



True Luna:

THE
FINAL
BATTLE

THE WHITE WOLF SERIES BOOK SIX

TESSA LILLY



True Luna

The Final Battle

The White Wolf Series Book 6

Tessa Lilly

BLURB

“I love you,” I told her. “I love you with my entire heart and soul.”

She looked up at me and chuckled darkly. All I saw in her eyes was darkness. The color of her eyes that I loved so much was completely gone.

“We’ve been through so much,” I said. “I am not letting this thing take you away from me. I am not letting it destroy us.”

She remained silent and tilted her head a little. My heart was breaking inside my chest. My love wasn’t here. That thing took her place.

“I love you,” I told her again. “I will never stop loving you.”

In the final installment of The White Wolf Series, Sophia’s family fights a desperate battle against the lingering darkness that refuses to leave Sophia’s body. They fought and won a battle, but now it is time to win the war.

With time ticking away, they embark on a race against fate, desperate to find a way to get rid of the darkness once and for all.

Will they find a way to get rid of the darkness before it’s too late? Will they succeed in banishing the darkness before it claims their most cherished treasure? Will the darkness take away the one person they all love the most?

The answers lie in the final book of The White Wolf Series.

CHAPTER ONE What Happened?

Sophia's POV

I woke up when I felt soft kisses being placed on my neck. I smiled and lifted my hand to tangle my fingers into Hunter's hair.

"Good morning, Angel," he mumbled, his voice quiet and raspy.

My lower belly tingled and I had to hold back a moan. He could make all sorts of funny things happen inside me just by speaking.

I opened my eyes and saw him smiling at me. My heart fluttered and I felt like I was melting.

"Waking up next to you is the most amazing thing I ever experienced," he said as he leaned in and placed a soft kiss on my lips.

I kissed him back and smiled. I completely agreed with him. Nothing could ever be as amazing as waking up with his lips pressed against my neck.

"I hope that we will get to do that all the time," I said quietly.

Hunter cupped my cheeks and looked at me sternly.

"We will, Sophia," he said. "I am never sleeping without you again."

He leaned in and kissed me. I smiled and placed my hand on top of his.

"As soon as you are feeling a bit better we will go to our pack," he continued. "We have a lot to do. We have to plan a Luna ceremony. I need everyone to know that you are mine."

I smiled and gave him a small nod.

"I can't wait to do all that with you," I said softly.

I still wasn't ready to leave my pack, though. I needed just a little bit more time. I missed my family so much and I wanted to spend a few days with them before I left. I wanted to spend some time with Lex. I couldn't leave him yet.

I furrowed my eyebrows and bit my lower lip. I had to let Hunter know that I needed a few more days with my family. I hoped that he wouldn't be upset.

"I would like to stay here for a few days, though," I added quietly. "I missed my family. I missed Lex. I can't just leave him again. He needs me. I need him. I..."

Hunter stopped me by pressing his lips against mine. I took a deep breath of his scent and let it soothe me.

"I know, Angel," he said softly as he pulled back and caressed my cheek. "We can stay for as long as you want to. My dad will take care of the pack. I will take care of everything, don't worry."

He leaned in to place another small kiss on my lips. I couldn't hold back a smile.

"Besides, I am not crazy enough to take you away from Alex just yet," Hunter added, rolling his eyes playfully. "He would bite my head off."

I chuckled and ran my fingers through his hair.

"He probably would," I said, shaking my head and smiling.

Hunter caressed my cheek and took a deep breath.

"He missed you a lot," Hunter said quietly. "He was so scared."

He gulped and closed his eyes.

"I was so scared," he added so quietly that I barely heard him.

My heart clenched painfully. I couldn't even imagine what they were going through. They didn't deserve any of it.

"I am so sorry," I said, my voice laced with pain. "I am so sorry."

I couldn't come up with anything else to say. I didn't know what to say other than how sorry I was.

"It wasn't your fault, my love," Hunter said, leaning his forehead against mine. "It wasn't your fault."

But it was. It was my fault. If I just fought harder the darkness wouldn't be able to take over. If I just tried harder none of this would happen.

I was just about to tell him that when I got a mind-link from Lex.

Fia? He called me, his voice laced with an emotion I couldn't recognize.

Yes? I mind-linked him back immediately.

Can you and Hunter come downstairs, please? He asked and my heart raced.

Was something wrong? I could hear the worry in his voice and it made my stomach twist.

Is everything okay? I asked him.

Come downstairs, okay? He responded and my heart jumped in my throat.

Something was wrong.

"Lex asked us to come downstairs," I mumbled quietly, trying to keep my voice from shaking.

"Is everything okay?" Hunter asked and I shrugged.

I was so nervous that I got up immediately. I had to go downstairs and talk to Lex. I had to know what was wrong. I grabbed the first hoodie I could get my hands on. I didn't even remove the shirt I slept in. I didn't care. I had to get to Lex.

"Slow down, Sophia," Hunter said as he got out of bed and approached me.

My hands were shaking as I was pulling a hoodie over my head. Hunter helped me get it on. He had a worried look on his face.

“He probably just wants to see you,” Hunter said. “I’m sure that nothing is wrong.”

I couldn’t take that chance. I rushed out of my bedroom as soon as I pulled my sweats up.

“Shoes, Sophia!” Hunter yelled after me.

I didn’t have time for shoes. I heard Hunter curse and follow after me.

My heart was pounding in my chest as I raced downstairs. I could hear my parents’ quiet voices. My eyes fell on Lex who was sitting on the couch with his head in his hands. I knew immediately that something was very wrong and my heart stopped beating.

“Lex?” I called him as I rushed toward him.

He looked up immediately and reached for me. I sat next to him and pulled him into a hug.

“What happened?!” I exclaimed, my voice laced with panic. “Are you okay?! Are you hurt?!”

If he was hurt...

“I am okay, Fia,” Lex said quietly, but I didn’t believe him.

Something was wrong and if he didn’t tell me what...

“What the hell happened?!” I heard Hunter’s voice.

“Sit down, Hunter,” I heard my mom say softly. “We need to tell you something.”

My heart raced and I tried to let go of Lex so I could look at my mom. He didn’t let me, though. He tightened his arms around me and pressed me against his chest. The fear inside me exploded.

Was something wrong with Lex?!

CHAPTER Two

Sophia's POV

I was rubbing Lex's back softly. My heart was racing like crazy.

"Is something wrong with Lex?" I asked, trying to turn my head so I could look at my mom. "What is going on, mom?"

I couldn't move much because Lex was holding me too tightly. I couldn't see my mom's face clearly, but what I did see had me even more worried than before. I tightened my arms around Lex and kept my eyes on my mom.

"Alex is okay, honey," my mom said and I relaxed immediately. "It's not about him."

As long as Lex was okay, everything would be okay.

"Who is it about then?" I heard Hunter ask. "What the hell happened?"

Lex placed a hand on my head and pressed me even closer to him.

"It's about your darkness, Fia," Lex said, his voice trembling. "It didn't leave. It's still here."

I froze completely.

What?

"I can still feel it inside you, honey," my mom added and I felt her hand on my back. "We got you back, but we didn't get rid of it."

My stomach turned. I was going to throw up. I couldn't move, though. I couldn't feel my body.

"Are you fucking kidding me?!" Hunter screamed. "You are wrong! You have to be wrong!"

I couldn't even feel my heart beating. Maybe it just stopped working. I was sure that I wasn't breathing. My chest

burned with the lack of air.

It was still here? It could take over me again?

Oh, Goddess, no.

No, no, no, no!

It could take over me again and I could hurt someone again. I could kill someone again! What if this time I hurt someone I loved? What if I hurt my family? What if I hurt Lex? What if I hurt Hunter?

No!

I wanted to scream, but I couldn't find my voice. I could hear my parents explaining something to Hunter, but I couldn't focus on their conversation.

All I thought about was hurting someone again. I didn't want to hurt anyone ever again.

"Breathe, Fia," Lex whispered softly. "Everything is going to be okay. I promise. We will find a way to get rid of it for good. I will find a way."

Find a way to get rid of it? We'd been trying for years and nothing ever worked. We wouldn't find a way to get rid of it and it would take over me again. I would hurt someone again. Only this time it could be someone from my family. This time I could hurt my mate.

I would never forgive myself if I hurt Hunter.

And then a thought came to me.

I had to leave. I had to protect them all and leave.

'What?!' Stella screamed at me. 'You can't go, Sophia! I won't let you leave! I will tell Axel. You are not going anywhere!'

