



REJECTING  
MY  
LYCAN MATE:

THE THRONE  
THREE LYCAN KINGDOMS BOOK THREE

TESSA LILLY

# **Rejecting My Lycan Mate**

## **The Throne**

### **Three Lycan Kingdoms Series Book 3**

**Tessa Lilly**

## BLURB

“I, Madeline Clark, reject...” I started speaking, but Alpha Dimitri stopped me by placing his hand over my mouth. He pulled me closer to him and growled.

“I’m not accepting your rejection, Madeline,” he growled. “You are my mate. You are the greatest gift that the Goddess has ever given me. I am not letting you go.”

My heart was hammering against my rib cage. His scent overwhelmed my senses. He leaned in and rubbed his nose up and down my jaw. My skin was on fire. Every part of my body desired to be touched by him.

“I can’t let you go, my love,” he mumbled. “I’ve waited for you my whole life.”

His lips brushed against the marking spot on my neck, and I almost burst into flames. Convincing him to accept my rejection would be the hardest thing I ever had to do.

Madeline is a 17-year-old girl who still hasn’t shifted into her wolf. Her father abandoned her mother when she was very young. She has been bullied and laughed at all the time. After she lost her mom, the person who loved her the most, Madeline is completely distraught and broken. Her father comes back to take her back to his pack. Madeline is against it, but her financial situation forces her to go with him.

Dimitri is a Lycan wolf, the Alpha of his very successful pack. He is 22 years old, and he still hasn’t found his mate. When Madeline arrives at his pack, he is very surprised to discover that she is his mate. He is also frustrated because she is his stepsister who hasn’t shifted yet. She can’t recognize him as her mate.

Madeline struggles in the new pack. She doesn’t have the best relationship with her stepmother. She can’t wait to turn 18 and leave.

What will happen when Madeline finds out who her mate is? What will Dimitri do after she rejects him? Will he be able to

convince her to stay? This is book 2 of the story.

## CHAPTER ONE – She Is A Lycan

Dimitri's POV

She was a Lycan.

She was really a Lycan.

I was in shock. I could tell that Oliver asked us a question, but I couldn't hear him. I only saw his lips moving. I could only hear my blood pumping through my veins and my heart hammering against my chest.

If it was true then she was the rightful heir to the throne. If it was true then she was the most powerful wolf in existence.

If it was true then she was in bigger danger than ever.

“Alpha Dimitri?” Oliver's voice finally reached me.

I flinched and looked at him. I tried to force my body to calm down a little so I could hear what he was saying.

“Who else knows about her ability?” Oliver asked.

I cleared my throat and shook my head.

“The four of us and the pack doctor,” I mumbled.

I glanced at Will and Ellie. Both of them were staring at Oliver with shocked expressions on their faces.

“Let’s keep it that way,” Oliver said sternly. “No one else needs to know and no one else can now. If I am right then she is...”

Oliver stopped talking and looked at Maddie.

“She is the heir to the throne,” I said, making him look back at me.

He nodded slowly.

I finally looked at my mate. She was pale and I wasn’t even sure if she was breathing. She was staring at Oliver wide-eyed.

“Princess,” I called her as I cupped her cheek and turned her head toward me. “Breathe, my love. Everything is going to be okay.”

I wasn’t sure if she heard me.

I pressed my lips against hers and pulled her even closer to me.

“Breathe, Maddie,” I mumbled as I rubbed her back. “Come on, my love.”

She gulped and shook her head a little. I could tell and feel how confused and scared she was.

I looked at Oliver, Will, and Ellie.

“Could you please give us a moment?” I asked them.

I knew that Maddie needed space. I could tell that she was overwhelmed. I needed to help her. I needed to calm her down a little bit.

“Sure,” Will mumbled as he stood up. “We will wait outside.”

I nodded and watched as the three of them left my office. Will glanced at Maddie one more time before he closed the door.

I looked at her as soon as they were gone. Her eyes were on me, but I could tell that she was completely lost in thought. Her eyes were on me, but she wasn’t looking at me. She was somewhere else.

“Princess,” I called her softly as I leaned in and kissed her cheek. “I need you to focus on my lips on your skin, okay? I need you to come back to me.”

I started leaving soft pecks all over her cheek and jaw. I kept my eyes on hers the entire time. I finally reached her lips and kissed her as softly and as gently as I could.

She grabbed the back of my shirt and buried her head in my neck.

“Oh, princess,” I mumbled as I kissed her temple. “It’s okay. I’m here. Nothing bad will happen, I promise. I won’t let anyone or anything hurt you.”

I rubbed her back gently and took a deep breath, letting her scent soothe me.

“I am not a threat,” she mumbled. “I promise. I won’t...”

Her voice broke and she stopped talking.

I furrowed my brows. A threat? What the hell was she talking about?

I made her lift her head and look at me.

“A threat?” I asked. “What do you mean, Maddie?”

Her eyes widened and she shook her head.

“I am not a threat,” she said, her voice trembling. “I won’t do anything, Dimitri. I promise. I don’t care about it. I never have to shift. No one has to know.”

She sounded more and more panicked with each word she spoke. I could feel her trembling.

I was so fucking confused. What the hell was she talking about?

“A threat to who, Maddie?” I asked, caressing her cheek.

She furrowed her brows a little.

“To you,” she mumbled, making my heart stop. “I won’t take your throne, I promise. I am not a threat. I don’t need it. I don’t want it. I want you. I only want you. Please, please don’t be mad at me. I didn’t know. I really didn’t know.”

She was sobbing and shaking by the time she finished talking.

I was in shock.

What the fuck was she talking about?

She buried her face into her hands. I was too shocked to move.

Did she really think that I saw her as a threat?! Did she really think I was angry at her?! Did she really think that anything between us would change?!

The only fucking thing that would change would be the number of guards she would now have. The main one would be me. I was going to glue her to my side and never let her out of my sight.

I didn't give a fuck about the throne. She could have it all. All I cared about was having her.

I forced myself to move. I had to tell her all that. I couldn't just keep it inside. She had to know.

"Princess," I said as I moved her hands from her face. "I am not angry. I don't care if you are the heir. I don't care if you have more right to that throne than I do."

She gulped and I wiped the tears from her beautiful face.

"All I need is you," I said softly as I leaned in and kissed the tip of her nose. "I don't see you as a threat, Maddie. I don't

care about any of that. All I want is you. All I need is to keep you safe.”

I pulled her into a hug and kissed her temple. She wrapped her arms around me tightly.

“I love you, Madeline,” I added as I tangled my fingers into her hair and held her close to me. “Nothing will ever change that. Nothing is more important to me than you.”

She sobbed and tightened her arms around me even more.

“I was so scared,” she cried out. “I thought that...”

Her voice broke and another sob escaped her.

“I know, princess,” I mumbled as I kissed her temple again. “But there is nothing to be scared about. I would never choose that throne over you. I would never choose anything or anyone over you.”

I leaned my head on hers and took a deep breath.

“You are my heart and my soul, Maddie,” I added quietly. “You are everything and I don’t need anything else in this world.”

## CHAPTER TWO – Still Mine

Madeline's POV

My entire body was shaking. I was in shock. I was scared.

I was in complete disbelief.

I was shocked when Oliver said that I was a Lycan, but hearing Dimitri say that I was the heir...

It was too much. The first thought that came to mind was that Dimitri would see me as a threat. He was the King. This was his Kingdom. This was his throne. He deserved to be the leader. He deserved to sit on that throne, not me.

All I wanted was my mate. I didn't want the throne. I didn't want to be the leader. I didn't want to be a Lycan. I wanted Dimitri.

When he said that he didn't see me as a threat, a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. I felt like I was finally able to breathe again. I couldn't stop sobbing. I was so relieved.

But I was scared as well. What did it all mean? Was that the reason Skye refused to shift? Was she protecting me from finding out that I was a Lycan?

Was it even real? Maybe Oliver was wrong. Maybe it wasn't true.

“Oliver could be wrong,” I mumbled quietly. “Maybe it’s not true.”

Dimitri kissed my temple and ran his fingers through my hair.

“Maybe,” he said. “But I doubt it, princess. You being a Lycan explains a lot.”

I lifted my head and Dimitri gave me a small smile. He wiped the tears from my cheeks and placed a soft kiss on my lips.

“Like what?” I asked quietly.

Dimitri raised an eyebrow at me.

“Me being a Lycan explains what?” I asked.

Dimitri tucked a strand of hair behind my ear and sighed.

“Skye refusing to shift to protect you,” he said. “You having powers.”

I nodded and took a deep breath. Dimitri caressed my cheek and smiled.

“Don’t worry, Maddie, okay?” he said softly. “I won’t let anything happen to you. I will protect you from everything and everyone.”

I wrapped my arms around his neck and kissed him.

“I really want to be alone with you,” I mumbled against his lips. “I got so scared that I would lose you. I need to feel you inside me. I need to feel your skin against mine. I need you.”

Dimitri grunted, pressing me closer to him. He lifted his hips and I could feel how hard he was. An intense feeling of need washed over me.

“Fuck, Maddie,” Dimitri mumbled as he lowered his head and kissed my mark. “You are driving me insane. Just hearing you say that you need me is enough to make me so fucking hard.”

I moaned and moved my head to give him better access to my neck. I meant every word that I said. I wanted him. I needed him. I needed him so much. I got so scared. I really thought that I would lose him. I really thought that he wouldn’t want me anymore. I needed to feel him everywhere to assure myself that he was still mine.

His mouth and his tongue were driving me insane. He kept biting, sucking, and licking my neck and I felt like I was going to burst. I kept touching him and grinding against him. I felt him shiver every time I ran my hand down his perfect back.

“Dimitri,” I cried out quietly as the need I felt started to become painful.

“Fuck, Madeline,” he growled quietly. “I can’t fuck you when there are three people waiting outside.”

I didn’t care about them. I needed him.

“But I can do this,” he mumbled as he unzipped my jeans and slowly put his hand inside my underwear.

I gasped when his fingers touched my clit.

“Oh, fuck,” he cried out. “You are so fucking wet.”

I was. I could feel it. My underwear was completely soaked.

He rubbed my clit and my eyes rolled to the back of my head. Dimitri grabbed the back of my neck with his other hand and kissed me hard.

“You are going to cum on my fingers,” he said, his voice deep and filled with lust. “You are going to keep your eyes on mine as you cum. You are not going to scream and you are not going to make a sound.”

I dug my nails into his shoulder when he put two fingers inside me.

“If you do as I say, I will fuck you so hard tonight that you will never again think about me leaving you or choosing someone or something else over you,” he continued, making me shiver. “Am I clear?”

I just nodded. I couldn’t speak.

“Good girl,” he growled as he kissed me again.

He started pushing his fingers in and out of me. I gasped quietly and grabbed the back of his shirt.

“Rub yourself against me,” he ordered as he lowered his head and started kissing my neck again.

He didn't have to tell me twice. I started moving my hips and my clit started rubbing against his palm. I had to bite the inside of my cheek to stop myself from screaming. I closed my eyes and started moving my hips faster.

"Very fucking good, my Queen," Dimitri said as he lifted his head and cupped my cheek.

He turned my head back and kissed me hard.

"Eyes on me," he said and I opened my eyes immediately.

The love and desire I saw in his eyes made my entire body tremble. I was so close. Just a few more pushes and I was going to explode.

I bit my tongue to stop myself from screaming when he pushed his fingers deeper. He touched that incredible spot inside me and I exploded around his fingers.

"Fuck yes, Madeline," he said as he kissed me hard.

I continued rubbing myself against his palm, trying to prolong the orgasm. My movements slowed down after a few moments. I was exhausted. He smirked as he looked down at his hand in my underwear.

"So fucking wet," he mumbled as he gently pulled his fingers out of me.

He looked back up at me and put the fingers that were just inside me in his mouth. He groaned and closed his eyes.

“Fuck,” he mumbled. “You taste so fucking good.”

I almost came again.

I was staring at him and I wasn’t even breathing.

He opened his eyes after he finished cleaning his fingers. He smirked and pulled me in for a kiss.

“I can’t fucking wait to be inside you tonight, my Queen,” he mumbled, making me moan quietly. “You were so good. You deserve to be fucked and pleasured as soon as we go back to our room.”

I smiled and kissed him again.

**I love you.** He mind-linked me. **You are mine.**

He was right. I was his. I was still his.

### CHAPTER THREE – What Now?

Dimitri's POV

Every word she said was true.

She was really scared of losing me. She really needed me. I felt everything through our bond and my heart almost gave out.

Like I would ever choose anything or anyone else over her. Like I would leave her. Like I would be so fucking stupid to give up the best thing that ever happened to me.

No. I was a lot of things, but I wasn't insane.

I knew that I had to give her what she needed. I felt her desperation. I felt her need for reassurance. I felt her burning desire and passion. I felt her need to have me.

But I knew that I couldn't fuck her here. Not because of the people who were waiting outside our office, but because I knew that I wouldn't be able to stop myself. I already knew that we would have to lock our office and spend an entire day here if I just pushed the tip of my dick inside her. I was just as desperate to reassure her as she was to be reassured.

I knew that I had to remain in control so I found another way to give myself to her. It was still hot as fuck and I still wanted to lock those doors, bend her over the table, and fuck her. But I was definitely in more control than I would have been if my dick got a taste of that wetness and that pussy.

I kissed her temple and ran my fingers through her hair.

“Are you feeling a bit better, princess?” I asked her after a few minutes of hugging and caressing each other.

“Yes,” she mumbled quietly. “Thank you, Dimitri. I needed this.”

She looked up at me and smiled.

“And I can’t wait to get every other part of you tonight,” she added softly and a quiet groan escaped me.

“Oh, I can’t wait either, my love,” I mumbled as I kissed her softly.

I reached between us and buttoned her jeans. I looked back up at her and smiled.

“Can we call them back in?” I asked her. “The sooner we are done with them, the sooner we can go back to our room.”

She smiled and nodded.

**Come back, Will.** I mind-linked him immediately.

I placed another soft kiss on her lips just as the door opened. Will walked in followed by Oliver and Ellie.

“Are you okay, Maddie?” Ellie asked worriedly.

Maddie looked at her and nodded. “I am feeling a bit better. I am sorry. I was just a little bit shocked.”

“There is no need to apologize, Mads,” Will said as he sat down. “It’s understandable.”

Maddie looked at Oliver and took a deep breath.

“Could you be wrong?” she asked him.

Oliver sighed and furrowed his brows.

“I don’t think that I am, Maddie,” he said. “The kind of power you have could only be explained by you being a Lycan and a direct descendant of the Kingdom of Goldfangs.”

Maddie furrowed her brows a little.

“Kingdom of Goldfangs?” she mumbled.

Oliver nodded. “The legends say that the royals of the Kingdom of Goldfangs had powers. They ranged from controlling other people’s behavior to being able to see into the future.”

“Wow,” Will mumbled quietly.

“But I can’t do that,” Maddie mumbled.

Oliver gave her a small smile. “You have your own power, Maddie.”

She sighed and bit her lower lip.

“Did you talk to Skye?” Oliver asked her.

She looked at him and shook her head.

“Talk to her, Maddie,” Oliver said. “Try to get her to shift. We need to confirm it.”

*‘Skol...,’* I called my wolf, but he interrupted me.

*‘I am talking to her, Dimitri,’* he said. *‘Maddie is shutting her out. I think that she is afraid to know the truth.’*

I gulped and tried to take a deep breath.

*‘So it’s true?’* I asked. *‘She is a Lycan?’*

Skol was silent for a moment.

*‘Yes,’* he said, making my heart race. *‘That’s why Skye refused to shift. She was protecting her from everyone else knowing. She is in so much danger, Dimitri. If someone finds out who she is...’*

Skol stopped talking because a wave of panic washed over him.

*‘I know,’* I said. *‘I will protect her, Skol. We will protect her.’*

“What do we do now?” Will mumbled, interrupting my conversation with my wolf.

I tightened my hold on Maddie.

“No one can know,” I said, using my Alpha order. “You are not allowed to tell anyone who she is and what she can do.”

The three of them bowed their heads immediately.

“Yes, Alpha,” they said at the same time.

Oliver wasn’t a part of my pack, but I was his King and my Alpha order worked on him as well. I barely knew him and I had to assure myself that he wouldn’t betray his King and Queen.

I trusted Will and Ellie with my life, but I needed to be sure that they wouldn’t tell. Being bound by the Alpha order was the best way to do it.

The pack doctor wasn’t going to tell anyone anything. He was already under my Alpha’s order not to tell anyone about her power. He didn’t know who she was and it was going to stay like that.

No one could know.

“I have to tell Mike,” Maddie mumbled, making me look at her.

She gulped and took a deep breath. She looked at me and I saw fear in her eyes.

“You don’t have to tell him, Maddie,” I said as I caressed her cheek. “He doesn’t need to know.”

I didn't want him to know. Becoming a Lycan was his obsession for many years. He abandoned his family because of it. I wasn't sure how he would react knowing that Maddie was a Lycan and he wasn't.

"I have to, Dimitri," Maddie said, shaking her head. "He can't find out from someone else. I have to tell him."

"He won't find out, Mads," Will said and she looked at him. "We are all under the Alpha order. We can't tell anyone."

Maddie shook her head.

"It will come out eventually," she said. "We will have to tell the pack eventually. I don't want him to find out like that."

She was right. Eventually, everyone would find out who she was. Not before I made sure that she was safe, though. Not before we knew what it all meant.

She looked back at me and gulped.

"I want to tell him now," she added.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

"Okay, princess," I said and caressed her cheek. "We will tell him now."

## CHAPTER FOUR – How Will He React?

Dimitri's POV

Maddie was shaking from top to bottom and I started doubting my decision to let her tell him.

“We don't have to do it, Maddie,” I said as I rubbed her back gently. “He doesn't have to know yet.”

She looked at me and shook her head.

“He has to know, Dimitri,” she said. “He deserves to know. I can't keep this from him.”

I sighed and glanced at Will. He was looking at Maddie with a mixture of worry and anger on his face. I could tell that he wasn't too happy with her decision. I wasn't happy with it either, but I didn't want to be a jerk. Mike was her dad and if she wanted him to know, I wasn't going to do anything to stop her.

But I wasn't sure about his reaction. How would he react once he found out that she was a Lycan?

I was sure that Mike would never hurt her. I would never let her tell him if there was even a small part of me that thought he was a danger to her. Mike was a lot of things and he made a lot of mistakes, but he would never hurt his daughter. I was so fucking sure of that.

But would he get angry? Would he get depressed? I had no fucking idea.

I could hear him approaching the office. Maddie started bouncing her leg up and down. I placed a hand on her thigh and raised an eyebrow at her.

“It’s still not too late,” I said.

She shook her head and looked at the door. Mike walked in with a smile that disappeared as soon as he looked at Maddie.

“What happened?” he asked worriedly. “Why are you so pale?”

He closed the door and started approaching her.

“Hi, Michael,” Oliver spoke, making Mike stop and look at him.

His eyes widened.

“Oliver?” he mumbled quietly.

Oliver smiled and stood up. He approached Mike and pulled him into a hug.

“It’s good to see you, Mike,” Oliver said, patting Mike’s back. “I am so sorry about Leah. I did everything I could.”

I could feel Maddie tense up. I took her hand in mine and squeezed it tightly.

Mike gulped and let go of Oliver.

“Thank you for being there for Leah and my little girl,” Mike said. “Thank you for making it easier on Leah.”

Oliver nodded and gave him a small smile.

“I wish that there was something else I could have done,” Oliver said. “I wish she was here with us today.”

A wave of sadness washed over Maddie. I wrapped an arm around her shoulders and pulled her to me.

**Your mom is always with you, my love.** I mind-linked her.  
**She is watching over you.**

Maddie wrapped her arms around my waist and I kissed the top of her head.

Mike nodded and looked back at Maddie.

“Maddie, honey, what’s wrong?” he asked worriedly as he continued walking toward us.

“Sit down, Mike, please,” I said calmly.

He looked at me and furrowed his brows.

“I will explain everything in a minute,” I said, giving him a small smile. “Just sit down, please.”

Mike looked at Maddie and sat down next to Will.

“Are you okay, Maddie?” Mike asked. “Is something wrong? Please just say something. I am freaking out here.”

“She is okay, Mike,” I said. “There is something we need to...”

“I am a Lycan!” Maddie exclaimed, interrupting me.

I looked at her in surprise. We agreed to do this slowly, explaining everything we knew so far. She was staring at Mike wide-eyed and she wasn’t breathing. She looked like she was surprised with what she did as well.

“Wow, subtle, Maddie,” Will mumbled, shaking his head at her.

I heard Ellie snorting quietly.

I looked at Mike and saw him looking at Maddie with a confused expression on his face.

“What?” he asked quietly.

Maddie was silent now. I sighed and ran my fingers through my hair.

“She is a Lycan, Mike,” I said, making him look at me. “She is not a regular wolf.”

His eyes widened.

“I knew that something was different about her when her wolf refused to shift on the night of her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday,” I started explaining. “Skye said that she refused to do it to protect Maddie. We didn’t know then what she was protecting her from.”

Mike glanced at Maddie and took a deep breath.

“Maddie started hearing voices the day I made her a member of our pack,” I continued, deciding to be as direct as possible. “She thought that our pack members were mind-linking her, but she was wrong. She could hear their thoughts. She could read their minds.”

Mike visibly paled. He looked at her and gasped loudly.

“She is the heir,” he mumbled, shock written all over his face.

I furrowed my brows.

How did he know?

Maddie tensed up again.

“I am so sorry,” she mumbled, her voice breaking. “I didn’t know. I didn’t want this, Mike, I promise.”

Mike’s shocked face turned into a confused one.

“What are you talking about, Maddie?” he asked quietly.

Maddie took a deep breath, but it got caught in her throat. I knew that she wouldn't be able to explain it to him.

"She was worried about how you would react," I said, making Mike look back at me. "We were all kind of worried."

Mike's eyes widened and I saw hurt flash in them.

"Did you think that I would hurt her?" he asked quietly.

His voice was laced with pain and sadness.

"No, Mike," I said sternly. "Never. I know you and I know that you would never hurt her."

He gave me a small nod and took a deep breath.

"I was worried that you would get angry," I said. "Maybe a bit sad."

I didn't really know how to explain it.

Mike nodded and looked at Maddie. He took another deep breath and stood up. I watched him approach Maddie. She tensed up a little and I rubbed her back, trying to relax her.

Mike knelt in front of her and took her hands in his.

"I love you, Maddie," he said. "I love you with my entire heart and I would never do anything to hurt you. I did it once and I hate what it did to you, me, and our relationship. I won't be making that mistake again."

Maddie let out a quiet sob and Mike pulled her into his arms. She hugged him tightly and I couldn't help but smile a little.

I was glad she had him in her life. Mike made a huge fucking mistake, but he was a different person now. He was the father she needed.

## CHAPTER FIVE – Explain It To Me

### Madeline's POV

I was so relieved. I was so scared that Mike would hate me. I was terrified that he would abandon me again. I was terrified that he would be angry or that he would resent me. I didn't want it to happen. We just started fixing our relationship. I felt ready to let him back into my life. I didn't want to lose him even before I got him back.

"Oh, my baby," Mike mumbled as he kissed the top of my head and rubbed my back. "It's okay. Everything is going to be okay."

I took a deep breath and let him go. He gave me a small smile and wiped my cheeks.

"My beautiful little girl," he said quietly as he leaned in and kissed my forehead.

It felt weird hearing him call me that, but I would be lying if I said that it didn't feel nice.

I was so angry at him, but I also missed him. I missed having a dad. I missed playing with him. I missed laughing with him. My mom used to tell me stories about him and she would always say that he was a great father. She would tell me stories about him playing with me, reading me fairytales before bed, and making me my favorite breakfast in the morning. She would tell me stories about the three of us spending wonderful time together and I always missed it. I missed my dad.

I didn't want him back in my life because I was so angry. I didn't want him back because I was scared he would leave me again. That fear exploded inside of me when Oliver told me I was a Lycan. I was sure that Mike would be angry. I was sure he would leave me again.

"Thank you," I mumbled, my voice quiet and raspy.

Mike smiled and caressed my cheek again.

"For what, honey?" he asked.

I gulped and tried to take a deep breath.

"For not being angry," I said. "For not blaming me."

Mike's eyes widened. He cupped my cheeks and shook his head.

"Never, Maddie," he said. "I would never blame you. There is nothing to blame you for. If anything, I am so incredibly proud of you."

He sighed and let me go. He glanced at Dimitri and ran his fingers through his hair.

"I get why you thought that I would get angry," he mumbled. "I was such an idiot and I made the biggest mistake of my life when I left you and your mom."

Mike took my hands in his and squeezed them.

“But I was a different person back then, Maddie,” he continued. “I was twenty years old when you were born. I was young and delusional. I believed in stories I shouldn’t have even listened to. I am not the same person anymore.”

He pulled me closer to him and wrapped me up in a tight hug.

“I am more than ready to be the father you need, Maddie,” he said as he rubbed my back gently. “I love you so much, my little girl, and nothing will ever change that.”

I felt a tear fall on my cheek.

Mike let go of me and wiped the tears from my cheeks.

“You could be turning into a cat and I would still love you,” he said, smirking a little.

Will and Dimitri snorted. A quiet chuckle escaped me. Oliver and Ellie smiled. Mike grinned widely before his smile disappeared and he got serious again.

“I mean it, Mads,” he said as he ran his fingers through my hair. “I am here. I will never leave or choose anything or anyone else over you again. I promise.”

I smiled and wrapped my arms around his neck again. Mike kissed my temple and hugged me back.

“I love you, honey,” he said quietly.

I loved him too, I really did. I loved him even when I was so angry at him. I loved him even when I didn’t know where he

was. I wanted to tell him that I loved him too, but the words refused to leave my lips.

Mike kissed my temple again and let me go. He took a deep breath and looked at Dimitri.

“I want you to explain everything to me,” Mike said as he took my hand in his. “How did you figure out that she can hear other people’s thoughts?”

Dimitri sighed and looked at me.

“She complained that everyone was trying to mind-link her at the same time,” Dimitri said, giving me a small smile. “She said that it made her head hurt and that she needed to get used to it. I knew immediately that something was off.”

Mike took another deep breath and released it slowly.

“Can you hear my thoughts now?” he asked me.

I shook my head. “I can’t hear anyone’s thoughts when Dimitri is with me.”

I furrowed my brows and bit my lower lip.

“Well, except Janet’s and Kendrick’s,” I mumbled.

I could feel Dimitri tense up.

“What do you mean, Maddie?” Oliver asked.

I looked at him and took a deep breath.

“I can’t read minds when Dimitri is with me,” I started explaining. “The only exceptions are Janet and Kendrick. I could hear their thoughts when Dimitri was with me.”

“What were they thinking about?” Oliver asked, furrowing his brows.

I gulped. Dimitri growled.

“They thought about hurting me,” I said quietly.

Mike squeezed my hand tighter and I could feel anger rolling off him in waves.

“What does that mean?” Mike asked angrily. “Why could she hear their thoughts, but not others?”

I wish I knew the answer to that question.

“Well, one one thing comes to mind,” Oliver said, sighing loudly.

I looked at him and I could feel my heart racing.

“What?” Dimitri asked angrily.

Oliver took a deep breath and raised his brows.

“They were a real threat,” Oliver said. “Their thoughts were so vile and imposed a real threat to you. Their thoughts were

stronger than your protector.”

My heart started drumming against my ribcage.

“What the fuck were they thinking about, Maddie?” Mike asked, his voice laced with anger.

I kept my eyes on Oliver. Fear made my stomach twist.

They were a real threat.

## CHAPTER SIX – Overwhelmed

Dimitri's POV

I closed our bedroom door and looked at Maddie. My heart clenched painfully. She looked so tired and so overwhelmed.

“Princess,” I called her quietly as I approached her.

She looked at me and took a deep breath. I finally reached her and wrapped my arms around her.

“I am so done with everything,” she mumbled as she hugged me back. “I am tired.”

I ran my fingers through her hair and kissed her temple.

“I know, my love,” I said softly. “I can see it.”

I needed to find a way to relax her. I needed to find a way to show her that she wasn't alone in this. I needed to find a way to show her how fucking much I loved her.

“What day is it?” she asked after a few moments of silence. “When is the Alphas Meeting starting?”

I ran my fingers through her hair again. I honestly didn't know the answer to that question. I completely lost track of time. In a day or two maybe? Or maybe even more? Three, or four days? I had no fucking idea.

But I knew that I wasn't going to talk about it with her. She needed to relax. She needed to forget about everything. She needed a night of peace and quiet.

“We are not talking about that, princess,” I said as I rubbed her back gently. “You are going to let me take care of you. You are

going to let your mate do everything he possibly can to help you relax.”

She sighed and leaned more into me.

“That sounds nice,” she mumbled quietly.

I smiled and then an idea popped up in my head.

I picked her up and she yelped in surprise.

“What are you doing?” she asked, her eyes widening.

“I am helping you relax,” I said, giving her a small smile.

I opened the bathroom door and walked to the vanity. I put her on top of it and kissed her forehead. She furrowed her brows and I winked at her.

I let her go and started preparing us a bath. Maddie chuckled, making me look at her.

“That already looks amazing,” she said.

I smiled and walked back toward her. I had a minute or two before the bathtub filled and I really wanted to hold her.

I smiled and caressed her cheek.

“I love you, princess,” I said as I started taking her shirt off.

She lifted her arms so I could pull the shirt over her head. I started kissing her neck gently and threw the shirt on the floor behind me. Maddie sighed contently and wrapped her arms and legs around me.

“I love you too,” she mumbled. “I love you so much it hurts. I can’t imagine my life without you. I don’t want to imagine my

life without you.”

I placed a soft kiss on her jaw and looked at her.

“It’s a good thing that you don’t have to,” I said, smirking a little. “You are kind of stuck with me.”

She chuckled and cupped my cheek.

“I am?” she asked, raising an eyebrow.

“Oh, yes,” I said as I reached behind her and unclasped her bra. “I am yours and I expect to be treated as such, my Queen.”

She laughed and kissed my neck softly.

“Well, then I must order you to take your clothes off and let me worship what’s mine,” she said, making my entire body tremble.

She didn’t have to ask me twice. I was naked in front of her only a few seconds later. She smiled and ran her hands down my chest.

“I think that the bath is done,” Maddie chuckled, making me look over my shoulders.

“Fuck,” I mumbled and rushed to turn the water off.

Maddie jumped off the counter and approached me. I turned around and saw that she had taken the rest of her clothes off. My heart skipped a beat. I saw her naked so many times since her birthday, but I would never get used to how beautiful she was. She always took my breath away. She always made my heart skip a beat.

I helped her get inside the tub.

“Is the water okay?” I asked and she gave me a small nod.

“Get in,” she said as she reached out for me.

I smiled and got inside the tub. I sat behind her and pulled her to my chest. She sighed contently as soon as I wrapped my arms around her. I kissed her temple and she rested her head on my shoulder.

“Thank you,” she mumbled quietly.

“What for?” I asked as I ran my hands down her body.

I gently squeezed and caressed every part of her I could reach. She kept sighing and moaning quietly.

“For doing this,” she said. “I needed it.”

I smiled and turned my head so I could kiss her cheek.

“Of course, princess,” I said softly. “You are not alone in this. I am in it with you. I am here for you in every way possible.”

She looked at me and smiled.

“How did I get this lucky?” she asked and caressed my cheek.

I shrugged and smirked.

“I’m a catch, aren’t I?” I said, wiggling my brows.

Maddie laughed and nodded. “Oh, yes you are.”

I leaned in and kissed her softly. I ran my hand up her body until I reached her shoulders. I started massaging her firmly, but gently. I lowered my lips to her jaw and her neck. She moaned quietly and it made me smile. I could feel her relax and it was all that mattered to me.

I started kissing her collarbone and her shoulder and I started massaging her upper arms.

“Oh, Dimitri,” she sighed quietly.

I enjoyed the taste of her skin on my lips and my tongue. I wanted more of it and I couldn't stop kissing her.

She leaned her head back on my shoulder and sighed again. I smiled and placed another kiss on her neck.

“I love you,” she mumbled. “You are the best thing that ever happened to me.”

My heart skipped a beat. I didn't respond. I reached my mark on her neck and kissed it gently. She moaned and placed her hands on my thighs. She started running her hands up, making me flinch and moan.

She turned around and straddled me. I felt her wet, warm pussy press against my hard cock and I grunted loudly. She kissed me gently and I knew that we wouldn't leave that bathtub anytime soon.

## CHAPTER SEVEN – She Asked To See You

Dimitri's POV

I opened the door and walked into my office. I finally managed to pull myself together and I realized that the Alphas' Meeting wasn't in three or four days.

It was tomorrow.

"Where is Maddie?" Will asked as I closed the door.

"Sleeping," I said as I walked to my desk. "I didn't want to wake her up."

I was reluctant to leave her, but Ellie assured me that she would keep her safe. I only left because I was close and I could go to her immediately if she needed me.

"How is she doing?" Will asked worriedly. "She looked a bit overwhelmed yesterday."

I sat down and sighed.

"She was," I said. "I completely understand her, though. She's been through so much in such a short time. I am overwhelmed and I can't even imagine what she is going through."

Well, I felt her emotions so I knew a little bit about it. But knowing how someone feels and actually having to go through something like that were two completely different things.

Will nodded. "I agree. I was shocked yesterday and I didn't know how to react. I can't imagine how she must be feeling."

I nodded and ran my fingers through my hair.

"She is going to be okay," I mumbled. "I will make sure of it."

I wasn't going to let anything or anyone hurt her. I wasn't going to let anyone use her. I was going to make sure that she was safe.

"Did she talk to Skye?" Will asked me. "When will she shift?"

I sighed and furrowed my brows. I was so focused on Maddie yesterday and I didn't even remember to ask her about Skye.

"I am not sure," I said. "I talked to Skol yesterday and he told me that Maddie was pushing Skye away."

Will sighed and shook his head a little.

"She needs time," he said.

"She does," I agreed. "I won't push her on it. She will talk to her when she is ready."

Will nodded again.

I looked at the papers on my desk and took a deep breath. I had to work and my focus was terrible. I wanted to go back to my mate. I didn't want to be away from her for too long.

“Dimitri,” Will called my name.

I looked up at him and furrowed my brows. I could immediately tell that something was wrong. Will had an apologetic look on his face and I didn’t like it at all.

“What?” I asked, narrowing my eyes at him.

He took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Tim came to talk to me this morning,” Will said and I tensed up immediately.

Tim was one of the guards who was watching over my mother and Savannah.

“What did he want?” I asked even though I already knew what Will was going to say.

He sighed and tightened his jaw.

“Your mother asked to see you,” Will said and I could feel the anger pulsating inside my body.

I didn’t want to see her. I would see her at her execution. I hadn’t seen her since she was dragged out of my office and I didn’t plan to go talk to her ever again. I hated her with every part of my body and soul.

“Well, she asked to see Maddie too,” Will added quietly.

My eyes widened and I could feel the anger exploding inside me. Every muscle in my body clenched. I felt like I was electrocuted.

Fuck no. Over my dead fucking body.

“No,” I growled, trying to stop my canines from elongating. “She will never breathe the same air as my mate. She will never lay eyes on her again.”

Will nodded. “I agree completely. I almost lost it when Tim told me that.”

I gritted my teeth.

“He shouldn’t have even asked,” I growled. “He should have known that the answer would be no.”

Will sighed and rolled his eyes at me.

“Come on,” Will said with a hint of annoyance in his voice. “It’s not Tim’s fault. He is just a guard, Dimitri.”

I knew that, but I was angry and I wasn’t really choosing who to be angry at. I was angry at everyone.

