luckily we had one planned, I just need to find Kiran.”

Kiran is the distraction? Doesn't that mean he's risking himself? That he might get hurt!

Nic gives me his attention again. “Relax, I can feel your panic through the bond. He won't be in any more danger than

we currently are.”

I calm some but I don't think I'll relax until we are out of here and I see my mates safe with my own eyes.

“Can you walk?” Nic asks, eyeing my stomach.

I stand up and feel ready to move. Jeremy's blood really works miracles, which is ironic considering he's a demon.

“Yes, let's do this.”

We head back into the fighting, staying on the edges as we locate Kiran.

We get sucked into some smaller fights but the action is mostly focused elsewhere. I'm slicing a female hunter's legs, forcing her to go down when I see someone sneaking up on Nic.

He's fighting with water, knocking people out with incredibly strong currents. Which leads me to believe his specialty is water, something he never shared with me. I don't have time to focus on why right now as a male hunter raises his sword to attack.

I check the ground and see something sharp within reach. I grab it and throw the knife, impaling the man in the stomach. Nic twists around and nails him with a torrent of water, knocking him out.

“Come on, I see Kiran.” Nic waves me forward and I go with him, following the edge of the group until we are within view of Kiran.

When Kiran finally looks up, his face shines with relief when he sees me. He's completely focused on me, so he misses Nic's hand gestures.

My mage steps in front of me to get his attention. Kiran's eyes swing to Nic before returning to mine. I give him a soft smile then point at Nic, trying to redirect him.

Kiran finally fully drags his eyes away from me to watch Nic do a hand signal. He nods before giving me a wink then focusing elsewhere.

"What does that mean?" I ask.

"It means it's time to go." Nic grabs my hand and drags me away. He spits water out around us so no one can get close as we move back the way the guys came.

A howl goes up, demanding everyone's attention before the area is completely swallowed by Kiran's dark energy. We can't see in front or behind us as we continue forward. I can hear soft splashing from the water Nic is using to protect us.

He suddenly stops seemingly out of nowhere. One second I'm confused, the next it feels like my stomach is being pulled out of my throat.

I feel weightless for a minute before crashing hard to the ground. Nic wraps his arms around me and holds me steady.

The darkness fades until I can see we are back at the guys' house. Immense relief fills me until I realize we brought some hunters with us.

With the clear advantage, they're dispatched immediately by Jay's wolf and some other older people I don't recognize.

I swing around searching for the rest of my mates.

Jeremy is standing over my parents as he keeps them contained with a wall of fire. Two people join him and chain my parents up together. Smart, considering their history. They're in a room full of supernaturals they hate. Whether they're on my side or not, they're dangerous.

Nic is holding me tight against his chest as he peppers kisses on the crown of my head.

Kiran runs to me and picks me up to spin me around. I'm still a little dizzy from the instant travel and blood loss so it doesn't make me feel amazing. I must let out a sound like a groan because he sets me on the ground before staring in my eyes.

"Sorry baby. I missed you so much. I can't believe you're here in my arms."

Tears spring to my eyes. "I missed you so much too Kiran."

A wolf brushes against my leg before there's a very naked Jay in front of me. He nudges Kiran to the side, so he can have my full attention.

"Aly Kat, you're okay! You're okay right?" He searches me over, stopping and checking the stomach wound is healed before continuing. Kiran, Nic and Jay's eyes get darker when they see the wound but no one comments.

Jeremy walks over and tugs me away from Jay. He wraps me up in his arms so tight I can't breathe for a second.

"Don't ever leave me again," he demands before leaning into my ear to whisper, "I'm going to spank you for leaving me."

A blush rises to my cheeks as I imagine that very image from the dream I had of him. Is it possible that was actually real? When I woke up the next day, I was still drugged, so I never thought about it until now.

Where is Jax?

"Bring Aly here," Jax groans from the other side of the room.

I break out of their hold and rush over to him where he's on the floor, leaning against the couch.

"Jax!"

I drop next to him and reach for his bleeding leg wound before thinking better of it. I turn around and seek out Jeremy and Nic who are right behind me.

"Heal him," I demand.

They both settle in on the other side of him to start helping.

"Relax Aly, I'll be fine in a minute. I just couldn't wait until I healed to see you," he whispers, searching me with his eyes for injuries.

I lean in and press my forehead against him, breathing in the calm that is Ajax. Damn I missed them.

Kiran plucks me off the ground and settles back down with me on his lap. He looks Jax over but when he doesn't seem worried I relax. If his twin was in danger, Kiran wouldn't be calm.

I'm staring at all the guys when I finally remember we aren't alone. I take in the room which is full of mini groups like ours. They're searching each other for injuries or staring at us and smiling.

When they catch me watching, they give me a little smile and wave. It looks genuine which is a relief considering who these people are.

After everything I've been through I can't believe I'm still sitting here nervous to meet my mates' parents.

Nic finishes healing Jax with the help of Jeremy's blood before collapsing back exhausted. He's staring at me, taking me all in, before realizing I keep looking at all the people.

"Relax, they all love you already. They came to help us get you back because you're our mate," Jay says as he settles into the spot next to Kiran. He grabs my hand and kisses the back.

They might like the idea of their sons' mate but not the actual version of me. Especially considering I'm a hunter, their sworn enemy.

"Do they know what I am?" I whisper, not wanting them to overhear. I'm also worried to see my guys' responses. I have no idea how they feel about my race, but they did come for

me. And they're surrounding me and holding me tight right now.

“They know, and no one cares. It's not your race that matters, it's you,” Nic says firmly.

I relax back into Kiran who still has his arms wrapped tight around me, that's good.

Twelve

Nic



Aly finally relaxes back into Kiran's arms and I feel her anxiety recede some through the mate bond. She has nothing to worry about, we would never reject her because she's a hunter. She's our everything. We were completely lost without her.

I hate to break up this moment of us finally all together but it's not safe to stay here. The hunters could be on their way here now.

"We can't stay here," I say.

Jax sits up some, drawing my attention. "Actually, my parents have offered us their safe house, the cottage, while we recuperate and plan."

A huge weight lifts off my shoulders knowing we have somewhere safe to go. I thought we would be running from hotel, to hotel, to stay off anyone's radar.

Kiran raises his eyebrows in shock, so they must have only told Jax, and recently. I'm sure he wouldn't have kept it to himself long.

“That sounds great,” I tell him.

“I didn’t even think about the fact that we can’t stay here. What about Brickstone?” Aly asks.

She looks so sad. She’s probably been dreaming about getting back here and now we are pulling her away.

“We’ll come back to finish as soon as we can,” Jay says, sensing her sadness just like me.

Aly steels herself before nodding, “okay.”

I’m so proud of her. She’s taking this like a pro. I’m going to give our parents a few minutes to meet Aly then we all need to leave. I can feel Aly’s hunger and exhaustion, the urge to take care of my mate is strong and I can’t do that here.

I stand up before helping Jax up as well. His leg is fully healed but it might still bother him for a few more minutes. Jeremy lifts Aly out of Kiran’s arms as he and Jay stand up.

I turn to face our parents who are all staring eagerly. They’re probably trying to be welcoming but it comes across kind of creepy.

“Aly, these are our parents.” I go through the list naming each of our moms and their multiple mates, except the twins who only have one dad. I think it’s good for Aly to see how normal this is for all of us.

Mona, Jeremy’s mom breaks away from the group and pulls Aly into a tight hug. I stiffen, thinking about her stab wound but I know it’s fully healed. I won’t feel completely better until all the blood is gone.

“It’s amazing to meet you!” Mona says enthusiastically to Aly.

Aly smiles and hugs her back. “It’s nice to meet you too.”

I glance over at my own parents and my mom has a proud smile on her face that warms my heart. I want our families to get along and this is a great first step.

They could be meeting under better circumstances but honestly what’s a better way to bond than a rescue mission?

“We should go,” I say, breaking the moment.

Our parents nod, staring at Aly as they gather themselves together. Most of them will leave in cars to head home, having driven here to meet us.

But my parents will be transporting home as soon as my dad Jonah is rested enough. Or with some of Jeremy’s blood which I’m sure he’ll happily give considering they helped rescue his mate.

I’m hoping with such a powerful boost, they’ll be able to help us too.

I turn to Jax and Kiran, “can you go get any information we need about the cabin?”

They both squeeze Aly’s hand before heading off. I know no one wants to be more than a foot away, but we can have that soon, right now we need to be efficient.

“Jay, can you take Aly and gather any food from the kitchen after you say goodbye to your folks? Then grab the

duffel bags from upstairs in my room.”

I’ve already got go bags packed with essentials for all of us.

He grabs Aly and tugs her away, making Jeremy growl and my stomach twist up in knots. I shove it aside because she’s here in the same house as me, and we need to stay focused.

I’m not sure how much food they’ll find. We haven’t been taking the best care of ourselves with Aly gone but hopefully there’s enough to hold us over tonight.

“Jer, if my dad Jonah has your blood I’m hoping he can take us to the cottage before heading home themselves. Are you willing?”

He doesn’t even hesitate, “of course.” Jeremy was never this willing to help before Aly.

“Great.”

We head over to my parents but Jeremy gets side tracked saying goodbye to his. They’re all hugging him and loving him. His mom is a succubus so even though it’s not sexual with her son, touch is her love language, much to Jeremy’s dismay.

“You did good Nicoli. Both with the rescue mission and with a mate, she’s wonderful,” my mom says with a proud smile.

I can’t stop a grin from breaking out across my face. “Thank you.”

“Be in touch for anything we can do to help. We are here for you all,” dad Matthew says, grabbing my shoulder and giving it a little squeeze.

I nod and turn to dad Jonah, “Jeremy is going to give you some blood to get you home. With the boost would you be able to drop us off at the cottage?”

Mom reaches back and squeezes dad Jonah’s hand. There are huge bags under his eyes, betraying his exhaustion, but he doesn’t make an excuse. “Of course. With Jeremy’s help I can do it.

He used a lot of energy transporting all of us twice in such a short time. I’m lucky my dad is so strong and incredible.

Jay walks up with Aly and drops a bag of food at his feet. “There’s enough for tonight and my parents said they’ll drop off more tomorrow.”

My stomach tightens. “They’ll be careful right?”

Jay rolls his eyes, back to being his joyful self with Aly by his side. “Of course they’ll be careful.”

“We will help them too, no worries Nicoli,” my mom adds.

I drop it, knowing they know how to do this safely, they did it for Mr. and Mrs. Stone once upon a time.

“Wait, we need Bailey! Where is he?” Like her words are magic he appears at her side. Oh my god, is he her familiar? How did I not think of this?!

Aly looks completely confused as she stares down at him but nods, compartmentalizing it for later.

Ajax and Kiran join us with a magical key in their hand, probably to the cottage. Jeremy breaks away from his family and wraps himself tightly around Aly. He puts his hand out, offering his blood to my dad Jonah.

Dad nods at him as he siphons the blood with magic and prepares to use it in his spell.

“Ready?” Dad Jonah asks.

I look over my pack before responding, “ready.”

One second we are at the house, the next we are outside a cottage I haven’t seen since I was a kid.

“This place has protections against transporting inside it. It should help keep you safer,” dad Jonah explains.

Everyone starts to head to the door but I stop to hug my dad.

“Thank you for everything. We couldn’t have gotten her back without you.”

He smiles before stepping back and disappearing again.

I join them at the door as Kiran unlocks the cottage for us. It’s a little dusty from disuse but otherwise it’s perfect. There are three bedrooms, although I doubt anyone will want to be alone right now, a kitchen, two bathrooms and a small family room.

Aly is dead on her feet as she leans against Jeremy behind her. Everyone else doesn't look much better as we survey the room.

“Okay, quick meal, then showers, then bed. No funny business, I know we all missed each other but Aly needs her rest,” I say with a pointed look at where she's swaying on her feet.

“Make her a sandwich, I'm going to help her rinse off,” Jay says, swiping her off her feet and carrying her towards the bathroom.

Nothing. I mean it Jay. I send through the mental bond.

I know. Trust me, I just want to take care of her. She needs help.

And I do trust him, so I don't say anymore. I go to the duffel bags and even though I packed clothes for Aly, I grab one of my shirts for her to wear. I set it on the counter in the bathroom before leaving them to it.

We gather around the kitchen table and pull out sandwich supplies from the bag Jay gathered. We all keep checking the bathroom door Aly disappeared behind every few minutes as we make sandwiches. Jax makes one for Aly before he starts his own.

Jay comes out of the bathroom carrying a sleeping Aly. She must have passed out in the shower while Jay washed her.

“Wake her up, I can feel her hunger through the bond. She's starving,” Jeremy says.

Jay sits at the table but keeps Aly in his lap as he slowly wakes her up. She blinks her sleepy eyes around the room before cuddling back into Jay.

“Eat Aly,” Jax says, pushing the plate towards Jay.

He picks the sandwich up and feeds Aly little bites until she’s eaten the whole thing. She falls right back to sleep in his arms, and he stares down at her as he pushes hair off her face.

“We got her back,” he muses. He sounds choked up and I understand the feeling. While I always believed we could get her back, being without her was the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do.

Jay eats his sandwich before heading off to bed with Aly. Jeremy, Kiran and Jax take quick showers before joining them. Bailey settles in on the couch for the night.

I look over the whole house, making sure we are locked down tight.

I use the guest shower for a quick rinse, soaping up my body and removing the remnants of battle from my skin. I’m covered in blood and dirt but I don’t regret a second of it, it was for my mate.

Thirteen

Aly



The next morning I wake up completely surrounded by my mates. No one wanted to be apart while I slept off the exhaustion from escaping. Each of them are touching some part of me. Kiran and Nic are bracketing me on either side, Jeremy is laying across the top of the bed, Jay is in wolf form between my legs and Jax is at the end of the bed holding an ankle.

I've never been so completely surrounded by love. It feels incredible and just what I need as I wake up from the hell I was in. I've been drugged for weeks and even though there were the few times I started to come out of it, it still feels like a dream to be here. I'm conscious and completely aware of myself and my actions.

My mates came for me, just like I knew they would. I had no doubt they would save me from the hell I was in.

I shift a little, so I can snuggle into Kiran more. I take a big sniff of his oaky scent and commit it to memory. I nuzzle under his chin and accidentally wake him up.

He drops a kiss on my head, followed by at least twenty more. He drops lower, so he's covering my face in them, then my neck, until he eventually ends at my lips.

He gives a deep soulful kiss filled with the longing he felt while we were apart. There is so much love in his kiss, I lose myself. I roll over, so I am completely against him, dislodging the others.

"I love you," I whisper. I wasn't going to wait a second longer to tell him. Being apart and knowing I hadn't told them filled me with regret.

Kiran stares deep in my eyes, love shining through so clearly, but he gives me the words anyways.

"I love you so much baby. Being without you, not knowing what was happening to you, it was the worst kind of torture," he confesses.

The guys all shift around, telling me they're awake. I wonder if they heard everything?

Nic drops a kiss on my neck from behind. Right on the soft skin behind my ear before whispering, "I love you so much Princess. You're my everything."