I swallowed the lump in my throat and closed my eyes.

'I am not going anywhere,' I mumbled. 'I am a danger to everyone, not just my family. The darkness could take over me and I could hurt someone. I don't want to hurt anyone else.'

Stella was quiet for a few moments.

‘What did you mean then?’ she asked, but I didn’t respond.

I forced a little bit of air into my lungs and opened my eyes.

“You need to lock me back up,” I said and the room suddenly got very quiet. “I need to go back into that room.”

It was the only way. I wasn’t going to let anyone get hurt again.

“What?” Hunter was the first one to speak. “No, Sophia!”

He sat down next to Lex and me. I felt his hands on my back. He tried to pull me away from Lex, but Lex growled quietly and tightened his arms around me.

“Yes,” I said, grabbing a fistful of Lex’s hoodie. “I am dangerous. I could hurt someone. I don’t want to hurt anyone ever again. You need to lock me back up until we find a way.”

“No, Fia, we won’t do that,” Lex said. “You will feel the darkness coming. You will tell us and we can do something then. I am not locking you up in that room again.”

I pushed back a little so I could look at Lex.

“What if I don’t feel it?” I asked, my voice laced with fear. “What if it just takes over and you can’t do anything about it?”

Lex shook his head at me.

“I won’t let it happen, Lex,” I said. “I won’t hurt anyone ever again.”

Lex just kept looking at me. He kept gulping and I could tell that he was having a hard time speaking.

“I don’t think that’s necessary, honey,” my mom said. “You always felt the darkness coming, Sophie. There is no reason to think that this time will be any different.”

I looked at my mom and shook my head.

“I am not ready to take that risk, mom,” I said. “I won’t let myself hurt anyone ever again.”

My mom looked at my dad and took a deep breath.

“Fuck, no, Sophia,” Hunter said angrily. “It is not happening. I am not locking you up in that room just because the darkness could come back. What if it doesn’t? What if it takes us days to find a way to get rid of it? What if it takes us weeks, or months?”

Hunter pulled me from Lex and this time Lex let him do it.

“I am not doing it, Sophia,” Hunter said as he turned me around and cupped my cheeks. “There is no fucking way that you will be locked in that room again.”

I lifted my hand and caressed his cheek. I didn’t want to be separated from him again either. But if the darkness came back and I hurt him...

“It will be okay,” I said, trying to give him a small smile. “We will find a way. My mom will find a way soon and I will be able to get out of there.

I looked at my mom and saw her looking at me with tears in her eyes.

“You will find a way, mom, won’t you?” I asked.

She nodded and approached me. She pulled me from Logan and hugged me tightly.

“I will find a way, my baby,” she said softly. “I promise, Sophia. I will find a way and I will make sure that you are never touched by darkness again.”

I leaned my head on my mom’s shoulder. I believed in her. I knew that she would find a way and I knew that everything would be okay.

CHAPTER THREE Not Again

Hunter's POV

I wasn't going to lock her up again!

There was no fucking way she would spend another minute in that room. It wasn't happening.

I watched Emma hugging my mate and I got the urge to grab her and take her away from everything and everyone. Maybe we could run away from the darkness. Maybe we could run away from everything bad that surrounded us.

How the fuck could I lock her up again? I couldn't do it. I simply couldn't.

I placed my hands on her waist and pulled her from Emma gently. I needed to hold her in my arms. I needed to be sure that she was with me and not in some room.

"Hunter..." she said quietly, but I interrupted her.

"I said no, Sophia," I said sternly. "I'm not going to change my mind. I am not locking you in that room again."

Sophia sighed and looked at her family.

"Can you give us a minute, please?" she asked, making me tighten my jaw.

"They don't need to give us a minute, Sophia," I said. "I am not changing my mind."

Sophia didn't even look at me. She kept her eyes on her family the entire time. I had to hold back from rolling my eyes when I saw them nod and get up. Alex kissed Sophia's temple before he stood up and walked away after his parents.

Sophia looked at me as soon as her family was out of sight.

"No," I said immediately. "No fucking way, Sophia. You are not going back in that room."

How could I go back to waking up without her in my arms?

It was simple. I couldn't.

"I don't want to hurt anyone ever again, Hunter," she said quietly. "I am already having trouble accepting what I did. If I hurt someone I loved, I would never be able to forgive myself for it."

I cupped her cheeks and sighed.

"You are not going to hurt anyone, Sophia," I said softly. "I am sure of it."

She placed her hands over mine and closed her eyes.

"Do you remember the things I said to my mom?" she asked quietly, her voice laced with pain.

I gritted my teeth and leaned in to kiss her forehead. Of course I remembered it. I remembered every word she said.

"I remember," I mumbled against her forehead.

"I meant every word that I said to her," Sophia said quietly. "The things that I was thinking were horrible. I wanted to..."

Her voice broke and she stopped talking.

I pulled her closer to me and pressed her against my chest. I wasn't going to lose her. Not again. I wasn't going to stand behind that fucking glass and look at her without being able to touch her.

"I won't let you hurt her," I said softly. "I won't let you hurt anyone."

She wrapped her arms around my waist and took a deep breath.

"You wouldn't be able to stop me," she said quietly. "No one would and that's why I need to go back in that room."

I closed my eyes and swallowed the lump in my throat.

"My mom will find a way," she continued. "I am sure of it. She already has a plan. I can feel it, Hunter. I won't be in

there for long.”

No.

No, no, no, no!

She wouldn't be in there at all! Not again!

“No, Sophia, no,” I mumbled, burying my nose into her hair. “I can't lose you again. I can't.”

She tightened her arms around me and turned her head so she could place a kiss on my chest

“You won't lose me,” she said softly. “You will never lose me.”

She lifted her head and gave me a small smile.

“I want to be completely yours before I go back in there,” she said as he lifted her hand and caressed my cheek. “I want to mark you and make you mine. I want you to know that I will always belong to you, even though you can't touch me.”

I almost sobbed.

But I needed to touch her. I needed to touch her!

“I can't, Angel, I can't,” I cried out as I pressed my lips against her.

Just thinking about not being able to kiss her and hold her had me ready to scream in pain. I couldn't do it again.

“Yes, you can,” she said as she cupped my cheeks. “We both know that I have to do this, Hunter. I can't be free until that thing is completely out of my body.”

I closed my eyes and furrowed my eyebrows. She leaned in and pressed a soft kiss on my lips.

“I love you,” she said. “I will be completely yours before I go inside and I will come back to you soon.”

No, please Goddess, no.

I kissed her back as hard as I could. I picked her up and placed her on my lap. I needed to feel every part of her body against mine. She tangled her fingers into my hair and pressed her body against mine.

“We can go to my family’s cabin tonight,” she whispered against my lips. “We can be together before I go back in there.”

No, no, no.

Goddess, please no.

She lowered her head and placed a kiss on my neck. I grunted and closed my eyes. She lifted her head a little and kissed my cheek.

“I will come back to you soon,” she said softly. “I promise, Hunter. You won’t lose me. You will never lose me.”

I wrapped my arms around her as tightly as I could.

I understood why she wanted to go in there, but she didn’t have to. I wouldn’t let her hurt anyone.

“I can’t...” I mumbled.

‘Hunter, we have to do it,’ Holden said quietly. ‘We wouldn’t be able to stop her and we would lose her forever if she hurt someone again.’

I gritted my teeth and swallowed the lump in my throat.

‘I can’t, Holden,’ I said. ‘I can’t be without her again.’

Holden was silent for a moment. I could feel his pain flowing around my body.

‘I know,’ Holden said quietly. ‘It won’t be for long, Hunter. We will get her back soon.’

I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath. Her scent soothed my soul a little.

“I am not letting you go in there without your mark on my body,” I said, my voice quiet and raspy. “I need you to be mine in every way possible before I let them lock...”

I couldn’t finish the sentence.

Sophia looked up at me and smiled.

“I already am yours,” she said. “I am entirely yours.”

I leaned in and captured her lips with mine.

I knew that she was mine, but I wanted every confirmation I could get. I needed to feel her in every way possible before I let them take her from me.

CHAPTER FOUR What To Do?

Emma's POV

I didn't want to lock up my daughter again. My heart would break the moment I closed those doors.

But she wouldn't be in there for long. I already had a plan and I knew what I needed to do.

I just couldn't tell anyone. "I knew they would try to stop me and I couldn't let that happen. My daughter was going to go to her pack and start living her life. I was going to deal with the darkness. I was responsible for it and I was going to take the burden of it.