I couldn’t even believe that my mother had the courage to ask to see Maddie. I couldn’t believe that she would even think that I would agree. I would have to be a huge fucking idiot to let something like that happen. My mother and Savannah would never lay eyes on my mate again. They would never hurt her again.

“Maybe you should go talk to her,” Will said quietly.

I looked at him wide-eyed. Was he fucking insane?! I never wanted to see that bitch ever again!

Will sighed and ran his fingers through his hair.

“I know that you don’t want to see her, Dimitri, but I want to know what she has to say,” Will said.

I clenched my fists and narrowed my eyes at him.

“You are free to go see her then,” I said angrily. “I won’t be joining you. I don’t give a fuck about what she has to say.”

Will sighed again.

“Aren’t you a little bit curious?” he asked. “I want to know why she did it. I am not buying all that crap about Maddie’s mother.”

“I don’t give a fuck,” I said. “She did it and she is going to be punished. That’s it.”

Will furrowed his brows and crossed his arms over his chest.

“But what if she knows something?” he asked. “She chose to torture Maddie for a reason. What if she knows something about Maddie?”

My heart raced.

“Like what?” I mumbled, gritting my teeth.

“I don’t know,” Will shrugged. “I just don’t believe that she did it just because Maddie looks like her mom. What did she think that Mike was going to go after Maddie? She is his daughter, for Goddess’ sake. It’s a stupid excuse and I think that there has to be another reason why she went after Maddie.”

I clenched my fists.

Fuck.

He was right.

“Just one talk, Dimitri,” Will added after a few moments of silence. “It can’t hurt.”

I gritted my teeth again.

Fuck, fuck, fuck. I really didn’t want to do it.

But Will was right. There could have been another reason and I had to find out what it was. I had to find out if she knew anything. I had to do everything I could to protect my mate.

## CHAPTER EIGHT – I Will Change

Dimitri's POV

The dungeon where I kept my prisoners was a dark underground place. The silence was only sometimes broken by the sound of water dripping from places I couldn't see. The air smelled old and damp, and it was much colder than the outside. The smell was burning my nostrils and I couldn't wait to leave this place.

As I entered the dungeon, I immediately felt a shiver run down my spine. The walls were made of rough stone blocks, with moss and lichen growing on them. Torches on the walls were the only source of light. If I wasn't a Lycan, I would have a hard time moving around.

The ground was uneven, with rocks and weeds in the way. Old, rusty iron chains and shackles hung on the walls, reminding me of some good times I had down here with some of my prisoners.

The ceiling was low and I could feel droplets of water fall on my neck from time to time. It made me shiver. I hated moist places.

As I went further into the dungeon, I couldn't help but feel more and more angry. I wondered what the fuck my mother had to say.

"Goddess, I hate this place," Will mumbled, breaking the silence.

I glanced at him. He was walking behind me because the corridors were too narrow for us to walk side by side.

“I have some good memories here,” I said, looking back in front of me. “I wouldn’t mind if it was a bit more dry, though.”

Another droplet of water fell on my neck and I growled quietly.

Will chuckled quietly.

“Good memories as in torturing your enemies?” he asked, already knowing the answer to that question.

“Of course,” I said just as we approached the door. “I am unforgiving when it comes to my prized possessions.”

Up until nine months ago, my only prized possession was my Kingdom. Then Maddie came into my life and everything shifted. I still valued my Kingdom, but not nearly as much as I valued her. She was everything.

“Alpha,” the guard said, bowing his head.

He grabbed the key that was hanging on his belt and unlocked the door.

“Thank you, Jeff,” I said as I grabbed the doorknob and opened the door.

It led me to another hallway. This one was wider, with cells on each side. My mother and Savannah were in the last two cells.

I specifically asked for them to be put there. Those two cells were in the worst condition of all.

I could hear quiet sniffing as I approached the cells and my anger grew. Did they think I would have compassion for them?

“You wanted to see me?” I spoke as I approached the first cell.

They were silent for a moment, but then both of them jumped to their feet and rushed toward the bars that were separating us.

I barely recognized my mother. She was always an elegant woman, but now she looked like a sewer rat. It made me smile a little. She deserved it.

“Dimitri,” Savannah cried out. “Get us out of here, please.”

I looked at her and raised my brows.

“Are you serious?” I asked, looking from Savannah to my mother “Is that why you called?”

My mother gulped and reached out for me through the bars. I looked at her hands with disgust written all over my face.

“Dimitri,” my mom called, her voice trembling. “I am your mother. Help me, please.”

“I have a child, Dimitri!” Savannah exclaimed before I could speak. “You can’t keep me away from him! My son needs me! He needs both of his parents!”

I rolled my eyes at her. Her delusions were starting to annoy me.

“Your son is in good hands,” I said, looking back at my mother. “He is with people who will actually love him and care for him.”

“You gave our son away?!” Savannah screamed.

I looked back at her and tightened my jaw.

“I gave your son away, yes,” I said, trying to remain calm. “The father never came forward so the boy was left alone. I couldn’t let that happen so I found him a family.”

Savannah’s eyes widened. She sobbed loudly. I looked back at my mother and narrowed my eyes.

“Why am I here, mother?” I asked. “What do you want?”

“Forgiveness,” she said. “I will change, Dimitri. I promise, son.”

I chuckled and shook my head.

“Do you really consider me that stupid, mother?” I asked as I took a step closer to her. “Do you really expect me to believe that?”

My mother glanced at Will.

“Please, Dimitri,” she cried out. “It’s the truth. I am willing to change. I am willing to accept Mad...”

“Don’t say her name!” I exclaimed as a loud growl escaped me. “You are not allowed to say her name ever again.”

I could feel the anger pulsating in my veins. I didn’t want her beautiful name to ever be spoken by my mother or the bitch in the other cell. I didn’t want them to taint her name.

“That goes for you too, Savannah,” I said, keeping my eyes on my mother. “You are not allowed to say her name ever again.”

My mother gulped and glanced at Will again. He growled quietly.

“You won’t be forgiven for what you did,” I said, clenching my fists and tightening my jaw. “You will never get out of this cell alive.”

My mother sobbed loudly. Savannah screamed.

“What did you think would happen?” I asked, narrowing my eyes at my mother. “Did you really think that I would forgive you for torturing my mate?”

“We thought that maybe you would want a strong mate,” Savannah answered instead of my mother. “We thought that maybe you would want someone more suitable than that little...”

“Watch it,” I interrupted her. “You are sentenced to death already, but I have a choice of how painful that death will be.

Don't piss me off."

Savannah's eyes widened.

I looked back at my mother and sighed.

"Well, my visit was pointless, just as I thought it would be," I said. "I was hoping that you might want to share some new information with me, but I was wrong."

I looked at Will and narrowed my eyes slightly.

"Well, Will was wrong," I said, making him raise an eyebrow.

I looked back at my mother and clapped my hands theatrically.

"Well, I would say it was nice to see you, ladies, but I would be lying," I said. "I will see you again on your execution date."

I turned to my right and started walking away, ignoring their screams and pleas.

**Do you think we made an impact?** I mind-linked Will as we walked out of there.

**We will see.** He responded. **Nothing to do but wait.**

I tightened my jaw and took a deep breath. My lungs burned and I couldn't wait to get out of there and breathe in fresh air.

## CHAPTER NINE – Treehouse

Madeline's POV

"Why did they go see them?" I asked, furrowing my brows.

I felt nervousness wash over me. I knew that they wouldn't be able to hurt Dimitri, but my fear wasn't rational. I was afraid that they would somehow get to him. I was afraid that they would say something to hurt him.

Ellie sighed and looked up at me.

"I'm not sure," she said. "Will mind-linked me to explain, but he did a lousy job."

Ellie looked back down at her book. I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I was nervous and I wanted Dimitri to come back. I wasn't going to calm down until I saw that he was okay.

Even if they didn't do or say anything to hurt him, seeing his mom and his former girlfriend locked up in that place was going to be hard for him.

Skye growled.

*'She is not his girlfriend,'* Skye said angrily.

I ignored her. I'd been doing that since I found out why she refused to shift. I wasn't ready to talk to her. I wasn't ready to let her out. I wasn't ready to see if Oliver was right.

"Why don't you mind-link him if you are worried?" Ellie asked.

"I don't want to bother him or distract him," I mumbled as I

looked out the window.

Ellie snorted quietly.

“As if you could ever bother him,” she mumbled.

I took another deep breath and released it slowly. I really wanted him back.

“Sit down, Mads,” Ellie said. “You are making me nervous.”

I turned around to look at her. She was sitting on the couch and reading a book. She didn’t look nervous at all. I listened to her anyway. Staring through that window was going to drive me insane.

I sat down and looked around her room. It wasn’t decorated much. I could still see her suitcase in front of the closet.

“Why didn’t you unpack yet?” I asked.

“I didn’t have time to,” she mumbled, keeping her eyes on the book.

I sighed and forced myself not to roll my eyes at her.

“Will you put that book down and talk to me?” I said, trying to hide the annoyance in my voice. “I am going crazy here.”

Ellie looked at me and snorted.

“Yes, my Queen,” she said as she closed the book and placed it on the coffee table between us. “What would you want to talk about?”

I shrugged. “I don’t know.”

Ellie raised her brows and smirked.

“Well, you are definitely more interesting than my book,” she said, making me sigh and roll my eyes at her.

“Okay, fine,” I mumbled. “Tell me something about yourself. How old are you?”

“I am 20 years old,” Ellie said as she leaned back and smiled at me.

My eyes widened.

“And you are already one of the best warriors in our pack?!” I exclaimed. “That is amazing, Ellie!”

She grinned and shook her head.

“I had no choice,” she said. “I had to grow up with Will and Dimitri. I had to learn how to fight when I was a kid to survive those two.”

I laughed a little.

“How old is Will?” I asked.

“23,” Ellie said, giving me a small smile. “Just like Dimitri.”

I nodded and smiled.

“So you have known Dimitri your whole life?” I asked and she gave me a small nod.

“Oh, yes,” she said. “I have so many embarrassing stories to tell you. Just don’t let him know that I told you anything because he will order me to stop.”

I laughed and shook my head at her.

“I’m waiting,” I said, raising an eyebrow at her.

Ellie laughed and glanced at the door.

“One time Dimitri and Will tried to build a treehouse,” Ellie said. “They were like 11 or 12 years old. I told them that they won’t be able to do it. They were clumsy as shit back then.”

Ellie smirked and shook her head. I chuckled.

“Anyway, I was right,” she sighed. “I watched as Will dropped a plank on Dimitri’s head. It knocked him out cold. Dimitri’s dad almost started a war because he thought his son was attacked in the forest.”

I laughed just as Ellie’s bedroom door opened.

“Well, that is the most beautiful sound I ever heard,” Dimitri said, making my heart skip a beat.

I jumped to my feet and ran to him. I sighed in relief when he finally wrapped his arms around me.

“Hi, princess,” he whispered as he lowered his head and placed a kiss on my jaw. “Maybe I should leave you alone more often if I will get a hug like this every time I come back.”

“No,” I said immediately. “You can never leave me again.”

Dimitri chuckled and kissed the top of my head.

“Oh, you don’t have to worry about that,” he said softly. “It will be hard for me to leave you again. Being without you is torture.”

He was completely right. I wasn’t able to breathe normally without him. I needed him by my side.

“What were you laughing at, princess?” Dimitri asked as he let me go.

I bit the inside of my cheek and shook my head.

“Nothing,” I said, trying to stop myself from grinning.

Dimitri narrowed his eyes and looked at Ellie.

“What story did you tell her?” he asked and I couldn’t hold back my grin any longer.

“I have no idea what you are talking about,” Ellie said, shaking her head.

Dimitri looked back at me and raised an eyebrow.

“Let’s just say that if we ever decide to build a treehouse for our kids, I will be the one doing all the work,” I said as I wrapped my arm around his waist and grinned at him.

“Ellie,” he growled, looking at her.

Both Ellie and Will were holding back their laughter.

“Stop laughing,” he said as he pulled me toward the couch.  
“It’s not funny. I was 12.”

Dimitri and I sat on the couch. I pulled him closer and kissed his cheek.

“It’s a little bit funny,” I said, making him sigh and roll his eyes.

“Okay, enough about the treehouse,” Ellie said, smirking at Dimitri. “Did you talk to Janet? What did she want?”

My smile disappeared immediately and worry hit me like a train. I looked him up and down and I sighed in relief. He wasn't injured. Well, physically at least.

What did she ask him? What did she say to him? Did she hurt him?

I pressed myself closer to him, wishing I could just absorb his pain.

## CHAPTER TEN – Just A Few Hours Away

Dimitri's POV

Being next to Maddie was healing my body and my soul in ways I never thought possible. I felt more at peace as soon as she wrapped her arm around my waist and leaned her head on my chest.

I smiled at her and placed a soft kiss on her forehead. I missed her terribly.

I never could have imagined I would feel like this. I knew that mate bond was a powerful thing, but I never knew that I would struggle to be separated from her for more than an hour.

“She wanted out,” Will responded to Ellie's question. “She said that she would change.”

I could feel anger starting to pulsate inside me, but it didn't even get to develop because Maddie turned her head and placed a soft kiss on my chest. I ran my fingers through her hair and took a deep breath of her scent. I smiled and sighed contently.

“Oh, what a buttload of crap,” Ellie said angrily. “She is obviously lying.”

I looked at Ellie and smiled.

“Obviously,” I said calmly.

Ellie furrowed her brows and looked me up and down.

“Why aren’t you angry?” she asked. “Or annoyed? Or something other than happy?”

I ran my fingers through Maddie’s hair and sighed.

“It’s hard to be angry when I am with my mate,” I said.

It was really hard. I wanted to be angry. Just thinking about my mother had me furious, but it was like something was stopping me from feeling anything other than pure bliss.

Ellie furrowed her brows and shook her head at me.

“Anyway,” she sighed. “Why did you even agree to go see her? We all knew what she was going to say.”

“I just can’t get her reasoning for hurting Maddie out of my head,” Will started explaining. “I am sure that there had to be another reason other than what she told us.”

Maddie tensed up a little. I ran my hand down her back, trying to relax her.

“And you thought that she would tell you?” Ellie asked, snorting. “Let me guess, she didn’t.”

Will glanced at me and smirked.

“We didn’t ask,” Will said.

Ellie furrowed her brows and looked at Maddie.

“Do you have any idea what they are talking about?” Ellie asked. “I am completely lost.”

Maddie shook her head and looked up at me.

“I knew she wouldn’t tell if I asked,” I said as I caressed Maddie’s cheek. “I knew that she wouldn’t tell even if I ordered her to. She didn’t tell me the last time.”

“So what did you do?” Maddie asked quietly.

“I told her what her punishment will be,” I said as I looked at Ellie. “Will and I thought that she may need to be encouraged into talking.”

Ellie smirked.

“How did she react?” Ellie asked.

“But what if she told you the whole truth?” Maddie asked before Will or I could answer Ellie’s question. “She was under your order. She had to tell you everything.”

I looked at her and sighed.

“There are ways to lie or not share everything even under Alpha order, Maddie,” I said softly. “It’s painful, but it can be done.”

Maddie furrowed her brows.

“Wouldn’t you know if she did that?” Maddie asked. “You would have noticed it, wouldn’t you?”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I don’t remember, princess,” I said. “I was so angry and so focused on protecting you that everything about that day is a blur.”

I furrowed and tried to remember my conversation with my mother. All I could remember was anger and an immense need to grab Maddie and take her away from there.

“Why don’t you just order her to tell you now?” Maddie asked, fidgeting with her fingers. “Maybe there is no need to scare her with the punishment.”

I sighed and cupped her cheeks.

“She deserves it, princess,” I said quietly. “She hurt you. She hurt my greatest treasure.”

I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on her lips.

“Please don’t feel sorry for her,” I added. “She hurt you. She wanted to separate us. She helped Savannah come up with the plan to lie to me about her pregnancy.”

I caressed Maddie’s cheek and took a deep breath.

“She isn’t a good person, princess,” I said. “She doesn’t deserve your compassion.”

“Dimitri is right, Mads,” Will added, making Maddie look at him. “She doesn’t deserve it. She deserves to pay for what she has done.”

Maddie took a deep breath and looked at her lap.

“Besides, we are just a few hours away from having nine Alphas in our territory,” I added. “I am not dealing with my mother right now.”

Maddie looked at me and gave me a small nod. I smiled and pulled her to my chest.

“Thank you for being so kind, princess,” I said as I wrapped my arms around her.

She hugged me back and I could feel her relax into my arms. My smile widened. Knowing that she felt relaxed around me was making me so fucking happy. I wanted to be her safe place, just as she was mine.

“Will Maddie be staying with me tonight?” Ellie asked, making me furrow my brows.

Why would...

Oh, shit.

I groaned and ran my fingers through my hair.

“Why?” Maddie asked as she looked at Ellie.

“You will need to, princess,” I mumbled, trying to hide the annoyance in my voice. “I have to go to the border and greet the Alphas.”

Maddie looked at me and furrowed her brows.

“It’s tradition,” I explained as I kissed her forehead. “King has to welcome his Alphas at the border, grant them the entrance to our pack, and lead them toward the throne room.”

“There is usually a short meeting right after that,” Will added. “Dimitri will probably stay out late.”

I wanted to growl and whine. I didn’t want to leave her. I completely forgot about having to greet them at the border.

“Can I come?” Maddie asked and I wanted to say yes.

“Only men are allowed to go,” I said and let out a loud sigh.

“Oh,” Maddie mumbled and my heart broke.

I wanted to take her with me. I didn’t even want her to fall asleep without me next to her.

“We will keep it short,” Will said, smiling at Maddie. “Dimitri will be back soon, I promise.”

Maddie smiled back and I pulled her to my chest. I hated leaving her. I simply hated it.

I kissed the top of her head and buried my nose in her hair.

I didn't even leave her yet and I already couldn't wait to come back to her.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN – Come Back To Me

Dimitri's POV

Letting go of Maddie was the hardest thing I ever had to do. I knew that I wasn't going to see her for the next few hours and I already missed her so fucking much.

I didn't want to go. I really didn't.

It would be the first night since her birthday that she would go to sleep without me. It would be the first night since her birthday that I couldn't wrap my arms around her and listen to her heartbeat as I fell asleep. I hated it so much. Falling asleep in her arms was the best part of my day. I wouldn't get to do that tonight and it was pissing me off.

"Come back to me," she said softly.

I tightened my arms around her and buried my nose into her hair.

"Always, princess," I said, taking a deep breath of her scent. "You are my home. I will always come back to you."

I wished that I didn't have to leave her.

"I miss you already," she said, tightening her arms around my waist.

I smiled a little and rubbed her back.

“Oh, I miss you too,” I said. “I wish I could just stay here with you. I can’t believe that you will fall asleep without my arms around you.”

She looked up at me and shook her head.

“I doubt that will happen,” she said. “I will stay up and wait for you. I can’t sleep without you.”

I smiled and caressed her cheek.

“Try, princess,” I said softly. “We have a big day tomorrow.”

“Okay, enough,” Ellie sighed loudly. “You will be back in a few hours. You two sound like you won’t be seeing each other for days.”

I looked at Ellie and frowned.

“Goddess forbid,” I said, shaking my head at her. “A few hours is all I can take.”

Maddie chuckled and placed a soft kiss on my chest. I turned back to her, cupped her cheeks, and captured her lips with mine.

I had to stop myself from moaning. She tasted amazing and it just made me want to stay more.

“I love you,” I whispered as I reluctantly stopped kissing her.

I had to do it because I would never leave.

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

“Come on, Dimitri,” Will said impatiently. “We will be late.”

I sighed and rolled my eyes. Maddie chuckled again.

“Go,” she said. “I will wait for you.”

My heart skipped a beat. I placed another soft kiss on her lips before I forced myself to let her go.

**I can’t wait to be back.** I mind-linked her. **I can’t wait to hold you in my arms.**

**I can’t wait for that either.** She mind-linked me back and smiled.

“Go before Will’s brows get stuck in that position,” Maddie said, smirking a little.

Ellie snorted loudly. I looked at Will and saw him frowning. I smiled and shook my head.

“Not funny, Madeline,” Will said as he opened the door. “We can’t be late.”

“We won’t be late,” I said as I started walking out of Ellie’s room. “Relax a little, Will.”

He rolled his eyes at me and looked at the girls.

“We will be back in a few hours,” he said. “Stay in here.”

I looked at Maddie one more time before Will pushed me out of the room. She smiled and my knees buckled.

“Goddess, you will be back in a few hours,” Will muttered with a hint of annoyance in his voice. “What’s going on with you?”

“You will understand when you find your mate,” I said, frowning at him. “It’s hard leaving her. I worry when she isn’t with me.”

Will looked at me and sighed. His frown disappeared and his eyes softened a little.

“She will be okay, Dimitri,” he said. “Ellie won’t let anything happen to her.”

I knew that. I still wasn’t comfortable leaving her alone. I still wanted to run back to her.

Will and I walked out of the packhouse and I looked around. Packhouse workers were making sure that everything was ready for our guests. Alphas’ families and pack members will be the first ones to arrive at the packhouse. My warriors would greet them at the border and escort them to the packhouse. Will and I would remain at the border to greet the Alphas and their Betas, leading them toward the throne room, and beginning the meeting with a short speech.

As soon as Will and I approached the forest edge I removed my shirt and my pants. I tied them to my leg with a string I

always carried around. I let Skol take over and the first thing he did was whine and look toward Ellie's room.

*'We can't go back, Skol,' I said.*

*'I know,' he said quietly. 'I just miss her.'*

*'I know,' I said softly. 'I miss her too.'*

He turned around and started running toward the border. Lowell, Will's Lycan, was running right beside us.

*'Will you let me be with Maddie when we come back home?'*  
Skol asked. *'It's been so long since I last held her. I need you to let me be with her for a little bit.'*

*'Of course,' I said. 'You will get to see Skye soon as well.'*

Skol sighed. *'I am not so sure about that. Maddie is still ignoring her.'*

*'I'll talk to her, Skol,' I said. 'I promise.'*

I focused on the forest and Skol started running faster. The border was about an hour away, but both Skol and Lowell were fast runners and I knew that we would get there sooner.

Skol whined quietly and I resisted the urge to roll my eyes at him. He kept thinking about Maddie and it was distracting us both.

*'Stop it, Skol,' I growled at him. 'We need to stay focused. We will go back to her soon.'*

*'I know,' he mumbled. 'I just miss her a lot.'*

I sighed but decided to ignore him. I needed to focus on this meeting. I needed to focus on the Alphas who were coming.

I would go back to my love soon. I would get to hold her soon.

Nothing would stop me from running back to her as soon as I could.

## CHAPTER TWELVE – Nine Alphas

Dimitri's POV

I took a deep breath as I approached the border. All nine Alphas were already there.

“Welcome, Alphas,” I said, giving them a small smile. “I am honored and grateful to be standing here before you. Thank you for coming. I am looking forward to spending some quality time with all of you.”

All of them got down to one knee.

“Thank you, my King,” they said at the same time.

I was silent for a moment.

“Stand up and step over to my territory, please,” I said and watched as all of them followed my command.

The first one to approach me was the oldest Alpha in the group. He was the Alpha of the Blue Moon Pack.

Alpha Alistair was a charismatic leader. He was known for his strategic thinking and determination. His Beta, Benjamin, was intelligent and highly resourceful. If I ever needed a war strategist I would go to both Alistair and Benjamin.

“My King,” Alistair said, bowing his head a little.

“Welcome, Alistair,” I said politely, pointing at his assigned spot behind me.

He smiled and walked into my territory.

The next one to approach was the Alpha of Maddie’s old pack, Red Moon.

“My King,” Alpha Jack said, bowing his head. “I am happy to be here.”

“It is nice to have you, Alpha Jack,” I said, giving him a small smile.

“I am looking forward to seeing Madeline,” he said, smiling back at me. “Is she still here? Is she okay?”

My heart skipped a beat when he mentioned her name.

“She is here,” I said, nodding. “I am sure that she will be happy to see you.”

Alpha Jack smiled brightly and he and his Beta Samuel walked away.

“My King,” Alpha Xavier said as he and his Beta Maximus approached me. “Thank you for having us.

Alpha Xavier, Alpha of the Midnight Pack, was a brooding, enigmatic Alpha with a mysterious aura. I could never figure him out, no matter how hard I tried. Beta Maximus was a brilliant tactician and the perfect addition to Alpha Xavier.

“Thank you for coming, Xavier,” I said, giving him a small smile.

I watched as he and Maximus walked away before I looked back at the next Alpha in line. Alpha Theodore approached me with a small smile on his face. He was the Alpha of the Dark Moon Pack.

“Alpha Theodore,” I said as he and his Beta James approached. “It is nice to see you.”

Alpha Theodore was a fierce and fearless Alpha with a fiery personality. He was known for his exceptional combat skills and determination. His Beta James was his Alpha’s shadow.

“Thank you for having us, my King,” Alpha Theodore said politely.

I smiled and looked behind his shoulder at the Alpha of the Silver Moon Pack.

“Alpha Lincoln,” I said politely.

“My King,” he smiled, bowing his head.

Alpha Lincoln was a refined and elegant Alpha. He used his humor and charm to mask his strategic brilliance. People thought he was naive, but in reality, he was brilliant. His Beta Aron was fiercely protective of him.

“It is lovely to have you,” I said, smiling.

“It’s lovely to be here,” he responded as he and his Beta walked away.

“You haven’t changed one bit, my King!” Alpha Ezekiel of the Crescent Moon Pack said.

I smiled and shook my head at him.

“I am still as young as I was a year ago,” I said, chuckling a little.

I visited his pack about a year ago and I could see how determined and unwavering Alpha Ezekiel was. His Beta Gregory was the same and they were complimenting each other perfectly.

“It is nice to see you again, my King,” Ezekiel said.

“It is nice to see you too, Alpha Ezekiel,” I said, smiling at him.

My cheek started hurting from all the smiling I did. I had to keep the smile on my face just for a little while longer.

“My King,” Alpha Lucius of the Shadow Moon Pack said as he approached me.

He was a very kind and very charismatic Alpha. His people loved him and so did his Beta, Blake. He never left his side and he was very loyal to his Alpha.

“Alpha Lucius,” I said politely. “Thank you for coming.”

“Thank you for having us, my King,” he said as he and his Beta walked away from me.

Alpha Marcus and his Beta Killian of the Rising Moon Pack were next in line.

“My King,” Alpha Marcus said, bowing at me. “Thank you for organizing this meeting. I think it will be very helpful and instrumental for our fight with rogues.”

Alpha Marcus’ pack suffered the most damage done by rogues.

“I hope so, Alpha Marcus,” I said, giving him a small nod.

He smiled and walked away, his Beta following right behind him.

The last and the youngest of all the Alphas was Alpha Rhys, Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack. He recently took over his pack and he was doing a very good job already. His Beta Aiden was a little bit older than Rhys and I believed that he offered amazing support and guidance to his young Alpha.

“Alpha Rhys,” I said, smiling at him. “Welcome, and congratulations on taking over your father’s pack.”

“Thank you, my King,” Alpha Rhys said, bowing his head. “My father sends his greetings.”

“Thank you, Alpha Rhys,” I said. “Your father is an amazing man. Is he doing okay?”

“Oh, he is doing amazing now that he is retired,” Alpha Rhys said, making me laugh.

“I am happy to hear that,” I said, smiling at Rhys.

Rhys bowed again before he walked to his assigned spot.

I turned around and looked at all the Alphas and the Betas. I smiled and glanced at Will. He was right next to me and he hadn't moved an inch since we came here.

“Thank you all for coming,” I said. “I am hopeful that this meeting will help us fight rogues and make sure that our territories and our people are safe.”

I took a small break and smiled again.

“My Beta Will and I will now lead you to the throne room so we can officially start this Alphas Meeting,” I said, making all the Alphas nod.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

Here we go.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN – She Is Asleep

Dimitri's POV

I couldn't wait for the meeting to end.

It'd been five hours since I last saw Maddie and I was losing my shit. She was so close, but so far away. The Alphas kept asking questions, wanting to talk about everything at once.

Not only was it impossible to cover everything in one meeting, but I also didn't fucking want to. I wanted to go back to my mate. I glanced at my watch and I had to hold back a groan. It was 3:20 a.m. Maddie was probably asleep already.

"We need to strike back," someone said. "We can't let them continue attacking us."

I couldn't focus enough to know who said it. I didn't really care anymore.

I kept thinking about Maddie. Her soft skin against mine. Her soft, wet lips. Her amazing scent. Her sweet moans. The way she would press herself against me as soon as I lay next to her. The way her skin tasted. The way her...

"My King," someone called me, interrupting my thoughts.

I looked up and saw all the Alphas staring at me with questioning looks on their faces.

I cleared my throat and fixed my tie.

“I am sorry,” I said, giving them a small smile. “What was the question?”

“We asked if we should continue this tomorrow,” Alpha Alistair said and I almost jumped out of my chair. “Some of us are a bit tired after the journey here.”

I had to bite my cheeks to stop myself from grinning. I would be with my princess in just a few short moments.

“Of course, Alpha Alistair,” I said. “We will continue this tomorrow.”

“I heard you found our Queen,” Alpha Rhys said, making me look at him.

I wanted to growl at him. Everyone was just about to stand up and leave, but now they were all staring at me and smiling.

Fuck, Rhys.

I forced a small smile on my face.

“I did,” I said, feeling my nervousness growing. “You will get a chance to meet her tomorrow at the opening ceremony.”

The Alphas nodded and smiled.

“I heard she is a true beauty, my King,” Alpha Lucius said.

Jealousy exploded inside me. I almost growled at him.

**Dimitri.** Will mind-linked me with a hint of warning in his tone.

I tightened my jaw and smiled wider, trying to hide the anger.

“She is,” I said. “She isn’t only beautiful. She is also very kind. She will be an amazing Queen.”

Alpha Lucius nodded.

“I am looking forward to meeting her,” he said, making me clench my fists.

**We are keeping her away from him tomorrow.** I mind-linked Will.

He sighed quietly.

“I am very happy for you, my King,” Alpha Marcus said. “What is her name?”

I forced a little bit of air into my lungs. I kind of wished that I could keep her away from all of them. I wished they didn’t know anything about her. I wished that she could be my little secret. She would be safest that way. No one could hurt her or take her away from me if no one knew she existed.

But it was impossible. She was a Queen. People would find out everything about her.

“Madeline,” I said, trying to mask my displeasure with a small smile.

“Madeline?” Jack asked, surprised. “My Maddie?”

I flinched a little. She wasn’t his Maddie. She was mine. Only mine.

*‘Mine,’* Skol growled quietly.

“Your Maddie?” Alpha Theodore asked, furrowing his brows at Alpha Jack.

“She was a member of my pack,” Alpha Jack explained. “She came here about nine months ago to live with her father.”

Alpha Jack smiled.

“Is it her?” he asked. “Is it the same Madeline?”

I nodded and smiled. I still couldn’t talk. I was still pissed about him calling her his Maddie.

*‘Mine,’* Skol growled again.

“Oh, what a joy!” Alpha Jack exclaimed. “I can’t wait to see her tomorrow.”

Oh, I couldn’t fucking wait to see her tonight. I needed the meeting to end. Right the fuck now.

I forced a smile on my face and I stood up.

“Well, I will see you all in the morning,” I said. “My Beta will show you to your rooms.”

Will stood up and pointed at the door.

“Please follow me,” he said and everyone started standing up.

I was going insane watching them. They were so fucking slow. I wanted them to hurry up and leave so I could run to Maddie.

My entire body was trembling by the time the last Alpha left the room. I breathed out in relief as I rushed through the other door and started running upstairs.

**Ellie.** I mind-linked her. **I am coming back.**

**Okay.** She responded immediately. **Maddie fell asleep. You can let her sleep in my room for the night.**

Fuck no. as if I would be able to sleep without her. As if I would be able to spend another minute without her.

**No.** I said sternly. **I am coming to get her.**

**Okay.** Ellie responded. **Should I wake her up?**

**No.** I said. **Let her sleep.**

I was only a few steps away from Ellie’s room. My hands were shaking and I could swear that I was sweating profusely. I needed Maddie so fucking much.

I opened the door and I almost sobbed in relief.

There she was.

“Princess,” I mumbled as I practically threw myself toward her. “Oh, my love.”

I finally reached her. I finally cupped her cheeks and pressed my lips against hers. My body relaxed immediately. It was like my entire body was in a knot ever since I left her.

Maddie sighed quietly and opened her eyes a little.

“Shh, princess,” I whispered. “Go back to sleep.”

She smiled a little and I almost melted into a puddle. I picked her up into my arms and she pressed herself close to me.

“I missed you,” she mumbled sleepily.

“I missed you too,” I said as I pressed a kiss on her forehead. “Sleep, my love.”

I looked at Ellie for the first time since I entered the room. She was smiling and shaking her head at me.

“It’s been five hours,” she said quietly.

I just rolled my eyes at her. I didn’t have time to argue. I wanted to take Maddie back to our room and just feel her next to me.

“Good night, Ellie,” I said as I started walking out of her room.

“Good night,” she said, chuckling a little.

Maddie wrapped her arms around my neck and took a deep breath. I could feel her body relax and I smiled. I started kissing every part of her I could reach.

“I love you,” I told her as we finally entered our room.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN – Marking You

Madeline's POV

I woke up when I felt Dimitri's lips on my neck.

I moaned quietly. It was the most amazing feeling in the world. His lips on my neck, his arms wrapped tightly around me, his scent surrounding me like a warm blanket. Everything was just perfect and I never wanted it to end.

"Good morning, princess," he said, his voice deep and filled with lust.

I felt the familiar tingling between my legs and my heart started racing.

I opened my eyes and turned my head toward him. I didn't even get a chance to say anything before he captured my lips with his.

I turned to my side and wrapped my leg around his waist. We were both naked.

"Did you take my clothes off?" I asked, chuckling a little.

"Of course I did," he said as he started placing soft kisses on my neck and my jaw. "I spent five hours without you. I couldn't fucking wait to feel every part of your body against mine."

I ran my fingers through his hair and moaned quietly when he kissed his mark on my neck.

“I am sorry I fell asleep,” I said, pressing myself closer to him. “I tried to stay awake, but I was so tired because I was trying so hard to keep Ellie’s thoughts away. I didn’t want to...”

Dimitri interrupted me when he pressed his hard dick against my pussy.

“Later, Madeline,” he said sternly, making my entire body shiver.

I obeyed. Of course I did. I would do absolutely anything he told me to do.

His hand traveled down my body until his fingers flicked my clit gently. I cried out in pleasure.

“I am going to fuck you, my Queen,” Dimitri said as he lowered his head and sucked on my nipple gently. “You are not getting out of this bed until you cum on my cock.”

I gulped and moved my hips a little, rubbing myself against him. He grunted and grabbed my waist.

“Not like that,” he said, looking up at me. “Like this.”

He kept his eyes on mine as he slowly pushed his dick inside me.

I cried out in pleasure as I tried to move my hips. I needed him deeper inside me. He tightened his hold on my waist and

stopped me.

“No,” he said sternly. “We will do this at my pace. You will cum when I tell you to cum.”

My breathing picked up.

**I will cum immediately if you keep talking like that.** I mind-linked him.

I wasn't able to speak. I was completely out of breath and all I could do was moan and grunt.

Dimitri laughed, shaking his head at me.

“Does my Queen like it when I order her around?” he asked as he started pushing in and out of me slowly.

I dug my nails into his upper arm and moaned.

“Does she?” he asked when I didn't respond.

He picked up his pace and started pushing in deeper. I was a moaning mess.

“Yes,” I somehow managed to say.

Dimitri leaned in and kissed me. He started sucking on my lower lip and I cried out in pleasure again. His movements quickened and I could feel the orgasm building in my lower belly. I tried to move my hips again, but he was still holding my waist in a tight grip.

