



True Luna:
THE
UNKNOWN
MAGIC

THE WHITE WOLF SERIES BOOK 4

TESSA LILLY

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The White Wolf Series Book 4

Tessa Lilly

Note for readers:

Hello, my dear readers.

This book is the Fourth book in the True Luna series (The White Wolf series). This book can be read as a standalone book, but I wanted to include some notes for those of you who may have not read the first two books. I will just mention some key points from previous books so the story you are about to read makes more sense.

Emma is known as True Luna and White Wolf. She found out that she is a pure white wolf after she shifted for the first time. She didn't know what it meant at the time, but other people knew about her powers and wanted to use her. One of those people was The Rogue King. Logan and Emma are Sophia and Alexander's parents. They are true mates, but Logan rejected Emma at first. He wanted to take his friend Sienna as his chosen mate. Sienna was jealous of Emma and tried to kill her. Logan regretted rejecting Emma and tried to win her back after saving her. Emma forgave him and they accepted each other. The Rogue King managed to kidnap Emma and tried to use her powers. Logan saved her again. They found out that there are other people after Emma.

Four years after the kidnapping, Emma and Logan found out the truth about the legend of the White Wolf. They found out that Emma has two mates, one who is Goddess-given, and one who is cursed. Her second mate, Alpha Nathan, comes to the pack and tries to prove that he is her Goddess-given mate. He tries to hurt Daisy, Emma's sister-in-law, but Emma saves her. She fights Nathan and

proves that he is her cursed mate. Instead of killing Nathan, they let him go to avoid a war.

Other important characters are Andrew (Beta of the pack and Emma's older brother), Daisy (Andrew's mate), Drake (Logan and Andrew's friend), Amy (Drake's mate and Emma's friend), Jacob (Emma's friend and Amy's cousin), Rose (Jacob's mate), Mason (Andrew and Daisy's son).

BLURB

“F*ck, Sophia,” he mumbled, leaning in and taking a deep breath. His nose touched my jaw and my whole body shivered.

“Do you think that I am going to let you go?” he asked. “You are a treasure, angel. I am not letting you go. I don’t give a shit about the past. I don’t give a shit about your magic. You are my mate. I am not giving you up.”

My heart raced. I pressed my body closer to the wall, trying to get away from him so I could think clearly.

“Hunter...” I spoke, but he interrupted me.

“No, angel,” he said softly. “I don’t want to hear your excuses. Nothing you say will make me want you less.”

Sophia is an 18-year-old she-wolf who is hiding a big secret. She is a daughter of the White Wolf, but she didn’t just inherit her mother’s light magic. There is darkness inside of her, and she’s been hiding it since she was a little girl. Emma and Logan spent years trying to find a way to get rid of the darkness inside their daughter, but they couldn’t find the answers they were looking for. Sophia has been taught to use light magic only. She’s found a way to deal with the darkness inside her.

Everything changes after Sophia meets her mate. Her mate is the Alpha of The Blood Moon Pack, but being bonded to him isn’t as easy as Sophia hoped it would be. What will happen when the mistakes made in the past get in the way of their mate bond? What will happen when someone from the past decides to use Sophia and her magic as a weapon for revenge?

This is book 4 of True luna. It can be read as a standalone book as well.

Prologue

Meeting Our Mates

Andrew & Daisy

CHAPTER ONE – Her

Andrew's POV

I walked into Logan's office and sighed. I would never get used to the sight of him kissing my sister.

She was sitting on his lap with her arms wrapped around his neck.

Logan heard my sigh and chuckled.

"It's been a year," Logan said. "Get used to it."

I sat down and frowned at him, "I don't see that happening anytime soon."

Emma chuckled and shook her head.

"When is Drake arriving?" I asked, changing the subject.

Logan glanced at his watch.

“In about an hour,” he said, looking back at me. “His sister is coming with him.”

I didn't know that he had a sister. That man never shared anything about himself. He was a great guy and friend, but we didn't know much about his private life.

“He has a sister?” Emma asked curiously.

Logan looked at her and nodded. “I didn't know either. She is younger than him, I think.”

“I hope that she is as nice as Drake,” Emma said, making Logan frown.

I smirked. Emma was his mate and his wife, and he was still jealous. It was funny.

Emma sighed and rolled her eyes. “Stop frowning, will you? It's an observation. We both know that he is a nice man.”

Logan chuckled and shook his head. He placed a kiss on her shoulder and smiled.

“I am sorry, my love,” he said. “It's hard to give up old habits.”

Emma smiled and looked up at me.

“Are we having dinner tonight?” she asked me.

We had a tradition of always having dinner together on Friday. Life was busy. Emma was now a Luna. She wasn't living at home anymore. There were days when we didn't even get to see each other outside of our offices. I hated that. She hated that. She was my sister, and I wanted to see her out of work. I wanted to talk to her about something other than budgets, borders, and supplies.

So we came up with dinners on Friday. She would come home, I would make us something to eat, and we would watch our favorite movies and talk about anything other than our jobs.

“Of course,” I smiled. “I can't wait.”

Emma smiled brightly. Logan tucked a strand of hair behind her ear and kissed her cheek.

I started getting up, but then I remembered the reason I came here in the first place.

“I came here to talk to you about the patrol,” I said as I sat back down. “We have an issue at the eastern border.”

“What kind of issue?” he asked, frowning.

Emma looked at me worriedly.

“Rogues,” I sighed. “Alpha Rick is letting them roam around his territory. He is doing a terrible job at keeping his borders safe.”

Anger flashed in Logan's eyes. He tightened his arms around Emma.

We were extremely careful when it came to rogues lurking around our territory. After Samuel told us that other people were trying to get to Emma, we were on edge constantly. We'd been torturing Samuel for a year, but he still hadn't told us anything else. It was hard to make the fucker talk.

"He is an idiot," Logan mumbled angrily. "How many rogues did our warriors notice?"

Logan was right. Alpha Rick was an idiot. He was an old Alpha who had no heir. He couldn't care less about his pack and his territory. He watched his pack collapse for years.

"Not too many," I sighed. "They weren't in groups. Just individuals who were passing by."

"Okay," Logan nodded. "We should increase patrol in that area."

I nodded and stood up, "I will go talk to Lewis immediately."

Logan opened his mouth to speak but stopped himself. I could tell that he was getting a mind-link from someone.

"Drake just got here," Logan said.

"He is early," Emma mumbled as she stood up and walked to the window.

Asher stirred.

'What's wrong?' I asked him.

'I don't know,' he mumbled. *'I have this funny feeling.'*

I sighed and started walking toward the door.

"I will talk to Lewis and let you know about the new shift schedule," I said as I opened the door. "Tell Drake that I will come by a little later."

Logan nodded and said something that I couldn't hear.

My body tensed up. My heart started beating faster. The most mouth-watering scent overwhelmed my senses.

'Mate!' Ashed said, making my heart stop beating.

I turned around abruptly. That's when I saw her.

She was the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen. Every part of my body and soul wanted her. My heart sped up. My palms started sweating. I needed to touch her. I needed to hold her. She was mine. She was a gift from the Goddess. She was a gift to me.

"Mate," we said at the same time.

Her voice was angelic. It was soft and comforting. I could listen to her voice until the day I died.

"Mate?!" someone exclaimed.

I didn't know who. I didn't care. She was all I could see. She had my complete and undivided attention.

A huge smile spread across her face. Goddess, she was beautiful.

I forced my body to move. I took a step closer to her. The smile on her face got even bigger. She approached me, and I was in fucking heaven.

I reached out and cupped her beautiful face. She placed her hands over mine and sighed contently. The tingles and sparks rushed over my skin. They warmed up my heart and my soul. I never wanted that feeling to stop.

“Hi,” she said softly.

I couldn't speak. I could only stare at her. What did I do to deserve someone so beautiful?

“My name is Daisy,” she said. “You must be Andrew.”

How did she know my name?

I nodded.

I could only nod. I couldn't speak. I was still too fucking shocked to speak.

“Drake told me so much about you,” she said. “It is wonderful to meet you.”

Did Drake tell her about me? How did she know Drake? Who was he to her? A wave of jealousy washed over me.

Asher growled.

“Calm down,” I heard someone sigh. “She is my sister.”

Sister?

I finally looked away from her even though I didn't want to.

Drake was standing next to us with a slight smile on his face. I looked behind me. Emma and Logan were smiling so hard that I was afraid their mouths would tear.

I looked back at my mate.

“Hi, Daisy,” I said softly. “It is very nice to meet you.”

CHAPTER TWO – Him

Daisy's POV

I was looking through the car window with a slight smile on my face. I was happy to be here. I was pleased to finally be able to meet the people my brother wouldn't shut up about.

“Thank you for bringing me with you,” I said, turning around and looking at my brother. “I am excited to meet everyone.”

Drake smiled and glanced at me.

“I can’t wait to see their reaction,” Drake said. “I’ve never told them about you.”

My eyes widened.

“Why?” I asked, surprised.

Drake glanced at me and sighed.

“The fewer people know about my personal life, the better,” Drake said. “Nobody knows I have a sister, and I plan to keep it like that. Someone could hurt you to get to me.”

I studied his face for a second.

“Why did you bring me here then?” I asked.

“I trust them,” Drake said. “They would never hurt you.”

I bit my lower lip and nodded. I understood why he didn’t want anyone to know about me. There were sick people out there who would stop at nothing to get what they wanted.

“Just a heads up,” Drake said. “They are insanely protective of Emma. Don’t take it personally if they don’t let you near her.”

I nodded, “I understand. I would be protective too.”

What that poor girl went through was horrible. I completely understood why her brother and her mate didn't let anyone near her. I just hoped that they would trust me eventually.

Drake parked the car in front of the packhouse, and we got out.

Daphne stirred. A feeling that I couldn't recognize washed over me.

'What's wrong?' I asked her immediately.

'I don't know,' she mumbled. *'Be careful.'*

'I always am,' I said as I followed Drake inside.

"Good morning, Alpha Drake," one of Alpha Logan's warriors said politely.

"Hello, Jack," my brother smiled. "Is Alpha Logan in his office?"

"He is," Jack nodded. "He is expecting you."

Drake nodded and walked further inside.

I followed after him and looked around. The inside of the packhouse was amazing. It was very welcoming, and it smelled nice there. It smelled like orchids, my favorite flower.

Daphne stirred again.

The smell of orchids got strong. It made my body tingle. It made my heart flutter.

The door at the end of the hall opened. I saw a tall man standing there. My heart raced.

The man turned around, and Daphne said something I had waited so long to hear.

'Mate!' she exclaimed happily.

I smiled. He stared at me with a shocked expression on his beautiful face.

“Mate,” we said at the same time.

“Mate?!” my brother exclaimed.

I ignored him. I couldn't move my eyes from the beautiful man in front of me. He was tall and muscular. His hair looked so soft, and I couldn't wait to run my fingers through it. His blue eyes were like an ocean I couldn't wait to swim in.

I recognized him immediately. My brother told me all about him. It was Andrew.

He approached me slowly, and my smile grew. He cupped my cheeks, and my heart exploded with happiness. I placed my hands over his and sighed. The tingles and sparks were amazing. The feeling was so much better than I expected it to be.

“Hi,” I said softly.

He didn’t say anything. He was staring at me. It made me want to chuckle.

“My name is Daisy,” I said. “You must be Andrew.”

His eyebrows furrowed a little. He probably couldn’t figure out how I knew his name. Drake never told him about me.

“Drake told me so much about you,” I explained. “It is wonderful to meet you.”

Jealousy flashed in his eyes, and he growled.

“Calm down,” my brother said, with a hint of amusement in his voice. “She is my sister.”

Andrew looked at Drake before turning around and looking at the people behind him. I couldn’t see them. His broad shoulders prevented me from seeing who was standing behind him.

He looked back at me.

“Hi, Daisy,” he said softly. “It is very nice to meet you.”

His voice sent shivers down my spine. It was amazing. I never wanted him to stop talking.

I smiled and caressed his hands with my thumbs. I felt him shiver a little. I wanted to kiss him. I wanted to kiss him so

badly.

“Okay, enough,” my brother sighed. “I don’t have to witness anything else.”

Andrew frowned and looked at him.

“Do you enjoy seeing Logan and your sister together?” my brother asked him, raising an eyebrow and smirking.

Andrew rolled his eyes but moved his hands from my cheeks. I wanted to whine. He didn’t let me go, though. He took my hand in his and stood next to me.

I could finally see the people who were standing behind Andrew.

I recognized his sister immediately. They looked so much alike. She was beautiful. A man was standing next to her, and I knew immediately that he was Alpha Logan. Both of them had huge smiles on their faces.

“Hi, Daisy!” Emma exclaimed happily. “It is so nice to meet you.”

She took a step closer to me and reached out to shake my hand.

I felt Andrew tense up. Logan placed a hand on her waist.

I took a deep breath and smiled at her. I took her hand in mine and shook it.

“You must be Emma,” I said. “I heard so much about you.”

“I wish I could say the same,” Emma said, frowning at my brother. “But we will have all the time in the world to get to know each other.”

“I can’t wait,” I said as my smile grew bigger.

‘Asher is very protective of her,’ Daphne told me. ‘We have to protect her too.’

‘We will,’ I told her. ‘She is our sister now too.’

“Oh, shit,” my brother mumbled, making us look at him.

I raised an eyebrow at him.

“How would you like a nice position in my pack, Andrew?” my brother asked. “I already have a Beta, but you could be my backup Beta.”

Logan sighed. I furrowed my eyebrows.

“I just realized that you will have to stay here now,” my brother told me. “I’m trying to find a way to keep you home.”

I chuckled and shook my head.

“If you have an Alpha and Luna position for Logan and Emma, I would love to,” Andrew said teasingly.

Drake glanced at Emma and smirked a little.

“I do have a Luna position,” my brother said, making Logan growl.

My eyes widened. Was he insane? Did he want Logan to kick his ass?

“Don’t annoy me,” Logan said, pulling Emma to him. “You just got here.”

I shook my head. Thankfully, Logan understood that my brother was joking.

I looked up at my mate and smiled. He lifted his hand and caressed my cheek.

“Do you need me, Logan?” my mate asked his Alpha, keeping his eyes on mine.

The temperature in my body started rising.

“No,” Logan said.

“Great,” Andrew said as he started pulling me toward another door in the hallway.

CHAPTER THREE – You Are An Idiot

Andrew’s POV

My mate's scent reached me even before she knocked on the door.

"Come in, honey," I said, keeping my eyes on the papers in front of me.

She walked inside and closed the door behind herself.

"Am I disturbing you?" she asked me quietly.

I looked up at her and smiled.

"Never," I said as I reached for her. "What's up?"

She approached me and sat down on my lap. I placed my hand on her thigh and rubbed it softly.

It'd been three months since she moved to our pack, and I couldn't have been happier. She was an amazing woman, and I was so lucky to have her.

"I wanted to wait until you came home, but Daphne made me come here," Daisy sighed.

She kept her eyes down, and she was fidgeting with her fingers nervously.

I furrowed my eyebrows. My heart raced. Was there something wrong? Was she hurt?

"What's wrong, Daisy?" I asked worriedly.

She looked at me and gave me a small smile.

“Nothing is wrong,” she said softly. “I am just a little worried about something.”

I cupped her cheeks and pressed my lips against hers. I loved kissing her.

“Talk to me, honey,” I said softly.

She looked up at me and caressed my cheek.

“I can’t help but think that you still don’t trust me when it comes to Emma,” she said quietly. “I’ve been worried about that for a while now.”

I froze.

I didn’t know what to tell her.

She wasn’t wrong. I didn’t trust anyone after Sienna. It hurt me so fucking much to say that I didn’t trust my mate, but a small part of me was still suspicious.

I sighed and closed my eyes. I leaned my forehead against hers.

“I am so fucking sorry,” I mumbled. “There is a small part of me that is still so afraid.”

Daisy cupped my cheeks and pressed her lips against mine.

“I know,” she said softly. “I felt it.”

I opened my eyes and looked at her.

“Sienna was my best friend,” I mumbled. “She was a huge part of my life. I trusted her with my life. I believed in her to the point of endangering my sister’s life. Looking back, I can’t believe how fucking stupid I was. I can’t believe that I trusted her more than I trusted my sister.”

I stopped talking and took a deep breath.

Daisy caressed my cheek.

“I can’t even explain why,” I continued. “I don’t know why I trusted Sienna, but I do know that it fucked me up. It made me suspicious and so fucking afraid. I am so sorry, honey. It’s so fucking hard to let that fear go after everything that happened.”

Daisy sighed and placed a small kiss on my lips.

“Sienna was an idiot,” Daisy said. “I can’t even explain to you how angry I am at her. Emma is an amazing girl, and I love her so much. I love her because she reminds me of you. If Sienna loved you, she would have loved Emma too. There is so much of you in Emma, and I am so excited to discover it all. I love that girl, and I promise that I am not a threat to her.”

My heart skipped a beat, and I felt tears in the corners of my eyes.

The woman in my arms was so fucking amazing!

I didn't say anything. I just kissed her. I wanted to show her how fucking much she meant to me.

A knock on my office door interrupted us.

I was so focused on my mate that I didn't even hear anyone approaching my office.

"Come in," I mumbled against Daisy's soft lips.

The door opened, and I looked up.

My sister walked inside, closing the door behind herself. She kept her eyes on the papers in her hand.

"Andrew, can you..." she spoke but stopped when she looked up and saw Daisy in my arms.

Her eyes widened a little, and she smiled.

"I am sorry," she said. "I didn't mean to interrupt. I will come back later."

"No, it's okay," Daisy said as she stood up and went to sit on the chair in front of my desk. "We were just talking."

"I will be out of here soon," Emma said as she approached my desk and handed me the papers. "I just need Andrew to sign something for me."

I took them from her and placed them on the desk in front of me.

“It’s okay, love,” I said, giving her a small smile. “You weren’t interrupting. We were talking about you.”

Emma furrowed her eyebrows. “What about me?”

I looked at my mate and gave her a small smile.

“How protective I am of you,” I said, looking back at my sister. “And how suspicious I am of everyone.”

Emma raised an eyebrow at me. She glanced at Daisy and sighed.

“You are an idiot, Andrew,” she said. “Daisy would never hurt me.”

I chuckled and shook my head. Daisy laughed.

“Maybe I should have just talked to Emma about my concerns,” Daisy said with a small smirk. “She is efficient.”

I rolled my eyes at my mate.

“Get your head out of your ass and stop being so suspicious of your mate,” Emma said sternly. “She is not Sienna.”

I took a deep breath and nodded.

“I know,” I said. “I explained and apologized to Daisy.”

Emma looked at Daisy and smiled.

“Andrew loves you so much,” Emma said. “Please don’t be angry at him. What Sienna did was horrible, and she hurt him so much.”

My heart clenched. Sienna hurt her more.

“I know, Emma, don’t worry,” Daisy said as she stood up, approached my sister, and pulled her into a hug. “I am not angry at him. I understand why he is suspicious.”

I smiled. Daisy did love Emma.

“And Sienna is a bitch,” Daisy said angrily. “I wouldn’t mind if you let me go to the cellar to teach her a lesson.”

Daisy looked at me and raised an eyebrow.

“No,” I said sternly. “I am not letting you near that bitch.”

Daisy let Emma go and sighed.

“Fine,” Daisy mumbled, giving Emma a small smile.

Emma chuckled and looked back at me.

“Bring me those papers when you sign them, please,” she told me. “I have to go back to work.”

I smiled at my sister and watched as she left my office.

As soon as the door closed, I reached out for my mate.

She approached me and sat down on my lap.

“I love you,” I told her.

“I love you too, idiot,” she grinned and pressed her lips against mine.

I smiled and kissed her back.

CHAPTER FOUR – Pregnant

Daisy’s POV

I woke up when I felt a soft kiss on my lower belly.

I smiled and ran my fingers through my mate’s hair.

“What are you doing?” I mumbled sleepily.

“Kissing my child,” Andrew said. “I want him or her to know how much I love him or her.”

I chuckled and opened my eyes.

Andrew was staring at my lower belly with so much love in his eyes that it almost made me cry. He placed his hand on my belly and rubbed it softly.

“You are going to be so loved,” Andrew mumbled as he bent down and kissed my belly softly.

My heart swelled.

“You are going to be an amazing father,” I told him.

Andrew looked up at me and smiled.

“Do you think so?” he asked.

I chuckled and nodded, “I don’t think so. I know so.”

Andrew smiled brightly and laid his head on my belly.

“Do you want a girl or a boy?” I asked him as I caressed his cheek.

Andrew shrugged, “I don’t care as long as they are healthy. I know a lot about sports, and I know how to do braids, so we are good on all fronts.”

I laughed and shook my head.

“You know how to do braids?” I asked, raising an eyebrow at him.

Andrew nodded.

“Emma had a phase when all she wanted were braids,” Andrew sighed. “She refused to let her hair down. She refused ponytails. She wanted braids, so I had to learn how to do them.”

“How old was she?” I asked, chuckling.

“Around 5 or 6,” Andrew said with a small smile on his face. “She refused to cut her hair too, so it took ages to braid it all.”

“At least one of us knows how to do braids,” I mumbled, making Andrew laugh.

I rolled my eyes at him.

“Hey, don’t laugh at me,” I said, pouting. “I know how to do a regular one.”

Andrew lifted himself on his elbow and smiled at me. He bent down to kiss me softly.

“I will do all the braiding,” he mumbled against my lips. “Don’t worry.”

I smiled and wrapped my arms around his neck, pulling him closer to me. He ran his hand down my body, making me shiver and press myself closer to him.

I needed him. I wanted him. The pregnancy hormones were insane.

I ran my hand down his muscular chest. His amazing figure would never stop making me drool.

“Oh, honey, I would love to stay in bed with you, but Emma and Logan are coming over,” Andrew mumbled as he lowered his head and started kissing my neck.

I whined quietly.

Why were they coming over anyway? It was Saturday. We should have been able to stay in bed all day long and enjoy each other.

“Why are they coming over?” I asked, focusing on how his lips felt against my skin.

The feeling was amazing, and I didn’t want him to stop.

But he did.

He lifted his head and looked at me with a small smile on his face.

“You invited them over so we could tell them about the baby,” Andrew said, making me sigh.

I did that.

“Oh, honey, we will be back in our bed in no time,” Andrew said when he noticed the disappointment on my face. “I want to have sex with you too. So fucking bad.”

I looked at him and smiled.

I pressed my lips against his just as we heard the doorbell.

I groaned, making Andrew chuckle.

“This is your fault,” he said teasingly as he stood up and pulled a hoodie over his head.

I rolled my eyes and sat up.

“Get dressed,” Andrew said, putting his sweats on. “I’ll go make them some coffee.”

I nodded and stood up. Andrew gave me a small kiss before he left the bedroom.

I placed a hand on my belly and smiled.

“You will have the best dad in the world, my little Sunshine,” I said quietly.

I meant it. Andrew was amazing. He was an amazing man, an amazing partner, and an amazing brother. There was no way that he would be anything less than an amazing father.

I put my clothes on and walked out of our bedroom. I hoped to return there as soon as possible.

“Why are you grinning like an idiot?” I heard Logan’s voice as I approached the kitchen.

I heard Andrew laugh.

“Because I am pregnant!” I exclaimed as I entered the kitchen.

There was no sense in waiting. I wanted them gone as soon as possible. I adored them both, but I needed some alone time with my mate. If I knew that I would be this horny, I would have never invited them over.

Emma’s eyes widened. Logan gasped quietly.

“What?!” Emma exclaimed happily as she stood up and rushed toward me.

She placed a hand on my belly and smiled.

“You are pregnant?” she asked.

“Yes,” I nodded. “You are going to be an aunt.”

Emma smiled and pulled me into a tight hug.

“Oh, Goddess, I am so happy!” Emma said.

“Congratulations!”

I looked at Logan and my mate. Logan was grinning and pulling Andrew into a hug.

“Congrats, man,” Logan said. “You are going to be an amazing dad.”

“Thank you,” Andrew said happily as he let Logan go.

Emma let go of me and turned around. Andrew smiled and reached out for her. She rushed into his arms, and they hugged tightly.

“Congratulations,” Emma said. “I am so happy for you.”

Andrew kissed the top of her head and smiled.

“Thank you, Em,” he mumbled, rubbing her back gently.

Watching him with her made my heart swell. I was so proud of him. He was amazing. He was loving and caring, and I couldn't have wished for a better mate.

Emma let go of Andrew. He smiled at her before looking up at me.

I approached him, and he pulled me into his arms.

“You are going to have a pup just in time for a new kindergarten,” Emma said, making us laugh.

Andrew kissed my temple, and I leaned more into him.

A huge smile spread across my face. I was so lucky. I couldn't have asked for a better mate and a better family. I was so happy, and I knew that it would always stay like that as long as I had them.

Drake & Amy

CHAPTER ONE – A Weird Feeling

Drake's POV

“You really need to stop staring at her,” my Beta told me. “She is a mated she-wolf. She is a married woman.”

I gulped down the shot of whiskey and glanced at him.

“I am not staring at her,” I mumbled. “I'm over her.”

Josh sighed and rolled his eyes.

I was telling the truth. I was over Emma. I would always be fascinated with her beauty and her power, but I was over her. She wasn't mine. She was Logan's, and the more I watched the two of them together, the more I knew that the Goddess had made the right choice. They were perfect together. They were really made for each other. I was glad that Logan grew the fuck up and realized what kind of a woman he had next to him. I was glad that he realized his mistake before he lost her. I was glad that Emma forgave him.

“Tell that to your eyes,” Josh mumbled. “They are staring at her.”

I was staring at her, but not because I wanted her. I was staring at her because I wanted someone like her. I wanted a mate. I wanted someone who would love me just as Emma loved Logan.

I watched as she looked at Logan and smiled. I watched as Logan wrapped his arm around her waist and kissed the top of her head. Both of them looked at Alpha Greg and continued to talk to him.

We were having a small gathering for us Alphas, who were allied with Logan. It was a yearly tradition. Some Alphas even brought their daughters, hoping that one of us unmated Alphas would be their mate. Not to lie, I wanted that too. I hoped that one of those girls would be mine.

But it was the same every year. None of those girls were my mates.

'She died, Drake,' my wolf sighed. 'I want her too, but I don't think that she exists anymore.'

My heart clenched, and a sharp pain spread through my chest. Even though I had never met her, it was still painful to think that she had died.

'I know, Dean,' I sighed.

“Alpha Drake?” a soft voice called my name.

I looked away from Emma and turned around. A huge smile spread across my face.

Emma's friend Amy was standing behind me with a small smile on her face.

I really liked her. She and I spent a lot of time together over the last few days. I had some issues with my fields and food

production at my pack. My agronomists were having trouble figuring out what was happening. Emma suggested that Amy take a look at it. Apparently, Amy was really good with plants, and she knew her way around the soil. I took her back to my pack a few days ago, and she immediately knew what was wrong. She helped my agronomists, and things were looking up. I was very grateful to her. I was really impressed. Emma was right. Amy definitely knew her way around planting and soil.

“Hi, Amy,” I said as my smile grew. “Please, don’t call me Alpha. It’s just Drake.”

She smiled, and my heart did a weird little flip. She was beautiful. Her brown eyes looked like a pool of liquid gold. Her strawberry-blonde hair looked so soft. I wanted to run my fingers through it. Her mouth moved, but I didn’t hear a word she said.

“Sorry, what?” I mumbled, making her chuckle.

“I asked if everything is okay with the soil now?” she repeated her question.

I gulped and smiled.

“Yes, of course,” I said. “Thank you so much. I can’t believe that my agronomists didn’t figure it out.”

“Oh, don’t blame them,” she said, shaking her head. “I wouldn’t have known either if I didn’t see it once already. It was a rare fungus, and no wonder they didn’t think of it.”

I smiled and nodded. I was nervous. Why was I nervous?

“I am sorry for bothering you, Drake,” Amy said. “I will see you around.”

She didn't bother me. She could never bother me.

She gave me a small smile and walked away before I could stop her and tell her that I wanted to talk to her and that she wasn't bothering me.

Fuck. What was wrong with my brain?

'She smells nice,' Dean sighed.

She did smell nice. She smelt like coconut. I loved coconut.

“She is pretty,” Josh said, making me glare at him.

I didn't know why, but his comment angered me.

“I heard that she didn't find a mate yet,” Josh said, taking a sip of his drink.

His eyes were on her, and it was pissing me off.

“Why do you know that?” I asked, holding back a growl. “Are you interested in her?”

Josh looked at me and smirked.

“No,” he said. “Are you?”

I clenched my fists and looked away from him.

“No,” I mumbled.

“Then I am sure that it won’t bother you that a man is talking to her right now,” Josh said, making me snap my head in her direction.

Josh was right. One of the warriors that arrived with Alpha Henry was talking to her. She was nodding and smiling at him.

Something weird stirred inside of me. I didn’t like it. I didn’t want him to talk to her. I wanted to drag him away from her.

I growled quietly, placed my glass on the bar, and walked toward them. I could hear Josh chuckling quietly.

“So, Amy, are you free tonight?” the guy asked her, making that weird feeling inside my chest grow. “I was thinking that we could go out and get something to eat?”

She was just about to answer him, but I interrupted her.

“Amy, can I talk to you, please?” I asked, making them both look at me.

“Alpha Drake,” the guy said politely, bending his head in respect.

I gave him a small nod and looked back at her.

“Can we talk?” I repeated my question.

“Sure,” she said, giving me a small nod.

She looked at the guy and smiled. “I will be right back.”

I had to hold back a growl. I didn’t want her to come back. I didn’t want her to go out with him tonight.

I suddenly realized what that weird feeling was.

It was jealousy.

CHAPTER TWO – Fuck, I Like You

Amy’s POV

My hands were shaking.

Alpha Drake was intimidating, even more so because I had a stupid crush on him.

Not that he would ever feel the same about me. He was an Alpha, and I was nothing. I wasn’t worthy of him.

But how could I not have had a crush on him? He was so handsome. He was funny. He was kind. I got to know him better over the last few weeks, and I liked him. He was a handsome, smart man.

I followed him to the garden behind the packhouse. Unlike the rest of the place, the garden was peaceful. Nobody was around, and before I knew it, Alpha Drake and I were completely alone. I could still hear the voices coming from the packhouse, but no one was close to us.

I was nervous. I started playing with my hair, twisting it, and curling it around my fingers. I always did that when I was nervous.

Alpha Drake finally stopped walking. He turned around and looked me up and down.

I shivered.

The nervous feeling was starting to be replaced by fear. Did I do something wrong? He said that there was nothing wrong with the soil. Was I disrespectful? Did I offend him?

I saw his jaw tighten. He gulped and narrowed his eyes a little.

“Do you have a mate?” he asked, his voice raspy.

I shivered again. His voice made me tremble. I didn’t even hear his question.

What did he ask me?

“What?” I mumbled, hoping that he wouldn’t get even angrier at me for not listening to him.

He took a deep breath and closed his eyes for a second.

Fuck. I did anger him.

“Do you have a mate?” he repeated his question.

I forced myself to listen to him this time, and his question surprised me. Did he ask if I had a mate?

A few seconds passed, and I saw him raise his eyebrows at me. He expected an answer.

“I don’t, Alpha Drake,” I said immediately, not wanting to anger him even more.

“I told you not to call me Alpha,” he said.

Fuck. He did tell me that.

“I am sorry,” I apologized.

He sighed and looked me up and down again. I could feel the temperature in my body rising.

‘Focus, Amy,’ Alora mumbled.

‘I am trying,’ I said. *‘The crush I have on him isn’t helping.’*

‘He does smell good,’ Alora mumbled, and I had to resist the urge to roll my eyes.

She was telling me to focus, and she was the one breathing in his scent right now. He smelt nice. He smelt like a forest after rain. It was my favorite smell. I loved running in the forest after it rained.

“Who is that man who asked you out?” Alpha Drake asked me, making me snap out of my thoughts.

I furrowed my eyebrows. Why did he care? First, he asked about my mate, and now about Nick asking me out. Why?

“He is one of Alpha Henry’s warriors,” I answered. “We’ve met a couple of times before.”

Alpha Drake narrowed his eyes.

“What were you going to tell him?” he asked me.

My heart raced. Why did he care?

His dark eyes bore into mine. His scent overpowered my senses. I couldn’t focus.

“What?” I managed to mumble.

“If I didn’t drag you away, would you say yes to his proposal?” he asked.

He didn’t really drag me. He asked if he could talk to me, and I said yes.

“No,” I answered.

He tightened his jaw again.

“Why?” he asked.

It was mostly because I had a crush on him, but I couldn't tell him that. He was an Alpha. I was no one. I was just a regular wolf.

“I don't like him like that,” I mumbled.

He gulped and took a step closer to me.

What the hell was he doing?! He needed to step away before his scent made me lose my mind.

“Is there someone else who you like, Amy?” he asked, making my eyes widen.

“Why?” I asked instead of answering him.

He walked up to me and caressed my cheek.

I froze. My heart raced.

“I want to know how much competition I have,” he mumbled, tracing his finger up and down my jaw.

My heart was going to stop.

Did I hear him right?

There was no way. I imagined this. I was dreaming.

“You didn’t answer my question,” Drake said, moving his hand away.

I almost whined. I didn’t want him to stop. His touch sent pleasurable shivers down my spine.

What did he even ask me?

I furrowed my eyebrows, making him smirk a little.

“Do I have competition, Amy?” he repeated his earlier question.

I shook my head, making him smile.

Goddess, his smile made my knees buckle.

He cupped my cheeks and tilted my head up. I was going to pass out. I wasn’t even sure if my heart was beating or not. I couldn’t feel anything other than his hands on my face.

“Fuck, I like you,” he mumbled, bending down a little. “You are beautiful. I was so fucking happy over the last few weeks, and I finally realized that spending time with you was the reason for that.”

I was really going to pass out. There was no way that any of this was happening. I was dreaming. Maybe I fell and hit my head somewhere, and I was hallucinating all of this.

“Do you like me too, Amy?” he asked me quietly.

He looked down at my lips, and my heart skipped a beat.

Was he going to kiss me? Oh, I wanted him to kiss me.

“I do,” I mumbled. “But you are an Alpha, and I am just...”

I couldn't finish my sentence because he pressed his soft lips against mine. He ran his tongue on my lower lip, making me open for him. His tongue entered my mouth, and his taste made me moan. He even tasted like rain.

He moved one of his hands from my face, placed it on my waist, and pressed me closer to him.

My whole body was on fire.

“Fuck, you taste amazing,” he mumbled as he stopped kissing me.

He pressed his forehead against mine and closed his eyes. I tried to force my heart to beat a little slower. I tried to take a deep breath. I tried to stop my body from trembling.

“I never want to hear you say yes to another man,” he mumbled. “Did I make myself clear?”