"What happened?" my brother asked as he barged through the back door.

Mason was behind him and he looked like he was ready to fight.

"Sit down," Logan told them calmly. "We will tell you everything after Nathan, Janet, and Anna get here."

"Where is Sophia?" Mason asked worriedly.

"She is in the living room with Hunter," Logan said, glancing at the door.

I knew how much he wanted to go there and take her into his arms. I wanted to do the same. I didn't care that she was an adult. She would always be my little girl and I would always want to hold her like I did when she was a child. It was the same with Alex. He was so much taller and bigger than me, but that didn't matter. He would always be my little boy.

"Alex," I called him softly.

He stopped pacing around and looked at me. I patted the chair next to me and gave him a small smile.

He groaned but listened to me. He sat down next to me and leaned his head on my shoulder. I kissed his forehead and took his hand in mine.

“Everything will be okay,” I said quietly. “I promise.”

I would make sure that everything was okay. I just needed to get Sophia into that room. I would take it from there.

“What happened, Emma?” my brother asked sternly, making me look up at him.

I was just about to tell him that we had to wait when I heard Nathan, Janet, and Anna approaching the back door.

As soon as Anna walked through the door I knew that she already knew why we called her here.

“Okay, talk,” Andrew said as soon as Nathan closed the door.

“The darkness isn’t gone,” Anna said before any of us could speak.

Mason gasped and looked at her wide-eyed.

“Goddess, Anna, why would you say that?!” Mason exclaimed and looked at me.

The fear I saw in his eyes made my heart clench painfully.

“It isn’t true, right?” Mason asked. “Hunter’s mark took it away.”

I gulped and shook my head a little. Mason paled.

“It brought Sophia back, but it didn’t take the darkness away,” I said. “It is still here.”

Everyone was silent after I confirmed what Anna had shared. I kept my eyes on Mason. He looked like he was about to shift.

“Are you sure?” Andrew asked quietly.

I looked at my brother and nodded.

“I am sure,” I said. “I can feel it.”

Andrew clenched his fists and cursed loudly. He started pacing around and shaking his head.

“What are we going to do?” Nathan asked quietly.

I looked at him and took a deep breath. I knew what I was going to do, but I wasn't going to tell them. They would find out soon enough.

"Sophia wants us to lock her back into that room," Alex said quietly, making Mason gasp.

"Is she insane?!" Mason exclaimed loudly. "We are not doing that!"

He rushed toward the living room, but Logan stopped him.

"She wants it, Mason," Logan said, his voice laced with pain and worry. "She is afraid of hurting someone again."

Mason's eyes widened. "We won't let her! I am not letting you lock her up again!"

The kitchen door opened and Sophie and Hunter walked inside.

"You wouldn't be able to stop me, Mase," Sophie said, making Mason look at her. "I will be okay. I won't be in there for long. My mom will find a way to destroy the darkness."

Mason growled quietly and pulled Sophie into a hug.

"You are okay with his?" Mason asked Hunter.

One look at Hunter and I knew the answer to Mason's question. He was definitely not okay with it.

"No," Hunter said quietly. "I am not okay with it, but it is what she wants."

Mason growled again and looked at Sophie.

"We will be able to stop you," Mason said. "Your mom stopped you once and she would be able to do it again."

"At what cost, Mase?" Logan sighed. "Emma barely managed to do it last time and it completely exhausted her."

Mason looked at me and took a deep breath.

"I will find a way to take the darkness away," I said, giving him a reassuring smile. "I promise, Mason. She won't be in there for long."

Mason sighed and looked back at Sophie. She smiled at him and hugged him tightly.

“I will be back soon and we will prank Alex again,” Sophie said, smirking at Alex.

Sophie and Mason always found new ways to mess with Alex. Well, the three of them messed with each other all the time. I remembered one time when Alex and Mason cut a small strand of Sophie’s hair while she was asleep. They waited until she woke up, showed it to her, and convinced her that all of her hair fell off her head while she was asleep. I would never forget the way she screamed. My heart stopped beating and I thought that something happened. She pranked them back the next day. She never let them off the hook for anything they did.

I smiled at the memory. I would make sure that they had a lot more of those carefree days.

“Hey!” Alex said. “What did I do to you?”

Sophie winked at him and let Mason go.

“I need a day with her,” Hunter said and I looked at him. “I won’t let you lock her back in there until I had some time alone with her.”

I really wished that we could take her to the room today so I could execute my plan tonight, but I understood Hunter. He was her mate, and he needed some time with her before she was taken away from him again.

I wished that I could tell him it wouldn’t be for long. I wished that I could share my plan with everyone and stop them from worrying.

But they would find out soon enough. I would do everything I needed to do tomorrow night and they would get Sophia back for good.

CHAPTER FIVE Our Day Alone (Part One)

Sophia's POV

I unlocked the cabin door just as I felt Hunter's lips on my neck. I moaned and leaned into him.

"I love the taste of your skin," Hunter mumbled quietly.

I shivered as his lips reached the mark on my neck. I could feel the tingles in my lower belly spreading through my body. I could feel myself getting aroused. The muscles in my legs twitched and I was glad I was leaning on Hunter.

"Fuck, Sophia, I can smell you," Hunter said, growling quietly.

I gulped and tried to hold back a moan. It was so hard, though. His lips felt so good on my neck and my body needed to give him affirmation.

I moaned again as he started sucking on his mark on my neck. I gasped and flinched with the intense sensation. Hunter grabbed my waist and pinned me to him. I could feel his hardness against my back and the need for him exploded inside me.

"I need you," I moaned, making him grunt and press himself against me.

He lifted me up and walked inside the cabin, never removing his lips from my neck. He was now kissing the area behind my ear and I was sure that I would pass out from lust.

He placed me down and slammed the door shut.

"Fuck, Angel, I need you too," he mumbled and his warm breath on my neck made my eyes roll back into my head.

The sensations on my body were too much. I could feel his hands caressing and touching me gently. I could feel his lips hitting every right spot. I could feel his hips rolling and pushing against me.

My panties were completely ruined and I wanted them off. No, I needed to take them off. I needed to remove them so there would be nothing between us. I needed to remove every piece of clothing and I needed to do it as soon as possible.

Hunter turned me around and pressed his lips against mine. I reached under his shirt and touched his perfect, sculpted abs. He grunted and removed his shirt completely. I stopped kissing him so I could look at his body. He was perfect. Everything about him was perfect. I watched his chest rise and fall rapidly as he panted hard. I watched the muscles on his arms clench.

I had no idea what to do, but I just went with my instincts. I leaned in and placed a kiss on his chest. I ran my hands up his arms and squeezed his abs. His skin tasted amazing and I never wanted to stop kissing him.

He grunted, tangled his fingers into my hair, and pulled my head up. The lust in his eyes made me shiver. He leaned in, keeping his eyes on mine. I was so entranced by him that I couldn't even blink. He kissed me softly and bit my lower lip. I moaned and pressed myself closer to him.

“Can I please make love to you, Angel?” Hunter asked and I thought that I would explode with happiness.

“Yes, please,” I mumbled and he picked me up.

I wrapped my legs around his waist and he started walking upstairs. We never broke our kiss or stopped touching each other. His hands were all over my body and I felt like I was about to burst in flames.

Hunter opened the bedroom door and walked inside. He lowered me on the bed gently and I pulled him on top of me. He rolled his hips and his hardness touched that sensitive spot that never stopped throbbing. I gasped and arched my back a little.

Hunter smirked and lowered his lips to my neck.

“Can I take your shirt off?” he asked and I nodded immediately.

He smiled and pulled my shirt over my head. He groaned when he saw my lace bra.

“You are going to kill me,” he said as he lowered his head and placed a kiss on my right breast.

I moaned and arched my back again. Hunter reached for my bra and looked up at me. I nodded and he moved it to the side.

My heart raced. I never did anything like this before. No one ever saw me naked. No one ever touched me.

No one ever did what Hunter just did. He captured my nipple with his mouth and sucked gently. I cried out in pleasure and grabbed his upper arm, trying to press him closer to me. I needed more.

Hunter used his other hand to unclasp my bra and take it off completely. Mi was panting hard and I couldn't think about anything else other than his lips on my breast. He used his hand to cup my breast. He squeezed it gently and rolled my nipple between his fingers.

My eyes rolled to the back of my head and I arched my back again, pressing myself against him.