“Someone is a little impatient,” Dimitri said as he lowered his lips to my neck.

He started sucking on my mark and I gasped. A tiny explosion in my clit made me cry out again.

“There we go my Queen,” he said, his voice deep. “Cum on your King’s cock.”

It was an order he didn’t have to repeat twice. I fell apart around him, moaning and trembling slightly. His hold on me tightened as he kept pushing in and out of me, prolonging my orgasm until I had to tighten my hold on him and make him stop.

“Fuck yes,” he mumbled as he pushed deep inside me one last time.

I was a moaning mess. My entire body was trembling and I couldn’t focus on anything else other than him.

“You clenched around me so beautifully,” he said as he kissed me softly. “I felt it all, princess, and it was amazing.”

I tangled my fingers into his hair and kissed him back. I felt him smile a little before he pulled out of me and flipped me onto my stomach.

I didn’t even have time to gasp before he was inside me again.

“It’s my turn now,” he said as he grabbed my hips and pulled them up.

My moans were muffled by the pillow.

“Oh, fuck,” Dimitri groaned. “You feel so fucking good like this.”

He grabbed a fistful of my hair and pulled my head back.

“Do you like it when I fuck you like this?” he asked as he started thrusting inside me fast and deep.

I could barely speak.

“Yes, Alpha,” I said between my moans.

“Fuck,” Dimitri growled loudly.

His movements became erratic. He started panting loudly. His hold on me tightened and I cried out in pleasure. My entire body was trembling. I was in a sweet mixture of pleasure and pain and I wished it would never stop. I wished he would grab me tighter. I wished he would pull my hair harder. I wished he would slam his dick even deeper inside me.

He groaned loudly and pulled his dick out of me. I felt his hot seed on my back and my butt a second later. I turned my head a little so I could look at him. The sight almost made me cum again. He was panting hard. His chest and his abs were glistening with sweat. His brows were furrowed and he was grunting quietly as he was stroking his dick. He was perfect.

“Fuck yes,” he mumbled as a few last drops of his seed fell on my butt.

He took a deep breath and gulped. I watched as he bit his lower lip and smiled a little. I felt his soft fingers rubbing his seed into my skin.

“What are you doing?” I asked, making him look at me.

“Marking you,” he said as he lowered his hand and rubbed his seed all over my pussy. “If I have to spend an entire fucking day watching those fuckers drool after what’s mine, I am going to do it knowing that my cum is all over this perfect little pussy that belongs to me and me only.”

I had to hold back a chuckle.

“Yes, Alpha,” I said, making him growl and spank my butt hard.

I couldn’t stop myself from chuckling that time.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN – Did You Do It?

Dimitri's POV

“You look so beautiful, Luna,” I heard Jessica say as I approached our room.

I was in my office discussing some last-minute things with Will while Jessica helped Maddie with her hair and makeup.

“Thank you, Jessica,” I heard Maddie say softly.

I opened the door and I had to hold back a gasp.

She wasn't beautiful. She was so much more than that.

She was wearing only a little bit of makeup and her hair was styled into a low bun. Her dress was long and it covered everything I wanted it to cover. The dress was tight around her breasts and her waist and the rest of it fell freely down her body. It emphasized everything perfectly, but, at the same time, it was modest. She looked amazing.

I just wanted to bend her over anything and fuck her until I passed out from exhaustion.

“Alpha,” Jessica said politely.

I tried so fucking hard to look at her and say hi, but my eyes were glued to my mate.

Maddie raised an eyebrow at me and smirked a little.

“Do you like it?” she asked as she turned around and gave me a perfect look at the entire dress.

I wanted Jessica out of the room.

“I do,” I somehow managed to say. “Are you ready?”

My voice was trembling. I needed just a few minutes alone with her. I couldn’t let her leave the room without touching her and kissing her first.

“I am,” she said, smiling at me.

I forced myself to look at Jessica. I smiled, trying to hide how impatient I was.

“Thank you, Jessica,” I said as I stepped away from the door. “Can you give us a moment, please?”

Jessica smiled and nodded.

“Of course, Alpha,” she said and looked at Maddie. “It was a pleasure, Luna. You look amazing.”

Maddie smiled at her.

“Thank you, Jessica,” Maddie said softly. “You made it all happen.”

I disagreed completely. Maddie was simply beautiful. She could have been wearing a potato sack and she would still look

amazing.

Jessica bowed to both of us before she walked out of the room. I was wrapping my arms around Maddie's waist even before Jessica closed the bedroom door.

"Fuck, princess," I mumbled as I buried my nose into her neck. "You look beautiful."

She chuckled and wrapped her arms around my neck.

"Thank you," she said. "You look stunning too. This suit fits you perfectly."

She ran her hands up and down my back, making me sigh contently.

I lifted my head and looked at her.

"Are you wearing your underwear?" I asked, raising an eyebrow at her.

She shook her head and smiled.

"You told me not to," she said quietly.

I smirked. I did tell her not to. It would just be in the way of me slamming my dick inside her after the ceremony was over.

"Good," I said as I leaned in and pressed my lips against hers. "I can't wait to rip this dress off you tonight."

She frowned a little.

“I like this dress,” she muttered. “You don’t have to rip it off.”

Oh, I did have to rip it off. I was looking forward to seeing her breasts fall out of it.

“I will buy you a new one,” I mumbled as I started kissing her neck. “I will buy you a hundred new ones and rip each and every one of this perfect body of yours.”

Maddie moaned when I placed a soft kiss on my mark on her neck.

Fuck.

I needed to stop myself. We unfortunately didn’t have time for sex.

I took a deep breath as I raised my head and looked at her. She was blushing a little bit and her eyes were filled with lust. She was beautiful.

“I love you,” I told her softly as I placed a kiss on her lips.

“I love you too,” she said and caressed my cheek.

I remembered something she told me this morning before we had sex.

“You said that you tried to block Ellie’s thoughts last night,” I said as I stopped kissing her. “Did you do it? Did you manage

to stop them?”

Maddie sighed and gave me a small nod.

“I did,” she said. “It was hard, though. I was exhausted afterwards. That’s why I fell asleep.”

My eyes widened a little.

“How did you do it?” I asked and she shook her head.

“I don’t know,” she said. “I tried to imagine that there was a wall around my brain. It didn’t work at first, but I somehow managed to do it after a while.”

I nodded and caressed her cheek.

“I am proud of you, princess,” I said softly. “We will talk to Oliver about it.”

We wouldn’t be able to do it today, but I would call Oliver first thing tomorrow morning. We needed to find a way to make it easier for my princess.

Maddie kissed me softly and I smiled.

“Stay by my side the whole time, okay?” I told her as I moved my lips to her jaw.

“Of course,” she said. “There is no other place I would rather be.”

My heart skipped a beat. I stopped kissing her jaw and looked at her. She was smiling and my entire body shivered.

“You are killing me,” I mumbled as I placed a soft kiss on her lips. “I just want to stay here with you.”

Maddie chuckled and ran her fingers through my hair.

“I know,” she said. “But we have work to do. We will be back here tonight.”

I deepened our kiss just as our bedroom door opened.

“We are late,” I heard Will’s voice.

I was so entranced by Maddie that I didn’t even hear him coming.

I turned around and saw him frowning at us. He really needed to relax a little. His eyes fell on Maddie and he smiled a little.

“You look amazing Mads,” Will said. “I didn’t know Dimitri had such good taste.”

Maddie chuckled and I rolled my eyes at him. I took Maddie’s hand in mine and started leading her out of the bedroom.

“We are late,” I said as we walked past Will.

I heard both Will and Maddie laughing quietly.

I tried to ignore them. I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I couldn't fucking wait for this ceremony to be over.

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN – Our Queen

Madeline's POV

I was a bit nervous as Dimitri and I walked into the throne room.

Meeting with all nine Alphas and their Betas was the first thing on our to-do list today. After the meeting, we had to go to the celebratory dinner where I would meet all the Lunas and the rest of Alphas' families and staff that arrived with them.

I was both nervous and excited. This event was my first official event as a Luna and a Queen and I didn't want to disappoint Dimitri.

*'You won't disappoint him,'* Skye said softly. *'You were born to do this. He is already incredibly proud of you.'*

I ignored her. I didn't want to talk to her. Not yet.

*'You will have to talk to me eventually, Maddie,'* Skye sighed. *'You can't ignore me forever.'*

*'I can ignore you tonight,'* I told her as I pushed her back.

I took a deep breath as I finally got a clear view of the table where 18 men were waiting for me, Dimitri, and Will. All of them stood up and bowed.

I tried to get a good look at each and every one of them, but I was a bit nervous and it was hard for me to focus. I knew their

names, but it was the first time I saw them in person so I couldn't put names and faces together.

My eyes fell on the only Alpha I knew. Alpha Jack.

He was smiling brightly and I couldn't help but smile back at him.

Dimitri led me to my seat and pulled out the chair for me.

"Thank you," I told him quietly.

"Anything for my Queen," he said, winking at me.

He sat down next to me and took my hand in his. Will sat on the other side of me.

**Stay close to me at all times.** Will mind-linked me sternly.

I glanced at him and furrowed my brows a little.

**Dimitri told you that some of these Alphas don't care about their mates.** Will explained, tightening his jaw. **You probably didn't notice the looks you got the second you walked into the room.**

My eyes widened a little and I shifted in my seat a little. I was a bit uncomfortable.

**Are you sure?** I asked Will.

**Yes, Maddie.** He said, clenching his fists. **Just stay with us, okay? Don't move away from me or Dimitri.**

**Okay.** I said, forcing a small smile on my face.

I didn't want the Alphas to know I was uncomfortable.

Why would they want me anyway? I was just a regular girl. There was nothing special about me.

"It is nice to see you all again," Dimitri said, tightening his hold on my hand. "I hope you are rested and ready."

"We are, my King," one of the Alphas said. "We are excited to continue our conversation from yesterday."

"We are also very excited to meet our Queen," another Alpha said. "We are very happy you finally found her, my King."

Dimitri looked at me and he smiled.

"I am very excited to introduce her," he said, looking back at our guests. "This is Madeline Clark, your Queen."

Every one of our guests bowed to me. I felt a bit weird, but I kept a smile on my face the entire time.

"It's an honor to meet you, my Queen," one of the Alphas said. "I am excited to work with you and get to know you better."

**That is Alpha Theodore.** Dimitri mind-linked me.

“Thank you, Alpha Theodore,” I said politely. “I am just as excited.”

“You are even more beautiful than we were told,” another Alpha said, making both Dimitri and Will tense up.

I smiled politely. I wanted to say thank you, but I didn’t know his name.

I glanced at Dimitri and squeezed his hand. I needed to know who it was.

**Lucius.** He mind-linked me and I could hear the anger in his voice.

“Thank you, Alpha Lucius,” I said politely.

“Oh, there is no need to thank me,” he said, smiling brightly. “Our King is a very lucky man.”

Dimitri let my hand go and grabbed my thigh in a tight grip. I placed my hand over his and forced myself to keep smiling.

**I am yours, Dimitri.** I mind-linked him. **No one can take me from you.**

Dimitri’s jaw clenched. He took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“You are right, Alpha Lucius,” he said, trying to sound polite. “I am a very, very lucky man.”

**Mine.** Dimitri mind-linked me. **Only fucking mine.**

I rubbed his hand gently.

**Yours.** I said softly. **Breathe, my love. I am yours.**

Dimitri glanced at me and I could see him relaxing a little.

“It is so lovely to see you again, Maddie,” Alpha Jack said happily, making me look back at him. “I am so happy for you.”

I smiled at him.

“Thank you, Alpha,” I said. “It is lovely to see you again too.”

“Ali is here,” Alpha Jack said, making my heart race. “She asked to come so she could see you. We weren’t sure if you were still in this pack, though. You said you would leave as soon as you turned 18. I am happy that’s not the case.”

Dimitri flinched a little.

**I am not leaving you.** I mind-linked him. **I will never leave you.**

**I know, princess.** He mind-linked me back.

I focused back on Alpha Jack.

“Ali is here?” I asked and he nodded.

“She is very excited to see you,” he said, making me smile brightly.

I was excited to see her too. I missed her so much.

“I am excited to see her too,” I said, making Alpha Jack’s smile widen.

“She has no idea that you are a Queen,” Alpha Jack said. “I can’t wait to see the look on her face when she figures it out.”

I chuckled and shook my head a little. Ali was always very expressive. I could already imagine her gasping loudly and shouting. I would have to calm her down so she wouldn’t draw too much attention to us.

“That should be fun,” I said, making Alpha Jack laugh and nod.

I looked at Dimitri and he smiled at me. He lifted my hand and kissed my knuckles.

“Should we continue the conversation from last night?” he asked as he turned back toward our guests.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

It was time to work.

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN – What Do They Want?

Dimitri's POV

I was pissed as fuck.

Every fucking man in the room was looking at my mate. I wanted to elongate my claws and pick their eyes out one by one.

I hated the way they looked at her. I hated the way they smiled at her. I hated the fact I knew exactly what they were thinking. I hated the fact that I knew exactly what they wanted.

I also didn't like the idea of this Ali spending time with my mate. I didn't know her. I didn't know what she wanted. I didn't know if Maddie would be safe with her.

I was angry and I wanted to get Maddie out of there. I wanted to hide her from their prying eyes. I wanted her all to myself.

I knew how irrational and selfish that was, but I didn't care.

**Are you okay?** She mind-linked me.

**No.** I said angrily. **I want to take you out of here. I don't like the way they are looking at you. I know what they want and it's making me so fucking angry.**

Maddie reached out and placed a hand on my thigh. She squeezed it lightly and my whole body shivered.

**None of it matters, Dimitri.** She said softly. **I am yours. Every part of me belongs to you. They can look at me and they can think whatever they want. You will be the one sleeping in my arms tonight, not them.**

My whole body tingled. My heart started racing. The need to be alone with her and show her just how fucking much I loved her exploded inside me.

**I love you.** Maddie added. **Only you, Dimitri. No one else.**

I placed my hand on top of hers and squeezed it. It was a good thing that we were mind-linking and not talking because there was a huge lump in my throat and I wouldn't be able to speak.

**Fuck, Maddie, I love you too.** I responded. **I can't wait to fall asleep in your arms tonight.**

She glanced at me and smiled. I was lucky I was sitting down because my knees buckled.

"We need to join forces and protect our borders!" someone exclaimed and I shifted my focus to the discussion. "We can't let them destroy our packs and our lands!"

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

I needed to focus on the meeting. I needed to stop imagining all the ways I would end the Alphas' lives.

"Did you manage to capture any rogues?" I asked, making the Alphas look at me. "Did any of them talk?"

“No, my King,” Alpha Theodore said. “Every rogue we captured refused to talk. Some of them died during torture.”

Maddie flinched a little. I squeezed her hand tighter.

**I am sorry, princess. I mind-linked her. I know it's not something you want to hear, but it's the truth. Rogues and enemies are being tortured for information.**

Maddie sighed quietly.

**I know.** She said softly. **I wish there was another way, though.**

I lifted her hand and kissed her knuckles. I almost smirked when I saw the jealousy in Alpha Lucius' eyes.

“We need to find out who is behind the attacks,” I said. “The rogues aren't organized enough to pull off something like this. Someone is behind it. Someone sent them to do this.”

“What do they want?” Alpha Rhys asked. “What is their ultimate goal?”

He looked around the room, but everyone was silent.

“The throne,” I said. “Someone is after my throne.”

There really was no other explanation.

“But who, my King?” Alpha Alistair asked. “Who would want to go against you? Who would want to go against the

Kingdom?”

“We are finally at peace after years of endless wars and battles,” Alpha Jack added. “Is there really someone out there who would want to go through that again?”

I sighed and shook my head.

“I don’t know,” I said. “People would do a lot to gain power. They would sacrifice anything and everything.”

Alpha Alistair furrowed his brows and looked at Maddie.

“When did you find your mate, my King?” he asked and my entire body tensed up.

I resisted the urge to growl at him.

“Why?” I asked, trying to remain calm.

Alpha Alistair looked back at me and took a deep breath.

“I am just wondering if the attacks started before or after you found her,” he said. “There is a chance that this could be about her. Maybe they don’t want your throne. Maybe they want your mate.”

I saw fucking red. My hold on Maddie’s hand tightened. My heart was trying to break through my ribcage.

No. Fuck no.

“It’s not about me,” Maddie said, making all of them look at her. “Rogues were attacking our borders before I turned 18.”

I could feel my heartbeat in my eyes and ears. I could feel my blood rushing through my veins.

Alpha Alistair nodded.

“You could still be used as a way to the throne, my Queen,” he said. “We need to protect you.”

I forced myself to breathe. I needed to focus. I had to stop thinking about someone taking Maddie from me.

If they knew who she was...

“She is safe, Alpha Alistair,” I said, trying to sound calm. “She is protected. Nothing and no one can get to her. Nothing and no one can hurt her.”

Alpha Alistair looked at me. An unknown emotion flashed in his eyes. He gave me a small smile and nodded.

“I am sure you are taking great care of your mate, my King,” he said. “I am just offering support and my knowledge. I would hate it if something happened to our Queen.”

My stomach twisted. Nothing would happen to her. She was safe and protected. They would have to kill me to get to her and that would never fucking happen.

“Thank you, Alpha Alistair,” Maddie said. “We would love to hear your opinion on the subject. Your knowledge and

experience will surely be of great help.”

Alpha Alistair looked at her and smiled.

“It is my privilege, my Queen,” he said, bowing his head a little.

Maddie caressed my thigh with her thumb and I relaxed immediately. Her touch was like a cure. She took my pain and my fear away.

She was my everything and I would go to hell and back to keep her safe.

No one was going to hurt her. No one was going to take her.

I wasn't going to let it happen.

## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN – Ali

Madeline's POV

“Maddie!” I heard Ali scream and she threw herself at me a second later.

I stumbled back a little, but Dimitri caught me. I could feel the anger exploding inside him. He growled and he started pulling me away from Ali. I could feel his fear. I could feel his need to protect me.

**It's okay.** I mind-linked him. **I am okay. She didn't hurt me.**

“Oh, Maddie, I missed you so much!” Ali said excitedly, tightening her arms around me.

She didn't even realize that Dimitri was behind me. She didn't even realize that he tried to pull me away from her. She didn't even hear him growl.

His fear and nervousness grew by the second.

**It's okay, my love.** I mind-linked him, trying to sound as calm as possible. **She is my friend. She means well. She isn't a threat.**

His hands on my waist tightened.

“I missed you too, Ali,” I said as I hugged her back tightly. “I am so happy that you are here.”

She let me go and grinned widely. Her eyes fell on my dress and she gasped.

“Fuck, Mads, you look amazing,” she said. “That is one hell of a dress. What are you...”

She stopped talking when her eyes finally landed on, what I presumed was, a very angry-looking Dimitri. I smiled even wider, trying to make her feel just a little bit more comfortable.

“My King,” she mumbled, her eyes widening. “I am sorry, I didn’t...”

She looked back at me and gulped.

“It’s okay, Ali,” I said, reaching out and taking her hand in mine. “This is...”

She gasped and I realized that she was staring at Dimitri’s hands on my waist. She looked back up at me wide-eyed.

“Are you...,” she spoke, but she couldn’t finish her question.

“My mate?” Dimitri said angrily. “Your Queen? Yes, yes she is.”

I slammed my elbow into his ribs. He didn’t have to be so rude. He just growled quietly and tightened his hold on me.

“Oh, I am so sorry!” Ali exclaimed, looking back at me. “I was just so excited to see you and I didn’t...”

“It’s okay, Ali,” I said, pulling her into another hug. “I am so excited to see you too.”

She hugged me back, but I could tell that she was very careful this time. I chuckled and looked at her.

“I am still the same Maddie,” I said. “You don’t have to treat me like a Queen, you know? We ate dirt together.”

Ali snorted quietly and shook her head at me.

“What?” Dimitri asked and I looked up at him.

“It was a dare,” I said, shrugging a little. “I don’t like to lose so I did it. Ali was kind enough to do it with me.”

Dimitri sighed and shook his head.

“Let’s not spread that story around,” he said. “It’s not very royal.”

**Neither is building a treehouse and getting knocked out by a board.** I mind-linked him, smirking a little.

He narrowed his eyes at me.

**You just earned yourself a punishment, my Queen.** He responded and my lower belly started tingling immediately.  
**You should know better than to mock your King.**

**Oh, I can’t wait, Alpha.** I said, trying to sound seductive. **I am not wearing any underwear, did you know that? I am completely naked under this dress and I am ready to be...**

He stopped me from finishing what I wanted to say by growling.

**Don't you finish that sentence.** He said sternly. **I will rip that fucking dress off your body and fuck you right now.**

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from laughing. He wasn't going to do that. He would never let anyone see that. I wasn't going to finish that sentence, though. He wouldn't fuck me here, but he could drag me somewhere else and we didn't really have time for that.

"Maddie?" Ali called me, making me look back at her.

She was looking at me with a confused expression on her face.

"I am sorry, Ali," I said, giving her a small smile. "What did you ask me?"

"I asked if maybe we could catch up a bit while I am here?" she said. "I know that you will be busy tonight, but maybe tomorrow?"

"Yes, Ali, of course," I said, smiling brightly. "I would love to."

Ali smiled and opened her mouth to speak, but she was interrupted by Alpha Alistair. He approached us with a small smile. He glanced at Ali and looked back at me.

"I am sorry to interrupt, my Queen, but I was wondering if I could borrow our King for just a minute?" Alpha Alistair

asked, bowing his head at me.

“I am not leaving my Queen,” Dimitri said sternly.

Alpha Alistair looked at him and smiled a little.

“It will only be a minute, my King, I promise,” he said.

I looked up at Dimitri and nodded.

“It’s okay,” I said softly. “I will be here with Ali.”

**No.** He mind-linked me. **Will is not here yet and I won’t leave you alone.**

**I am not alone.** I responded. **I will be okay. Go talk to him.**

Dimitri tightened his jaw.

“We don’t even have to leave the room, my King,” Alpha Alistair said. “Let’s just step away so we can exchange a few important words.”

Dimitri looked around and pointed at the fairly empty spot by the door. He could still see me from there.

“I will be right back, princess,” he said quietly as he kissed the top of my head.

I gave him a small smile. He reluctantly let me go and walked a bit further away to speak to Alpha Alistair.

“Wow, Mads,” Ali said as soon as they walked away. “You are a Queen?! I am so proud of you!”

I looked at her and smiled.

“It’s kind of insane,” I said quietly. “I feel like I don’t really belong here.”

Ali widened her eyes and shook her head.

“You do, Mads!” she exclaimed. “You should see yourself! You look amazing and so confident! I am so freaking proud of you!”

I grinned and shook my head at her.

“Enough about me,” I said. “What about you? Did you find your mate?”

Ali sighed and shook her head. “Not yet. I hope I will soon. I would love to have someone who would look at me the way Alpha Dimitri looks at you.”

“With a frown?” I asked teasingly.

Ali chuckled and shook her head.

“Like you are his whole world,” she said and I felt my entire body tingle.

I looked at him and my heart skipped a beat. He was talking to Alpha Alistair, but he kept glancing at me.

“I am his whole world,” I said. “Just like he is mine.”

Ali was silent for a moment, but then she asked something I didn’t expect her to.

“What’s that smell?”

## CHAPTER NINETEEN – Among Us

Dimitri's POV

I didn't like being away from her.

I was able to see her. I deliberately chose this spot because it wasn't as crowded and I was still able to see her. But she was still too far away from me. She wasn't within my reach and that was driving me crazy. I wanted her next to me. I wanted to be able to touch her and hold her close.

"I won't take up too much of your time, my King," Alpha Alistair said. "I can see that you don't like being away from your Queen."

I looked at him and nodded.

"I don't like being away from her, Alpha," I said. "We are newly mated."

Alpha Alistair nodded and gave me a small smile.

"It's understandable, my King," he said. "It's been almost 40 years since I met my incredible mate and I am still nervous when I have to leave her alone even for a few minutes."

He chuckled and shook his head.

"I sometimes still can't believe how much I love that woman," he added quietly. "Mate bond really is incredible."

I looked at my princess and my heart skipped a beat. She was smiling and I just couldn't believe how beautiful she was. I loved her more with each second that passed. Being away from her was torture. I wanted to feel her. Seeing her just wasn't enough.

"I asked to talk to you alone because I didn't want your mate to worry," Alpha Alistair said, making me look back at him.

My entire body tensed up. I had to hold back a growl.

"Worry about what?" I asked, clenching my fists.

Did he know something? Was my princess in danger? I was on the verge of running back to her. Why would he ask me to leave her alone if there was something to worry about?!

Alpha Alistair took a step closer to me and looked around. He took a deep breath and looked back at me

"I think that there is a traitor among your Alphas, my King," Alpha Alistair said quietly.

My eyes widened.

"You shouldn't trust them, my King," he continued. "You need to protect your Queen."

My heart raced and I immediately looked at the crowd. Alpha Theodore was the closest to my princess. He was just a few steps away from her. I looked at Alpha Lucius. He was a bit further away, but he could still reach her. Alpha Rhys was...

“My King,” Alpha Alistair called me, drawing my attention back to him. “She is safe here. Whoever he is, he isn’t insane to try to hurt her in a room full of witnesses.”

I gulped and clenched my fists. I could feel the fear burning my insides.

I glanced toward the entrance to the throne room and saw that Will just entered.

**I am talking to Alpha Alistair. I mind-linked him. I need you here. It’s important.**

I looked back at Alpha Alistair and took a deep breath.

“Why would one of my Alphas betray me?” I asked.  
“Everyone wants peace.”

Alpha Alistair sighed.

“No, my King,” he said. “Everyone wants power. Everyone wants what you have.”

He looked to his left and took a deep breath.

“They want your throne,” he continued. “They want your mate. They don’t want peace.”

I gritted my teeth.

“They will never take her from me,” I said angrily. “They will have to kill me to get to her and I will never let that happen. I

live and breathe for her and that will never change.”

Alpha Alistair looked back at me.

“I know, my King,” he said. “But that doesn’t mean they won’t try. Your mate is the most direct way to your throne and that means that she is in grave danger.”

My stomach twisted. I knew that even before he said it, but knowing that the threat was even closer than I expected terrified me.

“Alpha Theodore and Alpha Lucius are surely on your side, my King,” Alpha Alistair continued. “I talked to them and they both agree that the traitor is among us.”

I narrowed my eyes slightly.

“Alpha Lucius?” I asked, my voice laced with anger.

I didn’t like the way he looked at Maddie. I wanted him as far away from her as possible.

Alpha Alistair chuckled and shook his head.

“He lets his eyes wander a lot, but he would never do anything, my King,” Alpha Alistair said, giving me a knowing look. “He is harmless.”

I seriously doubted that.

I tightened my jaw and looked around the room.

Where the fuck was Will? I needed him here. We needed to start discussing the possibility of a traitor being one of the Alphas immediately.

**Where the fuck are you?** I mind-linked him. **We have important...**

I stopped mind-linking him when I saw him standing next to Maddie and her friend. He was staring at Ali wide-eyed and I wasn't even sure if he was breathing.

What the...

**They are mates!** Maddie mind-linked me excitedly. **Will and Ali are mates!**

My eyes widened. Mates?!

"Oh, wonderful!" Alpha Alistair exclaimed. "I am so happy for your Beta."

I watched as Will cupped Ali's cheeks and kissed her.

I was both shocked and happy for him.

"Go enjoy your evening with your friends and your mate, my King," Alpha Alistair said and I forced myself to look back at him. "We can continue this tomorrow."

Well, I didn't want to do that. I wanted to continue this immediately.

“Your mate is safe,” Alpha Alistair assured me and gave me a small smile. “We will talk tomorrow.”

Alpha Alistair walked away before I could protest. I clenched my jaw and tried to take a deep breath. I didn’t like this. I wanted to investigate immediately. I wanted to know who the fucker was immediately. If something happened to Maddie...

“Dimitri!” My mate’s excited voice interrupted my thoughts.

I turned to my right and saw her approaching me.

“Will and Ali are mates!” she repeated excitedly.

I forced a smile on my face and grabbed her as soon as she was close enough. I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath.

“I can’t believe this!” she exclaimed. “I am so excited for them!”

I gulped and tried to force myself to feel the excitement she felt.

It was so fucking hard, though. Someone wanted to hurt her and all I could feel was blinding rage and paralyzing fear.

I ran my hands down her body, letting myself feel her. I needed reassurance that she was really here. I needed to remind myself that she was okay. I needed to know that my princess was in my arms.

Nothing and no one would take her from me.

I would kill them before they even tried.

## CHAPTER TWENTY – Happy For You

Dimitri's POV

Maddie dragged me back toward Will and Ali.

“What is your name, beautiful?” Will asked quietly as he caressed her cheek.

He was completely entranced with her and he didn't even look at Maddie and me.

Ali was silent. She was staring at Will with a mixture of shock and excitement on her face.

I pulled Maddie to my chest and wrapped my arms around her. I looked around, trying to see if anyone looked like a threat. I could only see the excitement on peoples' faces. Some closest to us noticed that my Beta found his mate. They were looking at them and smiling brightly. Some were looking at Maddie and me. Their looks weren't threatening, though. They were looking at us with admiration in their eyes. I could see both men and women looking at Maddie and smiling. I noticed a hint of jealousy in some of them, but nothing that concerned me.

“Her name is Alison,” I heard Maddie say, chuckling a little.

“Alison,” Will said, his voice laced with so much love and adoration. “I am William and I already adore you, beautiful.”

I shifted my focus to the Alphas. None of them were looking at us. None of them were looking at Maddie. They were

talking, eating, and having fun with the members of their packs. None of them look threatening and it was driving me insane. I wanted him to show me that he was a threat. I wanted him to show himself immediately so I could kill the fucker.

“Dimitri?” My mate’s soft voice made me look back at her. “Is everything okay?”

She was looking at me with a mixture of confusion and worry on her beautiful face.

I lifted my hand and caressed her soft cheek. Goddess, I loved her with every piece of my body and soul.

“Of course, my love,” I said quietly.

I bent down and placed a kiss on her forehead. I grabbed her hips and pressed her closer.

She was here. She was okay.

“Oh, my Goddess!” I heard Ellie’s excited voice.

I glanced behind me and saw her approaching us with a wide smile on her face. She looked so excited and I wished I could feel the same way she felt.

I was so happy for Will, but the anger and the fear I felt clouded every other emotion. I wanted to be excited, but I couldn’t stay in that emotion. It sparked inside me for a second, but then it was gone when I remembered what Alastair had said.

Maddie turned around in my arms and wrapped her arms around me. I relaxed immediately. I placed a hand on her head and pressed her to my chest.

**I can feel that something isn't okay, my love.** She mind-linked me.

I gulped and buried my nose into her hair. I was getting more and more relaxed by the second. Her touch, once again, took all my fear and anger away.

**I will tell you everything later, princess.** I responded. **I promise.**

She turned her head a little and placed a soft kiss on my chest. My entire body trembled.

“Hi!” Ellie’s excited voice turned my attention back to Will and Ali.

I felt that spark of excitement again and this time it lasted longer. I even managed to smile a little.

“My name is Ellie and I am so excited to meet you!” Ellie exclaimed as she pulled Ali into a hug.

Will growled quietly.

“Oh, relax,” Ellie said as she let Ali go. “I need to properly greet my sister-in-law.”

Ali’s eyes widened a little, but she managed to smile.

“Hi,” she said quietly. “It’s nice to meet you. I am Ali.”

Will pulled Ali back into his arms. He buried his nose into her hair and took a deep breath. He smiled and I could see his body relax.

**Congratulations, man.** I mind-linked him. **I am so happy for you.**

He looked at me and smiled.

**Thank you.** He responded. **I can’t believe it. I am in shock. I found her!**

I saw him tightening his arms around her and I smiled.

“Oh, I am so happy for you, Will!” Ellie exclaimed as she gave him a side hug.

Will smiled and placed a kiss on her temple.

“Thank you, Ellie,” he said softly.

Maddie turned back around and reached out to take Ali’s hand in hers.

“I am so happy for you,” Maddie said softly. “Will is an amazing man, Ali. You deserve someone like him. He will love you and cherish you with everything he has. I am sure of it.”

“He will also annoy you with everything he has,” Ellie added teasingly.

I snorted and Maddie chuckled. Ali bit her lower lip to stop herself from grinning.

Will growled and narrowed his eyes at Ellie.

“Oh, don’t worry, Ellie,” he said. “I leave that part for annoying little sisters.”

Ellie raised her brows. “Sisters? You have more than one? How come I didn’t know about that? I am hurt, William.”

Will rolled his eyes at her and looked at me.

“Would it be okay if I took Ali...,” he spoke, but I interrupted him before he even got to finish his question.

“Go,” I said, giving him a small smile.

He glanced at Maddie and a hint of worry flashed in his eyes.

**Do you need me here?** He asked. **I can stay...**

**Go.** I interrupted him again. **I am here. Maddie will be okay.**

He gave me a small nod and bent down to whisper something into Ali’s ear. She looked at him and nodded. He smiled and kissed her forehead. I watch him take her hand in his and lead her out of the throne room.

“Oh, I am so excited for him,” Ellie said softly.

“Me too,” Maddie said. “Ali is an amazing girl.”

Our guests started approaching us now that Will and Ali had left. They wanted to talk to Maddie and me. The fear I felt earlier returned and I pressed Maddie as close to me as possible. I could feel my muscles clenching and I could feel my Alpha aura creating a protective circle around Maddie and me. I didn’t want anyone to come too close. I didn’t want anyone to touch her.

Ellie furrowed her brows a little.

**Is everything okay, Dimitri?** She mind-linked me.

I gulped and shook my head a little.

**No.** I said. **We have a problem.**

Ellie widened her eyes and I saw her stance change from carefree and relaxed to careful and protective.

**What’s wrong?** She asked. **Is Maddie in danger?**

My heart raced.

**Not right now.** I said, trying to remain calm. **But we need to meet tomorrow morning. We have some important work to do.**

## CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE – My Beautiful Mate

William's POV

She was beautiful. She was all I ever dreamed of. She was my greatest treasure and I never wanted to let her go.

"I am so happy I found you," I mumbled as I sat down on the couch in my office and pulled her onto my lap. "I was scared that I never would."

She smiled and caressed my cheek gently. Her hands were shaking a little. I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on her cheek.

She tasted and smelled like oranges. I fucking loved oranges.

"I can't believe this," she said quietly. "Am I dreaming?"

I chuckled and shook my head.

"I hope not," I said as I moved a strand of hair from her shoulder. "That would be such a damn shame."

I touched her marking spot gently and she tensed up a little. The skin on her neck was so delicate and so fucking soft. I couldn't wait to pierce it with my canines.

Lowell whined and grunted, trying to break free. He'd been shaking since we breathed in her wonderful scent.

I ignored him and pushed him back. This was my time with her, not his. He would get his chance, but it wasn't going to be now. I was with her and I wasn't planning on giving him my place anytime soon.

He whined again, but I pushed him even further back.

I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on her neck. Both of us moaned quietly.

“Fuck, beautiful,” I mumbled. “You taste amazing.”

I pulled back, not wanting to push her into anything she wasn’t ready for. We just met, but I wanted to bury both my dick and my canines into her. I knew that she wasn’t ready for it yet.

I looked into her eyes and saw a mixture of lust and love. Mate bond was really that fucking amazing. I didn’t believe that I would be able to love someone the moment I met them, but I did love her. I loved her so fucking much and I was sure that my love for her would only grow as I got to know her.

I smiled and caressed her cheek. She closed her eyes and leaned into my touch. I was happy I was sitting down because I was melting and my knees gave out. She wanted me to touch her. She craved my touch just as much as I craved hers.

She opened her eyes and smiled at me.

“Ellie is your sister?” she asked.