I couldn't do anything else but nod. I couldn't even speak.

“Good girl,” he mumbled and kissed me again.

CHAPTER THREE – Chosen Mate

Drake's POV

I was nervous as fuck.

What if she said no?

“Will you stop pacing around?” my sister sighed. “You are driving me insane.”

I looked at her and rolled my eyes.

“I am nervous,” I mumbled as I sat down next to her.

I placed my hand on her belly and rubbed it softly. I couldn't believe that I would be getting a nephew soon.

“Stop being nervous,” Daisy sighed. “That girl is so freaking in love with you. She is going to say yes.”

I looked at my sister and smiled.

“Do you really think so?” I asked, making Daisy chuckle.

“Yes,” she nodded. “Stop worrying.”

I sighed and ran my fingers through my hair.

I wasn't nervous just because I was about to ask Amy to become my chosen mate. I was nervous because of everything the witch had just told us.

"Where is Andrew?" I asked Daisy.

"Taking a shower," she mumbled. "He was freaked out when he came home."

"Of course he was," I mumbled. "If what that witch said is true..."

"Stop it," Daisy interrupted me. "We are not talking about it because I am going to lose it. I can feel Andrew's emotions, and that's more than enough. Besides, you have more important stuff to do right now."

I did. I had to ask the love of my life to be my chosen mate.

I would never have thought that I would fall so madly in love with Amy. I would never have thought that she would become my whole fucking world.

But she did. She was my everything, and I couldn't wait to make it official. I couldn't wait to sink my canines into her sweet neck. I couldn't wait until I could officially call her mine.

I heard the front door open, and Amy's amazing scent filled my entire body.

"Drake?" She called me softly.

I stood up immediately and rushed toward her.

I smiled as soon as I saw her.

“Where is Emma?” she asked. “What happened?”

I pulled her into my arms instead of answering her. I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath.

I couldn't even imagine what Logan was going through. If someone tried to take Amy from me, I would lose it. If I found out that there was another man who was after her, I would be in so much pain.

“Drake?” Amy called my name, making me look down at her.

“Logan took her home,” I told her. “I will explain everything later. I need to talk to you right now.”

I had a whole dinner planned, but my plans fell through after what had happened. I could have made a new plan for tomorrow, but I didn't want to wait. If this situation with Emma and her new mate taught me anything, it was not to wait because you could never know what would happen next.

I wanted to ask Amy now. I needed to ask her now. I needed to make her mine as soon as possible.

I took her hand in mine and pulled her out of the house. I knew exactly where to take her.

“Is everything okay, Drake?” Amy asked worriedly, trying to keep up with my fast pace.

“Yes, princess,” I told her. “Everything is fine.”

“Where are we going?” she asked, making me glance back at her.

“To the garden,” I said, giving her a small smile. “To the place where our story began.”

I could hear her heartbeat speed up.

Thankfully, Andrew’s house wasn’t far from the packhouse, and we were standing at our spot a few minutes later.

I turned around to look at my future Luna. I smiled and pulled her closer to me.

“Goddess, you are beautiful,” I mumbled as I pressed my lips against hers.

She tangled her fingers into my hair and kissed me back. I was in heaven.

I stopped kissing her and cupped her cheeks.

“I had a whole dinner planned, and I am sorry we didn’t get to go,” I told her. “I thought about rescheduling, but I couldn’t wait to ask you something.”

Amy took a deep breath and bit her lower lip.

“I love you, Amy,” I said, giving her a small smile. “I never thought that I would be lucky enough to find someone like you. I love you so fucking much, and I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Would you do me the greatest honor and become my mate and Luna?”

My heart was beating insanely fast by the time I finished talking.

I wasn't sure if Amy was breathing.

She was quiet, but a tear fell on her cheek.

I wasn't sure if it was possible, but my heart started beating even harder. Why wasn't she saying anything? Why was she crying? Was she going to say no? If she said no...

“I love you, Drake,” she finally spoke. “I am so happy with you, and I never want to lose you. I would be so happy to become your mate and your Luna. I would be so happy to spend the rest of my life with you and call you my mate and my Alpha.”

The fear slowly started to disappear, but it came back like a tidal wave after her next sentence.

“But what if I am not good enough?” she mumbled, making my racing heart stop.

What the fuck was she talking about?

I furrowed my eyebrows and studied her face.

“I am an ordinary wolf,” she continued. “I was never meant to be a Luna. What if I mess up? What if I was a terrible Luna? What if you regret asking me? What if...”

I stopped her rambling by capturing her lips with mine.

“Shut up,” I mumbled against her lips. “You are going to be an amazing Luna. You are not leaving me, Amy.”

I sat down on the bench and pulled her onto my lap. I wiped the tears from her cheeks and kissed her again.

“Say yes,” I told her. “I am not letting you go.”

She smiled and nodded.

“Yes,” she said, making me the happiest man ever. “I would love to be your mate and Luna.”

I smiled brightly and pulled her into a tight hug.

“I love you, princess,” I told her as I rubbed her back gently.

“I love you too, my Alpha,” she responded, making my heart skip a beat.

CHAPTER FOUR – Our Child

Amy’s POV

“We should make another one,” my mate said, looking down at our little boy.

He was the surprise of a lifetime because we thought that he was a girl up until I gave birth to him a few hours ago.

He was carrying him around, refusing to put him in his crib. I enjoyed watching him with our pup, and if the birthing pain weren't still fresh in my mind, I would have him put another pup in me right now.

“Sure,” I said, smirking a little. “Will you be the one to give birth to the next one?”

Drake looked up at me and smiled.

“I would if I could,” he said. “But I can't, so you will have to.”

I chuckled and shook my head.

“I want a girl,” Drake said, looking back down at our baby. “I was preparing myself to be a girl dad. I don't want that to go to waste.”

I laughed quietly. Drake wasn't kidding. He was so excited to have a little girl.

“We can revisit the subject after I forget the pain,” I said, making him look up at me.

He approached my bed and bent down to kiss my forehead.

“I am so sorry, princess,” he said. “If I could, I would take all of your pain away.”

I looked up at him and smiled.

“I know,” I said softly.

He placed a small kiss on my lips, making me greedy for more.

“How about you put our pup in his crib and come lay next to your mate for a while?” I asked, grinning at him.

“You don’t have to ask me twice,” he said, walking toward the crib.

He placed a soft kiss on our pup’s cheek and put him down.

He walked back to me, and I made room for him in my bed. He laid next to me and pulled me into his arms.

I sighed contently. The pain lessened as soon as I was in his arms.

“Thank you for making me the happiest man alive,” he mumbled as he tilted my head up.

I smiled and pressed my lips against his.

“What are we going to name him?” I asked, chuckling.

We wanted to name our baby girl Halley, but that was obviously not happening anymore.

“How about Hayden?” Drake asked.

He placed a small kiss on the tip of my nose. I smiled and pressed my body closer to his.

“I like it,” I said. “Alpha Hayden.”

Drake smiled and pressed his lips against mine.

“What did I do to deserve you?” he mumbled as he took a deep breath.

“Your soil had a fungus, and your agronomists couldn’t figure it out,” I answered, making him laugh.

“Thank Goddess for that fungus,” he said. “I don’t know what I would have done without it.”

“You would probably still be drooling after Emma,” I said, smirking.

His eyes widened. I chuckled.

“I never loved her,” he mumbled, and I could hear the fear in his voice. “I was in love with the idea of her.”

I smiled and caressed his cheek.

“I know,” I said.

“I didn’t think you knew,” he mumbled quietly.

I smirked and nodded.

“She is my best friend,” I said. “Of course I knew.”

Drake groaned and leaned his forehead against mine.

“Fuck,” he mumbled. “I never loved her, Amy. I never loved anyone the way I love you. I never wanted her the way I wanted you. She was just an idea I fell in love with. She is made for Logan the same way you are made for me.”

I chuckled and tangled my fingers into his hair. I pulled his head up so I could look into his eyes.

“I know that,” I said. “You don’t have to worry.”

Drake sighed and caressed my cheek.

“Do you know when I realized that I wanted you?” he asked me.

I smiled and nodded.

“I was slowly falling in love with you while you were here helping with our soil issue,” he said. “I didn’t realize it, though. Not until I saw you at that Alpha gathering at Logan’s pack.”

He placed a small kiss on my lips before he continued.

“I was staring at Emma, and Josh kept telling me to stop it because she was a married woman,” he said, chuckling. “I realized that I wasn’t staring at her because I wanted her but because I wanted a mate. I wanted that kind of love she and Logan had.”

He placed a small kiss on my cheek, making me smile.

“And then you came to talk to me,” he mumbled. “My whole world lit up in a second. I remember thinking how beautiful and smart you are.”

“Yes, I am,” I said, making him chuckle.

“But then you started talking to that guy, and I was pissed off,” he sighed, rolling his eyes. “I knew that I couldn’t let anything happen between the two of you. I knew that I had to do something before someone else took you from me.”

I smiled and pulled him in for another kiss.

“I am so happy that you stopped me from going out with that guy,” I said as I stopped kissing him. “I had the biggest crush on you, but I would have never admitted it.”

He furrowed his eyebrows.

“Why not?” he asked.

I sighed and caressed his cheek.

“I thought that I wouldn’t be good enough for an Alpha,” I said quietly. “I thought that I wouldn’t be good enough for you.”

Drake sighed and pulled me into a hug.

“It’s the other way around,” he said. “I am the one who is not good enough for you, princess.”

I slapped his arm playfully.

“Stop saying that,” I said. “You are the best thing that has ever happened to me.”

He chuckled and kissed the top of my head.

“I love you so much, princess,” he said.

“I love you too, my Alpha,” I said, smiling contently.

Our son started crying, making us chuckle.

“I got him,” Drake said as he let me go and stood up.

He approached the crib and picked our son up.

“Hi, Alpha Hayden,” Drake mumbled. “Your daddy loves you so much.”

My heart skipped a beat as I watched the love of my life smiling at our son. I couldn’t believe how lucky I was. I

couldn't believe that a man like Drake chose me. I couldn't believe that he loved me. I would always be grateful for it, and I would always do everything I possibly could to show him how much I loved him.

Nathan & Janet

CHAPTER ONE – My Father

Nathan's POV

“What the fuck happened to you?!” Mark exclaimed as I entered my office.

He rushed toward me and helped me to sit down on the couch.

“Holy shit, Nathan,” he mumbled, tilting my head to look at my beaten and bruised face.

“Nothing I didn't deserve,” I mumbled, making Mark furrow his eyebrows.

“What the fuck are you talking about?” he asked.

I sighed and glanced at the liquor cabinet.

“Get me a glass of whiskey, will you?” I mumbled.

Mark sighed and walked to the cabinet. I watched him pour whiskey into two glasses.

He walked back toward me and handed me a glass.

I took it from him and poured the whiskey down my throat.

“I was the cursed mate,” I mumbled, looking into an empty glass.

“What?” Mark mumbled, shock evident in his voice.

I looked up at him and took a deep breath.

“She wasn’t mine,” I said. “I was the cursed one.”

Mark’s eyes widened. I could tell that he had a million questions to ask me, but I assumed that he didn’t know where to start.

“They let me go because I’m an Alpha,” I said. “They said they didn’t want to kill me and go to war with my crazy father.”

I understood them completely. My father was insane, and he would go to war with them.

“I am so fucking confused,” Mark mumbled as he sat beside me.

I sighed and looked at my friend.

“But she was supposed to be our Luna,” Mark mumbled.
“Who will be our Luna? Do you have a true mate?”

I smiled a little.

“I do,” I said. “The Moon Goddess told me that I do.”

Mark's eyes widened. He studied my face for a few seconds.

"How hard did they hit you?" he asked, narrowing his eyes and looking at the bruises on my head.

I sighed and rolled my eyes at him.

"Emma and I saw the Moon Goddess after she broke the curse," I said. "Her magic knocked us out, and we woke up on some field. We got to talk to the Moon Goddess there. She told me that my true mate was waiting for me in my pack."

Mark's eyes widened even more.

"Who is she?" he asked.

I shrugged.

Mark wanted to ask me something else, but he was interrupted when the door to my office burst open.

"Where is your Luna?" my father asked.

His eyes widened as he looked me up and down.

"What the fuck happened to you?!" he yelled, closing my office door.

The rage inside of me started to boil.

The man in front of me was guilty of fucking everything. He was the one who filled my head with stories of the White Wolf. He was the one who told me that I was her Goddess-given mate. He was the one who made me believe that she belonged to me.

He killed my mother. He abused me. He completely destroyed our pack.

I was to blame too. I shouldn't have listened to him.

Looking back, the curse trapped so much anger inside of me. The dark magic was eating my heart and my soul. My father only added fuel to the fire.

I wanted to kill him.

But I couldn't.

No matter what, he was my father. I wouldn't be able to live with the fact that I killed my own father.

"You are banished from the pack," I said as I stood up. "You are no longer a member of the Blood Moon Pack. You will be escorted to the border. You are a rogue now. If I see you near my pack, I will kill you."

I could feel my father's link to the pack break.

His eyes widened as he fell to his knees. He gasped for air.

"What did you do?!" he screamed.

“You made my life a living hell,” I said, trying to remain calm. “You poisoned my mind and my soul. You destroyed our pack. You don’t deserve to be a part of it anymore. You don’t deserve to be a part of my life anymore.”

My warriors knocked on my office door. They could smell my father. He smelt like a rogue now.

“Come in,” I said.

The door opened, and my warriors walked inside.

“Take him to the border,” I ordered. “He is no longer a member of our pack.”

I could tell that my warriors were surprised, but they listened to me. They didn’t have any other choice.

“This isn’t over!” my father screamed. “I will get you back for this! I will make your life a living hell, Nathan!”

“You already did,” I said as the office door closed.

The last thing I saw was the murderous look in my father’s eyes.

“What the fuck?” Mark mumbled, making me look back at him.

“I promised Emma that I would cut all ties with him,” I said as I walked to the liquor cabinet and poured myself another

drink. “I promised Emma that I would listen to my wolf more. She saved my life, and I will do everything I can to repay her.”

“Don’t get me wrong, I am happy that you finally got rid of your father, but exiling him?” Mark mumbled. “Was that smart?”

“I don’t give a shit,” I said. “I will kill him if I see him here again.”

I poured another drink down my throat.

I took a deep breath after gulping down my drink.

I froze. Noel stirred.

The most beautiful scent made my knees buckle.

A knock on the door made me freeze.

“Come in,” Mark mumbled.

My mate was on the other side of that door. I knew it. I felt it.

The door opened, and the most wonderful woman walked inside my office.

Janet.

She was staring at me wide-eyed. I could hear her heart racing.

“What the hell is going on?” she mumbled, her voice trembling. “Why did my wolf just recognize you as my mate?”

Mark gasped.

Noel was going to explode with happiness.

“Mate,” I mumbled as I rushed toward her.

I closed the distance between us and pulled her into my arms.

Tingles and sparks exploded on my skin.

I had my mate with me all along. She was always next to me. She was always mine.

CHAPTER TWO – My Mate

Janet’s POV

I was so confused.

My heart was pounding in my chest. The tingles and sparks on my skin were pleasurable but weird.

What was going on?!

‘What is going on, Jess?’ I asked my wolf.

'I don't know,' she whined. 'I can't talk to Noel. He is too excited.'

Nathan finally let me go.

I saw tears on his bruised cheeks.

One of his eyes was swollen shut. The other was completely black and blue.

"Can you give us some privacy, Mark?" Nathan mumbled, keeping his eyes on mine.

Well, one of his eyes.

"Sure," Mark mumbled, and I heard him leave Nathan's office.

"You were right next to me all this time," Nathan mumbled as he leaned his forehead on mine.

Why wasn't he as surprised as I was? Why did it seem like he knew what was going on? Did he know?

"What is going on, Nathan?" I asked, trying to stop my voice from shaking.

Nathan lifted his head and took my hand in his. He pulled me to the couch, and we sat beside each other.

"There is no easy way to say this, Jenny," he mumbled, calling me by my childhood nickname. "I will tell you my story, and I will let you decide what you want to do."

I wasn't sure if it was possible, but my heart raced even more.

"You know the legend of the White Wolf?" Nathan asked me.

"Of course," I mumbled.

We grew up listening to stories about the White Wolf. Everyone from our pack knew the legend.

"The stories are true, Jenny," Nathan said, tightening his grip on my hand. "Alpha Logan's mate, Emma, is the White Wolf."

My eyes widened. What?

"My father always told me that I was the White Wolf's Goddess-given mate," Nathan continued. "He told me that she would be my Luna. He told me that she would make me the strongest Alpha."

Nathan took a deep breath and caressed my cheek.

The tingles made me shiver.

"When I found out about Emma, I knew that I had to go get her," Nathan mumbled. "I was so fucking sure that she was mine. I left to the Crescent Moon Pack to bring her back here and make her my Luna."

My heart broke. Jess howled quietly. I could feel her pain. I could feel her sadness.

Nathan tightened his jaw. He pulled me closer and placed an arm around my waist.

“I was wrong, Jenny,” Nathan continued. “I was the cursed mate. Emma was already with her Goddess-given mate. You and I couldn’t feel our bond because I was under a spell.”

I could feel my heartbeat in my throat. It was getting harder and harder to breathe.

“You left me to go get her?” I mumbled, feeling a sharp pain in my chest.

Everything was so much worse because I was...

“I did,” Nathan mumbled. “I am so fucking sorry. I didn’t know. If I knew, I wouldn’t leave. I wouldn’t leave you, Jenny.”

I felt a tear fall on my cheek.

“I was a complete idiot,” Nathan sighed as he leaned his forehead against mine. “The curse made me so fucking angry. My father made me angry. I made a huge mistake, and I hurt so many people because of it.”

I wiped the tears from my cheeks.

“Who did you hurt?” I asked quietly.

He lifted his head and looked at me. I could see the pain and regret in his eyes.

“You,” he said. “Emma, Logan, Emma’s brother, and his wife. The list goes on and on.”

I gulped and took a deep breath.

“What did you do?” I asked.

Nathan lowered his head and took a deep breath.

“I was angry because Emma didn’t want me,” he said. “I tried to force her to come with me by threatening to hurt her sister-in-law and her unborn pup.”

I placed my hand on my lower belly automatically.

Nathan looked up at me. I saw how embarrassed he was.

“I can’t believe I did that,” he mumbled. “I can’t believe that they let me go. I was sure that they would kill me.”

A sharp pain in my chest almost made me gasp. If they had killed him...

“Emma saved my life,” Nathan said. “She made me promise that I would cut all ties with my father. She made me promise that I would listen to Noel more.”

I furrowed my eyebrows. “What do you mean?”

“I exiled my father from our pack,” Nathan said, making me gasp. “I am done being controlled by him. Emma saved my life, and I would repay her by being a better person. I am

going to be a better person for you. I will do everything I need to do to deserve you.”

My head was spinning.

“You exiled your father?” I mumbled.

“I did,” Nathan nodded. “You know what kind of a man he is. You know what he did. The only reason I listened to him all this time was because he was fueling the anger inside of me. Now that the curse is gone, the anger is gone too. I don’t want that man around me anymore.”

Nathan was right. His father was a terrible man. He was cruel, and he made Nathan’s life a living hell. I was glad he got rid of him.

“I know it will take you some time to process everything I just told you,” Nathan said as he leaned in and kissed my cheek. “I know you well enough to know that you won’t accept me immediately.”

He was right. He did know me well.

“I need some time, Nathan,” I said.

He nodded and gave me a small smile.

“I will wait for you as long as I have to,” he said softly. “I want you to know that I am so fucking sorry. I want you to know that I love you.”

I gulped and took a deep breath.

“Nathan?” I called him quietly.

“Yes, Jenny?” he asked, giving me a small smile.

I had to tell him. I couldn't keep it from him any longer. This news had nothing to do with our current problem. It was only a matter of time before he figured it out. I was surprised that he didn't notice it yet.

“I am two and a half months pregnant,” I said quietly. “It's a boy. You are going to be a dad.”

His one good eye widened, and a huge grin spread across his face. He looked down at my belly and sobbed.

“I am going to be a dad?” he asked, looking back up at me.

I nodded, and he pulled me into a hug immediately.

My heart skipped a beat. I was so happy that the news made him happy.

I still needed time, though. I needed time to process everything that happened. I needed time to accept it all.

CHAPTER THREE – Hunter

Nathan's POV

I was looking at my beautiful little boy, who was sleeping peacefully in my arms.

He was perfect. He was a perfect combination of his mom and me.

“You are going to be the best Alpha one day,” I told him quietly. “I will be there for you every step of the way. I am not going to do what my father did, I promise. I will be better. I will do better.”

When my pup was born, one of my greatest fears was that I would be a bad father. I didn't have the best role model growing up. I was so scared that I would turn out just like my father did.

But Jenny convinced me otherwise. She made me realize that I was different. She was there for me, and she supported me every step of the way.

Unfortunately for me, she was only there for me as a friend.

She said that she needed time. I understood it, and I tried to support her.

It was so fucking hard, though. I wanted my mate more than anything. I wanted to kiss her, and I wanted to hold her. I wanted to mark her. I wanted to make her mine.

But I knew she needed time. I knew that I fucked up.

“How is he?” I heard my mate's voice.

I turned around and smiled.

“He is sleeping peacefully,” I said, looking back down at him.

I bent down and placed a soft kiss on his forehead.

“I can’t believe he is three months old today,” Jenny said quietly. “Time is going by so fast.”

My heart clenched.

She was right. Time was going by so fast, and I still didn’t have her. My family wasn’t complete yet.

Jenny approached us and smiled. She looked at our pup and caressed his little cheek.

“He is so cute,” she mumbled. “And I am not saying that just because he is our pup.”

I chuckled and kissed her temple.

“You aren’t biased at all,” I said teasingly, making her roll her eyes at me.

Goddess, she was beautiful.

I tightened my jaw and made a decision. I decided to talk to her today. I couldn’t wait any longer. I needed her. I needed to make her mine. I was going to go insane if I didn’t.

I would understand if she needed more time. I would find a way to deal with it, but I fucking needed to try.

She was living at the packhouse, sleeping in the room next to mine. She was here. I saw her every day. She was the Luna of my pack.

But she still wasn't my mate. I still couldn't fucking touch her and bury myself inside of her.

I walked back to the crib and put my son down.

I needed to do it now.

I turned back around, approached my mate, and took her hand in mine. I started leading her toward her bedroom, which was adjacent to the nursery.

“Where are we going?” she asked, confused.

I didn't answer. I was too focused on trying to calm my racing heart down.

I opened the door, walked into her room, and pulled her toward the bed. I sat down and made her sit beside me.

“What's wrong, Nathan?” she asked softly.

I took a deep breath and cupped her cheeks. The tingles and sparks calmed me down a little.

“You are right, Jenny,” I said. “Time is going by so fast. Hunter is three months old. Soon, he is going to be all grown up, and he will run our pack.”

Jenny frowned.

“You missed a few steps there,” she said with a hint of amusement in her voice.

“It doesn’t matter,” I said, shaking my head. “Important thing is that I don’t want to wait. I don’t want to lose any more time. I want my family to be complete. I want you, Jenny. I want to mark you and show you how fucking much I love you.”

Her eyes widened a little.

“I understand if you need more time,” I sighed. “But I needed to say something before I exploded. I needed to try. I didn’t want to waste more time.”

Jenny studied my face for a second before she placed her hands over mine.

“I don’t need more time, Nate,” she said, making my heart skip a beat. “I watched you become the best father and the best Alpha. I fell in love with you a little bit more every day. You are right. We shouldn’t waste any more time.”

I was going to explode with happiness.

I leaned in and captured her soft lips with mine. She tasted so fucking amazing. She tasted like cinnamon and apples.

“Emma would be proud of you,” Jenny said as I stopped kissing her.

I furrowed my eyebrows, and she gave me a small smile.

“You are a different man now,” Jenny said. “You are kind and loving. You listened to her and deepened your connection with Noel. She would be proud, I am sure of it. She would be glad she saved your life.”

I really hoped that she would. I had a long road of redemption ahead of me, but I was definitely on the right track.

‘You are,’ Noel told me. *‘Jenny is right. Emma would be glad.’*

A warm feeling spread through my chest.

“It’s too bad that we will never know for sure,” I said to both Jenny and Noel.

They forbade me from ever coming back to their pack, and I would honor it. I didn’t want to cause even more damage to them.

“You never know,” Jenny said with a small smile. “You might see her again.”

I would love that. I would love to thank her for believing in me and giving me a second chance.

I smiled at my mate and placed another kiss on her lips.

“Jenny?” I mumbled as I started kissing her neck.

She moaned and wrapped her arms around my waist.

“Yes?” she mumbled, already panting a little.

“Can I mark you?” I asked, sucking on her marking spot a little.

Just at that moment, our pup started crying.

“Fuck,” I mumbled, making Jenny laugh.

“Tonight,” she said as she placed a soft kiss on my neck.

I lifted my head and smiled at her.

I couldn't wait to make her mine.

CHAPTER FOUR - Two Troublemakers

Janet's POV

“Hunter, leave your brother alone!” I screamed for like a thousandth time today.

Hunter laughed, tickling Harry one more time before he ran away.

Harry laughed loudly and ran after him.

I sighed and turned around.

“I give up,” I mumbled as I opened the kitchen door.

My handsome mate was there. He was scrolling through his phone and sipping coffee.

“Still no luck?” he asked, looking up at me.

I saw a slight smirk on his face and rolled my eyes.

“They are driving me crazy,” I said as I poured myself some coffee.

I loved my two teenage boys so much, but sometimes I wanted them to return to being my babies. They were so calm and adorable when they were babies. Now they were teenagers who always found something to fight about and could destroy my entire house in just a few seconds.

“Maybe we should try for a girl,” Nate said, making me raise my eyebrows at him.

“I love you and our two troublemakers, but I do not want any more kids,” I said as I walked over to Nate.

He smiled and moved his arms so I could sit on his lap.

“I love you,” Nate mumbled as he placed a small kiss on my shoulder.

“I love you too,” I said, giving him a small smile.

“You stink!”

“You little shit!”

I heard screams approaching us, and I sighed.

Nate chuckled.

“Hey, at least they adore each other,” Nate chuckled.

He was right. Our boys fought all the time, but they absolutely adored each other. They were protective of each other. They were kind and loving. I was so proud of both of them.

Nate cupped my cheeks and kissed me.

I kissed him back and ran my fingers through his soft hair.

“Gross,” I heard my son’s voice.

I chuckled and stopped kissing my mate.

Harry and Hunter entered the kitchen with huge smiles on their faces.

“I thought that you were fighting,” I said.

“Not really,” Harry sighed. “We just have new nicknames for each other.”

I raised my eyebrows at them.

“Never mind, mom,” Hunter chuckled as he sat beside his brother.

It was hard for me to believe they were 15 and 13 years old. It felt like I gave birth to Hunter yesterday.

“Are you going to the Alpha gathering at The Full Moon Pack?” Hunter asked.

Nate glanced at me and took a deep breath.

I stood up and walked to the stove. I started preparing breakfast.

Nathan didn't like those gatherings. He had to see Logan and Emma there, which always reminded him of what had happened.

Emma and Logan always kept their distance from us. They never spoke to us but were always very polite when we crossed paths. Logan glared at my mate the first few times but stopped after a while. Thankfully, there were always many people at Alpha gatherings, and nobody ever noticed the tension between them and us.

We still hadn't told our kids what had happened all those years ago. Nathan was always putting it off, saying that the kids were too young to know.

I knew the real reason, though. He was ashamed. I told him repeatedly that there was nothing to be embarrassed about. He turned his life around. He became a fantastic father and mate. Our pack was one of the strongest ones now because of him. He wasn't the same man he was all those years ago.

But he was still embarrassed. He feared his sons would see him differently after discovering the truth.

"I am, buddy," Nathan said. "Why?"

"Can I come this year, dad?" Hunter asked excitedly. "I am 15. I will be Alpha soon. It's time for me to start going to these things."

I was so proud of my boy. He took his role as a future Alpha very seriously. He started training and learning when he was only ten years old. He said that he wanted to become the best Alpha he could be.

I could feel Nate's nervousness.

You need to talk to him, Nate. I mind-linked him. He is right. He is going to be an Alpha soon. He needs to know what happened. He needs to know all the facts.

My son was an intelligent boy. He would notice that we aren't allies with the strongest pack and would want to know why.

I know. Nathan sighed. I will talk to him. I will tell him.

I could sense the fear coming off of Nate.

There is nothing to be afraid of, my love. I said softly. He will admire and love you just as much and maybe even more after you tell him the truth.

Nathan took a deep breath and smiled at our son.

“You are right, bud,” Nate said. “It is time for you to learn about these things.”

A huge smile spread across Hunter’s face.

“Does that mean I can go this year?” he asked excitedly.

Nathan smiled and nodded.

“How about me, dad?” Harry asked.

“You are still too young, kid,” Nate said, making Harry frown. “You can come with us when you turn 15. I promise.”

Harry rolled his eyes, making me chuckle.

I approached him and hugged him from behind.

“Maybe I could stay home with you, and you and I can spend some time together,” I said, making him look up at me. “Just me and my little pup.”

Harry sighed and rolled his eyes.

“I am not little, mom,” he mumbled.

I chuckled and kissed his cheek.

“You will always be my little pup,” I said. “Even when you turn 50.”

Harry rolled his eyes again, making me chuckle.

“Fine,” he sighed. “Will you make cheesecake for us?”

He grinned at me, and I laughed.

“I will,” I said and winked at him.

“I kind of want to stay home now, too,” Hunter mumbled, making Nate and me laugh.

“No can do, Alpha,” Harry said. “I’m getting all the cheesecake while you go to work.”

I chuckled and shook my head.

I walked back to the stove to finish making breakfast.

I heard footsteps approaching me and felt two hands wrap around my waist.

“I love you, Jenny,” my mate mumbled as he placed a small kiss on my neck.

“I love you too,” I said softly.

Nate smiled at me, and I felt shivers up and down my body.

I would never get tired of this feeling. I would never get tired of the bond and the love we shared.

Jacob & Rose

CHAPTER ONE – The Meeting

Jacob's POV

“Come on, Jake, stop moping around,” Dylan sighed. “We are running late.”

I rolled my eyes and stood up.

“I am not moping around,” I mumbled as I walked past him. “Are you coming or not?”

I heard him following behind me.

“You are the chief of patrol now,” Dylan said. “You shouldn't be late for an important meeting.”

I sighed and narrowed my eyes.

“We still have half an hour left until we have to be there,” I said, trying to remain calm. “Will you get off my back?”

“It's 20 minutes, not half an hour,” Dylan said, making my anger grow.

I tightened my jaw and took a deep breath.

I had to ignore him, or his annoying attitude would make me snap.

“What the hell is with you today?” Dylan asked. “Your mood is going to destroy this meeting.”

I was really going to punch him.

Dylan grabbed my arm and made me stop walking. I growled at him, trying to pull my arm out of his grip.

“Talk to me, Jacob,” Dylan said. “I am not letting you go there like this. Something is obviously bugging you.”

I tightened my jaw to the point where I thought my teeth would break.

“Is this about Emma again?” Dylan sighed. “You have to stop, Jake. She is married. She has kids.”

I saw fucking red.

I was so fucking tired of everyone asking me if my every bad mood was about Emma. It fucking wasn't. I would always love that girl, and I would never stop believing that she should have been mine, but I moved on. She had a mate. She had two kids with him. She wasn't fucking mine, and I found a way to be okay with it. I just wished that everyone would stop bugging the fuck out of me.

“It's not about Emma,” I said, pulling my arm out of his grasp.

“Then what is it?” Dylan sighed.

I started walking again.

I didn't know what it was about. I was just pissed off from the moment I woke up this morning.

Dylan was right. This meeting was necessary. We were meeting with Alpha Henry's head of patrol to discuss border security. Logan was cautious after everything that had happened. It was understandable, and I ultimately agreed with him regarding the border issue. Alpha Henry was one of our allies whose pack was on our northern border. He was more than happy to let his head of patrol meet with me. I needed to get my shit together and do my job.

It would be easier if I knew what the fuck was bothering me.

"Jake?" Dylan called me again, making me sigh.

"I don't know what's wrong," I mumbled. "I've been pissed off since I woke up this morning. Jared is restless, but he doesn't know either."

"Keep it together until after the meeting," Dylan said.

I clenched my fists and stayed silent.

He was right, but he was really pissing me off.

We were almost at the arranged spot when Jared stirred.

'What's wrong?' I asked.

*'Something is going to happen,' Jared said, growling quietly.
'Be careful.'*

“Guard up, Dylan,” I told him. “Jared said that something was going to happen.”

Dylan’s head snapped in my direction.

“What?” he asked, his eyes widening.

“I said, guard up,” I growled at him. “Stop staring at me, and be careful.”

I could smell and hear Alpha Henry’s pack members, who were already waiting for us on the other side of the border.

There was one smell that stood out. It smelled of mango with a hint of watermelon. Why the fuck was I smelling mango and watermelon in the middle of the fucking forest?!

I rushed toward the meeting spot when my whole world completely shifted.

My eyes fell on a woman standing next to Jason, Alpha Henry’s chief of patrol.

She was fucking beautiful. Her scent made me drool. Every fucking thing that worried me just dissipated.

I heard her gasp. I watched as she turned around and looked at me.

Goddess, she was gorgeous. Her black hair was cut into a short bob. Her green eyes melted with the forest around us.

I was totally and completely in love with her.

“Mate,” we said at the same time.

I heard people around us gasp, but I didn’t pay even the slightest attention to them. I could only see her. I only wanted to listen to her voice.

I hurried toward her. I couldn’t fucking wait to touch her. I couldn’t wait to feel her skin on mine.

She smiled and reached out for me.

I grabbed her hand and pulled her into a hug.

My whole body tingled. A pleasurable shiver went up and down my spine. Every ache in my body disappeared.

I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath.

“Well, now we know why you were so nervous since you woke up this morning,” Dylan snorted, making Jason laugh.

“Was he?” Jason asked. “Rose was on edge the whole day too.”

Rose? Her name was Rose?

I let her go and looked down at her. I smiled and caressed her cheek.

“Hi, Rose,” I said quietly. “My name is Jacob.”

She smiled, and my knees buckled.

“Hi, Jacob,” she said. “It is so nice to finally meet you.”

Her voice was melodic. I already knew that I would enjoy it each time she spoke.

She was right. It was so fucking nice to meet her.

“I didn’t think that you existed,” I said quietly as I cupped her cheeks and leaned my forehead on hers. “I already gave up on finding you.”

She placed her hand over mine and smiled. She was so fucking beautiful when she smiled. I would never get tired of watching her smile.

“I was always waiting for you,” she said, making my heart skip a beat. “I am so happy that you finally found me.”