I flip around in their arms, so I'm facing Nic but keep tight to Kiran, wanting that contact.

"I love you too, I'm sorry I didn't tell any of you before I was gone."

I lean in and give Nic a soft kiss, sending my love through it to him.

“We knew,” Jay says from the bottom of the bed where he has shifted back. “And I love you too Aly Kat.”

I flip to my back and pull him up, I end up with a very naked Jay on top of me but I’m not complaining.

“I love you too Jay,” I whisper and lean up to kiss him too. Before it can get too heated, Jeremy taps on my cheek breaking the kiss.

I look up at him, seeing him upside down from my position. I’m not nervous he won’t say it. As far as we’ve come, we had a rocky start. We lost time that I’ve had with the other guys but I also feel like we’ve made up for it.

Before he can say anything I blurt out, “I love you Jeremy and if you’re not ready to say it back that’s okay, we...”

He cuts me off with a kiss. “Baby girl, I love you so much it hurts. Don’t doubt that.”

My heart is overflowing right now. I shift my attention to Jax who is sitting at the end of the bed. Jay shifts back some, making room.

Jax crawls up to me, his arms supporting him above me and to the side, so he doesn’t disrupt anyone.

“I love you Aly, I’m so glad you’re my mate, and we have you back.”

He leans in and gives me a soft kiss too. I’m in heaven with my mates around me and all professing their love.

I kiss Jax deeper before pulling back. I don't want him uncomfortable in this situation in front of all the guys.

He moves back to the end of the bed and gets comfortable, staring right at me.

“We've missed you Aly, don't hold back on my account.” Jax wants to watch while I reconnect with my mates? I really am in heaven, although having him join would be even better. But not until we've had our own moment.

Kiran whispers in my ear, “I'll join Jax and wait until I can have you to myself.” He draws a swirling line up my arm before he sits up and moves over next to Jax. I don't know what his mark is but I have a feeling he was just tracing it.

I want that too. Just as soon as I reconnect with my other mates.

Jay doesn't waste any time, bringing his lips back to mine for a deep, soul crushing kiss. He swipes his tongue against mine and I moan into his mouth.

Jeremy resituates, taking Kiran's spot next to me. I'm completely surrounded by Nic, Jay and Jeremy while my other two mates watch. This is a fantasy come true and my panties show the evidence.

Nic starts nibbling on my ear before soothing it with his tongue. Jeremy tilts my face away from Jay and steals my lips for himself, baring my neck. Jay takes advantage and attacks his mating mark on my neck. He licks and sucks at it, each swipe of his tongue building me higher. Nic reaches in and

tugs on my nipple, sending me over the cliff way too quickly. I come screaming a mash of their names, my body already ready for more.

Nic sits up and pulls me into his lap until I'm sitting facing out. I can feel his hard length digging into me, I grind down on top of it until he grabs my hips.

“Don't be bad, you'll get what you want soon Princess,” Nic says.

Jay settles in, in front of me and lifts my shirt off tossing it to the side. I fell asleep in one of their massive shirts and a pair of panties, so I'm almost completely exposed to them.

Jeremy doesn't waste any time latching on to one nipple. He gently pulls it through his teeth while plucking the other with his fingers.

Jay drops down and makes eye contact with me before ripping my panties off in one tug.

“Jay!”

He ignores me and stops any further protests by bringing his head down and blowing on my slit. I'm so wet it brings a chill and makes me moan.

He licks me top to bottom before sucking on my clit, hard. My hips jerk up from the sensation, almost dislodging Jay. Nic and Jeremy both bring a hand down on either side of me, holding me in place for Jay.

Nic continues dropping kisses along my neck from behind. He hits all the sensitive spots, making me shiver.

Jeremy continues playing with my breasts, giving my nipples lots of attention. He sucks one hard between his teeth as Jay finally pushes his fingers into me.

“Come,” Nic whispers in my ear.

The dual sensation sends me over the edge and I come screaming. I stare into Kiran’s eyes as I do, while he strokes his dick in his hand.

They give me a minute to recover before resituating all of us. Nic lifts me up until I’m hovering above him then slams me down on his cock. He stretches me with a few pumps until I can feel him all the way inside me.

Nic uses his strength to make me ride him, all while peppering my neck and back with kisses. I stare into Jax’s eyes while he cups his dick, not playing with it. His eyes are smoldering as he watches what’s happening. I can’t help imagining what it will be like when Jax and I finally have our moment.

Jay stays right where he was before sucking my clit back into his mouth. It’s quite possibly the hottest thing I’ve ever experienced. Nic runs his fingers down my arm with his mating mark, putting me right at the edge.

“Please Nic!” I shout.

“Fuck! That’s right come for me good girl!” Nic shouts, giving me the permission I need.

I come hard and Nic and Jay never stop, working me through it. Making it last forever.

They flip me around, so I'm facing Nic. The new angle has him hitting my g-spot every damp thrust.

Jeremy settles in behind me and starts playing with my back hole. He takes my own wetness as lubrication as he slowly sticks a finger inside me.

He pumps one finger in and out of me but quickly adds a second when he realizes I can take it. He scissors his fingers before abruptly removing them.

I feel him line up behind me but he hesitates. I'm about to encourage him when someone else beats me to it.

“She can take it Jer, give her what she wants,” Kiran says, his voice husky and full of strain.

That's all the encouragement Jeremy needs as he slams into me. It's a tight fit with both of them but the feeling of fullness is incredible.

They start moving, alternating and finding a mind-numbing rhythm.

Jay settles in front of me. His dick in his hand while he strokes it and stares at us. I imagine we make quite the scene.

He raises his eyebrow at me in question while I stabilize myself with my hands on Nic's chest. I open my mouth and stare at him, waiting for him to come closer.

He doesn't need to see anything else as he brings his thick cock right to my lips. He wraps my hair around his fist and uses that control to fuck my mouth. He guides me over him,

slowly working himself deeper. When he hits my gag reflex I stay calm, breath through my nose and swallow around him.

“That’s it Aly Kat, I missed this mouth so damn much.”

Nic tweaks my nipple and says, “I missed this perfect pussy.”

Jeremy grunts but leans forward and drops a kiss behind my ear before whispering, “I missed you baby girl.”

My heart about shatters at the pain held in those words. I missed them all just as much, even if I couldn’t always feel it.

They keep using my body until I’m standing at the edge waiting to fall over. Every thrust is winding me up tighter until I can’t take it anymore. I’m about to pull off of Jay and beg for permission because that’s how much I crave it from Nic when the absolute sexiest thing happens.

Jax comes up to my side and makes eye contact while my lips are wrapped around Jay. He leans in and whispers, “Come,” in my ear.

I absolutely detonate around them. The strongest orgasm I have ever felt happens while I’m completely surrounded by my mates.

I can feel the vise I have around their cocks.

“Fuck!” Jeremy shouts before I feel him coming in my ass.

He slowly pulls out, leaving Nic more room to thrust into me. He goes hard, fucking me from below until he also comes hard inside of me.

“Such a good girl,” he praises from below me.

Jay takes his turn, fucking my mouth harder than before. He comes straight down my throat.

“Swallow it all Aly Kat.”

I do as directed, swallowing every drop of him he’s given me.

We all collapse together on the bed. Heavy breathing coming from everyone as we all catch our breath.

“That. Was. Incredible.” I say.

I get some laughs and a few sweet kisses but I know they completely agree. The only thing that would be better is all of my mates at once. One day, I promise myself.

Fourteen

Kiran



We all snuggle together on the massive bed. I give them a minute to enjoy their mate but I've already been patient. I wanted to snatch Aly for myself immediately. Although, I'm glad I got to enjoy that show. It was the perfect precursor.

I reach into the pile of bodies and snatch my Aly out from the middle. When I have her in my arms bridal style she stares up at me with love in her eyes. She leans up to kiss the bottom of my chin and I just about melt for her.

“What are you doing?” Jeremy complains.

“We will be back later,” is all I say as I leave the room with my perfect mate in my arms.

I carry her a few doors down into another bedroom. Smaller than the first but still beautiful.

She stares up at me when I set her down on the bed. “What’s going on Kiran? You seem nervous.”

I am absolutely nervous. I have a swarm of bees living in my stomach right now but I want to do this right.

I kneel down in front of her while she's sitting on the bed, her huge smile and look of awe giving me confidence.

“Aly Jensen, my sweet and perfect mate, will you complete the mating bond with me? Being away from you without that bond was torture on my soul and I never want to be without that connection again.”

I've laid my heart out for her, now it's in her hands what happens next.

She launches off the bed into my arms and starts peppering my face with kisses.

“Of course Kiran! I love you so much. I want this bond with you more than anything.”

My smile is huge as I lean in and kiss her. But there is one more thing.

“Aly do you remember what I told you? About the darkness when mating?” I ask seriously, I would never force her if she was uncomfortable.

“Yes. Kiran I want that piece of you, I'm not afraid of your darkness. I love it because it's you.”

Any doubt I felt melts away and I kiss her with all the love and relief I feel.

“So how exactly does this go?” She asks.

“I chant something in fae before sending darkness in you. I did some research and even if we mated your way, like you did with Nic, my darkness would still enter you, like Nic's magic

did,” I say pointing to her mark from Nic that is his swirling magic.

“Okay, great. Let’s do it,” she says and I steel myself.

I stare deep in her eyes while I chant the mating ritual about love and the joining of two people. It’s something I’ve known about but didn’t memorize until I met Aly.

Then I watch as a small wisp of my power leaves me and trails up her bare arm. She gasps as she watches it wind around her in the pattern I’m always drawing on her arm. I’ve been doing it since I met her, imagining my mark there.

When it finally settles it’s a dark hunter green that’s almost black. It’s a vine that wraps around her arm and pulses with my energy.

A searing pain comes and goes along my chest right over my heart. It’s quick but I know exactly what it is. I stare down at my bare chest and see her mating mark covering my heart. For the first time in my life I feel complete.

Our bond snaps into place and I feel her deep in my soul. There was always an awareness of her there since we met but now it’s like a vine between our souls. I can feel her love and how content she is with the bond. I’ve never felt anything better.

I tackle her onto the bed and kiss her deep. I swipe my tongue into her mouth immediately, wanting to get as close to her as possible.

She wraps her legs around me, pulling me in closer. I can feel her pleasure through our bond and it amplifies my own. I break away from her lips and kiss down her neck, tasting her sweet skin.

She rocks up into me, brushing her core against my boxers.

“I want you Kiran,” she whispers and it’s all the permission I need. I was going to take my time and give her time to recover but after mating with her, I want her more than anything so if she’s ready, so am I.

I brush my fingers across her core, feeling how soaked she is. She’s a mix of her own wetness and the guys’ but honestly? I like it. It turns me on to think of what I just watched.

Jax and I sat there watching the show completely turned on. Did I want to feel her perfect pussy wrapped around me? Of course. But I was willing to wait until after I asked her to mate with me. I wanted this moment with her, and I got it.

I circle my fingers around her clit, making her gasp against my lips. I imagine she’s very sensitive right now. I shouldn’t tease her, but I do anyways.

I continue to circle her clit, occasionally pulling on the bud but never giving her enough pressure to come. She starts wiggling her hips impatiently under me but I don’t give in. I continue to tease her until she’s begging me.

“Kiran. I need you. Please. Please. Please.”

I remove my fingers and line up with her. She’s warmed up and lubricated so there’s no need to go slow. I can take her

how I want to without fear of hurting her.

I wait until she looks into my eyes, desperation shining through, before slamming into her. I go balls deep in the first thrust and her back arches as she comes around me.

She's squeezing my cock so damn tight I'm afraid I'm going to come. I absolutely don't want that yet. I need time to enjoy this. She moans so loud I'm sure the guys can hear her and I feel smug about it.

I pull back, almost completely out before slamming in again and again. I thrust into her over and over, listening to her murmur praise and my name. It's absolutely heaven.

I have to stop myself from giving into temptation and coming. I want this to last with my mate.

She reaches up and grabs my neck, pulling me down until we are nose to nose. She stares in my eyes as I keep working into her body. She bites her bottom lip and I lean down to replace her teeth with my own. I suck her into my mouth slowly before running my tongue across her lip.

I reach down and brush my fingers against her clit, setting her off again. This time the vise she has on me sets me off. I can feel her milking my cock for all it's worth.

I plunge all the way inside her and come. I give her every damn drop.

We collapse back on the bed together, a mess of tangled limbs. I lean up and kiss her softly, enjoying this moment.

I have my mate, our bond, and she's safe. I don't think I could be happier.

When I feel like I can move again, I pick her up and take her back to the other bedroom. I'm not a complete bastard, I know they don't want to be apart from her. But they gave me that time and I'll forever be grateful.

I gently set her down next to Jax who is on the end before snuggling in on her other side. I'm sure we will migrate through the night until everyone is closer but at this point that's their problem not mine.

I nuzzle into her neck, breathing in her scent and enjoying all of us being together again.

Fifteen

Aly



“I need to call Anna. What did you guys tell her to explain why I was gone?” I ask as we gather around the kitchen table for dinner.

As promised, Nic’s parents helped Jay’s get some food to us, including some prepared meals. We just pulled the lasagna out of the oven after heating it up.

Jay dishes it out, serving us until we all have overflowing plates. I dig in immediately, without realizing no one answered my question.

I look up at all of them, and they’re avoiding eye contact with me.

“Guys? Is something wrong with Anna? Is she okay?” My voice is shrill until it breaks at the end.

If something happened to Anna while I was gone, I may never forgive myself.

“Anna is okay,” Jax reassures me with his hand on top of mine.

“So what’s wrong?” I ask. I know something happened.

“Anna, actually... knows about supernaturals now. About what we all are,” Nic explains.

“What?!” I shout. They told her? I was always planning on filling my best friend in once I had a lay of the land myself but I never expected the guys to be okay with it.

“She overheard us when she came demanding to know where you were,” Jay explains.

“So we filled her in, and she helped us find you,” Kiran adds.

“She helped?” I ask.

“Of course. She wanted to come on the actual rescue, but we wouldn’t let her. That part was too dangerous. She’s how we found your location at all,” Jax says. He goes on to explain about Anna’s idea and tracing my mom’s call to find her.

My bestie is an absolute genius.

“But yes, you should call her. She’s been extremely worried and deserves to know you’re okay.” Nic stands up and heads over to the duffel bags sitting in the living room.

He ruffles through his, which is still perfectly neat and orderly compared to Jay’s which is the exact opposite. He pulled almost everything out of it the first time he needed something.

Nic comes back with a small flip phone in his hand. He holds down the power button until the phone chimes,

indicating it's on. He passes it to me and I stare down at it, confused.

“It's a burner phone. I have quite a few, so we will destroy that one after using it. I have a phone number you can give Anna but warn her the phone will be off and only checked occasionally. We will call her back when we can,” he explains.

Wow, prepared Boy Scout/ sexy criminal Nic is incredibly hot. Maybe it's time for another round.

I push my hormones aside and dial Anna's number. It rings, almost to the end before she answers.

“Hello?”

“Anna, it's Aly.”

She shrieks down the phone. “Aly! Are you okay? Where are you?!”