“Yes,” I said, giving her a small nod. “I am so sorry about her. She can be a bit much, but she means well.”

“Oh, don’t be sorry!” Ali exclaimed, her eyes widening. “My greatest fear was that my mate or his family wouldn’t accept me. Seeing her so happy and excited was such a relief.”

I pulled her to my chest and hugged her tightly.

“Of course we will accept you, beautiful,” I said, enjoying the tingles I felt all over my body. “Why wouldn’t we?”

She shrugged a little and got more comfortable in my arms.

“I don’t know,” she said quietly. “I was always afraid of it.”

I stroked her hair and kissed her temple.

“There is no need to be afraid,” I said softly. “You are mine, beautiful. I would never reject you.”

She was mine. Only mine.

I breathed in her scent and smiled.

“Tell me a little bit about yourself,” I said as I ran my fingers through her hair. “What pack are you from?”

She lifted her head and looked at me with confusion in her eyes.

“Red Moon,” she said. “Didn’t you notice I was talking to Maddie?”

My eyes widened and she chuckled quietly.

“You know Maddie?” I asked.

I really didn’t notice. I was focused on her from the moment I walked inside the throne room. All I saw was her. All I noticed was her.

“Maddie is my best friend,” she said and I could tell that she was trying not to laugh. “We grew up together.”

My eyes widened even more.

“Really?” I asked and she couldn’t hold back the laughter anymore.

I was glad, though. It was the most wonderful thing I had ever heard. I never wanted her to stop laughing. Her laughter was

making my heart race and I couldn't help but smile brightly.

Her laughter subsided and I was a little bit disappointed.

"Really," she said, still chuckling a little.

"What a small world," I mumbled as I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on her cheek.

I couldn't stop kissing her. I just enjoyed the taste of her skin so fucking much. I wanted to kiss her lips again, but I wasn't sure if she would be okay with that. I couldn't hold back before so I kissed her without even thinking about it. But I was scared that I crossed a boundary and I had to remind myself to be mindful of that.

"I can't believe that she is a Queen," Ali said and a small smile spread across her face. "She definitely deserves it. She is going to be amazing."

I smiled and gave her a small nod.

"She already is," I said. "She is perfect for Dimitri."

Ali furrowed her brows a little.

"I don't think I made a good first impression on him," she said quietly.

"Why?" I asked as I tucked a strand of hair behind her ear.

"I didn't know Maddie was a Queen so I kind of grabbed her as soon as I saw her," she said and I could hear a hint of regret in her voice. "I didn't even realize that he was behind her. I could tell that he was very angry at me."

I sighed and caressed her cheek. We would have to tell Ali everything now that she was my mate. She would soon

understand why Dimitri reacted the way he did.  
But I wasn't going to explain it to her now. Dimitri and Maddie weren't here and I wasn't going to do it without them.

Also, that was not what I wanted to talk about. I wanted to talk about her and maybe even kiss her again. We had time to discuss everything else tomorrow.

"Dimitri is protective," I said. "Don't worry about it, okay?"

Ali nodded and glanced at my lips. My muscles clenched.

"Will?" She called me quietly.

"Yes, beautiful?" I mumbled as I ran my fingers through her hair.

"Will you please kiss me again?" she asked and my entire body burst in flames.

My lips were on hers even before she finished her question.

Both of us moaned quietly.

She was the best fucking thing I ever touched and tasted. I never wanted to stop kissing her and I never would.

## CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO – Over My Dead Body

Madeline's POV

I was a little bit tired.

Dimitri's anger and fear were immense and I kept trying to make him feel better. I kept trying to make him feel calm. I kept trying to reassure him.

It was hard, though. I would finally manage to calm him down a little, but then another wave of anger washed over him with such intensity my insides twisted. It took me so much time and energy to calm him down again.

Worst of all, he just refused to tell me what happened.

"Will is on his way," Ellie said, making me look at her.

She was sitting on the couch with her arms crossed over her chest. She looked worried and I knew that Dimitri had already told her what happened.

An unknown feeling made my stomach turn.

Why did he tell her and not me? Did he trust her more? Maybe he didn't think I would be able to help him. Maybe he didn't think I would be able to handle it.

*'Stop it, Madeline,' Skye growled at me. 'You know that none of that is true. He will tell you.'*

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

*'Look, Maddie, I...'* Skye continued, but I interrupted her.

*'I can't, Skye,'* I said. *'Not now. Something is going on with Dimitri and I need to focus on him. We will do this later, okay?'*

She was silent for a moment.

*'You will talk to me?'* she asked quietly.

I gulped and tightened my jaw.

*'Yes,'* I said. *'I will talk to you later.'*

I could feel her excitement growing. I pushed her back and focused on Dimitri. He was pacing back and forth around our office with a pissed-off expression on his face. His anger was back.

I took a deep breath and focused on him entirely. I could feel the anger pulsating beneath his skin. I could feel it running through his veins. I could feel it wrapping itself around him. I took a deep, slow breath through my nose and imagined I was pulling the anger out of him and toward me.

The anger was cold and its edges felt sharp. It made my entire body tense up. It made my insides hurt.

But Dimitri relaxed immediately and it was all that mattered. It was all I wanted.

“Fuck,” he muttered as he took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Can you please just tell me...” I spoke, but I was interrupted by the office door opening.

Will walked inside followed by a very timid-looking Ali.

I smiled brightly and stood up.

“Ali!” I exclaimed, reaching out for her.

She looked at me and I saw her relax a little. She smiled and approached me. I pulled her into a tight hug.

“Oh, I am so happy for you,” I said softly. “I am so happy you get to stay here.”

“What’s wrong, Dimitri?” Will asked, drawing my attention back to my mate.

His anger was back.

Dimitri clenched his jaw and looked at Ali.

“Can we trust her?” he mumbled angrily, making Will growl.

Ali tensed up and tried to pull away from me. I just held her tighter.

“She is my mate, Dimitri,” Will said, narrowing his eyes at my mate. “You are my Alpha and my King, but I won’t let you

doubt my mate.”

Dimitri growled back at him.

“And I won’t let my mate get hurt because of her!” he exclaimed.

Will’s eyes widened. He opened his mouth to speak, but I interrupted him.

“Enough!” I said sternly. “You are not fighting over this. Ali is my friend and she’s not a danger to me.”

Will bowed his head immediately. Dimitri tightened his jaw and clenched his fists.

“Your first order,” Ellie said, chuckling a little. “Nice, Maddie.”

I furrowed my brows and looked at her. Ellie chuckled when she saw my confused face.

“You just ordered them to stop,” she said. “It was very effective, I must say.”

My eyes widened and I looked back at Dimitri and Will.

“Oh, I am so sorry!” I exclaimed. “I didn’t mean to. I don’t even know how...”

“Don’t apologize, princess,” Dimitri interrupted me as he approached me and pulled me away from Ali.

He kissed the top of my head and stroked my hair.

It was hot. He mind-linked me. Maybe you could order me around like that in our bedroom tonight.

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from chuckling.

I am looking forward to that. I responded.

He leaned in and placed a soft kiss on my lips.

“Can you please explain to me what the hell was that about?” Will asked.

I looked at him and saw him staring at Dimitri with an angry expression on his face. He was holding Ali in his arms and it made me smile a little.

“I am sorry, Will,” I said softly. “Dimitri is a bit nervous this morning. He didn’t mean anything bad.”

Will looked at me and his expression softened.

“I am not nervous,” Dimitri said angrily. “I am pissed as fuck.”

Ali’s eyes widened. I sighed and resisted the urge to roll my eyes. Dimitri wasn’t making the best first impression.

“Why?” Will asked. “What the hell happened?”

Dimitri took a deep breath and tightened his hold on me.

“Alpha Alistair asked to talk to me last night,” Dimitri said.  
“He believes that there is a traitor among the Alphas.”

My eyes widened and I looked up at Dimitri. Will growled loudly.

“If that’s true then Maddie is in so much danger,” Dimitri said, his arms tightening around me.

Will growled again.

“Why didn’t you tell me sooner?!” Will exclaimed angrily.  
“We need to do something! We need to protect her!”

Dimitri sighed and raised an eyebrow at Will.

“I tried to tell you, but you were a bit preoccupied,” Dimitri said, glancing at Ali.

She held her breath and I saw fear in her eyes.

“It’s okay, Ali,” I said softly. “You didn’t do anything wrong, okay?”

Will looked at her and kissed her temple. He whispered something to her and looked back up at Dimitri.

“We need to call Alastair and talk to him,” Will said, clenching his jaw. “We need to figure out why he thinks that one of the Alphas is a traitor.”

Dimitri nodded.

“We also need to do everything we can to protect Maddie,” he said. “She needs to be with one of us at all times. We can’t leave her alone.”

Will looked at me and took a deep breath.

“Nothing will happen to her,” he said, keeping his eyes on me.  
“Over my dead body.”

## CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE – Not Participating

Dimitri's POV

"I won't be participating in the tournament," Ellie said, making us all look at her.

"Why?" Will asked her, furrowing his brows.

Ellie sighed and looked at Maddie.

"Because I can't distract myself with it," she said. "Maddie needs to be protected. She needs me."

"Ellie, no," Maddie said as she stood up and approached the couch.

She sat down next to Ellie and took Ellie's hand in hers.

"You have to participate, Ellie," Maddie said softly. "You've been preparing for it for a long time. I will be okay. Dimitri and Will won't let anything happen to me."

She was right about that. I was going to destroy anyone who even thought about hurting her. Nothing was going to happen to Maddie.

"No, Maddie," Ellie said sternly. "I am not participating. If something happened while I was in the game, I would never forgive myself."

Maddie wanted to protest, but she was interrupted by a knock on the door.

“Madeline,” I called her sternly.

I wanted her close to me while we talked to Alpha Alistair. I didn’t trust him.

She sighed, stood up, and walked back to me. I grabbed her hand just as Will opened the office door.

“Alpha Alistair,” Will said and stepped aside so he could walk in.

“Beta William,” Alpha Alistair said, bowing his head a little.

He looked at me and smiled.

“My King,” he said as he approached my desk. “Thank you for inviting me here.”

I gave him a small nod and pointed at the armchair opposite my desk.

“Sit down, Alpha,” I said. “We have a lot to discuss.”

Alpha Alistair sat down and looked at Maddie. A small smile spread across his face.

“It is so nice to see you again, my Queen,” he said. “I wish it was in better circumstances, though.”

I tightened my hold on Maddie's waist. I didn't want him looking at her. As far as I knew, he was the traitor. I wished I could pull Maddie to my lap. She was sitting on the chair next to me, but she was still too far away for my liking.

"I need you to explain what you told me yesterday, Alpha Alistair," I said sternly. "Why do you think that there is a traitor among the Alphas?"

Alpha Alistair sighed and leaned back in his chair. He glanced at Ellie and Ali and raised his eyebrow.

"Should they be here for this, my King?" he asked. "The less people know, the better."

"They have to be here, Alpha," Will said as he pulled a chair and sat down next to Maddie. "Please answer the question."

Alpha Alistair looked at me and took a deep breath.

"Think about it, my King," he said, "Is there a rogue powerful enough to inflict such damage? Is there a rogue powerful enough to gather so many followers who would do as he said?"

I tightened my jaw and narrowed my eyes slightly.

The answer was no. There wasn't a rogue powerful enough to cause so much trouble. If there was, he would have been eliminated a long time ago. I was tracking the rogues' movements and if I had noticed that any of them were getting powerful, I would have had it taken care of.

“Our Kingdom is in danger, my King,” Alpha Alistair added.  
“I am pretty sure that the danger is coming from the inside, not the outside.”

I gritted my teeth.

“You must have a suspect,” Will said angrily. “You must already have an idea about who it is.”

Alpha Alistair looked at him and sighed again.

“Maybe,” he said. “I wouldn’t want to point a finger at the wrong person, though.”

“Who?” I asked sternly.

“Alpha Rhys,” Alpha Alistair said, looking back at me.

I raised my brows.

“Alpha Rhys?” I repeated. “Why?”

Alpha Alistair glanced at Maddie.

“He is young and ambitious,” he said.

I raised my brows.

“We were all young and ambitious once, Alpha Alistair,” I said. “That doesn’t make him guilty.”

Alpha Alistair sighed. “No, but what he said about your mate might.”

I tensed up immediately. Skol stirred and pressed to be let out. “What?!” I exclaimed, trying to hold back a growl.

Alpha Alistair looked at Maddie.

“I am sorry, my Queen,” he said, bowing his head a little. “I want to apologize in advance for the words I am about to say in front of you.”

“It’s okay, Alpha,” Maddie said, her voice laced with nervousness. “Please continue.”

Alpha Alistair looked back at me and took another deep breath. He didn’t even say what he wanted to say and I was already seething with anger. I wanted to kill Rhys. I wanted to strangle him and watch life leave his pathetic body.

“Alpha Lucius and I overheard him talking to his Beta,” Alpha Alistair started explaining. “He said how nice it would be if your mate was his. He told his Beta that he would try to make it happen because there was nothing more he wanted than to have her.”

I saw fucking red.

He was a dead man.

A feral growl escaped my lips. My canines elongated and fur started growing on my arms. Skol was thrashing and trying to get out. I was going insane with anger.

Maddie placed a hand on my thigh, but it barely did anything to help with my anger. I was on the verge of finding him and killing him.

“That doesn’t prove anything, Alpha,” Maddie said calmly.  
“That doesn’t prove that he is behind the rogue attacks.”

“No, my Queen,” Alpha Alistair said, looking at Maddie. “But it proves that he wants something that our King has. If he wants you, what makes you think that he doesn’t want the throne as well?”

I didn’t give a fuck about what he wanted. He wasn’t going to get it. Maddie was mine. Fucking mine!

Alpha Alistair looked back at me and tightened his jaw.

“You need to be careful, my King,” he said. “Someone is plotting against you. It may not be Alpha Rhys, but I am sure that it’s someone. You can’t trust anyone.”

Maddie rubbed my thigh gently and I relaxed just a little. I forced myself to take a deep breath.

“Thank you, Alpha,” I said, my voice trembling with anger. “I will think about everything you shared with us and I will make sure that both my mate and my throne are safe.”

Alpha Alistair nodded. “I am always at your service, my King. Please use me if you need me.”

I nodded and motioned toward the door. “We need to discuss this, Alpha. Please give us some privacy.”

Alpha Alistair stood up immediately.

“Of course, my King,” he said and bowed. “I will see you tonight at the opening ceremony.”

I nodded and watched him leave the room.

“What are we going to do?” Will asked as soon as Alpha Alistair walked out of my office and closed the door.

“We are going to talk to Mike,” I said, gritting my teeth.  
“Right the fuck now.”

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR – A Minute Alone

Madeline's POV

I could feel how much Dimitri needed me.

He kept flinching, squeezing my hand, and his anger kept washing over him in intense waves.

“Can we please have a minute alone?” I asked, looking at Will.

He furrowed his brows a little and glanced toward the door.

“Mike will be here any moment now,” he said.

“Please, Will,” I said, giving him a pleading look.

He looked at Dimitri and sighed.

“We will wait outside,” he mumbled as he stood up and looked at Ellie and Ali. “Come on.”

I took a deep breath as I watched them all leave the room. Dimitri looked like he didn't even realize that the three of them had left.

I climbed onto his lap as soon as Will closed our office door.

“I am here, my love,” I said softly and cupped his cheeks. “I am in your arms. I am right here.”

I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on his cheeks. He grabbed my hips tightly and I could feel that his claws elongated.

“I am here, Skol,” I said as I moved my lips to his jaw. “I love you.”

He growled and his canines elongated as well. I left a trail of soft kisses all the way from his jaw to his lips. I kissed him as softly as I could. His canines were on the way, but I didn’t mind. It was a part of him and Skol and I loved them as much as I loved every other part of him.

I caressed his cheeks with my thumbs as I placed a soft kiss on the tip of his nose.

“I am here,” I repeated quietly. “I love you. I love you so much.”

He growled again and I felt his hand run up my back. He tangled his fingers into my hair and held me in place. His claws weren’t there anymore.

“I love you,” I told him again. “I am yours. No one else can have me. No one else will have me. No one will take me away from you.”

Even if someone did, I would never stop loving my mate. I belonged to him since the moment I came to this world and I would belong to him until the moment I took my last breath.

He took a deep, slow breath. I caressed his cheeks again and placed another soft kiss on his lips. His canines retracted.

“Fuck, Maddie,” he mumbled as he buried his face into my neck.

He breathed in my scent slowly and deeply. I placed a kiss on the top of his head.

“I love you,” I told him again. “I love you with my entire heart.”

He wrapped his arms around me and hugged me tightly.

“I can’t even explain how much I love you, Madeline,” he said quietly. “You are my entire world. I would die if I lost you.”

I placed another kiss on the top of his head.

“That will never happen, Dimitri,” I said. “You will never lose me. I will fight to be by your side forever. This is the only place I want to be. This is my home. You are my home.”

He lifted his head and captured my lips with his.

“Home,” he mumbled. “My home.”

I smiled a little and caressed his cheek again. I could feel that he was a little bit calmer and it was everything I wanted and needed. I hated it when he was angry and scared. I hated it when he was upset.

Our office door opened and Will peeked inside.

“Mike is here,” he said. “We really need to talk to him. We don’t have much time.”

Dimitri nodded and motioned for him to come inside. He took a deep breath and placed a soft kiss on my forehead. I climbed out of his lap and sat on the chair next to him.

**Thank you, princess.** He mind-linked me. **I needed this.**

I gave him a small smile and took his hand in mine. I lifted it and kissed his knuckles.

**I know.** I said. **I am always here for you. I will always be here to make it easier.**

He smiled and tightened his hold on my hand.

“What happened?” Mike asked as soon as he walked inside the room. “What’s so urgent?”

Dimitri took a deep breath and looked at him.

“We need to talk about the security detail for Maddie,” he said, pointing at the armchair opposite his desk. “Alpha Alistair said something that worries me.”

I looked at Ali and took a deep breath. She looked confused and I knew that I would have to talk to her as soon as I got the chance.

**What’s wrong, Mads?** Ellie mind-linked me.

I looked at her and took a deep breath.

**I will have to talk to Ali and tell her everything.** I said. **I can see that she is confused. I don't want to keep her in the dark.**

Ellie gave me a small nod.

**Let me handle that, okay?** She said. **You have enough on your plate. You still hadn't talked to Skye. You still hadn't shifted. You have to talk to Oliver about your powers and figure out what to do. Not to mention this whole Alphas' Meeting and the tournament that starts tonight.**

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes.

She was right. I had so many things to do and I had no idea where to even start.

**Let me help, Mads.** She continued. **I will explain everything to Ali.**

I opened my eyes and gave her a small nod.

**Thank you.** I said, making her smile.

**There is no need to thank me.** She said. **I am here to help.**

I smiled at her and focused my attention back on Mike and Dimitri. Mike looked pissed so I could only assume that Dimitri had already told him everything.

"I want nine of our best men to keep an eye on each Alpha," Dimitri said. "Discreetly, of course. I want to know everything

about them and their movements while they are in my territory.”

“Even Alpha Alistair?” I asked, furrowing my brows a little.

“Just because he came to tell us that there is a traitor among the Alphas, doesn’t mean that I trust him, princess,” Dimitri said. “He could be trying to get close to us so he can do something. I won’t allow that.”

I nodded and Dimitri looked back at Mike.

“Have them followed,” Dimitri said sternly. “No one makes any move without me knowing about it.”

Mike nodded and tightened his jaw.

“We will start following them immediately,” Mike said angrily. “No one will hurt my daughter.”

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE – The Opening Ceremony

Dimitri's POV

The opening ceremony of The Tournament of Three Kingdoms was being held at the battle arena.

The entrance to the tournament grounds was adorned with colorful banners and flags featuring the emblems and symbols of the Three Kingdoms. The torches illuminated the entire arena, making me forget that it was almost midnight. The stands were packed. It seemed like every member of my pack decided to come and watch the opening ceremony and the introductions of the competitors. It made me happy. It showed other Alphas how strong and united my pack was.

“Are you cold, princess?” I asked Maddie as we walked to our assigned seats.

She looked at me and shook her head. “I am fine, my love.”

I shivered and turned into a melted pile of human flesh each and every time she called me love. I smiled and pressed a soft kiss on her temple.

“Will I have to speak?” she asked.

“No, princess,” I said as I caressed her soft cheek. “I will speak. You will smile and stand by me the entire night.”

I was nervous because all the Alphas and the members of my council would be sitting close to us. I wished we could just sit somewhere else, but it wasn't possible.

“Don’t let go of me,” I continued. “I want you holding my hand the entire night.”

Maddie leaned in and placed a kiss on my upper arm.

“Don’t worry,” she said softly. “I will be by your side the entire time. No one will hurt me.”

I gulped and took a deep breath. They would have to be fucking crazy to try something while every single member of my pack was there, but I could never be too careful. Maddie was my entire life. I had to make sure she was safe.

**I can’t wait to go back home with you. Maddie mind-linked me. You have to take this dress off me and see what I have underneath.**

My heart almost stopped. I looked at her and raised an eyebrow. She smiled a little.

**I don’t want to spoil it, but it isn’t much.** She added as her smile grew.

I tightened my jaw and forced myself to take a deep breath.

**You will be so punished for this, Madeline.** I said sternly. **You made your king hard just as he is about to speak in front of hundreds of people.**

Maddie smiled brightly and my heart skipped a beat.

“My King,” one of the Alphas greeted me and bowed just as Maddie and I stepped to the area for the members of the court and our guests.

I didn’t notice which Alpha greeted me. I was imagining what Maddie had or didn’t have underneath that dress.

My entire body tensed up when my eyes landed on Kendrick. He was looking at Maddie and the anger almost exploded inside me. I wanted to claw his eyes out. I wanted to kill him. I wanted to let Skol rip him to unrecognizable pieces.

Maddie squeezed my hand tighter.

**It’s okay, my love.** She mind-linked me. **I am right here.**

I pulled her even closer to me as we walked among our guests. All the Alphas, Betas, and Lunas bowed and smiled at us. Maddie kept smiling and greeting everyone. I kept my eyes on Kendrick, wishing I could end his pathetic life right then and there.

**Relax, Dimitri.** Will mind-linked me as we approached our seats. **He can’t hurt her. He can’t even come close to her.**

Will was already sitting in his assigned seat. Ali was next to him. She was looking around in awe, but I also noticed that she was a little bit nervous.

Maddie and I sat down and all the chatter in the arena suddenly stopped. Landon stood up and approached the railing in front of us. Everyone looked at him.

“Hello and welcome to The Tournament of Three Kingdoms!” he exclaimed, making everyone cheer and clap. “It is so nice to see so many of you here. Thank you all for coming.”

The crowd cheered and clapped again.

“Our beloved King will say a few words and then we will meet the participants!” Landon added excitedly.

I stood up and pulled Maddie with me. We approached the railing, making the people cheer and clap even louder. I smiled and waved at them.

“Thank you all for coming!” I exclaimed and the cheering and the clapping stopped. “It is so nice to see you all here. My Queen and I are so happy and proud to be the leaders of such a wonderful pack.”

Maddie smiled brightly and waved at them. The cheering and clapping started again, this time even louder.

“Luna!” I heard a few excited screams coming from the stands.

I smiled brightly. Our people loved her so much. I waited until the cheering quieted down a bit.

“The tournament will be exciting,” I continued. “Our Ellie had to step down due to some personal reasons, but the remaining nine participants are ready and excited to begin.”

The crowd clapped loudly.

“The first task, the Moonlight Duels will start in two days when there will be a full moon,” I continued. “I am excited to see who the winner of the duels will be!”

The crowd cheered and clapped again. I smiled and waited for them to finish.

“I will let our Lord Chancellor, Landon, introduce our participants,” I said. “I am looking forward to spending time with you all at the party after the opening ceremony ends.”

The crowd cheered and clapped again. Maddie and I waved at them and we walked back to our seats.

I lifted Maddie’s hand and kissed her knuckles.

“You are going to the party?” Will asked quietly as soon as we sat down.

I sighed and gave him a small nod.

“We have to,” I mumbled. “I don’t really want to, but we can’t avoid it.”

As much as I wanted to take Maddie back home where she was safe, we had to spend some time with our guests and the members of our pack.

“Mike and I have it covered,” I added. “Maddie won’t be alone for a second.”

I would go fucking insane if something happened. Mike and I made sure that someone I trusted was always close to her. I

wasn't planning on letting her go or leaving her at any moment, but I never knew what could happen. I had to make sure my princess was safe.

I took a deep breath, kissed Maddie's temple, and focused on Landon and his introduction of the participants.

## CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX – We Should Have Lunch

Madeline's POV

I kept a smile on my face as Dimitri and I walked through the crowd. Everyone wanted to talk to us. Everyone wanted to see us up close. We saw the members of our pack every day, but I felt like something was special about tonight.

“Luna!” one of the workers at the pack house exclaimed. “You look wonderful!”

“Thank you, Katie,” I said as I gave her a small smile. “You look amazing yourself.”

She blushed and a small smile spread across her face.

“Thank you, Luna,” she said shyly.

I smiled brightly and continued walking through the crowd, shaking hands and greeting everyone I could.

“You look stunning, my Queen,” I heard Kendrick's voice and I tensed up immediately.

Dimitri's hold on me tightened and I felt the anger boiling inside him. I used every ounce of strength I had to help him remain calm.

“Thank you, Kendrick,” I said, giving him a small smile. “It is nice to see you.”

“It’s been too long, my Queen,” he said. “We only see each other in meetings. That is such a shame.”

I kept a smile on my face even though I just wanted to run and hide. I was afraid that I would somehow hear his thoughts again. I didn’t want to know what he was thinking. I could see it in his eyes and in the way he was looking at me.

“It’s the nature of our relationship, Kendrick,” Dimitri responded instead of me. “We are working together. You are a member of the council.”

Kendrick looked at him and his jaw twitched.

“I know, my King,” he said. “I just wish our relationship was not just professional.”

Dimitri tightened his hold on me even more. I forced myself to keep smiling.

“Madeline,” I heard Ellie’s voice and I looked to my right.

She approached us, eyeing Kendrick up and down. She had a forced smile on her face.

“I came to take you away,” she said, looking at Dimitri. “The Lunas wish to spend some time with their Queen.”

Dimitri tensed up, but Ellie raised an eyebrow at him. I could tell they were mind-linking each other. Dimitri looked around and took a deep breath.

“Go, princess,” he said as he leaned in and kissed my temple. “I will come to get you as soon as I can.”

I nodded and Dimitri let me go. Ellie took my hand in hers and started leading me away. Kendrick bowed at me as I walked away.

“What was that?” I asked Ellie as soon as we walked away. “I never thought that Dimitri would agree to you taking me away.”

“Well, the Lunas really want to talk to you,” Ellie said. “And I saw both Landon and Alpha Lucius approaching. I knew that Dimitri would lose his shit if you were surrounded by so many people he despises.”

I turned around and saw Alpha Lucius and Landon talking to Dimitri and Kendrick. Dimitri looked like he was going to burst any second. I focused on him and tried to take as much anger as I could away from him. I saw him take a deep breath and his posture relaxed a little. I smiled and turned back toward Ellie.

We reached Ali and the Lunas. I smiled as I approached them.

“My Queen,” Luna Abigail said and bowed a little. “Thank you for joining us.”

“It’s my pleasure, Luna Abigail,” I said. “I am happy to be here with all of you.”

I came to stand next to Ali and she gave me a small smile. She looked around with a nervous expression on her face. Ellie

told her everything about me and I could tell that Ali was afraid that something would happen.

I couldn't wait until Dimitri made her a member of our pack so I could mind-link her. I needed to reassure her and tell her that everything would be okay. I could still see Dimitri from where I was standing. Mike was just a few feet away from us and I could feel his eyes on me. Will was also somewhere close. I couldn't see him, but I knew that he wouldn't go far. I was safe. We were safe.

I couldn't mind-link her to reassure her so I just squeezed her hand tightly and gave her a small smile.

"We would love to spend more time with you while we are here, my Queen," Luna Mary said, drawing my attention back to the Lunas.

"We just talked about how nice it would be if we had lunch together," Luna Wendy said. "Just us ladies."

I smiled and nodded.

"Of course," I said. "I would love it. I am sorry I haven't been around much. There is just so much to do."

"Oh, don't apologize, my Queen," Luna Abigail said, smiling and shaking her head. "I get all worked up when I have one guest in my home. I can't even imagine having nine Alphas and their entourage."

I smiled and gave her a small nod.

“It’s challenging, but I love having you here,” I said politely.  
“It’s exciting to be a part of the tournament and the meetings.”

“I agree,” Luna Natasha said. “I wish we were meeting in different circumstances, though.”

I nodded and took a deep breath. “I am sure that our mates will find a solution.”

I looked to my left and saw Dimitri looking at me. I smiled at him.

**Are you okay, princess?** He mind-linked me.

**I am fine, my love.** I said, trying to sound calm and reassuring. **I can’t wait to feel your arms around me.**

I could see Dimitri gulp.

**Soon, princess.** He said. **I keep imagining what is under that dress, you know?**

I raised an eyebrow and smirked a little.

**Nothing, my King.** I said quietly. **Everything is bare and ready to be touched by you.**

His eyes widened and I saw his muscles clench.

**Fuck, Madeline.** He growled through the mind-link. **Do you have any idea how hard I will fuck you tonight?**

I smiled and tilted my head a little. His words made my lower belly tingle.

**I can't wait, Alpha.** I said. **I am already wet and ready for you.**

His jaw tightened and he narrowed his eyes at me.

**Look away or I am grabbing you and taking you away right the fuck now.** He said sternly.

I winked at him and looked back at the Lunas. They were talking about the tournament and I forced myself to smile and focus on them.

I couldn't wait to go home with Dimitri. His need for me only grew with all the dangers around us. I couldn't wait to show him that I was here and that I belonged to him and him only.

## CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN – Lock The Door

Dimitri's POV

I ran my hands up and down Maddie's body. Last night was fucking amazing. The way her body felt pressed against mine was amazing. The way she moaned and screamed my name as she clenched around my dick was amazing.

"You were perfect yesterday," I mumbled as I kissed her neck. "You were riding me so fucking good."

I remembered how her perfect little breasts bounced right in front of me and I couldn't help but grunt. I was so fucking hard just remembering it and it wasn't really convenient.

"We are doing that again tonight," I said as I sucked on my mark on her neck. "I need you to ride me like that again, am I clear?"

I finally looked at her and saw that she was blushing and panting a little.

"Am I clear?" I repeated as I gently bit her earlobe.

"Yes," she cried out, her voice laced with pleasure.

I cupped her breasts and squeezed them gently.

"I can't wait to suck on your nipples again tonight," I said as I kissed the side of her neck gently. "I can't wait to lick them and bite them."

I could smell her arousal. She started grinding against me, making my already hard and painful dick twitch in my pants.

“Are you a little bit impatient, my Queen?” I mumbled as I lifted my hips and pressed myself against her. “Do you want this dick inside you?”

“Yes,” she cried out. “Please. I need it. I need you.”

Fuck. I really wasn’t planning on fucking her. Oliver was on his way here. Mike and Will were coming. It really wasn’t convenient.

But hearing her beg me threw my rational thinking out the window.

I growled as I ran my hand down her body and cupped her pussy. She flinched and rubbed herself against my palm.

“You are not being a very good girl,” I growled in her ear. “We don’t have time for this.”

We didn’t have time for this, but I was still going to fuck her. I just wanted to hear her beg.

**Will?** I mind-linked him.

**Yes?** He responded immediately.

**Nobody comes inside until I tell you to. I ordered. Wait in front of my office.**

**Yes, Alpha.** He said and I cut our mind-link.

I rubbed Maddie's pussy over her jeans and she cried out.

"What, princess?" I said as I reached under her shirt and lifted my hand until I found a very hard nipple waiting to be touched and sucked on. "Do you want me to stop?"

"No, please, no," she cried out, moving her hips and trying to rub herself against me.

I flicked her nipple and she flinched.

"You will be a very good girl and you are going to go lock the door," I said, lowering my voice until it was as deep as I knew she liked. "You will take your clothes off on your way back."

I squeezed her breast and grunted. She was fucking perfect.

"After you do that, you will straddle your King and you will fuck him just like you did last night," I added, making her shiver and moan.

"Do you understand?" I asked as I put my hand inside her pants and rubbed her clit over her underwear.

She was soaking wet and I had to stop myself from moaning loudly.

"Yes, Alpha," she cried out.

I moved my hands so she could stand up. She whined in protest. I made her stand up and I slapped her butt.

“Faster,” I ordered.

She rushed toward the door, taking her shirt off as she ran. I couldn't help but chuckle. I stood up and lowered my pants, making sure that she could just sit on my aching dick as soon as she came back. I was as impatient as she was.

I sat back down and started touching myself as I watched her lock the door. She turned around and looked at me. I saw her eyes widen when she saw me waiting for her.

“Pants, Madeline,” I said sternly.

She almost ripped them off her body and I had to bite the inside of my cheek to stop myself from smiling.

I grabbed her arm as soon as she was close enough.

“Let me see if you are wet enough,” I said before she could straddle me.

I already knew that she was, but I couldn't miss the opportunity to lick that perfect little pussy of hers.

I made her sit on the desk and I spread her legs wide open. I gulped when I saw her glistening pussy waiting for me.

“Fuck,” I grunted as I lowered my head and started sucking her clit gently.

“Dimitri,” she cried out, tangling her fingers into my hair.

“We need to get you a little bit wetter, my Queen,” I mumbled against her pussy. “I want my dick to drown in your juices.”

I started sucking her again, making her cry out and moan loudly. I was so fucking happy that our office was soundproof because my Queen wasn’t quiet.

I placed my finger at her entrance, teasing her a little. She tried to move her hips to get my finger inside, but I stopped her.

“Only my dick will go in there today,” I said as I licked her from her entrance to her clit. “We won’t be wasting all that wetness on anything else.”

“Please,” she cried out. “Please. I want it inside me.”

Her begging was music to my ears.

I sucked her clit again and she flinched. I could tell that she was close, but I wasn’t going to let her cum. She was going to do that on my dick.

I lifted my head and sat back in my chair.

“On my lap,” I ordered. “Now.”

My dick was throbbing painfully and I already knew I wasn’t going to last long.

She jumped off the desk and straddled me. I placed the tip of my dick at her entrance and she lowered herself down slowly.

Both of us grunted and moaned. She was wet, tight, and warm. My eyes rolled to the back of my head when she finally managed to take all of me in.

“Finally,” she cried out, resting her forehead on my shoulder.

She started fucking me slowly and I couldn’t help but groan. It was perfect. She was perfect.

“Yes, my Queen,” I muttered. “Fuck me. Make me cum inside that perfect pussy.”

She dug her nails into my arms. I tangled my fingers in her hair and held her close to me. I couldn’t stop my hips from moving. I started slamming myself inside her and I could feel her pussy starting to clench around me.

“Cum on me, my love,” I said, panting hard. “Cum on my dick.”

She cried out loudly and I felt her pussy tightening around me. I closed my eyes and growled as I felt my seed explode out of me. It was one of the most intense orgasms I ever had and I wasn’t sure if it would ever stop. I just kept cumming and cumming. I kept pushing in and out of her, making sure that her orgasm lasted as long as mine did.

By the end of it, we were both shivering, panting, and moaning quietly.

“I love you, Madeline,” I told her after I finally managed to get some air into my lungs.

“I love you too,” she mumbled, relaxing into my arms completely.

I smiled and kissed the top of her head.

“My love,” I mumbled. “My entire world.”

## CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT – My Powers

Madeline's POV

"I can't answer that," Oliver sighed, shaking his head at Dimitri.

I could feel anger rising inside my mate and I did my best to stop it.

"What can you answer, Oliver?" Dimitri asked angrily. "We don't know anything about her powers!"