I did.

I finally found her, and I would never let her go.

CHAPTER TWO – In Love

Rose's POV

He was so beautiful, and I was so in love with him.

There wasn't another word to describe him. He was beautiful. He was tall, muscular, and so freaking hot that I had to stop myself from drooling.

He was great with kids too.

"Yes, Alex, I will be back soon," he said with a small smile.
"Yes, I will bring you back a gift."

He looked up at me and smiled.

Who was Alex? I could tell he was a child by how he babbled over the phone. I didn't even know how Jacob understood him.

"Give your sister a kiss for me, will you?" Jacob said.

I heard the kid say something that made Jacob laugh. My heart fluttered. He was so freaking hot when he laughed.

"Hi, Amy," I heard him say, but I focused only on his lips.

I wanted to know what they felt like against mine. I wanted to know what they tasted like. I was drooling after him, and Roxy wasn't helping with her constant comments.

'He is so pretty,' she sighed. 'I can't wait to meet his wolf.'

'Stop sighing all the time,' I told her. 'You are distracting me.'

'He is distracting us,' Roxy mumbled. 'How could he not? He is perfect.'

I rolled my eyes and ignored her. I had trouble keeping my own emotions in check, and I didn't need hers as well.

"I will be home soon," Jacob said. "Yes, you will get to meet her."

He called to tell his cousin and his friend about me. Based on their reactions, I could tell that they were really excited to meet me. I was excited to meet them too.

"Say hi to my niece for me," Jacob said with a small smile.

He told me that his cousin was pregnant and that he couldn't wait to meet her baby. I could tell that he really loved and cared for his family.

Jacob hung up the phone and looked at me. He smiled, and I immediately approached him. I really needed to touch him.

He pulled me onto his lap, and I pressed my lips against his immediately. Both of us moaned quietly. He tasted as delicious as I knew he would.

"Fuck, Rose," he mumbled and tightened his arms around me.

I could feel something hard under my butt, and I grinned.

I kissed him again, pressing myself closer to him. His hands traveled down my body. He gripped my butt and squeezed.

I shivered. I wanted more. I really, really wanted more.

We would have to wait, though. We couldn't have sex in the middle of my parents' living room.

"So, who is Alex?" I asked as I stopped kissing him.

I needed a distraction. We needed a distraction.

"My friend's kid," he said with a small smile. "He is cute. I love him."

He smiled, and it made my heart skip a beat. I could tell that he was going to be a great father.

"He has a sister?" I asked, remembering his conversation with the boy.

"Yes," Jacob nodded. "A twin. They are inseparable."

"How old are they?" I asked, wanting to know more about the people who mattered to him.

My family was small. I didn't have siblings or cousins. I could tell that Jacob had a big family, and I was excited to be a part of it. I wanted to know more about them.

"They will be three in a couple of months," Jacob said, giving me a small smile.

“I can’t wait to meet them,” I said, smiling back at him.

“So, you are really taking our daughter to your pack?” I heard my mom’s voice behind me.

I flinched and stood up immediately. My parents were cool, but I was sure that they didn’t want to see me sitting on my mate’s lap.

Jacob smiled, but I could sense his nervousness.

“I am,” he nodded. “We will come to visit all the time, and you are more than welcome to come to my pack. My parents are excited to meet you.”

My dad approached me and pulled me into his arms.

“Take care of my little girl,” my dad said as he hugged me tightly.

“I will,” I heard my mate’s voice. “I am honored to have a mate as beautiful and kind as your daughter. I will love her and cherish her.”

“You better do that,” my mom said as she joined in on our hug.

Her voice was quiet and raspy. I could tell that she was crying.

I looked up at my mom and gave her a small smile.

“You will see me all the time, mom,” I told her. “I am not moving far away.”

My mom wiped her cheeks and gave me a small smile.

“I know, Rosie,” she said softly. “I will still miss seeing you every day, though.”

“I will miss seeing you too, mom,” I said, letting go of my dad and wrapping my arms around my mom.

She hugged me tightly and kissed my temple.

“We need to get going,” Jacob said, making my mom sigh.

My mom let me go and cupped my cheeks.

“Call me when you get there, okay?” she said. “And let us know when we can come to visit.”

“Of course,” Jacob answered instead of me. “I will talk to my Alpha and let you know when you can come.”

I smiled at my mom. She kissed me again before letting me go.

Jacob walked to the front door and picked up my bags. He opened the front door and stepped outside. My dad went to help him bring my bags to my car.

I took a deep breath and looked around my childhood home. I was sad that I had to leave, but I was so excited to start my life

with my mate. I waited for him for a long time. I thought that I would never find him, and now that I did, I couldn't wait to spend every second with him.

CHAPTER THREE – My Daughter

Jacob's POV

“We won't be having any more children after this one,” Rosie said, pacing around the room slowly.

“You don't want another boy?” I asked, smirking a little.

Rosie looked at me, making me raise my hands in surrender.

“Hey, I am just repeating what you said,” I defended myself.

After we found out that our second baby was a girl, Rosie was so excited. She did say that she wanted another boy, though. She adored our son, and they had a special relationship.

She rolled her eyes and continued pacing around the room. She looked like a little penguin.

I chuckled and shook my head.

“I forgot how painful it is to give birth,” Rosie said, groaning a little.

I stood up and approached her. I caressed her belly and kissed her temple.

“You can do it,” I mumbled quietly. “I love you, and I am so proud of you.”

Rosie leaned on me, and I rubbed her back gently.

“I love you too,” she mumbled, making me smile.

There was a knock on the door, and a second later, Emma peered in. She was still volunteering at the hospital when she had time, and she was here when we came in.

“Hi, guys,” she said with a huge smile on her face. “How is it going?”

“Slowly,” Rosie sighed as she walked over to the bed and sat down. “She is a stubborn kid, and apparently, she doesn’t want to come out.”

Emma chuckled and adjusted Rosie’s pillows.

“I remember that,” she said. “We will have another stubborn girl in the family, apparently. Sophie didn’t want to come out either. Alex was practically talking by the time we managed to convince her to join us.”

I snorted and shook my head. I wasn’t surprised. Sophie really was a stubborn little girl.

“I am not surprised,” Rosie chuckled. “She is a stubborn little girl.”

“She’s gotten that from her dad,” Emma said, rolling her eyes playfully.

I laughed and shook my head.

“I’ve known you for ages,” I said. “She’s got that from you.”

Emma looked at me and shook her head, making me laugh again.

“So, where are Alex and Soph?” I asked, rubbing my mate’s back gently.

“They are with Daisy as well,” Emma said. “Mason, Alex, and Sophie took the responsibility of watching over Danny very seriously.”

I smiled. My boy loved his older friends. He loved spending time with them.

“Is he behaving?” Rosie asked.

“Oh, I am sure that he is,” Emma smiled. “He is a great boy, Rosie. You did an amazing job raising him.”

Rosie smiled and took Emma’s hand in hers.

“Thank you, Emmy,” Rosie said softly.

I smiled and took my mate’s other hand in mine. I loved the friendship between Emma and Rosie. I even got closer to Logan after finding my mate. He was way more relaxed around me, and I could even call him my friend now.

I still loved Emma a lot. She was still my best friend, and I would still do everything for her and everything in my power to protect her. I didn't want her like I wanted her before. That feeling of that intense need for her disappeared the moment I met my mate.

"Uh," Rosie groaned, placing her hand on her belly.

She had another contraction.

She squeezed my hand, and I bent down to kiss the top of her head.

"They are getting closer together," Rosie mumbled, taking a deep breath.

"I will go get Wren," Emma said.

"Thank you," I told her as I watched her leave the room.

She smiled at us before she closed the door behind herself.

I pulled up a chair and sat down next to my mate. She was taking slow, deep breaths. She smiled at me, and I kissed her hand.

"I can't wait to meet our baby girl," I said, trying to keep the tears away.

I couldn't wait to hold my baby. I couldn't wait to meet my daughter.

“What did we decide on the name?” Rosie asked.

“The last two names we fought over were Olivia and Hazel,” I chuckled.

“What about Amelia?” Rosie asked.

“We eliminated that name ages ago,” I said, shaking my head at her.

She groaned and squeezed my hand again just as doctor Wren walked inside.

“Hi, Rosie,” he said with a huge smile on his face. “Is the baby girl ready to come out?”

“It sure feels like it,” Rosie said, breathing through the contraction.

Wren walked to the cupboard and put some gloves on.

“Let’s see how long until you can push,” Wren said as she approached the bed.

I looked at my mate’s beautiful face. I bent down and kissed her cheek. She looked at me and smiled.

“I love you,” I told her. “Thank you for making me a father again.”

She smiled and squeezed my hand.

“I love you too, Jake,” she said. “I adore watching you with our son, and I can’t wait to see you holding our little girl.”

My heart skipped a beat. I couldn’t wait for that either.

“Daniel is going to be the best big brother ever,” Rosie added, making me smile.

Danny was two and a half years old, but I already knew that Rosie was right. He was so kind and gentle, and I knew that he was going to be a great big brother.

“Okay, Rosie,” Wren said, making me look at him. “You will be ready to push soon. How are you feeling?”

“Like I’m being torn in two,” Rosie said, groaning as another contraction started.

I took a deep breath and kissed her temple. I wished that I could take the pain away. I wished that I could endure it for her.

“Just think about your little girl and that you will get to meet her soon,” Wren said, smiling at Rosie.

She smiled and nodded.

“Have you decided on the name yet?” Wren asked us.

Rosie looked at me and smiled. We both knew what name we wanted to give to our baby girl.

“Hazel,” we both said at the same time.

I grinned and bent down to place a soft kiss on my mate’s lips.

I was the happiest man alive.

CHAPTER FOUR – Happily Ever After

Rose’s POV

“Stop it, Danny!” my daughter screamed while laughing out loud.

Danny didn’t listen to her. Of course he didn’t. He continued splashing her with water.

“It’s my birthday!” Hazel yelled. “You have to listen to me today!”

I couldn’t believe that my baby was already six years old. The time was going by so fast. Alex, Mason, and Sophie were babies when I came to the pack, and now they were already teenagers. I sometimes wished that I could slow down the time.

“Never!” Danny yelled as he ran away.

I chuckled and shook my head.

“Thank God I don’t have an older brother,” Mason sighed, rolling his eyes.

“Your younger brother torments you just as much,” Alex chuckled.

“Yes, I do,” I heard Mike’s voice behind me.

I turned around and saw Daisy and Mike approaching.

“That’s just because I let him,” Mason said, frowning. “If he was older, I’m sure it would be worse.”

“Yes, it would,” Mike laughed, making Mason roll his eyes.

Mike was a funny little troublemaker. He always found a way to make us laugh. He was loving and kind, but he could really annoy the shit out of his older brother and the rest of his cousins.

“Did Amy and Drake arrive?” Daisy asked, placing a plate filled with different cupcakes on the table.

“Not yet,” I said. “Amy called. They are running late because Halley spilled yogurt all over herself just as they were about to leave.”

Daisy chuckled and shook her head.

“She reminds me so much of me when I was a kid,” Daisy said. “I was just as clumsy.”

“Where is Soph?” Mike asked, making Alex sigh.

“She isn’t feeling well,” Alex mumbled worriedly. “Mom and dad are with her.”

My heart skipped a beat. Sophie was struggling with magic lately. She had trouble controlling it, and it drained her energy completely.

We were all very worried about her.

“How come you aren’t with her?” Mike asked Alex.

Alex and Sophie were inseparable, especially if one of them wasn’t feeling well.

“She chased me out of the house,” Alex sighed. “She said that I needed to relax and enjoy the party.”

Mason snorted. “It’s like she doesn’t even know you.”

“I said the same thing,” Alex mumbled, frowning.

He wouldn’t be able to relax until Sophie was okay.

“Don’t worry, bud,” Daisy said softly. “Your uncle is there, and he mind-linked me a few minutes ago. She is doing much better, and they are on their way here.”

Is Emma okay? I mind-linked Daisy.

I knew why Andrew went there. Emma was a complete mess lately. She barely slept because she was trying to find a way to help Sophie with her magic. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to find anything. Sophie was the first one to have powers like that.

She is better. Daisy responded. **Andrew managed to calm her down a little.**

I took a deep breath and looked back at Alex. He was distraught.

“Alex!” my daughter screamed, making him turn around.

“Hey, that's not fair!” Danny shouted.

“You are Alpha,” Hazel said, running into Alex's arms. “You can order Danny to stop bugging me.”

Alex picked Hazel up and sat her on his lap.

“Stop bugging your sister, Daniel,” Alex said, making Hazel grin.

“You are cheating!” Danny shouted, making us laugh.

“Amy and Drake should be here any moment now,” I heard my mate's voice behind me.

I turned around and saw him put his phone back in his pocket.

I smiled and reached out for him. He wrapped his arms around me and kissed my temple.

“Is Sophie okay?” Jacob asked quietly.

I looked at the kids. Alex, Mason, and Mike were laughing at something Hazel had said.

“She is better now,” Daisy said. “She had a rough morning. She couldn’t control the magic.”

“Fuck,” Jacob mumbled as he ran his fingers through his hair.

“Emma and Anna managed to contain it,” Daisy continued softly. “She didn’t hurt anyone.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I was relieved.

“Hi, guys,” I heard Emma’s voice behind us.

I turned around and saw her, Logan, Andrew, and Sophie approaching us.

Alex placed Hazel down and rushed toward Sophie.

“Are you okay?” he asked as he grabbed her shoulders and looked her up and down.

She smiled and nodded. I could see Alex relax a little.

“Sophia, the boys are bugging me!” my daughter complained, making Sophie laugh.

Alex took her hand in his and pulled her toward the rest of the kids.

“Are you okay?” Jacob asked Emma.

“Tired, but better,” she said with a small smile on her face.
“Where are Drake and Amy?”

“On their way,” Jacob said. “Halley spilled yogurt on herself.”

Emma and Logan chuckled.

“Of course she did,” Emma said, shaking her head.

“Sit down,” I told them. “We will eat when they get here.”

Emma and Andrew approached the table and sat down. Jake walked back to the house to get the drinks.

“Soph,” Logan called his daughter, making her look at him.
“Come here, princess.”

She let Alex’s hand go and approached her dad. He pulled her into a hug and kissed the top of her head.

He whispered something to her. She nodded and smiled.

“I love you, princess,” Logan said softly.

“I love you too, dad,” Sophie said.

Logan let her go, and she walked back to the kids.

“She is okay, Logan,” Andrew said quietly.

Logan looked at him and took a deep breath. He approached us and sat down at the table. Emma took his hand in hers.

“If something happens to my little girl...” Logan mumbled worriedly.

“Nothing is going to happen,” Emma said. “I will find a way to get rid of the dark magic. I will find a way to help her.”

Logan pulled Emma into a tight hug.

I looked at our kids and smiled. They were our biggest treasure. All of them were so kind and gentle. My eyes fell on my two little troublemakers, and my heart grew double. They were perfect, and I was so proud of both of them.

I loved how my life turned out. I adored my mate and my children. I loved my friends so much. I couldn't help but wonder what the future held for our children.

Would they find love just like we did? Would they be happy just like we were?

I didn't know the answers to those questions, but I knew that I would be here for them every step of the way.

CHAPTER ONE – Annoying

Alexander's POV

“Why are you so annoying?!” I screamed as I was walking down the stairs.

Goddess, no one could have annoyed me more than my sister.

Fia mumbled something as she slammed her bedroom door.

I rolled my eyes and walked to the kitchen.

“Are all sisters so annoying?” I sighed as I walked into the kitchen.

My mom and my uncle were sitting at the table and sipping coffee. My dad was making breakfast.

“I wouldn't know, bud,” my dad chuckled.

“Yes, they are,” my uncle said at the same time.

A small cloud appeared above my uncle's head. A few raindrops fell on his head.

He looked up and sighed.

“You are not proving me wrong, Emma,” my uncle sighed.

My mom chuckled and the cloud disappeared.

I would never stop being fascinated with my mom's magic. She was the White Wolf. She was the True Luna. My mom was the only wolf in existence that had magic. Well, she was the only wolf that had magic until she gave birth to my sister and me.

Sophia also had magic, but it was different than my mom's. My mom was an elemental who could control water and air. My mom could also change the weather, and it was the coolest thing ever. When I was a kid, I loved storms, so my mom would always make little lightning bolts above my bed. It was one of the most precious memories I had.

My sister's magic was a little bit different. She was also an elemental, but she could control earth and fire. My sister avoided using magic because of the darkness. My mom's magic was light, but my sister's wasn't. She had both light and dark magic, and she spent years learning how to push the darkness away. She avoided using magic completely, though. She said that even using her light magic could be dangerous. She said that she could feel the darkness tempting her to give in.

I didn't inherit my mom's magic, but I did inherit her strength. I was a bit bigger and stronger than any other Alpha wolf my age. I had more endurance and I was faster than the others.

My mom and my sister both had a unique ability to share their magic with others, mostly with my dad and me. They couldn't give us their magic to use, but they could enhance our abilities and protect us a bit better. Both of them could do it with others as well, but it took a lot of their strength and it wasn't as effective as it was when they transferred it to us.

“What are you two fighting about now?” my mom asked as she pulled out a chair for me to sit on.

I sat down next to her and she kissed my temple.

I furrowed my eyebrows, trying to remember it.

I completely forgot. Most of our fights were completely stupid, and I forgot what we were fighting about within minutes.

Oh. I remembered.

“She keeps leaving my bedroom door open after she leaves,” I sighed, rolling my eyes.

My mom and dad chuckled.

“That’s the same fight you had for years,” my uncle said, shaking his head and taking a sip of his coffee.

“I know!” I exclaimed. “I hoped that she would learn by now.”

“Thanks a lot, Emma,” my uncle frowned. “My coffee is watered down now.”

“Oh, relax, it was just a few drops of water,” my mom sighed.

“Now I know where Sophia gets it from,” I said, narrowing my eyes at my mom. “That’s exactly what she always says to me. Oh, relax, Alex.”

My dad was chuckling the entire time. He approached my uncle and gave him a fresh cup of coffee.

“Sophia?” I heard my sister’s voice. “You are that mad at me?”

I looked at her and rolled my eyes. I only called her Sophia when I was really mad at her. Everyone called her Sophia only when they were mad at her. People called her Sophie or Soph. I always called her Fia.

“You need to close the door when you leave my room,” I sighed.

“I know,” Fia said. “I already told you that I am sorry.”

“Sorry won’t close my door,” I mumbled, frowning at her.

“Okay, enough,” my dad said as he placed a plate filled with pancakes in front of us. “You can argue about it later. We have more important things to discuss today.”

I frowned and looked at my dad.

“Is everything okay?” I asked.

Fia and I turned 18 three months ago, and my father was preparing me to become an Alpha. I was slowly taking over some of the duties and I was hoping to take over the pack by the time I turned 19.

“Yes, bud, don’t worry,” my dad said, giving me a small smile. “I just need to talk to you and Soph about the Alpha gathering this year.”

My excitement grew immediately. The Alpha gathering was at our pack this year and it would be the first time I would be allowed to go. I wanted my dad to take me sooner, but he told me that I had to wait until I turned 18.

“What about it?” I asked, excitedly.

My dad glanced at my mom and my uncle. I could swear that I saw a hint of worry in his eyes.

“We are allowed to go this year, right?” I asked, furrowing my eyebrows.

If my dad said that I couldn’t go again this year...

“Of course, bud,” my dad said, making me sigh in relief. “We just want to tell you a little bit about Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack.”

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked at Fia. She was looking at my dad with a confused expression on her face.

“What about him?” I asked, looking back at my dad.

He took a deep breath and ran his fingers through his hair.

“Our pack has a history with him,” my dad said as he placed his hands on my mom’s shoulders. “We moved on, but it’s

something that has affected us greatly and we could never forget what happened.”

My heartbeat quickened.

“What happened?” I asked quietly.

My dad looked down at my mom. She smiled at him.

“Alpha Nathan tried to take your mom away from me,” my dad said, making my eyes widen.

Axel stirred and growled.

“What?” Fia mumbled quietly.

I took her hand in mine and squeezed it.

“Talk,” I said sternly.

CHAPTER TWO – Our Past (Part One)

Alexander's POV

I watched my dad as he pulled up a chair and sat down next to my mom. She ran her fingers through his hair and he smiled at her.

“I love you, Emma,” my dad said quietly.

“I love you too,” my mom said, giving him a small smile.

My dad turned to Fia and me.

“I always told you that your fated mate would be the most important person in your life, right?” my dad asked.

I nodded. I was getting more confused by the second.

“I always told you that you have to cherish and respect your mate, right?” my dad asked, his voice raspy.

I nodded again.

I glanced at Fia. She was as confused as me.

“What I am about to tell you next will probably change the way you feel about me,” my dad said, his voice breaking. “I just hope that you will find a way to forgive me. I love you two and your mom with my entire heart and soul and I never want to lose you.”

My heart raced.

What the hell was he talking about? Why would I change the way I felt about my dad? I loved my dad.

He took a deep breath and pulled my mom closer to him. She caressed his cheek gently.

“When I first found out that your mom was my mate, I rejected her,” my dad said, making Fia gasp.

I was frozen.

What?

He rejected my mom? My wonderful mom? Why?!

I glanced at my uncle. Did he know about this? How could he let it happen? If Fia’s mate rejected her, I would rip his fucking heart out of his body.

“Why, dad?” Fia asked, her voice laced with sadness.

My dad closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

“I was an idiot,” my dad said quietly as he opened his eyes and looked at my sister and me. “As you know, your grandfather was killed in a rogue attack and he left me in charge before I even started my Alpha training. I felt so responsible for my pack and I was focused on finding a strong mate.”

I tightened my hand around Fia's.

"I found out that your mom was my mate on her 18th birthday," dad said, looking at my mom. "I rejected her that same day. I thought that she wasn't strong enough to be my Luna. I decided to take a chosen mate. I decided to make Sienna my Luna."

To say that I was pissed off would be an understatement.

"Who is Sienna?" Fia asked quietly.

"Did you know about it?" I asked my uncle at the same time.

My uncle nodded and took a deep breath. "I did. I agreed with your dad. I supported him in his decision."

My eyes widened.

Was he serious?! Was he fucking serious?!

"Are you kidding me?!" I exclaimed, looking at my uncle wide-eyed. "You let him do that to your sister?!"

I instinctively pulled Fia closer to me.

"I made a mistake," my uncle said. "Your dad and I both made a lot of mistakes."

I looked at my mom. How could they hurt her like that? My mom was the best woman on this planet, and I wasn't saying it because she was my mom. It was the truth.

My mom smiled at me. I wanted to hug her.

“Who is Sienna?” my sister asked again, making us all look at her.

She looked so sad and disappointed.

My dad took a deep breath and ran his fingers through his hair.

“Sienna was Andrew’s and mine childhood best friend,” my dad said.

“Where is she now?” Fia asked.

We never met her. I’d never even heard about her until a few minutes ago.

“She is dead,” my father said angrily. “She died in the cellar a long time ago.”

Why did I have a feeling that there was so much our parents were hiding from us?

“Why was she there?” Fia asked, gripping my hand tighter.

My dad glanced at my mom and my uncle.

“Stop looking at each other and tell us the truth!” I said, getting annoyed with the way they were prolonging this.

My mom stood up and approached Fia and me. She kissed my temple and stood behind me. She wrapped her arms around Fia and me and leaned her head on mine.

I relaxed a little.

“Sienna was in the cellar because she hired a rogue called Rolf to kidnap and kill your mom,” my dad said, making my heart stop beating.

What?

WHAT?!

I grabbed my mom’s arm and looked up at her. I was horrified.

“Mom?” Fia cried out, looking up at her mom as well.

Fia’s eyes were filled with tears.

Our mom bent down and kissed Fia’s cheek. She ran her fingers through my hair and gave us a little smile.

“Sienna was jealous of me being your dad’s true mate,” our mom said. “She wanted me gone even though your dad chose her, so she hired a rogue to kidnap me. Your dad and your uncle found me and saved me.”

I looked back at my dad.

“Why did she hate mom?” I asked. “You said that she was uncle Andrew’s and your childhood friend. Didn’t she know

mom as well? Why would she hurt her?"

"Sienna was always jealous of your mom," my uncle answered. "She believed that Logan and I should love her more. She had bullied your mom for years. After Logan found out that your mom was his mate, Sienna lost it. She wanted to get rid of her."

What the hell? I was getting more and more confused by the second.

I had so many questions.

"She bullied mom for years?" Fia voiced out the first question I had on my mind. "Why didn't you stop her?"

My uncle took a deep breath and looked at my mom.

"Because we didn't believe Emma," my uncle mumbled. "I didn't believe your mom when she told me about Sienna. I fucked up."

My eyes widened to the point of falling out of their sockets.

Did I hear him right?

No. There was no fucking way I heard him right.

If Fia told me that someone was bullying her, I would rip them apart. I wouldn't even need proof. My sister's words would be proof enough.

“Let me get this straight,” I mumbled, shaking my head. “Your childhood friend bullied your sister for years and you didn’t believe her? And then dad chose that friend as his mate? But she was jealous of mom and had her kidnapped?”

My uncle and my dad nodded. My mom caressed my cheek.

I tightened my jaw. I could feel the anger boiling inside of me.

“I can tell what you are thinking, bud,” my uncle said. “If we just believed your mom about Sienna, she would never be able to kidnap her.”

I clenched my fists and nodded.

“Why didn’t you believe mom?” Fia asked quietly.

My dad and my uncle took a deep breath and glanced at each other.

I couldn’t fucking wait to hear their excuse. I loved them both a lot, but I wanted to punch the shit out of them for doing that to my mom.

CHAPTER THREE – Our Past (Part Two)

Sophia's POV

I was looking at my dad with a confused look on my face.

So many emotions bubbled up inside me. Anger, sadness, fear, confusion, frustration... I had them all and I couldn't sort through them.

“We didn't believe her because we thought that Sienna would never do something like that,” Uncle Andrew said. “I thought that your mom was jealous of Sienna because we spent so much time together.”

My jaw almost hit the floor.

Was he serious?

Lex chuckled darkly.

“You didn't believe your sister because you thought that she was jealous?” Lex asked, squeezing my hand tightly.

Lex was very protective of mom and me. I could feel his anger and sadness. He looked like he was going to explode.

“I was an idiot, Alex,” my uncle sighed. “I paid for my mistake. I almost lost my sister. I thought that she would never talk to me again. I thought that she would hate me. I thought that she would die before I got to tell her how fucking sorry I was.”

My eyes widened.

“Die?” I mumbled, looking up at my mom.

My mom almost died?

“I was in pretty bad shape when your dad and uncle found me,” she said. “Luckily, doctor Wren saved me.”

Lex stood up abruptly and turned toward our mom. He pulled her into a tight hug.

“I am so sorry, mom,” Lex mumbled. “If Sienna was still alive, I would kill her with my own bare hands.”

My mom hugged my brother and rubbed his back gently.

“She isn’t alive anymore, honey,” my mom said. “She can’t hurt anyone anymore.”

“What about that fucking rogue?” Lex asked.

“He is dead too,” my dad mumbled, making me look back at him.

My dad looked so sad. I wanted to hug him, but I was so angry at him.

My dad looked at me and gulped. I could tell that he wanted to hug me too.

“What happened after?” I asked. “How did Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack try to take mom away from you?”

Dad took a deep breath and looked at my mom.

“Do you remember the Legend of the White Wolf?” my dad asked.

I nodded.

Of course I remembered it. I grew up listening to the stories about my mom being the White Wolf and the only wolf in existence who had magic. Well, until she gave birth to me.

“We didn’t tell you the whole story,” my dad said, making me narrow my eyes at him.

“Did you reject my mom twice?” Lex asked angrily.

My dad sighed.

“Your dad made a mistake, honey,” my mom said softly. “I found a way to forgive him. He made up for it. He is a wonderful mate and a wonderful father. Please don’t be angry at him.”

My mom was right. My dad was a wonderful mate and the best dad in the world. But it was so hard not to be angry.

Lex scoffed and sat back down next to me. He crossed his arms over his chest and looked at our dad.

“What didn’t you tell us?” Lex asked angrily.

My mom kissed the top of Lex’s head and caressed my cheek. She walked back to dad and sat down next to him. She took his hand in hers and gave him a small smile. My dad pulled her to him.

I always admired the relationship my mom and dad had. I always hoped that I would find a mate who would love me the same way my dad loved my mom. It hurt so much to find out that my dad rejected my mom. I couldn’t believe it. It was hard to believe it.

“The White Wolf was created by a curse,” my mom said, looking back at my brother and me. “A long time ago, a clan of dark witches wanted to get rid of werewolves. They knew that they couldn’t kill them because the Goddess would punish them. Back then, there were only two packs and the witches came up with a plan to turn the packs against each other. They thought that the best way to do that would be to turn the two Alphas against each other.”

I furrowed my eyebrows.

“How?” I asked.

“They cursed a woman from one of the packs,” my mom said. “Alpha of her pack was her Goddess-given mate. The witches cursed the Alpha of the other pack and made him her mate as well. The witches thought that the two Alphas would fight over her, kill each other, and the packs wouldn’t exist anymore.”

My breath got caught in my throat.

“You had two mates?” my brother mumbled quietly.

My mom looked at him and nodded.

My eyes widened. Lex cursed under his breath.

“That’s why you have dark magic, princess,” my dad told me.
“Your mom’s magic was created by a dark curse. The darkness from the curse transferred to you.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

Lex grabbed my hand.

“Will Fia have two mates?” Lex asked worriedly.

My eyes widened and I looked at him. It didn’t even occur to me. Was it possible?

“We don’t know,” my mom sighed, making me look at her.
“You know that I am the first White Wolf who had children. Everything we know so far is just an assumption.”

“What happened to the first White Wolf?” Lex asked.

“She killed herself,” my mom said. “She couldn’t choose between her two mates and she took her own life.”

An uneasy feeling washed over me.

“How did you choose, mom?” Lex asked her.

My mom smiled and looked at my dad.

“My heart knew that your dad was the one,” she said. “Our love was stronger than the curse.”

A small smile spread across my face.

My dad pulled my mom into his arms. He hugged her tightly and looked at us.

“I told you the story about the Rogue King, didn’t I?” dad asked as he kissed the top of my mom’s head.

“Yes,” Lex said. “He killed your dad and mom’s parents.”

Our dad nodded.

“We never told you the real reason why he attacked the pack,” our uncle sighed, joining the conversation. “We never told you who he was really after.”

“Is there anything that you did tell us?” Lex asked angrily.

“We were trying to protect you,” our dad said.

Lex clenched his fists and narrowed his eyes at our dad. I could tell that he wanted to argue, but I interrupted him. I didn’t want him to argue with dad. I understood that he was angry, but nothing good would come out of the two of them fighting.

“Who was the Rogue King after?” I asked, making my dad and my uncle look at me.

“Your mom,” my uncle said.

I froze. Lex growled.

What? Why?

CHAPTER FOUR – Our Past (Part Three)

Alexander's POV

I couldn't help but glare at my dad.

I loved him so fucking much, but I was so angry at him.

He rejected my mom. He didn't believe her. She almost died because he didn't believe her.

I wanted to punch him, and I felt bad about it. He was my dad. I would never hurt him.

But Goddess, I was so fucking pissed off.

"Why was he after our mom?" Fia asked quietly, her voice laced with sadness.

I squeezed her hand.

Are you okay? I mind-linked her.

I don't know what to think. She said. **I am sad and angry. I want to hug dad, but I am angry at him. I am so confused.**

I know, Fia. I sighed. **Me too.**

"He heard about the legend of the White Wolf," my dad answered. "He was working with some witches and they told him that he could take the White Wolf as his mate. They told him that she would make him powerful. He thought that he would be able to have children with her, and take over all the packs."

I raised my eyebrows. Was he fucking insane?

“The witches who were working for him misinterpreted the legend,” my mom sighed. “As you already know, the legend was written in an ancient language and they translated it wrong. They thought that anyone could become my second mate.”

“We didn’t know anything about the legend at the time,” Uncle Andrew said. “We managed to capture some rogues that were working for the Rogue King and they told us bits and pieces that they’ve heard from the Rogue King.”

“We didn’t even know that I had magic,” my mom continued, making me look at her. “The Rogue King just thought that I would be a better Luna, I guess. He thought that I would be more powerful and charismatic. That’s about all that we knew about it.”

“And what happened to him?” I asked, feeling my heart race.

Did he hurt my mom? Was he alive? If he was, I would kill him with my own bare hands.

“He came to our border with a witch,” my dad sighed. “She used her magic to incapacitate us. The Rogue King threatened to kill us if your mom didn’t go with him.”

A growl escaped me.

He threatened to kill my dad?! He threatened to kill my family and my pack?!

Oh, I would fucking kill him!

“Oh, Goddess,” Fia cried out quietly.

I placed my arm over her shoulders.

“What did he do to you, mom?” I asked quietly.

I wanted to punch something.

Well, not something, someone. I wanted to punch Sienna and that fucker who helped her. I wanted to punch the Rogue King and that fucking witch.

“Well, as it turned out, they knew a bit more about the legend than we did,” my mom sighed. “It was still wrong, though, but they knew that I had magic. They knew that I could share it. So when the Rogue King took me, he let the witches experiment on me. They were trying to see how much I could endure. They were trying to make me use my magic and share it with them.”

I saw fucking red.

They experimented on my mom?!

Fia put a hand over her mouth and sobbed quietly.

“Oh, princess,” my mom said as she stood up and approached my sister.

She hugged her and kissed the top of her head.

“I am so sorry, mom,” Fia mumbled quietly.

“What did they do, mom?” I asked, trying to swallow the lump in my throat.

My mom looked at me and sighed.

“It doesn’t matter, honey,” she said. “All you need to know is that your dad and your uncle saved me again.”

It was bad. I knew it. She would tell us if it wasn’t bad.

“So Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack was the Rogue King?” Fia asked, looking up at our mom.

“No, princess,” my mom said as she wiped the tears from Fia’s cheeks. “The Rogue King’s name was Samuel and he wasn’t an Alpha.”

“Where is he?” I asked angrily.

“Dead,” my dad said, making me look at him.

Well, at least he did something right. He killed all the people who hurt my mom.

“Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack was my real cursed mate,” my mom said. “The Rogue King thought that anybody could become my mate by marking me, but it wasn’t true. The curse created my second mate and it was Alpha Nathan of the Blood Moon Pack.”

I knew who Alpha Nathan was. I knew his son. He did the Alpha training a year earlier than me, so we didn’t cross paths, but I knew who he was.

But why was Alpha Nathan still alive? Why didn’t my father kill him?

“Did he hurt you, mom?” Fia asked quietly.