“It's okay Anna, I'm with the guys. Thanks to your genius plan, I'm safe.”

I can hear her snuffle through some tears but I don't comment.

“Thank god! I've missed you. When can I see you? Can I come over now?”

Now I'm fighting back tears. “Actually Anna, I'm not home. It wasn't safe to stay but once we figure out what to do, I'll be back,” I promise.

There is silence on the other end before she sighs down the line. “That makes sense. But know I miss you more than

anything and as soon as it's safe, you're spending a full week with me and away from your guys. Who by the way I now know are your mates! Which is crazy!"

I don't protest even though my stomach sinks at the idea of a week away from them. Hopefully once we recover from everything, that won't seem so scary. But she deserves whatever she wants after everything I've put her through.

"Listen, I have a phone number you can call me on but the phone will be off most of the time. We will check the voicemail and I'll call you back whenever you need something, okay?" I give her the number and I can hear the scratch of the paper as she writes it down.

"I miss you and I love you," I say.

"I miss you and I love you too," she answers.

We hang up and I give the guys a sad smile as tears drip down my cheek. Bailey comes over and nuzzles my hand in comfort. I scratch behind his ears in thanks.

"I'm sorry Aly, we know you miss her," Jax says. He's holding my other hand but I'm not sure when that happened.

"Thanks. There's something else we need to talk about-Bailey." We all turn and look at the dog in question. I tell them all about Bailey showing up during the fight and what my mom called him.

"He's an Athermy! A supernatural animal who often bonds with hunters as a familiar. I can't believe we didn't realize it

sooner. He will come to help you when you need him most,” Jax reveals.

My mind is blown at the idea that Bailey isn't a normal dog.

“What does it mean to have a familiar?” I ask.

“They are incredibly rare, we will have to try to find some information on hunter familiars when we can. For now just treat him like you normally do and know he will come to your rescue.”

I dig back into my food and slowly the conversation starts back up around me. It's empty small talk until it turns to what we should do next. No one is sure how to handle the situation. There's not one single enemy to destroy. Both sides think we are an abomination. And we can't completely annihilate a whole race of hunters. We don't have the man power and the other supernaturals won't back us.

We need to come at it from another angle. I tune them out as they keep going. I hope Anna will be okay without me. Her life was completely changed and I'm not even there to work her through it. Once again, I think I'm the worst best friend ever, and she's the best.

I'm startled out of my thoughts by someone picking me up off the chair.

“We aren't going to settle anything tonight. Let's just snuggle our mate and watch a movie or play a game.

Something to enjoy our time together,” Kiran says before walking off with me.

He drops me down on the couch before pulling out movies from under the TV. I hear the dishes being cleared before they slowly trickle in as well. Jay lifts me up into his lap, Jax sits next to us and very politely Jer and Nic leave the other spot for Kiran.

They sit on the floor in front of us, so they can still be close.

Kiran holds up movie after movie as we decide. I think I’m enjoying this more than watching an actual movie.

He holds one up.

“Boo! Too sad,” Jay says in between nuzzling into my neck.

Another with aliens on it.

“Too weird,” Nic comments.

Jax stays quite, letting everyone else pick. I nudge him to get an option.

“What do you want to watch Jax?” I ask.

“I don’t care. I’m just happy to be together,” he answers.

I think it’s sweet but the other guys boo him. I lean in and give him a soft kiss to make up for it. I like his cheesiness.

He holds up one more movie with a sappy looking couple on the cover.

“That’s a chick flick,” Jeremy sounds affronted by the idea. So obviously, I use my mate powers to annoy him.

“Oh! Let’s watch that one!” I say enthusiastically.

Kiran doesn’t hesitate to put it in the player before joining us back on the couch. Jeremy rolls his eyes but I see a small smile peek through as well.

We all settle in and watch the romantic comedy. The guys throw in lots of commentary about how she shouldn’t have to choose, and she must not really love them both if she can. It’s adorable and makes me smile and laugh, which of course makes them keep doing it, it’s perfect.

Sixteen

Aly



I'm making coffees for everyone as we gather in the kitchen for breakfast. We've all been attached at the hip since reuniting and I'm not complaining.

Nic comes up behind me as I pour coffee grounds into the pot. He wraps his arms around my middle and sets his head on my shoulder. I lean back into him and soak up his presence.

Kiran comes over to steal a kiss, leaning around Nic to get to my lips. He leaves us to it after getting his prize and joins the others at the kitchen table.

Jay is cooking eggs at the stove top, it looks like scrambled. They smell delicious and my stomach growls in agreement.

"One of you should make toast," I say looking at Jax, Jeremy and Kiran at the table. I don't include Nic because I don't want to lose his warmth against my back.

He notices and chuckles before giving me a kiss behind my ear.

Jax hops up right away, always willing to help. Jay looks affronted as he stares at me. He opens his mouth, to protest I'm sure, but I cut him off.

“Jay, they should help. You don't have to do everything and Jax isn't going to mess up toast!”

Jay really thinks about it for a minute before nodding and turning back to the eggs. I'm shocked but happy he's willing to share his space with more than just me.

“You know that never would have happened before you, right?” Nic whispers.

Jay rolls his eyes, no doubt hearing Nic with his enhanced hearing.

“I would do anything to make my Aly Kat happy,” Jay responds.

I can feel a blush rising on my cheeks but luckily the coffee pot beeps, indicating it's done. I focus on that instead of the warmth in my cheeks from Jay's declaration.

I grab six mugs and fill them up before Nic helps me carry them to the table. I grab sugar and milk as well for anyone who wants some. I leave my coffee black as always.

Before I can sit down, Jeremy tugs me into his lap. He adjusts my position until we are both comfortable.

I've gotten so used to being in someone's lap all the time I'm pretty sure a chair would be uncomfortable now.

Jay brings the eggs over before dishing them on all our plates. It takes Jax another minute to finish the toast and join us. He even buttered all the bread.

I stand up off Jeremy's lap and move around the table until I'm next to Jax's seat. I give him a sweet smile, and he quickly sits before letting me join him. I snuggle into his lap and drop a kiss on his cheek.

My sweet Jax wants to take me on a date and basically court me before we got intimate or mated. He even saved himself for me, his mate. Unfortunately, things got insane before he could. Now we are on the run and I'm not sure how he wants to handle things but I'm going to corner him about it later.

I can't wait to be mated to him and I'm hoping he isn't planning on waiting until things are normal again. I want that connection with all of my guys. And yes, I want him. I want to know what he's like in bed. I'm horny for him and it's not something my other guys can cure.

"What the hell?" Jeremy complains, bringing me out of my fantasy of Jax's hands running down my body while he kisses my neck.

"Jax made the toast," I say simply.

Jax laughs behind me before giving me a squeeze. Jay slides my plate from next to Jeremy's over to my new spot.

I lean forward to grab my fork but Jax's hand on my stomach stops me. He presses against me lightly until I lean

back on his chest. He uses his fork to grab my eggs and bring a small bite to my mouth.

He stares in my eyes as I take a bite. He slowly pulls the fork out of my mouth. I'm pretty sure I combust right then and there from how hot that was.

I'm eye fucking him as he brings another bite to my lips. I can feel him growing hard under me and I know I'm soaking wet. I guess I wasn't the only one sitting here fantasizing.

I realize it's dead silent, so I reluctantly break eye contact with Jax to check on the rest of them. They're all frozen in place staring at Jax and I.

Nic's fork is stalled in midair, Jeremy and Jay's jaws are hanging open and Kiran looks so turned on he's in pain.

I give them a wink before turning back to Jax and opening my mouth. He has an honest to god smirk on his face and it's so fucking hot.

He resumes feeding me, and we put on a show while the rest of the guys watch. I'm about to say fuck it and pounce on Jax when he leans in and whispers in my ear, "Not yet Aly."

I groan and give him my best pout, but he just shakes his head before eating his own eggs. I lean back against him, snuggling in as close as I can get. I watch the boys slowly resume eating their own meals, which have no doubt gone cold, with sweet satisfaction. I love having this effect on them, it's only fair considering what they do to me.

"So what's the plan?" Jay breaks the tension by asking.

That sobers everyone up quickly.

“We need to know anything you can tell us Aly,” Nic says gently.

I take a deep breath and stare down at the wood of the table while I talk, “I was kept drugged up most of the time so honestly there isn’t that much to tell.”

I’m cut off by a low, menacing growl. I jerk my head up to see Jay looking furious, I’ve never seen him so angry. I glance around and see anger and sadness shining through the other guys as well. Is this what they felt like when I was gone?

I reach my hand across the table and rest it on Jay’s arm. He’s the most upset right now. “It’s okay, I can remember what happened and honestly it was nothing. They didn’t do anything to me.”

He calms down some but still looks furious.

“You guys won’t like this part,” I warn them, “they asked me how you all tricked me into believing we have a mate bond.”

Again, they react. White knuckles grip the table as swearing and growls erupt from them. It’s an insult to them and our bond to call it fake. I quickly continue.

“Obviously, I know it’s real. I didn’t understand why they were so adamant, why they couldn’t believe it. But memories kept coming back to me from my past. I was trained as a hunter, given all the knowledge of supernaturals and hunter culture but it was spelled away. It must have been different

from the other spell or it would have broken when Nic destroyed it. This one was only going to undo itself when I triggered my hunter gene. Anyways, now I remember that hunters don't believe they have mates. In their history, a hunter has never had one."

Their jaws are hanging open in shock. I know hunter culture is kept a secret but I didn't realize how very little they know.

"So they told me they were going to break the bonds and set me free," I hold my hand up before they can react, again. "That's when I knew I had to escape. They had given me a slightly smaller dose and the fear of losing my bonds was so strong, I could make a small plan. I skipped the next meal, and I was sober again. I attacked my parents and made my escape. But when I got outside, I was surrounded. An elder said I was sentenced to death and that's when my parents switched sides to help me. You know the rest"

There's stunned silence until Nic finally speaks up, "so they want you dead because you have mates, non hunter, supernatural mates to be exact?"

I nod my head yes.

"There's got to be more to it than that. We could be the first case, but they don't even want to know about it, which makes me think they already do," Jax muses.

"Already do?" Kiran asks.

“They know it’s possible, or they’ve seen it before, but they don’t want hunters or supernaturals to know. Imagine if it was possible, hunters may be less likely to kill us if their mates could be among us.”

I turn and give him a quick kiss and tell him, “you’re so smart.”

The cutest blush rises to his cheeks. He’s such a contradiction, he feeds me in front of everyone with a straight face but blushes at my compliment.

“We need proof,” Nic says.

I hesitate before saying, “we should go talk to my parents.”

Predictably, they explode.

“No fucking way!” Jeremy stands up and slams his hands against the table.

Jax’s arms tighten around me and Jay growls. Kiran looks terrified.

“We don’t want you by them again Aly,” Nic says firmly.

“I know, but they’re locked up with Nic’s parents and you’ll be with me. They are our best chance for information,” I reason.

“No!” Jeremy says before stalking off towards the bedrooms.

I sigh before standing up to follow him. I take a step but Kiran pulls me back. “Let him cool down some.”

I sit down, this time in my own chair.

“I love you guys and I’m enjoying our time here but I can’t live like this forever. We need all the information, so we can make a plan. Right now, we are sitting in the dark,” my voice bleeds sincerity and I make eye contact with each of them.

“Okay, we will all go to see them. I will reach out to my parents to make a plan. It might not be right away since we will need my dad Jonah to come get us,” Nic responds, leaning back in his chair.

“Thank you,” I whisper. I stare at where Jeremy disappeared contemplating how to make him understand.

“I’ll talk to him,” Nic says, standing up. He walks that way leaving me with Jax, Kiran and Jay.

“We just want you safe,” Jay says.

“I know, but in the long run, this is how to do it.”

He nods before standing up and grabbing my hand. He pulls me to the living room, probably to watch something. That’s what we’ve been doing while we hide here.

Jax and Kiran join us while Jay throws in a random movie. It drowns out the Jeremy’s yelling from the other room. I snuggle in with Kiran and hope Nic can get through to Jeremy.

Seventeen

Aly



“I have a way we can make everyone more comfortable going to see your parents and in general,” Jay says sounding eager.

“What’s that?” I ask, eager myself to get Jeremy off my back.

“I’m surprised he waited this long,” Kiran comments.

“Me too,” Jax agrees.

I’m confused, what are they talking about?

“What?” I ask.

Nic rolls his eyes. “I agree with Jay, this is good for us.”

“Can someone please tell me what we are talking about?” I beg.

Jay is bouncing on his toes. “Pack bond. We should add you to the pack bond!”

“Oh! Good idea Jay, I forgot about that.”

My agreement sets him off, and he swoops in and picks me up, spinning me around the room, saying, “woot woot.”

“Why are you so excited?” I ask him once he sets me down.

“The pack bond is a shifter thing and my wolf has been dying for you to join it.”

If he wanted this so bad we should have done it sooner. Jay is so easy going sometimes I forget he has his own wants and needs.

I wrap my arms around him and snuggle into his chest. “Let’s do it then! How do we add me?”

He’s vibrating with energy, I’m so glad we are doing this.

“Well, normally the bite when we mated would be enough but since this isn’t a normal pack, it actually takes combining magic from each of the existing members and you.”

That reminds me of something important I learned when my memories came back.

“Speaking of magic from each of the existing members, why didn’t you guys explain that there are different subsets of demons and mages? Like the fact that vampires exist would have been helpful!”

They look sheepish, all of them avoiding eye contact with me.

“There was so much to tell you, we didn’t get to it all. Sorry Aly we should have,” Kiran says.

I think about holding a grudge, it was important information they held back but instead I decide to give them

the benefit of the doubt. They were doing what they thought was best. I smile, “it’s okay, I forgive you. This has all been a lot to navigate for all of us.”

Jay gets his energy back immediately staring at me with big puppy dog eyes.

“Okay let’s do this!” I say.

“It was very complicated to form since we aren’t all shifters. We had to research it when we decided to form it in the first place. I need the bond to help my wolf feel secure and stable so the guys all agreed.”

I smile at all of them. Of course they did, they all love each other so much. And me, I’m not smug at all about that though.

“Okay, what do you need from me?” I ask.

Jay smiles at my eagerness like I’m perfect and I love that look. I want to be on the receiving end of that smile every day.

“Not much from you, just blood.”

Nic materializes a knife from thin air and even though I know he’s a mage, it’s still crazy. He pricks my finger and I hold it out to him, but he turns my hand until I’m facing Jay. I assumed it was a spell but I should have realized this is Jay’s thing.

“The guys will channel their magic through me and you and I will blood share. It’s a lot simpler to add someone to the bond than form one,” Jay explains.

There's a lot to do with blood in the supernatural community. Good thing I'm not squeamish.

I keep my hand presented to Jay while the other guys gather around him and press their hands to his body in various places. Kiran and Jax are sharing his right arm while Jeremy has his left, Nic puts his hand on the back of his neck. Seems like they all need a spot of bare skin.