Oliver looked at me and nodded.

"We know what's written in the books," Oliver said. "I wasn't able to find anything about our issue, my King. I can't tell you why she could hear Kendrick's thoughts."

I shivered when I remembered it. I really didn't want to hear something like that again.

"How is that possible, Oliver?" Dimitri asked, narrowing his eyes. "You are a healer, aren't you? You need to find a solution."

Oliver opened his mouth to speak, but I interrupted him.

"It's okay, Oliver," I said, giving him a small smile. "You did your best. Thank you for trying."

“Madeline...,” Dimitri said but stopped talking when I gave him a stern look.

“There aren’t many books left from the Kingdoms, Dimitri,” I said. “You know that. Oliver did his best.”

Dimitri raised an eyebrow at me. I could see that he wasn’t happy with me. I didn’t care. Oliver did his best. The powers I had were unusual. We couldn’t expect Oliver to have all the answers.

“So what are we supposed to do?” Mike asked and I could hear worry in his voice.

“We are supposed to take care of her and make sure that she is safe,” Oliver said, drawing my attention back to him.

He looked from Mike to me.

“You need to let us know about any changes you notice,” he said. “You need to let us know if you can hear Kendrick’s thoughts while you are with Dimitri.”

“You need to let us know what he thinks,” Will added. “There has to be a reason why you could hear his and Janet’s thoughts. It wasn’t a coincidence.”

I nodded and looked back at Dimitri. He was glaring at everyone and he looked like he was going to explode. It was getting harder and harder for me to control his anger.

“I know you want answers immediately, but it just can’t be done,” I said as I reached out and took his hand in mine. “The

powers I have are complicated. We need time to figure them out.”

Dimitri tightened his jaw and took a deep breath.

“I want you safe,” he said. “I want to know exactly what you can do and I want to know exactly what it all means so I can protect you.”

I smiled and caressed his cheek.

“You already did,” I said softly. “I have more security than any other person alive. I would be surprised if someone managed to hurt me.”

I chuckled and Dimitri growled.

“Try not to worry so much, my love,” I said softly. “I am safe. Nothing is going to happen to me.”

Dimitri pulled me closer and kissed my temple.

“If you would be willing to leave her...,” Oliver spoke, but Dimitri’s loud growl interrupted him.

“No!” Dimitri yelled and I felt anger boiling inside him. “I am not leaving her!”

He wrapped his arms around me and I felt him shaking.

“You didn’t let me finish, Alpha,” Oliver said calmly. “Your Beta and Mike would be with her. If you are not there, maybe

she could figure out who is trying to take your throne.”

Dimitri took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I am not risking anything,” he said. “I will find out who the bastard is, but I won’t put my mate in danger to do it.”

“She wouldn’t be in danger, Alpha,” Oliver said. “Your Beta and her father...”

“Would be there, yes,” Dimitri interrupted him. “I trust them both, but it’s not just about that. It’s not easy for Maddie to read minds. It’s exhausting and her head starts hurting. I don’t want her in pain. I will find another way.”

I smiled and caressed his cheek. I loved him with my entire heart. Dimitri looked at me and leaned in to place a soft kiss on my cheek.

“I am not using her for this,” he said, stroking my hair gently. “I will find another way.”

I cupped his cheek and placed a soft kiss on his lips.

“I am willing to help, Dimitri,” I said. “If I can find something and it can help avoid...”

“No,” he said sternly. “What if they figure out what you can do? What if they somehow find out who you are? I don’t want you exposed. I don’t want them to know. They can’t fucking know.”

I glanced at Will.

**Can you help me?** I mind-linked him.

He sighed and furrowed his brows.

**I agree with him, Maddie.** He said. **But...**

He stopped talking and took a deep breath.

“Lunch with the Lunas,” Will said, making Dimitri look at him. “Ali and Ellie will be there with her. Maybe one of the Lunas knows something.”

Of course! Why didn’t I think of that?

“I didn’t say she could go to that,” Dimitri said, growling quietly.

I sighed and made him look back at me.

“We are in the middle of a very important event,” I said. “You can’t keep me away from everything, Dimitri. It’s going to look suspicious.”

Dimitri tightened his jaw.

“She is right, Dimitri,” Will said. “I understand that you want to keep her safe, but you can’t lock her up and keep her away from everything and everyone. She is a Queen. She has duties. It will look suspicious if she doesn’t fulfill them.”

I could feel fear rising in Dimitri. I placed my hand on his back and rubbed it gently.

**Nothing will happen to me.** I mind-linked him. **I am safe, my love. You are keeping me safe.**

He looked at me and wrapped his arm around my waist.

“Fine,” he mumbled. “She can go to lunch with the Lunas.”

I gave him a small smile and he leaned his forehead against mine.

“Will you be okay with so many people around you, Mads?” Mike asked, making me look at him. “Will you be able to handle it?”

Dimitri’s head fell on my shoulder and I placed a hand on his head, holding him close. I gave a small smile to Mike.

“I will be okay,” I said. “I found a way to keep their thoughts away. At least for a little while.”

Mike’s eyes widened a little. “How?”

“It’s hard for me to explain,” I said. “I’m trying to imagine a wall around my mind. It helps.”

Mike smiled at me.

“That’s great, Maddie,” Oliver said. “You need to make sure that you are okay. You can’t let it overwhelm you.”

I gave him a small nod.

“Ali and Ellie will make sure that everything is okay,” Will said. “I will tell them what to do if...”

*‘Maddie?’* Skye called me and I stopped listening to Will. *‘I want to shift tonight.’*

My heart skipped a beat. I wasn’t sure if I was...

*‘You are ready,’* Skye said sternly. *‘You have to stop denying who you are, Madeline. You have to stop pushing me away.’*

I gulped and tried to take a deep breath.

I wasn’t ready. I wasn’t sure if I would ever be ready.

## CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE - Skye

Dimitri's POV

"Why can't we go to the forest to do this?" Maddie asked as I closed our bedroom door.

"And risk someone seeing you?" I said, shaking my head at her. "I am not letting that happen, Madeline. You will shift here."

The room was big enough for her to do it here. Skye would have to wait to go on a run. It wasn't safe.

Maddie approached the fireplace and looked at the flames. I saw worry in her eyes and it made my heart hurt.

"Maddie, princess, what's wrong?" I asked her.

*'She is still angry at Skye,' Skol sighed. 'She doesn't want to shift.'*

I sighed and walked closer to Maddie. I wrapped my arms around her from behind and kissed her temple. She took a deep breath and leaned into me.

"Skye did it all to protect you, princess," I said softly. "She loves you so much."

Maddie remained silent. It was driving me crazy. I needed to know what she was thinking.

“Princess,” I called her again.

She sighed and looked up at me. I caressed her cheek and leaned in to kiss her softly.

“Talk to me, princess,” I mumbled against her lips.

She took a deep breath and rested her head on my chest. I was melting inside. Knowing that I was her comfort made me the happiest man on this planet. I ran my hands up and down her body and pressed her even closer to me.

“I am not ready,” she mumbled. “I am not ready for it to become real.”

I sighed and placed a kiss on her forehead.

“It is already real, princess,” I said. “Letting Skye out won’t change anything. She is a Lycan. You are a descendant of the Goldfangs Kingdom. It is your reality, Maddie.”

I felt her tense up.

“Please, love, talk to me,” I said quietly. “Tell me what you are thinking. I need to know.”

Maddie looked up at me and gulped.

“A part of me still thinks that I am not...,” she stopped talking and I saw tears form in her eyes.

I was pretty sure that I knew the end of that sentence. I cupped her cheeks and sighed.

“You are my mate,” I said softly. “You are my Queen. You are the love of my life. You deserve it, Maddie. You were meant to be mine. There is no one else who is meant to be standing here with me.”

I leaned in and kissed her.

“There is no one else I am meant to kiss,” I added quietly.  
“There is no one else I am meant to love.”

She wrapped her arms around me tightly and kissed me hard. I tangled my fingers into her hair and kept her close to me.

“I love you, Dimitri,” she said after she stopped kissing me. “I love you with everything that I have.”

I smiled and rested my forehead against hers.

“I know, princess,” I said. “I can feel it.”

I caressed my cheeks and ran my hands down her body. I unbuttoned her jeans and she took a deep breath. I gently started taking her shirt off. She lifted her hands so I could pull it over her head. I threw the shirt to the side and leaned in to place a kiss on her collarbone. The taste of her skin made my heart skip a beat.

“Will it hurt?” she asked, her voice trembling a little.

I got down on my knees and placed a soft kiss on her lower belly.

“A little bit,” I said as I started taking her jeans and her underwear off. “I will be here every step of the way. Don’t worry, princess.”

She stepped out of her jeans and I threw them to the side as well. I looked up at her and smiled.

“I love you,” I told her.

She ran her fingers through my hair and I sighed contently.

“Is Skye ready?” I asked and she gave me a small nod.

I kissed her thigh and stood back up. I placed another kiss on her lips and gave her a small smile.

“Skye will know what to do,” I said. “Just give her control, okay?”

Maddie nodded. I saw nervousness on her face and it made me sad. I wished I could do it for her. I caressed her cheek and took a few steps back. She clenched her fists and took a deep breath.

“Close your eyes, princess,” I said softly. “Let Skye take over.”

Maddie listened to me and closed her eyes. I saw her tense up and furrow her brows. I wanted to take her into my arms, but I knew I couldn’t. Not until she shifted.

Maddie fell to her knees and a scream escaped her lips. My entire body tensed up and I had to fight against every instinct I had. I wanted to grab her and make the pain go away, but I knew I couldn't.

"It's okay, princess," I said, my voice trembling. "It will only hurt for a moment, I promise."

Maddie groaned and fell to her side. She opened her eyes and tried to take a deep breath.

My muscles were completely clenched. I was like a coiled spring, just wanting to throw myself at her and stop the pain.

"It's okay, princess, it's okay," I mumbled. "Just a few more moments."

Another scream escaped her lips and I saw fur appearing on her arms. My entire body started trembling with the need to go to her.

"Just a little bit longer, princess," I muttered, gritting my teeth. "Just a little bit longer."

Maddie started thrashing a little. She was panting hard and quiet whimpers kept escaping her lips. I was on the verge of losing my shit. I hated seeing her in pain. I fucking hated it.

"Dimitri," she cried out for me and I almost fucking lost it.

*'No, Dimitri,' Skol said sternly. 'It's almost over.'*

I gulped and used every bit of strength I had to stay where I was.

“It’s almost over, princess,” I said, my voice trembling. “It’s almost over.”

Maddie screamed loudly and I saw her claws extend. Skol tensed up. I felt his need for Skye wash over me.

Maddie thrashed again and I saw her body transform into the most beautiful Lycan I ever laid my eyes on.

Skol and I gasped at the same time.

She was beautiful. Her fur was black and shiny. Her claws and canines were white and the flames from the fireplace made them look like they were sparkling. She was small, but I could tell that she was going to be a powerful wolf. She was just so beautiful and I couldn’t take my eyes off her.

She whined quietly and opened her eyes.

“Skye,” I mumbled, making her look at me.

She whined and I was next to her in a second.

*‘Let me out!’* Skol exclaimed, pushing to be free.

*‘Give me a second, okay?’* I mumbled as I buried my nose into her fur. *‘Just one second.’*

“You are beautiful, princess,” I mumbled as I picked her up.  
“You are so beautiful.”

She nuzzled her snout into my chest and I smiled.

“It is so wonderful to finally meet you, Skye,” I mumbled. “I love you so much.”

She licked my neck and I laughed.

*‘Dimitri,’* Skol cried out and I could feel him trembling with need for her.

“Do you want to meet Skol?” I asked her and she whined loudly.

I chuckled and ran my fingers through her soft fur.

“I will take that as a yes,” I said as I smiled at her.

I placed a kiss on her snout and I let her go. I stood up so I could shift. Skol took over faster than ever. He grabbed Skye and whined loudly. He was finally holding his mate in his arms.

## CHAPTER THIRTY – Learn How To Fight

Madeline's POV

I woke up with a terrible headache.

“Hey, princess,” Dimitri said quietly and I felt his lips on my temple.

The headache lessened instantly. I smiled a little and turned my head toward him. I opened my eyes slowly and his handsome face made my heart skip a beat.

“How are you, my love?” he asked softly.

I sighed and furrowed my brows.

“I am still a bit tired,” I said. “And my head hurts.”

Dimitri pulled me closer and placed another kiss on my temple. I smiled and ran my hands up and down his body.

“What time is it?” I asked, closing my eyes and leaning my head on his chest.

“8 a.m.,” he said. “You fell asleep right after you shifted back. I got a bit worried, to be honest. You kind of passed out. But it's normal. Shifting for the first time can be exhausting.”

Shifted back?

And then I remembered.

I shifted! I couldn't believe I forgot about that!

I opened my eyes and looked up at him. He smiled and caressed my cheek.

"Skye is beautiful," he said with so much love in his voice that I couldn't stop a shiver going down my spine. "Skol is head over heels in love with her."

I gulped and took a deep breath.

"Is she really...", I mumbled, but I couldn't finish my question.

Dimitri nodded and gave me a small smile.

"We already knew that, princess," he said. "Did you really think that she would turn out to be a regular wolf?"

I looked at his chest and tightened my jaw.

I hoped that she would. I hoped that they were wrong about me. I hoped I wasn't a Lycan. I hoped that everything was just a big mistake.

"Oh, princess," Dimitri mumbled as he placed a kiss on my forehead. "She is amazing and I love her with all my heart. She is a part of you and I don't want her to be anything or anyone else."

I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes. I loved her too, but I was still so angry. Why did she keep it from me? Why didn't she want to shift when I turned 18? She left me alone. I was so scared back then and she left me alone. I desperately needed someone and she chose to leave me. What if Dimitri didn't turn out to be my mate? What if I left the pack and got killed because she refused to shift? She left me alone when I needed her the most.

*'Maddie, I..., ' she spoke, but I pushed her back.*

I didn't want to talk to her.

"Skol is completely in love with her," Dimitri continued, chuckling a little. "He refused to shift back for hours. He only shifted back when Skye did and when you fell asleep in his arms."

I looked up at Dimitri and forced a small smile on my face.

"I am so happy for Skol," I said quietly.

Dimitri leaned in and placed a soft kiss on my lips.

"He loves you just as much," he mumbled. "You two are his greatest treasure."

I smiled and ran my fingers through Dimitri's beard. He groaned quietly and caressed my back. I didn't even realize I was naked.

Dimitri reached the back of my thigh and pulled my leg over his waist. I could feel his hard dick rubbing against me and I

gasped in pleasure.

“Can I fuck you, princess?” he asked, his voice deep and raspy. “Please.”

I was about to tell him yes when we were interrupted by a knock on the door.

Dimitri growled and stopped what he was doing. I wanted to whine.

“Are you fucking kidding me,” he muttered and got out of bed.

I looked at his naked butt and I wanted to drool. I couldn't understand how it was possible for him to be as perfect as he was. His butt and his legs were made of muscles. Hell, his entire body was made of muscles. His butt clenched as he walked and I just wanted him back in this bed so I could ride him. I wanted his hands on my body. I wanted those strong, muscular hands to wrap around me and press me against his broad chest. I wanted him inside me. I wanted him on me. I wanted him everywhere.

“Madeline,” he growled as he put his sweatpants on. “Stop it.”

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from smiling.

He growled at me again and approached the bedroom door.

“What?” he asked angrily as he opened the door.

“Is Maddie ready?” I heard Ellie's voice.

I furrowed my brows. Ready for what?

Dimitri looked at me with a confused expression on his face.

“Don’t tell me she forgot,” Ellie sighed. “Mike is waiting for us.”

“Forgot about what?” Dimitri asked, looking back at Ellie.

I groaned when I remembered. Shit.

“Our first training session is today,” Ellie said. “Mike is waiting for us at the center.”

“Shit,” I mumbled as I threw the blanket off and stood up. “I will be ready in a second, Ellie.”

“No,” Dimitri said sternly, closing the door a little so Ellie couldn’t see me. “She just shifted for the first time yesterday and I can’t go with you to the center today.”

Ellie sighed again and I could practically hear her rolling her eyes.

“She will be fine, Dimitri,” Ellie said. “I will be there. Her dad is there. She needs to learn how to fight.”

I opened the bathroom door and rushed to get ready.

“She is right, Dimitri,” I shouted. “I will be okay. I need to start practicing.”

Dimitri closed the bedroom door and walked toward the bathroom.

**I will be right there, Ellie.** I mind-linked her.

**I'm waiting.** She responded. **Hurry up. We are already late.**

"I don't agree with this, Maddie," Dimitri said as he walked inside the bathroom. "I can't go with you and I don't want you to go alone."

I spit out the toothpaste and looked at him.

"I won't be alone," I mumbled as I continued to brush my teeth. "Ellie and Mike will be there."

Dimitri rolled his eyes at me.

"They can't protect you like I can," he said angrily. "No one can protect you like I can."

I sighed and turned around to rinse my mouth. Dimitri was right behind me when I turned back around. I wrapped my arms around his waist and rested my chin on his chest. I smiled at him.

"I know that," I said. "But I need to learn how to protect myself."

He cupped my cheeks and frowned.

“I can protect you,” he mumbled and I resisted the urge to roll my eyes.

He could sometimes be so stubborn.

“I know you can,” I said as I caressed his muscular back. “And you are doing it so well. But you know I need to learn, Dimitri. I am safe with them.”

He tightened his jaw and gulped.

“And we can shower together after,” I said, smirking a little. “I will need some help taking my clothes off.”

Dimitri groaned and bent down to kiss me softly.

“Fine,” he mumbled against my lips. “But we are definitely showering together after.”

I smiled and nodded.

“And you will mind-link me immediately if something happens,” he said sternly. “Do you understand me? Immediately.”

I gave him another nod and he placed another kiss on my lips.

## CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE – Long Time

Madeline's POV

“Come on, Mads!” Mike yelled. “Left, right, left, right, duck!”

I did everything but ducked. Ellie slammed her body against mine and we fell on the mat. She pinned me down and grinned.

“You need to be faster,” she said and I groaned.

I wanted to be faster, but I was so tired already. I felt like we'd been doing that for hours.

“That was good, Mads,” Mike said. “But Ellie is right. You really need to be faster.”

Ellie let me go and stood up. I decided to stay down.

“Come on, Maddie,” Ellie said, extending her hand to help me get up. “Let's go again.”

I shook my head. “Nope. I am done for today.”

I was panting hard and I was sweating out of every pore on my body. I couldn't fight anymore. I wanted to go home, shower, and sleep.

“Maddie, you have to...,” Ellie spoke, but Mike interrupted her.

“It’s okay, Ellie,” Mike said. “We’ve done enough for today. She shifted yesterday and she is tired.”

Ellie looked at Mike and nodded. Mike gave me his hand and I grabbed it.

“You are good, Mads,” Mike said as he pulled me up. “Have you practiced with anyone before?”

I shook my head and looked around for my water bottle. Ellie gave it to me.

“Then you are just talented,” Mike grinned. “Like your father.”

I chuckled and Ellie rolled her eyes at Mike.

“She is good, but she needs to be faster,” Ellie said, giving me a stern look.

I sighed and took another big sip of water.

“She will be with practice,” Mike said as he stroked my hair. “She is already amazing.”

He leaned in and kissed my temple. I looked at him and smiled.

“Okay, if we are done then we should go,” Ellie said. “Dimitri mind-linked me like a thousand times to ask me if we were coming back soon.”

She rolled her eyes and I chuckled. She gave me my hoodie and I put it back on.

“He is worrying too much,” Mike sighed, shaking his head. “Maddie is surrounded by people who would do anything for her. She is safe.”

Mike looked at me and pulled me into a hug.

“You are safe with me, honey,” he said softly. “You know that, right?”

I hugged him back and smiled.

“I know, Mike,” I said and he rubbed my back gently.

“I should have noticed that something was going on with Janet,” Mike said quietly. “I should have protected you, honey. I am so sorry I didn’t.”

I let him go and looked up at him.

“It wasn’t your fault, Mike,” I said, shaking my head. “I told you that. You can’t blame yourself.”

Mike gulped and shook his head a little.

“It’s hard not to, honey,” he said quietly. “I’ve been there with you every damn day. How didn’t I see it happening? How didn’t I hear it?”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“She mostly did it while you were gone,” I said. “You couldn’t have known.”

Mike tightened his jaw and I saw fury in his eyes.

“Have you talked to her since she was imprisoned?” Ellie asked quietly.

Mike looked at her and shook his head. “I don’t want to see her or talk to her.”

I sighed and furrowed my brows a little.

“Maybe you should,” I said, making him look back at me. “She is your mate. You need closure.”

Mike shook his head immediately.

“No,” he said with determination in his voice. “I don’t need anything from her. I need to forget that she ever existed.”

I sighed and glanced at Ellie. That was going to be hard. She was his mate. They were together for years. He loved her. He couldn’t just move on and forget about her.

“Go home to Dimitri, honey,” Mike said as he placed another kiss on my temple. “I am sure that he can’t wait to see you. It’s been almost three hours since you left him.”

I smiled and gave Mike a small nod.

I looked at Ellie and I was just about to tell her that we should go when someone called my name.

“Mads?” I heard Seth’s voice and looked behind me.

He smiled and started approaching me.

“Hi, Seth,” I said, smiling back at him.

He was going to hug me, but Ellie stopped him.

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you,” Ellie said warningly.

“Alpha is going to be able to smell her on you and that won’t end well, trust me.”

*I want him to smell me on her.*

Seth’s thought caught me off guard and I had to stop myself from gasping. I was doing such a good job keeping Mike and Ellie’s thoughts away. I kept my focus on the fight and I would force the wall around my brain up every time a small glimpse of their thoughts entered my mind.

Seth’s thoughts felt like he was screaming them. They felt loud and filled with anger and anticipation.

Seth looked at me and I forced myself to keep smiling. I focused on the wall around my mind, trying to imagine it as thicker and taller. I didn’t want to hear his thoughts again.

“You were practicing?” Seth asked and I gave him a small nod.

“Yes, we were,” Ellie said. “We are on our way back to the packhouse.”

Seth glanced at her and I could tell that he was annoyed by her defensiveness.

“I will leave you kids alone,” Mike said as he gave me another short hug. “I have work to do.”

“Bye, Mike,” I said as I gave him a small smile.

He grabbed his stuff and walked away toward his office.

“How about breakfast at the diner?” Seth asked, drawing my attention back at him. “My mom would love to see you.”

I was just about to answer him, but Ellie beat me to it.

“We don’t have time,” she said. “Alpha needs us to come back.”

Seth tightened his jaw and looked at Ellie.

“I was asking Maddie, not you,” he said angrily.

Ellie’s eyes widened and I saw anger flash in them. I needed to take over before they got into a fight.

“Ellie is right, Seth,” I said, keeping a small smile on my face. “I would love to go, but I can’t today. Dimitri wants me to come back. We have a lot to do. The tournament starts tomorrow.”

Seth sighed and I saw sadness in his eyes. My heart clenched. I was a terrible friend. He was so nice to me. He was the only one who accepted me when I first came here.

“Are you sure, Mads?” he asked. “It’s been a long time since we hung out. I miss you.”

I gulped and took a deep breath. The guilt I felt intensified.

“I will talk to Dimitri and ask him if we could have dinner at the diner tonight,” I said. “I would love to hang out with you too.”

Dimitri will never say yes to that, Maddie. Ellie mind-linked me. Seth wants you and Dimitri won’t allow him near you.

I ignored her and kept my focus on Seth. I owed him so much. I couldn’t be rude and forget that he was my friend.

“I am looking forward to that, Mads,” Seth said, smiling brightly. “I will see you tonight.”

I smiled at him and looked at Ellie. I could tell that she wasn’t happy.

“Let’s go, Madeline,” she said, grabbing our stuff and taking my hand in hers.

“Bye, Seth,” I said as she started dragging me away.

“Bye, Mads,” he said. “See you later.”

I smiled at him and looked back at Ellie.

“Madeline?” I asked, raising an eyebrow.

“Yes,” she said as she opened the door. “I am angry at you.”

I sighed and shook my head at her.

“He is my friend, Ellie,” I said. “I owe him a lot.”

Ellie looked at me and rolled her eyes.

“You owe him nothing, Maddie,” she mumbled. “He wants you for himself and you can’t let him have you.”

I furrowed my brows and I felt sadness and worry wash over me.

Did she really think I would do something like that to Dimitri?  
Did she really think so little of me?

## CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO – Fight

Madeline's POV

I was already on the verge of tears and seeing Dimitri's angry face when we walked into our office didn't really help.

"Where you going to tell me about that fucker?" he asked angrily, crossing his arms over his chest.

I looked at Ellie and she just raised an eyebrow at me.

"I just walked in, Dimitri," I said, looking back at him. "When was I supposed to tell you?"

"What fucker?" Will asked, furrowing his brows.

The way Dimitri was looking at me was breaking my heart. He was angry. He was disappointed. He looked at me like I did something horrible.

"I told you to mind-link me if anything happened," he said, tightening his jaw. "You should have mind-linked me the second he approached you."

"Who approached her?" Will asked worriedly.

"Seth," Ellie said, sighing loudly. "He asked her to go to the diner with him."

Will mumbled a curse and looked at Dimitri.

“Who is Seth?” Ali asked quietly.

Everyone ignored her. Dimitri was getting more and more pissed by the second. I wanted him to look away because his eyes were burning my skin.

“Why didn’t you mind-link me, Madeline?” he asked angrily.

My chest tightened. It felt like a hand squeezed my lungs.

“Because he isn’t a threat,” I said quietly. “He’s a friend...”

“Who wants to fuck you,” Dimitri interrupted me, slamming his fist against the desk. “Please explain to me how he isn’t a threat, Madeline.”

I tried to take a deep breath, but I couldn’t. I was so tired. I just wanted to take a hot shower and go to sleep. I wanted Dimitri to go back to the way he was this morning. Why was he so angry at me? Did I really make such a big mistake? I told him no.

“Calm down, Dimitri,” Will sighed.

Dimitri looked at him and I thought he was going to punch him.

“Talk to me when there is a man who would want to fuck your mate,” Dimitri said, looking back at me.

Will clenched his fists and took a deep breath.

“Explain, Madeline,” Dimitri growled at me.

I could feel my heart cracking.

“Because I would never let him do anything,” I said quietly. “I don’t want him. I don’t love him.”

Did Dimitri really think that I would ever let Seth do anything? I talked to him about it. I told him that I loved my mate. Seth knew that nothing could ever happen between us.

My heart shattered and I could feel my stomach twisting. I was going to throw up.

Was Dimitri afraid I would do something? Did he think that I would cheat on him? Did he think that I would leave him? Didn’t he trust me?

“Oh, but you want to go to dinner with him?” Dimitri asked mockingly.

I glanced at Ellie and furrowed my brows. Didn’t she tell him that I told Seth I would ask Dimitri if we could go, not just me?

“No,” I said and it was getting harder and harder for me to hide the pain in my voice. “I told him I would ask you if you and I could go. I would never go alone with him.”

Dimitri narrowed his eyes and tightened his jaw.

“You don’t trust me, do you?” I asked, my voice trembling. “You think that I would cheat on you?”

I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes.

My own wolf refused to shift and she left me alone. My mate didn't trust me. He thought that I would cheat and leave him. He would probably leave me too. He would leave me just like my wolf left me. He would leave me just like my father left me.

Everyone abandoned me. My father, my mother, my pack, my wolf. I always ended up alone.

He was going to leave me too. He didn't trust me.

"No, Madeline," he said, but I didn't believe him. "I don't trust him."

My head was throbbing and my stomach was in a knot. I felt like I was going to throw up.

He didn't believe me. He didn't trust me. He would leave me just like everyone else did.

I should have left when I had the chance. I should have left when Janet told me to leave.

*'Madeline!'* Skye screamed at me, but I ignored her.

I pushed her back as far as I could. She left me. I didn't need her.

My heart was going a mile a minute. I felt like I was going to pass out. I needed to leave. I needed to get out of this office. I

needed to get away from them.

I was on the verge of crying and I didn't want to do it in front of them.

"You are not allowed to see him, Madeline," Dimitri said, but I could barely hear him. "You are not allowed to talk to him ever again."

My heart was going to jump out of my throat. I could only hear my blood rushing through my veins. My lungs kept getting tighter and tighter. I couldn't get enough air in.

He thought I would cheat. He didn't trust me. He didn't want me. He would leave me.

I felt Skye trying to push through, but I used every bit of strength I had left to keep her away.

I could see Dimitri's lips moving, but I couldn't hear what he was saying. I could hear my own heartbeat in my ears, though. I could hear how fast it was beating.

I had to get out of there. Immediately.

I forced my legs to move and I started running out of there. I couldn't breathe anymore.

"Madeline!" Dimitri screamed. "Where the fuck are you going?!"

I ignored him and just continued running.

“Give her some space,” I heard someone saying. “She will come back.”

“Some space?!” Dimitri screamed. “Some fucking space?!” I don’t...

I couldn’t hear the rest because I covered my ears. I didn’t want to hear the rest. I didn’t want to hear anything anymore.

I felt warm tears rolling down my cheeks and I broke down sobbing. Thankfully, I was just outside of my room so no one saw me. I got inside and closed the door.

My knees buckled and I fell to the floor. I couldn’t stop sobbing and gasping for air.

He didn’t trust me. He didn’t want me. He would leave me.

Would he go back to Savannah? Would he start a family with her? Would he raise her child? Would he love her?

*‘Madeline, no!’* I heard Skye screaming, but I ignored her.

She didn’t want me. She refused to shift. She left me alone. I didn’t want to hear her voice. I didn’t want to talk to her.

I didn’t want to talk to anyone.

I wanted my mom.

I really, really wanted my mom.

I wanted her to hold me. I wanted her to tell me that everything was going to be okay. I wanted to hear her voice. I wanted to see her.

I just wanted my mom.

Another sob broke through my lips and I pulled my knees to my chest.

“Mom,” I cried out.

She was the only one who didn’t leave me. She was taken from me. She was taken too soon and she was taken when I needed her the most.

**Maddie?** Will’s mind-link made me flinch. **Where are you?**

I ignored him. I didn’t want to talk to him. I wanted my mom.

Skye whined loudly.

**Maddie, just tell me where you are, please.** Will mind-linked me again.

I didn’t want to. He would come here and I didn’t want him here. He probably thought I would cheat on Dimitri too. He probably already advised him to leave me.

I felt the shattered pieces of my heart stab my insides. A pain I never felt before made me scream.

He was going to leave me.

I lost him. I lost my mate.

## CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE – Panic

Dimitri's POV

I was seething with rage.

Did Seth really think I would let him take her from me? Did he really fucking think that I would let him anywhere near her?

I was going to end his miserable life before he could blink.

I wanted to follow Madeline, but Will stopped me. He told me that he wanted me to calm down a little before I went to find her.

The only reason I stayed was because I could feel that she was close. She was probably in our room. If I felt her leave the packhouse, I would have torn it down with my own two hands.

I kept pacing around the office, clenching my fists and growling. The anger was pulsating in my blood and I couldn't fucking see the end of it.

"Did you really have to go off on her like that?" Will sighed, making me look at him.

I narrowed my eyes and clenched my fists.

"She didn't do anything wrong, Dimitri," Will said. "Kendrick pissed you off and you took it out on her. You need to apologize."

Will was right. Kendrick did piss me off. He came to my office earlier and demanded to continue our meeting regarding my mother's punishment. I did my fucking best to explain to him that I wouldn't be holding any meetings until the Alpha's Meeting was over. He kept insisting and I had to order him to leave my office.

He pissed me off so fucking much. I was ready to explode when he left my office. It was actually a bit strange. I never felt anger overwhelming me as much as it did then. If Will hadn't stopped me, I would probably go out and kill the fucker.

But Maddie did do something wrong. She should have mind-linked me the moment he approached her.

"She needs to apologize to me," I said angrily. "She fucked up."

I saw anger flash in Will's eyes.

"She didn't do anything wrong, Dimitri!" he exclaimed. "She talked to him and told him no. She did everything she was supposed to do."

I clenched my fists and narrowed my eyes at him.

"She should have mind-linked me immediately," I said. "I should have gone there and made sure that..."

"What?" Will interrupted me. "That he didn't ask her to breakfast? Oh, come on Dimitri. The kid is in love with her. Is that disrespectful toward you? Yes. Is he fooling himself into thinking that something would happen between them?"

Probably. But would he hurt her? I don't think so. You are blowing this way out of proportion and you hurt your mate."

"I don't think he is overreacting," Ellie said. "Seth really likes her. He could try something."

Just thinking about him touching her had me growling ferociously.

She was MINE!

*'Dimitri!'* Skol tried to talk to me again, but I pushed him away again.

He'd been trying to talk to me for a while, but I kept pushing him away. I was angry enough and I didn't need him to add to it. He was probably pissed about Seth.

"And?" Will asked, raising his brows. "Maddie would reject him because she loves Dimitri. Dimitri would punish Seth and we would just go back to normal."

Was he fucking serious?

"Besides, the kid will back off as soon as he finds his mate," Will added, sighing and shaking his head.

"Are you fucking kidding me right now?" I asked, narrowing my eyes at him. "If that fucker wanted Ali would you be talking like this? Would you want him to touch her or try something?"

Anger flashed in Will's eyes.

“Of course not,” he said, grabbing Ali’s hand. “But I would never do what you did, Dimitri. Didn’t you hear Maddie? She thinks that you don’t trust her.”

*‘Just listen to him!’* Skol screamed and I could hear panic in his voice. *‘Listen to him!’*

I furrowed my brows and focused on Skol.

*‘What the fuck are you talking about?’* I asked angrily.

*‘Maddie!’* Skol yelled. *‘She thinks that you don’t trust her! She thinks that you are going to leave her! She is having a panic attack and Skye can’t calm her down!’*

My heart stopped beating. I could feel the blood leave my face.

*‘She pushed Skye away,’* Skol continued, whining. *‘She was thinking about how everyone left her and she thinks that you will leave her too. She was wondering if you would go back to Savannah.’*

My stomach twisted.

“Dimitri?” Will called me worriedly.

*‘Why didn’t you tell me sooner?’* I asked Skol as I forced my legs to move. *‘You should have told me sooner!’*

*‘I tried to!’* Skol yelled. *‘You kept ignoring me!’*

I started running out of my office.

“Dimitri?” Will called me again.

“I fucked up,” I mumbled as I almost ripped my office door open.

My heart was racing a mile a minute as I ran toward our bedroom.

She thought that I would leave her?! She thought that I would go back to that fucking bitch?

Like I wouldn’t rip my own heart out if I lost her. Like I wouldn’t stop breathing the minute she wouldn’t be in my life.

I couldn’t get to our room fast enough. I had to hold her. I had to apologize. I had to tell her how fucking much I loved her.

I thought that my heart would jump out of my body when I finally reached our room.

“Maddie?!” I exclaimed as I barged inside.

My eyes fell on her and I wanted to rip my own fucking heart out. She was sitting on the floor with her head between her knees. She was rocking back and forth slowly and I could hear her sobbing.

I slammed the door shut and threw myself next to her.

“Maddie, princess, no,” I cried out as I pulled her onto my lap. “I will never leave you. Never, Maddie, never.”

She didn’t let me see her face. She buried it into my neck and continued sobbing. I wrapped my arms around her and placed a hand on her head, holding her close to me.

My heart was breaking. I fucked up so fucking bad.

“I am so fucking sorry, princess,” I continued as I started kissing every part of her I could reach. “I am so sorry. I will never leave you. I love you with my entire heart. You are my life, Maddie. You are my home. You are mine and I am yours.”

My voice was trembling and I felt tears fall down my cheeks. I could feel her pain and I wanted to scream. I was so focused on my anger before that and I couldn’t feel how hurt she was.