My mom took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“He came here because he was sure that he was my Goddess-given mate,” my mom said as he ran her fingers through Fia’s hair. “He was sure that your dad was the cursed one. He wanted me to give him a chance.”

“Were you already mated to dad then?” I asked her.

“I did,” my mom nodded. “That was four years after the Rogue King took me. Your dad and I were already mated and married then.”

“And he still insisted that you give him a chance?” I asked angrily.

My mom nodded.

“He was very sure that he was my Goddess-given mate,” my mom said.

“But how would he mark you if dad had already marked you?” Fia asked, furrowing her eyebrows.

“Anna came to our pack one day to tell us the whole legend of the White Wolf,” my mom said as she went back to sit beside my dad. “Her ancestors wrote the books and she knew how to read them. She knew the entire legend.”

“That’s how you met her?” Fia asked.

My mom nodded.

“Anna told us about Alpha Nathan,” my dad continued. “She said that he was your mom’s other mate and that your mom had to be marked for the second time. But if her cursed mate was the one to mark her for the second time, she would die. Unfortunately, the first White Wolf never found out who her Goddess-given mate was and we had no idea how to know for sure.”

My heart raced. My mom went through so much.

“I was fine with your dad being my cursed mate,” my mom said. “I was fine with things staying the way they were. I didn’t want Alpha Nathan, not even if he was my Goddess-given mate.”

“But?” Fia asked quietly.

“But Anna told me that I wouldn’t be able to have children unless I was marked by my Goddess-given mate,” my mom said.

I furrowed my eyebrows.

Everything that happened was so fucking insane.

I couldn’t believe what my mom went through.

CHAPTER FIVE – Now You Know Everything

Sophia's POV

“What did you do?” I mumbled quietly.

My mom looked at my dad and sighed.

“Alpha Nathan insisted on getting to know me, so we had dinner together,” my mom said. “I always knew that your dad was my Goddess-given mate. I didn't need to get to know Alpha Nathan. My heart knew.”

“Why didn't you mark her for the second time immediately, dad?” Lex asked.

Dad pulled mom into his arms. He hugged her tightly and took a deep breath.

“I was scared,” dad mumbled as he buried his nose into my mom's hair. “I was so scared that she would die.”

My dad closed his eyes.

He adored my mom. It was hard for me to believe that there was a time when he didn't want her. I couldn't imagine my dad rejecting my mom. It was surreal.

“Why did you even go to dinner with him, mom?” Lex asked her. “Why didn't you just throw him out of the pack?”

“We were trying to avoid a war,” my mom sighed. “Back then, Alpha Nathan was under the influence of his crazy father, who was working with rogues. We didn’t want innocent people to get killed. I couldn’t let our pack members suffer because of me.”

I understood that. I would do the same thing.

“So what happened?” Lex asked. “How did you find out who the cursed mate was?”

My dad let my mom go. She looked at uncle Andrew.

“Alpha Nathan went crazy,” my mom mumbled. “He wanted to force me to leave the pack with him. He took your aunt Daisy hostage and threatened to kill her. She was pregnant with Mason then.”

My eyes widened. Lex growled loudly.

I looked at my uncle, who had a pissed-off look on his face.

“I am still pissed as fuck about it even though it happened 18 years ago,” my uncle sighed.

“Of course you are,” Lex said angrily. “He threatened your mate and your child. I would have killed him.”

I squeezed Lex’s hand. He was always very protective of our family. It was a value our parents taught us. Family and mates always came first.

“What happened next?” I asked, making my parents and uncle look back at me.

My dad looked at my mom and smiled.

“Your badass mom found her magic and saved Daisy,” dad said proudly.

“That’s how you found your magic?” I asked, raising my eyebrows.

“Yes,” my mom nodded. “Anna said that I would get my magic only after I was marked by my Goddess-given mate, but I guess the anger I felt unlocked it.”

“She was amazing, but she almost gave me a heart attack,” my uncle chuckled, looking at my mom.

My uncle was incredibly protective of my mom. He practically raised her because my grandparents were working a lot. Sometimes he acted more like her dad than her brother.

“Why?” I asked.

“I fought Nathan using my magic, but it was still so new and I didn’t really have control over it, so he almost won a couple of times,” mom said, chuckling and shaking her head.

“It wasn’t funny, Emma,” uncle Andrew said sternly. “I thought that you were dead.”

I gasped.

“Dead?” Lex growled.

“I blasted us both with magic,” mom explained. “I don’t know how, but we passed out and talked to the Moon Goddess. The curse broke in the blast and after we woke up, we weren’t mates anymore.”

My head was going to explode.

My mom talked to the Moon Goddess?

“You talked to the Moon Goddess?” Lex mumbled.

“We did,” my mom nodded.

My brain felt like it was going to explode. Lex shook his head and took a deep breath.

“Why didn’t you kill Alpha Nathan?” Lex asked angrily.

“Why did you let the fucker live? I would have killed him. I want to kill him.”

“Oh, believe me, bud, I wanted to kill him,” dad said. “Your uncle wanted to kill him.”

“But?” Lex asked.

“But he is an Alpha,” our dad sighed. “If we killed him, his father would have a very good reason to attack our pack. We did everything we could to avoid a war. Your aunt Daisy was pregnant. Your mom and I were finally mated for the second

time. None of us wanted to risk our happiness for some crazy fucker.”

Lex gulped and tightened his jaw.

“I made Alpha Nathan promise to cut ties with his father,” my mom said. “I made him promise to listen to his wolf more. As far as I am aware, he did all of that. He exiled his father and he became a great Alpha.”

“And now you know everything,” my dad said quietly.

I looked at him and my heart clenched. He looked so sad and worried.

“Why didn’t you tell us sooner?” I asked, making my dad look at me. “Why now?”

“Well, this is the first time in 18 years that the Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack will attend the Alpha gathering at our pack,” dad said. “We forbade Alpha Nathan from coming to our pack, but his son took over and your mom and I believe that it wouldn’t be okay if we forbade his son from attending.”

The Alpha gathering was a yearly event. Each year a different pack was hosting it. This year’s Alpha gathering was at our pack. It was an opportunity for Alphas to talk and make new allies. It was an interesting event and I was excited for it to start.

“I would forbid his son from coming as well,” Lex mumbled.

“I know, bud,” dad said. “But we can’t punish him for his father’s mistakes.”

Lex sighed.

Dad looked at me and gulped.

“I am sorry,” dad said. “I should have told you the truth sooner, but I was scared.”

“Of what?” I asked, furrowing my eyebrows.

“Of losing you two,” dad said. “I am scared that you will hate me for what I did.”

My heart broke.

“We could never hate you, dad,” Lex sighed. “I am pissed as fuck, but I could never hate you.”

“Me neither, dad,” I said. “You made a mistake, but I could never hate you. I love you.”

Dad stood up and approached us. He pulled both of us into a tight hug.

“Oh, thank Goddess,” he mumbled as he kissed my temple. “I love you both so much.”

I wrapped my free arm around my dad. I saw my mom and my uncle smiling at us.

I was angry at my dad, but I could never hate him. I loved him so much. He made a mistake, but it didn't define him. He was still the best dad I could have asked for.

CHAPTER SIX – Getting Ready

Hunter's POV

“Can I come in?” I heard my dad's voice.

I looked up and nodded.

I already knew that he was coming. I heard him approaching my office.

“Are you getting ready?” dad asked.

“Yes,” I said as I put the pen down. “I'm almost packed. I will leave in the morning.”

Dad nodded and sat down in the armchair in front of my desk. He looked nervous and worried.

“Stop worrying, dad,” I sighed. “Everything is going to be okay.”

Dad took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“You can't blame me for being nervous,” dad mumbled. “You are going to the pack of the people who hate my guts.”

I gritted my teeth. I knew what happened between my dad and Alpha Logan and Luna Emma. I wasn't saying that they didn't have a good reason not to like my dad, but he changed so

much. I wished that they would give him a chance to show them that he wasn't the same man anymore.

"Everything is going to be okay, dad," I said. "They are not going to hurt me."

I knew a lot about Alpha Logan and Luna Emma. They were good people. I was thankful to them for letting my dad go. I would be an orphan now. I would grow up without him if they didn't show him mercy.

Dad ran his fingers through his hair.

"Both Emma and her daughter have magic," my dad said. "You need to be careful."

Emma and Logan had two children. Alpha Alexander and his twin sister Sophia. Alexander was the strongest Alpha in existence. His mother's magic made him more powerful than the rest of us. He didn't inherit his mother's magic, though. I didn't know much about his sister, but I knew that she had magic. Some were saying that she was even more powerful than her mother, but no one knew much about her. Logan and Emma kept her hidden from the rest of the world. They were protective of her.

"I know, dad," I said. "I'm sure that it will be okay. I'm sure that they won't hurt me."

"Just stay away from them," my dad said. "Especially Emma's daughter. We don't know much about her, but people are saying that her magic is unpredictable but stronger than Emma's."

I sighed and nodded. "I am aware, dad. I will be careful."

Dad looked me up and down.

"Your mother will kill me if something happens to you," dad said, making me chuckle a little.

Dad frowned.

"It's not funny," he said. "Your mom is scary when she is angry."

I laughed, shaking my head.

"Oh, I know," I said. "I was on the receiving end of her anger a lot of times."

Dad chuckled. "I know. I was afraid for you."

Dad took a deep breath and a smile disappeared from his face.

"Are you sure that you want to go, Hunter?" he asked me.
"You don't have to, you know."

I sighed and leaned back in my chair. I looked my dad in the eyes.

"I am going dad," I said. "I won't waste an opportunity to make our pack better and stronger. I won't waste an opportunity to help our pack grow. I've heard a lot about Logan and Emma. They don't seem like the people who would

hurt me unless I threatened their family, which I definitely won't do."

Dad took a deep breath and nodded.

"I know, Hunter," dad said. "I wish I could stop being nervous, but you are my child and it's so freaking hard. You will understand one day."

I smiled a little.

I couldn't see myself as a dad yet, but I wanted to be someday. I could see myself as a mate. I couldn't wait to meet her. I couldn't wait to have her next to me. I couldn't wait to hold her, cherish her, and protect her. My dad always told me how important mates were and after hearing his story, I knew why he was telling me that. He almost lost his mate and he didn't want the same thing to happen to me. I would never allow it, though. I would fight for her until I took my last breath.

"I know, dad," I chuckled. "But I am focused on our pack for now."

My dad smiled at me.

"You are an amazing Alpha," he said. "I am so proud of you."

My heart swelled.

"Thank you, dad," I said quietly.

I heard footsteps approaching my office. I knew it was my mom even before she entered my office.

“Hey, honey,” my mom said as she opened the door. “Did you pack your bags?”

My dad turned around and smiled at my mom.

“I did, mom”; I said. “I am leaving early in the morning.”

My mom approached my dad and placed her hands on his shoulders. He took her hand in his and kissed it.

“Why are you two still here?” I sighed, remembering what they said yesterday.

Harry and I finally convinced them to go on a small vacation at one of our cabins on the lake. They said that they would leave today.

“We are leaving in an hour,” my mom said. “I wanted to see you before we left. I wanted to tell you to be careful.”

“I know, mom,” I smiled. “Dad already told me to be careful.”

My mom nodded and looked down at my dad.

“Are you ready to go, honey?” my mom asked.

Dad smiled and gave her a little nod.

“If you don’t text me regularly, I will come there and drag you back home,” my mom said as he looked back up and pointed a finger at me. “You might be a big, bad Alpha now, but you are still my child and I can still ground you.”

I tried to hold back my laugh.

“I know, mom,” I said, biting the insides of my cheeks to stop myself from smiling. “I will text you.”

“I can see you smiling, Hunter Reed,” my mom said. “I am being serious.”

“I know, mom,” I repeated.

She approached me and pulled me into a hug.

“Be careful, Hunter,” she said softly. “I love you.”

“I love you too, mom,” I said as I hugged her back.

She let me go and patted my cheek a little.

“I will see you when you get back,” she said.

I nodded and watched as she walked back to my dad.

“I love you, buddy,” dad said as he smiled at me and took my mom’s hand in his.

“Love you too,” I said as I watched them walk out of my office.

I smiled.

I wanted to find a mate who would love me as much as my mom loved my dad.

I hoped that I would find her soon.

CHAPTER SEVEN – The Crescent Moon Pack

Hunter's POV

“Welcome to the Crescent Moon Pack, Alpha Hunter,” a warrior at the border said, bowing down to me.

“Thank you,” I said, giving him a small smile.

“Please continue driving,” the warrior told me. “Alpha and Luna will welcome you at the packhouse.”

I smiled and nodded, closing the window back up.

Holden stirred.

‘What’s wrong?’ I asked him.

‘I don’t know,’ he mumbled. *‘I’m nervous. You need to be careful.’*

I sighed and shook my head.

‘I know, Holden,’ I said. *‘Nothing bad will happen. Stop worrying.’*

‘I am an Alpha wolf,’ he growled a little. *‘It’s in my nature to be careful all the time.’*

‘I know,’ I said, trying not to chuckle at him. *‘I am sorry.’*

I could feel his annoyance grow, but he didn't say anything.

I held back the laugh and continued driving toward the packhouse.

The land was beautiful. I was driving through thick forest and I just wanted to jump out of the car and run. The towering trees surrounded the road on either side, their branches were stretching out overhead like a leafy canopy. Sunlight filtered through the dense branches. The air was fresh and cool, scented with the sweet aroma of pine needles and damp earth. The gentle hum of the car engine was the only sound that disturbed the quiet of the forest. The forest seemed to stretch on forever.

I could sense the wolves who were standing guard in the forest.

Suddenly, the forest opened up, and I found myself driving out into a clearing. I smiled, taking in the change of scenery.

I saw the packhouse ahead and I slowed the car down.

My eyes caught a glimpse of a couple who was standing at the entrance to the packhouse and greeting the guests. They were smiling and shaking their guests' hands.

I knew immediately who it was. Logan and Emma Carter, Alpha and Luna of the Crescent Moon Pack.

Luna Emma was beautiful. She had brown hair and blue eyes. She looked kind and loving. She was radiating an aura of peace and tranquility to all those around her. Her eyes sparkled with a gentle light, and her smile was warm and welcoming.

Alpha Logan was a strong and dominant man who exuded an aura of power and control. His very presence commanded attention and respect. I could tell how fiercely protective he was of his Luna. His arm was wrapped around her waist and he was holding her close. No one dared to get too close to her.

I got out of my car and took a deep breath.

Suddenly, I was very nervous to approach them.

I locked my car and fixed my posture.

I had to tell myself that I could do this. I was a freaking Alpha of the oldest pack.

I walked up to Alpha and Luna.

Their eyes fell on me and I could feel the nervousness grow.

“Alpha Logan, Luna Emma,” I said politely, bowing my head a little.

“Alpha Hunter,” Alpha Logan said. “Welcome to the Crescent Moon Pack.”

I looked up and saw Luna Emma smiling at me. Alpha Logan was careful. His arm tightened around his mate’s waist.

“Thank you for having me,” I said. “I am grateful that you decided to let me come.”

“Of course, Alpha Hunter,” Luna smiled. “It wouldn’t be fair to punish a young Alpha for something that happened almost 20 years ago.”

I smiled at her.

“You are always welcome to our pack,” Alpha Logan said, making me look at him.

I certainly wasn’t expecting him to say that.

“As long as you don’t hurt anyone, of course,” he added, giving me a stern look.

I smiled and nodded. “I would never do that. I respect and admire you, Alpha Logan. I would like us to work together in the future.”

He looked me up and down. His face was expressionless. I couldn’t tell what he was thinking.

“We will see about that, Alpha Hunter,” he said.

“I would appreciate even a consideration,” I said, smiling politely.

Alpha Logan nodded.

“How is your father?” Luna Emma asked, making me look at her.

“He is very well,” I said. “He and my mom are enjoying their retirement.”

“I am happy to hear that,” she said politely.

I liked her. I liked them both. I was grateful for the opportunity that they had given me.

“Please go inside and freshen up,” Luna Emma said. “One of our staff members will show you to your room.”

“Thank you,” I said as I bowed a little.

I was just about to walk away from them when an amazing scent made me freeze completely.

It was amazing. It smelled like a field of violets.

What the hell was that?

Holden stirred and tensed up.

“Is everything okay, Alpha Hunter?” I heard Luna Emma’s voice.

“What’s that smell?” I mumbled, looking around.

I wanted to find it. I wanted to fill my lungs with it.

“Smell?” Alpha Logan asked, confused.

And then I saw her.

Everything else around me faded away as my eyes locked on her. My heart skipped a beat, and I felt a rush of emotions wash over me: excitement, nervousness, and a deep sense of connection.

Her beauty was radiant and mesmerizing. Her features were delicate and perfect. Her eyes sparkled, drawing me in and making me feel as if she and I were the only people in the world.

Time seemed to stand still as I took in the sight of her. I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't think.

All I saw was her. All I wanted was her.

When her beautiful green eyes met mine, I thought that I would explode with happiness.

She was mine.

That beautiful angel was mine.

"Mate," we said at the same time and I felt a huge smile spread across my face.

I wanted to rush toward her. I wanted to hold her. I wanted to press my lips against her and taste her.

But someone stopped me. Someone grabbed me before I could get to my angel. Someone didn't want me to go to her.

I growled loudly. I was going to rip them apart.

CHAPTER EIGHT – Mate?

Sophia's POV

“Come on, Fia,” my brother sighed. “We are late.”

I turned around to look at him. He was leaning on the door frame with his arms crossed over his chest.

“Why are you waiting for me?” I asked. “You can go downstairs. I will be there soon.”

Lex rolled his eyes at me. “I am not leaving you alone. Hurry up.”

“Fine,” I mumbled as I bent down to zip up my boots.

I was a little bit nervous. Stella kept stirring and I could feel the tension radiating off her.

‘What’s wrong?’ I asked her for what felt like a millionth time today.

‘I don’t know,’ she mumbled. *‘Hurry up, Sophia.’*

I furrowed my eyebrows and stood back up.

Why was she so nervous? Why was she hurrying me up?

“Done?” Lex asked, making me look at him.

I nodded and took a deep breath.

“What’s wrong?” he asked and I could hear a hint of worry in his voice.

“I don’t know,” I mumbled. “I’m a little bit nervous.”

I approached my brother and he wrapped an arm around my shoulders.

“Don’t be, Fia,” he said, giving me a small smile. “You can leave whenever you want to, okay?”

I nodded and smiled back at him.

Lex moved his arm away from my shoulders and took my hand in his. He led me toward the stairs. The further we walked, the more Stella stirred.

What the hell was wrong with her?

“Why is Stella so tense?” Lex asked, looking down at me.

Axel probably told him.

“I don’t know,” I mumbled. “She’s been like that the whole morning.”

Lex furrowed his eyebrows and squeezed my hand tighter.

I took a deep breath as we started walking down the stairs.

Something smelt nice. Was it a new air refresher? It smelt like coffee and vanilla. I took a deep breath, letting the scent soothe me. My mom chose well this time. Those were my two favorite scents.

Lex and I were almost at the bottom of the stairs when Stella stirred and whined.

I felt eyes on me and I looked to my right.

The world stopped spinning.

A tall, muscular man was standing by the front door. His eyes were fixed on me. My whole body trembled. Stella purred. My scents were overwhelmed by him.

His dark brown eyes sparkled. His muscles clenched. His dark hair was perfect and it looked so soft. I wanted to run my fingers through it. I wanted to bury my nose into it and take a deep breath.

The scent was coming off him.

He was my mate.

Stella's excitement almost made me jump up and down.

"Mate," I mumbled at the same time he did.

"Mate?" Lex exclaimed and I could hear the confusion in his voice.

My mate moved. He wanted to approach me. I wanted him to. I wanted to touch him.

A quiet growl escaped me when my dad stopped him. Lex pulled me behind him, and I couldn't see my mate anymore.

"Mate?" I heard my dad's angry voice.

"Let me go!" my mate spoke, making me shiver. "She is my mate. You can't keep me from her!"

His voice was deep and pleasurable. It was like velvet, rich and smooth, with a subtle roughness that added a touch of masculinity. His voice made me want to listen and follow. I wanted him to keep talking. I wanted to listen to him forever.

"Get her out of here, Alex," my dad said, making my heart skip a beat.

No. I didn't want to go. Why didn't my dad let my mate come to me?

"Are you fucking kidding me?!" my mate shouted. "You can't do this!"

I wanted to go to him, but Alex picked me up and rushed upstairs.

"Let me go!" I shouted, trying to get out of my brother's arms.

His hold on me only tightened.

"Stop it, Sophia," Lex growled. "You can't go to him."

I heard shouting from downstairs. I heard my mate yelling. I heard my dad telling him that he couldn't go to me.

Mom? I mind-linked her. **What is going on?**

Don't worry, honey. My mom said calmly. **I will talk to your dad. He is just surprised, that's all.**

But why? I asked. **Who is he, mom?**

I didn't recognize my mate. I didn't know who he was.

He is Alpha Hunter. My mom said. **He is Alpha Nathan's son.**

My heart stopped beating.

Alpha Nathan's son? The same man who tried to take my mom away from my dad?

'Hunter,' Stella purred.

Lex walked into my dad's office and put me down. He shut the door and started pacing around. He tangled his fingers into his hair and took a deep breath.

"Lex...", I mumbled, but he stopped me immediately.

"No, Sophia," he said, looking up at him. "You are not going anywhere near that man."

My heart clenched painfully.

I understood why Lex and my dad didn't want me near him, but he was my mate. I wanted to talk to him. I needed to talk to him.

"He is my mate," I said quietly.

Lex growled and started pacing around the office again. I watched as he clenched his fists repeatedly.

"His father is an insane bastard," Lex said angrily. "His son is probably the same. He can't be trusted. We can't allow this."

Stella tensed up. I growled.

Lex looked at me and raised an eyebrow.

"Don't, Sophia," he said. "You know that I am right."

"We don't know him," I argued. "He could be different than his father."

Lex approached me and placed his hands on my shoulders. He bent down to look into my eyes.

"His father tried to take our mom away," Lex said, gritting his teeth. "His father tried to kill Aunt Daisy and Mason."

My heart felt like it was being stabbed repeatedly.

My dad's office door burst open. Mason and Mike ran inside.

"Is it true?" Mason growled loudly as he approached me and grabbed my arm.

"Yes," Lex said as he looked at him. "You know the whole story?"

"What story?" Mike asked. "Who do we need to beat up?"

Mason nodded and pulled me into a hug. All of us ignored Mike.

"I am sorry, Soph," he mumbled. "You deserve a better mate."

I wrapped my arms around my cousin and let the tears fall down my cheeks.

They didn't know him. I didn't know him. They were talking about him like he was the one who tried to take my mom and kill my aunt. Would they even let me meet him? Would they even allow him to show us that he wasn't his father?

Stella whined.

She knew the answer. We both did.

CHAPTER NINE – He Isn't His Father

Emma's POV

I was in complete shock.

Alpha Nathan's son was my daughter's mate?! Was the Goddess messing with us?

“Where is he taking her?!” Alpha Hunter screamed, trying to get out of Logan's hold. “She is mine! Bring her back!”

Logan growled.

I looked around and saw our numerous guests staring at us. I smiled at them and grabbed my mate's arm.

Take him to the kitchen. I mind-linked him. **We can't do this here.**

Logan glanced around us and growled quietly. He started pulling Alpha Hunter away.

“What the fuck are you doing?!” Alpha Hunter growled. “Let me go to her!”

My heart skipped a beat. There had to be a misunderstanding.

Mom? My daughter mind-linked me. **What is going on?**

Don't worry, honey. I said, trying to sound as calm as possible. **I will talk to your dad. He is just surprised, that's**

all.

But why? She asked and I could hear the desperation in her voice. **Who is he, mom?**

My heart broke for my little girl. She didn't deserve this.

He is Alpha Hunter. I said. **He is Alpha Nathan's son.**

She didn't mind-link me back and I focused on my mate and Alpha Hunter.

We were already in the kitchen.

Logan let go of Alpha Hunter and growled.

“Alpha Logan, I will fight you to get to her,” Alpha Hunter growled. “She is mine. You can't forbid me to see her. You can't take her from me. Why would you even do that?”

Alpha Hunter was shaking. I could tell that he was holding back from attacking my mate.

Logan took a step closer to him, but I grabbed his arm and stopped him.

“Do you know who she is, Alpha Hunter?” I asked, making him look at me.

“Does it matter?” Alpha Hunter growled. “She is my mate. I don't care who she is. I don't care about her position in the pack.”

I took a deep breath and tightened my hand around Logan's arm.

My mate was shaking. I could feel the anger radiating off him.

"She is our daughter, Alpha Hunter," I said, trying to stop my voice from trembling.

Alpha Hunter's eyes widened. He looked from me to Logan. I could see his body tense up even more, but he took a small step back. He looked back at me and I could see the fear in his eyes.

"Your daughter?" he mumbled quietly.

"Yes," I nodded.

Alpha Hunter closed his eyes and tightened his jaw.

"I don't care about the past," he said. "She is mine."

"Well, I fucking care!" Logan exclaimed angrily. "I am not letting my daughter be with a man whose father almost destroyed my family!"

Alpha Hunter opened his eyes abruptly. He growled and took a step closer to us.

"My dad made a mistake," Alpha Hunter said angrily. "He was cursed. He would never hurt anyone. He is a good man."

Logan growled loudly. “A good man?! He tried to kill a pregnant woman!”

“Logan,” I called him, pulling him closer to me. “Stop.”

He looked at me angrily. “Don’t tell me that you are okay with this!”

I looked at Alpha Hunter and took a deep breath. I wasn’t okay with it, but the Goddess had to have a reason for creating a mate bond between them.

“I am not okay with it, but we can’t blame Alpha Hunter for his father’s mistakes,” I said, looking back at my mate. “He isn’t his father.”

Logan narrowed his eyes and tightened his jaw.

“Emma...,” he spoke sternly, but I interrupted him.

“We can’t separate them,” I said softly. “It wouldn’t be okay. We need to let them decide. We need to let Sophia decide.”

Logan studied my face for a second before he closed his eyes and sighed. His body relaxed a little.

Remember everything we taught our kids about mates. I mind-linked him. We can’t go against it, Logan. It wouldn’t be fair.

Both Logan and I decided that we would teach our kids about the value of the mate bond. We always told them that a mate

bond was a gift from the Goddess which should be protected and cherished. Logan was the one who insisted on us doing so. He wanted to correct his own mistake.

Logan opened his eyes and looked at Hunter.

“I am against this,” Logan said quietly. “My daughter shouldn’t have been mated to you. But my Luna is right. I will let her decide.”

Alpha Hunter clenched his fists. I could see anger flash in his eyes.

I leaned in and placed a small kiss on Logan’s chest. I was so proud of him.

I could feel his anger and pain. I could feel his fear. I had the same emotions he did. I was angry. I was scared. I was in pain. I knew how hard it was for him to put aside those emotions. I knew how hard it was for him to say those words.

“I am not going to hurt her,” Alpha Hunter said angrily. “She is my mate. My father taught me to cherish the Goddess’ gift and that’s what I will do.”

I glanced at Logan. He wasn’t convinced.

“I need to see her,” Alpha Hunter said and I could hear the pain in his voice.

“Wait here for a second,” I told him as I pulled Logan toward the other room.

I needed to calm him down a little before we took Alpha Hunter to see Sophie.

As soon as the door closed behind us, Logan pulled me to him and kissed me. I tangled my fingers into his hair and kissed him back.

“Why her?” Logan mumbled as he leaned his forehead on mine.

“I don’t know,” I sighed as I caressed his cheek. “The Goddess had to have a reason.”

Logan sighed and lifted his head. He placed another small kiss on my lips.

“I love you,” he mumbled.

“I know,” I said, smiling back at him. “Let’s get this over with.”

Logan grunted and took my hand in his. We walked back to the kitchen.

“We will let you meet our daughter, Alpha Hunter,” Logan said. “One wrong move and you are out of my pack.”

Alpha Hunter tightened his jaw and nodded.

I gave him a small smile as I started walking out of the kitchen and pulling Logan behind me.

Where are you? I mind-linked my son.

Dad's office. He responded immediately. **What is going on?**

I didn't answer his question. I knew how he would react if he knew that we were bringing Alpha Hunter with us.

CHAPTER TEN – My Angel

Hunter's POV

My whole body was trembling. I needed to see her.

Sophia.

Her name was perfect. She was my Angel.

I couldn't believe that the Goddess mated me to her. What was her plan? Was she trying to punish us? Was she trying to punish our parents? No matter what her reason was, I would never give up my mate. I would fight for her until my last breath.

We approached a large, oak door, and I knew that she was in the room. I could smell her sweet scent. I could hear her heartbeat.

"Dad...", someone spoke but stopped as soon as I walked into the room.

My eyes found her immediately. She was staring at me wide-eyed. A man who was standing next to her pulled her behind him, making me growl.

"What the fuck is he doing here?!" the same voice exclaimed angrily.

I couldn't see my Angel anymore.

I wanted to rip that man apart and pull her to me.

“We need to let Sophia decide what to do, Alex,” Luna Emma said.

“He is not going anywhere near her,” the man called Alex said. “I am deciding for her.”

My eyes snapped to him and I growled again. Who the fuck was he?!

He was so similar to my Angel. They had the same eyes and the same hair. They had the same facial features.

It had to be her twin.

“Alex, honey...,” Luna Emma said, but he interrupted her.

“I am not letting him hurt her,” Alex growled, keeping his eyes on me. “I am not letting him near her.”

I clenched my fists and tightened my jaw.

“She is my mate,” I said angrily. “You can’t keep her from me. You can’t decide for her.”

Alex opened his mouth to speak, but a melodic voice stopped him.

“Lex, please,” she said, making my heart skip a beat. “Let me talk to him.”

I looked at the man who was standing in front of her. Who the fuck was he, and why was he touching my mate?

I wanted to rip him apart.

I narrowed my eyes at him, making him growl a little.

“Don’t touch her,” I told him quietly. “Step away.”

“Don’t tell me what to do,” the man said angrily. “She is my cousin. I am protecting her from you. I will always protect her from you and everyone else.”

I tightened my jaw.

I was the one who would always protect her. I was the one who would always make sure that she was safe.

“You don’t need to protect her from me,” I said. “I am her mate. She is safe with me.”

“Tell that to your father,” the man said. “He tried to kill my mother and me.”

My eyes widened a little. So this was Beta Andrew’s son?

“Mason, please,” my mate said softly.

I wanted to see her. I wanted to touch her.

Holden was on edge and I was barely able to stop him from taking over and ripping everyone apart.

“Let’s give them some time to talk,” Luna Emma said. “Alpha Hunter won’t hurt her.”

I looked at her and smiled a little. I was extremely thankful to her. If she didn’t calm Alpha Logan down, I wouldn’t be able to see my mate.

“Are you serious, mom?!” Alex exclaimed angrily. “I am not leaving her alone with him!”

“Yes, you are, Alex,” Luna Emma sighed. “Sophia will be fine.”

Alex tightened his jaw and clenched his fists.

“I won’t hurt her,” I told him.

He approached me and pointed a finger at me.

“If you hurt her, I will fucking kill you,” he threatened me. “I will rip you apart and burn the fucking pieces.”

I believed him, but his threats were unnecessary. I would never hurt her. She was a part of my body and my soul.

Alex walked past me and stormed out of the room.

“Mason, Mike, come on,” Luna Emma said.

“Alex won’t be your only problem if you lay a finger on her,” Mason said as he walked away slowly.

I ignored his threat because I could finally see her.

Goddess, she was so fucking beautiful. She was staring at me and I could tell that she was very nervous. She kept glancing behind me at her parents.

“You have 10 minutes, Alpha Hunter,” I heard Alpha Logan’s voice.

I could hear the door close behind me. We were finally alone.

I smiled at her and she took a deep breath.

I couldn’t do this anymore. I approached her in three long strides and I cupped her soft cheeks.

Both of us gasped.

The tingles and sparks were so intense. My body shivered. My heart was racing so fast that I thought it would jump out of my chest. Holden was jumping up and down. I could tell that he was saying something, but I couldn’t focus enough to know what.

I finally had my mate in my arms.

She placed her small hands over mine and smiled a little.

“Hi, Sophia,” I mumbled as I leaned my forehead on hers.

“Hello, Hunter,” she said softly, making me smile.

“You are beautiful, Angel,” I said quietly. “I can’t believe what a precious gift the Goddess has given me.”

She was. I couldn’t believe how lucky I was. I couldn’t believe that this beautiful she-wolf was mine.

I could feel her tense up a little. I raised my head and looked at her beautiful green eyes.

“Our parents...,” she spoke, but I interrupted her immediately.

“What happened with them isn’t our concern, Sophia,” I said. “We can’t let that stand in our way.”

She took a deep breath and closed her eyes. She furrowed her eyebrows and bit her lower lip.

I almost fainted. I wanted to do that. I wanted to kiss her and taste her and bite her lips gently.

Fuck.

“Sophia, Angel, you are mine,” I told her softly as I caressed her cheeks. “I will never stop fighting for you. I want you.”

She opened her eyes and looked at me. I almost melted into a useless puddle.

I kept my eyes on hers as I bent down and pressed my lips against her soft ones.

I could feel my heartbeat in my throat. I could feel the tingles in my toes. I could feel my body warm up.

She tasted fucking amazing.

She moaned a little and parted her lips. Her warm breath made me shiver. I wanted more of her.

Both of us closed our eyes at the same time.

I wrapped an arm around her waist and pressed her closer to me.

She fit perfectly in my arms.

I would never stop fighting for her. She was mine and it would always stay like that.

CHAPTER ELEVEN – Fear

Alexander's POV

I was pissed as fuck. Was my mom going crazy?!

I slammed her office door behind me.

My whole body was shaking with anger. I wanted to go back and kill him. I wanted to go back and take her somewhere safe.

If he hurt her...

The door opened, and the rest of my family walked inside.

“What the fuck, mom?!” I screamed as I turned around. “If he hurts her...”

“Don't talk to your mom like that,” my dad interrupted me angrily.

I looked at him and tightened my jaw.

“Alex, honey, I know that you are scared, but he won't hurt her,” my mom said. “She is his mate. He can't do it.”

I clenched my fists and started pacing around the office nervously.

“Why would you let him talk to her?” Mason asked. “He doesn’t deserve her. What his father did...”

“Was horrible,” my mom said, interrupting Mason. “But Alpha Hunter isn’t his father.”

“No,” Mason said angrily. “He could be even worse.”

The fear exploded inside of me. Mason was right. He could be even worse. What if he was hurting her right now? What if he killed her? What if I never saw her again?

My heart was going to jump out of my body. I could feel it in my throat. It would fall out of my mouth. I was fucking sure of it.