I can see the moment they push their energy into Jay because his body starts vibrating with energy. His eyes open and I can almost see pieces of all five of them in his eyes. There is the yellow of his wolf, dark and light green from the twins, swirling amber from Nic and fiery black from Jeremy. I love it, I wish I could bottle the mixture for myself to have every day.

Jay brings his hand up to his mouth, I don't realize he's pricking his own finger on a wolf fang until I see the blood. He reaches forward to grab my hand and presses the fingers together.

I feel the moment it works, it's like their magic all rushes into me at once. I have pieces of each of them already, but they all came separately. I feel so perfectly connected to all of them and completely whole.

As soon as it comes, it rushes back out of me and to the original owners.

That was incredible.

It really was. It sounds like Jay's voice in my head and I jump in shock. Is this what it's like to mental talk?

Yes. Kiran's voice is full of laughter even in my head.

I shoot my eyes up to see they're all fighting back laughter.

"How do I stop sharing every thought?" I demand.

They all hesitate but of course Jax steps up to help me.

"You need to build a mental wall in your head. You should be able to feel where the pack bond is in your head, build the wall between there and your own thoughts. Then when you want to speak through it, send that one thought through your wall."

I follow Jax's directions and once it feels solid I test it out.

Can you hear this?

I watch Jax because I know he won't pretend he couldn't. The rest of them would love to hear my every thought.

Then I send one through the wall. *Can you hear this?*

They all nod and I smile.

"This is amazing!" I shout.

Jay is absolutely ecstatic and I'm so glad we did this. He picks me up and spins me around before pulling me into a deep, toe curling kiss.

"Thank you," he whispers against my lips.

I smile against his before whispering, "anything for you."

He gives me a very dirty smile then throws me over his shoulder and walks out of the room.

“Jay!” I shout.

“Sorry Aly, I need you now. Badly.” He sounds pained.

Jay flips me over, off his shoulder and onto the bed. In an instant he’s hovering over me and licking at his bite on my neck. Every touch sends tingles down my spine and heat right to my center. Mating marks are the best.

I press my hand against where I know my mark is on him. He groans against my neck before tightening his grip on my hips. He lowers his body, so I can feel his incredibly hard dick against me.

I sneak a hand between us and grip him. I try to pump him but there’s not enough room for movement. He grabs my hands and pins them above my head, stopping my efforts.

He focuses back in on my mark, devoting all his attention to lavishing it. I’m about to come from the attention, that’s how sensitive it is, when he pulls back. I whine and he laughs at my expense.

“Trust me, I’ll take care of you. You gave me everything I wanted today, I’m going to make you come so hard you see stars,” he promises.

I shiver at his words, wondering what he’s going to do next.

He presses down on my hands above my head. “Keep these here Aly Kat. Got it?”

I nod, and he grabs the edges of my shirt and rips it right down the middle. I should complain since we have limited clothes but it was way too hot to ruin with words. He makes quick work of shredding my pants with his claws and rips my panties off as well until I'm completely bared to him. He admires his handy work before kissing down my body.

He lifts my legs and I stare in his eyes as he kisses down one leg then the other. He starts at my ankle, licking and biting his way up to my core, leaving marks all over me. He gets to my thigh before moving to the other leg. I'm squirming for his attention, but he takes his time, making sure each spot is lavished.

He licks behind my knee and I never realized how sensitive that spot is. I love every time his teeth sink into me, he was so right when he said I would crave his bites. The pure possession behind them is hot as fuck.

I'm struggling to keep my hands from reaching down and pulling him right where I want him.

He leans over my pussy and blows air directly on my wetness, making me shiver. I think he's about to finally kiss me where I want him to but instead he starts licking up my stomach.

I groan and can't even stop my hands from grabbing his hair. He stops immediately and stares up at me in disappointment.

“Aly Kat, don't interrupt me. I'm marking you up all nice and pretty so everyone knows who you belong to.”

I groan, my pussy clenching around air at his words. He waits until I put my hands back up before he starts working again. He makes his way up my stomach, skipping my breasts and working on my arms.

He sucks each of my fingers into his hot mouth and I feel thoroughly owned by him.

He leans back and examines his masterpiece. I can feel all the marks forming on my body and his smile tells me how much he loves this.

Jay leans forward and sinks his teeth into the swell of one breast, then the other, before finally moving down to my pussy.

He does one long lick and I almost cry at the feeling after so much teasing. He does it again before swirling his tongue around my clit. He gently bites down and sucks it into his mouth, flicking his tongue around it as he goes.

I scream out and come even though my pussy feels so empty. He gives me a smug wink before pushing his tongue into me and twisting it around.

“Fuck! Jay!” I shout.

“You taste so damn good Aly Kat, I could eat you for every meal.”

Sounds good but I think that might kill me. He fucks me with his tongue until I’m on the edge again so when he presses against my clit with his thumb, I go off.

“Jay, fuck me, please.” I’m begging but I need him.

“One more Aly Kat, one more,” he says as he plunges his fingers into me.

He curls them over and over until he makes me come screaming again.

I’m panting and I might have blacked out because when I open my eyes it’s to Jay leaning over me as he lies on the bed.

His smile is so smug as he stares at me. I’m pretty sure my smile is pure bliss as I lay here.

I sit up some and lean forward to kiss him, but he pulls back before saying, “if you kiss me I won’t be able to help myself, and we should go back out there.”

“You won’t let me take care of you?” I ask, my voice husky as I reach for his cock.

He groans, running a hand down his face. “Trust me I want to let you but I stole you away after something big, so we should go back out.”

He stands up and pulls me with him. My legs are a little wobbly but I manage to walk back out there.

The guys are all sitting around the living room and as soon as they see us, they glare at Jay. He plays it off well, with a smile, but he must fear retaliation because he gives me puppy dog eyes and says, “make them forgive me.”

I laugh and go sit with Kiran whose expression looks the saddest. I sit in his lap and nuzzle into his neck. He deflates immediately and focuses on me instead of Jay.

“That’s only one!” Jay complains.

“There’s only one of me!” I say without leaving Kiran’s neck. I feel incredibly close to all of them after completing the pack bond.

They all grumble but no one stays on it long. I’m passed around all night for cuddles and by the end I don’t think anyone is upset.

I’m a lucky girl.

Eighteen

Jeremy



It takes three days for Nic's dad to be available. Three days I spent trying to convince Aly this is a bad idea. She doesn't need to see them again, even if they are her parents. I didn't even see her get taken since I was basically dead on the ground and I can't handle it, how are the guys? He's coming to pick us up in five minutes, so I make one last attempt.

“Two of us could go and you could stay here safe with the other three.”

Aly turns around and rolls her eyes at me. All the guys are standing around her in a protective circle, I'm not sure they realize they've formed it. We are all on edge after everything we've been through.

“We've already talked about this a million times. They'll talk to me even if it's bullshit about breaking my bonds. They'll want to convince me and that means learning what they know. It has to be me. And we completed the pack bond, so we can communicate without them knowing.” She stares into my almost black eyes and implores me to accept this.

I know there's nothing to be done as Nic's dad, Mr. Ashford appears out on the lawn. We shuffle outside to meet him.

"Are you kids sure about this?" He asks.

Nic responds before anyone else can. "It needs to be done. Thanks for coming."

His dad pats him on the arm. I step up right behind Aly. I might be mad but I know she's hardly ever traveled like this and I want to be here for her.

I get the horrible sensation in my gut before we quickly appear outside the edge of Nic's family property. I catch Aly when she stumbles, pulling her upright. I don't let go until I know she's stable.

In front of us is a broken down hut on the outside. I know on the inside is where they are keeping her parents. It's spelled to be impenetrable, utilizing multiple powers from the family of mages.

"You ready?" Kiran asks her.

She straightens her posture and cracks her knuckles before responding, "let's do it."

Nic's dad leads the way, opening the door with a muttered spell. We all step inside before he locks it behind us.

Her parents are caged in behind what I know are magic bars. The Ashfords have thought of everything when it comes to containing captives.

They look bad, tired and dirty laying there. They don't even glance up when we enter until Aly clears her throat.

Both of them shoot up into a standing position before rushing the bars.

"Aly!" Her mom yells, sounding relieved.

Aly takes a step closer to the bars but I grab her and pull her against my body. I don't want her closer to the people who took her from me.

"Let her go!" Her dad screams at me.

Aly steps back tighter against my body when I stiffen. I know Aly was expecting this but it's still difficult to witness.

"Mom, dad, he's my mate. Please try to relax."

They both stiffen in response to Aly's words. They examine everyone gathered in the room, postures stiff and threatening. I imagine they're deciding how to handle this situation.

"Aly, please. They can't be your mates. It's not possible. They're tricking you. Look at us, they have us chained up here," her mom tries to reason.

Aly takes a small step forward but I follow her.

"Mom, why do you say that? Why can't you believe they're my mates?" Aly sounds concerned and interested. I almost believe she would believe them if their reasoning was sound enough but I know my girl.

“It’s not possible, that’s why. Hunters do *not* have mates. In our entire history it has never happened. When we told the elders about you, they insisted it wasn’t possible.” Her mom’s expression is genuine, she truly believes that’s the truth.

“Are the elders always right?” Nic asks.

They both continue staring at Aly, not acknowledging Nicoli. There’s silence as we wait for an answer, but they continue ignoring him.

“Don’t ignore him, are the elders always right?” Aly asks.

This time her dad actually answers the question. “They’ve never been wrong, because they hold the history of our species. You need to trust them.”

So they trust their elders implicitly with no doubt.

“Couldn’t we be the first?” Jax asks quietly.

Again, they ignore him until Aly repeats the question, “couldn’t we be the first?”

“That’s pretty self-absorbed of you to think you’re special. In thousands of years of our species this has never happened but you’re the exception,” her mom says, sounding condescending.

No one says anything in response. We know our bond is legitimate whether they believe it or not.

Can you believe them? Kiran asks through the bond.

No, they’re disgusting with their closed minds, Jay responds.

Do we have any more questions? Aly asks.

It's incredible hearing her voice in my head. Adding her to the pack bond was the best thing we've done, besides mating her obviously.

No, Nic responds.

Aly nods before taking a deep breath. "Mom, dad, thank you for helping me in the end. I know you love me but until you can accept my choice and my men, I can't let you go. I'm sorry but I'll be back to visit."

Then she turns around and walks out before waiting for a response. We all follow her, Nic's dad unlocks the door to get us out and reseals it behind him, keeping them in.

Aly turns to him. "I still love them. They're my parents, and they're being horrible but I believe they can change."

Dad Jonah gives her a sympathetic smile before saying, "I understand. We will take good care of them until that time comes. You are, of course, welcome back here any time."

"Thank you," Aly responds.

She's not coming back here without me, that's for sure. I wish she didn't want to come back at all but I know I can't keep her from her parents. I have to let Aly make her own choices and try to keep her safe along the way. I don't want to stifle her.

Nic's dad transports us away from the shack and back to the cottage. This time, Kiran makes sure Aly is okay during the trip, but she's already handling it better.

“Before you go,” Aly starts, catching him from leaving, “one of my powers as a hunter is teleportation. Would you be able to show me how yours works?”

His eyes flare in shock, but he quickly recovers, “of course, it may be different from your own process but I can show you mine.”

Kiran, Jay, Jax and I move away from them and settle into the grass to observe. Nic stays close to keep watch and offer guidance as his dad explains the process to Aly.

“If she could teleport us on her own it would be invaluable,” Jax comments.

“And she would be able to get out of a dangerous situation quickly,” Jay adds.

“Plus, it’s super bad ass and sexy,” Kiran says chuckling.

I don’t add to the commentary but I completely agree with all three of them. I hope Aly can learn this from him. I don’t know what her other powers are but hopefully it’s something someone we know, knows how to do too. I don’t want her going back to her parents for anything.

Nineteen

Aly



Jonah is an amazing teacher. He is so patient with me as I try to convert how he uses his powers into a way to use mine. If I can learn how to transport places then we won't have to rely on him. It'll be great for us.

“So I need to know where I'm going, but how?” I ask.

Nic is standing next to me patiently as we try to work though this. I can feel his confidence in me through the bond and it's the push I need to try.

“Hmm, I just know the name or give it a name. Then I push myself toward it. Give that a try,” Nic's dad suggests.

I search the area and decide I should try for the tree a few feet away. I know I can't do anything closer to the cabin because of the protections they have here.

I say tree over and over in my head as I push myself toward it but nothing happens. I don't feel anything and I don't move an inch. Nic sends a way of confidence my way and I steel my resolve to try again.

“It didn't work but I'm going to keep trying,” I tell them.

I keep going, pushing myself toward the tree, I even try saying it aloud.

“Tree, tree, tree. Tree! Damn it!”

I open my eyes and grimace. They give me a sympathetic look.

“It’s not working. When my parents talked about this power they said everyone’s ability is different. Maybe I should try something else.”

I think through the possibilities, I could use the coordinates or maybe picture it. The visual is easier and it resonates with me, so I’ll try that first.

I picture the tree, the way the bark looks and how the leaves sway in the breeze. I feel a small tugging sensation in my stomach but it quickly disappears.

It felt like I was being pulled in that direction, not that I was pushing myself there. I imagine the scene I’ve created in my head is pulling me towards it, that it wants me there.

I get a stronger sensation in my gut and I feel almost weightless before I’m slammed back to the ground. I fall on my knees but when I open my eyes I realize I’m not next to Nic and his dad anymore. I’m by the tree!

“I did it!” I shout and Nic’s responding smile is dazzling, his perfect jawline standing out in the sun.

“Yes you did!” He sounds proud and I feel like a million bucks.

I get up off my knees and try to go back to them. I picture Nic standing there waiting for me with that perfect smile and when I feel a small pull I go with it.

This time I stay on my feet, something I'm pretty damn proud of.

I do it a few more times, trying different areas of the forest until I feel like I've got the hang of it. I feel like a pro at transporting myself. I can feel the drain from using my powers but so far it's not bad.

When I land back next to them again they both look so excited for me.

"I think you should try taking Nicoli with you," his dad suggests.

"How do you take people with you?" I ask.

"I push them to the location as well, like I push myself but I grab those around me."

I close my eyes and imagine the tree a few feet away. When I start to feel the tugging sensation I imagine pulling Nic with me too. I imagine both of us landing over by the tree. It takes more strength and energy than just moving myself but after a few seconds I feel the swirling in my stomach.

Before I can even open my eyes, arms are wrapping around me and lifting me up. "You did it!"

He brings his lips to mine and swallows my response, slipping his tongue inside my mouth. He caresses me before

lifting me up in his arms, I wrap my legs around him, lost in the moment.

He bites down on my bottom lip but before it can go any further a cough interrupts us and brings me back to reality.

“Oh shit,” I whisper against his lips as we break apart.

Nic looks behind me sheepishly before shouting, “sorry dad!”

Luckily, he laughs us off, not concerned by our display. “It’s fine. I just wanted to say goodbye, I should get back to your mother. Good job Aly, you’re a natural.”

We walk over to his dad and give him a hug before he leaves. As soon as he disappears, Nic wraps me back up in his arms and walks back out to the trees. I check behind us but the other guys must have gone inside.

He presses my back into a tree, a little away from the cottage. I can feel how hard he is right now as he presses his length **against** me.