“You are so fucking perfect,” Hunter mumbled as he started kissing down my stomach.

He stopped when he reached the waistband of my jeans. He looked up at me and gulped.

“I need you to stop me if you are uncomfortable with anything, okay?” he said and I gave him a small nod.

He was silent for a few seconds.

“I am serious, Sophia,” he said sternly. “We don't have to do anything yet. I would be happy just spending the day with you in my arms. I need you to stop me if you change your mind.”

I already knew that I wasn't going to change my mind. I wanted him.

“I want you,” I said softly as I caressed his cheek. “But, I will stop you if I change my mind.”

Hunter smiled and started unbuttoning my jeans. I suddenly became very nervous. I watched as he reached under the waistband of my jeans and pulled them down. He kept his eyes on mine the entire time. I realized that he removed my panties as well and I gasped. I didn't expect him to do it at the same time. I was a bit shy so I tried to close my legs.

He was kneeling between them so it was impossible.

“No, Sophia,” he growled as he grabbed my knees and spread my legs open. “All of this is mine. Unless you want me to stop completely, don't hide from me.”

I gulped and shook my head. He was right. My whole body belonged to him, just like his belonged to me.

“Don't stop,” I said quietly.

Hunter smiled and looked between my legs. My heart stopped beating until I heard him grunt and curse.

“Fuck, fuck, fuck,” he mumbled as he ran his hands up my thighs and squeezed. “You are so ready for me, aren't you?”

He wasn't wrong. I could feel how wet I was. I could feel it on my thighs and I could feel it under my butt. I was ready and I needed him.

CHAPTER SIX Our Day Alone (Part Two)

Hunter's POV

My heart was going to give out.

She was so fucking perfect and I couldn't wait to be inside her.

I was staring at her wet pussy and I kept gulping. I couldn't move. I was so fucking stunned by her perfection that I couldn't move.

I looked up at her and saw her panting hard. I could tell by the look on her face that she was nervous. I could feel her emotions. The strongest one was definitely lust, but I could feel shame as well and I wasn't going to let her be ashamed. She was perfect and mine and she had nothing to be ashamed of.

"Can I please touch you, Angel?" I mumbled as I looked back at her pussy. "I need to touch you."

I looked up at her. She gulped and gave me a small nod.

I kept my eyes on hers as I ran my hand higher. Her breathing picked up and she looked down.

I had to do it too. I had to watch as I finally touched what belonged to me. I gently ran my finger between her lips and I almost cried out in pleasure. She was so fucking wet that my finger almost slipped inside her.

Fuck!

"Oh, fuck, Sophia," I mumbled as I laid between her legs to get closer.

She was panting hard and grabbing the fistful of the sheets beneath her.

I looked up at her as I started circling her clit with my thumb. She gasped and her eyes widened.

I put a little bit more pressure on her clit and watched as she arched her back.

“Oh, Hunter,” she moaned and my dick twitched painfully.

Hearing my name coming out of her delicious mouth in a form of a moan made my entire body tingle.

“Eyes on me while I make you cum,” I said sternly and she looked back at me immediately.

Her eyes widened when I started circling her entrance with my finger. I was trying to be as gentle as I could. I would never forgive myself if I hurt her.

“I am going to lick you, Sophia,” I said, making her gulp. “I am going to put my finger inside you and I am going to make you cum.”

Her eyes widened again and I felt another wave of nervousness wash over her.

“Do you want me to stop?” I asked.

I so fucking didn't want to stop, but I would if she didn't want me to do anything.

I was relieved when she shook her head. I smiled and looked back down at her perfect pussy. I couldn't wait to taste her.

I looked back up at her as I lowered my head and licked her clit.

Oh, fuck. She tasted amazing.

She moaned and arched her back, tilting her head back.

“Eyes on me, Sophia,” I growled and she looked back at me.

Her breathing picked up as I started sucking on her clit gently. She was mumbling something under her breath and I could tell that she was struggling to keep her eyes on mine. She kept gripping the sheets underneath her and panting.

I was so fucking proud of myself. No one could do that but me. Only I could make her feel this good.

I circled a finger around her entrance and decided to put it in gently. She was wet and she could take it.

I pushed the tip of my finger in and she flinched a little. I was scared that I hurt her before I heard her moan. I grabbed her waist and held her tightly.

“Don’t move,” I said, my voice quiet and raspy. “Eyes on me.”

She was a very, very good girl and she did exactly what I told her to do.

I pushed my finger deeper and I had to stop my eyes from rolling to the back of my head. She was so fucking soft, tight, and wet. I had a feeling that I would explode the moment my dick entered her.

I sucked harder, trying to relax her even more so I could push the whole finger in. She moaned and tightened her grip on the sheets.

I reached up and pinched her nipple. She gasped and looked at my hand. I growled and she corrected her mistake immediately. Her beautiful eyes looked back at me and I pushed my finger completely in.

“Oh, Hunter,” she cried out and I almost exploded inside my pants.

I rolled her nipple between my fingers and sucked on her clit as I started pumping my finger in and out as gently as I could.

She clenched around my finger and I knew that she was close. I smiled a little and continued doing exactly what I knew was going to make her cum.

Her breathing picked up. She pulled the sheets up. Blood rushed to her cheeks and her pupils widened. She was so fucking close and I could wait to see my beautiful little mate come.

I flicked my tongue on her clit and something between a quiet gasp escaped her. I could feel her insides pulsating.

I smiled as I flicked my tongue a couple of more times. That was enough to throw her over the edge.

“Hunter!” she cried out as her back arched and her head fell back.

I could feel her clenching around my finger. She pushed her hips toward me and I more than happily continued what I was doing, prolonging her orgasm until she grabbed a fistful of my hair and pushed my head back. She was too sensitive for me to continue.

I pulled my finger out of her and spread her legs. I watched her pussy clench and my whole body shivered. She would do that around my dick soon.

“Oh, my...,” she mumbled and I looked up at her.

She was never more beautiful than in that moment. Her cheeks were flushed. Her chest was rising and falling rapidly. Her lips were wet and slightly open because she was panting. Her eyes were wide and I could see the lust inside them.

“Good?” I asked, smirking a little.

I knew it was good. I knew how to make my mate feel good, even though this was the first time I did this. I could feel her emotions. I knew her body and I knew what she needed.

She licked her lips and nodded. I groaned and laid back on top of her so I could kiss her. She moaned and wrapped her legs around me. I rolled my hips into her and she did the same. My dick was going to explode. I needed to be inside her immediately.

“Hunter, please,” she mumbled. “I need you. I need to mark you. I need to make you mine.”

She didn't have to ask me twice.

CHAPTER SEVEN – Our Day Alone (Part Three)

Hunter's POV

I got up on my knees and kept my eyes on her as I started pulling my pants down.

She looked down and I saw her gulp. She was breathing heavily and squirming a little.

My dick was so sensitive that I grunted as my boxers brushed against the tip. I needed to be inside her as soon as fucking possible.

Sophia gasped as I removed my boxers completely. She sat up and looked up at me. I was going to have a heart attack. She looked so fucking beautiful with her flushed cheeks and her messy hair. Her beautiful eyes were staring up at me and she licked her lips a little.

“Fuck, fuck, fuck,” I mumbled as I cupped her cheeks and pressed my lips against hers.

I felt her hand wrap around my dick and I almost exploded.

“Fuck, Sophia, fuck,” I groaned as I stopped kissing her and looked down.

She kept sliding her hand up and down slowly and I was going to cum if she didn't stop.

“You need to stop,” I groaned as I watched her hand slide over my tip. “You are going to make me cum.”

She slowed her movements a little before she stopped completely and let my painfully hard dick go.

I looked up at her and kissed her again.

“Was that okay?” she mumbled quietly. “I've never done anything like that before and I didn't...”

I stopped her by placing another kiss on her soft, warm lips. I knew she had never done anything like that before and I was so fucking happy about that. She didn't have to know anything about sex or making me feel good because just thinking about her could make me explode.

"It was perfect," I mumbled against her lips. "Everything you do to me is perfect, Angel."

I felt her smile a little and my heart grew.

"I would love to put my dick inside you now," I mumbled and I felt her shiver. "Can I please do that?"

She nodded and my heart raced impossibly fast. I kissed her again before I gently pushed her to lie back down.

She kept her eyes on me the entire time. I felt her nervousness grow a little.

I laid on top of her and placed a soft kiss on her neck.

"There is no need to be nervous, Angel," I mumbled. "I will go slow and you can stop me at any time, okay? You are in charge."