‘She is okay, Alex,’ Axel told me. ‘She is alive. I would know if she wasn’t. You would know if she wasn’t.’

Axel was right, but the fear I felt blocked me completely. I couldn’t feel anything but my heart racing like crazy.

The door burst open and my uncle and aunt walked inside.

“Is it true?!” my uncle growled loudly. “Is the fucker’s son her mate?!”

My uncle was as pissed off as I was. My aunt looked worried.

“Yes,” my dad answered his question. “Alpha Hunter is her mate.”

My uncle growled and looked around the room.

“Where is she?” he asked.

“Talking to Alpha Hunter,” Mason mumbled angrily.

My uncle’s eyes widened. He looked at my parents.

“How could you let that happen?!” he screamed. “We have to go get her! He is going to hurt her!”

I completely agreed with him.

“It’s okay, Andrew,” my mom said. “He won’t hurt her. She is okay.”

My uncle’s eyes widened even more.

“What the hell, Emma?” he asked angrily.

“She will be okay, Andrew,” my mom sighed. “He isn’t going to hurt her.”

My uncle looked at my dad in disbelief.

“You let your daughter alone with that man?!” my uncle exclaimed angrily. “Are you fucking insane?! His father tried to kill my mate and my son!”

“That boy is not his father, Andrew,” my mom said with a hint of anger in his voice.

My uncle looked at her and narrowed his eyes.

“No, Emma, but he was raised by him,” he said, taking a step closer to my mom. “Do you have any idea how much hatred toward us Nathan probably planted into his son? You rejected him. We humiliated him. Logan and I beat the shit out of him. He hates us, Emma, and you just left your daughter alone with his son.”

The fear I felt just doubled. My uncle was right. I should have never left that office! I should have never left her alone with him!

“Andrew...,” my aunt spoke, but I didn’t hear the rest.

I growled as I rushed out of my mom’s office and toward my dad’s. I saw red. I was going to kill him.

Someone stopped me though.

I growled and looked behind me.

It was Jake.

“Don’t, Alex,” he said, tightening his arms around me. “She is okay. Give her a few minutes to deal with this on her own.”

I narrowed my eyes at him. Did he think that he would be able to stop me? I could shake him off like a bug.

“Alex,” I heard my dad’s voice.

I looked up and saw him standing at the entrance to my mom's office.

"Give her a few more minutes," dad said quietly. "She is okay."

I wanted to rip them all into tiny pieces.

"Come on," Jake said as he started to pull me back into my mom's office.

"Don't lecture me, Andrew," I heard my mom's annoyed voice. "I was there. I saved them."

I walked in just in time to see my uncle growl at my mom.

"I swear to Goddess, Andrew, I will punch you if you don't stop growling at your sister," my aunt said sternly.

"That is my niece in there!" my uncle said, clenching his fists. "What if he hurts her? What if he tries to take her away? He is his father's son."

"Warriors are stationed around the packhouse," Jake said calmly. "We've increased border security. He isn't taking her anywhere."

"I mind-linked Jake as soon as I agreed to this shitshow," my dad said. "I told him what happened and I told him to secure the place. I am not letting anything bad happen to my princess."

My uncle scoffed and sat down on the couch. He crossed his arms over his chest and looked at my aunt.

“Do you agree with Emma?” he asked her.

My aunt sighed and nodded.

“This boy isn’t Nathan,” my aunt said. “We can’t ruin the possibility of love for Sophie.”

And then a hopeful thought came to my mind.

“What if he is her cursed mate?” I asked, making all of them look at me. “What if she has two mates, just like mom did?”

I couldn’t read the emotions on their faces.

“I hope not,” my mom said. “I don’t want her to go through that.”

“But that could mean that there is another man for her,” I said. “That could mean that she can reject Hunter.”

My mom sighed and approached me. She lifted her hands and cupped my cheeks.

“I know that you are worried, honey,” she said softly. “I know that you want to keep your sister safe, but don’t hope that she has two mates. You don’t want her to go through that pain.”

I tightened my jaw and took a deep breath.

I heard the office door open and I looked behind me.

“Fia!” I exclaimed as I rushed to her and pulled her into a hug.

She was okay. She wasn't hurt. She was alive.

CHAPTER TWELVE – Who Is She?

Hunter's POV

I entered the bedroom, closed the door, and took a deep breath.

I could still taste her on my lips. I could still feel her skin under my fingerprints. Her scent was still in my lungs.

I was head over heels in love and I would fight for her until my last breath.

I thought that my heart would break when she said that she needed a little bit of time to figure everything out. I didn't know why. She wanted me as much as I wanted her. I could tell. I knew it.

'It's because of her family,' Holden sighed.

'I know,' I mumbled. *'But Luna Emma doesn't have a problem with it.'*

'Her father and brother do,' Holden growled. *'They will try to take her from us.'*

I could feel his anger growing. He was possessive. He was territorial.

'Of course I am,' Holden sighed. *'I am a wolf. I am an Alpha wolf and she is mine.'*

'I know, Holden,' I said. *'Everything would be okay. We will give her some time to talk to her parents. She wants us.'*

'She does,' Holden agreed. *'I talked to her wolf. They both want us.'*

I smiled and leaned against the door. I ran a finger over my lips, remembering how fucking good she tasted.

She was mine. Sophia was mine.

My smile grew. My heart felt like it had grown double ever since I saw her for the first time. I felt stronger. I was happier. Everything was better because I found her.

'You need to call your parents,' Holden said, making me tense up.

"Fuck," I mumbled as I leaned my head against the door and closed my eyes.

'They will be thrilled, Hunter,' Holden said.

'I hope so,' I mumbled as I opened my eyes and took a deep breath.

I reached into my pocket and pulled out my phone.

A wave of nervousness washed over me. What would my parents say? What if they reacted the same way Alpha Logan did?

Would it be bad if I called them tomorrow?

'Just call them, Hunter,' Holden sighed. *'They will be pissed off if you hide it from them.'*

I sighed and unlocked my phone. Holden was right.

'I am always right,' he said, making me roll my eyes.

I searched for my mom's number and pressed dial. I took a deep breath and waited to hear her voice. It didn't take long for her to answer.

“Hunter, honey, is everything okay?” she asked worriedly.
“Did you arrive? Were they nice to you? Did they hurt you?”

I stopped myself from chuckling.

“I am okay, mom,” I said as I walked over to the bed and sat down. “I arrived and they were very welcoming. I’m not hurt.”

My mom sighed in relief. “Oh, I was so worried.”

I gulped and closed my eyes.

“Is dad there?” I asked, wanting to tell them as soon as possible.

I had to do it before I changed my mind.

“Yes, honey, he and Harry are watching TV,” mom said. “He is waiting for me to get ready so we can leave.”

“Can you go to the living room and put me on speaker?” I asked.

There was a moment of silence before my mom spoke worriedly.

“Why, honey?” she asked. “Is everything okay?”

“Yes, mom,” I said, trying to stay calm. “Just go to the living room and put me on speaker.”

“Okay,” my mom mumbled and I could hear her move.

I heard the door open and close. I heard her footsteps. A few moments later, I could hear my father and brother arguing about something.

My heart was beating faster and faster by the second.

“Oh, hey honey, are you ready?” I heard my dad’s voice.

“Almost,” my mom said. “Hunter is on the phone.”

“Shitface!” my brother exclaimed, making me roll my eyes.

“Hey, bud, is everything okay?” my dad asked.

I could hear my mom scolding Harry quietly. I could imagine him rolling his eyes at her.

“Yes, dad, everything is fine,” I said. “I have something to tell you guys.”

“Did something happen?” my dad asked worriedly.

“It did,” I said as a small smile spread across my face. “I found my mate.”

My family was silent for a second, but then their joy erupted.

“Oh, Goddess!”

“I knew you could do it, shitface!”

“That’s my boy!”

I chuckled and shook my head.

“Who is she?” my mom asked. “Is she pretty? Oh, what am I asking, of course she is!”

“We have a new Luna?” my dad asked, not even allowing me to answer my mom’s question.

“Will she be able to tolerate your annoying ass?” my brother

asked, chuckling.

I rolled my eyes. I was going to kick his ass when I came home.

“I will tell you if you allow me to speak,” I sighed.

“Sorry, honey,” my mom said. “We are just so excited.”

I smiled and took a deep breath.

“So, tell us about our new Luna, son,” my dad said. “Who is she?”

I gulped and closed my eyes. I tried to take another deep breath, but I couldn't. It felt like a hand was squeezing my lungs.

“Sophia Carter, daughter of Alpha Logan and Luna Emma,” I said quietly.

The silence on the other end of the call made my stomach turn.

“What did you say?” my dad mumbled after a while.

“Alpha Logan and Luna Emma's daughter is my mate,” I repeated.

“That's awesome,” my brother said excitedly. “I heard that she is very pretty.”

He still didn't know what happened between our dad and Sophia's parents.

“Mom, dad?” I called them, ignoring my brother.

“We are very happy, honey,” my mom said quietly. “We are just a little bit shocked.”

I understood that.

“Why?” my brother asked. “Is it because she has magic? I think it’s cool.”

“How did her family react?” my dad asked me.

I sighed and ran my fingers through my hair.

“They were shocked,” I said. “At first they didn’t let me see her, but Luna Emma managed to convince Alpha Logan to let me talk to Sophia.”

“Why wouldn’t they let you see her?” my brother asked angrily. “She is your mate!”

“We will explain later, honey,” my mom told my brother.

“Did you talk to her?” my dad asked.

“I did,” I said, smiling a little. “She wants me too, dad. She just needs a little bit of time to figure things out with her family.”

I would give her time. I would wait patiently. I would do whatever the hell I needed to do to have her. I would show her how much I wanted her. I would show her that I was a good man who was worthy of her love. I would show her family that I was a good man who would love her and protect her until my last breath.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN – Confused

Sophia's POV

Lex was holding me so tightly that I was having trouble breathing.

“I am okay, Lex,” I said, rubbing his back gently. “He wouldn't hurt me.”

“We don't know that Soph,” Mason mumbled angrily. “We don't know who he is.”

'He is my mate,' Stella growled.

'He is, Stella,' I sighed. 'But it's understandable that they are afraid. We need to be patient with them.'

She didn't respond, but I could feel her annoyance.

Lex let me go and looked at me worriedly.

“What are you going to do?” Jacob asked me, making me look at him.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

I wanted him. Goddess, how much I wanted him. He was my mate. He was made for me and I was made for him.

But...

“He is dangerous, Sophia,” Mason said as he crossed his arms over his chest. “His father is dangerous. You need to think about what to do.”

It didn't feel like I was in danger when I was in his arms. It

didn't feel like I was in danger when he was kissing me.

I looked at my dad, who was leaning on my mom's desk. He had a worried look on his face.

I moved away from Lex and approached my dad. I needed his comfort.

He opened his arms immediately. He knew what I needed. He knew how much I loved him.

"Oh, princess," he mumbled as he wrapped his arms around me.

I wrapped my arms around his waist and leaned my head on his chest.

"Everything is going to be okay, Sophie," my dad said. "We will love and support you no matter what you decide."

I didn't know what to do.

I wanted him. I wanted him so much it hurt.

But his father hurt my family. His father almost killed my aunt and Mason. His father almost took my mom away from my dad.

Was his father the same man he was all those years ago?
Would he even accept me as his son's mate? Was he still angry at my family? Would he try to hurt me as an act of revenge?
Would he try to hurt my family again?

Well, I didn't care if he hurt me, but I couldn't let him hurt my family.

And then there was the whole issue with my magic.

I had both light and dark magic inside me. Anna and my mom taught me how to gain control over the darkness. They taught me how to suppress it and stop it from consuming me. I hadn't told anyone yet, but it was getting harder and harder to keep the darkness away. I could feel it pushing me to set it free. I could feel it fueling up my insides.

I could tell that Lex could tell that something was going on, but he still didn't bring it up. It was only a matter of time before he would.

What if I hurt Hunter with my magic? What if I hurt his family or pack? What if they started to fear me?

I had so many questions and so many concerns. I had so many reasons to accept him and so many to reject him.

I was so confused and I didn't know what to do.

"Your dad is right, sweetie," my uncle said. "We will support you no matter what. We are just scared."

I looked at him and nodded.

"I know," I mumbled. "I am scared too."

My dad kissed the top of my head and rubbed my back gently.

"You can't do it, Sophia," Mason said as he started to pace around. "His father could hurt you. He could hurt you. Maybe you are not even his real mate. There are so many things to consider..."

I stopped listening.

My heart felt like it was going to stop.

What did Mason say?

I wasn't Hunter's real mate?

What? Why would he say that? I was Hunter's mate. I felt it all: the connection, the tingles, the sparks. I felt it all. It was there. It wasn't fake.

I could feel my heartbeat in my throat.

What the hell was Mason talking about?!

"What did you say?" I mumbled as I stepped away from my dad.

Mason stopped talking and looked at me. He furrowed his eyebrows.

"I said a lot," he mumbled with a confused expression on his face.

"You said that I'm not Hunter's real mate," I mumbled, trying to stop my voice from shaking.

A look of guilt flashed across Mason's face. He looked at my mom.

And then it dawned on me.

They thought that I was his cursed mate.

I felt tears in the corners of my eyes.

"Sophie, honey, he is your Goddess-given mate," my mom said as she pulled me into her arms. "You are not cursed, princess."

I hugged my mom and leaned my head on her shoulders.

Warm tears fell on my cheek.

“I am sorry, Soph,” Mason mumbled. “We were talking about the possibility of you having two mates just like your mom, and it just came out. I didn’t mean to hurt you. I am sorry. I am so sorry.”

Stella whined. Her pain overwhelmed me.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. My mom kept kissing the top of my head.

“You are not going to go through that pain, my princess,” my mom said softly. “I promise.”

Was it possible? Did I have two mates just like my mom did? Was Hunter my cursed mate? Was I bonded to another man as well?

‘No!’ Stella whined. *‘We are his. I know it. I can feel it.’*

I didn’t respond. I couldn’t. The pain was drowning me.

“Okay, everyone out,” my brother said angrily. “Leave us alone.”

“Alex...,” my uncle spoke, but Alex interrupted him.

“I said to leave us alone,” Lex said. “I need to talk to her alone.”

My mom kissed the top of my head again and let me go.

“It is going to be okay, Soph,” my mom said as she cupped my cheeks and gave me a small smile. “We are all here for you.”

I heard the rest of my family leave my mom’s office quietly. My mom and dad stayed.

“We love you, princess,” my dad mumbled as he hugged me tightly. “It’s going to be okay. I promise.”

“I love you too,” I mumbled as I hugged my dad back.

He let me go and took my mom’s hand in hers. They both gave me a small smile and walked out of the office.

I took a deep breath and turned around to look at my brother.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN – Scared

Alexander's POV

I turned around to look at Fia as soon as my dad closed the office door.

She looked like she was in pain. She looked exhausted. She looked so scared and confused.

My heart broke and I wished that I could take her pain away. I wished that Hunter never came here. I wished that he wasn't her mate.

But she wasn't tired just because of what happened with Hunter. She was tired for days now.

And I knew exactly why.

"I don't know what to do, Lex," Fia mumbled as she let her head fall to her chest.

She placed her hands on her head and groaned.

I clenched my fists and tightened my jaw. I wanted her to reject him. I wanted her to stay here where she was safe. What if Hunter's insane father decided to hurt Fia as an act of revenge against my mom and dad? How the fuck could I let her go to Hunter's pack knowing that Nathan was there?

Simple. I couldn't.

But I wasn't going to tell her what to do. Despite what I had said earlier, I wasn't going to make decisions for her. I said it out of fear. Now that I had calmed down a little, I could think clearly. She was a smart girl. She would make the right decision.

I had trouble calming myself down. From my point of view, my twin was in danger and I was scared shitless. I could feel panic increasing inside my body. I could tell that I was on alert. My heart rate increased when she recognized him as her mate and it hadn't slowed down since. I was tense and I was on edge. I kept thinking about her well-being and it was hard for me to focus on anything else. I felt helpless and powerless. I felt vulnerable.

It didn't feel like that just because of Hunter. I felt like that because I could tell that she was having trouble with her magic. This situation with Hunter could only make it worse and that made my stomach twist painfully.

I watched as Fia walked to the couch and sat down. She sighed and looked up at me.

"I can't tell you what to do, Fia," I mumbled as I crossed my arms over my chest. "A part of me wants to. A part of me wants to make this decision for you, but I know I can't."

"I know," Fia sighed.

"What do you want to do?" I asked her softly.

She looked up at me and shook her head. "I don't know, Lex."

I sighed and approached her. I sat down beside her and rubbed her back gently.

"You must have some ideas," I said, studying her face.

Her eyebrows furrowed and she looked down at her hands.

"I want him, Lex," she mumbled. "But I am also scared. What if his father doesn't accept me? What if he is still angry at our family?"

I'd noticed that she wasn't afraid of him not accepting her or of our family being angry at her. It made me happy. She knew that we would always be there for her, no matter what.

"And my magic..." Fia added quietly, making me tense up.

"What about it, Fia?" I asked, making her look at me.

"I don't want to hurt him," she mumbled. "I don't want to hurt anyone."

My heart clenched painfully. I pulled her into a hug.

"You are not going to hurt anyone, Fia," I said softly. "We will find a way to deal with it. We always did."

And then a thought occurred to me.

I let her go and grabbed her shoulders.

"Give it to me," I said.

We never tried it before, but I was sure that it would work. It had to work. Why hadn't we ever thought of that?

Her eyebrows furrowed. "What?"

"The darkness," I explained. "Give it to me, Fia. At least a part of it. It will be easier to deal with it if we share it."

If she could give me her magic and make me stronger, she could surely give me her darkness as well.

Her eyes widened and she gasped quietly.

"Lex, no," she said. "I am okay. I can deal with it."

“Fia, I can handle it,” I said sternly. “Give it to me. I will be fine.”

She clenched her fists and shook her head.

“No, Lex,” she said. “I am not putting you in danger. I am not doing it. I can handle it. Everything will be okay.”

“Fia...,” I spoke, but she interrupted me.

“No, Alexander,” she said sternly. “Stop asking. We’ve never done it before. I don’t even know how to do it. I don’t even know if I could do it.”

“It would be the same as when you share your light magic with me,” I said. “Only it wouldn’t make me stronger, it would make me weaker.”

It made sense. It had to work.

Fia narrowed her eyes at me and crossed her arms over her chest.

“If I told you to do something that would weaken me, would you do it?” she asked, making my eyes widen a little.

Of course I wouldn’t. I would never do anything that could potentially harm her. But this was different. It wouldn’t harm me and I would make it easier on her.

“That’s not the same”, I argued. “I won’t get hurt.”

“Yes, it is, and we don’t know that,” she sighed. “I am not doing it, Lex.”

I wanted to argue again, but she interrupted me before I even got to speak.

“Don’t even try, Lex,” she sighed again. “I will talk to mom and Anna about it. I am not putting you in danger.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. She took my hand in hers and leaned her head on my shoulders.

“What should I do, Lex?” she mumbled.

I ran my fingers through her hair and leaned my head on hers.

“I don’t know, Fia,” I mumbled. “I will be here no matter what you decide to do. I need you to know that I will never let anyone hurt you and I will never let you hurt anyone. I am here for you just like I was from the day we were born.”

She was my twin. She was in every memory I had. I didn’t know how a life without her looked. I couldn’t even imagine it. We shared everything in our lives. She was there for me through everything in my life. We started walking together. We started talking together. We were there for each other through everything and I would never allow anything or anyone to change that.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN – Furious

Hunter's POV

My family was a bit surprised but thrilled that I found my mate. I could tell that my dad struggled with the idea of Emma's daughter being my mate, but he was happy for me.

A huge smile spread across my face. I'd never been happier. I understood Sophia's need to take a little bit of time to think everything through, but I knew everything would work out.

I stood up and walked toward the door. I needed to go find her. I already missed her. I wanted to spend some more time with her and get to know her a bit better. We both wanted to talk to our families, but now that that was done, I was more than ready to spend some time with my mate. I could maybe even kiss her again.

'You have to kiss her again,' Holden sighed longingly.

I chuckled and stepped out into the hallway.

I assumed that Sophia was in her mom's office. I left her there less than half an hour ago.

I had a huge smile as I approached Luna Emma's office. Her scent was strong here and it relaxed me immediately. I took a deep breath, enjoying the shivers that went up and down my spine.

I was just in front of Alpha Logan's office when I heard something that made me furious.

I barely managed to keep Holden from coming out and tearing the whole place down.

“I still think that there is a chance he could be her cursed mate,” a voice said.

Cursed mate?!

As in not real?! Someone thought that there was another man out there that would try to take her from me?!

Cursed like my father was Luna Emma’s cursed mate?!

My heart raced and my vision blackened.

No!

Fuck no!

She was mine and I was hers! There wasn’t anyone else who could claim her. There wasn’t another man who could take her from me.

Before I even realized what I was doing, I burst through the door, growling and glaring at everyone inside.

“She. Is. Mine!” I exclaimed, emphasizing every word.

They were staring at me wide-eyed. No one spoke a word.

“I am not her cursed mate!” I shouted as my body started shaking. “She is mine and won’t let you take her away from me!”

“Alpha Hunter, no one is trying to take her from you,” Luna Emma spoke softly.

I didn’t believe her.

Did they tell Sophia that I could be her cursed mate? Did she think that too?

Holden whined. My heart broke. I felt like something heavy was sitting on my chest.

I looked around the room for the first time since I barged in. My Angel wasn't here. Where was she?

"Where is she?" I asked as the lump in my throat grew.

I looked back at Luna Emma.

"She is in my office," she said softly. "She is with her brother."

"She is mine," I told her. "This isn't a curse. You broke it. This can't be a curse."

Luna Emma approached me and took my hand in hers. Someone growled quietly.

I felt the anger inside me grow. These people didn't trust me. They would never trust me.

"I am sorry, Alpha Hunter," Luna Emma said softly. "We are all just a little bit shocked and scared."

Why were they scared? I would never hurt Sophia. Goddess, just thinking about hurting her was painful.

"I would never hurt her," I mumbled, trying to swallow the lump in my throat.

I couldn't decide which emotion was dominating. I was both equally angry and sad.

"Maybe you wouldn't, but your father might," someone said, making me look up.

It was Sophia's cousin. He was staring at me with a pissed-off look on his face.

The anger started winning over.

“My father would never hurt her,” I said, clenching my free fist. “He would never do something like that to me.”

“Your father almost killed my mom and me!” the man shouted, taking a step closer to me.

I saw fucking red. I let Luna Emma’s hand go and took a step closer to the man.

“My father changed,” I growled. “He isn’t the same man anymore. He was cursed. He would have never done it if he wasn’t.”

Someone pulled me back. Another man stood between Sophia’s cousin and me. The man pushed Sophia’s cousin back.

“We are not going to do this,” a man holding me said sternly.

I looked behind me and saw it was Alpha Logan.

He let me go and gave me a stern look.

“I will not allow him to insult my father,” I said, clenching my fists.

“I am sorry, Alpha Hunter, but your father almost killed my mother,” the man said, making me look back at him. “I can’t have respect for that man. I can’t trust him or you.”

My heart clenched painfully. Did Sophia feel like that too? Did she also think that my father was a horrible person?

“My dad changed,” I said. “He turned his life around. He is a good person and a great father. I am so sorry for what

happened, but he would never hurt anyone. He would never hurt Sophia.”

I could see Sophia’s cousin’s jaw twitching. He clenched his fists and took a deep breath.

“Mason, honey, I know that you are worried and scared, but we can’t judge Alpha Hunter based on his father’s mistakes,” a woman said softly.

I looked at her and I could tell that she was Mason’s mother. So she was the woman my father threatened.

“Hunter?” I heard my Angel’s voice and I turned around abruptly.

I didn’t even hear her approaching the office. I was so focused on my anger and pain that I didn’t even hear my mate coming.

Her voice and her presence took every ache away.

I rushed toward her, pulling her into my arms. The tingles and sparks made me shiver. Her scent surrounded me and I relaxed immediately.

“What happened?” she asked softly as she rubbed my back gently.

Her touch was all I needed to calm down.

I couldn’t even answer her. I closed my eyes and buried my nose in her hair. I took a deep breath and let her scent fill my lungs.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN – They Are Happy?

Sophia's POV

I could feel how tense Hunter was. I could feel his anger and fear.

“What happened, mom?” I asked again when Hunter didn't respond to my question.

He only tightened his arms around me and pressed me closer to his body.

“Hunter overheard us talking about the possibility of him being your cursed mate,” my mom said, making me tense up.

What?!

A sharp pain in my chest made me clench my fists. Why would they talk about that? He wasn't my cursed mate. I was sure of it.

“I am not her cursed mate,” Hunter said, his voice laced with pain. “She is mine. There isn't anyone else for her.”

I rubbed his back gently, but he didn't relax, not even a little bit.

“You broke the curse mom,” I said, trying to remain calm.

“I did, honey,” my mom said. “That’s why I don’t think this is a curse.”

Hunter raised his head and turned around to look at my mom. His hold on me loosened. I took the opportunity to step away from him and look at my family. I understood their fear, but I was angry at them. They had no right to come between us. They had no right to hurt him like that.

I loved them all so much and I had to make sure that they knew how much I loved them. I had to make sure that they knew that I understood their fear and suspicion.

I looked at my uncle. I loved him so much and I knew how much he loved me. He was an amazing person, but everything that had happened to my mom and aunt Daisy made him very suspicious and careful.

I knew that out of all my family, he was probably the most worried and the angriest. I knew that he would have the hardest time coming to terms with this. He was the only one I wanted to reassure right now. Everyone else could wait.

“Uncle Andrew I know this is hard for you,” I said, making him look at me. “I know that all you want to do is protect your family and make sure that we are all safe. I can’t even imagine how hard it must have been for you to watch someone threaten your mate and your sister.”

I stopped to take a deep breath.

Just thinking about someone hurting Lex...

I couldn't even think about that. Just the thought of it made me want to scream and unleash the darkness inside of me. I forced myself to focus and finish what I wanted to say.

"But that someone wasn't Hunter," I continued. "I love you, uncle Andrew, and I will never stop loving you, no matter what decision I make."

His jaw tightened. He looked from me to Hunter.

"But I have to be the one who makes the decision," I said as I looked at the rest of my family. "None of you have the right to do it for me. Even if he was my cursed mate, it is my right to choose if I want to accept him or not."

Hunter growled quietly. He took my hand in his and pulled me closer to him.

My mom and dad were watching me with small smiles on their faces.

I am proud of you, princess. My dad mind-linked me.

I didn't respond. I looked at the rest of my family. My aunt was smiling at me and my uncle was looking at me with a worried expression on his face. Mason looked pissed off. Mike kept glancing at Mason with a worried look on his face. Uncle Jake was looking at Hunter, but I couldn't tell what he was thinking.

"You are right, honey," my uncle spoke after a few moments of silence. "You have to be the one who makes this decision. You are a smart girl and we all trust you to decide what is best for you."

I gave him a small smile.

I love you so much, honey. My uncle mind-linked me. I am so sorry. I know that Hunter isn't his father, but I am so scared. If something happens to you...

I watched him close his eyes and take a deep breath.

Nothing will happen, uncle Andrew. I mind-linked him back. I will be okay.

He opened his eyes and looked at me. He gave me a small smile and took aunt Daisy's hand in his.

"I talked to my parents," Hunter said, making us all look at him.

The tension in the room increased.

"What did they say?" I asked him, trying to stop my voice from trembling.

Were they angry? Did they tell him to reject me?

Hunter looked down at me and smiled. "They were a bit surprised, but they are so happy that I found you."

My eyes widened a little. They were happy?

"Of course they are happy," Mason scoffed. "Your father will get his revenge through Sophie."

I looked at Mason with a shocked expression on my face. Hunter and Lex growled. Our parents and Jake gave him a disapproving look.

Hunter tensed up. I could tell that he wanted to say something, but Lex interrupted him

“Can I talk to you outside, Mason?” Lex said angrily.

Mason looked at him and narrowed his eyes. Lex was standing behind me, so I could see his face, but a few seconds later Mason moved and walked out of my dad’s office. I heard the door close and I took a deep breath.

“I am sorry, Alpha Hunter,” my aunt said. “Mason is very protective of Sophia and he sometimes has trouble controlling his temper.”

“I understand,” Hunter said, but I could tell by the tone of his voice that he was pissed off.

I squeezed his hand, making him look down at me. The angry look in his eyes disappeared immediately.

“How about we go back downstairs, Alpha Hunter?” my father said. “The other Alphas are probably wondering where we are.”

Hunter looked up at my dad and nodded.

I wished that he didn’t have to go, but I needed some time to myself. I needed to think. Most importantly, I needed to talk to

Anna as soon as possible. It was harder and harder for me to control the darkness, especially now that my emotions were a mess. I needed her to help me. I needed to be sure that I would never hurt anyone. I needed to be sure that I wouldn't put Hunter in danger by accepting him as my mate.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN – Anna

Sophia's POV

I was pacing around my little office nervously.

My parents, my aunt and uncle, and Hunter went to the Alpha gathering. They were gone for a while and they needed to go back. Mike was probably home or downstairs. He was excited to participate this year. I had no idea where Lex and Mason were, but the important thing was that they weren't there and I could use this opportunity to talk to Anna.

I asked Seth, one of the warriors in the packhouse, to go get her. I didn't want my family to see me walk around the packhouse. They would ask questions and I wasn't ready to talk about it with them. I didn't want to worry them. I had to find a way to deal with my magic before I told anyone.

My office door opened and Anna walked inside with a worried look on her face.

"Is it true?" she asked as soon as she closed the door. "You found your mate?"

I took a deep breath and nodded. I didn't even know how she found out, but I didn't care about that.

A huge smile spread across Anna's face.

"That's amazing, sweetie!" she said as she approached me and pulled me into a hug. "Who is he? What did your dad say? What did Alex say? Did they scare the crap out of him?"

Anna let me go and chuckled. She kept her hands on my shoulders, smiling softly at me.

“He is Alpha Nathan’s son,” I mumbled, making her eyes widen.

“What?” she mumbled as her hold on me tightened.

“He is Alpha Nathan’s son,” I repeated quietly.

She studied my face for a few seconds.

“Wow, the Goddess has a crappy sense of humor,” Anna mumbled as she let me go.

I sighed and gave her a small nod.

“What did your family say?” Anna asked.

“They weren’t thrilled,” I sighed.

Anna studied my face for a second. “What did Alpha Hunter say?”

A small smile spread across my face. I remembered how it felt when he first touched me.

“I can tell by the look on your face that, unlike your family, he was thrilled,” Anna said, chuckling.

“He was,” I said. “He said that his family is happy too.”

Anna’s eyebrows furrowed. “What are you going to do?”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I stepped away from her and started pacing around the office again.

“I don’t know, Anna,” I mumbled. “I want to accept him, but I am aware of everything that happened between our families.”

“That’s not an issue, Sophia,” Anna said. “Your families will

have to suck it up and move on from what happened.”

She wasn't wrong. I knew that my family would never stop loving me and supporting me. I didn't know much about Hunter's family, but I had a feeling that they would support him too. We would find a way to get past everything that had happened. It wouldn't be easy, but we would find a way.

But that wasn't the biggest issue I was facing. That didn't worry me as much as my magic did. I felt it grow stronger. I felt it consuming me.

“Don't worry about that, Sophie,” Anna said softly. “Your family will support you.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I know,” I mumbled. “I know how hard this is for them, but I am sure that everything will be okay.”

“Why are you so worried then?” Anna asked, making me look at her.

My heartbeat raced. I felt shivers run down my spine. It made me uncomfortable. It made me even more nervous than I already was.

“It's my magic, Anna,” I said quietly. “It's getting harder and harder to control it.”

Anna's eyes widened. She furrowed her eyebrows. I could tell that her breathing picked up.

“What are you talking about, Sophia?” she asked quietly.

I started pacing around my office again. I clenched my fists and took a deep breath.

“I can feel the darkness pressing to be released,” I explained. “It started a few days ago, but it intensified when I saw Hunter for the first time today. It’s like the emotion of seeing my mate for the first time made it worse.”

I didn’t want to admit that to myself, but it was the truth. It felt like my insides were shaking. I felt like I had to keep my muscles clenched at all times just to be sure the darkness won’t come out. I had bad days before, but it was never like this.

“Oh, Goddess,” Anna mumbled.

“I am afraid, Anna,” I sighed. “What if I can’t control it? What if I hurt my mate? I can’t accept him if I am a danger to him and his pack.”

Stella whined. I felt a lump in my throat. Just thinking about rejecting him hurt like hell. Just thinking about rejecting him made me want to cry. But I would do it if it meant that he would be safe. I would never be able to forgive myself for hurting him or his pack.

I was dangerous. What happened between our families wasn’t the only issue here.

“You are not a danger, Sophia,” Anna said, making me look at her. “We will find a way to stop the darkness. I will find a spell or a potion. I will start immediately.”

“What if it doesn’t work, Anna?” I asked, my voice trembling.

I stopped by the window and looked at our backyard. My eyes found my mate immediately. My heart fluttered. My body shivered. He was so handsome and I wanted him so much.

I looked away from him. I couldn’t accept him until I found a way to control this darkness that was making it hard for me to

breathe.

I looked at my mom and dad who were talking with Drake and Amy. They must have arrived recently. I saw them glancing at Hunter. My parents must have told them what had happened.

“It will work, Sophie,” Anna said softly. “We always found a way. We will find a way this time as well.”

My office door opened, making me turn around.

Lex walked inside with a worried look on his face. He sighed in relief when he saw me.

“Why are you up here?” he said, glancing at Anna. “What happened?”

“I just wanted to talk to Anna about my magic,” I said quietly.

Lex looked at Anna and clenched his fists. I saw him take a deep breath.

“Can she share it with me?” he asked her, making me gasp.

“Lex, no!” I said immediately. “I already told you that I won’t do that!”

Anna looked from Lex to me with a confused expression on her face.

“You think that she could share her darkness with you?” Anna mumbled quietly.

“Yes,” Lex nodded, ignoring me completely. “I want to make it easier on her.”

“Lex...,” I wanted to argue, but Anna interrupted me.

“It could work,” she said, glancing at me.

No. I wouldn't do that. I wouldn't put my brother in danger. There was no way that I would be giving him any of my darkness. There had to be another way to contain it.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN – In Love

Hunter's POV

I needed to see her.

The first day of the Alpha gathering was too fucking long and too fucking boring. I couldn't stop thinking about her. I kept thinking about kissing her again. I kept thinking about holding her in my arms again. I couldn't focus on any conversation I had with other Alphas and I was sure that they thought I was a complete idiot. I felt like a lost puppy the entire day. I just wanted to see her again.

I was so fucking in love with that girl.