I start squirming in his arms to get some friction.

“Nic,” I groan as he starts kissing down my neck.

“I’m so proud of you.”

He unbuttons my jeans but when there’s not enough room to get to me he presses me against the tree with his hips and rips my jeans down the seam. He takes one look at my panties before ripping those off as well and shoving them in his pocket.

He teases my pussy with his fingers and I know he can feel how wet I am, I'm dripping for him.

He doesn't waste time, pumping his fingers in and out of me until I'm on the verge of coming for him. He curls his fingers until he's hitting that perfect spot in me and when he presses his thumb down against my clit I whimper from holding my climax back.

His smirk is evil when he hears my whimper, looking down at me like the god he is. "Problem Princess?"

"Nic, please!" I'm trying not to whine, but he's wrecking me.

"Come." He sucks on the soft spot behind my ear as he says it and I lose myself in the feeling of coming all over his fingers. He destroys me.

I lose some of my strength, but he holds me up in his arms when I can't.

I feel him readjusting himself until I feel the hot skin of his tip pressing against me.

"Take your shirt off," he demands and I listen. I lift my shirt off over my head and toss it to the side.

Returning the favor of all the clothes they've destroyed of mine, I reach forward and rip his shirt in half, revealing his sexy, toned chest.

"Fuck that was so hot Aly. Now let me fuck you like a good girl."

He thrusts into me in one long stroke pulling a scream from my chest. His cocky smile gets me hotter as he starts to move in me.

He fucks me brutally until I'm on the edge for him once again. He brings his fingers into the mix as they play with my wetness dripping down him.

He waits until I'm sweating from holding my orgasm back for him to press his finger against my tight back hole. When he pushes into me he looks me straight in the eyes and demands, "come."

He uses my orgasm as an opportunity to stretch my ass out for him. Working two fingers in before scissoring. Every movement against those nerves makes my orgasm go on and on.

When I finally come down he's staring at me with heated eyes as he slowly pulls out of me. He lines up with my ass before pushing inside, using my come as lubricant.

He slowly enters me, never breaking eye contact.

He thrusts in over and over, wrapping his arms tight around me as he presses into all my nerves.

"I love owning your body Princess," he practically growls in my ear and I do feel completely owned by him.

He presses down on my clit and wrings out the last of my pleasure. I can feel how tight I'm clenching down on his cock as he starts coming inside of me.

“You destroy me,” he whispers in my ear as I collapse on top of him.

I rest my head against his shoulder as he runs his fingers up and down my back. I play with his perfect hair, messing it up, but he doesn't complain. He holds me tight to his chest as he starts walking back to the house.

“I love you Aly, so much.”

I give him a squeeze, as much as I can muster when my limbs feel like jelly.

“I love you Nicoli, thank you for being my mate.”

He kisses the top of my head as we make it to the front door, he uses one hand to open it and strides inside.

I hear a wolf whistle from my very own wolf but I just roll my eyes.

“Damn, I guess training went well,” Kiran adds.

Nic laughs and I love how happy he sounds right now.

“Aly is taking a nap to recharge but when she wakes up she's going to practice transporting more of us. She was able to do herself and me.”

“I need the nap because you exhausted me but honestly my magic reserves aren't that low,” I say.

No one says anything but I can practically hear them all thinking from here.

Nic gets us to the door of the bedroom before Jax responds, “some species have the ability to recharge with

outside forces like positive emotions for me or negative for Kiran. Maybe you have a way too.”

That’s absolutely something we need to figure out but right now I just want to fall asleep wrapped around my mage.

I give Jax a small smile in thanks before Nic leaves the main room. He shuts the door behind him and positions me just how he wants me as he snuggles me.

Twenty

Jax



I finish setting things up and try to push my butterflies down. I walk out into the main area to see Aly hanging out with Kiran and Jeremy. Nic and Jay are chatting in the kitchen while Jay cleans up after dinner. Normally, I would offer to clean up and Jay would deny me but tonight I was too busy to even try.

I clear my throat from the edge of the living room and Aly's eyes shoot up to mine. Kiran gives me a knowing smirk from his spot next to Aly and takes the chance before she's gone to give her a kiss. She looks a little dazed as her focus returns to me. She raises an eyebrow in question.

“Can I borrow you Aly?” I ask trying to sound strong and confident. My confidence has increased ten-fold since meeting Aly but I'm still nervous about this. I think anyone, even my over confident brother would be.

“Of course,” she says, wiggling her way out from between those two. She walks up to me with a shy smile and grabs my hand.

I love that my strong, confident mate gets nervous about my attention. It makes me feel like she cares about me and what happens between us. Plus, it's adorable.

“What's up Ajax?” She asks, using my full name. She does that, switching back and forth between Ajax and Jax. For some reason when she uses my full name, I always feel a blush forming on my cheeks.

“I was wondering if you would go on a date with me?” I ask.

She looks confused but still happy and blushing. “Of course, I already said I would. I hate that we are stuck here instead of getting to but you didn't have to ask again.”

I smile, glad to be surprising her.

“Actually, I meant right now.”

Her smile grows as she notices my outfit. Obviously Nic didn't pack anything that nice for us but I showered and wore nicer clothes than sweatpants for her.

“Okay,” she whispers, squeezing my hand.

I turn and head towards the back door, pulling her behind me as I go. I open the door and gesture for her to go first. I follow behind her, wrapping my arms around her from behind.

She stands there taking it all in. I've laid out a blanket in the middle of the yard with some pillows on it. I couldn't find roses, so I sprinkled some other petals from the surrounding yard. I had to work with what I had here. There are some

strawberries and melted chocolate sitting in a bowl but I don't think she can see those from here.

She's silent for so long I'm worried I messed up somehow until she turns around and practically tackles me in a hug. I barely stay upright as I clutch her to my chest, one hand on her head and the other helping to hold her up.

She leans back and kisses me with soft tears running down her cheek. I use my free hand to wipe them away.

"Are these happy tears?" I ask.

She beams and kisses me again before responding, "the happiest. Thank you Jax, you're amazing."

I lean in and press my forehead to hers, brushing our noses together. I stare into her perfect chocolate eyes as I whisper, "anything for you. I wanted it to be perfect."

I walk forward with her still in my arms before slowly lowering us to the blankets. I make sure she's settled before grabbing the strawberries and offering her one.

She takes a bite and let's out the sexiest damn moan before taking another. It makes me fucking hard but I try to control myself. I don't even think she knows she's doing it. When she finishes the strawberry, she has chocolate on her face, it's adorable.

I give a soft chuckle. "May I?" I ask before leaning in to kiss the chocolate away. Her mouth tastes like the perfect mixture of strawberries, chocolate and Aly. I flick her tongue with mine before pulling back.

“Sometimes you are so damn sensual,” she tells me.

I smile, I know she means compared to my shy self. “You bring it out in me Aly.”

She smiles at that before eating another strawberry.

“So, how did you think of this?” She asks me.

Hopefully she thinks this is sweet, not creepy. “I actually had some help with the idea. This is the date my dad brought my mom on when they were in hiding here at the cottage.”

Her smile is huge, so I guess I didn’t mess up by telling her. “That’s so sweet, and you recreated it for me!”

“Ya, this date means something to my family and you mean everything to me, so why wouldn’t I?”

This time she leans in to kiss me before offering me a strawberry. I take a bite and the flavors explode across my tongue.

“How are you doing after seeing your parents today?” I ask. I want to check in on her, I know today was hard.

She sighs, “it was difficult but I meant what I said, they need to come to terms with things before we can have a relationship. I’m not over of the fact that they handed me over to those monsters.”

That reminds me of something.

“There’s more,” I say when she’s finished the strawberries, offering multiple to me. Honestly, I would rather watch her eat them.

“Ya?” She asks.

“Ya,” I confirm before laying back on the blanket, resting my head on a pillow. She follows suit until we are staring up at the stars. It’s a beautiful, clear night. I checked before picking tonight for our date.

The stars are beautiful as they shine in the sky for us. I turn to watch her taking in the stars. She’s radiant as she marvels over their beauty but nothing compares to hers.

She catches me staring, so I reluctantly turn back to the sky. I know a lot about the constellations and astrology, something I want to use to impress Aly.

“Want to hear about them?” I ask.

She snuggles in next to me and I wrap my arm around her. Her warmth seeps into me from all the places we’re touching.

“Yes please!”

I give a soft laugh at her enthusiasm before starting from the beginning.

“So to find them, you start with the North Star. It’s the brightest star up there.” I point but it’s hard to show her that way.

“Yes, I see it,” she confirms.

“Okay the North Star is the tip of the Little Dipper. Do you know what that one looks like?”

“Yes and I see it.”

I help her make her way from there to the Perseus and Andromeda constellations. They're harder to spot, but we see them eventually.

“So the story of Perseus and Andromeda starts with Perseus defeating Medusa, he kills her. On his way home he sees a beautiful woman chained up to a rock next to the sea. He rescues her and finds out her parents did it. They chained her to the rock to die for their own sins. She was a sacrifice.

He fell in love with her immediately and killed the sea monster waiting to eat her. He took her away from there and their love is immortalized in the stars. Even though her parents betrayed her, she found a new family with him.”

I smile as she processes my story, staring at the constellations.

“Okay I get it, especially if Perseus was five guys. You all are my family and I love you.”

“We love you too Aly.”

She rolls on top of me, sealing her lips to mine. It starts slow before I grab the back of her head and press her lips closer to mine. I brush my tongue against her plump lower lip and groan from her sweet taste.

She breaks our kiss and moves down to my neck. She licks and sucks her way from one side to the other. My hands are pressed firmly against her back, so I can feel every inch of her.

She leans back, breaking the kiss and I catch my breath as I stare at her. How did I ever get so lucky?

“Do you have another story for me?” She asks as she rolls off me and cuddles in against me again.

“Well, I love the story of the Gemini twins.”

She snuggles in deeper as I press a kiss against her temple.

“Will you tell it to me?”

“Of course, so there were these twins but one was immortal and the other wasn't. They were best friends, fought all their battles together and people came to them for help because of their dual personalities. One brother was strong and brave while the other was an intellectual who could solve any problem. Sound familiar?”

She giggles, “well I think you're strong and Kiran is smart but yes I see your point.”

“Well the mortal brother died and the immortal brother was so heart broken he asked Zeus to take his immortality away, so he could die and be with his brother. Zeus was so touched, he gave the other brother eternal life.”

I direct her to the Gemini constellation, so she can see it.

“Is that how you feel about Kiran?” She asks me.

“I love my brother, there's only one thing more important to me in this world and that's you Aly.”

“Oh Jax.” She kisses me again before pulling me on top of her.

We've had the perfect date and I think it's time I tell her.

“I’m ready Aly, if you want me I’m already yours, but we can make it official. I want to mate you, I want to be with you forever and I want to cement our bond.”

Twenty One

Jax



Jax just told me he's ready and I'm swooning. Except now that it's time, and he's confident, I'm nervous. I want this to be perfect for him and us. But there's no way I'm turning this chance down because of nerves.

"I'm ready too Jax," I whisper.

I thread my fingers through his golden hair, tugging on it softly. I press my lips to his as he holds himself up with his arms, gently pressing his body against mine. I can feel how hard he is already and thanks to Kiran I already have a visual of how big he really is.

I lift my hips pressing into him, and he groans before breaking the kiss. He starts sucking and kissing the skin right below my ear that drives me crazy.

I pull on his shirt, and he sits up to strip it off. His incredible body is revealed to me and I want more. I give him a look then point to his pants. I watch his abs ripple as he pulls them off.

He smirks before saying, "You too."

I take my shirt off, almost ripping it in my haste. Then I unbutton my pants and slowly push them down my legs. I'm in black panties and no bra because I wasn't dressed up for anything when he grabbed me.

He's staring at me like I'm the sexiest thing he's ever seen. He leans back down to kiss me again, threading his fingers through my hair. He kisses down my neck, sucking and licking as he goes. He keeps going down, licking the hollow of my throat before sucking a nipple into his mouth.

He flicks my nipple with his tongue before releasing me with a pop and continuing down. He kisses my stomach and swirls his tongue around my belly button

He kneels between my legs, staring at my wet lips, ready for him.

"Jax, you don't have..." I start but he cuts me off.

"Shh, beautiful, I want to do this so bad it's unreal so lay back and enjoy. Tell me what you like or don't like, so I can make this amazing for you," he demands.

Fuck, I love that he's not pretending he will be perfect but giving me permission to make it that way.

He slowly flicks his tongue across my clit, incredibly gently. I let him go for a little, teasing me before I demand more from him.

"More Jax, please!"

He follows my command immediately as he seals his lips to my clit and sucks hard making me moan his name. He

combines the two motions, flicking my clit as he keeps suction on it.

He releases me before moving down and spears his tongue inside me, using it to fuck me before moving back to my clit and adding his fingers to the mix. He plays with me while thrusting his fingers. Somehow he knows just how to set me off and I'm thanking the fact that I have other mates he could talk to when he blows on my clit and curls his fingers inside me, setting me off.

I scream his name as he works me through my orgasm, wringing every drop of pleasure from me he can.

When he moves back away from me I spring forward and grab his face, kissing the hell out of him. I can taste myself on his lips and it's sexy as hell.

I push him down and climb on top of him, my knees on either side of his hips. I grind down on top of him and I can feel how big my smile is. I love this moment with my Jax.

I lean forward and kiss down his neck, sucking on his ear before giving it a little bite.

His hands land on my hips, his grip tight and punishing as he grinds me down on his cock.

"Aly, beautiful, I want you so bad," he groans.

I take pity on him, lifting off of him, so I can line up properly. I feel his tip pressing into my core.

"Are you sure Jax?" I whisper.

He beams up at me. “Aly, I’ve never been more sure of anything in my life.”

I take him at his word and slowly push down onto him.

“Fuck!” He groans as he experiences these sensations for the first time. I love that I get this with him.

I should be used to his size thanks to Kiran but there’s still a burn as I take him in. I settle my hands on his chest as I bounce up and down on top of him, I can see my pleasure reflected on his face and it’s so fucking hot.

I go slow at first, letting him get used to the sensation, but he doesn’t let me. He flips us over, landing on top of me as he takes control. He pounds into me, keeping an even pace.

“Fuck, beautiful. You are everything I ever dreamed of.”

“Thank you for waiting for me Jax,” I whisper, leaning up to kiss him, hoping he feels how sincere I am.

He reaches down to tweak my clit as he keeps an even rhythm, I can feel how close I am to the edge but I want to take him with me.

I wrap my legs around his back, pulling him closer to me and bite his bottom lip before sucking on it. I feel him stutter in his motions before picking up the pace.

He pulls hard on my clit and I come around him, scraping my nails down his back from the pleasure. He finishes in me, and we hold each other for a minute before he rolls off of me.

I snuggle up to his side, and he grabs my hand, kissing my knuckles.

He starts chanting in another language, I'm assuming fae and a small wisp of light leaves him and comes to me. It winds around my arm, almost playing with the mark from Kiran before settling opposite his. His light green vine crisscrosses with Kiran's hunter green vine, and they form figure eights down my arm. It pulses with energy with Jax and I finally feel complete.