I meant every word that I said. It would probably take all the strength I had, but I would stop if she wanted me to stop.

"I won't stop you," she said softly. "I want this. I need this."

I placed another kiss on her neck as I reached between us and ran my finger between her folds. I needed to make sure that she was wet enough for me to push inside her. I groaned when her wetness coated my finger. She was more than ready.

I wrapped my hand around my dick and pressed the tip against her clit gently. She moaned and squirmed under me. I looked up at her and growled quietly.

"I need you to stay still," I told her.

She gave me a small nod and I leaned in to kiss her.

I lowered my dick to her entrance and my breath got caught in my throat. She was so fucking wet and so fucking warm.

“I will go slow, okay?” I mumbled. “Stop me if it gets too much.”

“Hunter, please,” she moaned. “Put it in.”

I groaned. I was going to cum if she kept talking like that. I listened to her, though.

I started pushing inside her and we both moaned loudly. I already knew that I wasn't going to last long. She was so tight and warm that my dick was already pulsating.

“Please,” she moaned again and I pushed a little bit more.

She gasped and I lowered my lips to hers. My whole body was trembling. I'd never felt anything like this before. I already knew that I was going to get addicted to this. I already knew that I would need to fuck her as often as possible. There was no going back from this. There was no going back from being inside her beautiful body.

I didn't want back. I wanted more.

I pushed deeper as I sucked on her lower lip. She dug her nails into my shoulders and moaned again.

I was now halfway in and I had to fight so fucking hard not to cum already. Being inside her was the most amazing thing I ever experienced.

“I am going to push all the way in, Angel,” I said, panting hard. “Is that okay?”

She nodded and I pressed my lips against hers. I kissed her hard before I lowered my lips to my mark on her neck. I started sucking on it as I pushed my dick all the way inside her. She flinched and took in a sharp breath.

“It's okay,” I said softly. “It will only hurt for a little while.”

I kissed her neck and jaw until I reached her lips. I kissed her as softly as I could I tried not to move too much until she told me to.

When she started rolling her hips a little, I knew that she was ready.

I took a deep breath, pulled out of her a little, and pushed my dick back inside her. My eyes rolled to the back of my head. Sophia cried out in pleasure.

“Oh, fuck, Angel,” I mumbled as I started pushing in and out of her at a steady pace.

She arched her back and I groaned.

“Don’t move, Sophia,” I growled. “I am going to fucking explode.”

I was so fucking sensitive and if she moved a muscle I would be shooting my load way sooner than I wanted to.

She lifted her leg and wrapped it around me, allowing me to go even deeper inside her.

“Fuck, Sophia, fuck,” I mumbled as I started going a little faster.

Sophia started kissing my neck and my whole body shivered.

“I need to mark you,” she cried out and I felt her canines elongate.

I was going to cum so fucking hard.

“Do it, Angel,” I said, tilting my head to the side so she could get better access to my neck.

I never stopped pumping in and out of her. I was so fucking close and I knew that I would explode the moment her canines pierced my skin.

She licked my marking spot before she grunted and inserted her canines into my neck.

My dick twitched inside her and I experienced the most powerful orgasm of my life. I saw fucking stars. I couldn’t stop pumping in and out of her. I couldn’t stop grunting and moaning.

She moaned loudly while her canines were still inside me. I felt her pussy clenching around me hard and I knew that she came too.

I closed my eyes and kept pumping in and out of her,
trying to prolong this feeling for both of us.

I'd never felt better in my entire life.

CHAPTER EIGHT – Mate

Sophia's POV

I was exhausted.

We'd been in bed the whole day. We barely even ate something. I didn't mind, though. I didn't want to leave the bed. I didn't need food. I needed Hunter. I needed him on me. I needed him inside me. I needed him around me. I needed him in every way possible and I didn't want to leave the bed.

I was exhausted, but I somehow still wanted him. My body was still ready for him. I was still so wet and so willing to let him do whatever he wanted to do to me.

I cried out loudly as another orgasm ripped through me.

"Oh, fuck," Hunter mumbled as he continued pumping in and out of me.

"Hunter," I cried out as I wrapped my legs around him, trying to stop him from pulling out of me.

I needed him inside me.

"Fuck, Sophia," he groaned as he collapsed on top of me.

We were both panting hard. We were sweaty and hot.

Hunter lifted his head and kissed me hard. He pulled out of me and kneeled between my legs.

"I need one more, Sophia," he said as he grabbed my hips and turned me around.

"I can't," I cried out.

I wanted him inside me again, but I couldn't cum anymore. I simply couldn't. My body was too exhausted for another orgasm.

He grabbed my hips and pulled my butt up a little.

"Yes, you can, Sophia," he growled quietly. "I've waited too long for this. I am not done. I need more."

He gently entered me from behind and my eyes rolled to the back of my head.

“I need to feel you clench around me one more time, Angel,” he said and I was somehow ready for another orgasm.

I cried out in pleasure as he started pumping in and out of me gently.

“Oh, fuck,” he mumbled. “You feel so fucking good.”

I turned around to look at him and my breath got caught in my throat. He was so handsome and somehow he was mine.

He was my mate. He belonged to me and I belonged to him. My eyes fell on my mark on his neck and my whole body shivered.

Mine. He was mine.

I let my eyes roam around his body. His abs were glistening with sweat. His eyebrows were furrowed and his jaw kept twitching. The muscles on his arms kept clenching as he was gripping my hips tightly. He was completely focused on what he was doing. Quiet grunts kept escaping his mouth.

I watched as he reached between us and a moment later I felt his fingers touch my clit gently. I moaned loudly as he pinched it gently.

He noticed that I was looking at him and he smiled.

“Will you please cum on my dick one more time, Angel?” he asked, his voice deep and raspy. “I need you to squeeze every last drop of cum out of me.”

I cried out in pleasure. His words and his deep voice sent a jolt of pleasure to my lower belly and I was so close again. I couldn't speak, though. He left me both breathless and speechless.

He started rubbing my clit faster and I felt the orgasm coming. It started in my lower belly and it traveled down to my clit. I felt my pussy clench around him. He felt it too because he groaned and started pumping faster.

“Yes, Sophia, fuck yes,” he said and tightened his hand around my hip.

I cried out as the wave of pleasure washed over me. I felt myself clench hard. I felt my clit tremble.

“Oh, fuck,” Hunter grunted loudly and I felt his seed spray my insides.

His movements slowed down a little. He pushed inside of me one more time and stilled. My pussy quivered around him. Quiet moans kept escaping me. My body was so sensitive and I was completely spent.

Hunter and I were panting hard. We were completely still as we both tried to catch our breaths and calm our racing hearts down.

Hunter grunted as he pulled out of me slowly. He laid to my left and I turned my head around to look at him. He moved my hair from my face and smiled.

“I love you,” he said softly as he ran his hand down my back.

He squeezed my butt gently and I smiled.

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

I meant every word I said. I never thought that I would experience this. I always thought that my mate wouldn't want me because of my darkness. I was ready for rejection. I was ready to be alone for the rest of my life. I didn't expect him to accept me and every dark part of me.

A huge smile spread across Hunter's face. He pulled me closer to him.

“You are the best thing that ever happened to me too, Angel,” he said softly as he gently rubbed the tip of his nose against mine. “I can't even express how much I love you. You are embedded into every part of my body and soul. You are my light and I will be devoted to you until I take my last breath.”

I felt tears in the corners of my eyes. Hearing him say that made my heart melt inside my chest.

“I don’t know what I would do without you,” I said as I caressed his cheek. “I love you, Hunter. I love you with everything that I have. I feel like I’m going to explode with all the love I have for you. I’m not even sure how it fits inside me. This love feels huge. It’s nothing I’ve ever felt before.”

Hunter smiled and pressed his lips against mine. I kissed him back and sighed contently.

“Are you hungry, Angel?” he asked as he stopped kissing me.

I smiled and gave him a small nod.

“A little bit,” I said. “I’m not ready to get out of bed, though.”

Hunter chuckled and started running his hand up and down my back gently.

“Me neither,” he said. “Five more minutes?”

I smiled and gave him a small nod.

“Five more minutes,” I said as I kissed him gently.

I wished that we didn’t have to move at all. I wished that we could stay in bed forever.

We had to get up, though. We had to leave the cabin. I had to go back into that room and find a way to beat the darkness inside me. I had to fight it so I could be with Hunter. I had to fight for him. I had to win for him.