“Please forgive me, my love,” I mumbled, trying to stop my voice from trembling. “Please forgive me.”

I continued kissing her and I tightened my arms around her.

*‘She was crying out for her mom,’* Skol mumbled quietly and I could hear him whine.

Oh, my love. My princess. I wished so fucking much that I could take that pain away from her. I wished I could bring her mom back.

“I love you, Maddie,” I said softly. “You are my greatest treasure and I will never leave you. I promise, my love.”

Her sobbing quieted down a little. I placed a finger under her chin and I lifted her head a little. The broken look I saw on her face made me want to tear the fucking room down.

“I trust you, princess,” I told her softly. “I am so sorry. I let my anger get the better of me, but I was never angry at you. I love you, my beautiful little mate.”

She sniffled and buried her head into my neck again. She pressed herself closer to me and I closed my eyes.

“I love you, Maddie,” I repeated quietly. “I love you and I am so sorry.”

## CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR – Sick

Dimitri's POV

Waves of pain just kept washing over me. Guilt was tearing me from the inside. I fucked up and I didn't know how to make up for it. I didn't know how to assure her that I would never leave her.

"I love you, princess," I kept repeating it, hoping it would somehow fix what I broke. "I am so sorry."

Her sobbing eventually quieted down and I could feel her calming down a little. I kept kissing every part of her I could reach. I kept running my fingers through her hair. I kept rubbing her back softly. I kept mumbling how fucking much I loved her and that I would never leave her.

I lifted her head a little so I could look at her beautiful face. Her eyes were closed. She was pale and there were red circles around her eyes. Her cheeks were puffy and wet.

"Maddie?" I called her softly as I caressed her cheek, wiping the tears away.

She didn't respond. She was asleep. I sighed and pressed a soft kiss on her temple.

"Sleep, my love," I said quietly. "I won't let go. I won't leave."

She unconsciously pressed herself even closer to me and I couldn't help but smile a little.

“My love,” I said quietly as I kissed her lips softly. “You are mine. You are mine to love and to cherish. I will never leave you. I promise.”

It would kill me if I left her. It would destroy me. I would be an empty shell of a man if I lost her.

A knock on the door made me look up. The door opened and Will peeked inside. His brows furrowed when he saw Maddie.

“Is she okay?” he asked as he walked inside and closed the door.

“She is sleeping,” I said quietly.

Will sighed and approached us.

“I fucked up,” I mumbled, looking down at her. “I fucked up big time.”

Will stood in front of us and took a deep breath.

“You will apologize and everything will be okay,” he said. “She loves you, Dimitri. She loves you so much. She will understand.”

I gulped and buried my nose into her hair.

“She thought that I would leave her,” I muttered. “She thought that I would go back to Savannah.”

Will sighed again and I looked back up at him. He had a worried look on his face.

“You were really angry, Dimitri,” Will said. “I never saw you like that. She definitely never saw you like that. What the hell happened?”

Will furrowed his brows and shook his head.

“I know Kendrick pissed you off, but the anger was just rolling off you in waves,” Will added. “It was strange seeing you like that.”

I took a deep breath and placed a hand on Maddie’s head. I pressed her closer, assuring myself that she was safe and in my arms.

“I don’t know,” I said, shaking my head. “Maybe it was because I hadn’t seen Maddie in a few hours. I am really not sure.”

Will looked at her and gulped.

“Are you really that dependent on her?” he asked. “I mean, I get it now. I feel amazing when I am with Ali. I feel my best when I am with her, but I don’t think that being without her would cause me to react like that. I would miss her. I would want her back as soon as possible. I would be on edge, sure, but I wouldn’t react like that.”

I tightened my jaw and shook my head.

“I don’t know what to tell you, Will,” I said. “I can’t explain it. I can’t...”

I stopped talking and took another deep breath.

“It felt like I had that anger stored somewhere and it all just exploded out of me,” I mumbled, trying to explain the best I could. “I just couldn’t stop it.”

Will looked back up at me and furrowed his brows.

“That sounds weird,” he said. “It shouldn’t be like that, Dimitri. Maybe you should talk to someone about it. You’ve been through a lot lately.”

I placed another kiss on the top of Maddie’s head.

“You can’t hurt her like that every time you lose control,” Will added. “She doesn’t deserve it, Dimitri.”

I tightened my hold on her.

She deserved nothing but love and care. She deserved the best. She deserved to be cherished and loved unconditionally.

“She did everything right,” Will continued softly. “She handled it like she was supposed to. She wasn’t in any danger. Ellie and Mike were there. She told him no. When he asked about dinner she said that she was going to ask you if you could both go. She did amazing, Dimitri.”

I knew that. I knew that she did amazing. I knew that she wouldn’t do anything to hurt me. I trusted her, of course I did.

But I didn't trust him. And I couldn't control my fucking anger.

I ran my fingers through her hair and tried to ignore a wave of guilt that washed over me again.

"She did amazing," I repeated. "I fucked up."

Will nodded. "You have to make sure that you don't do it again, Dimitri. Talk to someone about it."

I sighed. "Talk to who?"

"I don't know," Will said, shrugging. "Oliver or Mike maybe."

I sighed again. I didn't trust Oliver yet, and Mike never really had a true mate. He never marked his fated mate and my mother was his chosen mate. Their bond was never really as strong as mine and Maddie's was.

Maddie whimpered quietly and I froze.

"Maddie, princess?" I called her quietly.

"Is she okay?" Will asked, his voice laced with worry.

I lifted her head gently and saw that she was still asleep. Her brows were furrowed and there were little beads of sweat on her forehead.

My heart started racing. Was she having a nightmare? Was she dreaming about me leaving her?

“Maddie?” I called her, my voice trembling. “Wake up, princess. I am here.”

I leaned in to place a kiss on her forehead and my heart stopped beating.

She was burning up.

“Fuck,” I cried out as I placed a hand on her forehead.

Fuck, fuck, fuck!

“What’s wrong?” Will asked as he crouched next to us.

“She is burning up,” I mumbled. “Go get the doctor.”

Will jumped up and ran out of the room.

“Maddie?” I called her a bit louder. “Wake up, princess, please.”

She groaned quietly and opened her beautiful eyes. I cupped her cheeks and kissed the tip of her nose.

“Hi, my love,” I said, trying to stop myself from shaking. “What’s wrong, princess? What hurts?”

She looked around and furrowed her brows a little.

“My head,” she mumbled so quietly I barely heard her.

Fear washed over me and I could feel every muscle in my body clenching. She was sick? What the hell was wrong? I was going to fucking lose it.

“It’s okay, my love,” I said, trying to remain as calm as possible. “I am here. I will make it all better.”

“Dimitri,” she mumbled my name quietly.

“Yes, princess,” I said as I kissed her cheek. “I am here.”

“I love you,” she said. “I am sorry for what I did.”

My heart clenched painfully.

“No, no, no, Maddie,” I said, shaking my head furiously. “You’ve done nothing wrong. Nothing, do you hear me? I fucked up. I let my anger get the better of me, but I wasn’t angry at you.”

She gulped and closed her eyes again.

“I love you, my princess,” I added, my voice breaking slightly. “Rest, okay? The doctor will be here soon.”

I placed her head back on my chest and took a deep breath.

What was wrong with my love? I needed to know and I needed to fix it. I hated that she was in pain. I had to stop it. I fucking had to.



## CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE – What To Do?

Madeline's POV

“Maddie, my love, wake up,” I heard Dimitri's voice.

He sounded worried and I tensed up immediately. Why was he worried?

“Maddie,” he called me again and I felt his lips on my forehead. “Please, princess.”

I gulped and forced my eyes to open. I saw Dimitri's handsome face and I smiled. I missed him. I felt like I hadn't seen him in a while.

“Hi, princess,” he said softly and caressed my cheek. “How are you feeling?”

I sighed and furrowed my brows a little.

“Tired,” I mumbled. “How long was I asleep?”

Dimitri glanced behind him. I tried to see who it was, but he was practically lying on top of me and I couldn't see anything.

“A few hours,” he said. “Does your head hurt?”

“A bit,” I sighed. “Is everything okay?”

Dimitri placed a hand on my forehead and frowned.

“Let me talk to her, my King,” I heard Oliver’s voice and I tried to look at him over Dimitri’s shoulder.

Why was he here?

Dimitri sighed and moved a little. He sat next to me and pulled me up so my back was pressed against his chest. He kissed my temple and wrapped his arms around me.

“Hi, Maddie,” Oliver said softly. “How are you feeling?”

I furrowed my brows a little. I looked around the room and saw that Will, Ali, and Ellie were also there. What the hell happened?

I tried to remember what I was doing before I fell asleep and...

I froze.

“Maddie?” Dimitri called me worriedly.

I looked at him and my eyes widened.

“I am sorry,” I mumbled, shaking my head. “I am so sorry. I didn’t mean to make you angry. I didn’t mean to...”

Dimitri interrupted me by pressing a soft kiss on my lips.

“I know, princess,” he mumbled. “You don’t have to apologize, okay? You didn’t do anything wrong, I did.”

Dimitri studied my face for a second.

“I talked to you about it,” he added, his voice laced with worry. “It was right before you fell asleep. You don’t remember?”

I bit my lower lip and tried my hardest to remember.

“You were sitting on the floor when I came into the room,” Dimitri said softly. “I pulled you onto my lap and I told you how sorry I was.”

Oh, I remembered that.

“I fell asleep after that,” I added and Dimitri gave me a small nod.

“Do you remember the pack doctor coming here after that?” Oliver asked, making me look back at him.

I was confused. Why was the pack doctor here?

“She was asleep,” Dimitri said. “I didn’t let him wake her up.”

“Why was he here?” I asked, looking back at Dimitri.

“You have a fever, princess,” he mumbled softly. “You said that your head hurt.”

My eyes widened and I placed a hand on my forehead. I was really warm.

“The doctor didn’t find anything wrong, Maddie,” Oliver said.  
“It is probably caused by your powers.”

“My powers?”

“How?”

“How could her powers cause this?”

Oliver sighed and looked at Dimitri.

“She is still learning to use them,” he said calmly. “Dealing with that kind of power can be overwhelming.”

Oliver looked back at me.

“I need you to be honest with me, Maddie,” he said with seriousness in his voice. “Did you experiment with your powers? Did you use them without telling anyone?”

I shook my head immediately.

“No,” I said. “I don’t want to hear what others are thinking. I’ve been trying to find a way to stop myself from hearing those things. Why would I want to experiment?”

“Your powers go beyond reading minds, Maddie,” Oliver said.  
“You can feel other people’s emotions. You can manipulate them.”

I tensed up and gulped.

“Have you been doing that, Maddie?” Oliver asked, narrowing his eyes slightly.

I remained silent. I wasn’t sure what to say.

“Madeline?” Dimitri called me softly.

I gulped but kept my eyes on Oliver.

“I am not sure,” I said quietly. “If I did, I wasn’t aware of it. I didn’t know it was related to my powers.”

Dimitri tightened his hold on me.

“What did you do, princess?” Dimitri asked softly.

I looked at him and took a deep breath.

“I took your anger away,” I said and his eyes widened.

I looked back at Oliver and furrowed my brows.

“But I thought that mates can do that,” I said, shaking my head. “I didn’t use my powers to do it.”

Oliver sighed and shook his head.

“Mates make it easier on each other, Maddie,” he said. “They can’t take something away. You used your powers to do it.”

Dimitri kissed my temple and took a deep breath.

“You didn’t have to do that, princess,” he said quietly. “I could have handled it.”

I leaned more into him and kept my eyes on Oliver.

“So that’s why I’m sick?” I asked. “I just probably need some rest then.”

Oliver nodded. “You do need to rest, Maddie, but I am still a bit worried.”

“Why?” Dimitri asked, tightening his hold on me. “She will be okay. She has to be okay.”

Oliver took a deep breath and nodded. “She will be just fine. She needs to spend a day in bed and she needs sleep.”

“Why are you worried then?” Will asked, making Oliver look at him.

“Because it is obvious that Maddie is having trouble controlling her powers,” he said. “She needs practice and we can’t do that with everyone here. We are risking exposure. No one can know who she is.”

Dimitri growled quietly and pressed me closer to him.

“No one can know,” Dimitri repeated. “No one will know. No one will touch her. I will kill them.”

He started shaking a little and I instinctively focused on his anger and fear. I was just about to take them away when he stopped me.

“Maddie, no,” he growled. “Don’t take it.”

I looked at him and he caressed my cheek.

“I am sorry,” I mumbled. “It’s instinct. I didn’t do it on purpose.”

Dimitri kissed the tip of my nose and nodded.

“I know, princess,” he said softly.

“This is what I am talking about,” Oliver sighed, drawing our attention back to him. “You react on instinct and it can be dangerous.”

“Do you have any suggestions?” Ellie asked. “What can she do until the Alphas’ Meeting is over and she can start practicing?”

Oliver looked at me and I saw worry on his face. I knew that I wasn’t going to like what he was going to say next.

“There is a plant that could block her powers,” he said. “But there could also be some other side effects if she takes it.”

“What side effects?” Dimitri asked angrily. “She isn’t taking anything dangerous.”

Oliver looked at him and shook his head.

“I would never put her in danger, my King,” he said.

“What are the side effects?” I asked and Oliver looked back at me.

“You wouldn’t be able to use mind-link,” he said. “And you probably wouldn’t be able to talk to your wolf.”

A wave of nervousness washed over me. Skye stirred and whined quietly.

“Fuck no,” Dimitri said. “What if I am not with her? I want to be able to mind-link her.”

Oliver looked at him and nodded.

“Understandable,” he said. “Which is why I will ask you to talk about it. Don’t decide right now.”

“Are you sure that she will have those side effects?” Will asked.

“No,” Oliver responded, shaking his head. “She could have them. It’s not certain.”

Oliver stood up and gave me a small smile.

“Think about it, Maddie,” he said. “Let me know what you decide. I will be ready if you choose to take the plant.”

Oliver bowed to Dimitri and walked out of the room.

I took a deep breath and leaned my head on Dimitri's shoulder. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. Was it really so dangerous for me to practice and learn more about my powers? Would someone really see me if I stayed in my room? How would anyone know what I was doing here?

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes. My head started throbbing again. I couldn't think about it. I couldn't make a decision.

## CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX – A Tough Decision

Dimitri's POV

She wasn't going to take that plant. If something happened and she wasn't able to mind-link me I would fucking lose my shit.

But on the other hand, her powers made her sick. She was hurt because she was trying to help me. How could I let her be in pain when there was a solution to it all?

"I have that lunch with the Lunas today," Maddie said as she tried to get up.

I growled and pulled her back to my chest. She was crazy if she thought I would let her get out of this bed.

"It's way past lunchtime, Mads," Will said. "It is almost 6 p.m."

"Shit," Maddie mumbled. "You should have woken me up."

"Like I would have let you go," I said, growling again. "You heard what Oliver said. You need to rest."

"Don't worry about it, Mads," Ellie said. "I talked to the Lunas and I arranged for breakfast tomorrow. I told them you weren't feeling well and they completely understood."

Oh, she wouldn't be going to that either. She was going to spend the day in bed. She was going to rest and I wouldn't let

her do anything or go anywhere until I was completely sure that she was okay.

“She isn’t going,” I said, making both Maddie and Ellie look at me. “She is going to rest.”

“I have to go, Dimitri,” Maddie said. “I made them a promise.”

I growled and wanted to argue, but Ellie interrupted me.

“We will see how she feels in the morning, okay?” she said, giving me a knowing look. “I know you want to make sure that she is okay, but she has obligations, Dimitri. She will go if she is feeling well.”

I raised my brows at Ellie. She really had some nerve telling me what would happen. I could feel anger boiling inside me.

“Don’t start, Dimitri,” Will sighed. “Ellie is right and you know it.”

Maddie turned her head and placed a soft kiss on my chest. I relaxed immediately.

But then I figured out what she did and I growled.

“Maddie!” I exclaimed as I cupped her cheeks and made her look at me. “You have to stop doing that!”

She sighed and closed her eyes.

“I am so sorry,” she mumbled as she opened her eyes again. “I am just used to it.”

I shook my head and placed a soft kiss on her lips.

“My princess,” I said softly. “You need to stop. You are hurting yourself.”

Maddie nodded and buried her face into my neck. She took a deep, slow breath and I could feel her relaxing. I placed my hand on the back of her head and held her close to me.

“Maybe Oliver’s idea isn’t a bad one,” Will mumbled and I looked at him. “She is obviously having trouble controlling it.”

I growled and narrowed my eyes at him.

“I need to be able to mind-link her, Will,” I said. “I need Skye to be able to talk to her.”

What if I wasn’t with her and something happened? What if Skye wouldn’t be able to let Skol know what was going on with her? My princess had a bad habit of not telling me everything I needed to know. She had a bad habit of thinking that she was protecting me by hiding things from me. That was another thing I needed to talk to her about. She had to stop doing it. She had to be completely honest with me. But until she learned how to do that, Skye was my way of making sure that my princess was okay.

But Will was right. She was having trouble and it was only hurting her.

“She is never alone, Dimitri,” Will said. “One of us is always with her. You would always be able to reach her and you would always know where she is.”

I tightened my hold on her. I wasn’t sure. I still wasn’t fucking sure.

“Oliver said that the side effects were only a possibility,” Ellie said. “Maybe she won’t have them. She could try to take it and see. The effect of the plant should wear off after a while.”

“She will probably have the side effects,” Ali said quietly, making Will, Ellie, and me look at her.

Maddie lifted her head and looked at her as well.

Ali looked at me and I could tell that she was very nervous. I tried to soften my gaze. I knew I didn’t make the best first impression on her and I didn’t want her to think that I didn’t like her. She was important to both Maddie and Will and that made her important to me too.

“How do you know that, baby?” Will asked as he ran his fingers through her hair.

She looked at him and took a deep breath.

“Because I believe that I know what plant Oliver was talking about,” she said. “It’s wolfsbane and it would surely block her mind-link and her connection with her wolf.”

My eyes widened and a feral growl escaped me.

“Wolfsbane?!” I screamed. “He wants to give her fucking wolfsbane?!”

I wanted to get up and go find the fucker, but Maddie stopped me.

“Not in the amount that would harm me in any way, Dimitri,” Maddie said calmly. “He is going to use small amounts and mix it with other plants.”

I furrowed my brows and shook my head.

“How do you know that, Maddie?” I asked.

“Because he used it to help my mom,” she said calmly. “Healers use wolfsbane in a lot of their potions. It is not dangerous in small amounts.”

“She is right,” Ali added and I looked back at her. “Oliver will probably make a tea with a mixture of different herbs, one of which will be wolfsbane.”

I clenched my fists and gulped.

“But you are sure she will have those side effects?” I asked and Ali gave me a small nod.

“I am sure that Oliver didn’t say anything because he didn’t want to scare you,” she said. “But even a small amount of wolfsbane would cause her to lose the ability to mind-link and talk to her wolf.”

I tightened my jaw and forced myself to remain calm. I couldn't let the fear and the anger overwhelm me. I couldn't give Maddie a reason to use her powers. I was sure that she would do it if she felt me get angry or afraid.

"Are you sure that he would use wolfsbane?" Ellie asked.  
"Maybe he was talking about another plant."

Ali furrowed her brows and bit her lower lip.

"Maybe," she said. "But I doubt it."

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

"You don't have to decide right now, Dimitri," Will said.  
"Maddie needs rest anyway. Sleep on it and we can talk about it again tomorrow. It's a tough decision."

Will was right. We didn't have to make that decision now.

"You are right," I said, giving him a small nod. "We will talk about it tomorrow. Do you need me to go back to the office with you?"

Will shook his head and relief washed over me. I didn't want to leave Maddie.

"Everything is ready for tomorrow," Will said. "I will just go over some details one more time before going to bed."

"Mind-link me if you need anything," I said and he gave me a small nod.

He looked at Maddie and smiled.

“Get some rest, okay Mads?” he said softly. “I will see you tomorrow.”

“Goodnight, Will,” she said, smiling back at him.

Ali and Ellie approached the bed and hugged Maddie.

“I will see you tomorrow, Maddie,” Ellie said, smiling a little. “Get some sleep.”

Maddie nodded and smiled at them. I watched them walk away.

My lips were on Maddie’s even before Will closed the door.

“How about I prepare you a warm bath?” I asked as I lowered my lips to her neck.

“Only if you will be in that bath too,” she said and I chuckled.

“Oh, that is surely going to happen,” I said as I stopped kissing her neck. “I can’t wait to feel your naked body pressed against mine, princess.”

Maddie smiled and I kissed her lips again. I was going to show her how much I loved her. I was going to show her that I wouldn’t leave her. I was going to show her that she was my entire world and that I wouldn’t be able to live and breathe without her in my arms.



## CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN – Tell Me

Madeline's POV

A small smile spread across my lips as soon as I woke up. I felt Dimitri's lips on my neck and my entire body tingled. My back was pressed to his chest and we were both completely naked. I shivered in delight and reached behind me, wrapping my arm around his waist and pulling him closer to me.

"Like I could ever give this up," he mumbled against my neck. "You are insane if you think I would ever be able to live without this."

He ran his nose across my jaw and took a deep breath.

"Like I could live without your scent," he said softly.

He started sucking my mark and I cried out in pleasure.

"Like I could live without the taste of your skin," he added and started kissing my neck again.

My whole body felt like it was on fire. I pressed myself closer to him and moaned when I felt how hard he was.

"Like I could fucking breathe without waking up next to you," he whispered in my ear and I turned my head so I could look at him.

The love and desire I saw in his eyes made me feel like a complete fool for ever thinking that this man would leave me.

He loved me just as much as I loved him. He wanted me just as much as I wanted him.

I felt his hand caress my body gently. He never looked away from me.

“Like I could live without feeling your skin under my fingertips,” he said quietly and I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes.

He stopped when he reached my thigh. He lifted my leg a little and I felt the tip of his hard dick at my entrance. I gasped quietly as he started pushing into me slowly.

“Like I could live without making love to you,” he added softly and leaned in to kiss me.

I thought that I would burst into flames. Everything was Dimitri. The air around me was him. Every feeling inside me was him. Every sensation on my body was him. Everything I ever was and everything I would ever be was completely consumed by him.

“You are mine,” he mumbled against my lips as he started pushing into me gently.

I moaned and started moving my hips in circles.

“Tell me that you are mine,” he said quietly.

“I am yours,” I said immediately. “I am only yours.”

His movements quickened a bit and I felt that familiar tingle of my orgasm in my lower belly. A shaky breath escaped me as I arched my back and pressed my butt into him.

“Tell me that you will never leave me,” he said, his voice demanding.

“I will never leave you,” I said, panting hard.

His movements quickened again. He grabbed one of my breasts and flicked my nipple.

“Tell me that you will never even think about me leaving you,” he said, growling quietly.

I wanted to say it, but I couldn’t. I couldn’t do anything except moan in pleasure.

“Say it, Madeline,” he growled as he started rubbing my clit.

“Oh,” I cried out, arching my back again.

He started sucking his mark on my neck and my eyes rolled to the back of my head.

“Say it or I will stop,” he threatened and I whimpered.

He pinched my clit gently and I thought that I would explode. If he stopped now...

“I won’t think about it!” I practically screamed. “Oh, please!”

“Good girl,” he growled and licked my mark.

He started fucking me faster and he continued rubbing my clit. I was going to cum. My entire body tensed up as my orgasm started.

“Cum with me,” he ordered. “Now, Madeline.”

A loud moan escaped my lips as I was finally thrown over the edge. I could feel Dimitri’s warm sperm coating my insides. My muscles clenched and my entire body started shivering. Dimitri pressed me closer to him and the sounds that were coming off him only prolonged my orgasm. He was groaning, grunting, and mumbling about how much he loved me. His arms around me tightened and I could feel his dick pulsating inside me.

I pressed myself more into him, forcing his dick deeper inside me. We both moaned.

“Fuck, princess,” he mumbled as he wrapped his arm around my waist.

I smiled a little and leaned back into him. He pushed his dick inside me gently a couple of more times before he pulled out and sighed in pleasure. I smiled and took a deep breath. Sex with him was always amazing. It always made my toes curl and my entire body shiver.

“I love you,” he said softly. “I am sorry I was such a dick yesterday.”

He placed a soft kiss on my shoulder and I turned around to look at him.

“I am sorry for not mind-linking you when he approached me,” I said. “I didn’t think he was a threat.”

Dimitri shook his head and took a deep breath.

“He wasn’t a threat, princess,” he said softly. “You were safe. I overreacted because I was already so fucking angry at Kendrick.”

I furrowed my brows. “Kendrick?”

Dimitri placed another kiss on my shoulder and sighed.

“He came while you were practicing with Ellie,” he said, his voice laced with anger. “He insisted on talking with me about Janet.”

I sighed and turned around so I could face him. He pulled me closer and I wrapped myself around him. He chuckled as he placed a kiss on my forehead.

“Does he want you to let her go?” I asked and he shook his head immediately.

“I told you that will never happen,” he said as he stroked my hair. “He wants to continue our conversation about her punishment.”

Dimitri scoffed and rolled his eyes.

“Like I would ever change my mind about that,” he added, his voice laced with annoyance.

I sighed and ran my fingers up and down his chest.

“I am sorry I wasn’t there,” I said and he shook his head immediately.

“I am not,” he said. “You would try to contain my anger again and you would end up hurting yourself.”

I sighed and he raised an eyebrow at me.

“Or am I wrong?” he asked and I shrugged.

“Probably not,” I mumbled and he pulled me into a hug.

“My silly princess,” he said softly as he placed a kiss on my temple.

I chuckled and tightened my arms around him.

“How is your head today?” he asked.

“Much better,” I said. “I think that morning sex helped.”

“Noted,” Dimitri said, laughing a little. “We should have sex every morning and see if it helps with anything else.”

I snorted and placed a kiss on his neck.

“Deal,” I said, looking at his handsome face.

**Maddie?** Ellie mind-linked me. **Are you feeling better? Will you be able to go to breakfast?**

**Yes.** I responded as I hugged Dimitri again. **I will be ready in an hour.**

**Okay.** She said. **I will come and get you.**

I cut our mind-link and focused on my mate.

“How about we shower together?” I asked him.

Dimitri ran his hand down my body and spanked my butt.

“Only if you let me fuck you in there again,” he said and I almost moaned.

“Yes, please,” I said softly and Dimitri growled.

I had to hold back my laugh when he jumped off the bed and picked me up. He threw me over his shoulder and spanked my butt again.

“Hey,” I complained and it only made him spank me harder.

I moaned and he placed a finger inside me.

“Are you ready for me?” he asked as he used his thumb to put a little pressure on my clit.

“Yes,” I cried out. “Fuck me, please.”

I didn't have to ask him twice. Before I even realized what was happening, he put me down, pressed me against the shower wall, and pushed his dick inside me. I grabbed his shoulders and dug my nails into his skin.

I wished we could stay like that forever.

## CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT – Breakfast

Madeline's POV

"I have to admit that I am a little bit surprised to see you here," Ellie said as I walked into the kitchen.

I furrowed my brows. "Why?"

"Luna," the cook said, bowing his head at me.

"Good morning, Daniel," I said, giving him a small smile.

"I thought that Dimitri wouldn't let you go," Ellie said, making me look back at her.

"Oh, he is still complaining upstairs," I said, shaking my head and chuckling a little. "But I managed to convince him that I had to do this."

"How is your head?" Ali asked as she approached me and pulled me into a hug.

"A bit better," I said, hugging her back. "I don't know what happened yesterday."

"You got upset, Maddie," Ellie sighed. "It was a little bit too much for you to handle."

I sighed and Ali let me go.

“Is everything ready, Daniel?” I asked, looking back at him.

He was cutting strawberries and decorating the plates. He looked up at me and nodded.

“Yes, Luna,” he said, smiling at me. “The girls are setting everything up as we speak.”

I gave him a small nod and smiled. “Thank you so much, Daniel.”

“There is no need to thank me, Luna,” he said, bowing his head again. “It’s my pleasure to cook for you and your guests.”

He smiled and went back to decorating the plates. I looked at Ellie.

“Are all four Lunas coming?” I asked as I approached the table and sat down.

Ellie nodded. “Do you know all of their names? Should we go through the list again?”

I raised an eyebrow at her. “Do you think that my memory is that bad? Of course, I know their names. I know everything about them.”

Luna Maria was my former Alpha’s mate. I was happy she came because I always admired her and I missed her insights and her presence in my life. She and my mom were best friends and Luna Maria was a constant presence in my life ever since I was a baby. I was hoping I would get to spend some alone time with her while she was here.

Luna Laura was Alpha Xavier's mate. She was very quiet, but she seemed very kind. I was looking forward to getting to know her better.

Luna Alice was Alpha Lincoln's mate and she was the loudest and the most talkative of all the Lunas. She always had a smile on her face and I admired her confidence. I believed that I had a lot to learn from her.

Luna Jennifer was Alpha Lucius' mate and she was the only one that made me feel a bit uncomfortable. She was very quiet, but she never looked away from me when we were in the same room together. I was curious about her, but I always held back from reading her mind. It just felt like a huge invasion of her privacy and I didn't want to do that. But maybe I could have a little peek during breakfast. Maybe she knew something about who was threatening Dimitri.

"I don't think that your memory is bad, but you had a few rough days," Ellie said, sighing quietly. "I just wanted to make sure you know everything you need to know before we go in there."

I smiled and nodded.

"I know everything, Ellie," I said. "Don't worry."

She glanced at Daniel before looking back at me.

**Don't read their minds.** She mind-linked me. **Dimitri forbade it. He doesn't want you hurting yourself.**

**But maybe I could find something...** I said, but she interrupted me.

**It's not worth it, Maddie.** She said, shaking her head a little. **Dimitri will find another way. Something will come up. It has to.**

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

**Promise me that you will keep that wall up.** She said.

I bit the inside of my cheek. I had to at least try to find something useful. I had to help my mate.

*'Madeline...,'* Skye spoke, but I pushed her back immediately.

**I promise.** I mind-linked Ellie.

She gave me a small nod and looked at Ali.

"Stay by her side at all times," Ellie said sternly. "Dimitri will kill us if something happens to her."

I sighed and shook my head.

"That's a bit dramatic, don't you think?" I asked. "You are scaring Ali."

Ellie raised her brows at me. "Am I lying? Dimitri would lose his shit if I bring you back to him and a hair is missing from your head. I don't even want to think about what he would do if you got hurt."

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from smiling. Ellie really knew how to overreact sometimes.

“Come on,” Ali said, chuckling. “I think that the Lunas have arrived.”

I stood up and started walking toward the dining room. Ellie was on my left and Ali was on my right. I smiled even before I opened the door.

“Luna!”

“Queen!”

They exclaimed as they bowed their heads at me.

“Good morning,” I said as I sat down at the head of the table. “I would like to apologize for my absence yesterday. I wasn’t feeling well.”

Ellie sat on my left and Ali sat on my right. I noticed Ellie watching the Lunas carefully.

“Don’t worry about it, my Queen,” Luna Alice said, smiling brightly. “I hope you are feeling better today.”

I smiled back and nodded.

“I am much better, thank you Luna,” I said politely and looked at Maria.

She reached out and took my hand in hers.

“I am so incredibly happy for you, Maddie,” she said softly.  
“You are an amazing Luna and I am so proud of you.”

I smiled brightly.

“Thank you, Maria,” I said. “That means so much coming from you.”

She squeezed my hand tightly before letting it go.

I looked at Luna Laura and Luna Jennifer.

“I am so happy to have you here,” I said, smiling at them. “I hope you are enjoying your stay.”

Luna Laura smiled at me. “Very much so, my Queen.  
Everyone is excited about the first tournament tonight.”

“I don’t know whose idea it was to arrange a tournament and make it a tradition alongside Alpha’s Meeting, but it was the best idea ever,” Luna Alice said as she poured coffee into her mug. “Can you imagine not having some entertainment while we were here?”

I chuckled and nodded. “I agree. I am very excited for the tournament to start.”

Luna Alice smiled at me and took a small sip of her coffee.

I looked at Luna Jennifer and I focused on her thoughts.

***What is it about her? Why does Lucius want her so badly?  
Am I not as pretty as she is? Am I not enough for him?***

My breath got caught in my throat and I had to do everything in my power to remain calm. I lifted the wall around my brain again. I imagined it as tall and thick. I didn't want to hear anything else. I couldn't.

Was it Lucius? He wanted me? Why? What did he want to do with me?

I gulped and forced a small smile on my face.

"It's very nice to have you here, Luna," I said, trying to keep the confusion out of my voice.

She remained quiet, but she bowed her head at me.

"Kade wanted me to say hi," Luna Maria said, drawing my attention back to her. "He was supposed to come with Jack and me, but he got held back at the pack. He will be taking over the pack very soon."

Kade was Jack and Maria's son. He was a couple of years older than me and I never really spent any time with him.

"That is so nice to hear," I said, smiling a little. "I wish him all the best."

Luna Maria smiled brightly and I looked back at Jennifer. I took a deep breath and focused on her thoughts again.

I couldn't let her thoughts scare me. I was a Luna and a Queen. I had to know if her mate was a threat to Dimitri and his throne.

## CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE – Money Or Power

Dimitri's POV

"I am telling you, Dimitri," Will said. "It has to be Lincoln. He has nothing to lose."

I fixed my tie and glanced at him.

"His pack is falling apart," Will said, looking at the file in his hand. "He is financially ruined. It makes sense that he would want to go after your throne, Dimitri. He is the one who would gain the most out of it."

I sighed and shook my head.

"It's not Lincoln," I said, shaking my head. "It's someone else."

My money was on that fucker Lucius. I didn't give a fuck what Alistair had said about him. I didn't trust him.

"You don't want it to be Lincoln because he was your father's friend," Will sighed, placing the file on my desk.

"That's not the only reason, Will," I said as I started fixing the cufflinks on my sleeves. "Lincoln is harmless. He doesn't have the resources to do something like this."

Will sighed and shook his head at me.

“Who is it then?” he asked. “We went through everything we have about these Alphas and their packs. Nothing stands out. Lincoln is the only one with a motive.”

“A financial one, yes,” I said. “That doesn’t make him the traitor, Will.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Besides, I don’t really think that the motive behind this is money,” I said. “I believe it is about something else.”

“Power?” Will asked and I nodded.

“And Madeline,” I said quietly, feeling the anger burning a hole in my stomach.

Will’s eyes widened.

“You really think that this is about her?” he asked quietly. “Why? She could only be a means to an end, though. They could only try to hurt her to get you to give up your throne.”

I gulped and gave him a small nod.

“Yes,” I said, trying to stop my voice from trembling. “But I am scared that it’s not only about that. I think that they know who she is.”

Will’s eyes widened even more.

“No!” he exclaimed, shaking his head. “They don’t know, Dimitri! No one knows!”

I took a deep, slow breath through my nose. I needed to remain calm, but all I really wanted to do was scream and kill every single one of them.

“I am not so sure,” I said, breathing out slowly. “Why do you think I don’t want her using her powers? Why do you think I don’t want her to practice? Why do you think I am even considering letting Oliver give her that fucking concoction that would just stop her powers?”

I tightened my jaw and shook my head.

“I am terrified that they already know,” I said quietly. “And I don’t want to give them proof.”

I gritted my teeth and took a deep breath.

“I know it would be easier to just let Maddie read their minds and tell me which one of those fuckers is after my throne,” I said angrily. “But I would be putting her in so much danger if I did that. I would give them proof. I would show them who she is and what she can do. Every single one of them would be after her if I did that. Every single one of those fuckers would want my mate if I did that.”

Will nodded. “I know, Dimitri. I agree with you. We can’t use her for that. She isn’t even aware of everything that she can do. Even if we tried, it could go horribly wrong.”