Now that I was in my room, lying on the bed, and staring at the ceiling, the need to see her only grew. I felt deprived without her. I couldn't breathe normally. My heart wasn't beating as it should. Everything just felt wrong.

I needed to see her. I couldn't wait until tomorrow. It wouldn't be able to go that long without her sweet scent. I wouldn't be able to go that long without touching her soft skin.

I knew that she lived close to the packhouse, but I also knew that she had a small office here. I wasn't sure if she was still here and I had no idea where her office was, but I would find it. I would ask someone. I didn't give a fuck. I needed her.

I stood up and rushed out of my room. The need for her grew with every heartbeat. I could feel it pulsating inside my body.

I ran into one of Alpha Logan's warriors. He eyed me up and down and bowed his head a little.

"I need to see Miss Sophia," I said politely. "Can you tell me

where her office is?”

The warrior eyed me suspiciously. I was grateful that he was careful not to let anyone close to my mate, but I didn't have time for this. I needed to see her. It was getting harder and harder for me to remain calm.

“I am her mate,” I said, trying to keep the nervousness out of my voice. “I need to talk to her.”

I could tell that he mind-linked someone and I was hoping it was Sophia. I wasn't sure if her father would allow me to see her without anyone present.

“Please follow me, Alpha,” the warrior said after a few moments.

I sighed in relief and rushed after him. I wasn't even paying attention to where I was going. All I could think about was seeing her. All I could think about were her soft lips pressed against mine.

Holden growled lustfully. I ignored him. I couldn't control my own needs, and I most certainly couldn't focus on controlling his needs as well.

Her scent got stronger and I took a deep breath, letting it fill my lungs. I shivered and the need for her exploded. I rushed past the warrior, making him grab my arm.

I had to stop myself from growling.

“Alpha...,” he spoke, but I interrupted him.

“I know where the office is,” I said. “Thank you.”

I knew exactly where her scent was coming from. I could feel her presence behind the last door to my right.

I pulled my arm out of the warrior's grasp and rushed toward her office. I couldn't wait any longer.

Despite my impatience, I knocked and waited.

"Come in," she said softly, making my heart skip a beat.

I opened the door and sighed in relief.

There she was. My beautiful, little Angel.

"Sophia," I mumbled as I closed the door behind me.

She gulped and I saw her shiver.

I closed the distance between us. She stood up and I pulled her into my arms.

The feeling of her body pressed against mine sent my mind into ecstasy. The bond was fucking amazing and I couldn't believe that this perfect woman was mine.

"I missed you," I mumbled as I buried my nose in her hair. "I missed you so fucking much."

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. She shivered when my breath touched her skin. I ran my hand up and down her back, wishing that I could just rip the shirt off her body and feel her soft skin under my fingertips. She pressed herself closer to me, making me smile. She wanted me as much as I wanted her.

I looked down at the desk and saw a bunch of hand-written books. I couldn't tell what was written.

"What are you doing with all of these books, Angel?" I asked as I placed a small kiss on the top of her head.

She looked up at me. I lifted my hand and caressed her soft cheek. I just couldn't resist. I was just about to bend down to kiss her, but she started talking.

"You know that I have magic, right?" she asked me quietly.

I nodded. "I know. Why?"

She took a deep breath and stepped away from me. I felt empty and cold without her in my arms.

"Sophia?" I called her, narrowing my eyes.

Why did she step away from me?

"My magic is unpredictable, Hunter," she mumbled, looking down at the books on her desk. "It's dangerous."

My heart raced. What was she trying to say?

"I'm having trouble controlling the darkness inside me," she continued, her voice laced with worry and fear. "I am a danger to you and your pack."

What the fuck was she trying to say?!

I didn't fucking understand. Was she trying to reject me?

No! Over my dead fucking body!

I was just about to grab her when she started pacing around the room.

"I can't hurt you, Hunter," she said, her voice trembling. "I would never forgive myself if I hurt someone in your pack. I would never..."

I stopped her rambling by approaching her and pressing her against the wall. I placed my hands on the wall, caging her in. I bent down to look at her beautiful face.

My heart was going a mile a minute. I wasn't going to let her leave me.

She looked into my eyes for the first time since I walked into her office. I shivered and gulped.

“What the fuck are you saying, Sophia?” I mumbled. “You are not leaving me. You are not rejecting me. I am not scared of your magic. You are not dangerous. You will not hurt anyone.”

She glanced down at my lips, making all the blood in my body rush down to my dick.

Fuck.

“Hunter, I...” she mumbled, but I couldn't hold back anymore.

I pressed my lips against hers, using my tongue to part them open. Her taste invaded my senses and I was in fucking heaven.

She wasn't leaving me. I wasn't going to let that happen. She was fucking mine, and I would never let her go.

CHAPTER NINETEEN – I Am Not Letting You Go

Sophia's POV

My whole body was trembling. His lips tasted amazing. His scent surrounded me like a blanket. I was in heaven and I never wanted to leave.

But I had to.

I couldn't hurt him. I had to find a way to control my magic first. I had to find a way to get rid of the darkness first.

I needed to stop this. I needed to get away from him. One more taste of him and I would cave. I would let him mark me right here against the wall.

I stopped kissing him and leaned my head against the wall.

He looked at me and caressed my cheek.

“Fuck, Sophia,” he mumbled, leaning in and taking a deep breath.

His nose touched my jaw and my whole body shivered.

“Do you think that I am going to let you go?” he asked. “You are a treasure, Angel. I am not letting you go. I don't give a shit about the past. I don't give a shit about your magic. You are my mate. I am not giving you up.”

My heart raced. I pressed my body closer to the wall, trying to get away from him so I could think clearly.

“Hunter...,” I spoke, but he interrupted me.

“No, Angel,” he said softly. “I don't want to hear your

excuses. Nothing you say will make me want you less.”

“You should want me less, Hunter,” I mumbled. “I am dangerous. The darkness...”

“Is a part of you,” Hunter finished for me. “I know that. I accept that. I will help you deal with it. I am not running away from this.”

There was a huge lump in my throat. I couldn’t swallow it. I couldn’t take a deep breath because of it. My stomach was in knots. My heart was going a mile a minute.

He didn’t know what he was talking about. He didn’t know anything about my magic.

“Goddess, Sophia, I am so fucking in love with you,” he mumbled as he cupped my cheeks. “Please let me show you that I will be there for you no matter what.”

Warm tears fell on my cheeks. He wiped them away with his thumbs.

“You don’t know how bad it is, Hunter,” I mumbled. “I need to find a way to get rid of it before I accept you. I want you. I want you so badly, but I wouldn’t be able to live with myself if I hurt you.”

A small smile spread across his face making me furrow my eyebrows. I was confused. Why was he smiling?

“All I heard is that you want me too,” he said. “That’s enough, Sophia. We will do everything else together. Our parents and your magic aren’t an issue. We will deal with it together.”

I studied his face for a moment. Didn’t he hear me when I said that my magic was dangerous?

He kissed me again before I could argue. His soft lips touched mine and I forgot what we were even talking about.

He tangled his fingers into my hair and pulled my head back gently. He started kissing my jaw and my neck, making me moan quietly. His lips touched my marking spot and I gasped. A funny feeling made my lower belly clench.

“I will mark you soon, my love,” he mumbled against my neck. “I can’t wait to do it. I can’t wait to make you mine. I can’t wait to show the world that this wonderful woman belongs to me.”

I shivered and gulped.

He started sucking on my marking spot gently, making me grab the back of his shirt.

My eyes rolled to the back of my head and I pressed my body closer to his.

His hands traveled down my body, making every part of my skin tingle. He picked me up into his arms and wrapped my legs around his waist. He stepped closer, pressing me harder against the wall.

“Don’t ever try to leave me again,” he said softly. “My heart almost gave out.”

His lips pressed against mine again. I tightened my arms and legs around him.

I could feel every muscle on his body. I could feel how hard he was. It made blood rush to my cheeks. It made my skin burn.

He pressed his lower body against mine and groaned.

“Soon,” he mumbled. “Soon you will be completely mine,

Angel.”

My mind was completely blank. I felt like I was on a cloud. All I could feel were his hands on my body. All I wanted was to feel his lips on my skin.

“Hunter...,” I moaned quietly, making him tighten his arms around me.

“Yes, Angel?” he mumbled as he started biting my earlobe gently.

Oh, shit. His deep voice made the need for him explode inside of me. His warm breath on my neck made every hair on my body stand up.

“We need to talk,” I mumbled, but I had no idea what we needed to talk about.

“About what, my love?” he asked as he pressed his lips to mine again.

I reached up and tangled my fingers into his hair, pulling on it gently. He groaned and deepened our kiss.

I tried to focus. I tried to clear the haze around my brain.

I needed to talk to him.

I had so much to tell him.

I ran my hand up and down his muscular back. I was only making things worse for myself.

“Talk, Angel,” he mumbled as he bit my lower lip gently.

Was he crazy? I couldn’t even remember my name while he was touching me and kissing me like that.

I stopped kissing him and pulled back a little. I needed a little bit of space so I could think clearly.

He looked at me and chuckled. “You can’t talk and kiss me at the same time?”

I frowned at him, making him grin widely. If I was standing up, my knees would buckle. He was beautiful.

“I need you to know everything before you make your decision,” I managed to mumble. “I will tell you everything about me and my magic. You deserve to know everything before you accept me.”

Hunter sighed and caressed my cheek. He placed a soft kiss on my lips.

“Okay, my love,” he said. “I already made my decision, but I will listen. I want to know everything about you. I want to know how I can help you.”

I wasn’t sure if he could.

I smiled at him and pressed my lips against his. He moaned and deepened the kiss, making me melt into him.

I would tell him everything and let him decide. I needed him to know the truth. I couldn’t let him do this without knowing everything about my magic. I couldn’t let him risk everything before he knew the whole truth.

CHAPTER TWENTY – Meeting Anna

Hunter's POV

I was staring at her and I couldn't look away.

My mind kept replaying that hot make-out scene that happened in this room last night. She was so fucking perfect and I wanted to do it again. I wanted more. I wanted to make her mine.

My eyes fell on her beautiful neck. I remembered how I sucked and kissed it. I remembered the taste of her skin. I couldn't wait to see my mark on her neck. I couldn't wait for the rest of the world to see that she was mine.

“Stop staring at me like that,” she mumbled, making me look up at her beautiful face.

“Like what?” I asked, faking innocence.

She raised an eyebrow at me, making me smirk.

“I can't help it,” I said. “I need to repeat that make-out session from last night.”

She blushed and glanced at the wall behind me.

“We could use the wall again,” I said, chuckling. “Or maybe even a bed this time.”

Her eyes widened and I saw her gulp. I wanted to tease her some more, but I heard footsteps approaching the office.

I smiled at her and she took a deep breath.

Goddess, she was fucking perfect.

The office door opened and I saw her brother walk inside. He glared at me before he approached Sophia.

“Are you okay, Fia?” he asked her softly as he kissed the top of her head.

She looked up at him and smiled. “I am okay.”

Her brother smiled at her before he looked at me. His smile disappeared and he gave me a stern look.

“Hello, Alexander,” I said, giving him a small smile.

“Alpha Hunter,” he mumbled quietly.

He glanced down at his sister, sighed, and rolled his eyes. She probably mind-linked him.

“How are the meetings going?” I asked, making Alexander look back at me.

“Everything is going great,” he said. “Dad said to take as much time as we need.”

I nodded and smiled at him.

He and I took a little break from participating in the gathering so we could talk to a witch called Anna. Sophia said that I needed to hear everything before I made my decision. I already knew what I wanted. Nothing that Anna could say would make me want my mate less. I would accept her no matter what. I would help her deal with everything.

Alexander looked back at Sophia. She smiled at him and he squeezed her shoulders lightly. I knew how important he was to Sophia and I wanted to have a good relationship with him. I was glad to see that he was protective of her. It only meant that she had people around her who cared and wanted her safe.

“Are you sure about this, Fia?” Alexander asked her. “You don’t have to do this.”

“I told her the same thing,” I answered instead of her, making them both look at me. “I told her that I want her no matter what.”

Alexander tightened his jaw.

“You deserve to know everything, Hunter,” Sophia said softly. “I don’t want you to regret anything.”

I looked at her and my heart clenched painfully. Did she think that I would ever regret this?

“I would never regret you, Sophia,” I said. “Nothing will make me want you less. I already told you that.”

She gulped and looked up at Alexander. He had a stern look on his face and he was staring at me.

“I am in love with your sister, Alexander,” I said. “I want her. I don’t care about our parents or her magic. I will help her with it all. I am not giving up on her.”

Alexander took a deep breath and narrowed his eyes a little.

“Your dad is a whole other issue I won’t be discussing right now,” he said. “Let’s just focus on dealing with this first.”

I clenched my fists tightly. Would they ever trust that my dad had changed?

The office door opened and Luna Emma walked inside followed by an older lady who had a small smile on her face.

Luna Emma approached Alexander and Sophia. She smiled and hugged them both.

“Hello, Alpha Hunter,” the older woman said politely. “My name is Anna. It is nice to finally meet you.”

Her smile relaxed me. She was the first one who wasn’t careful around me or who didn’t look at me like I was responsible for what happened 18 years ago.

“Hi, Anna,” I said, smiling back at her. “It is nice to meet you too.”

She smiled at me and looked at my mate.

“Hi, Soph,” she said softly. “How are you today?”

She sat down beside me and patted my knee gently.

“Kind of nervous,” Sophia mumbled, making my heart clench.

I looked at her and gave her a soft smile. I wanted to take her into my arms, but I knew that her brother wouldn’t like that very much.

“There is no need to be nervous, Sophia,” I said softly.
“Nothing will make me want you less.”

I said that to her a million times and I would repeat it a million more. I would repeat it until she believed me. If she was the darkest creature on this planet, she would be my darkest creature and I wouldn’t let her go.

“What do you know about her magic?” Anna asked, making me look back at her.

“I know that she is powerful,” I said. “I know that she has both light and dark magic.”

Anna nodded. “Anything else?”

“I know that it’s unpredictable,” I said.

Anna glanced at Sophia and nodded again.

“It is,” she said quietly. “It is unpredictable and it is powerful. We’ve been trying to contain it, but it always finds a way to come out.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Can she get rid of it?” I asked.

“I’ve never tried,” Sophia said, making me look back at her. “Every time I let just a small part of it out, it kills a part of my light magic.”

My eyes widened.

“What are you saying?” I mumbled.

“She is saying that the darkness would take over her completely if she let it out,” Alexander said, making my heart stop beating.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE – The Darkness

Alexander's POV

I didn't want to do this.

I didn't want him to know anything. He could use it against her. He could hurt her. He could tell the others and they could come for her.

We never told anyone the truth about Fia's magic. We never told anyone how dangerous her darkness really was. We were afraid that others would come for her. We were afraid that they would want to destroy her and her magic.

Just the thought of someone hurting her made me see red. I would fucking kill everyone who dared to touch her.

I wasn't sure about Hunter. He seemed like he really wanted her, but he didn't know the truth. He didn't know how dangerous she was. Well, not her, but her magic.

Fia's darkness was draining the light out of her. Each time it surfaced or Fia tried to destroy it, it would kill a part of her light magic. It would completely drain out Fia's energy. Fia would have to rest for days after it. One time when we were around 15 years old, the darkness almost killed her. I hated remembering that. I hated remembering how it felt to almost lose her.

Are you completely sure about this, Fia? I mind-linked her again. **We can still end this conversation.**

I am sure, Lex. She said softly. **He deserves to know.**

If he rejects you and tells someone... I spoke, but she interrupted me.

I will beg him not to. Fia said. **I will find a way, Lex. Don't worry.**

I furrowed my eyebrows and squeezed her shoulders. Was she serious?

Are you crazy? I sighed. **You are my twin. We are just about to tell a stranger that you are the most dangerous being on this planet. He could use this information against you. He could tell other people. They could take you away from me. They could hurt you. I am not worried, Fia. I am fucking terrified.**

I could feel her tense up. She glanced up at me.

I know, Lex. She mumbled. **I am scared too, but I have a feeling that he won't do that. Even if he decides to reject me, he won't tell anyone about me.**

How can you be so sure? I asked, frowning at her. **We don't know him. He is a stranger, Fia.**

Fia sighed.

This is a bad idea, Fia. I said. **We shouldn't do this. We should...**

“Alex?” my mom’s voice interrupted our mind-link.

I looked at her.

“I am so sorry, Alpha Hunter,” my mom sighed. “They always do this.”

I looked at Hunter who was staring at Fia and me with a worried look on his face.

Fia and I would sometimes get so focused on our conversation that we would tune out everything and everyone around us.

“I am sorry, Hunter,” Fia said softly. “Lex and I sometimes get lost in our conversation.”

Hunter smiled at her. “That’s okay, my love. I understand.”

Fia glanced up at me.

I don’t like him. I mind-linked her. **Why does he already have a nickname for you?**

Fia sighed and looked back at Hunter.

“My darkness is dangerous, Hunter,” she said. “It is draining the light out of me. I’ve been pushing it back and suppressing it, but it always finds a way to come out. It will consume me whole if I let it. It will consume me whole if I lose control over it. I don’t know who I would become if it took over me. I don’t know if I would even survive it.”

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath.

I wasn’t going to let that happen. I would find a way to take a part of it from her. I wasn’t going to let it kill her.

Hunter growled, making me open my eyes and look at him. His fists were clenched. He was staring at my sister with a pained expression on his face.

“What are you saying, Sophia?” he asked, his voice trembling.

“I am saying that I could become a very dangerous creature,” Fia said quietly. “I could hurt you. I could hurt other people.”

I bent down and kissed the top of her head.

I will never let that happen, Fia. I mind-linked her. I will never let it take over you.

Based on what I'd seen in the past, the darkness wouldn't take over her. It would kill her.

"I don't give a shit about that, Sophia," Hunter growled, making me furrow my eyebrows. "You are mine. If you become the darkest creature on this planet, you would still be mine. I already told you that nothing would make me reject you. I am talking about the last thing you said. You wouldn't survive it?"

I was surprised. He didn't care about her darkness? He would still want her even if all the light disappeared?

"You don't care about the darkness?" Fia asked what I was thinking.

I glanced at my mom and Anna. They were looking at Hunter with small smiles on their faces.

I sighed internally. I wished that my dad or uncle Andrew were here. My mom and Anna liked Hunter. I still wasn't convinced.

Hunter sighed and shook his head. "I already told you that I don't care, Sophia. You are mine and you will always be mine. The only thing I care about is your safety and happiness."

That was a good answer.

But I still wasn't convinced.

Fia took a deep breath and released it slowly.

"Why wouldn't you survive it, Sophia?" Hunter asked, clenching his fists tightly.

“Because the darkness isn’t just draining the light out of her,” Anna spoke, making us all look at her. “It is draining the life out of her as well. Every time we would try to get rid of it, it would almost kill her. Every time the darkness would come out, Sophia would get sick and it would take her a long time to recover. We don’t know what would happen if the darkness came out completely.”

Hunter moved before any of us could react. He jumped up, grabbed Sophia in his arms, and moved to the other corner of the room. His eyes kept changing colors. His canines and claws elongated. He kept growling and snarling at us.

I saw fucking red.

I would kill him if he hurt her.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO – Not Her

Hunter's POV

Not her. Please, Goddess, not her.

My heart was beating so hard against my ribs. It was painful. I was sure that my ribs would crack. My whole body was shaking. My canines and claws were out and I couldn't stop growling and snarling.

My reaction didn't make sense. None of the people here in the room would hurt her. But my instincts had me grab her. I couldn't let anything or anyone hurt her.

I felt her hand on the back of my neck. She squeezed it gently and ran her fingers through my hair.

She was telling me something, but I couldn't focus. I couldn't hear what she was saying.

All I could think about was protecting her. All I could think about was keeping her alive.

'She is in danger, Hunter!' Holden was screaming at me. *'We need to protect her!'*

I fucking knew that!

But how could I protect her from this? How could I protect her from the darkness that was inside her?

I closed my eyes and buried my nose in her hair. I took a deep breath of her wonderful scent. I focused on the feeling of her fingers in my hair.

The only thing I could hear was my blood pumping in my veins. The only thing I could feel was my heart beating frantically. It felt like it was beating all over my body.

I tried to focus on her soft voice, but it was hard. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't swallow the huge lump in my throat.

She placed a small kiss on my neck and it was the only thing I could focus on. The tingles spread through my body, making me shiver. My heartbeat slowed down a little.

I focused on her fingers in my hair. I noticed how gentle she was. I noticed how her touch soothed me and made me feel like I was in heaven.

I took another deep breath and released it slowly.

"It's okay, Hunter," I finally heard her gentle voice.
"Everything is going to be okay."

Nothing would be okay if she left me. Nothing would be okay if she didn't exist.

I could feel my canines and claws retract slowly.

"Come back to me, Hunter," she said quietly as she placed another small kiss on my neck.

She didn't have to ask me twice.

It was like a switch was turned on. Everything came back into focus. I could hear her. I could feel her small body against mine. I could focus on everything around me.

She needed me. I had to pull my head out of my ass and come back to her.

"I am not going to let anything happen to you," I spoke, my voice raspy. "I am not letting the darkness take you away from me. We will find a way."

I lifted my head and kissed her temple.

I looked at her family. Anna and Luna Emma were looking at me and smiling softly. Alexander was staring at me with an angry expression on his face. He was probably angry because I grabbed Sophia like that, but I couldn't give a shit. I needed to protect her. She was mine. Mine to protect, mine to love, mine to cherish and adore.

I looked back down at my mate and took a deep breath.

"We are in this together, Sophia," I told her. "I am not leaving. I am here."

She looked up at me and I saw tears in her eyes. She studied my face for a few moments.

"Hunter, this isn't an easy decision to make," she mumbled. "If you need time..."

I interrupted her by pressing my lips against hers.

Alexander groaned and cursed under his breath. Luna Emma and Anna chuckled.

“Stop it,” Alexander said. “I am not watching this.”

I chuckled and stopped kissing her. I smiled at her and caressed her cheek.

She took a deep breath and glanced behind her.

“I guess he isn’t going anywhere, honey,” Luna Emma said, chuckling.

“I am not,” I said, shaking my head. “I am here. She is mine. I don’t care about the past of her darkness. I will fight for her. Nothing will stand in my way.”

I tightened my arms around her, pulling her even closer to me.

Luna Emma smiled. Anna winked at me. Alexander rolled his eyes and sighed.

“Not so fast, Hunter,” Alexander said. “I still don’t fucking trust you or your father. You will have to get past me first, and I will not make it easy.”

I smiled at him, making him furrow his eyebrows in confusion.

“I am so happy that Sophia has someone who loves her as much as you do,” I said truthfully. “I am happy that she has someone who will always protect her. I know it won’t be easy, but I will prove to you that I am worthy of your sister.”

Alexander’s eyes widened a little. I could tell that I left him speechless.

“You are the first person who managed to do this,” Sophia mumbled, making me look back down at her.

“Do what?” I asked, confused.

“You are the first one who managed to leave Lex speechless,” Sophia said, smirking a little. “He usually never shuts up.”

I snorted. Luna Emma and Anna laughed.

“Fia,” Alexander growled warningly.

Sophia turned around to look at him. She smiled at him, making my heart skip a beat. Goddess, she was beautiful.

I leaned in to place a soft kiss on her cheek. She looked back at me and smiled.

I wanted to make it official and tell her that I accept her, but I wanted to do that in private. I wanted us to be alone so I could kiss her and touch her after.

“Would you want us to tell you everything we’ve tried to get rid of her darkness?” Anna asked, making me look up at her.

I loosened my grip on Sophia, allowing her to turn around. I didn't move my arms away, though. I wouldn't let her leave my arms. Not now, not ever.

"Of course," I said immediately. "I want to know everything. I want to know if you have any other ideas. I want us to try and come up with something else. We are going to deal with it and we are going to find a way to destroy it."

I wouldn't let anything hurt my mate. I would find a way to destroy the darkness. I wouldn't let it take my mate away from me.

I bent down to kiss the top of Sophia's head before I looked back at Anna. I tightened my jaw and took a deep breath.

"Tell me everything," I said with determination in my voice.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE – Transfer It

Sophia's POV

I wasn't sure what to feel.

I was excited. I was so freaking happy. I was trembling from top to bottom. My mate wanted me. He wanted me despite everything he just found out about me. He held me, he kissed me, and he was there for me. I was ecstatic.

But I was also terrified. What if I hurt him? What if he regretted accepting me? What if he changed his mind once he saw the real darkness inside me?

So many emotions were flowing through my body. I was exhausted and so confused. I didn't know what to focus on.

Fia? Lex mind-linked me, making me look at him. **Do you want to stop? We can end this. We can continue tomorrow.**

I knew that he was overwhelmed by everything. I could feel his emotions. I could feel his fear and anger. I knew that he didn't want to do this, but we had to. Hunter deserved to know everything.

I am okay. I mind-linked him back. **Are you okay? You can leave the room if it's getting too much.**

And leave you alone? Lex scoffed. **Not a fucking chance, Fia.**

I watched him narrow his eyes at Hunter before I even realized that Hunter was kissing my cheek softly.

I looked at my mate and my heart skipped a beat. He was smiling at me.

“Did you and Alexander get lost in one of your conversations again?” he asked, chuckling.

“Yeah,” I mumbled. “Sorry. What did you ask me?”

“Nothing, Angel,” Hunter said softly. “Anna was telling me about the first time you tried to contain your darkness.”

I looked at Anna and took a deep breath.

The first time I tried to contain my darkness, I ended up in a hospital for a week. Everyone got so freaked out. Lex refused to leave my side for the entire time.

I tried releasing it and ended up blasting myself a couple of feet in the air. I landed on my left arm and broke it. Thankfully, werewolf bones healed quickly. It still hurt like hell and I still had to lay in the hospital bed for a week with my brother snoring in my ear the entire time.

“As I was saying,” Anna continued, “she ended up in a hospital for a week. It was a powerful blast and that’s when we knew that we were dealing with something powerful.”

I felt Hunter tense up. He bent his head and kissed my shoulder.

“What else have you tried?” he asked, looking back up at Anna.

“Emma and I tried to use our magic to pull the darkness out of her,” Anna sighed. “That didn’t work. It almost killed her.”

Hunter growled, tightening his arms around me.

“I’ve tried using my light magic to erase the darkness, but it always won and the only thing it did was exhaust me,” I sighed, making Hunter look down at me.

He took a deep breath and leaned his forehead against mine.

“I am so sorry, Angel,” he mumbled. “We will find a way. I promise.”

His soft, reassuring voice made me believe that it would be possible.

“I’ve tried potions and spells, but everything we tried just made it worse,” Anna sighed. “It would either cause an eruption of her darkness, or it would exhaust her to the point of having to go to the hospital.”

“Fuck,” Hunter mumbled as he ran his fingers through his hair. “What did you do to contain it then?”

“I found a way to suppress it,” I said, making him look down at me. “I found a way to fight against it. I’m still not sure how, but I’ve been doing it for years now. I sometimes have a bad day, though.”

Hunter caressed my cheek.

“You’ve been having more bad days lately?” he asked me quietly.

I nodded and took a deep breath.

“Meeting you made it harder to contain,” I mumbled. “My emotions have a large impact on it.”

Hunter tightened his jaw and nodded. “Understandable.”

“There is still one more thing we haven’t tried,” Lex said, making me look at him.

I narrowed my eyes at him. I tried to mind-link him to tell him to stop, but he blocked me.

“Lex, no,” I said out loud instead.

“What?” Hunter asked immediately. “We can try it. I can help.”

“What are you talking about, honey?” my mom asked quietly.

“I already told you no, Alex,” I said sternly. “Let it go.”

“I am not letting it go, Sophia,” he growled. “It could help you. Why do you have to be so stubborn?”

I clenched my fists and tightened my jaw. I tried to mind-link him again, but he kept blocking me.

“I am not being stubborn,” I said through my teeth. “I am not doing it. I am not putting you in danger.”

Lex sighed and rolled his eyes. “I won’t be in danger, Fia.”

“We don’t know that,” I argued. “You are insane for suggesting...”

“Okay, enough,” my mom sighed, interrupting our fight. “Can one of you tell us what the hell you are talking about?”

I narrowed my eyes at my brother. He sighed and looked at our mom.

I wouldn’t do it, no matter what he said. I wouldn’t put him through that. I wouldn’t put him in danger.

“I suggested that she transferred a part of her darkness to me,” Lex said, making my heart race. “She can do it with her light magic. I don’t see a reason why she couldn’t do it with her darkness as well. It would be easier to deal with if we both dealt with it.”

My mom’s eyes widened. She looked from Lex to me.

“That could work,” Anna mumbled, making me look at her.

“No,” I said sternly. “I am not doing it. I am not putting him in danger. Forget it.”

“Mom,” Lex sighed. “You agree with me, don’t you? It could work.”

I looked at my mom. She was staring in front of herself and she looked worried.

“Maybe,” she mumbled, furrowing her eyebrows. “But Sophie is right, Alex. It’s dangerous.”

“I don’t care,” Lex said, clenching his fists. “It is dangerous for her to have so much of it.”

“I’m used to it,” I said, making Lex look at me.

He took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I will do it,” Hunter said, making me gasp and look at him.

My eyes widened to the point where I thought that they would fall out of their sockets.

“Are you insane?” I mumbled. “No. No one is doing it. I am not doing it. Stop bringing it up.”

Hunter looked at me and gave me a small smile.

“You will transfer it to me, love,” he said softly. “I would do anything to make you safe. I will be okay. Everything will be okay.”

He leaned in and kissed my forehead softly.

No. I wasn't going to do it. I wasn't going to put him or Lex in danger. I could deal with it on my own. I would find a way. I always found a way.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR – Your Family

Hunter's POV

I was going to do it. I was going to take a part of her darkness. I was going to help her.

I looked down at her surprised face and smiled. She was staring at me wide-eyed, and I could tell that she was struggling with what to say next.

“She can't transfer it to you,” her brother said, making me look at him. “You haven't marked her yet. She can only transfer it to me.”

I furrowed my eyebrows. I thought that she could share her magic with others.

“She can't give me her magic to use, but she can enhance my abilities,” Alex explained after seeing my confused face. “She can do it with others as well, but it takes a lot of her strength and it isn't as effective as it is when she transfers it to me.”

Oh. I nodded and looked back at my mate.

“So, you could give it to me, but it wouldn't help much?” I asked, making her nod.

I looked back up at her brother. His eyes were on her and he had a worried look on his face.

“But after I mark her, will she be able to transfer it to me fully?” I asked.

Alexander narrowed his eyes at me.

“We aren't sure,” Luna Emma said. “I can transfer it to my

mate so Sophia should be able to transfer it to you once you mark her.”

I nodded and looked back at my mate.

“It’s settled then,” I said, giving her a small smile. “I am marking you and you are giving me a part of your darkness.”

Sophia’s eyes widened. Alexander growled.

“Not so fast, Hunter,” Alexander said menacingly. “I still don’t trust you.”

I sighed and gritted my teeth. I was getting annoyed with his attitude.

“Well, it’s a good thing that it isn’t up to you,” I said. “I won’t be marking you, will I?”

Alexander growled and narrowed his eyes at me. I watched his muscles clench. He started breathing heavily. His jaw tightened. At that moment I realized why everyone feared him. He looked terrifying. It was very clear that he was more powerful than any other Alpha I encountered.

I didn’t fear him, though. Nothing scared me when it came to my mate.

I could feel his power radiating off him. I could feel his Alpha aura. It was stronger than any other. It had me wanting to drop down to my knees and I was a fucking Alpha as well.

I gritted my teeth and resisted the urge to bow to him. I wasn’t going to do it. I wasn’t going to let his power break me.

I kept my eyes on him the entire time.

His power was like electricity. I could hear it buzzing in the air. I could feel it on my skin.

I wondered what it would look like if he lost it completely. I could tell that he was controlling himself now. I wondered what it would take to calm him down.

And then a soft voice answered all of my questions.

“Lex,” Sophia said quietly. “Calm down. It’s okay.”

The buzzing stopped instantly. The pressure to bow down to him disappeared.

Of course it was her. She could calm him down.

He didn’t move his eyes away from mine, though.

“You are moving to fucking fast for my liking, Hunter,” Alexander said quietly. “Slow it down.”

I gritted my teeth. I understood his fear, but I wasn’t going to let him come between Sophia and me.

“Alex, honey, it’s okay,” Luna Emma said. “Hunter wants what’s best for Sophie. I think we can all agree on that.”

Alex kept his eyes on mine.

Sophia sighed and Alex glanced down at her. I could tell that she was mind-linking him. He looked back at me and I could tell that he resisted the urge to roll his eyes.

The office door opened, making Alex and me look away from each other. I was so focused on him that I didn’t even hear anyone coming.

Alpha Logan walked inside and looked around the room. His eyes landed on his son and he narrowed his eyes a little.

“I can feel your aura,” Alpha Logan said. “What the hell happened?”

Alex sighed and crossed his arms over his chest.

“Nothing,” he mumbled, glancing at me. “We were talking about Fia’s magic and I got upset.”

I furrowed my eyebrows in confusion. Why didn’t he tell his father the real reason he got upset? Maybe he didn’t want to upset his father.

Alpha Logan looked at Sophia and me. He glanced at my arms around her waist. I could see his jaw twitch a little, but he didn’t say anything.

He looked back up at me and gave me a polite smile.

“Alpha Hunter, would your family be willing to come to my pack so we could get to know each other a little bit better?” Alpha Logan asked, making my eyes widen.

Was he really offering to talk to my dad?

“What?”

“That’s a very nice offer.”

Alexander and Anna said at the same time.

Alpha Logan glanced at Anna and gave her a small smile. He looked back at me and took a deep breath.

“I talked to Andrew and we agreed that it was best for everyone if we accepted this bond,” Alpha Logan said. “We don’t want to hurt Sophia. We don’t want to lose Sophia. I think that our fear is understandable, but we don’t want our fear to stop Sophia from being happy.”

Sophia walked away from me and approached her dad. She wrapped her arms around her dad's waist. He hugged her back tightly and kissed the top of her head.

"Thank you, dad," she mumbled quietly.

"There is no need to thank me, princess," Alpha Logan said. "We love you so much and we want you to be happy."

I smiled and glanced at Luna Emma. She had a huge smile on her face.

Alpha Logan looked up at me and took a deep breath.

"Will you talk to your father and ask him to come?" he asked.

I nodded. "Of course."

Alpha Logan gave me a small smile and bent down to kiss the top of Sophia's head again.

"I have to go back," Alpha Logan said, looking at Alexander and me. "Join me downstairs when you finish this conversation."

Both of us nodded. I watched Alpha Logan walking away. He opened the door and looked at me with a small smirk on his face.