CHAPTER NINE – Preparations

Emma's POV

I pushed the box under the bed and stood up. I took a few steps back to make sure that it wasn't visible. I couldn't let anyone know what I was leaving inside the room.

"Mom?" I heard Alex calling me and I turned around.

My heart raced. Did he see anything?

He entered the room and looked around. He took a deep breath and released it slowly.

"Yes, honey?" I asked, trying to hide my nervousness.

"Did you put enough food in here?" Alex asked as he approached the cupboards. "We need to make sure that she has everything she needs."

My heart clenched and I nodded even though Alex couldn't see me.

"I did, honey," I said. "Don't worry. She has everything she needs."

She wouldn't be needing it for long, though. She would be out of the room tonight.

'I am still not convinced, Emma,' Eliza sighed. 'Maybe we should tell someone. Maybe we should tell Anna.'

'No, Eliza,' I said sternly. 'We are not telling anyone. I am doing this and no one is going to stop me. I am not letting my daughter suffer again. I am not letting anyone suffer again because of me.'

'But...,' Eliza spoke and I interrupted her.

'No, Eliza,' I said sternly. 'You won't stop me. No one will stop me. I am doing this.'

I watched as Alex approached the bed and sat down. He grabbed the blanket that was on the bed and sighed.

“Maybe we should get her another one,” he mumbled. “I don’t want her to get cold.”

I had to swallow the lump in my throat. I wished that I could tell him that she wouldn’t need another one. I wished that I could reassure him.

I took a deep breath and approached him. I wrapped an arm around his shoulders and kissed his temple.

“There are more blankets in the closet,” I said. “She has everything, honey.”

Alex looked toward the closet and nodded. I could see the fear on his face and it made me want to scream. I wanted to tell him that his sister would be okay and back with him in just a few hours, but I couldn’t. He would tell Logan and my plan would fail.

“I need to go get her favorite blanket,” Alex mumbled. “She will want to have it.”

He didn’t move, though. He kept staring at the closet, squeezing the blanket tightly.

I ran my fingers through his hair and kissed his temple again.

I loved seeing how much he cared for her. They had an amazing bond and it made me so happy. I knew that they would always have each other. I knew that they would always take care of each other.

“I am so sorry, honey,” I said quietly. “I wish you didn’t have to go through this. I wish I was just a normal wolf without curses and powers.”

Alex looked at me and shook his head.

“No, Mom,” he said. “I love your powers. One of my favorite memories is of you creating small clouds and lightning above our bed. I loved when you used your magic to make it rain just above me or when you created wind to play with Fia’s hair.”

I smiled when I remembered how excited Alex would get when I did those things. He always loved rain and storms.

“Your powers helped our pack, Mom,” Alex continued. “They made both me and Dad stronger. They made you stronger. I wouldn’t change a thing about you, Mom.”

I felt tears in the corners of my eyes. I pulled my son into a hug and kissed his temple.

“I love you, honey,” I said.

“I love you too, Mom,” Alex said and hugged me back.

I heard Logan approaching the room and I turned around to see him. He walked inside a few moments later and smiled.

“Why wasn’t I invited into this family hug?” he asked as he approached us.

I smiled and Logan winked at me. Logan wrapped his arms around both of us and kissed the top of Alex’s head.

“Are you okay, bud?” Logan asked softly.

Alex looked up at him and nodded. “I am okay. I just came to make sure that Fia has everything she needs. I just need to go get her favorite blanket.”

Logan looked around and took a deep breath.

“Are they on their way?” I asked him.

Logan nodded and looked back at me. “Hunter just called Nathan. They are driving back. They should be here in an hour or so.”

Alex stood up and I looked up at him.

“I am going to go get the blanket,” he said and started walking out of the room.

He kept clenching his fists and my heart broke. I could see and feel his fear. I wanted to scream and tell him that she wouldn’t be in here for long. I wanted to take away my son’s fear. I wanted to do something about it.

But there was nothing I could do. I could only wait for tonight.

Logan sat next to me as soon as Alex left the room. He took my hand in his and kissed it.

“I love you,” Logan said, making me look at him.

I smiled and caressed his cheek.

“I love you too,” I said. “You have no idea how much.”

I would miss him so much. I would miss touching him. I would miss kissing him. I would miss waking up next to him. I would miss spending time with him.

I loved him so much it hurt. Thinking about being separated from him hurt.

Logan cupped my cheeks and leaned in. He captured my lips with his and kissed me softly. I felt like my body was melting. I loved kissing him. I loved his hands on my body. I loved feeling him around me and inside me. I loved everything about him.

And I would miss it so, so much.

“Did you eat?” Logan asked as he stopped kissing me.

He leaned his forehead against mine and wrapped his arms around me tightly.

I shook my head and hugged him back. I wasn't hungry. I wanted to stay like this with him. I wanted to treasure those few moments like this we had left. I didn't know when I would get to hold him like this again. I didn't know if...

‘Stop it,’ Eliza whined.

She was right. I had to stop thinking like that. I would find a way to destroy it and I would be back in my mate's arms soon.

“You need to eat something, baby,” Logan mumbled softly and ran his fingers through my hair.

I nodded and pulled him closer to me.

“Just five more minutes like this, please,” I said and Logan chuckled a little.

He pulled me onto his lap and I pressed my body against his.

“I can't say no to that,” he said softly.

I took a deep breath and let my mate's presence soothe me.

Everything was ready. I would get my little girl out of this room tonight. I would start the battle with the curse tonight.

CHAPTER TEN – Maybe We Could Run

Hunter's POV

I kept kissing Sophia's hand. I needed to touch her and kiss her. I couldn't believe that I was going to have to let them lock her up again.

How long would it be until I got to hold her again? How long would it be until I got to kiss her again?

I couldn't even go a minute without pressing my lips against her hand. How the fuck would I survive not being able to kiss her for longer than a minute?!

I tried to keep my eyes on the road, but it was so hard. I kept glancing at her and wondering what would happen if I just continued driving. Maybe we could run away from all of this? Maybe she wouldn't have to go back into that fucking room?

"Maybe we could run," I said quietly. "Maybe I could just continue driving."

Sophia ran her fingers through my hair. I glanced at her and she gave me a small smile.

"I can't run from this, Hunter," she said softly. "It is inside me."

I knew that, but I wanted to run from that fucking room.

"I love you," she continued. "I will spend every second with my nose buried in books. I will tell my mom to give me every book she has. I won't stop until I find a way, Hunter. My mom won't stop until she finds a way. I will be out of there soon."

I looked at her and sighed. Soon wasn't soon enough.

"I know, Angel," I said. "I just wish you didn't have to go in there at all."

She smiled and gave me a small nod.

“I know,” she said softly. “I wish I didn’t have to go in there either, but I do. I have to do it for you, Hunter. I have to do it for our future.”

I kissed her hand again and gulped. I loved her with the darkness inside her and I would love her if it stayed inside her.

“I am not risking our future, Hunter,” she added. “I am not passing this curse onto our children. This thing will stop with me.”

My heart raced and I looked at her. Hearing her say that we would have kids together had my body shiver and tremble with happiness. We would have kids together!

I looked at her lower belly and imagined her pregnant with my pup. My breath got caught in my throat and my heart doubled in size. A lump filled with so many emotions was stuck in my throat. I couldn’t look away from her belly.

“Eyes on the road, Hunter,” Sophia said, chuckling a little.

She took my free hand in hers and placed it on her lower belly. My heart skipped a million beats.

“There will be a pup in here in the future,” she said. “I am not letting him or her get hurt because of the curse.”

I tried to swallow the lump in my throat, but it was so hard. I imagined a little girl running toward me with her little arms reaching out for me. I imagined her calling me dad. I imagined holding her in my arms. I imagined it all and I was sure that my heart would burst.

I caressed Sophia’s belly and took a deep breath. I knew that she was right. I knew that we had to think about our future and the way darkness would impact it, but it was so hard to go against my instincts. I needed her beside me. I wanted her next to me all the time.

“I love you, Angel,” I said. “I will be there every step of the way.”

“I know,” Sophia said and placed her hand on top of mine.

I glanced at her belly one more time and smiled. My child would grow in there soon. A little girl who would be as beautiful as her mother or a little boy who would be as strong as she was. My child would be in there soon. My child.

We were only a few minutes away from the packhouse so I stopped the car on the side of the road. Sophia looked at me and furrowed her eyebrows.

“I need just a few more minutes alone with you,” I said as I unbuckled my seatbelt.