I watch my mark form on his chest, he reaches down and traces it with a look of awe on his face.

I feel him deep in my soul, his love for me and his awe at my love for him.

All of my marks flare and an overwhelming sense of completeness comes over me. I feel the awe from all of my mates as they experience the same. Each of my mate marks lift off my body, surrounding me and almost playing with each other before settling back on my body.

We lay there taking in the moment when he rolls on top of me and kisses my throat. I can feel his length pressing against me, ready for round two and I'm shocked.

“You want me again Jax?” I ask.

He responds by kissing me, devouring my lips with his. That's all the answer I need, but he gives me more. “Aly, you're all I ever want. I've never loved anyone like I love you. Thank you for bonding with me.”

He gently strokes the hair away from my face, leaning in to kiss me again. When he opens his mouth, his tongue dances across mine and I get lost in his lips.

He pushes into me, his massive dick hitting all my sweet spots with every thrust as he takes control of my body.

His hand slowly moves down my face before landing under my chin, he tips my face up, so he has a better angle to kiss me. When he lightly presses against my throat, my orgasm takes me by complete surprise.

I wrap my limbs as tightly around him as I can, pulling him into my body as he makes love to me under the stars.

* * *

I wake up surrounded by warmth on both sides and arms wrapped around me. I scoot backwards pressing my body into Jax as he sleeps peacefully behind me. He grunts a little when I do it again but based on his breathing he's still asleep.

“If you're looking for attention from a Stone twin, I'm right here,” Kiran whispers cheekily as he presses his body to my front. He presses our noses together as he stares down at me. “Morning baby.”

“Good morning Kiran, how did you sleep?” I ask.

“Good once I joined you two. I sleep better when I'm with my baby.” He moves his head side to side rubbing the tip of his nose against mine as he talks.

I mold my body closer to his until I can feel every hard inch of him against me and part of him is definitely hard.

“Kiran!” I try to sound flirty as I say it and if the dirty smile I get in response is any indication, I’m successful.

“Sorry Aly, seeing Jax wrapped around you, knowing you’re mated, that he’s had you, it’s hot. It’s like getting to see myself with my girl, every dream come true. Well not every dream.” He winks at me as he leans down to kiss me, pressing me back into Jax.

His tongue tangles with mine as his hand slides up my naked body, I never put clothes on last night after Jax finally carried me to bed. His hand finds my chest, and he palms me before sucking on my lower lip.

I groan as he tweaks a nipple, making me jump. He keeps pressing me into Jax and making me grind against him, he’s probably going to wake up any minute.

Lips on my neck confirm my theory as Jax’s arms wrap tighter around me.

“This is a fun wake up call,” Jax whispers.

Oh fuck is this hot. They have me pressed so tightly between them every time I move I’m grinding against someone. Based on the two hard-ons pressing into me, they’re enjoying it.

“You know, I have always wanted to do this with Ajax, but for obvious reasons you’ll be the only girl to enjoy this,” Kiran whispers against my lips before diving back in.

Jax grabs my chin and pulls me away from his brother, stealing my lips for himself. His hand covers my cheek as he gives me a deep, soulful kiss. I'm shocked Jax is ready to take this step but maybe he's been thinking about this as long as his brother has.

Kiran slides down the bed until he can suck on my nipple as his brother devours my lips.

"Only girl," Jax confirms.

Jax's hand snakes down between us and starts lightly rubbing my clit, making me squirm, when there is a knock on the door.

"Come on love birds, I know you're awake! I want to talk about our plan!" Jay sounds eager and I doubt he would be interrupting us if it wasn't important.

Kiran groans and Jax presses his forehead into my neck.

"To be continued," Jax whispers before rolling out of bed.

Kiran gives me one last kiss before joining his brother in getting dress.

I flop down on the bed in frustration, this conversation better be good!

Twenty Two

Jay



I have a crazy idea and I'm honestly not sure how it's going to go over. Normally, I would leave the plans to Nic and now Aly but I know we are all stumped on what to do next.

I know my role, it's about bringing comfort and joy but since losing Aly I can't help but want to be more. I want to be deserving of her and the bond we share and I absolutely want to help keep her safe. That has been my top priority since meeting her and the urge grows stronger every day.

I am so gone for this girl.

We are all sitting around the kitchen table throwing around any idea we can think of. I've gathered everyone but I want to know if anyone else has thought of something before I share my thoughts.

Jeremy suggests fighting every hunter he can but Aly thinks it's wrong to decimate an entire race. I agree, especially since making Aly and any pups we have one day the survivors of a race still puts them in danger. Jax points out the obvious

that killing them all would be impossible but I wouldn't put it past Jeremy to find a way.

Kiran wants to stay here forever or at least until focus shifts off us but Nic shoots him down immediately. He knows how badly Aly wants to finish school and be with Anna. Kiran knows too, he just wants her safe. He doesn't think through every angle like Nic does.

There's silence as everyone thinks of new ideas and I know this is my moments.

"The Library of Supernaturals," I say, building suspense.

Everyone looks at me to continue and surprisingly, no one interrupts.

"I think we need to confirm, outside of what hunters believe, that we are the first mates of all different species and including a hunter. It's crazy to me that, that could be true."

I get some nods of encouragement and Aly is staring at me like I'm a genius. I can't help but puff up, proud.

"We should go!" Aly says, excited.

Jeremy watches her, stress written across his face. I know he hates the idea of her in danger, we all do, but we need to trust her. She can take care of herself.

Aly being taken broke something in all of us but Jeremy most of all. I think it's because he was out cold, basically dead when she was stolen from us, and he felt so helpless when he woke up to her already being gone.

Aly must feel his anxiety through the bond, so she turns and grabs his hand under the table.

“It’ll be fine! We will make a kick ass, super safe plan to go there and get the information we need.”

Her smile is so sweet it could rot your teeth but Jeremy accepts it with a stiff nod. Aly turns back to the group.

“What do we need to keep safe? We don’t want to be detected, and they’re probably looking for us or at least me.”

Everyone contemplates that for a few minutes before Nic snaps his fingers.

“I’ve got it! An illusion charm designed to hide our appearances.”

I don’t follow the world of magic that well. My gifts are different from the others. I follow my wolf and his instincts but the others have physical manifestations of their powers.

Aly, still so very new to everything, looks confused. She asks, “so people won’t see us? What will they see?”

“Whatever we choose. A six-foot blonde or a five-foot red head. We will make sure we can’t be recognized,” Nic responds.

Now Aly is looking at Nic like he’s a genius but I don’t mind sharing her attention or praise. In fact, I’m glad she’s impressed by all of us.

“What else?” Jeremy asks.

We spend the next hour plotting every aspect of the trip. Luckily, the library is open to everyone so it's not a breaking and entering mission. We just have to stay off the radar.

The plan is to leave in two days once Nicoli has enough time to make the illusion charms.

* * *

Aly transports us all to The Library of Supernaturals. I can tell it takes a lot out of her, but she doesn't complain.

We get inside and the whole place is huge, it's overwhelming.

"Where do we start?" Aly asks, leaning on Kiran a little for support.

"There is a section on mate bonds," I answer and predictably Jax leads the way. I'm sure he's spent a lot of time in this library learning everything he can.

We all spread out in the section, searching through the different books. I'm sure we could find what we are looking for easier by asking someone, but we don't want anyone to know. This need to stay between us, which means doing the hard work ourselves.

I try to stick close to Aly as we search, sometimes someone sets a book aside but I'm guessing it's not exactly what we want, or they would call everyone over.

I'm searching through the shifter section when Jax sets a book back on the shelf, turns around and just leaves. He's

walking towards the door and doesn't say anything to any of us. What the hell is going on?

“Jax!” I shout, drawing everyone's attention.

Aly chases after him, grabbing his arm, but he shakes her off and keeps going. She looks confused and tries again, getting in his face this time.

“Jax! What are you doing?” She's whisper shouting but I can still hear her.

We all head over there in case she needs backup. I'm not sure what's going on but Jax is not being himself.

When I get there I see him staring at her in confusion. It's almost like he's trying to place how he knows her.

“Kiss him,” I whisper, “the mate bond will flare and help clear his head.”

Aly doesn't hesitate, grabbing his face with both hands and pressing her lips to his. He only hesitates a second before he's wrapping his arms around her and devouring her. He kisses her like he's starving and it's turning me the hell on.

I can smell how wet Aly is from his kiss and I want one next. Before it can go too far, Aly steps back and stares at Jax with lust filled eyes. I'm pretty sure she's thinking about how to get him to a private space right now. They've been giving each other lusty glances all day after last night.

I'm so glad they have their bond, and they've taken that step. I'm looking forward to everything we can do now.

“Jax? Are you back?” She asks.

Jax smiles and I know he’s broken whatever trance he was in. “That was so weird. I got so confused and just knew I needed to leave. I have no idea what came over me.”

“It sounds like a spell,” Nic says.

I nod my head agreeing, it sounds like something made Jax react that way.

“What activated it?” Kiran asks. He’s standing pretty damn close to his brother, probably worried about him.

“I’m not sure,” Jax says, his forehead scrunched in thought. He grimaces, like he’s in pain thinking about it.

“He was holding a book,” I point out, “he didn’t just set it down when he left, he put it back.”

I turn around and go back to where he put it back on the shelf. They all follow me over, to the shelf, Aly wrapped around Jax in concern.

I reach out but Nic stops me with a hand on my arm. “Don’t. You don’t need to be spelled too.”

He has a good point but I think we need to know what this is about. We haven’t been able to find anything so far, we can’t pass up this chance.

“We need to know what happened,” I say.

Nic thinks about it for a second before saying, “I’ll try to sense any spells on the books.”

He puts his hands up and I can smell some magic in the air as he works. I probably could have sniffed out the book but this works too.

Aly is rubbing her hand up and down Jax's back soothingly. Clearly, what happened really freaked her out. I didn't like it either, I'm sick of all these random spells hitting us unexpectedly. It's not normal.

"Found it," Nic exclaims. He murmurs a spell under his breath and a book levitates out from the shelf in front of us.

I read the cover of the book aloud. "The History of," I pause because there's nothing else there. "There's a blank space after that, something is missing, then it says mating bonds."

"What the hell?" Jeremy asks, stepping around me to look at the book.

"So the cover of the book has been changed and it's spelled to repel people? Plus it's about mating bonds?" Kiran points out.

Nic wiggles his fingers and the book's pages start to turn. It's practically blank on the inside. It's clearly been messed with.

"So the information we need is gone from this book?" Aly asks, incredulous.

"We have terrible luck," Kiran groans.

Jax is standing there lost in thought, using that super brain of his to find a solution.

“Could you reverse the spell?” Jeremy asks Nicoli.

Nic stares down at the book and does some hand motions with more whispered words. He glances over at us all and frowns.

“I can’t, it’s too complicated. I can’t even find the end of the spell to start unwinding it with.”

We are so fucking screwed.

“I’ve got it,” Jax says with a snap of his fingers.

We all turn to look at him, eager.

“The library has protected copies of all of their books,” Jax starts but Jeremy cuts him off.

“No.”

Jax completely ignores him. “They’re protected from any magical interference so that book will be unedited. It’ll have the information we need!”

“I said no, it’s too risky,” Jeremy tries again, sounding angry.

“Can someone please explain,” Aly begs, looking at Jax.

“The library has a chamber under it that has been reinforced for centuries by supernaturals. It protects the books from being tampered with or destroyed. Which means there is a copy of this book, unedited, down there,” Jax explains.

Aly smiles. “We need that!” She turns to look at Jeremy, confused.

“He left out how hard it is to get in there. It’s impossible and trying would be suicide.” Jeremy glares at Jax as he says it.

Kiran slides in front of Jax, blocking Jeremy’s view of him.

“It’s an idea, and he’s smart for thinking of it. Back down Jeremy, we can decide as a group what to do.” Kiran is pissed as he stares Jer down. Kiran only gets mad when he’s feeling protective of two people, Aly and Jax.

Jeremy is too furious at the idea of his mate being in danger to back down. He hasn’t been reasonable since Aly was taken and this is another example of it.

“No,” Jeremy says, his voice deadly.

Aly steps in between them, pressing her hand to Jeremy’s chest. He doesn’t even glance down at her.

“Jeremy, you need to relax. Nothing has to be decided right now. It’s just a discussion,” Aly reasons.

Jeremy ignores her, instead staring at Kiran like he’s a threat.

“Jer, I’m right here. I’m standing in front of you, safe. Please, look at me!” Aly begs.

He finally shakes out of it, looking down at Aly. He wraps his arms around her and tugs her tight to his body. She runs her hands along his arms, soothingly. She’s had to do that a lot tonight.

Jeremy gives Kiran and Ajax a tight nod in apology. I think he's come back to his senses from wherever he went.

"It's not happening right now. We would need to make a plan. Let's finish looking for anything else then head home," Nic says.

We all spread out and keep searching. Jeremy stays wrapped around Aly as they work together. Kiran and Jax stick together, so I work near Nic. It's better we all keep an eye on each other, another book could be spelled.

We don't find anything else which means we need to find a copy of this book.

Twenty Three

Aly



We get back home, and we're surrounded by tense silence. We didn't find anything after the spelled book which means we need the info from it, which means Jeremy is pissed.

We all stand around awkwardly staring at each other, not sure where to start. Jeremy is still wrapped tightly around me like he's afraid if he lets go, I'll leave right now.

"So..." Jay says awkwardly.

"It's too dangerous," Jeremy starts again. I try to shift in his arms to see him, but he holds me tight, not letting me move.

"Jer," I start but Nic cuts me off.

"Maybe someone else has a copy of the book that's unedited. If someone powerful was protecting their house, it could still have the information we need."

I perk up at that, that would be great and less dangerous. I hope. Would it?

“How do we find someone with the book?” Kiran asks.
Good question.

Nic thinks about it for a minute before saying, “I think we could ask people who have been around as long as the book has. I checked when we were at the library and the publication date was two thousand years ago.”

I stiffen and so does everyone else, that can only mean one thing.

“I don’t know if that’s a good idea,” Jax says.

“It’s the only way to avoid the library chamber. It’s safer than that. We should at least try.” Nic is standing strong but I can tell he isn’t even one hundred percent confident.

“Do you have someone specific in mind?” I ask.

He shakes his head, when I check with the other guys they say no as well.

“My parents might have someone they can put us in touch with,” Jeremy says. That would make the most sense since we are looking for a type of demon.

Supernaturals have abnormally long lives but for someone to be around two thousand years ago, they can only be one thing, a vampire.

“Do it,” Nic says staring at Jeremy intently.

Jeremy grabs one of the burner phones and leaves the room to talk to his parents. I can’t believe Jeremy is being so

agreeable but I imagine he's going to try to convince me to stay behind.

A vampire who has been alive for two thousand years or more would be incredibly strong, practically indestructible. With time, vampires become stronger and stronger. All of this came back to me from my parents' lessons over the years.

"So if this vampire has the book, we just ask to see it?" Jay asks skeptically.