"I heard that pizza and beer is a great way to win Mason and Alexander over," he said before walking out and closing the door behind him.

Luna Emma, Anna, and Sophia snorted.

I looked at Alexander. He sighed and rolled his eyes.

I stifled back a laugh.

Well, I would have to take them out for pizza and beer, won't I?

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE – Do We Really Have To Do This?

Alexander's POV

“Do we really have to do this?” Mason complained as I was tying my shoes.

“Yes,” Mike said. “We are doing this for Sophie. Suck it up and stop complaining.”

Mason rolled his eyes and sat down on my bed.

“Are Hayden and Danny coming as well?” he asked, making me look up at him.

“Yes,” I said. “Hunter said that he wanted to meet everyone.”

Mason mumbled something under his breath.

He was annoying the fuck out of me. I didn't want to do this either and I didn't need his annoying attitude.

“Stop acting like that, Mason,” I said. “This is hard on all of us. We don't need to put up with your attitude as well.”

Mason sighed and ran his fingers through his hair.

“I am sorry, okay?” he mumbled. “I am scared. I don't have anything against Hunter, but I am terrified of what his father might do.”

I gritted my teeth.

Hunter said that his father had changed, but did he?

“Do you think that he could hurt Soph?” Mike asked quietly.

I felt a spark of anger inside me. Just thinking about Fia getting hurt had me ready to unleash all the power I possessed.

“I don’t know,” Mason sighed. “He could want revenge. He could use her to get back to our parents. We don’t know the man. All we know is that he fucking threatened to kill my mom and kidnap my aunt.”

I gulped and stood up.

“He won’t be able to hurt her,” I said as I grabbed my hoodie and pulled it over my head. “Number one, I would fucking kill him before he tried. Number two, Fia can use her magic to defend herself. Number three, I think that Hunter cares about her. He wouldn’t let his father hurt her.”

“Just keep an open mind, Mason,” Mike said. “I know it’s hard, but we have to do it for Soph.”

I smirked and looked at Mason. “How the hell is your younger brother wiser than you are?”

Mason looked at me and rolled his eyes. Mike laughed.

“Can we just get this over with?” Mason mumbled as he stood up and walked to the door.

Mike and I followed him out of the room.

We walked down the stairs and saw Alpha Hunter talking to my dad and uncle Andrew.

I could tell that both my dad and my uncle were tense, but both had polite smiles on their faces.

Uncle Andrew looked up at us and his smile widened a little.

“Are you ready, guys?” he asked.

“Where are Hayden and Danny?” Mike asked instead of answering his dad.

“Here,” I heard Hayden’s voice behind me.

I turned around and smiled.

“Hey, kid,” I said, smiling brightly at him.

“Stop calling me a kid,” he sighed, rolling his eyes. “I’m 16 years old.”

“You will always be a kid to us, kid,” Mason said, chuckling.

Hayden sighed and rolled his eyes at us.

I loved that kid. He was going to be a great Alpha one day.

“Where were you?” I asked as I glanced at Hunter.

He had a smile on his face and he looked excited.

“Just saying bye to the girls,” Danny said. “Halley and Hazel are with Soph.”

I nodded and looked at Hunter.

“Ready to go?” I asked him.

“Sure,” Hunter said and looked at my dad. “I will let you know as soon as my dad texts me back.”

“Okay,” my dad said, giving him a small smile. “Have fun, guys.”

“Let you know what?” I asked my dad.

I heard Mike, Hayden, and Danny laughing loudly as they were leaving the house. Mason waited for Hunter and me.

“My family is coming tomorrow,” Hunter said. “My dad will let me know when they arrive at the border.”

I tightened my jaw and nodded.

Be nice. My dad mind-linked me.

I will. I said. **I don't think he is that bad. We will see about his father, though.**

We will see. My dad sighed.

I walked out of the house and waited for Mason and Hunter to get out so I could close the door.

Please be nice to him. My sister mind-linked me as we started walking toward the diner.

I resisted the urge to roll my eyes. Why did everyone think that I wouldn't be nice to him?

I will be nice. I mind-linked her back. **Maybe you should have that conversation with Mason.**

Oh, I already did. Fia said. **He promised that he would be nice. You need to make sure that he keeps his promise.**

Am I going there to babysit him or to get to know Hunter?
I asked.

Both. Fia said, making me roll my eyes.

Fine. I mumbled, closing our link.

“What did Sophia say?” Hunter asked, making me look at him.

I furrowed my eyebrows. How the hell did he know that I was mind-linking her?

“How do you know that he was mind-linking Sophia?” Mason asked what I was thinking.

“He has this look in his eyes when he is talking to her,” Hunter said, giving me a small smile. “I don’t know how to describe it, but I know that he was mind-linking her.”

I nodded and looked at my younger cousins.

“She said that we should be nice to you,” I answered his question. “She told me to keep an eye on Mason.”

Hunter snorted.

“She already told me to be nice,” Mason mumbled. “There was no need to tell you to keep an eye on me.”

I raised an eyebrow at him. “Wasn’t there?”

Mason rolled his eyes. Hunter chuckled and shook his head.

“I am worried, okay?” Mason sighed. “She is my cousin and I want her safe. Sue me.”

I understood him completely. I wanted her safe too. I was worried too. The only difference was that Mason’s tongue was a little bit sharper than mine. I knew how to hold back, but Mason didn’t.

“I know that you are worried,” Hunter said. “I can’t even begin to explain how happy I am that she has so many people who love her and want her safe. I want her safe too. I promise that neither I nor my family are a threat.”

Well, we would have to see about that.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX – Alexander And Mason

Hunter's POV

'I miss her,' Holden sighed as I took another sip of my beer.

'We will see her soon,' I told him. *'Stop whining and focus.'*

'It's hard,' Holden mumbled. *'I miss her.'*

I rolled my eyes and ignored him. I didn't need him to tell me how much he missed her. I knew that and I needed to focus on something else before I ran back to her.

I looked up at Alexander and Mason. Both of them were sipping their beers and glancing around the diner. Hayden, Danny, and Mike left about half an hour ago. I was a little bit nervous when they left. The conversation was easy when they were here. They asked me about taking over the pack and we talked about video games and sports. It was easy to talk to them and I was glad I got to get to know them a little bit better. Mike was a goofy guy and I knew that we would get along great. Hayden was going to be a great Alpha. He was kind, smart, and calm. Danny was a smart young man who would be a great warrior one day.

"What did Soph decide?" Mason asked, breaking the silence.

"Will she try to transfer the magic to you?"

I looked up at Alexander. He sighed and rolled his eyes.

"No," he mumbled. "She said that she doesn't want to put me in danger. She is stubborn."

I wasn't happy with her decision. I wanted her to share it with someone. I knew that Alexander could handle it. I knew that I could handle it.

“Was she always this stubborn?” I asked, making them look at me.

Mason scoffed. Alexander nodded.

“Good luck, man,” Mason said, smirking at me.

I chuckled and shook my head.

“I understand that she doesn’t want to put us in danger,” I sighed and looked down at the bottle in my hand. “I just wish that she would let us help her.”

I heard Alexander sigh.

“She will let us help,” Alexander said, making me look back up at him. “But she will find a way to do it without putting us in danger.”

“But it won’t be as effective,” I said, making Alexander nod.

He took a sip of his beer and glanced at Mason.

I looked at him. His eyebrows were furrowed and he was staring at the table.

“I would never hurt her,” I said quietly, making both Mason and Alexander look at me.

I needed to tell them that. I needed them to know that she meant everything to me. I knew that neither Mason nor Alexander found their mates yet, but they would understand once they did.

She was everything to me. From the moment I saw her, I knew that I had to protect her no matter what. She became a part of my heart and soul instantly. She twisted my whole world

around and became the center of it. I couldn't hurt her because it would be like tearing my chest apart and ripping my heart out.

I was in love with her from the moment I saw her. I knew it was because of the mate bond, but I also knew that the mate bond wouldn't have anything to do with it soon. I was falling in love with her and I wouldn't even need the mate bond to make me want her. She was beautiful. She was brave, kind, and loving. She was all I ever wanted.

Mason's jaw twitched. He looked at the bottle in his hands.

"Our parents raised us to cherish our family and our mates," Alexander said. "They always told us that family is the most important thing. Once you become Sophia's family, she will give you her endless trust. Don't break it."

I gulped and nodded.

"I would never do that," I said. "I know it's hard to believe, but I already love her so fucking much and it isn't just because of the mate bond. She is amazing and I am lucky to have her."

"She is," Alexander said as a small smile spread across his face.

"I wonder what the Goddess was thinking when she bonded you to Soph," Mason mumbled, making me narrow my eyes at him.

Alexander jammed his elbow into Mason's ribs, making Mason look up at me.

"I didn't mean anything bad," Mason said, his eyes widening. "You are a cool dude, I like you. But, it is messed up when you think about it. Your dad and her mom almost ended up together. Your dad hurt her family. It's just messed up, that's

all I'm saying."

I tightened my jaw. He wasn't wrong, though. It was weird.

"Look, I know that my dad screwed up big time," I sighed as I took another sip of my beer. "He made mistakes, but he was a victim of the curse. He has changed since then. He is an amazing Alpha and a wonderful father."

"Did he ever talk about revenge?" Alexander asked and I shook my head immediately.

"No," I said. "Never. He knows that he screwed up. He knows that he should be thankful that your parents decided to let him go. He doesn't want revenge. He never wanted it."

Alexander glanced at Mason.

"We just want Sophia safe," Mason mumbled as he took a small sip of his beer.

"My father isn't a threat to her," I said. "He would never hurt her."

Mason looked up at me. I saw his jaw twitch. He gave me a small nod, making me smile at him.

It hurt to know how they felt about my father, but I understood why. My dad did screw up.

"So, do you have any siblings?" Alexander asked.

I was thankful he changed the subject. I understood their anger toward my father, but it didn't mean that it didn't hurt me.

"I do," I said, smiling. "I have a brother. His name is Harry and he is annoying as fuck."

“Oh, tell me about it,” Mason sighed, rolling his eyes and looking at Alexander. “You have no idea how lucky you are to have a sister.”

Alexander scoffed and shook his head. “You think that Fia isn’t annoying?”

I chuckled. She could never annoy me.

“Not as much as Mike,” Mason mumbled.

“Or Harry,” I added, making them look at me.

“How old is Harry?” Mason asked me.

“16,” I said, smiling. “He will be 17 soon.”

Alexander sighed and rolled his eyes, making both Mason and I look at him with confused expressions on our faces.

“It’s Fia,” he mumbled. “She is making sure that Hunter is okay. I don’t get her. This is like the hundredth time she mind-linked me. Does she think that we will eat him?”

Mason scoffed.

I grinned widely. It made me so fucking happy to know that my mate cared about me. She wanted to make sure that I was okay. My heart swelled so much that my chest suddenly felt too tight to hold it.

She loved me as much as I loved her.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN – I Missed You

Sophia's POV

I ran downstairs as soon as I heard the front door open.

I could smell my mate's scent and a shiver went down my spine.

“He is alive, Sophia, slow down,” I heard Lex sigh even before he saw me.

I heard my mate chuckle and my heart raced. I finally reached the end of the stairs and saw him.

He was perfect. I would never get tired of looking at his beautiful face. My breath got caught in my throat and I couldn't look away from him. I wanted to jump into his arms and kiss him. I wanted to feel his body close to mine. I wanted to feel his soft lips on mine.

“Close your mouth, Sophia,” Lex mumbled, making me blink and look away from my mate.

Was he angry at me?

“Why are you calling me Sophia?” I asked, furrowing my eyebrows. “Is everything okay?”

He only called me Sophia when he was angry at me. I was always Fia and he was always Lex.

Lex blinked and shook his head. “Everything is fine, Fia. Don’t worry.”

Of course I would worry. Something wasn’t right.

Hunter took my hand in his, making me look away from my brother. Tingles spread all over my body.

“Can I talk to you outside for a second?” Hunter asked, giving me a small smile.

I could do anything else but nod. He always managed to take my breath away.

Hunter gave me a small smile and started pulling me out of the house.

“Five minutes, Hunter,” my brother said, making Hunter look back at him and nod.

Hunter closed the front door and pulled me into a tight hug immediately.

“Goddess, I missed you,” he mumbled as he ran his fingers down my spine.

I had to grab onto him to keep myself standing up. My knees buckled and a tingling feeling spread around my stomach.

I took a deep breath, letting his scent cloud my brain.

“I missed you too,” I mumbled as I ran my fingers through his hair.

I felt his hand under my butt, and my heart raced. He picked me up with one hand and I wrapped my legs around his waist.

“I waited to do this ever since we left the house,” Hunter mumbled as he kissed my neck.

I had to hold back a moan. My family was inside the house.

His lips were warm and soft. He placed soft kisses all over my neck and jaw. He reached my mouth and I was sure that I was going to explode with need.

I cupped his cheeks and pressed my lips against his. He squeezed my butt, making me shiver. I bit his lower lip gently.

“Fuck, Sophia, fuck,” he mumbled as he ran his tongue over mine.

My heart was racing. My whole body was tingling. All I could feel was him and I was in heaven.

I lowered my lips to his neck and sucked on his marking spot. He growled and pressed me closer to him.

“Fuck,” he mumbled as he grabbed a fistful of my hair and pulled my head back.

He was panting hard. I was having trouble taking a deep breath. The lust I saw in his eyes made my lower belly ache

with need. It was an unfamiliar feeling, but I liked it and I wanted more of it.

“We need to stop, or I am going to fuck you right here and right now,” Hunter growled, tightening his grip on my hair.

My breath got caught in my throat. I would complain a lot if he did that.

He brought my lips back to his as I almost melted into a puddle under his feet.

I kissed him hard, grabbing the back of his hoodie and pressing my body closer to his. I still couldn't believe that he wanted me. I still couldn't believe that he didn't reject me after finding out all the things that were wrong with me.

I stopped kissing him and leaned my forehead against his. We really needed to stop kissing like that. My family was inside, and I was only one kiss away from letting him have his way with me right on my front porch.

“What did I do to deserve you?” I mumbled, making him pull back so he could look at me.

“What the hell are you talking about?” he asked, furrowing his eyebrows.

I took a deep breath and bit my lower lip.

“I always thought that my mate wouldn't want me because of my magic,” I mumbled, making Hunter's eyes widen. “I was

ready for your rejection. I didn't think that you would accept me."

Hunter growled quietly. "Goddess, Sophia, I would have to be an insane motherfucker to reject you. I don't give a shit about your magic. It's a part of you and I love it. I love everything about you, the good and the bad."

I was going to cry.

"You are mine, and I am not giving up on you," Hunter said as he placed a soft kiss on my lips. "Get that into this stubborn head of yours."

I felt a tear fall on my cheek. Hunter wiped it away gently.

"It's been five minutes, Fia," I heard my brother's voice.

I sighed and rolled my eyes. Hunter chuckled.

"Let's not anger him, shall we?" Hunter said as he put me down gently. "I think he likes me. I don't want to ruin that."

"I've never said that I liked you," Lex said.

"Stop eavesdropping," I said angrily.

The front door opened and Lex stepped out.

"I wasn't eavesdropping," he said. "I heard it by accident."

“You hear a lot by accident,” I mumbled quietly, making him narrow his eyes at me.

He looked at Hunter and raised his eyebrows.

“Good night, Hunter,” Lex said, making Hunter chuckle.

He kissed the top of my head and I looked up at him.

“Good night, Angel,” he said as he caressed my cheek. “I will see you tomorrow.”

“Good night,” I said, giving him a small smile.

“By, Alexander,” Hunter said as he let me go and started walking away.

I was instantly so cold. I already missed his arms around me.

Lex took my hand in his and pulled me inside the house. I kept my eyes on my mate until Lex closed the front door.

I gulped and looked at Lex

“Why are you mad at me?” I asked him.

He sighed and ran his fingers through his hair.

“I am not mad at you, Fia,” he mumbled. “I am just nervous about tomorrow.”

I sighed and approached him. I wrapped my arms around his waist and hugged him tightly.

“Don’t be,” I said quietly. “His dad will be nice. I am sure of it.”

Lex hugged me back and leaned his head on mine.

“We will see,” he mumbled quietly. “I do like Hunter. I’m hoping that he is telling the truth about his dad.”

I smiled. Lex was the most important person in my life and hearing that he liked Hunter made me so happy. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. Lex rubbed my back gently.

Everything would be okay. I would find a way to deal with the darkness and my and Hunter’s families would be okay with our bond. Everything would be okay. Everything had to be okay.

I was sure of it.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT – Alpha Nathan

Logan's POV

I ran my fingers through Emma's hair and kissed her forehead. She stirred a little.

I smiled and kissed the tip of her nose. She sighed and turned her head the other way.

"Come on, baby, wake up," I mumbled as I pulled her closer to me.

"Five more minutes," she mumbled, making me chuckle.

"We don't have five more minutes," I told her. "I want to make love to you before we get up."

Emma pressed her butt against my already hard dick and I groaned.

"Scratch that," I said as I kissed my mark on her neck. "I need to make love to you before we get up."

Emma chuckled and turned around. She wrapped her arms around my neck and kissed me.

I moaned, tangling my fingers into her hair and pressing her even closer to me.

No matter how much time passed, I would always want her and need her. She was fucking perfect and I adored every part of her body and soul. I loved her so fucking much.

I ran my hand down her back and grabbed her perfect little butt. I was as hard as a rock and I needed to get inside her right now.

She stopped hissing me and lowered her head. She started sucking on her mark on my neck, making my eyes roll to the back of my head.

I was just about to pull her pajama pants down when I heard someone approaching our bedroom. I recognized my son's scent immediately.

I growled just as he knocked on our bedroom door.

"Get up," Alexander said. "Hunter's family will be here in two hours."

I turned to lie on my back and I ran my fingers through my hair.

"I thought that our sex life was supposed to get better after they grow up," I mumbled, making Emma laugh.

"I heard that and it's gross," Alexander mumbled as he walked away.

Emma snorted and started getting up. I pulled her back and pressed her closer to me.

"We have time," I mumbled as I placed a small kiss on her shoulder.

Emma chuckled and ran her fingers through my hair.

"He will come back," Emma said. "He is probably very nervous."

I had to hold back a whine.

"I will be all yours tonight," Emma said, making me smile.

"Do you promise?" I asked.

“I promise,” she said as she pressed her lips against mine.

I had to hold back a moan. I really wanted to stay in bed with her a little bit longer. I needed her today. I needed to feel her and reassure myself that she was really mine.

I didn't know why I was this needy today. Maybe it was because Nathan was coming and everything that happened just came back to the surface. I remembered how scared I was. I remembered how angry I was. I thought that I was going to lose her. I thought that she would leave me. I thought that he would take her away from me. Everything that happened with Nathan was hard for me. Just remembering that part of our lives brought that pain back to the surface. I needed to feel Emma so that the pain would go away.

She stopped kissing me way too soon. She looked at me and caressed my cheek.

“I can feel your emotions, Logan,” she mumbled. “I know this will be hard, but I want you to know that I love you so much. I am incredibly proud of you and I am incredibly proud to be your mate.”

I smiled at her. “I love you.”

“I love you too,” she said, smiling.

She stood up and stretched out.

“Come on,” she said as she walked toward the bathroom. “Our kids need us.”

I stood up with a huff and followed her to the bathroom.

“Do you think that Nathan really changed?” I asked her as we started brushing our teeth.

Emma nodded. "I do. You've seen the change in him yourself."

I did. Every time we saw each other, he was very respectful and kind. He understood our need to keep a distance from him, and he never tried to cross any boundaries. He definitely wasn't the same Nathan who came to my pack all those years ago.

Emma mumbled something I didn't understand at all. I furrowed my eyebrows.

"I can't understand you if you talk with a toothbrush in your mouth," I said.

She took the toothbrush out of her mouth and spit out the toothpaste.

"I said that we needed to give him a second chance," Emma said, making me sigh.

"I know," I said. "I would do anything for my princess."

My kids were the light of my life. I was so freaking proud of them both. Alexander was a wonderful young man and he was going to be a great Alpha soon. I knew that I was going to leave my pack in the hands of a kind and powerful Alpha.

My Sophie was my princess. She was my joy. She was my little girl and my love for her was endless. There was nothing I wouldn't do to keep her safe. There was nothing I wouldn't do to make her happy.

Emma finished brushing her teeth. She smiled at me and wrapped her arms around my waist. I caressed her cheek.

"I am going to get dressed," she said softly as she placed a

small kiss on my naked chest.

My whole body burned with need and I had to take a deep breath to calm down.

I watched Emma walk back into our bedroom when I got a mind-link from Andrew.

Is he here? He asked me.

Not yet. I said. **He will be here in about two hours.**

I rinsed my mouth and spit out the toothpaste.

Are you nervous? Andrew asked.

As fuck. I mumbled.

I splashed my face with cold water and took a deep breath.

Everything will be okay. Andrew sighed. **We are doing this for Soph.**

I looked at myself in the mirror. I watched my jaw twitch.

I know. I said. **There is nothing I wouldn't do for her.**

I just hoped that Nathan did change. I hoped that he would treat my daughter with respect. If he didn't, nothing would fucking stop me from killing him this time.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE – Twenty

Sophia's POV

I was nervous as hell.

I kept pacing around the living room and biting the skin around my nails.

Would his parents like me? Would they approve of me? What if they told him to reject me because of my darkness? Would he change his mind? Would he listen to them? What if he did end up rejecting me?

My heart was going a mile a minute. My palms were sweating and my breaths were short and fast.

Not being able to sleep last night didn't help at all. The darkness was too much. It kept taunting me and trying to get me to use it. There was a weird feeling in my stomach. It was like hunger, but dull and persistent. It wasn't the kind of hunger that could be satisfied with food. It was a hunger for magic.

“Calm down, Fia,” Lex sighed. “You are driving me crazy.”

I ignored him completely. I couldn't stop pacing around. My magic would come out if I did. I had to keep moving.

“Goddess, Fia, what's wrong with you?” Lex asked me.

I ignored him again.

I could feel my heartbeat in my throat. I tried to swallow, but I couldn't. My lungs started to hurt. I couldn't get enough air into my lungs.

I was a dark and dangerous creature. What if his family didn't accept me? What if they feared me? What if Hunter started to fear me too?

I could feel tears in the corners of my eyes.

He would end up rejecting me, wouldn't he? He would tell me that he changed his mind and that he couldn't be with me. He would tell me that I was too dangerous and unpredictable.

Would he find another mate? He would. Of course he would. He would find another mate. He would mark her and she would be his Luna.

I could feel the darkness spreading around my heart. It was cold and it hurt. My chest hurt.

Someone grabbed my shoulders.

"Holy fuck, Fia, what's wrong?" Lex asked, getting into my face.

He studied my face worriedly.

"Are you in pain again?" he asked, squeezing my shoulders tightly. "What the hell is going on?"

I nodded because I couldn't speak.

I was in pain. The darkness reached my stomach and I wanted to scream.

"Fuck," Lex mumbled as he wrapped his arms around me.

I leaned into him. I was tired. I couldn't even stand on my feet anymore.

"Try to take a deep breath, Fia," Lex said softly as he kissed the top of my head. "Focus on my arms around you. Focus on the warmth, okay? Try to find the light."

I closed my eyes and tried to do what he told me. We've done this so many times before. I already knew what I needed to do, but I still needed his soothing voice to guide me through.

"Where is the darkness, Fia?" Lex asked softly as he rubbed my back.

"My chest," I managed to mumble quietly.

"Okay," Lex mumbled as he continued to rub my back gently. "Focus on me, Fia. Push it back. You can do it."

I could hear footsteps behind me, but I couldn't turn around. I knew it was my parents.

I forced myself to stop thinking about how cold my chest felt. I forced myself to focus on my brother. I focused on his arms around me. I focused on his steady breathing. I could hear his

heartbeat as well. It was much steadier than mine. It was much slower than mine. I gritted my teeth and counted his heartbeats.

One.

I focused on the edges of the darkness in my chest. It spread. It was now covering my whole upper body.

Two.

I started with my throat. I pushed it down a little so I could breathe.

Three.

It was fighting back. It didn't want to leave. It didn't want to go back.

Four.

I tried to swallow. It was hard. The darkness was still there.

Five.

It moved to my stomach. I needed to get it out of there because the feeling in my stomach was making my knees weak. If Lex wasn't holding me, I would surely fall. It was a feeling of hopelessness and pain. It was intense and it scared me.

Six.

The darkness was fighting back. It tried to spread again.

Seven.

I couldn't let it do that. I couldn't let it win. I pushed back harder.

Eight.

"You are doing great, Fia," Lex said softly. "Just a little bit more."

Nine.

I pushed back. I had to push back. Hunter would be here soon. I couldn't let him see me in that state.

Ten.

"Take a deep breath," Lex said. "You can do it now, Fia. I can feel it."

Eleven.

I listened to him. I inhaled slowly. It was still hard, but it was easier than before.

Twelve.

"There we go," Lex said. "It will be okay. Take another deep breath."

Thirteen.

I focused on the edges again. The darkness was only around my chest now. I could feel a little spark of my light magic. I used it to push the darkness back.

Fourteen.

I took another deep breath. I could do it now. It wasn't as hard as it was before.

Fifteen.

I could feel my heart rate slow down. The warmth from Lex's skin transferred to mine. I wasn't as cold anymore.

Sixteen.

"There we go," Lex mumbled as he kissed my temple. "You did it. I am so proud of you."

Seventeen.

I gripped the back of his hoodie with my frozen fingers. I could still feel a spot of darkness in my chest.

Eighteen.

I heard footsteps approaching us. I felt my parents' arms wrap around me and Lex.

Nineteen.

“Oh, my princess,” my dad mumbled as he kissed the top of my head. “We are here. Your family is here. You are not alone.”

Twenty.

I opened my eyes and looked up at my brother. He smiled at me, but I could see the worry in his eyes. I felt my mom’s fingers in my hair.

“What happened, honey?” my mom asked. “Where did your mind go before it happened?”

I looked at her and gulped. I couldn’t even say it out loud.

“Was it something about Hunter?” my mom asked as she kissed my cheek.

I nodded.

“Oh, princess,” my dad mumbled as he tightened his arms around me.

I was completely wrapped up in their arms and I was so grateful for that. I couldn’t do this alone.

“You will always have us, Fia,” Lex mumbled quietly. “No matter what happens with Hunter, we will always be here.”

I looked up at him and smiled.

“Thank you,” I said. “I love you all so much.”

“We love you too, honey,” mom said as she caressed my cheek.

My dad placed another kiss on the top of my head and Lex smiled at me.

I heard footsteps approaching the house. I could feel the faint scent of my mate.

My heart raced again.

CHAPTER THIRTY – What Happened?!

Hunter's POV

I knocked on the door and took a deep breath.

I talked to my dad a few minutes ago. They were about half an hour away. I was nervous but excited. I knew that everything would go well. My parents and Harry were so excited to meet Sophia. My mom was nervous and she kept asking me what she should wear. As if I knew anything about that.

“Come in,” I heard Alpha Logan's voice.

I opened the door and smiled as soon as my eyes landed on Sophia.

But something was wrong. Something was terribly wrong.

My smile dropped instantly and I rushed to her.

“What happened?!” I exclaimed as I pulled her from Alexander.

She was pale and there were small beads of sweat on her forehead. She was so freaking cold and I could tell that she was exhausted.

My heart was going a mile a minute. What the hell happened to her?

“She had some issues with her darkness,” Luna Emma said as she rubbed her back gently.

Cold shivers ran down my spine. I looked her up and down. Was it always this bad?

“Oh, my Angel,” I mumbled as I pulled her into a tight hug.
“Is there something I could do?”

“I am better now,” she mumbled. “Thank you.”

I looked at Alexander. He had a worried look on his face. He looked exhausted too.

“Are you okay?” I asked him.

He tightened his jaw and nodded. He kept his eyes on Sophia the entire time.

“I am okay now that she is better,” he mumbled.

I tried to take a deep breath, but it was so freaking hard. I was so scared. Why did she have issues with it again? How did it look? Would I know how to help her if it happened while I was around? Would she let me help her?

I kissed the top of her head and breathed in her scent. It soothed me a little.

“You should eat something, Fia,” Alexander said.

“I am not hungry,” she mumbled.

Her voice came out all muffled because her head was buried into my chest.

“I know, but you still need to eat,” Alexander sighed.

“Come on, Angel,” I said as I placed another kiss on the top of her head. “You need to eat. Something small at least.”

She tightened her arms around me and took a deep breath.

“I will make breakfast,” Luna Emma said, making me look at

her. “Are you hungry, Hunter?”

“No, thank you,” I said, giving her a small smile. “I ate at the packhouse. Coffee would be nice, though.”

“Sure,” Luna Emma said, smiling back at me.

I glanced at Alpha Logan and Alexander.

“Could we have a moment alone, please?” I asked, tightening my arms around Sophia.

Alpha Logan nodded. Alexander didn’t move or say anything. I could tell that he was reluctant to leave.

Alpha Logan sighed, grabbed his upper arm, and started pulling him away.

“I will be in the kitchen if you need me, Fia,” Alexander said and I could hear a hint of panic in his voice.

Sophia turned around and nodded.

“I am okay,” she said. “We will be right there.”

As soon as Alpha Logan and Alexander left the living room, I pulled Sophia to the couch. I sat down and pulled her onto my lap.

“What the hell happened, my love?” I asked her as I cupped her cheeks.

She was still so pale and so cold. My heart was breaking inside my chest.

She furrowed her eyebrows and bit her lower lip. I caressed her cheeks with my thumbs. Her skin was so soft and I enjoyed how it felt against my fingertips.

“It happens sometimes,” she said quietly. “The darkness tries to take control, but I always manage to push it back.”

I looked at her perfect lips. I wanted to kiss her.

“Does it always get this bad?” I mumbled as I leaned in and brushed my lips against hers.

She shivered in my arms and a small smile spread across my face. I loved seeing the effect my touch had on her.

“Sometimes,” she mumbled as she leaned in and kissed me.

I smiled against her lips. I loved kissing her. I loved that she was the one who kissed me. It meant that she wanted me. I still couldn't believe it.

She pulled back and ran my nose up and down her jaw.

“Did Alexander help you?” I asked her as I placed a small kiss on her neck.

“He always does,” she said. “He is the only one who can help me. He is the only one who knows how to.”

I looked up at her and caressed her cheek again.

“He will have to teach me how to do it,” I said softly.

I needed to know how to help her once she moved to my pack. I needed to know what to do and how to handle the situation. I needed to talk to Alexander about it.

Sophia gulped and hugged me tightly.

“Will your family be here soon?” she asked quietly.

I hugged her back tightly. I placed a hand on the back of her head, holding her close to me.

“They are close to the border,” I said as I buried my nose into her hair.

“Okay,” Sophia mumbled. “I will freshen up.”

“Mhm,” I mumbled, not moving an inch.

I didn’t want to let her go. I wanted to stay like this forever.

“I can’t go if you don’t let me go,” Sophia said with amusement in her voice.

“I really don’t want to,” I sighed as I tightened my arm around her waist.

She rubbed my back gently. Tingles ran down my spine and into my legs. It was such a pleasurable feeling.

“I will be right back,” she said as he placed a small kiss on my neck.

I grunted and lifted my head. “You are not helping. Now I just want you to stay here and continue kissing me like that.”

Sophia chuckled and shook her head.

“There will be time for that,” she said, making me grin.

Oh, yes. There would be time for everything. I would caress and kiss every fucking part of her perfect little body. I couldn’t wait to do that. I couldn’t wait to make her mine in every way possible.

My phone rang, making my heart skip a beat.

My family had arrived at the border.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE – Reunion

Emma's POV

“My parents crossed the border,” Hunter said as he entered the kitchen.

My heart sped up a little. I could feel Logan's nervousness growing.

“Where is Fia?” Alex asked worriedly.

“She wanted to freshen up,” Hunter said as he approached me. “Do you need any help?”

I smiled at him. He was a well-raised young man. He would be an amazing mate to my daughter, I was completely sure of it. I knew that the Goddess had her reasons why she decided to bond him to my daughter.

“It's okay, Hunter,” I said. “Please sit down. Logan will get you a cup of coffee.”

He nodded and smiled back at me.

I looked at my son. He was staring at the kitchen door with a worried look on his face.

She is okay, Alex. I mind-linked him.

This one was bad, mom. My son said. It was worse than the others. I don't know how she came back from it.

She did because she has you, Alex. I said softly. You were amazing and you helped her once again.

Alex didn't respond. He kept his eyes on the kitchen door. I sighed and glanced at my mate. He was handing a cup of coffee to Hunter.

“Will Beta Andrew and his family come to meet my parents?” Hunter asked.

Both Logan and I gave him a small nod.

“They will come by a little bit later,” Logan said. “We thought it would be best if it was just us for now.”

I heard footsteps walking down the stairs. Alex jumped up and ran out of the kitchen.

I glanced at Hunter who had a small smile on his face.

“I am so happy that she has someone who cares about her this much,” Hunter mumbled quietly.

I smiled and looked back down at the eggs I was making.

“They are inseparable,” Logan said. “They can fight endlessly, but they love each other the most in this world.”

They really did. It was funny sometimes. When they fought, I sometimes thought that they would end up killing each other. They could scream at each other endlessly. They could fight with each other until their last breath. But if anyone else dared to fight with either one of them, they would make you regret it. No one else was allowed to scream at Sophie, and no one else was allowed to fight with Alex. They were incredibly protective of each other.

“I am glad,” Hunter said. “I know that I will always be able to count on him to keep her safe.”

“You will,” Logan said. “Not just on him. You can count on everyone in this family and in this pack to keep her safe.”

I heard a car pull up in our driveway. My heart raced a little.

Nathan and his family were here.

I could feel Logan’s nervousness grow.

Everything is going to be okay. I mind-linked him.

He didn’t respond, but I heard him approaching me. I turned the stove off and took a deep breath. I felt Logan’s hand in mine. I turned around to look at him.

“Everything is going to be okay,” I said, smiling at him.

He nodded and pressed his lips against mine.

I heard the front door opening. I looked behind Logan and saw that Hunter wasn't in the kitchen with us anymore.

Logan and I walked out of the kitchen. He was holding my hand tightly in his.

I saw my kids in the hallway. Both of them looked very nervous. Alex was like a coiled spring waiting to go off.

"Let's go, guys," I said softly, smiling at them.

I needed to relax them. I needed to make sure that my kids were okay.

"Was the trip okay?" I heard Hunter's voice as we approached the door.

"Yes, honey," Luna Janet said. "Are you okay?"

"I am perfect, mom," Hunter said. "She is amazing. I can't wait for you to meet her."

I smiled and looked at my daughter. She was amazing.

My eyes fell on Nathan as we stepped out on the porch. He looked at us as soon as he heard us coming.