I did the same with hers and pulled her on my lap. I wouldn't get another minute alone with her. Her family would want to spend time with her before she went back in there. I couldn't deny them that. Alex would kill me.

Sophia wrapped her arms around my neck and kissed me. I pressed her against me and kissed her back as hard as I could. My hands were caressing her body and I tried my best to memorize every curve. I tried my best to memorize how her skin felt under my fingertips. I needed to gather as many memories as I could. I needed to have those so I could remember them when I started missing her. Which would be the moment those doors closed.

I lowered my lips to her neck and she moaned quietly.

“Stop it or I am going to need to change my underwear,” she said, chuckling a little.

I smirked and started sucking on my mark. She gasped and pressed herself closer to me. My dick got hard immediately. I pressed it against her and she moaned.

“We can't do this here,” she mumbled but started grinding on me a little. “We are too close to the packhouse.”

She was right, though. It was only a matter of seconds before a car would drive past us. Someone might even hear us.

“I know,” I mumbled as I grabbed her hips and help her grind against me.

I didn't want to stop, though. I really didn't want to. I started kissing her delicious lips again and I grunted loudly when she tangled her fingers into my hair and pulled my head back a little. Our lips separated and she stopped grinding against me. I wanted to whine.

"You are driving me crazy," she mumbled, panting hard. "We can't do this here."

I smirked and slapped her butt.

"I am not the one who started grinding against her mate," I said, making her roll her eyes playfully.

I pulled her in to kiss her again. The kiss was short and filled with so much love that I almost teared up.

"I love you more than anything in this world," Sophia said softly and leaned her forehead against mine. "I will be back with you soon. I promise, Hunter."

I tightened my arms around her and took a deep breath. She had to be back with me soon or I would lose it. I wasn't going to last long without her.

CHAPTER ELEVEN – Going Back In

Sophia's POV

Alex opened the car door and pulled me out even before Hunter managed to stop fully. I chuckled and hugged him back tightly. I missed him.

“The car was still moving, Alex,” I heard Hunter grunt angrily.

Alex just growled at him.

“Are you okay?” Alex asked me. “Is it back? Can you feel it? Are you in pain?”

I rubbed his back and shook my head.

“I am okay,” I said. “I can't feel it yet.”

Alex sighed in relief and let me go. He looked me up and down and I saw him relax a little after he was sure that I was okay.

I looked behind him and smiled at my parents. My mom reached out for me and I hugged her tightly.

“Congratulations, honey,” she said quietly. “You have an amazing mate.”

I smiled and nodded. She was right. My mate was the most amazing man in the world.

My dad was on the phone with someone, but he pulled me into a tight hug and kissed the top of my head.

“Yes, Mom, she is back,” I heard my dad say and a huge smile spread across my face.

“Is that grandma?” I asked and he nodded.

He gave me the phone immediately and I grabbed it.

“Grandma!” I exclaimed excitedly.

I missed her so much. I was so worried about her. My dad didn't tell me much. I knew that her condition worsened and

that she was resting at Uncle Drake's pack. She was there with my aunt and cousins. I was glad, though. I wanted them as far away from this mess as possible.

"Hi, Muffin," my grandma said softly. "I miss you."

Tears gathered in my eyes. I missed hearing her call me that. She called me muffin because I always begged her to make me some. I loved them so much and I would eat them until I was sick.

"I miss you too, Grandma," I said as I felt a tear fall on my cheek. "How are you?"

"A bit better, sweetie," she said. "Amy and Drake are spoiling me. I will have to tell your dad that my standards have gone up."

I chuckled and looked at my dad. He just shook his head and smiled.

"How is Aunt Daisy?" I asked my grandma. "How are the kids?"

"They are all great, Muffin," my grandma said. "I feel like a queen. They are spoiling me a lot."

"You deserve it, Grandma," I said softly. "I want you to be as pampered as possible. We have a lot to gossip about when you come back."

My grandma laughed and a warm feeling spread around my body. I missed her so much.

"Oh, I can't wait, Muffin," she said. "I will be back soon, okay? You won't be in there for long, I am sure of it. You have an amazing mom who will find a way. I am sure of it."

I looked at my mom and smiled.

"I know," I said as I approached my mom and leaned my head on her shoulder. "She is the best."

My mom smiled and wrapped her arms around me. She kissed my forehead and rubbed my back gently.

"Will you put your dad back on the phone, Muffin?" my grandma asked. "I need to talk to him about something."

I looked at my dad and he reached for the phone immediately.

“Of course, Grandma,” I said. “I love you so much.”

“I love you too, Muffin,” she said softly.

I gave my phone to my dad. He took it from me and walked a bit further to talk to my grandma.

“Where are others?” I asked.

“Anna is making lunch,” my mom said as she ran her fingers through my hair. “Hunter’s parents went on a run. It’s been a while since they shifted and their wolves became anxious. Andrew and Mason are in the room making sure that we didn’t forget anything.”

I nodded and let go of my mom. Alex pulled me back to him immediately. I wrapped my arm around his waist and looked up at him. I smiled and leaned my head on his chest.

“Is the room ready?” I asked and Alex tensed up.

“It is,” he said. “I thought that we could spend the rest of the day together. You can go in there tonight.”

I wanted to go now. I was already on the verge of changing my mind and I knew that it would be harder for me to go in there if I stayed with them longer.

“I want to go now, Alex,” I said quietly. “It will be harder later.”

Alex tightened his arms around me. I rubbed his back and looked back up at him. The pain I saw on his face almost made me whimper. I gave him a reassuring smile.

“I put your favorite blanket in there,” Alex said quietly. “There are more in the closet if you get cold.”

My heart clenched. I nodded and took a deep breath.

“Is there anything else you want me to bring you?” Alex asked and I shook my head.

“My blanket is all I need,” I said, giving him another small smile.

The blanket he was talking about was actually his. He borrowed it to me when we were kids while I was struggling with a pretty bad darkness attack. I never gave it back to him. It became my solace and I couldn't let it go.

Alex leaned in and kissed my forehead. I let him go and looked at my mom.

"Can you give me some of your books, Mom?" I asked her. "I would like to make use of my time in there. Maybe I find something."

My mom gave me a small smile and nodded.

"They are already in there, honey," she said.

I smiled and looked at my dad who approached us.

"Is grandma okay?" I asked and he gave me a small smile.

"She is fine, princess," my dad said as he reached out for me. "She just wanted me to explain our next steps."

I nodded as I walked into his arms and hugged him tightly. I took a deep breath and let my dad's familiar scent soothe me.

"Are you ready, honey?" my mom asked and I nodded.

It was time for me to get back in there. I had full confidence that my mom would find a way soon. I had full confidence that I would be back in my family's arms in just a few short days.

I had to believe it. I couldn't let myself believe anything else.

I would be back with my family in no time. I was sure of it.

CHAPTER TWELVE – The Hardest Thing

Hunter's POV

I took Sophia's hand in mine as we were walking back into the cabin. I couldn't believe that I was really going to let them do that.

What the fuck was wrong with me? I should have just grabbed her and run. I should have just taken her as far away as possible.

I will be back with you soon, my love. Sophia mind-linked me.

I was a bit taken aback at first. It was the first time she mind-linked me and hearing her voice inside my head did all sorts of funny things to my body.

She never called me her love before and that also did a number on me.

I love you. I mind-linked her back. I want to grab you and run.

She gave me a small smile and nodded.

I know. She said. That's why I wanted to reassure you. I will be back with you soon. I have a good feeling about it.

I tightened my hold on her hand and took a deep breath.

"Soph!" I heard Mason's voice.

We were already in front of that fucking room.

Mason ran toward Sophia and pulled her into a hug.

"I missed you," he said, making Sophia chuckle.

"You saw me yesterday," she said, making Mason roll his eyes.

"That's way too long," he said and Sophia shook her head at him.

I understood him, though. I couldn't imagine not seeing her for an hour, let alone a whole day.

Beta Andrew walked out of the room and approached us. He had a small smile on his face as he hugged Sophia

"Hey, honey," he said. "The room is ready. I hope we got you everything that you might need."

"Thank you," Sophia said, smiling at her uncle.

He kissed the top of her head and let her go. Sophia looked at the room and took a deep breath.

I pulled her to me and tightened my arms around her. I couldn't believe that she was about to go in there.

"Are you sure about this, Fia?" Alex asked her. "You can change your mind. You can stay out here. You don't have to do this."