"I imagine we are going to have to pay or trade something for it," Nic answers, "a problem for later. Let's see if we can even find someone first."

Jeremy comes back in the room with the phone in his hand. "My parents are going to reach out to someone they know. If he's willing to speak with us, he'll call us on this number so keep it safe."

He hands the phone to Nicoli who places it on the TV console.

"What now?" Kiran asks.

"Now we wait, and while we wait, Aly should keep training. She needs access to all of her magic to be able to protect herself to the best of her ability," Nic answers.

Unfortunately, he's right. I would much rather get acquainted with the hot tub I saw outside. An image of all my guys shirtless pops into my head. Yum.

Laughter breaks out around me and I glance up confused. What did I miss?

“You accidentally projected your thoughts to the pack bond, don’t worry it’ll sometimes happen while you get used to it,” Jax supplies.

I can feel a blush forming but that’s stupid, they all know how I feel, so I roll my eyes instead.

“Tell you what Aly, you train, and we can hot tub after. Deal?” Nic offers and I immediately take him up on it.

“Deal.”

We move the furniture around, so we have some space in the living room. There’s definitely no training room or gym here to use.

Nic steps up, taking control of the situation. “Everyone can spar while Aly works on her powers. Whoever’s powers most likely translate to hers can help Aly.”

He stares at me expectantly while the other guys pair up to do some light sparring. I can tell they’re only half focused on the fighting as they listen in on Nic and I. I’m not sure where he wants me to start, I had an information dump from my parents but I’m not any closer to using one of my powers because of it.

He must see the uncertainty I feel reflected on my face, or he can feel it through the bond but Nic takes charge.

“Why don’t you just pick one, and we can start there. You won’t be learning them all tonight, we will take things slow.”

“But how do I pick where to start? The teleportation was easy because it’s most useful and your dad was there to help,”

I point out.

Nic thinks about it for a second before answering, “have you accidentally used any of them or did anything get used on you? That might help you identify the sensation.”

He says it calmly but I can feel all of their anger spike at the mention of powers being used against me. I sneak a peek at Jeremy, I think I may have used one of them while I was gone. At the very least, it was used against me.

“Okay, I have one. I can get inside people’s minds. My mom used it against me, forcing my body to stay still. It only worked because I didn’t have any mental walls up, I imagine it’s similar to the barrier I built for the pack bond.”

I don’t mention the dream. Jeremy and I haven’t talked about it, so I don’t want to share without talking to him first.

Nic nods but I can tell he’s in pain at the idea of my mom having control over me. She didn’t use it maliciously, just to keep me captive.

“Okay, Kiran and Jax come over here. Jay and Jeremy, keep sparing,” Nic commands.

I’m sure it’s killing Jer not to be involved but I don’t even know what all his powers are, let alone how they can help me.

Kiran and Ajax join us eagerly, deferring to Nic for more instructions.

“None of our powers directly translate to yours but the twins have a connection to people’s mind through their

empathy and there are spells you can use to control people,” Nic explains.

Jax and Kiran fill me in on how their ability to sense emotions and even cause emotions works. The ability to feel their emotions doesn't sound that helpful, just something they turn on. However, they have to push emotions to people and that might help me.

They do some demonstrations for me and Nic but when I try to replicate it, nothing happens.

We try for hours and I know I've exhausted the three of them. They've been using their powers all night and I can tell how drained they are.

I lean in and give Nic a soft kiss before turning and addressing all three of them, “I appreciate your help so much but I can feel your exhaustion through the bond. You should all get some sleep and recharge.”

Kiran looks like he's about to object, but he is dead on his feet. The emotions in this room are too neutral to help either of them and I don't think Nic has a way to. I know Jeremy's blood can help him push through but nothing's better than a good night sleep.

I give them all a kiss then basically shove them to bed. I'm about to follow because what else would I do but Jay grabs me from behind, wrapping me up in his arms.

“Where are you going? The three of us can still hit the hot tub.”

“You know, I don’t think we actually have any bathing suits here,” I point out.

Jeremy’s responding chuckle is down right filthy. “Who needs them?”

He grabs my hand, tugging me out of Jay’s arms, and pulls me toward the back door.

Twenty Four

Aly



We get outside, Jay tight on my heels. It's a little cold out but that should make the hot water feel better.

The cover is off and there's steam rising from the water. I look at them both questioningly because this was closed up last time I saw it.

"I may have snuck out here and gotten it going so it could heat up for us," Jay confesses.

I give him a kiss in thanks for his thoughtfulness.

They both start stripping their clothes and I'm feeling shy for some reason. I stand there staring at their naked bodies, but they don't let me for long.

They bracket me before helping me strip. Quickly, I'm standing there just as naked as them and it's freezing.

I ditch them and hop in the hot water, it stings for a second against my cool skin but quickly stops. They both join me, and we settle in, leaning in different corners. It feels amazing, why didn't we do this sooner?

“You look delicious sitting over there Aly Kat,” Jay says.

I peek my eyes open to see him openly staring at me, devouring me with his eyes. When I glance to my left, I see Jeremy doing the same.

Jeremy glides through the water until he’s right in front of me, I stare into his almost black eyes.

“I think we should have some fun,” Jeremy whispers then drags me over towards Jay.

When he gives Jay a nod, he hops up on the ledge, giving me the perfect angle to suck him off. I lean forward eagerly, taking him in my mouth. My ass is in the air, a little above the water, hopefully taunting Jeremy.

“You mentioned you can get inside people’s minds, do you think you’ve done it before?” He pauses before continuing, “because I haven’t had a chance yet to punish you for leaving us.”

He smacks my ass, hard.

“It was real!” I shout, popping off of Jay. The dream with Jeremy actually happened!

He laughs but it’s a little taunting, “I guess it was but if your ass wasn’t sore the next day it doesn’t count.”

He spansks me again, this time once on each cheek.

“I have accelerated healing now, either way I won’t feel it the next day,” I point out but that doesn’t stop him from doing it again.

“Don’t ignore Jay, you owe him an apology too.”

I bring my lips back down and around Jay’s cock. He threads his fingers through my hair and forces me to take him deeper.

When he’s pressing against the back of my throat, Jeremy spanks me again, causing me to take Jay even deeper.

“Fuck Aly Kat, you are so damn sexy. You’re forgiven,” Jay groans but I know it’s not him who’s calling the shots right now. I’m not forgiven until Jeremy says I am.

I can feel him line up behind me, giving me a second of warning before he slams into me. I swallow around Jay as he’s taken even further down my throat.

He’s swearing up a storm and I think he’s close to coming for me.

Jeremy sets a brutal pace as he thrusts into me, he’s fucking me so hard he sets the pace for Jay too. I can feel his piercing tracing against all my nerves.

I can feel Jay swell in my mouth seconds before he’s coming down mt throat. His fingers in my hair tighten as I swallow every drop of him, knowing he loves that. It’s part of how possessive he is of me.

As soon as I’m off of Jay, Jeremy laces his fingers with mine before putting them on the edge of the tub so Jay is still between them. He keeps our fingers locked as he ruts into me, hitting my g spot but not letting me come. Every time I get

close he switches angles until he builds me up again. He's using that piercing against me to keep me on edge.

Jay sits back on the edge to watch the show and his eyes on me almost push me over the edge. Almost.

"Jeremy please!" I beg.

"Are you sorry for being a bad girl?" He asks and while it was definitely not my fault, I'll do anything to come right now.

"Yes, so sorry!"

"Promise it'll never happen again," he demands and I groan.

"I promise!"

He switches angles until every stroke is pure bliss as his piercing hits me in the most amazing spot. Even better, he doesn't move when he feels me tighten around him.

I explode, all the denied orgasms making this one even more incredible. I swear I see stars when I come and I bet I wake the other three up I'm screaming so loud.

Jeremy finishes with me, grinding into me as he does.

I almost collapse but the two of them catch me before I hit the water.

"I think you're ready for bed now," Jay says, picking me up out of the water and carrying me inside.

Jeremy quickly follows, grabbing a towel from the hall and drying me off. Jay deposits me in the bed we all keep ending

up in and when he leaves to dry himself off, the other three surround me.

I hear Jay and Jeremy swear when they get back but after that it's blank as I pass out.

Twenty Five

Aly



The three thousand year old vampire agrees to meet with us after Jeremy's parents convince him. He won't share his name, but he was one thousand years old when the book about mating bonds came out, so he's our guy. He's the only person we could find that has been alive that long, so he's our only chance.

"I don't want you going Aly," Jeremy declares for the fifth time.

"Jer, I get that but I'm going. Please try to understand," I say again.

I sit down on his lap and wrap my arms around his neck. He grunts but holds me tight to his body.

"It's not safe, and we don't *need* you. We will get the information we need and come back. Please? For me?" He begs and he's being vulnerable with me. He never begs and I feel my resolve breaking.

"Okay, fine," I agree.

He is absolutely shocked by my agreement.

“Really?” He asks.

“Really!?” Kiran also asks, stunned.

When I turn to look at all of them they’re all wearing various degrees of surprise.

“Don’t look so shocked! I can be agreeable!” I yell.

Nic snorts out a laugh, and they all stare at me like I’m crazy.

“You don’t usually give in so easily,” Jay points out.

I roll my eyes but don’t disagree.

“So, when are you guys leaving?” I ask.

Everyone defers to Nic but of course, Jeremy cuts in not quite happy yet. “We can’t all go. At least one person needs to stay home and protect you!”

My back goes stiff and I hear Kiran whisper, “what an idiot.”

I agree. “Jeremy I don’t need to be protected. I can take care of myself, you need to back off some.”

He looks like he’s about to start up again but I cut him off, “Jeremy, I agreed to stay behind but that’s only going to happen if you all go. I want to know you’re safe.”

He stares at me hard for a long moment before finally giving me a stiff nod. I relax back into him.

I am trying to give him some leeway, I know it was hard when I was taken, and he was already super protective but eventually he’s going to need to get over this and trust me.

“We leave in an hour, everyone get ready,” Nic says.

* * *

The hour passes quickly with the guys all getting ready. I can tell they’re nervous and I’m anxious about them leaving. I hate the idea of them in danger without me there for them. I’ll have no idea what’s happening.

“You have to keep me updated while you’re gone,” I sound like I’m begging.

Kiran gives me soft eyes as he wraps me up in his arms and presses his forehead to mine.

“I promise I will keep you updated,” Kiran says.

I can tell he means it and I hug him back in thanks. I lean forward and press my lips to him, all of my worry coming through.

“I love you,” I whisper against his lips.

“I love you too baby,” he responds.

He gives me one more short kiss before stepping back. I repeat this again with all of them, showing them how much I want them to come back home safe.

They all strap on various weapons that Nic’s parents brought on one of their supply runs. Nic hands me two long daggers and a sheath to keep them in.

I wrap it around my waist, instantly more comfortable with a weapon. I will be dropping them off there after all.

“So you take us and you come right back, got it?” Nic asks firmly.

“Yes I’ve got it,” I say a little sarcastic because it’s not that hard to understand, and he’s said it like ten times.

He ignores my tone and gives me a smile of thanks. We all gather outside the house, so I can transport us there. We will be going to the outskirts of his land in case he has protections against it, which he probably does.

“Ready?” I ask.

They all give me an affirmative and I start the process of picturing where we are going. I wasn’t able to find a picture of his home or anything, but we could find pictures of the surrounding forest, so I’m using that.

I imagine it in my mind as I pull myself and the guys there. The sensation tugs in my stomach but it’s much better as the person controlling it than as a passenger. Kind of like how the driver of a car doesn’t get motion sick.

I feel the land become solid under my feet again and I take in a deep breath as we look around. We are surrounded by forest but through the trees I can see where the guys are headed.

Surprisingly, he invited us to his home which turns out to be a castle on the banks of Scotland. When we tried to research it, there was nothing. He’s completely off the map. How he has hidden this castle is a mystery to me.

“Okay Aly, time to go,” Jeremy says staring at me intently.

“Okay, be safe,” I say looking at all of them before I go.

I picture the cottage and feel the tugging in my stomach pulling me away from my mates.

I land back at the cottage and it feels incredibly empty without my guys. My anxiety is extremely high as I sit here and worry about them.

How is it going? Is the vampire being helpful? Have they already been attacked?

A horrible vision of them being mauled to death by a vampire who drinks all of their blood flashes across my eyes and it takes all my strength to stay right where I am and not go back after them.

But the idea that they're dying and in danger, that they need me won't leave my brain.

I take a deep breath and remember I have the pack bond and I should just check on them.

How is it going?

Nothing. I wait another minute and try again.

Are you guys okay?

I still get no response and now I'm absolutely panicking. Why aren't they responding to me?

GUYS?!

I'm shouting down the bond but it almost echos back to me. Like it's empty at the other end. I would know if they

were dead but if they aren't responding that means they're unconscious or something worse.

Last chance! Answer me!

I'm begging for a response because without one, I'm breaking my promise. I can't stay behind knowing something's wrong. So I do the only thing I can do.

I'm coming.

Twenty Six

Kiran



We walk towards the castle sitting on top of the cliff, overlooking the water. The air is fresh and crisp, the view is truly stunning. Maybe we need to come back to Scotland for a vacation some day. Considering Aly can transport us all, we can go anywhere we want. Just as soon as we are free from the threat of the hunters.

“Okay, so we get the information we need from the book, and we get out of here. Don’t mess with anything else and don’t eat or drink. If you see something threatening, warn everyone through the bond,” Nic commands. His voice is strong and steady, helping to calm some of my nerves.

We keep a steady pace as we walk up to the doors of the castle. Jeremy steps forward and uses the huge knocker to signal our arrival.

A beat later the door opens and a man stands in front of us. He’s tall, lanky, pale and incredibly handsome. He’s playing up the vampire stereotypes. Vampires can go in the sun, it’s just a little uncomfortable, and he can still workout or fill out

some. He looks exactly like the human tale of Dracula. I wonder if he uses that story to scare people when they meet him.

“Hello, you must be the boys here for the book,” he says, his voice sultry.

Nic steps up and takes charge. “Yes, that’s us. We were hoping to see your copy of it.”

The man looks us over, inspecting us from top to bottom.

“Alright, come in.”

He opens the door wider and gestures us inside. We follow him down the hallway to a sitting room. The furniture is all older but clearly expensive. Rich, dark wood with red accents.

We all find spots around the room and the vampire perches on the arm rest of a chair across from us. He’s still staring at us intently like he’s trying to figure something out.

Nic tries again, “so can we see the book?”

The vampire keeps staring at us. He has no emotion on his face at all. The crazy thing is, I can’t sense he’s a supernatural at all, that’s how powerful he is.

Maybe Nic is being too blunt, I try something new.

“How about some introductions? My name is Kiran, this is Jax, that’s Jeremy, Nic and Jay,” I say gesturing to each of them as I say their names.

The guys give little waves or acknowledgments, some friendlier than others but the vamp continues to stare.

Finally, he says something, “and where is your mate?”

Immediately the tension in the room rises. We all stiffen and I can see that Jeremy is about to go full demon right here in this living room.

“Excuse me?” Nic asks, his voice a pretend calm.