I nodded and Will furrowed his brows.

“But you didn’t answer my question,” he said. “Why do you think that they know?”

I took another deep breath and ran my fingers through my hair.

“I am not sure,” I said, tightening my jaw. “Maybe it’s my fear talking, but I have this terrible feeling that...”

I stopped talking and closed my eyes.

“Nothing will happen to her, Dimitri,” Will said, placing a hand on my shoulder. “She is safe. We won’t let them hurt her.”

I opened my eyes and nodded.

“They...,” Will spoke, but he was interrupted when the door opened.

My beautiful princess walked inside and my heart skipped a beat. She was wearing a beautiful dark green dress that enhanced the color of her eyes perfectly. Her hair was pulled up into a ponytail and I could see my mark on her neck. It made me shiver. It was a clear sign that this perfect woman was mine.

“Princess,” I mumbled as I reached out for her.

“Are you ready?” she asked as she approached me.

She looked me up and down and smiled a little. I pulled her to me and breathed in her scent. It calmed me down immediately.

“You are really handsome,” she said softly as she ran her hand down my back. “I like this suit.”

I smiled and placed a kiss on her forehead. I missed her terribly. She spent the morning at breakfast with the Lunas. I was in meetings all day. I just wanted to be alone with her and keep her body close to mine.

“How did the meeting go?” she asked, looking from me to Will. “Did you find something new? Did the rogues attack again?”

“Thankfully no,” Will said. “The meetings went well. We managed to come up with a new plan for border security. The Alphas agreed to most of it.”

Maddie nodded and looked at me.

“What about the traitor?” she asked. “Any new information?”

I tightened my jaw and shook my head. “No, princess. We couldn’t bring it up at the meeting. If Alistair is right and it is one of the Alphas, I don’t want him to know that we know.”

“The alphas suggested the possibility of rogues having their own leader,” Will said, shaking his head. “Some sort of an Alpha of the rogues.”

Maddie furrowed her brows and looked at Will.

“Do you think it’s possible?” she asked.

Will shrugged. "It could be, but it's not likely. We would know if a rogue became that powerful. We would know if he managed to gather a large number of followers. Something like that couldn't be kept a secret for long."

Maddie nodded and took a deep breath.

"At least we can make an educated guess about who their inside man is," Will added, rolling his eyes.

"Kendrick," Maddie mumbled.

"Do we have eyes and ears on him?" I asked, tightening my hold on Maddie.

Will nodded and smirked a little.

"Since the day Maddie read his mind," he said. "I can tell you how many times he went to the bathroom last night."

I shook my head and rolled my eyes. Maddie chuckled a little.

"That doesn't seem like relevant information," I said.

"Just letting you know it's information we do have," Will said, grinning at me.

"What about other information?" Maddie asked, smiling a little. "Anything relevant?"

Will shook his head. "No. He stays in his office most days. He did try to visit Janet a couple of times, but he was never let

inside.”

I growled quietly, making Maddie rub my back gently.

Will glanced at the watch on his wrist and muttered a curse under his breath.

“We are going to be late,” he said as he started walking toward the door. “I am going to go get Ali. We have to leave.”

He rushed out of my office and I immediately pulled Maddie to me. I pressed my lips against hers and cupped her cheeks.

“Stay beside me the entire time,” I said softly. “Am I clear?”

“Yes,” she mumbled and kissed me.

I melted into her embrace, wishing we could just stay here where she was safe. I couldn’t wait for the night to be over. I couldn’t wait until I was asleep next to her. I couldn’t wait until she was safely wrapped in my arms.

## CHAPTER FORTY – The First Challenge

Dimitri's POV

Loud cheering and clapping made me look back at the battlefield. The last fight of the night was almost over. Alpha Theodore's warrior was winning. I couldn't care less about the tournament. I kept looking around, trying to see if anyone was acting suspicious.

Kendrick, Landon, and Rayan were sitting close to us. Kendrick kept glancing at Maddie and the urge to gauge his eyes out only grew inside me. I couldn't wait to find evidence about him working with the traitors. I couldn't wait to have a reason to kill the fucker.

"He is really good," Maddie said quietly.

A wave of jealousy washed over me and Maddie chuckled.

**Are you seriously jealous?** She mind-linked me. **As if I would ever want or need anyone else but you.**

I glanced at her and saw her shaking her head at me.

**I wasn't jealous until you mentioned how good he was.** I mumbled through the mind-link.

Looking back, letting her watch half-naked men fight wasn't one of my best choices.

She took my hand in hers and squeezed it.

**He isn't you.** She said softly. **All I want and all I need is you.**

I lifted her hand and kissed her knuckles softly.

**I know, princess.** I said and looked at her.

My heart skipped a beat. I was sometimes stunned by the amount of love I felt for her. I still couldn't believe that the Goddess gave her to me. I sometimes still couldn't believe that I was lucky enough to stand beside her and call her mine.

"We have a winner!" Landon exclaimed, making me look back at the battlefield.

Alpha Theodore's warrior won.

Maddie and I stood up and started applauding him. People around us cheered and clapped. Alpha Theodore approached his warrior and patted his back. I could see how proud he was.

Some of my warriors rushed to help Alpha Ezekiel's warrior who was lying on the ground and whining quietly.

"Congratulations!" Landon exclaimed, shaking the winner's hand. "It was a well-deserved victory."

Landon was smiling brightly and it annoyed me. I wanted to wipe that stupid smile off his face.

"Thank you, Chancellor," Alpha Theodore's warrior said, smiling a little.

He looked at Maddie and me and bowed.

“My King and my Queen,” he said, lifting his head. “Thank you for giving me a chance to participate in the tournament.”

“You are welcome,” I said, smiling politely. “Congratulations on your victory. My Queen and I are looking forward to seeing you participate in the next challenge.”

The warrior smiled and bowed again. Alpha Theodore wrapped an arm around his shoulder and led him away. He never stopped smiling.

Maddie and I stood up and turned around. All of our guests were seated behind us.

“Thank you for coming,” I said, smiling politely. “Please enjoy the rest of your evening. Food and drinks will be served in the throne room. I am looking forward to seeing you there.”

I took Maddie’s hand in mine and started walking away before anyone could try to stop us. I didn’t want anyone approaching her. I didn’t want anyone close to her. I was wondering if I would be able to convince her to go to our room and wait for me there. She did her part and she really didn’t need to stay for the party.

“Maddie, princess, I was wondering if you would be okay with going back to our room and waiting for me there?” I asked as I pulled her closer and wrapped an arm around her shoulders.

She looked up at me and furrowed her brows.

“Why?” she asked. “We still have a party to go to.”

I glanced at Will who was walking behind us. He raised an eyebrow at me.

“I want you to rest, princess,” I said softly. “I am worried this might be too much.”

Maddie shook her head. “I am fine. I can go.”

I tightened my jaw and kissed her temple.

“Please, princess,” I said quietly.

“Ali and I can keep you company until Dimitri returns,” Ellie said, making me look at her.

She and Ali were walking next to Will. She gave me a knowing look and smiled at Maddie.

“But I am the Queen,” Maddie said, looking at me. “I should be there.”

“You should be resting, Mads,” Will said softly.

“Yes,” I nodded. “You already went to that breakfast this morning. I am worried that all of this is too much. You had that fever yesterday.”

I kissed her forehead and rubbed her back gently.

“Please, princess,” I said and she gave me a small nod.

“Okay,” she said. “But I am only sitting this one out. I will be going to every event after this one.”

I smiled and nodded. “Of course, my princess.”

“My King,” I heard Landon’s voice behind us and I had to stop myself from growling.

What the fuck did he want?

I stopped walking and turned around. I pulled Maddie closer to me and tightened my hold on her.

“Landon,” I said, trying to remain calm. “What can I help you with? Is there a problem with the tournament?”

Landon shook his head. “No, my King. Everything is going perfectly.”

He looked at Maddie and smiled.

“You look amazing tonight, my Queen,” he said, bowing his head to her.

I gritted my teeth and tried to stop myself from standing in front of her and shielding her with my body. I didn’t want his eyes on her.

“Thank you, Landon,” she said politely.

“Can I help you with something, Landon?” I asked, wanting to change the subject. “We should really get going. We are expected at the party.”

“I know, my King,” Landon said. “I just wanted to stop you to ask about a meeting regarding the punishment of our former Luna. The council is worried, my King.”

I couldn’t stop the quiet growl that escaped me.

“We will have the meeting after the meeting is done, Landon,” I said, trying to get a hold of my anger. “I already told you that.”

He nodded. “You did, my King. But the Alphas are talking amongst themselves. They noticed her absence, my King. We are worried about appearances and we have a proposal for you.”

I couldn’t give a shit about appearances.

“I don’t care about that,” I said, tightening my jaw. “I am more than happy to tell the Alphas what happened.”

Landon’s eyes widened.

“No, my King!” he exclaimed, shaking his head. “You have to think about the consequences of that action. I strongly advise you to keep it a secret.”

I forced myself to take a deep breath.

“This is not the time or place to talk about this, Landon,” I said sternly. “We will discuss this at a more appropriate time.”

We were in the middle of the forest and I could hear the rest of our guests approaching us.

Landon sighed and glanced behind his shoulder.

“Yes, my King,” he said, but I could hear the disappointment in his voice. “Can we meet tomorrow morning?”

I really didn’t want to. I didn’t fucking care about their proposal. I couldn’t even answer him.

“Of course, Landon,” Maddie said politely. “Please excuse us. We really have to go.”

She took my hand in hers and we started walking away.

“Good job, Mads,” Will whispered.

“You shouldn’t have agreed,” I mumbled. “I don’t give a fuck about their proposal.”

“I know,” Maddie sighed. “But he wasn’t going to give up, Dimitri.”

I knew that. I took another deep breath and pulled Maddie to me.

“Thank you, princess,” I said, placing a soft kiss on her temple.

“It’s my job to support you,” she said, smiling at me. “I will always be here to do that.”

I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on her lips. She was right. She would always be here to support me. She would always be right by my side. No one could take her away from me.

## CHAPTER FORTY-ONE – Suspicious

Dimitri's POV

“My King,” I heard Alpha Ezekiel's voice behind me.

I turned around and smiled.

“Alpha Ezekiel,” I said politely. “Are you enjoying the party?”

He nodded and took a small sip of his drink.

“Very much so, my King,” he said, smiling at me. “Everything is just amazing. The food is great. Please give my thanks to your cook.”

I nodded, keeping a small smile on my face.

“Thank you, Alpha,” I said. “Daniel will be thrilled to know that you liked his food.”

Alpha Ezekiel smiled again and looked around the room.

“Where is our lovely Queen?” he asked, looking back at me. “I was hoping she would grace us with her presence tonight.”

I narrowed my eyes slightly but forced myself to keep smiling. Why did he want her here? Was he the fucking traitor? Did he want to hurt my mate? Oh, I was going to rip him to pieces.

“Our Queen isn’t feeling well,” Will answered instead of me. “She is resting, but she will attend the second challenge tomorrow.”

Alpha Ezekiel looked at Will and his eyes widened a little.

“Is she okay?” he asked. “Is she sick?”

His voice sounded like he was genuinely concerned, but his interest in her pissed me off. Why was he concerned? Why did he care? Was it just because she was his Queen and the worry came from the loyalty he felt, or was there more to it? Did he want her? Did he know who she was? Was he planning to take her...

**Calm down, Dimitri.** Will mind-linked me and interrupted my thoughts.

I gulped and forced myself to take a deep, slow breath.

“She is more than okay, Alpha,” Will said, smiling at him. “She just needed some time to rest.”

Alpha Ezekiel nodded and looked back at me. I forced myself to smile.

“Please take good care of her, my King,” he said, bowing his head at me. “She is important to us all.”

I tightened my jaw and pushed myself to keep smiling. I was sure it looked more like I was baring my teeth at him, but there was nothing else I could have done. I wanted to grab him by his neck and ask him what he knew about the traitor. I wanted

to rip him to fucking pieces. I wanted to kill every single one of them only to make sure that she was safe. I wanted them all gone.

But I couldn't do any of that. I had to remain calm and collected.

"Of course, Alpha," I said, hoping my voice sounded as calm as I intended it to be. "She is in very good hands. She is safe."

"That is very good to know, my King," he said, giving me another small smile. "Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go find my Beta before he talks someone's ear off."

Alpha Ezekiel bowed again before he turned around and walked away.

I drank my whiskey in one sip.

"You need to calm down a little, Dimitri," Will said quietly. "They will figure out that something is going on if you continue like this."

I felt a wave of anger wash over me. Will was right, but his words still pissed me off.

"I know," I mumbled, looking around the room. "It's just so fucking hard, Will. I want to kill them all just to make sure that she is safe."

Will sighed and gave me a small nod.

“I understand, Dimitri,” Will said quietly. “I would want to do it too if this was about Ali. But that won’t help. We need to remain calm and focus on finding the man who is really guilty.”

I took a deep breath and gulped.

“Keep your eyes open,” I said, narrowing my eyes at Alpha Lucius. “Let me know if you notice anyone acting suspicious.”

Will nodded and looked around.

“Kendrick is talking to Alpha Theodore,” he said.

I grabbed the whiskey bottle and poured myself another glass.

“I know,” I said, glancing at them. “They’ve been talking for a while.”

Will narrowed his eyes slightly and shook his head.

“Everything they do looks suspicious,” he mumbled, taking a small sip of his drink. “I can’t even believe that one of them is bold enough to go against you.”

“They are hungry for power, Will,” I said, tightening my jaw. “All of them would give everything they have to be in my position. All of them want the power that I have.”

But none of them fucking knew that I couldn’t give a crap about my power. None of them knew that I only cared about my throne because it was my father’s legacy. None of them

knew that my mate was the only fucking thing in this world I truly cared about.

“But why now, Dimitri?” Will asked, furrowing his brows. “They could have attacked when you were taking over the Kingdom. You were more vulnerable then than you are now. What changed?”

My stomach twisted. The only logical answer to that question was that I had found my mate.

“Maddie,” I said, gulping down my whiskey again. “I am more vulnerable now, Will. I have everything to lose now. They know that.”

I loved my Kingdom and my pack. I loved being a King, helping my people, and guiding them. My father had been preparing me for this role ever since I was a child. I was born to be a King and I hoped each and every day that my father was proud of me.

But I would choose Maddie over my throne and I was sure that my father would do the same if he was put in a position where he had to choose. He was the one who taught me that mates always come first. He loved my mother more than anything else in this world. I wondered if she loved him just as much as he loved her.

Will shook his head and tightened his jaw.

“Fuckers,” he muttered, taking another sip of his drink.

I gulped and focused my attention on Alpha Theodore and Kendrick. I couldn’t hear what they were talking about. The

room was packed with guests and members of my pack. Everyone was talking, smiling, and having a good time.

“I am going to mark Ali tonight,” Will said, making me look at him.

I raised an eyebrow and smiled.

“Congratulations,” I said, raising my glass at him. “Will her parents come here to get to know you?”

Will shook his head. “We talked about it. I will go to her pack when things cool down a bit here.”

I nodded and looked back at Alpha Theodore. Kendrick wasn’t with him anymore.

“I am really happy for you, Will,” I said, trying to find Kendrick in the crowd. “Ali is a great girl.”

“She is,” Will said softly. “I am so in love with her. I can’t wait to mark her. I can’t wait to make her mine.”

I smiled and glanced at him. I remembered that feeling all too well. Will was lucky. I had to wait nine months until I could finally sink my canines into my mate’s neck.

“Take tomorrow off,” I told him. “Spend the day with your mate. I will see you tomorrow night at the second challenge.”

“Are you sure?” Will asked and I nodded.

“I am completely sure, Will,” I said. “You will want to stay in bed with her.”

I looked at him and smirked a little.

“Trust me,” I added, making him chuckle.

“Well, you don’t have to tell me twice,” he said, grinning at me.

I shook my head and looked back at the crowd. My eyes fell on Alpha Lucius and Kendrick. The fuckers were talking to each other and they both looked very concerned about something.

I tightened my jaw and forced myself to hold back a growl that tried to escape me.

I wished I could hear them talking. I wished they would say something that would justify me killing them on the fucking spot.

## CHAPTER FORTY-TWO – Making Her Mine

William's POV

I knocked on the door gently as I opened it and walked inside Dimitri's office. Ellie and Ali were sitting on the couch. Maddie was pacing around the room.

My eyes fell on my beautiful mate and I couldn't help but smile.

"Hi, beautiful," I said as I reached out for her.

She blushed a little and smiled. She stood up and walked into my arms. I could feel my heart skipping a beat. I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath. I missed her so fucking much. It didn't matter if I was away from her for only a minute. I missed her regardless of the time I spent away from her.

"Where is Dimitri?" Maddie asked, making me look at her.

"He is still at the party," I said, giving her a small smile. "He will be here soon."

Maddie nodded and continued pacing around.

"Is everything okay?" I asked worriedly.

She looked worried and uneasy.

“Everything is fine,” Elie said, giving me a small smile.  
“Maddie is just nervous without Dimitri.”

I narrowed my eyes slightly. I wasn’t convinced, but then Ali placed a kiss on my collarbone and I completely forgot about everything else. I looked down at her and smiled. She would become forever mine tonight.

“Are you ready to leave?” I asked and she nodded.

I looked back up at Maddie and my sister.

“Good night,” I said as I took Ali’s hand in mine. “I will see you tomorrow.”

My sister smiled and waved at me.

“Good night,” Maddie mumbled, but she didn’t even look at us.

I furrowed my brows again. What the hell was that about?

**Is everything really okay?** I mind-linked my sister.

She rolled her eyes and nodded.

**Yes.** She said. **Maddie is fine. Go mark your mate.**

She smirked at me and I frowned. How the hell did she know? Maybe Ali told her.

Well, no. That didn't make any sense. Ali was a bit shy. I seriously doubted that she would tell Ellie about our plans tonight. Maybe...

"Will?" my mate called me softly, interrupting my thoughts.

I looked at her and she raised her brows slightly.

"Are we leaving?" she asked and I nodded.

"Yes, beautiful," I said, giving her a small smile. "I am sorry. I got lost in thought."

I tightened my hold on her hand and started walking out of the office. My heart started racing as soon as we stepped out into the hallway. I pulled her to me immediately and I placed a kiss on her temple.

"Are you sure about this, my love?" I asked, running my hand down her back. "We don't have to do it if you are not ready."

She wrapped an arm around my waist and looked up at me.

"I am ready," she said softly. "I want you, Will. I need you."

My stomach did a weird flip and I growled quietly. She would have all of me. She already did have all of me. We would just confirm it tonight.

"Fuck, beautiful," I mumbled as I leaned in and kissed her. "You already have me."

Kissing and walking at the same time was a bit weird. Thankfully, our room wasn't far and we were entering it just a few moments later.

I lowered my lips to her jaw as I closed and locked the door behind us. She grabbed the back of my suit jacket and pressed herself closer to me.

"You look amazing in this suit," she mumbled quietly. "I couldn't keep my eyes off you the entire night."

I smiled and looked up at her.

"I noticed," I said as I caressed her cheek with my thumb. "I saw you drooling a little."

She frowned and shook her head.

"I wasn't drooling," she said, making me laugh.

I leaned in and captured her lips with mine. She maybe wasn't, but I surely was. The dress she was wearing kept me so fucking hard the entire night. I had to keep readjusting myself so people wouldn't notice.

I turned her around and pressed her against the door. I lowered my lips to her neck and started sucking on her marking spot.

"Will," she moaned my name and I almost exploded.

"Fuck, beautiful," I mumbled as I licked her neck. "You are driving me crazy."

She cried out in pleasure and I could already smell her arousal. It made my heart skip a beat. I couldn't wait to be inside her. I couldn't fucking wait until my canines pierced her soft skin.

"Can I take the dress off?" I asked as I reached behind her and found the zipper.

"Yes," she mumbled. "Please."

I gulped as I started pulling the zipper down. The sleeve of her dress fell from her shoulder and I saw her perfect breast.

"Oh, fuck," I cried out as I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on it.

I looked up at her as I licked her nipple gently. Her eyes widened and she squirmed a little.

"Does that feel good?" I asked and she gulped.

"Yes, please," she mumbled and I licked her nipple again.

She gasped a little when I started sucking on it gently.

"Oh, Will," she mumbled, pressing herself closer to me.  
"Don't stop, please."

"I will never fucking stop, beautiful," I mumbled as I pulled her dress completely off.

I focused on her other breast, licking the nipple gently before I sucked on it too. I rubbed the other one with my thumb,

making Ali squirm and moan quietly. I ran my hand down her belly until I reached the hem of her underwear. I looked up at her and saw a nervous look on her face.

“I can stop, beautiful,” I said quietly. “Just say the words. Nothing has to happen tonight. I am yours and you are mine even without the mark.”

Ali shook her head. She placed her hand over mine and pushed it down gently.

“Touch me,” she said softly. “Please.”

I was going to fucking pass out.

I kneeled in front of her and started pulling her underwear down. I kept my eyes on hers, watching the lust and love sparkle in them. It made my heart expand. It made my love for her grow.

I lifted her leg and placed it over my shoulder. She gasped a little as she pressed herself closer to the wall to stop herself from losing balance.

“I got you, my love,” I told her, keeping my eyes on hers still. “I won’t let you fall.”

She smiled and ran her fingers through my hair.

“I love you, Will,” she said softly and I felt a wave of emotions rush over me.

It was the first time she said it.

“Oh, I love you too, my beautiful Ali,” I whispered as I finally looked down at her pussy.

It was fucking perfect. It was wet and ready for me. It was mine and only fucking mine.

I groaned as I leaned closed and placed a soft kiss on her pubic bone. She gasped and I felt the muscles in her thigh clench.

“Are you okay, my love?” I asked, looking up at her.

There was a mixture of nervousness and desire on her face.

“Yes,” she whispered. “Don’t stop, please.”

I smiled a little as I looked back down at her pussy. Oh, she didn’t have to worry about me stopping. I was so fucking sure that I would get addicted to her juices the moment my tongue tasted them for the first time.

I lifted my hand and used my fingers to spread her lips open. She squirmed a little and I groaned. I could see the juices coming out of her and my dick twitched painfully. I needed to be inside her as soon as possible.

But I definitely needed to taste her first.

I looked up at her as I leaned in and licked her clit gently. She gasped and her eyes widened. My tastebuds exploded and I was instantly addicted to her.

Just as I knew I would be.



## CHAPTER FORTY-THREE – You Fucked Up

Madeline's POV

“This is just getting ridiculous,” I said, shaking my head. “This is getting out of hand. He needs to let me help him.”

Ellie sighed, crossing her arms over her chest.

“He isn't going to do that, Maddie,” she said. “It's dangerous.”

I looked at her and resisted the urge to roll my eyes.

“How?” I asked. “It's not like they can tell when I read their minds. It's not like they can feel it. I could be reading your mind right now and you wouldn't know.”

Ellie sighed again.

“It's not about that, Madeline,” she said, shaking her head. “It's about what happens after. Dimitri doesn't want to risk it and we all agree with him. It's not worth it. He will find him without your powers.”

I furrowed my brows in confusion.

“What could happen after?” I asked. “They will want to know how we found out? As if Dimitri would want to explain that to them. They don't have to know how we found out. We can just...”

“It’s not about that, Maddie,” Ellie interrupted me. “It’s about you. Dimitri doesn’t want to risk you getting hurt. You saw what happened yesterday. You still don’t know what you can do. You didn’t even know you were using your powers to take away Dimitri’s anger. You could expose yourself accidentally while trying to read their minds. You could get hurt doing it. It’s not worth it, Maddie.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I can practice here,” I said. “No one would find out.”

Ellie raised an eyebrow at me.

“What if you lose control over it?” she asked. “What if you can control the emotions of a large group of people? What if your powers got out of control and you did something that every single one of them would notice?”

I tightened my jaw and gulped.

“It’s not worth it, Maddie,” Ellie added, shaking her head at me. “Dimitri will find another way to figure it all out.”

I forced myself to take a deep breath. What Ellie was saying made sense, but I was still convinced that they were too careful. I was sure that nothing bad would happen. I was sure that I would be able to figure it out and everything would end.

“What if the traitor isn’t even here?” Ellie asked, making me furrow my brows.

“Alpha Alistair said...,” I spoke, but she interrupted me again.

“He has no proof, Mads,” Ellie sighed, shaking her head.  
“That is just his opinion.”

I bit the inside of my cheek and gulped. I had to tell Ellie what I found out at breakfast.

“I think it’s Alpha Lucius,” I said quietly.

Ellie furrowed her brows. She was silent for a moment.

“Why do you think that?” she asked.

I glanced toward the door. I couldn’t let Dimitri know that I used my powers to read Luna Jennifer’s thoughts. At least not yet.

“I read Luna Jennifer’s mind and...,” I started speaking, but Ellie’s loud growl interrupted me.

“You what?!” she exclaimed as she stood up. “I told you not to do that, Madeline!”

I sighed and shook my head at her.

“Well, nothing bad happened, did it?” I mumbled. “I controlled it and now I know...”

“You were lucky!” Ellie exclaimed, interrupting me again.  
“You could have lost control over it! You could have hurt yourself!”

Ellie started pacing around and shaking her head.

“Oh, Dimitri is going to kill me,” she muttered. “He didn’t want you to go because he was afraid of you getting hurt.”

“I didn’t get hurt, Ellie,” I said, making her look at me and narrow her eyes. “Everything is fine. I am fine.”

She took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Thank Goddess for that,” Ellie said quietly. “But you risked so much, Maddie. You fucked up.”

I sighed and crossed my arms over my chest.

“Well, it’s too late now,” I said. “I did it and I know something. Do you want me to tell you what I found out or not?”

Ellie tightened her jaw and closed her eyes. She took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“You are driving me insane,” she mumbled as she opened her eyes. “What did you find out?”

I glanced toward the door again and approached Ellie.

“Alpha Lucius thinks that Dimitri doesn’t deserve me,” I said and I felt bile rising and burning the back of my throat. “He thinks that Dimitri isn’t good enough for me and that I deserve a better, stronger mate. He would also like to...”

I stopped talking to take another deep breath. I was disgusted by what I had to say next.

“Do things to me,” I mumbled quietly. “He believes he would be a better mate for me.”

Ellie’s eyes widened.

“Oh, Dimitri is going to rip him to pieces,” she mumbled, shaking her head a little.

I nodded and took a deep breath.

“I just don’t understand why he told that to Luna Jennifer,” I said, furrowing my brows. “She is his mate. Why would he admit something like that?”

Ellie sighed and sat back down on the couch.

“Alpha Lucius is known for his adventures outside of the mate bond,” Ellie explained. “His mate can feel it every time he cheats on her so it’s not like she doesn’t know about it. I am surprised that he talks about something like that with her, though.”

“Maybe she overheard him talking to someone else,” I said, shrugging a little.

Ellie nodded. “That’s more likely.”

She sighed and narrowed her eyes slightly.

“Did you hear anything else?” she asked and I shook my head.

“No,” I said. “But that is pretty huge, isn’t it? If Alpha Lucius thinks that Dimitri doesn’t deserve me, maybe he thinks that he doesn’t deserve to be King either.”

“Maybe,” Ellie mumbled.

“We should tell Dimitri,” I said, but Ellie shook her head.

“Not yet,” she said. “Let me look into him a bit more, okay? Dimitri will rip him apart if we tell him and Alpha Lucius could be just a horny old man who is jealous of Dimitri and thinks that you are pretty.”

I raised an eyebrow at her.

“Do you think that’s possible?” I asked.

She nodded and sighed.

“He is a pervert,” she mumbled, rolling her eyes. “I wouldn’t be surprised if it was just about sex for him. He wouldn’t be a good King anyway. He always ran from any kind of responsibility. I doubt that he is interested in that.”

“Okay,” I said, taking another deep breath. “See if you can find something useful. Dimitri doesn’t need to know about it if it’s just about me. I don’t want to stress him out even more.”

Ellie nodded. He wanted to say something else, but she was interrupted when the door opened and Dimitri walked inside.

I smiled immediately. I missed him.

“Hi, princess,” he said as he closed the door and approached me. “Are you tired?”

He wrapped his arms around me and I sighed contently.

“A bit,” I said, placing a kiss on his chest. “Is the party over?”

“Mostly,” he said, placing a kiss on my temple. “A few brave ones are still drinking and talking. I excused myself. I missed you too much to stay longer.”

I smiled at him and he caressed my cheek.

“Let’s go to bed, princess,” he said softly and I nodded.

Dimitri looked up at Ellie and smiled.

“Good night, Ellie,” he said as he took my hand in his. “I will see you tomorrow.”

“Good night,” Ellie said quietly.

Dimitri started leading me out. I looked at Ellie and she gave me a small nod.

**I will figure it out.** She mind-linked me. **Don’t worry.**

I gave her a small smile just as Dimitri closed the office door. I focused on him and tried to forget about everything that was

going on. He was more important than anything or anyone else.

He smiled and leaned in to kiss me softly. I melted into his arms and my body relaxed immediately.

## CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR – Skol Knows

Dimitri's POV

Skol's whining woke me up from my peaceful sleep. I groaned and tried to shut him out.

*'No, Dimitri,'* he whined. *'Let me out.'*

I tried to push him back, but he wouldn't budge.

*'Let me out,'* he growled, trying to push me to shift. *'Let me out.'*

What the hell was wrong with him?

I groaned and opened my eyes slowly. It was still dark outside. Maddie was sleeping peacefully next to me.

What the fuck did Skol want?

*'What the hell, Skol?'* I mumbled, pulling Maddie closer to me. *'Let me sleep.'*

*'No, Dimitri,'* he whined again. *'You need to let me out. I can feel him.'*

Feel him? What the fuck was he talking about? Was someone here? Was someone on our floor?

I opened my eyes abruptly and looked at the door. I tensed up and prepared myself to jump out of bed. I was going to kill whoever it was. I was going to fucking rip them to pieces. Were they here to hurt Maddie? Were they here to...

*'No, Dimitri,'* Skol interrupted my thoughts. *'No one is here. I can feel our pup, Dimitri.'*

My heart stopped beating.

*'She is pregnant,'* Skol said, his voice trembling with excitement. *'Our mate is pregnant.'*

I turned to look at Maddie and I could feel the tears burning the corners of my eyes.

*'Are you sure?'* I asked as I removed the blanket from her body.

I looked at her lower belly and I shivered.

*'Completely sure,'* Skol said. *'I can feel him.'*

"Oh, Goddess," I cried out as I lowered myself until I reached her lower belly.

I placed a hand on it and I felt my heart explode with all the love that overwhelmed me.

"Hi, my beautiful little pup," I mumbled as I leaned in and placed a soft kiss below her belly button. "It's your dad. I love you so much."

Maddie stirred and sighed quietly. I felt a tear fall down my cheek.

“Maddie, princess?” I called her as I caressed her lower belly with my thumb.

She furrowed her brows a little and made herself more comfortable. I smiled and caressed her lower belly again.

“Maddie?” I called her a bit louder.

She sighed and frowned a little. She opened her eyes slowly and I could tell that she was confused when she didn’t see me next to her. She looked down at me and furrowed her brows.

“What are you doing?” she asked sleepily. “Come back and hold me.”

I chuckled and gave her a small nod.

“In a minute, princess,” I said. “I need to tell you something first.”

She laid her head back down, closed her eyes, and sighed.

“It better be good,” she mumbled. “I am not happy that you woke me up.”

I had to bite my cheek to stop myself from laughing.

“Skol woke me up to tell me that he can feel our pup in here,” I said softly as I placed another kiss below her belly button.

She froze for a second. Her eyes snapped open and she lifted her head abruptly. She looked at me wide-eyed and I grinned.

“Is that good enough?” I asked, trying so hard not to chuckle.

She gasped and looked at my hand on her lower belly.

“Is he sure?” she asked quietly. “Am I really pregnant?”

“He is sure, princess,” I said, reaching up and caressing her cheek. “We are going to have a little pup.”

I saw tears in her eyes and her emotions overwhelmed me completely. She was happy. She was excited. She already loved our pup more than anything else in this world. But she was also a little bit nervous and worried.

“There is nothing to be nervous about, my love,” I said, resting my head on her belly. “You two are my greatest treasure. Nothing will happen to you. I will always keep you safe.”

She ran her fingers through my hair and sniffled quietly. I looked up at her and saw her smiling softly.

“I know,” she said, caressing my cheek. “And we will always keep you safe. We both love you so much. You are going to be an amazing dad.”

Another tear fell on my cheek and Maddie wiped it away.

“And you are going to be an amazing mom,” I said softly. “Our pup will adore you. He is the luckiest pup in the world

because you will be his mom.”

Maddie smiled and ran her fingers through my hair again.

*‘I want to see him,’ Skol whined. ‘I want to smell him.’*

*‘There is nothing to see, Skol,’ I told him.*

She wasn’t even showing yet and she wouldn’t be for a while. She was probably pregnant for only a few days. Lycan wolves could feel their pups very early in the pregnancy. Skol felt him even before Skye did.

*‘Let me out,’* he whined, pushing me to shift again.

“Skol wants to feel the pup,” I told Maddie. “I need to let him out or he will drive me crazy.”

Maddie chuckled and gave me a small nod.

“It’s okay,” she said. “Let him out.”

I placed another soft kiss on her belly before I reluctantly stood up and took a few steps away from the bed.

*‘Only a few minutes, Skol,’ I told him. ‘I want to be with her.’*

He didn’t respond. He just took over before I could even blink. He whined and practically threw himself on the bed.

*‘Easy,’* I growled at him.

Maddie chuckled and reached out for him. He gently pulled her to him, burying his snout into her neck.

“Hi, Skol,” she said softly. “I missed you.”

*‘Oh, I love her so much,’* he told me and I smiled a little.

He lowered his head until his snout reached her lower belly. He whined quietly and took a deep breath.

*‘I can smell him!’* he said excitedly. *‘Our pup is in here!’*

My heart skipped a beat and I felt it expand. I didn’t even know that my heart could do that.

Skol placed his giant paw on her stomach and I couldn’t help but chuckle. She looked so tiny compared to him. Maddie ran her fingers through his fur and he purred.

“I love you, Skol,” Maddie said softly as she leaned in and placed a kiss on his giant arm.

He lifted his head and licked her cheek, making her chuckle.

*‘I love her too,’* he told me. *‘I love her with my entire heart.’*

*‘She knows,’* I told him softly.

Skol looked back down at her belly and purred again. He leaned in and licked it gently.

*‘My pup,’* he mumbled quietly. *‘My beautiful, little pup.’*

Maddie kept running her finger through his fur. She kept caressing his giant body. She kept pressing herself closer to him. She kept hugging him. Skol was in heaven and I wasn't sure if he would ever let me shift back.

*'Probably not,'* he said, making me roll my eyes.

He licked her belly again and rested his giant head on it. Maddie scratched him behind his ears and he shivered in delight.

I chuckled and pushed for him to let me out.

*'Just one more minute,'* he complained.

*'No,'* I said sternly. *'I will let you out again tomorrow.'*

He whined as he lifted his head and licked Maddie's cheek again. She placed a kiss on his snout and I was sure he was going to melt into a puddle. He somehow managed to get out of bed and I shifted back immediately.

"You will break him down if you keep spoiling him like that," I said teasingly as I got back into bed with my beautiful mate.

She chuckled and wrapped her arms around me.

"I love him so much," she said. "I can't help it."

I cupped her cheek and took a deep breath.

“We are going to be mom and dad,” I mumbled quietly.

She smiled brightly and nodded.

“I love you, Dimitri,” she said quietly.

I leaned in and pressed my lips against hers.

“I love you too, my princess.”

## CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE – Not Funny

Dimitri's POV

If someone would describe me as an overprotective and an over-possessive mate I would tell them that they hadn't seen anything yet.