"Emma," he mumbled as he took a deep breath.

I smiled at him.

“Hello, Nathan,” I said. “It is very nice to see you.”

Logan’s hand around mine tightened. Nathan looked a bit surprised. He glanced at his mate before looking back at me.

“It is very nice to see you too, Emma,” he said and smiled before looking at Logan. “Hello, Alpha.”

I felt Logan relax a little.

“Welcome to our pack, Nathan,” Logan said politely and looked at Luna Janet. “I hope your trip went well.”

“It did,” Luna Janet smiled. “Your pack lands are amazing. I really enjoyed it.”

Logan and I both smiled. It made us both happy to hear that.

“Mom, dad, this is Sophia,” Hunter said excitedly. “She is my mate.”

He approached her and pulled her from Alexander. He had a huge smile on his face and I could feel the happiness radiating from him. I had to hold back a chuckle. I was so happy to see that he loved my little girl so much.

“We are honored to meet you, Sophia,” Nathan said as he reached out to shake her hand. “Welcome to the family.”

Sophia gave him a small, nervous smile and took his hand in hers.

“It is very nice to meet you too, Alpha Nathan,” she said politely.

“Can I hug you, honey?” Luna Janet asked as she opened her arms and smiled at Sophia.

Sophia gave her a small nod and walked into her open arms.

“I am so happy to meet you,” Luna Janet said. “You are beautiful, honey.”

“Thank you, Luna,” Sophia said quietly.

“Oh, please sweetie, call me Janet,” Luna Janet said as she let Sophia go. “There is no need to be formal.”

Sophia gave her a small smile. Hunter took her hand in his and pointed at the boy behind his parents.

“That’s my brother, Harry,” Hunter said, smiling brightly.

“Hi, Sophia,” Harry said, reaching out to shake Sophia’s hand. “You are hot.”

I had to hold back a chuckle. Sophia smiled and took Harry’s hand in hers.

“Back off,” Hunter growled at his brother.

Harry smirked and shook Sophia’s hand.

“I love to annoy him,” Harry said. “I will teach you everything and we can do it together.”

Sophia chuckled. Hunter growled again.

“This is my brother,” Sophie said, turning around and pointing at Alex.

Alex was staring at Hunter’s family with a stern expression on his face. As soon as Nathan looked at him, Alex let out his Alpha aura. Nathan flinched a little but smiled.

“It is very nice to meet you, Alpha Alexander,” Nathan said. “I’ve heard wonderful things about you.”

Alex tightened his jaw. He glanced at Sophia and I could tell that she mind-linked him. She probably told him to be nice.

“It is nice to meet you too, Alpha Nathan,” Alex said.

“Okay,” I said, making everyone look at me. “Let’s go inside. I made breakfast.”

I started walking back inside the house, not waiting for anyone’s response. I took a deep breath. The first meeting went well.

“You are lucky she didn’t make pancakes,” Logan mumbled, making me roll my eyes. “She can’t make them.”

I heard Nathan and Janet chuckle, making me smile.

I knew that everything would be okay.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO – Andrew And Daisy

Nathan's POV

To say that I was nervous would be an understatement.

My insides were shaking and I felt like I was going to throw up.

Emma and Logan were polite and seeing them again wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be. Alexander, on the other hand, wanted to bite my head off. I understood why, but I needed to show him that I wasn't a threat to him or his family.

I looked at Sophia. She reminded me so much of Emma when I first met her. She was beautiful and I could tell that she was very kind and loving. I enjoyed seeing my buddy happy. He was so in love and it made my heart grow double.

I looked up from my plate and saw my son caressing Sophia's cheek. She had a small smile on her face. Hunter was whispering something to her.

I smiled and looked at Alexander. I could feel his power and I had to admit that it was a little bit intimidating. I didn't want to get on his bad side.

"When are you taking over the pack, Alexander?" I asked, making him look up from his plate.

"In a couple of months," he answered. "I already started taking on some duties."

“I can’t wait to hand over my pack to him,” Logan said. “I’m ready to retire and spend a month in my cabin with my mate.”

“It will be wonderful, believe me,” Jenny said, chuckling. “Nathan and I did that as soon as Hunter took over.”

I looked at my mate and took her hand in mine.

I love you, honey. I mind-linked her.

I love you too, Nate. She said. **Are you okay?**

A little bit nervous, but better. I said.

She glanced at me and gave me a small smile.

“I am looking forward to it,” Emma said, making me look at her. “It will be nice to spend some time just relaxing by the lake. Logan’s mom moved to her vacation home a few years ago and I envy her every day.”

I smiled and watched as Logan took her hand in his. He brought it to his lips and placed a soft kiss on her palm.

“That will be us soon, baby,” he said, making her smile.

I was so glad that she was happy. It was obvious that Logan and she were made for each other. I wondered how the hell didn’t I see it all those years ago. It was obvious. She was made for him and he was made for her.

Emma looked at me and smiled.

“Your son is a wonderful young man, Nathan,” Emma said, looking at Hunter. “I am impressed and incredibly happy that he is my daughter’s mate. I know that she will always be safe with him.”

My heart almost exploded with happiness. To hear her say that after everything that I have done was incredible. It almost made me cry.

I glanced at my buddy and smiled.

“He is,” I agreed. “Sophia will always be safe and loved, not just by him, but by our family as well. We are honored to welcome such an amazing young woman into our pack and our family.”

Sophia’s eyes widened a little. Was she surprised by my statement? Why?

“Thank you, Alpha Nathan,” she said quietly.

“You are welcome, Sophia,” I said, smiling at her. “I meant every word I said.”

The doorbell rang and the atmosphere in the room suddenly got tense.

“Excuse me,” Emma said as she stood up. “My brother and his family wanted to join us.”

My heart raced. Jenny took my hand in hers and squeezed it.

**It's okay, honey. She mind-linked me. You are not alone.
Your kids and I are here for you.**

I squeezed her hand and took a deep breath.

I heard footsteps approaching and I looked up. The first one who entered the dining room was Andrew. His jaw twitched when he saw me, but he reached out his hand to shake mine. I stood up and gave him a small smile.

“Hello, Alpha Nathan,” he said politely as we shook hands.

“Hello, Beta Andrew,” I said. “How are you doing?”

“I am well,” he said. “Was your trip okay?”

I wanted to answer him, but my eyes fell on Daisy and my stomach turned. Guilt washed over me like never before. I hadn't seen her since the day I threatened to kill her.

How the fuck could I have done that?!

I gulped and looked down, trying to take a little breath. My mate's hand tightened around mine.

“Hello, Alpha Nathan,” Daisy said, making me look up at her. “I hope that your trip went well.”

She was smiling at me. I didn't deserve it.

“It did,” Jenny said instead of me. “I was just telling Emma and Logan that your pack lands are incredible.”

“They are,” Daisy agreed. “I am glad you like our territory.”

“These are my sons,” Andrew said, making me look up.
“Mason and Mike.”

I looked at two young boys. The younger one was standing next to his mom. He had a polite smile on his face. The older boy was standing behind Sophia. His hands were placed on her shoulders and he was glaring at me.

He was the one I tried to kill.

Another wave of guilt and shame washed over me.

“It’s nice to meet you, boys,” Jenny said, smiling at them.
“This is our younger son, Harry.”

I kept my eyes on Mason. He didn’t stop glaring at me until someone mind-linked him. He sighed and looked down at Sophia.

“Come on, sit down,” Emma said. “Are you hungry? I made breakfast?”

“Not pancakes, right auntie?” Andrew’s younger son asked as he sat down next to Harry.

Emma chuckled and shook her head.

“I didn’t make pancakes,” she said as she opened the cupboard and took out a few more plates.

“I would love some then,” her nephew grinned widely.

Are you okay, dad? My son mind-linked me, making me look at him.

I am, buddy. I said. **I am incredibly happy for you. She is amazing.**

She really is. He said, grinning widely. **I am so in love.**

I can tell. I said, smiling back at him. **She is in love with you too.**

She was. I could tell by the way she smiled at him. I could tell by the way she accepted his touch. They were destined for each other.

Someone sat next to me, making me look to my right.

My heart stopped.

It was Daisy.

Why did she sit next to me? Wasn’t she repulsed by me?

She looked at me and smiled.

“It is nice to have you here with us,” Daisy said. “We are all really happy that our Sophie found such a wonderful mate.”

My eyes widened. I could barely muster up a small smile. She was glad that I was here?

I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe that this amazing woman moved past what I had done. I wanted to hug her and thank her, but I held back. I knew that Andrew and his older son wouldn't appreciate it.

There would be time for that later. There would be time for me to apologize to her and her son.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE – Some Alone Time

Hunter's POV

“I think it went well,” I said as my Angel and I entered her bedroom.

I looked around and smiled. Her room was amazing. It was a cozy and comfortable space filled with memories and personal touches. The walls were painted a soft shade of pink and the room was flooded with natural light, thanks to the large windows. There were framed photos of her and Alex all over the room. I smiled and looked at one where they were about 10 years old.

“You were a cute kid,” I said, making her chuckle.

I looked at another photo on the wall. It was a photo from the hospital. Luna Emma was holding newborn Alex and Sophia in her arms. She was smiling brightly. Alpha Logan was sitting next to her with his arm around her shoulders. One of the babies was holding his finger in their tiny arms. He had a huge smile on his face. The photo was beautiful and I could feel their happiness.

I also couldn't wait to take the same picture with my mate. I imagined her pregnant and everything inside me stirred. I couldn't wait to have cute kids with her. I couldn't wait to start our lives together.

I noticed how much Sophia and Luna Emma looked alike. It was almost like looking at Sophia in the photo.

“You look so much like your mom,” I mumbled.

“Everyone says that,” Sophia said, making me turn around and look at her.

It suddenly got very hot in the room.

She was sitting on her desk chair and smiling at me. She was so fucking beautiful and I almost melted into a puddle. She didn't need to do much to make my whole body tremble with need. Just one smile and I was fucking gone.

I realized that we were alone in the house. Our parents, Andrew, Daisy, and her brother went to the packhouse. Mike and Harry went to Mike's house to play some new video game they were both obsessed with.

We were completely alone and I could finally spend some quality time with my mate.

I knew exactly what I wanted to do.

If she let me, of course.

I smirked and approached her. Her eyebrows furrowed a little as she watched me. I was finally close enough to touch her. I caressed her soft cheek and bent down to kiss her delicious lips.

“Tell me something, Angel,” I said, hoping that the answer to my question would be no.

She was already panting hard and I hadn't done anything yet.

"What?" she mumbled quietly.

"Has any other man ever touched what's mine?" I asked as I placed a small kiss on her jaw. "Have you ever been with anyone else, Angel?"

I really hoped that the answer to my question would be no. I wouldn't be mad if she had been with someone else, but I really fucking hoped that she wasn't.

I wasn't innocent myself. I had a friend in high school I fooled around with. We never had sex, but we did some other things, so I couldn't be a hypocrite and get mad at her if there was someone before me.

But I really fucking hoped that there wasn't. I really hoped that no one had tasted the delicious skin on her neck. I hoped that I was the only one.

"No," she mumbled, making the happiness inside me explode.

I smiled as I sucked on her marking spot, making her squirm.

"Really?" I asked. "No one ever tasted what I am tasting right now?"

"Oh, Goddess," she mumbled as I bit her neck gently.

"Answer, Sophia," I mumbled as I went back to kissing her delicious lips.

Her eyes were wide and filled with lust. She was breathing hard. Her lips were red, swollen, and wet. I was already rock hard and the sight of her flushed face didn't help at all. It was starting to get painful.

Fuck.

I couldn't wait for her to answer. I took her hands in mine and pulled her up. She was staring at me wide-eyed. I approached the bed and sat down. I pulled her onto my lap. She gasped quietly as she felt my hard dick press against her butt.

"I need you," I mumbled as I captured her lips with mine.

She moaned and kissed me back. I laid down, pulling her with me. She laid on top of me and moved her lips to my neck. She kissed it softly and I almost lost my freaking mind when she started sucking on my marking spot.

"Oh, shit," I grunted as I tangled my fingers into her hair.

She moaned against my neck, sending shivers down my body.

I needed to take control back before I lost it completely. I was already ready to explode.

I flipped her onto her back and laid on top of her. I pressed my hard dick against her pussy, making her moan and squirm.

"So, no one ever had the opportunity to do this?" I mumbled as I lowered my lips to her collarbone and kissed it.

“No,” she said, her voice trembling.

I smiled against her soft skin.

“You have no fucking idea how happy that makes me,” I said as I looked up at her.

Her cheeks were red. Her eyes were wide. Her hair was a mess. She was fucking perfect and I made a mental image of her in this state. She was beautiful like this.

“I can’t wait to be able to touch you, my love,” I said softly. “I can’t wait to cherish this perfect body of yours.”

She squirmed underneath me. I looked at her and caressed her cheek.

It was too soon for me to do it now. I wanted to. Fuck, I wanted to touch her and be inside her so fucking much, but it was too soon. She’d never done anything like it before and I knew that she needed some more time to get comfortable.

She gulped and took a deep breath.

“I want you to touch me,” she said softly. “I want to do everything with you. I’m just nervous because I’ve never done anything before, and I don’t know...”

I stopped her rambling by placing another kiss on her lips.

“Don’t worry about that, my love,” I said. “We won’t do anything right now. You need more time to get comfortable

and that's perfectly okay. Besides, we don't know how much time we have. Our parents or your brother could come back soon."

Her eyes widened a little and she glanced at her bedroom door.

"That doesn't mean that we can't continue to do this," I said as I kissed her softly.

She moaned and pressed her body closer to mine.

I was in heaven.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR – Someone Else

Sophia's POV

My whole body was burning. It felt like the fire was consuming me. I couldn't believe how good it felt to be in his arms. I couldn't believe how happy I was.

Just this morning I was panicking over the possibility of him rejecting me, and I was now completely wrapped up in his arms, feeling every part of his perfect body against mine.

It was getting harder and harder to stay still. The area between my legs was burning with need. It was almost painful. I wanted to beg him to touch me, but he was right. I wasn't ready. I wanted it, but I needed more time.

It would also be nice if we weren't in my bedroom and if there wasn't a high chance of one of my family members coming back home.

"Oh, Goddess," I mumbled as he squeezed my butt and pressed me closer to him.

"You are fucking perfect," he mumbled against my neck.

I shivered. His warm breath traveled down my neck and into my shirt. He placed a small kiss on my collarbone and ran his hand up my body.

"We need to stop," he mumbled, making me freeze.

Why? Did I do something wrong?

He lifted his head and cupped my cheek.

“Did I do something wrong?” I mumbled, my voice trembling.
“I am sorry, I didn’t...”

He shut me up by kissing me hard. I tried to hold back a moan, but it was impossible. He knew what he was doing, and my body just surrendered to him.

“Goddess, Sophia, no,” he mumbled as he stopped kissing me.
“We have to stop because if we don’t I am going to end up fucking you, and we are not there yet.”

My heart skipped a beat. My breath got caught in my throat.

“Don’t ever think that you did something wrong, my love,” he said softly. “We will learn what to do together.”

I gave him a small smile and he kissed me again.

A thought came to me. If he said that we would learn together, that meant that he’d never been with anyone else either. Right?

I needed to ask him, though. I needed confirmation. I needed him to tell me that he wasn’t with anyone else. Just the thought of him with another girl had my insides twisting painfully.

“Have you ever been with someone?” I asked him quietly.

He sighed and ran his fingers through his hair. Guilt flashed in his eyes and my heart stopped beating.

I couldn't speak. I couldn't breathe. I could only stare into his guilt-filled eyes.

He did. He was with someone else. Was she his girlfriend? Was she waiting for him back in his pack? Was their relationship serious?

My mind was a complete mess and I felt the first sign of darkness creeping around in my chest.

I tried to push it back, but all I could focus on was the pain in my heart.

He had someone else. He loved someone else.

"Is she waiting for you in your pack?" I asked him, my voice laced with pain.

I could feel the tears forming in my eyes.

His eyes widened. He gasped and cupped my cheeks.

"No!" he exclaimed, panicking. "We were never in a relationship. I've never had sex with her. We were two stupid teenagers who fooled around a little. We did some oral stuff, but that was it. She is nothing, Sophia. She found her mate and she is happy with him. I am happy for her. He is a nice man, and she deserves a nice man. She is a very nice person. That's all she ever was to me. A nice person, a good friend."

He was rambling now. I could hear the panic in his voice.

“Fuck, my dad told me that I was going to regret it,” he mumbled as he closed his eyes and shook his head.

He opened his eyes and took a deep breath.

“I am sorry, Angel,” he said as he leaned his forehead against mine. “If I could take it back, I would. I made a mistake and I am so fucking sorry. You are everything that I want and need.”

I took a deep breath and ran my fingers through his hair.

It hurt to know that another girl had him before me, but there was nothing I could have done. I could only accept it.

“It’s okay,” I said, trying to keep the pain out of my voice. “It’s in the past.”

Hunter lifted his head and I could see tears in his eyes.

“Really?” he asked, his voice trembling.

I nodded and gave him a small smile.

“Oh, Goddess,” he mumbled as he pulled me into a tight hug. “I already imagined you leaving me. I had this vision in my head of you rejecting me and telling me to get out. I almost had a heart attack.”

I turned my head and placed a soft kiss on his neck.

“I couldn’t do that,” I said quietly.

Just thinking about saying the word “reject” was painful. I simply couldn’t do it.

He buried his nose into my hair and took a deep breath.

“I am so fucking in love with you, Angel,” he said quietly. “I can’t believe how lucky I am to have you.”

I smiled and kissed his neck again.

“I am so fucking in love with you too,” I mumbled, making him lift his head.

He smiled at me and pressed his lips against mine.

He ran his hand down my body, making me squirm and press myself closer to him.

He was just about to grab my butt again when the front door opened.

“Fia?” my brother called me, making Hunter sigh.

“I can’t wait for us to be alone,” he said as he stopped kissing me. “The first thing I am going to do when we go back to our pack is take you on a vacation. I will sink my canines into your perfect little neck and I will make you mine in every way possible. Most importantly, there will be no one there to disturb us.”

I chuckled and nodded.

“I can’t wait,” I said, making him grin widely.

He pecked my lips again before he unwrapped his hands from me and stood up.

I had to hold back a whine. I already missed him.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE – Two Days

Alexander's POV

I was nervous.

I didn't want to leave Fia alone, but I had to go to the packhouse.

"Fia?!" I called her again when she didn't answer me.

"Coming," she said quietly and I was relieved.

I didn't like leaving her alone after she had one of her episodes. The darkness could always come back, and I didn't know how she would handle it without me here.

I saw her walking down the stairs and I breathed out in relief.

"Are you okay?" I asked as I pulled her closer so I could see her face better. "Did it happen again?"

I was scared as fuck.

It was never as bad as it was this morning. I always knew that she would be able to push the darkness back. This morning was the first time I wasn't sure of it.

I studied her face carefully. I needed to know if she was okay. I needed to know that she was telling the truth.

“It didn’t,” she said, giving me a small smile.

“You have to teach me how to help her if it happens again,” I heard Hunter’s voice.

I was so focused on Fia that I didn’t even hear him come.

I gulped and glanced down at her. It would definitely happen again and I wondered how bad it would be the next time.

“I need to know what to do when we go back to our pack,” Hunter said, making my heart stop. “I need to know how to help her when you aren’t around.”

Right.

I wouldn’t be around when she left.

Oh, Goddess, I didn’t even think about that.

I gulped and gritted my teeth.

How the fuck would I get used to not seeing her every day? I couldn’t remember a day when I didn’t see her. We were always together. We did everything together.

Fia understood what was going on inside my mind. She wrapped her arms around me and hugged me tightly.

I looked down at my sister and gulped.

“We will see each other all the time,” she said softly. “I promise. It’s only a two-hour drive.”

Right.

Only a two-hour drive.

I hugged her back.

“You are always welcome at our pack, Alex,” Hunter said, making me look up at him. “You can come to visit every day if you want to.”

Of course I wanted to.

But we both knew it would be impossible. I would take over our pack soon. I would have a job to do. She would become a Luna and she would have a job to do too. We wouldn’t be able to see each other every day.

“I will tell you what helps,” I mumbled. “But I will be only a call away if she needs me.”

“Of course,” Hunter said, smiling at me.

I looked back down at my sister.

“Where are mom and dad?” she asked as she let go of me.

“They are still at the packhouse,” I answered. “They are making a contract between our packs.”

My sister looked back at Hunter.

“Shouldn’t you be there?” she asked him. “You are the Alpha.”

Hunter shook his head and smiled. “I trust my dad and we discussed everything before he left. He knows what to do.”

Fia nodded and looked back at me.

“Coffee?” she asked as she started walking toward the kitchen.

Hunter and I followed her.

“When do you plan to leave?” I asked Hunter.

I wished that the answer would be in a week or two.

“In two days,” Hunter said, making my stomach twist painfully. “I have to go back. I already stayed longer than I planned.”

“Two days?” Fia asked, surprised.

Hunter looked at her and nodded.

“Yes, Angel,” he said. “We need to go back.”

Fia glanced at me. I smiled, trying not to show her how nervous I was.

We will see each other all the time. She mind-linked me.

I know. I said. **I am just worried about the darkness. Would Hunter be able to help you?**

She looked at Hunter.

I don't know. She sighed. **I feel better when I am around him. You need to show him how you do it.**

Fia started making coffee. Hunter and I sat down at the table.

I am not even sure what to tell him, Fia. I sighed.

You can tell him about the heartbeat thing. She said. **That always helps me.**

I glanced at Hunter. He was staring at my sister with a small smile on his face.

Do you think that he will be able to remain calm? I asked her.

I hope so. She sighed. **You know how important that is at that moment.**

I did know that, but it took me years to learn how to remain calm in that situation. I still felt the need to freak the fuck out every time it happened, but I learned how to control it. I usually freaked out after.

'Maybe we should just go with her and be there for a while,'
Axel said.

I wanted that too, but I knew that would be impossible.

'You know we can't do that, Axel,' I sighed.

Alex grunted and retreated. He was scared. I understood him. I was scared too.

"Are you two done talking?" Hunter chuckled, looking from Fia to me.

"I am sorry," Fia apologized immediately. "We were just talking about..."

"It's okay, Sophia," Hunter interrupted her. "I understand. It's a twin thing, right?"

He looked at me and smiled.

"It is," I said as I took the coffee mug out of Fia's hand.

She handed one to Hunter and sat down opposite us.

"So, what is the most important thing I need to know if something like that happens to her again?" Hunter asked as he took a small sip of his coffee.

"The most important thing is to stay calm," I said. "She needs you to be there for her, not to freak out."

Hunter nodded and glanced at Fia.

“I will also need you to call me immediately,” I said sternly. “I will try to calm her down over the phone.”

I had a feeling it wouldn't work, but I would never forgive myself if I wasn't there for her when she needed me.

“Of course,” Hunter nodded.

I took a sip of my coffee and looked at Fia.

I couldn't believe that I wouldn't get to see her every day.

I would miss her terribly.

I will miss you too. She mind-linked me, making me furrow my eyebrows.

She chuckled at my confused expression.

How did she know?

You are my twin, Lex. She said. **I know you and Stella told me.**

I rolled my eyes.

Of course she did. I mumbled through the mind-link.

I took a deep breath and looked down at the mug in my hand.

I would get used to not seeing her. We would talk on the phone every day. I wouldn't even notice that she wasn't here anymore. It wasn't like I wouldn't see her or talk to her again.

Everything would be okay and I would get used to it.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX – The Voice

Sophia's POV

I was lying in my bed staring at the ceiling.

I couldn't sleep.

I was nervous and excited at the same time. I had to start packing tomorrow. I would go back to Hunter's pack with him and his family in two days.

I was excited to start my life with my mate, but I was nervous to leave my family.

I would miss my mom and my dad. I would miss my uncle and my aunt. I would miss my grandma and my cousins.

Most of all, I would miss my brother. I couldn't even imagine not seeing him every day. What would that even feel like? It hadn't been a day in my life when I didn't see Lex. We did everything together. We went everywhere together. How would I go a day without him?

The thought scared me. Lex was a part of me. I never really thought about leaving him. I never thought that there would come a day when I wouldn't see him.

I missed him already.

Lex? I tried to mind-link him, but I could tell that he was already asleep.

I sighed and closed my eyes, trying to relax so I could fall asleep.

It was hard. My emotions were a mess and I was still exhausted from what happened this morning.

It was the worst episode I had so far. I've never had to try so hard to stop the darkness from spreading.

At least Hunter's parents seemed to like me. His mom was so gentle and loving and it made meeting them so much easier. His dad was very nice too. He had this peaceful aura around him. I liked him from the moment I saw him, and I couldn't believe that was the man who hurt my family. It was very obvious that he had changed so much.

"Sophia," I heard my brother's quiet voice.

I opened my eyes and furrowed my eyebrows.

"Lex?" I called his name as I lifted myself on my elbows.

How the hell did he get inside my room? I didn't hear him come in. I thought that he was asleep. And why the hell did he call me by my full name again?

"Sophia," he called me again, making me reach out and turn on the lamp on my nightstand.

I couldn't see him.

“What the hell, Lex?” I mumbled as I turned around and searched for him.

I still couldn't see him. My room was empty.

“Alex?” I called him, my voice trembling.

“Help me, Sophia,” he said, his voice laced with pain.

My heart stopped beating. Was Lex hurt?

I jumped out of bed, but I didn't know where to go or what to do. It didn't seem like his voice was coming from his bedroom. It seemed like it was coming from the outside.

I rushed to the window and opened it.

“Lex?” I called him. “Where are you?”

The night was cold and the air was crisp and biting. The stars twinkled like diamonds in the sky. The night was so still that not even a leaf rustled, and the silence was almost palpable. Despite the lack of wind, a chill lingered in the air, causing my breath to steam with each exhale.

I could see him anywhere.

‘Where is he, Stella?’ I asked my wolf. ‘Can you talk to Axel? Get him to tell you where he is.’

I started climbing down my window. I didn't want to go through my house and wake my parents up. I didn't want to

worry them.

Stella didn't respond. I couldn't even feel her.

What the hell was going on?

I used the oak tree in our backyard to get down. Lex and I used to climb it all the time. I knew every branch and I already knew where to step so I wouldn't fall.

"Alex?!" I called my brother again as my feet touched the cold ground.

The ground was hard and unyielding beneath my feet, and the crunch of frozen grass echoed through the stillness. I was worried it would wake my parents up so I tried to walk around softly.

"Alex?!" I whisper-yelled. "Where are you? What happened? If this is like that time you fell and twisted your ankle, I will kick your ass."

When we were about 13 years old, Alex snuck out to go to a lake with Mason. He twisted his ankle jumping over some fallen tree and called me for help because he knew our parents would ground him.

If he did something stupid like that again, I would fry his ass for worrying me.

Why the hell did he leave the house in the middle of the night anyway?

“Sophia,” Alex cried out again, making my heart stop beating.

His voice was coming from the forest behind our house.

I started running toward his voice. I needed to help him. I needed to save him.

‘Stella!’ I screamed at my wolf. *‘Where is he?!’*

She didn’t respond.

My heart raced. What the hell was wrong with her? Where was she?

What if Lex was hurt so badly that she retreated to be with Axel?

I started running faster. My lungs hurt.

I wanted to use my magic, but I was afraid after what happened today. One wrong move and I could release the darkness.

“Alex!” I screamed as I stopped running and looked around.

The forest was thick and I could barely see anything. I couldn’t even see the stars anymore.

“Sophia!” he called me again.

His voice sounded like he was tortured. My heart stopped beating.

“Alex!” I screamed again as I ran deeper into the forest.

Did someone hurt him? Oh, Goddess.

I didn't hear him leave the house! How did they get to him?!

“Alex!” I screamed as a sob broke through my lips.

I felt the darkness in my chest grow. I felt it consuming me. I couldn't breathe anymore.

“Sophia!” he screamed again, making my legs move faster.

“I am coming, Alex!” I screamed through my tears. “I am coming!”

I couldn't see where I was going. My tears blurred my vision completely. The darkness had reached my heart and I could feel it choking me.

I couldn't breathe.

I stumbled and fell on the cold ground.

No!

I had to get up!

“Alex...” I mumbled as I tried to lift my body from the ground.

I was in pain. I was in so much pain. The darkness was now squeezing my heart. I could feel it in my stomach.

My body convulsed and I screamed.

My mind was a complete mess. I couldn't see anything. I couldn't breathe anymore.

I felt a hand on my shoulder.

Someone flipped me to my back.

Was it Alex?

"Alex..." I mumbled as I tried to reach for him.

Was he okay? He had to be okay.

"Hello, Sophia," I heard an unfamiliar voice. "It is nice to finally meet you."

Who was that? Where was Alex?

I never got my answer because my eyes rolled to the back of my head and all I could see was darkness.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN – Gone

Alexander's POV

“Good morning, honey,” my mom said as I walked into the kitchen.

She was making coffee and breakfast.

“Is there coffee for me?” I mumbled as I sat down on the bar stool next to my dad.

I slept like shit. I kept having one nightmare after another, but no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't wake up. I don't even remember what the nightmares were about, but they were terrible. I woke up in a cold sweat.

Also, Axel was nervous from the moment I woke up. He kept stirring and making me feel tense. I asked him what the hell was wrong, but he didn't know.

“Of course, honey,” my mom said as he opened the cupboard and took out a mug.

“What's wrong, bud?” my dad asked as he took a sip of his coffee.

“I didn't sleep well,” I mumbled as I took the mug out of my mom's hand. “Thank you.”

“You are welcome,” my mom said, smiling at me. “Where is Sophie?”

She turned around to continue making breakfast.

“She is probably still asleep,” I said. “Leave her. She needs it after yesterday.”

Dealing with darkness always tired her out.

“It was a bad one,” my dad mumbled, making me nod.

“Yes,” I agreed. “I want to talk to Anna and try the transfer thing before she leaves. I am afraid that Hunter won’t know what to do if it gets bad again.”

I thought about it a lot last night. I wanted to talk to Hunter and ask him to stay a few more days so we could try to transfer it to me. I was afraid to let her go to his pack without me.

“I am not sure about that, honey,” my mom sighed as she turned around and leaned on the counter. “I don’t want you to get hurt.”

I gritted my teeth. “She will get hurt if we don’t do something, mom.”

My mom glanced at my dad and took a deep breath.

“I know,” she said. “That’s why I thought about taking it. I know my way around magic and I could deal with it better.”

My eyes widened.

“No,” my dad said sternly. “We don’t know what that could do to you, Emma. You could get hurt.”

“Better me than our children,” my mom sighed, making my dad growl quietly.

“Then I am doing it instead of you,” my dad said. “I am not letting you or my children get hurt. She can transfer it all to me.”

My mom wanted to argue, but the doorbell interrupted our discussion.

I could tell by the scent that it was Hunter.

“I’ll get it,” I said as I stood up and walked to the front door.

I opened it to see Hunter standing on my porch with a small smile on his face.

“Good morning,” he said.

I stepped aside so he could enter the house.

“Where is Sophia?” he asked, looking around.

“She is still sleeping,” I said. “My mom and dad are in the kitchen. Go join them. I will go check on Fia.”

“Don’t wake her up,” he told me. “Let her sleep.”

“I will,” I said as I started climbing the stairs. “I will just go check on her. I will tell her that you are here if she is awake.”

Hunter nodded and I saw him walk away.

I felt his urge to go check on Fia. It was mostly because of Axel. Maybe seeing her would calm him down a little.

‘Maybe you should talk to Stella,’ I told him. ‘She has a way to calm you down.’

Axel didn’t respond.

I knocked on Fia’s door and waited.

I couldn’t hear anything so I opened the door slowly. I didn’t want to wake her up if she was still asleep.

My eyes fell on her bed and I furrowed my eyebrows.

It was empty.

“Fia?” I called her as I entered her room.

She was probably in the bathroom.

It was freezing in her room.

My eyes fell on the open window. Why the hell did she open that?

I walked to the bathroom door. I wanted to knock, but I noticed that the door was open. I grabbed the doorknob and opened the door fully. The bathroom was empty.

What the fuck?!

My heart started racing.

“Sophia!” I called her as I turned back around.

Where the fuck was she?!

My eyes fell on a piece of paper on her nightstand.

My heart raced.

I rushed to the nightstand and grabbed the paper. My hands were shaking.

Don't search for her because you won't find her. She will come back, but when she does, she will be the greatest weapon on this planet. She will be my greatest weapon.

She was gone.

My vision blackened.

My hands started shaking.

I didn't even realize that I was snarling and growling.

'NO!' Axel was screaming as he pushed to get out. 'WE HAVE TO FIND HER!'

I heard footsteps rushing toward the room.

I couldn't move. All I could do was stare at the piece of paper in my hands.

My chest was rising and falling rapidly. I saw fur growing on my arms. I felt my canines and claws elongate.

Someone grabbed the paper out of my hands.

"No!" Hunter screamed. "No, no, no, no!"

"Oh, my baby!" my mom cried out.

I recognized my father's loud growl.

"Sophia!" Hunter screamed and I heard him running to the window. "Sophia!"

'Move, you fucker!' Axel screamed at me. 'We have to go! We have to find her!'

I couldn't move. I was fucking frozen.

Axel was slowly taking control of my body.

"Logan!" my mom cried out.

“I will find her, Emma,” I heard my dad say. “I already alerted everyone. They are already looking for her.”

“Sophia!” Hunter screamed again.

I was finally able to move my body.

I let Axel take complete control. I shifted and jumped through the window, breaking it into a million tiny pieces.

I growled loudly, making the trees around me shake.

I heard someone running behind me. I knew it was Hunter.

Fia?! I tried to mind-link her. Where are you? We are coming, okay? Hold on.

My heart was completely shattered, but I had to push myself to run as fast as possible.

I had to find her.

I would find her and I would kill whoever took her. I would make them regret the day they were born.

I could feel my muscles growing. I could feel my body gaining more strength.

I recognized my mom’s magic flowing through my blood and I used it to push myself harder.

I would find her.

I had to find her.

She wasn't gone.

Thank You Note

My Dear Readers,

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has read my book. Your support and encouragement have meant the world to me, and I am humbled by the outpouring of love that I have received.

It has been an honor and a privilege to share my story with you, and I am thrilled to hear that it has resonated with so many of you. Your feedback and reviews have been invaluable to me, and I am grateful for the time and effort that you have put into sharing your thoughts.

I am excited to announce that there will be another book in this series, and I cannot wait to continue this journey with you. Your enthusiasm and passion have inspired me to keep writing, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share more stories with you.

Thank you again for your support, your kindness, and your unwavering dedication to this story. I hope that you will continue to join me on this journey and that the next book will be just as meaningful and impactful as the first.

With sincere gratitude,

Tessa Lilly