The guy smirks, “well, I assume you have a mate if you want this book so badly. It is about mate bonds between different races and here you are in front of me, a group of men of all different species. We have a mage, a demon, shifter, and even a light and dark fae who seem to be twins. All you’re missing is a hunter although I suspect that’s what your mate is.”

His words stun all of us. He’s confirmed the book has the information we need, but he’s also watching us like we are a science experiment for him to play with. Thank god we didn’t bring Aly.

Aly, we are fine but make sure you stay home. Okay?

I send the thought down the pack bond and wait for a response as the vampire smiles at us creepily. But I don’t get a reply.

Aly? Are you there?

Nothing.

Guys? Can you hear me?

When I get no response I look over at all of them to see horror on their faces. I’m guessing they just realized our pack

bond isn't working anymore. Worse than that, my mate bond with Aly feels muted. I have only the smallest sense of her, not enough to know what she's feeling or that she's okay.

“What did you do?” Jeremy growls, standing up and facing the vampire.

“Ah, are your bonds not working?” He asks mockingly.

We all stand up and raise our weapons, facing the vampire. I'm not sure why he's done this but clearly he needs something from us.

“What do you want?” Jay asks, clearly thinking along the same lines.

“Well you see, I was very excited when someone reached out to me about this book. I remember when mating bonds between all races were prevalent but since then they have been forgotten by most. And here you are, a representation of one. You see it's taken me many years to figure it out but the hunter elders placed a spell, I assume using a mage, that forces everyone to forget their existence. As I was in my deeply warded house, I was spared along with my copy of the book.

“To be honest, it didn't matter to me at the time until one day, I found my mate. A hunter who had been raised to believe it was impossible for her to have a mate, who had a spell placed on her to ensure she couldn't feel the pull of the bond. She didn't believe me, even tried to kill me. As you know, hunters are indestructible, there are very few things that can kill them, making them incredible foes. So I planned to break

her neck and bring her here so when she woke up, I could convince her, and we could be together.”

He sounds insane, I have a bad feeling about where this story is going.

“That’s when I realized I should have read the entire book. I got her back to my home and waited for her to wake up, but she never did. You see, one of the very few things that can kill a hunter are their mates. I killed her. I killed my own mate.

“So obviously I can’t let you share your mating and give hunters a chance to meet their mates. I can’t let them be happy, including your mate. You see, the plan is to kill them all, which means I need this information to come to light on my own terms. So I can use those newly found mates to kill them.”

What the fuck?! Seriously, this guys is crazy. He wants to kill an entire race because he killed his mate? Because she didn’t believe him? Except we would do anything for Aly, Jeremy even suggested killing all the hunters to keep her safe. But that puts Aly in danger and this creep wants to kill her, so he has to die.

If this is true, then the hunters need to know. If they can find their mates and believe us, then this is our solution.

“Well obviously,” Nic mocks, “we can’t let that happen. You’re a threat to our mate.”

The vampire lets out a deep belly laugh, wiping off a fake tear. “You don’t have a choice.”

My entire body freezes up and chains wrap around me, pulling me back into the chair I was sitting in. I can't move a muscle or say a word, all I can do is move my eyes. I look over and see everyone in the same position as me, trapped.

The vampire steps forward, looking at all of us in mock pity. He slips something out of his pocket and sets it on the table. It must be an illusion charm because his face morphs into a hauntingly familiar one.

“By the way, my name is Ryan. Sit tight boys, your mate will be dead by sunrise and I'll be back for you.”

And the face of Anna's boyfriend who has been around since the beginning looks back at me before turning around and walking out the door.

Twenty Seven

Aly



The pull in my stomach falls away as I drop back down in the forest. I run toward the castle, a horrible feeling taking root in my gut. I can't feel any of the mate bonds with my guys beyond the fact that they're alive.

I make it to the castle but I don't just bust in. I circle around the outside peeking in windows as I go. Luckily, I'm around the corner when I hear the front door open and close. I peek around it but I don't see anyone there. If it was my mates they would need to wait for me to come get them so it must have been someone else.

I keep searching the windows on the ground floor, stepping through a garden, until I finally spot them. They're chained to their seats in what appears to be a living room. My stomach drops, what happened to them? I knew this was a bad idea! Thank god I came.

I jimmy the window and it slides open way too easily. I guess this guy doesn't expect anyone to find him out here or

choose to cross him. I shiver in fear at the idea of him catching me but push it aside, my guys need me.

I hoist myself up on the ledge before pushing inside. I roll to the ground, hopping up on the side of the room. My guys don't move at all but their eyes stare into mine. I can practically feel them screaming at me with their gazes.

I rush over to Jax who is the closest to me. I touch his arm, but he remains immobile on the chair.

“What’s going on?” I ask my voice sounding panicky.

I go to each of the guys, but they're all frozen in place and no one responds to my touches except their eyes following me around the room. When I get to Nic I grab his face and stare into those eyes.

“What happened? What can I do?” I even try sending the message down our pack bond but I get no response. It's still not working even though we are all in the same room.

Nic's eyes flick down, stare at me then flick down to the same spot again. I turn and follow his stare to some weird statue sitting on a table nearby.

“This thing?” I ask and I swear his eyes flare in response.

It's the best I'm going to get, so I might as well try. I'm not sure what I am supposed to do to deactivate this thing but I don't think I want to touch it.

I pick a book up off the shelf behind it and knock the statue over, it falls to its side on the table but the guys aren't released. So I need to do more than just move it but what?

Should I destroy it? If I do and that wasn't the answer we could be screwed. Think Aly, think! What do you know about charmed objects?

Objects can be charmed by a mage to possess a spell that can be used by other supernaturals and even humans. It completes the spell as long as it is being used by the person. And I'm pretty sure breaking it will undo the spell.

I can remember my parents teaching me about this but the details are a little fuzzy, probably thanks to the memory being stolen from me.

I hold up the book and look like I am about to break it but spare a quick glance at Nicoli. His eyes aren't screaming not to do it or moving around to get my attention, I think that's all the confirmation I'm going to get.

I bring the book down on top of the statue and smack the statue so it goes flying towards the wall. It smacks the wall and shatters before the pieces go tumbling to the ground and land with a crash.

I hear them before I see them. I get wrapped up in multiple sets of arms as they all grab me.

"Aly!" Kiran shouts.

"You saved us," Jax says.

"You shouldn't be here," Jeremy scolds.

I stop them before Jeremy can complain further or anyone else can say anything.

“Guys, what happened?” I shout.

“The vampire. He’s evil. And wants to kill all hunters. Worst of all he’s Ryan, Anna’s Ryan! We need to go!” Kiran’s words are all disjointed but all I hear is the fact that Anna is in danger.

I try to transport us all but there is a blocker up in this house, figures.

“Let’s go!” I shout, turning and heading back to the window.

Nic grabs my arm to stop me and tug me the other way. “He left so let’s grab the book before we go.”

Nic goes to the bookshelf and starts reading titles. I know we need that damn book and this is our only opportunity to get it but I can’t let my best friend be in danger. I need to warn her.

“Nic we need to go, screw the book.”

“I’ve got it! I’ve got it! Let’s go!” Nic has a book in his hand as we run towards the front door to get out of here.

While we are running, Jeremy grabs my hand and gives it a squeeze. “I’m sorry I’ve been coddling you, I can’t promise I won’t always be overprotective but I know you can handle yourself. You were a bad ass coming to save us, we are so incredibly lucky you’re our mate.”

I feel a smile stretch across my lips at his acknowledgment, it feels incredible. But the feeling quickly fades when I remember my best friend needs me.

We get to the edge of the forest before I skid to a halt. We are completely surrounded by wolves. Huge, snarling wolves who look like they're ready to make a meal of us.

"Jay, are those shifters?" I ask, my voice betraying how scared I am.

"No, those would be real, full-blooded wolves," Jay answers before slowly stripping his clothes. He shifts into his wolf form but stays close.

"What do we do?" I ask.

"I think we fight them to get far enough to transport out of here," Jeremy answers, fully in demon form as he prepares to fight.

"Wait!" Jax says.

Bailey materializes in front of me, standing between us and the wolves.

"Bailey?" I ask.

My familiar glances back at me and gives a soft yip before turning and facing the wolves again. I get this overwhelming sense of calm and trust but I have no idea where it's coming from.

The wolves start to back away slowly before turning and loping deeper into the forest.

Jay quickly shifts back and starts putting his clothes back on.

“That was incredible!” He sounds completely shocked by whatever happened.

“Explain,” Nic says roughly, wanting an answer now and I agree with him.

All I need to know is that the wolves are gone so it’s safe to get further in the forest, so we can go help Anna.

“It was Bailey. He was able to communicate with them and me. Not with words but feelings, he sent the sense of calm and trust to them, and they left. It was incredible, I’ve never heard of that before or experienced it,” Jay explains.

It does sound amazing but it’s something to worry about later.

“Come on,” I say heading deeper into the forest until I think we are far enough away to transport out of here.

I look at all of my mates, and they’re all staring back at me. My guys, ready to charge into battle with me even though they just suffered at this man’s hands. My ride or dies but tonight, Ryan dies.

I picture Anna and I’s apartment and use my magic to take us there.

We land in the apartment to see it completely trashed. There are clear signs of a struggle everywhere and my heart drops. Are we too late?

I bust through the mess to check her room and mine but both are completely empty.

“Where could she be?” I ask, panicking.

The guys appear as lost as I do as we try to picture where he might have taken her. I’m about to suggest splitting up and searching the campus for her when I hear a slight whimper. It’s barely anything but Bailey latches onto the noise and races into Anna’s bedroom.

We all follow quickly behind him to see him clawing viciously at the closet door which is closed tight. I check behind me with the guys to see they’re ready for anything.

Jay has shifted into his wolf, Nic has magic swirling in his hands, Kiran and Jax are surrounded by their powers of light and dark and Jeremy is full demon with his weapons raised. I pull a dagger out of its sheath before grabbing the handle and swinging the door open.

It swings wide to show me my worst nightmare, Anna laying in a puddle of her own blood, dead. She is deathly pale with her skin stained in crimson. We must have been seconds too late since she had *just* made a noise.

I collapse to my knees next to her and uncaring of the blood, wrap her up in my arms. The guys are swearing up a storm behind me but I don’t pay them any attention. My heart is broken on the floor next to me.

“Where did Ryan go?” Jeremy asks, voice hard and terrifying.

I think we are all ready to tear him limb from limb for killing Anna. She may be my best friend, but she had grown

close to the guys while we've been together.

She has been the friend I always needed, my first true friend who has stuck by me and I let her down. I'm the reason she's dead on the ground in front of me instead of a long life ahead of her.

I pat her hair back away from her face, ignoring her slit throat and it's weeping wound. It doesn't even look as bad as it did when I first saw it.

"I'm so sorry Anna, I love you. I hope wherever you are, you can forgive me."

I'm crying, tears falling everywhere as I weep over my best friend's body.

"Aly." Jay sets his hand on my shoulder as he kneels down next to me. I ignore the fact that he only has a pair of pants on, I don't know if I'll ever feel attraction again with the guilt drowning me.

I ignore him, but he tries again, "Aly, I'm so sorry. We will get revenge for Anna. Ryan will die at our hands, I promise you."

I give a slight nod, the idea of revenge giving me a purpose, a reason to go on. That and the fact that my mates need me, even if I may never recover, they need me.

"Is it just me or does it look like Anna's neck wound has completely healed?" Kiran asks hesitantly from above us. It's almost like he didn't want to say it, but he knew he had to.

I check the wound and he's right. It's completely healed, the only way you can tell there was once a slice there is from the blood.

I run my hands over her neck, checking that my eyes aren't deceiving me. It's smooth, like nothing happened.

I glance up to see the guys all sharing a look but I'm too overwhelmed with thoughts of Anna to think through what this could mean.

"Aly, back away from Anna," Nic commands but I ignore him.

"What? I'm not leaving her! Are you crazy?"

"Aly please! It's not safe!" Nic tries again, pulling on my arm.

Jay is trying to untangle me from around Anna but I have a death grip on her body. I'm not ready to let her go, it's not time yet.

"Aly!" Jeremy shouts but what really has my attention is the fact that Anna just moved.

Her eyes snap open, her blood red gaze staring back at me. When we make eye contact she lunges for my neck and bites, hard. As she's about to drain me dry I remember my parents teachings.

Vampires are the only supernatural that can turn a human and it happens through death.

About the Author

Thank you for reading! The fact that you have read my book makes my day. I'm a newer author and I hope you really enjoyed the book. If you enjoyed the story and want to hear more, consider writing a review! Reviews are essential to helping more people find books they will love and are the best encouragement for me to keep writing! I look forward to reading what you thought!

Keep up to date with me by subscribing to my mailing list or following me on social media. Book four is up for pre order now!

I am an indie author living in Colorado with my fiancé and my dog Bentley. She is my favorite writing companion but she loves to distract me when I'm in a groove. I have always loved to write and had stories rolling around in my head, so I recently decided to write some books and see where it takes me. Thanks for joining me on this adventure!

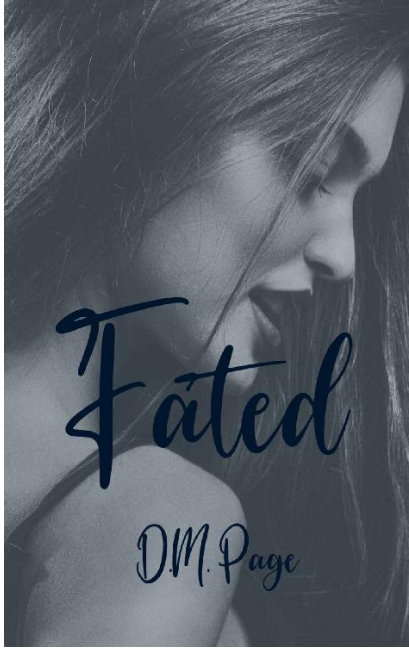
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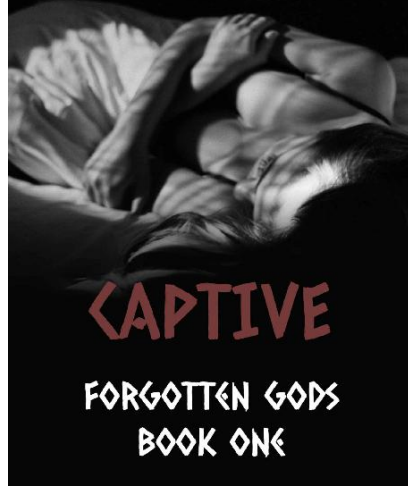
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CAPTIVE

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I was a normal girl, until one day I wasn't. The very same day, men stole me away and held me captive. They imprisoned me with four guys, all with powers of their own: Apollo, Ares, Hephaestus and Hermes. They keep me sane while we plot our escape. But will we make it out alive?

This is a medium burn, paranormal prison fantasy, reverse harem. The story changes POVs between the main character and her men. The steaminess factor will go up as the series goes on and is intended for 17+. This is a short novella for the first book, 30,000 words and ends on a cliff hanger