Now that I knew Maddie was pregnant, I would be damned if I let her out of my sight for even one second. Especially in a situation like this when everyone was here and where there was someone who wanted to take my throne. My mate and my pup were a sure way to do that. I would give up everything for them.

"Princess," I mumbled softly as I approached her and wrapped my arms around her from behind.

I placed a hand on her lower belly and kissed her shoulder. I was holding my entire world in my arms and that feeling was so fucking hard to describe.

"How are you feeling?" I asked her. "Are you nauseous? Are you uncomfortable?"

Maddie chuckled and shook her head.

"I am perfectly fine," she said, placing her hand over mine. "I am only a few days pregnant. I think that the symptoms will come a bit later."

I knew that, but I had to ask. I had to do something if she was in any kind of pain. I placed a kiss on her temple and rested

my head against hers.

“There will be no breakfasts or lunches or dinners without me present,” I told her as I gently caressed her lower belly. “You won’t be leaving my side from now on. Not even for one second. Am I clear?”

“Really?” Maddie asked, frowning a little. “And I was just about to ask you if I could go on a three-day hike outside of our borders. Alone, of course.”

My heart stopped beating even though I knew she was messing with me.

“Not funny, Madeline,” I grumbled, making her chuckle.

“I thought it was funny,” she said, stepping away from my embrace.

She turned around and grinned at me.

“We should work on your humor,” I said as I watched her tie her hair into a ponytail. “You suck at it, princess.”

She laughed and shook her head. “You are biased. We need a third party to determine that.”

I rolled my eyes at her and pressed another kiss on her temple.

“Hurry up,” I said as I walked out of the bathroom to finish getting ready. “Ellie is waiting for us in our office. We need to prepare everything for tonight.”

Tonight was the second challenge. I still had to choose an object or a person to be hunted during the challenge. I was so focused on finding the traitor that I almost forgot about it.

“Dimitri?” Maddie called me and I turned around to look at her.

She furrowed her brows and bit her lower lip.

“Should we tell them about the pup?” she asked quietly.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I wasn’t sure what to tell her.

“Maybe it would be best to wait a bit,” she said. “Maybe a few weeks.”

That actually wasn’t a terrible idea. The less people knew the better.

“I agree, princess,” I said, giving her a small smile. “We should wait to tell them.”

She smiled back at me and I had to force myself to walk away. I wanted to take her back to our bed and just cuddle up next to her. I wanted to kiss her and caress her lower belly. I didn’t want to do anything or go anywhere.

I chuckled quietly and shook my head. Finding my mate really made me a horrible worker.

I put on a sweater and jeans. We had no meeting today and I was a bit relieved. I spent the last few days in a suit and I was

happy I could put on a little bit less formal outfit today.

“I am ready,” Maddie said as she walked out of the bathroom.

I turned around to look at her and saw her eyeing me up and down. I smirked a little.

“How the hell do you manage to look so good in everything you put on?” she asked as she approached me. “You look amazing in a suit. You look amazing in jeans. You look amazing in sweats. You look just perfect wearing nothing.”

She sighed as she wrapped her arms around my waist and looked up at me.

“How is that possible?” she mumbled, making me laugh.

I smirked a little and caressed her cheek.

“I am your mate,” I said. “You are biased. We need a third party to determine if I look amazing in everything.”

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from grinning.

“Or nothing,” I added, making her gasp.

“No freaking way,” she said, growling quietly. “Only I get to see that.”

I laughed and leaned in to kiss her.

“Of course, my princess,” I said, pressing her closer to me. “I am all yours. No one else can see me naked. Only you.”

I caressed her cheek and kissed her softly. She sighed, tightening her arms around me.

“I like it when you are jealous,” I mumbled against her lips.

She chuckled and shook her head.

“Of course I’m jealous,” she said, leaning in and placing a kiss on my chest. “No one gets to have you.”

She rested her head on my chest and sighed.

“You are mine,” she added quietly and my knees buckled.

“I am yours, my princess,” I said softly, tangling my fingers into her hair and pressing her closer. “Only yours.”

She looked up at me and smiled. I caressed her cheek and took her hand in mine.

“Come on,” I said as I started walking toward the door. “We need to go. We have a lot of work to do.”

“Did you choose an object or a person for the Pack Hunt tonight?” she asked as we walked out of our bedroom.

“Not yet,” I said, closing the door.

“Maybe they could hunt me,” she said, making me growl at her.

I looked at her and saw her smirking at me.

“As I said, you are not funny, Madeline,” I said, shaking my head at her.

She chuckled and placed a kiss on my upper arm.

“I am hilarious,” she said. “Ask anyone.”

I shook my head and rolled my eyes. Imagining someone hunting her was not funny at all. It was terrifying. Like I would ever let something like that happen. Even if it was just pretend. There was no fucking way.

We reached our office and we walked inside. Ellie was sitting at Maddie’s desk. She looked up from the file she was reading.

“What took you so long?” she asked, closing the file and standing up. “We have work to do.”

“Sorry, Ellie,” Maddie said as she let my hand go and approached her desk. “What are those?”

She picked up one of the files from the desk and opened it.

“Financial statements from every pack,” Ellie said. “I was looking through them. I wanted to see if there were any unusual transactions lately.”

“Did you find anything?” she asked.

“Nothing,” Ellie sighed. “Alpha Lincoln is in some financial trouble, but other than that there is nothing.”

“Mind if I go through them?” she asked, looking at me.

“Of course not, princess,” I said, giving her a small smile.

She smiled back at me and sat in her chair. My heart skipped a beat. I still couldn’t believe that she was carrying my pup.

“Pack Hunt,” Ellie said, drawing my attention to her.

I took a deep breath and nodded. I had to focus on the second challenge tonight. I couldn’t wait for the meeting and the tournament to be over. It seemed like it lasted forever. I wanted everyone gone so I could focus on my mate and my pup.

My pup. I was going to be a dad.

I still couldn’t believe it.

## CHAPTER FORTY-SIX – He Is Useless

Unknown's POV

“Is everything ready?” I asked as I put my hands in my pockets.

I was looking through the window into the thick forest that surrounded my new home. It was just perfect. I couldn't wait to build my future here. All of my dreams would come true in this place. I would finally get everything I always wanted to have. I would finally become everything I was always supposed to be.

“Yes, Alpha,” Brody said. “Everything will be over tonight.”

I smiled and took a deep breath. I was so excited and I could barely think about anything else other than finally seeing her tonight.

“What about Kendrick, Alpha?” Brody asked and my mood worsened instantly.

I fucking hated that man. He was nothing but a greedy, little rat who thought that he would get what he fucking wanted by sucking up to me.

“He is a useless piece of thrash,” I said, growling quietly. “We don't need him.”

Brody was silent for a moment.

“Are you sure, Alpha?” he asked. “He has insight into...”

“What?” I interrupted him and turned around. “He has insight into what, Brody?”

“Alpha Dimitri,” Brody said, gulping. “He knows him.”

I snorted and shook my head. I approached my desk and sat down.

“Does he?” I asked mockingly. “I am beginning to think that he doesn’t know shit. The fucker didn’t even manage to get inside the fucking dungeon.”

I still couldn’t believe how incompetent he really was. He didn’t even notice that Dimitri’s men were following him everywhere he went. Stupid fucker.

Brody furrowed his brows and sighed.

“What will happen to him?” he asked.

“I don’t fucking care,” I said. “We don’t need him and we don’t need Janet. Their only fucking task was to keep her away from him. Janet’s only fucking task was to get her to leave the pack and she couldn’t even do that. I don’t need them. They are both fucking useless.”

The only thing Kendrick knew how to do was suck up and ask for money. He always believed that he had control over the Kingdom because he was sucking up to Janet and telling her what her mate should do. But Dimitri’s father was smarter than him. He let Janet believe that he was doing things her way

when in reality he was doing the complete opposite. The funny thing was, neither Janet nor Kendrick ever noticed. They believed they were in charge and they never cared to actually look into what Alpha Dominic was really doing. Alpha Dominic was a lot of things, but he wasn't a fucking idiot.

"So you will let Dimitri kill Janet and Savannah?" Brody asked, furrowing his brows. "What about your child? He needs his mother."

I rolled my eyes at Brody.

"I am not even sure if that pup is mine," I said. "Savannah fucked everything with a dick. Besides, Dimitri found him a good home. He is better off with them than with Savannah."

I looked back out the window and smiled.

"Also, the only pups I will have will be with her," I said and my heart skipped a beat. "She will be the mother of my children, no one else."

"Kendrick never figured out that all of this was about her, did her?" Brody mumbled, making me look back at him.

I sighed and shook my head.

"I already told you that he is useless," I said. "All he cares about is that throne and the power he thinks he would have over me. He completely missed the whole point."

That throne would be mine, of course, but that was only an added bonus. My main prize was her. My main desire was her.

“And you let him believe that it was all about the throne,” Brody said, smirking a little. “That was smart.”

I laughed and leaned back in my chair.

“Of course it was smart,” I said. “I am not a stupid man, Brody. If I had told him what this whole thing is really about, he would never be so keen to help me. He wants her too. He believes that we will all have her. Do you think that he would be okay with me taking her for myself?”

Brody shook his head.

“His only motivation is power, Brody,” I added, sighing quietly. “Everyone is motivated by something. I was smart enough to use his motives to my advantage. Letting him believe that this was all about the throne and letting him believe that he would have some kind of power in my Kingdom was the best thing I could have done.”

Kendrick was so fucking easy to manipulate and so was Janet. When she saw how much she looked like her mother, Janet lost it completely. All she was talking about was Mike remembering his fated mate and wanting her. Sometimes I wondered if Janet even understood what being dead meant. But I wasn’t complaining. Her jealousy served its purpose.

Too fucking bad that neither Kendrick nor Janet completed their tasks completely. Both of them fucked up.

“What about the rogues?” Brody asked after a few moments of silence.

“Kill them all,” I said. “We won’t need them again after tonight and I am not paying them what I promised. I am not a fucking idiot.”

Brody furrowed his brows a little.

“Are you sure that we won’t need them?” Brody asked. “What if he attacks?”

I snorted and shook my head.

“He won’t get a chance to attack, Brody,” I said. “I will have what he treasures most. I will blackmail him and he will give me his throne in a blink of an eye.”

“And then?” Brody asked.

“And then I will kill him,” I said, smirking. “I will make him watch as I fuck his mate and then I will end his life. I will make him think that he will get her back, but that will never happen.”

I could already imagine it happening and I got hard instantly. I couldn’t fucking wait until I was buried deep inside her.

“I am excited for you, Alpha,” Brody said, giving me a small smile. “You deserve this.”

I smiled back at him.

“I deserve her,” I said. “She was always supposed to be mine. The Goddess made a mistake by giving her to him. She was meant to be mine and she would be mine.”

I looked through the window and took a deep breath.

Only a few more hours. Only a few more hours and she would finally be here. Only a few more hours and I would finally see her again. Only a few more hours and I would finally taste her lips.

I closed my eyes and tightened my jaw. Those few hours would be the longest and the slowest hours of my life.

## CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN – Another Attack

Madeline's POV

“Oh, I am so excited about tonight!” Luna Alice exclaimed.  
“Do you know who is working with whom?”

I smiled and shook my head.

“I believe they will decide that once the challenge starts,” I said. “That’s a part of it actually. They need to figure out how to work together to find the object hidden in the forest.”

Luna Alice nodded. “Oh, so exciting. I can’t wait to see who will win.”

“I am sure that everyone will want Alpha Theodore’s warrior on their team,” Luna Maria chuckled as she took another sip of her drink.”

Luna Alice nodded. “oh, definitely. “It will be so interesting to see how they will decide.”

I smiled at them and glanced at Dimitri. He was only a few steps away from me. He was talking to Alphas Theodore and Lincoln. I couldn’t hear what they were talking about, but Dimitri was smiling and I relaxed a little. He was too tense ever since we came to the throne room. He refused to let go of me for the first half an hour. I barely managed to convince him to let me step away so I could talk to the Lunas.

“I am so happy for you, honey,” Luna Maria said as she wrapped an arm around Ali’s shoulders. “Beta Will seems like

an amazing man.”

Ali blushed a little and nodded. “He is. I am so incredibly happy I get to call him my mate.”

Will marked Ali last night and I was over the moon happy for both of them. Will was an incredible man and he deserved the best mate and Ali was surely the best. I was convinced that Ali was perfect for him. I was convinced that Will was perfect for Ali. The Goddess really made a perfect match by bonding them together.

“And he is happy he gets to call you his mate,” I said, making Ali look at me. “You are his perfect match. He is incredibly lucky he has you in his life.”

Ali smiled and shook her head.

“How do you know all that?” she asked.

“We talk,” I said, smiling brightly. “The administrative stuff sometimes gets boring and Will loves to share.”

Ali and the Lunas laughed.

“Oh, the only part of being a Luna I hate is the administration,” Luna Laura said, shaking her head. “If I could just pass that along to someone else, I would be so happy.”

“Well, you will get to do that soon, won’t you?” Luna Alice asked, smiling. “How old is your boy now?”

“He is 17,” she said, smiling proudly. “Xavier started training him a year ago. He will take over as soon as he turns 18.”

“Let’s hope he will find his mate soon,” Luna Alice chuckled. “You will get a well-deserved break then.”

Luna Laura smiled and nodded. “I can’t wait, trust me.”

I glanced at Luna Jennifer and saw her staring at her mate with an unreadable expression on her face. I wished that I could read her mind, but Dimitri was here and I couldn’t hear anything.

“Where is your friend, my Queen?” Luna Alice asked, making me look back at them. “Ellie, right?” She is your Beta’s sister?”

I smiled and nodded.

“Yes, she is,” I said. “She is helping with the challenge tonight. She is in charge of the hidden object.”

“I heard that she is an amazing warrior,” Luna Laura said. “She completed Michael’s elite warrior program, didn’t she?”

“She did,” Ali said and I could hear how proud she was. “She really is amazing.”

“And where is Michael tonight?” Luna Alice said, looking around. “I haven’t seen him yet.”

“He is also helping out,” I said, giving her a small smile. “He is out in the forest with our warriors. They will make sure that

the contestants follow every rule.”

“Oh,” Luna Alice said, nodding her head. “You thought of everything, didn’t you.”

I smiled and she was just about to say something else when a couple of loud growls interrupted us.

My heart raced and I looked at Dimitri. He was already standing next to me. Everyone moved at the same time.

“What happened?” I asked as he picked me up and rushed out of the throne room.

I watched as Will did the same with Ali. Everyone in the throne room started panicking.

“The rogues are attacking at the border,” Dimitri growled. “There are hundreds of them.”

My heart stopped beating. I wasn’t even aware that we were already in our room. Dimitri put me down and cupped my cheeks.

“You will lock those doors and you won’t let anyone inside,” he said. “Do you understand me, Maddie?”

I grabbed his wrists tightly.

“Ellie is out there,” Will mumbled angrily as he ran inside the room, holding Ali in his arms. “Fuck. We can’t leave them alone.”

Dimitri tightened his jaw and looked at him.

“We don’t have any other choice,” he said. “Everyone we trust is out there.”

“I will keep her safe,” Ali said, hugging Will tightly. “Don’t worry. We will be okay.”

Dimitri looked back at me and gulped.

“Did you understand, Maddie?” he asked. “You will open those doors for me or for Will. No one else.”

I nodded and tightened my hold on him. I wanted to tell him to stay, but I knew he had to go. He had to defend his pack. He had to defend his Kingdom.

“Come back to me,” I mumbled as I felt tears fall down my cheeks.

Dimitri smiled and wiped the tears from my face.

“Always, my princess,” he said softly. “I will always come back to you.”

He leaned in and kissed me softly.

“You are my home,” he said quietly.

**You and our pup are my home.** He added through the mind-link as he kissed me again. **Nothing will stop me from coming back to you.**

“I love you,” I told him, my voice trembling.

He smiled and kissed my forehead. I thought that my heart would give out when he moved his hands from my face. I barely managed to force myself to let go of his wrists.

“Will,” he said as he rushed to the door. “We need to hurry.”

Will kissed Ali one more time before he ran out behind Dimitri. Ali took a deep breath as she approached the door. She closed and locked it before turning around to look at me.

“Everything will be okay, Maddie,” she said quietly. “They will be okay.”

I couldn’t stop the tears from falling down my cheeks.

“Oh, Mads,” Ali mumbled as she approached me and pulled me into a hug.

I wrapped my arms around her and buried my nose into her neck. I sobbed quietly and she rubbed my back.

“He will come back to you, Maddie,” Ali said softly. “He is the King. Rogues have nothing on him.”

I knew that. My mate was strong. He was a great warrior. I knew that he would come back home to me. I knew that he would be okay. He had to be okay.

But I just couldn’t stop the tears. They just kept coming against my will. I forced myself to take a deep breath. I

released it slowly and gulped.

“I am sorry, Ali,” I mumbled as I let her go. “I don’t know what came over me.”

She sighed and took my hand in hers.

“Why are you apologizing?” she asked, chuckling a little.  
“Friends are meant to comfort each other. I am always here for you, Mads. You know that.”

I smiled and another tear fell on my cheek. Ali wiped it away.

I took another deep breath and I was just about to tell Ali how grateful I am to have her when a knock on the door made me freeze.

Ali tensed up and looked at the door.

“Maddie?” Luna Maria’s voice made me sigh in relief. “Are you in here?”

I looked at Ali and she bit her lower lip.

“It’s Luna Maria,” I said quietly. “We know her.”

Ali furrowed her brows and looked at the door again.

“Dimitri said not to let anyone in,” she reminded me.

“Maddie?” Luna Maria called me again.

I sighed and shook my head a little.

“We can’t leave her out there,” I mumbled as I approached the door and unlocked it.

“Oh, you are okay,” she sighed in relief as I opened the door.

I glanced behind her and saw that she was alone.

“I was so worried that something happened,” she said. “All the Alphas just ran out screaming something about a rogue attack at the border.”

I opened the door a bit more and stepped aside so she could walk in.

“Where are the other Lunas?” I asked as I closed the door.

I heard a loud thump behind me. I turned around in time to see Ali falling to the floor. I didn’t have time to react before I felt something pinch my neck and everything went dark.

## CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT – Something Isn't Right

Dimitri's POV

I sank my canines into another rogue's neck, biting through all the flesh and bone. His body went limp in my mouth. I grabbed him and tossed him to the side.

I looked around me and saw my warriors and my guests fighting with the rogues. We were winning, but something about all this didn't feel right. I had a bad feeling in my stomach ever since Will and I arrived at the border. I thought it was because I had to leave Maddie, but the more I thought about it the more I realized that wasn't the reason.

**Will?** I mind-linked him as I sank my canines into another one of the rogues coming at me.

**Yes?** He responded, panting a little.

**Something isn't right.** I mumbled. **Look at how they are behaving.**

A rogue came at me. He barely attacked even though he was a big wolf and he could have done some damage. He snapped his canines at me, missing my arm for only an inch. But it seemed like it was on purpose. He could have hurt me if he wanted to.

What the fuck was going on?

**What are you talking about?** Will asked.

I killed the rogue that was attacking me and I looked around until I saw Will. He was fighting with one of the rogues, but the rogue wasn't causing nearly as much damage as he could have.

**Look at the way he is fighting, Will.** I said as I started moving toward him. **He is only taunting you. He isn't attacking with full force.**

Will glanced at me before he finished killing the rogue.

My stomach twisted and turned. Something wasn't fucking right.

**Did anyone enter the packhouse?** I mind-linked the warriors I left to guard the woman and children.

I told them not to let anyone other than women and children in. I made sure that every fucking Alpha was out there fighting. I wasn't going to let anyone stay behind. I wasn't going to risk anyone getting to Maddie while I was gone.

One of the biggest flaws of my packhouse was the absence of a safe room in case of an attack. My grandfather never built one. He believed that the war was over. He believed that we wouldn't have to hide from anyone anymore. My father thought about building it when the number of rogues started growing, but he gave up on the idea after a while. The rogues never attacked and my father was proud of the peace he kept after his father passed away. As far as I knew, none of the packs in my Kingdom had safe rooms anymore.

I should have fucking known better. I should have built one as soon as I became the King.

But I had confidence in my warriors. They wouldn't let anyone get inside.

**No, Alpha.** One of the warriors responded. **Everything is okay here.**

A small wave of relief washed over me.

**What about Kendrick or any members of the council?** I asked, making my way to Will. **Did they come there?**

**No, Alpha.** The warrior responded. **We haven't seen them.**

I growled as another rogue jumped at me. I killed him with one swipe of my paw. I started running faster. I needed to get to Will.

**I want to go back, Will.** I told him. **Our warriors can handle this. There aren't many left.**

Will glanced at me and nodded. He finished killing the rogue he was fighting with.

**Don't kill them all.** I ordered through the mind-link. **Capture some of them and bring them to the dungeon. We need to know who sent them.**

**Yes, Alpha.** My warriors mind-linked me back simultaneously.

Will approached me, killing two more rogues on his way over.

**Is Maddie okay?** Mike mind-linked me.

**Yes.** I said as Will and I started running back. **She is in our room with Ali. No one entered the packhouse.**

**Good.** Mike said. **Are you going back?**

**Yes.** I answered. **Make sure to take some of them to the dungeons. We need as much information as we can get.**

**Yes, Alpha.** Mike said, cutting our mind-link.

Will and I shifted back as soon as we were away from the battlefield. I could still hear screaming, shouting, and breaking of bones. I could still smell the blood in the air.

Will and I put our sweats on and we continued running toward the house.

**Maddie?** I mind-linked her.

I was now finally able to mind-link her. I didn't want to do that before. I didn't want her to worry.

I expected her to respond immediately and my heart clenched when she didn't.

**Maddie?** I mind-linked her again. **I am coming back, princess. I am okay.**

My legs almost gave out when she didn't respond.

**Madeline?** I tried again. **Answer me.**

I was sure I was going to pass out when she didn't. Why the fuck wasn't she answering me?

"Mind-link Ali," I told Will as I started running faster.  
"Maddie isn't responding to me."

Will growled and picked up his pace. I kept glancing at him, waiting for him to tell me what Ali had told him. I knew that something was wrong when he narrowed his eyes and clenched his fists.

"What did she say?" I asked, my voice trembling slightly.

"Nothing," Will growled. "She isn't responding either."

*'I can't feel Skye,' Skol mumbled and I almost fucking lost it.*  
*'I can't feel her, Dimitri.'*

No.

No, no, no, no, no!

"Madeline!" I screamed as I started running even faster.  
"Madeline!"

We were getting close to the packhouse. I could already see the lights. I could already see my warriors walking around. They looked up when they heard me screaming.

I ran closer, trying so fucking hard to remain focused. I could hear my warriors talking to me, but I couldn't hear what they were saying. I had to get upstairs. I had to find her.

"Madeline!" I screamed as I found myself on our floor.

I had no fucking idea how I got there. I couldn't remember climbing the stairs.

I practically broke our bedroom door down.

"Madeline!" I screamed, looking around the room.

I almost died on the spot when my eyes fell on Ali.

"Alison!" Will screamed, running past me, and throwing himself next to her.

I watched him grab her and turn her around. She was breathing, but she was passed out.

"Ali!" Will cried out, patting her cheeks and trying to wake her up.

Everything around me slowed down. My heart, my breathing, my mind. Everything felt like it was working in slow motion.

Where was she?

Where was my Maddie? Where was my princess?

Will looked up at me. I saw his lips moving, but I couldn't hear what he was telling me. All I could hear was the desperate thumping of my heart.

Where was she?

Someone ran inside the room. I didn't see who it was. My vision blurred completely. I couldn't hear anything. I couldn't see anything. I was completely overwhelmed by pain.

Someone placed their hands on my face. I didn't know who it was. I didn't even know where I was.

I lost all the feelings in my legs and I felt something hard under my knees.

Skol howled loudly and I let the pain overwhelm me completely.

## CHAPTER FORTY-NINE – Your Queen Is Missing

William's POV

I was pacing around the room, trying to find some fucking way to remain in focus. Dimitri hadn't stopped whining or growling. I could tell that he was struggling and that he was in immense pain. I knew that he wouldn't be able to do shit until he came out of the shock he was in.

But that was why he had me. I had to take over until he managed to focus back on what mattered the most.

"She was poisoned with wolfsbane," the pack doctor said as he finished checking up on Ali. "The dose wasn't big. She will be okay, Beta. The wolfsbane just needs to leave her body."

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. I almost lost it when I found her on the floor. But at least I found her. At least she was here.

Maddie was...

Gone. She was fucking gone.

"Thank you," I mumbled as I opened my eyes and looked at my beautiful mate. "You can leave."

The pack doctor nodded. He glanced at Dimitri before he picked up his bag and walked out of the room.

Mike and Ellie walked inside. Both of them looked like they were crying.

“Anything?” I asked and they shook their heads.

“Her scent disappears at the edge of the forest,” Ellie said, looking at Dimitri. “There is no way to tell where they took her.”

I tightened my jaw and ran my fingers through my hair.

“Our warriors are searching the territory,” Mike said, his voice laced with fear and worry. “We covered as much of the border as we could. They won’t be able to get her out of our pack if they are still here.”

I looked at Dimitri and took a deep breath. He was standing by the window and staring at the forest. He almost left to go find her, but I stopped him. I couldn’t let him go until he was completely focused. I couldn’t let anything happen to him. I was his Beta and I needed to protect him. I couldn’t let him get hurt. Maddie would kill me if I let him get hurt.

“Dimitri...,” I called him, but he interrupted me.

“Gather every fucking Alpha and bring them into the throne room,” Dimitri said, his voice void of any emotion. “I am keeping them hostage until we find her.”

I looked at Mike and gulped.

“You can’t...,” Mike started speaking, but Dimitri interrupted him again.

“One of them took her,” he said, turning around to look at us. “They will bring her back to me, or I will burn them all. They will fucking burn together with that throne they wanted so fucking bad.”

Dimitri looked like a shell of himself. Every emotion in his eyes was gone. He looked like he aged in the last half an hour. He looked like he was on the verge of breaking.

“If you accuse them...,” I tried to reason with him, but he interrupted me with an order.

“Gather them,” he said, narrowing his eyes at me. “Right the fuck now.”

I had no other choice, but to listen to him. My body started moving on its own. I took a deep breath and released it slowly as I walked downstairs. Every packhouse worker and every single warrior I passed asked about Maddie. All of them had tears in their eyes. All of them looked so worried. I had to ignore them if I ever wanted to make my way to the throne room.

**We will find her.** I mind-linked them all, trying to sound confident. **Just go do your jobs, okay? Your Alpha needs you to keep everything in order. That’s the best you can do to help him.**

I walked inside the throne room and saw that every single one of our guests was already there.

“Will!” Alpha Theodore exclaimed. “Where is our Queen?”

They are all here, Dimitri. I mind-linked him, but he didn't respond.

"Who took her?" Alpha Lucius asked. "How the hell did they get inside the pack?"

"We need to search the forest?" Alpha Alistair said. "Did you send anyone there yet?"

I raised my hands, motioning for them to stop. I couldn't answer all of their questions at the same time.

"We sent our warriors to find her," I said calmly. "We don't know who..."

I was interrupted when the door burst open and a very angry Dimitri ran inside. He wasn't void of any emotion anymore. He was filled with anger. Mike was behind him and he looked as angry as Dimitri.

**Ali?** I mind-linked Mike.

**She is still asleep.** He responded. **Ellie stayed with her.**

I gulped and forced myself to focus back on Dimitri.

"One of you took her and I want her back," Dimitri growled loudly. "I swear to Goddess, I will fucking burn you alive if you don't bring my mate back to me."

He narrowed his eyes, looking around the room and growling. Some of our guests gasped. Everyone was shocked.

“I know that one of you is...,” he spoke, but he suddenly stopped talking.

I furrowed my brows and looked at him. He was looking around gritting his teeth and clenching his fists tightly.

“Where is Alpha Jack?” Dimitri asked and my heart stopped beating.

I looked at our guests, but I couldn’t find Alpha Jack. I couldn’t see his Beta or his Luna either.

“Where the fuck is Alpha Jack?!” Dimitri screamed, making everyone flinch and bow their heads.

His aura filled the room to the point where I started sweating. His anger was making it hard for all of us to breathe.

“They took her,” Mike mumbled. “That was why they opened the bedroom door. They trusted them.”

“I saw him on the battlefield,” Alpha Theodore mumbled quietly.

“He was there at the beginning, yes,” Alpha Lucius said. “But he wasn’t with us when we were coming back.”

“But why would they take her?” Luna Jennifer asked quietly. “What do they want to do with her?”

“They want my throne,” Dimitri said. “They want to use her as a way for me to give up my title and my Kingdom.”

Almost everyone in the room gasped.

“That is betrayal, my King!” Alpha Xavier exclaimed. “He is a traitor!”

“And he betrayed us all!” Alpha Lincoln added angrily. “If you betray our King, you betray every single one of us!”

“Yes!”

“Traitor!”

“He betrayed our King!”

“He betrayed our Kingdom!”

Everyone started shouting at the same time.

“We will find him, my King!” Alpha Lucius shouted. “He won’t get away with this!”

Dimitri tightened his jaw and looked at me.

**Do you trust them?** I asked. **Do you think that one of them was working with him?**

Dimitri didn’t get a chance to respond. The throne room door opened and Landon and Rayan ran inside.

“My King!” Landon exclaimed, his eyes wide. “Your Royal Secretary Kendrick is dead! He was killed!”

My eyes widened. The room was silent for a moment, but then everyone started shouting again.

“Betrayal!

“We will find him and kill him!”

“He has our Queen!”

“He killed a member of the council!”

I looked at Dimitri and saw him gritting his teeth. He took a deep breath and growled so loudly that I saw a couple of Betas and Lunas cover their ears.

“Your Queen is missing,” Dimitri said, his voice cold and filled with hatred. “I want you to use every single one of your resources to find her. I want you to help me bring her home. He didn’t take her to his pack. He isn’t that stupid. Do whatever you need to do to find her.”

He didn’t wait for anyone to respond. He turned around and rushed out of the throne room.

“Show me Kendrick’s body!” he shouted on his way out.

Landon, Rayan, Mike, and I ran after him.

My entire body was shaking with anger and fear. I couldn’t even imagine what Dimitri was feeling. He looked like he was on the verge of a complete breakdown.

We needed to find Maddie. We needed to find her as soon as possible.

## CHAPTER FIFTY – Your New Home

Madeline's POV

I groaned as I turned my head to my right. Every part of my body hurt.

What the hell happened to me? Was it the pregnancy? I had no idea that your body could feel like you'd been hit by a train. I had no idea that your head could hurt like someone stabbed a knife into your temples. Would I have to go through 6 months of that?

"Hello, my little bird," someone said softly.

The voice was both familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. I could have sworn that I had heard it before, but I had no idea where.

I was probably dreaming.

I gulped and felt around for Dimitri. I wanted to press myself closer to him. The pain would be gone as soon as I was in his arms.

I couldn't find him, though. Did he get up already?

"I am here, little bird," the voice said and I felt a large hand cover mine.

I didn't feel tingles. I didn't feel sparks. I knew Dimitri's hand and this wasn't it. Whose hand was that? Where was I?

My heart raced a little.

The hand squeezed mine gently and I felt someone's fingers on my forehead.

"Open those beautiful eyes, little bird," the voice said quietly. "I missed them so much."

A strange feeling in my stomach made me listen to him. I wanted to know who he was. I wanted to know where Dimitri was.

I opened my eyes slowly and the first thing I saw was his small smile.

"Hello, Madeline," he said, caressing my cheek. "How are you feeling?"

I furrowed my brows a little. I knew this man. Where did I know him from?

And then it dawned on me...

"Kade," I mumbled, my voice hoarse.

He smiled brightly and leaned in to kiss my forehead.

"Hello, my beautiful mate," he said. "I am so happy that you recognized me. We haven't seen each other in a while."

Mate?

He looked back down at me and I glanced behind his shoulder. I was in a strange room. This wasn't my room in my packhouse.

"Where am I?" I asked quietly as I looked back at him.

He sighed and smiled. "You are home, Madeline. You are finally home."

Home? That wasn't my home.

I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes. Dimitri wasn't here, was he? This man took me from him, didn't he?

"Do you remember what happened before you woke up here?" he asked as he caressed my cheek again. "I think that my mom gave you too much wolfsbane."

I wanted to move from him, but I couldn't feel my body. I could only feel my heart beating faster and faster as seconds went by.

I tried to focus and I tried to remember. We were getting ready to start the second challenge. I was talking to the Lunas and...

I gasped quietly as memories started rushing back. The rogue attack. Dimitri taking me to our bedroom. Dimitri telling me not to open the door for anyone other than Will or him. Dimitri leaving. Ali and I staying alone. Someone knocking on the door. Me opening the door and...

My heart felt like it fell into a bottomless pit.

“Maria,” I mumbled quietly.

Kade sighed and gave me a small nod.

“I am sorry she had to do that, my love,” he said. “But I wasn’t sure if you would agree to go with her.”

My stomach turned. It was her? She was the traitor? I trusted her. Why would she do that?

“Oh, I missed you terribly,” Kade mumbled as he leaned closer and placed a kiss on my cheek. “I couldn’t wait to have you back.”

He missed me? He couldn’t wait to have me back? I didn’t even know he knew I existed. He never spoke to me when I lived in his pack.

“You are so beautiful,” he said quietly as he rubbed his nose up and down my jaw. “You are beautiful and you are mine.”

My mind was screaming at me to move away from him, but my body was completely frozen. I couldn’t feel my arms or my legs. I was in shock. I was in denial. I was refusing to accept that this was really happening. It had to be a dream. It had to be a nightmare. I would open my eyes soon and I would wake up in my mate’s arms. Dimitri would smile at me and he would kiss me softly. He would caress my lower belly and tell me how happy he was to become a dad.

“Did you miss me too?” Kade asked, looking up at me.

He furrowed his brows and wiped the tears from my face. I didn't even realize I was crying.

"Why are you crying, beautiful?" he asked. "Are you in pain?"

I swallowed the lump in my throat and let a small amount of air into my lungs.

"Why are you doing this, Kade?" I asked. "Why did you take me?"

He sighed and ran his fingers through my hair.

"Because you are mine, Madeline," he said. "You belong to me. You were supposed to be my fated mate. I am just correcting a mistake the Goddess made."

My heart clenched painfully.

"I am not...", I spoke, but his growl interrupted me.

"Careful, Madeline," he said, narrowing his eyes slightly. "I won't tolerate disrespect."

I gulped and tightened my jaw. Did he really believe that I was his mate? I tried to read his mind, but I couldn't focus enough to do it. I was still in pain. I was still in shock. I simply couldn't calm down enough to focus on his thoughts.

"Kade, please...", I said quietly, but he interrupted me again.

“Nothing you say will make me change my mind, Madeline,” he said, caressing my cheek again. “You are mine and I am not giving you up. I will have everything now that I have you.”

“By everything, you mean the throne?” I asked and he smiled.

“That’s only an added bonus,” he said. “You are the main prize.”

My stomach turned again.

“It will take a while, but you will get used to everything, my beautiful mate,” he said. “I am a patient man, don’t worry. I will give you time.”

He stood up and smiled at me.

“I am going to get you some food,” he said. “You need to eat.”

I watched as he walked to the door. He looked around the room before he looked back at me.

“Feel free to get up and look around the room,” he said as he opened the door. “Tell me if you don’t like anything. We can change whatever you want. I want you to be comfortable here. This is your new home.”

He walked out and closed the door behind him.

I placed a hand over my mouth to stop a loud sob that tried to escape me. I forced myself to stand up and I walked to the window. My eyes fell on a thick forest that surrounded the house. It looked endless.

“Dimitri,” I cried out as I placed a hand on my lower belly.

“Come get us, please. We need you. Your pup and I need you.”

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