Sophia looked at her brother and sighed. I let her go so she can go hug him. She approached Alex and wrapped her arms around him.

"I am sure, Lex," she said quietly. "I have to do this. I have to fight for my future."

Alex took a deep breath and released it slowly. He looked at me and I saw fear in his eyes. I understood him completely. I was scared too. I didn't want her to go in there too. I was terrified of the possibility that she wouldn't come out of that room soon. I was so scared that she would be in there for a while.

Alex was afraid of that too.

"I already started researching," Emma said and we all looked at her. "I will find a way. I promise."

She looked at Sophia and smiled.

"Fia will be back with you very soon," Emma added.

"Did you find anything?" I asked and Emma looked at me.

She shook her head and my stomach twisted painfully.

“I am thinking about creating a spell to destroy it,” Emma said. “If we can’t find a way to get rid of it, we can try creating one.”

My heart raced.

“It is tricky, though,” Emma added. “I will have to be careful. Darkness is a part of her and I don’t want to risk destroying anything else.”

My heart raced and I looked at my mate.

“You won’t be destroying anything unless you find a way to do it safely,” I said. “I already told her that I would accept her even with the darkness still inside her. I don’t want to lose her.”

Emma smiled at me and gave me a small nod.

“I won’t do anything until I am sure that the only thing destroyed will be the darkness,” she said. “I would never hurt Sophia.”

I knew that, but I still felt the need to warn her. I didn’t give a shit about the darkness. If the choice was between having Sophia with the darkness inside her or not having her at all, I would embrace every dark part of her.

I watched as Sophia started hugging and saying goodbye to her family members. She started with her uncle and cousin. Both of them hugged her tightly and told her that they loved her and that she would be out of there soon.

My heart started racing. It was really happening. I was really going to watch her walk in there.

“I love you, princess,” Alpha Logan said. “I will take you on a run when you get out of there. We can go to the lake.”

Sophia looked up at him and a huge smile spread across her face.

“I can’t wait, Dad,” she said and Alpha Logan kissed her cheek.

He took a deep breath as he let her go. I saw his jaw clench.

Sophia approached her mom. Emma hugged her tightly and whispered something I couldn't hear. Sophia nodded and Emma kissed her cheek before letting her go.

Sophia looked at Alex and smiled.

"Stop being so grumpy," Sophia told him as he pulled her into his arms. "Are you doubting Mom and me?"

Alex rolled his eyes and sighed.

"I'm not," he said. "I just don't know how long you will be in there and it's driving me crazy. Who will leave my bedroom door open and annoy me constantly?"

Sophia snorted and looked up at her brother.

"Is that the only reason you want me out?" she asked teasingly. "I can hire someone to do it. Mason loves annoying you as is. He would probably do it for free."

"I would," Mason said, making Alex roll his eyes again.

The rest of us chuckled at them. Alex kissed the top of Sophia's head. He told her something quietly and she smiled.

She hugged him tightly one more time before she looked at me.

My heart stopped beating. My whole body was screaming at me. My body refused to do it. It refused to let her get in there it refused to have that whole fucking wall between us.

She approached me and I wrapped my arms around her.

I love you. She mind-linked me. I love you so much.

I felt a lump forming in my throat, threatening to choke me. Letting her go in there would be the hardest thing I ever had to do.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN – Saying Goodbye

Emma's POV

I wrapped my arms around Logan as tightly as I could.

I had no idea when I would get to hug him again. I had no idea if I would get to hug him again. Maybe the darkness would kill me. Maybe I would never get out of that room.

But I didn't care. I would do anything for my daughter. I would give my life for her. I would do anything for my children.

"What's wrong, baby?" Logan mumbled as he pulled me closer.

I swallowed the lump inside my throat and tried to remain calm. I knew that I wouldn't be able to hug him properly. I knew that I wouldn't be able to kiss every part of him. I knew that I wouldn't be able to say goodbye the way I wanted to. Logan would know that something was going on and I couldn't let that happen.

So I forced a small smile on my face and let him go.

"Nothing," I said, trying to sound calm. "I just needed a hug after today."

Logan smiled and caressed my cheek.

"I will always be here for those, baby," he said softly. "I needed it too. I can't believe we had to lock her in there again."

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. She would be out of there soon. He would get to hold his daughter soon.

"I will find a way to get her out," I said as I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on his lips.

He kissed me back and pulled me closer to him. I tangled my fingers into his hair and he lowered his lips to my neck.

“I missed you,” he mumbled as he started sucking on his mark on my neck.

My whole body tingled and the fire only he could ignite started burning inside me. His hands traveled down my body until he reached my butt.

Shit.

I had to stop it. I wanted it so much, but I didn’t have time for it. I had to get Sophia out of there as soon as possible.

I gently stopped Logan from touching me. I pulled back a little and he furrowed his eyebrows

“What’s wrong?” he asked worriedly. “Did I hurt you? Did I...”

“No, my love, no,” I stopped him immediately and caressed his cheek. “I really want to have sex with you, but I want to go check on Sophia before we go to bed.”

Logan sighed and pressed another soft kiss on my lips.

“Hunter is with her, baby,” he said. “She is okay.”

I gulped and gave him a small smile.

“I know,” I said. “I still need to go see her. I just want to tell her goodnight. I will be right back.”

I wouldn’t be right back. Maybe I would never be back in his arms again.

I could feel my heart breaking and it hurt so much. Thinking about never touching him again felt like my body was being chopped to pieces.

“Do you want me to come with you?” he asked and I shook my head.

“No,” I said, trying to remain calm. “Maybe you could go check on Alex. I think he needs you.”

Logan nodded and caressed my cheek.

“I love you,” I told him and he smiled.

“I know,” he said softly. “I love you too. So incredibly much.”

I felt the lump in my throat growing. I felt the tears gathering in my eyes. I smiled, trying to push everything else away. I was so close to my goal and I couldn't let anything get in the way of that.

Logan let me go and we left the room together. I was holding onto his hand as tightly as I could. I really didn't want to let go.

But I had to. I had to let go.

"Hurry back, baby, okay?" Logan said as we reached the stairs.

He pulled me to him and kissed my forehead. I wanted to sob and grab him tightly, but I couldn't.

I forced a smile on my face and I looked up at him.

"Okay," I said quietly and he smiled back at me.

He let my hand go and started walking toward Alex's room. I felt a part of my heart break off and leave with him.

I forced my legs to move. I forced myself to descend the stairs and leave my home. I couldn't say goodbye to anyone else.

I really wanted to see and hug my son. I wanted to tell him that I loved him with my entire heart and soul. I wanted to tell him that I would always be there for him even if I never came out of that room alive. I wanted to hug Andrew and treasure the feeling of being in my big brother's arms one more time. I wanted to hug Mason and tell him how much I loved him. I wanted to say goodbye to Anna and thank her for everything she had done for me. I wanted to hug everyone I loved and tell them thank you.

I couldn't, though. They would know that something was wrong.

I was standing in front of the cabin and I couldn't even remember walking there. I was completely lost in thought.

I took a deep breath and walked inside.

My entire body was shaking as I was walking toward the room. I was nervous and I wanted it to be over immediately. I couldn't risk anyone stopping me.

"Emma?" I heard Hunter's quiet voice as I approached the room.

I forced a small smile on my face.

"Is everything okay?" he asked worriedly.

I nodded and looked at my daughter. She was sleeping peacefully.

"I just came here to check on both of you," I said, looking back at Hunter. "You haven't eaten anything yet."

Hunter sighed and looked at Sophia.

"I am okay," he said. "I can't leave her and I am not hungry. My mom will bring me something to eat later."

"Your parents left, honey," I said softly. "They needed to go back to your pack, remember?"

Nate and Janet left a few hours ago after they said goodbye to Sophia.

Hunter sighed and shook his head.

"Right, I forgot," he mumbled. "I am just a bit tired."

"I know," I said softly. "That's why you need to listen to me and at least go get something to eat."

I needed to get him out of here. I could use my magic to knock him down, but I really didn't want to do that.

"I will be here, Hunter," I said, giving him a small smile. "Please go get something to eat. She is sleeping anyway."

Hunter sighed and looked back at Sophia.

"She will be okay," I continued. "I will be here until you come back."

"Fine," he mumbled. "I am not hungry, but I could use a shower. I will be back in fifteen minutes."

I smiled and nodded. Fifteen minutes should be enough time.

Hunter stood up and approached me.

“Call me immediately if something happens, okay?” he said.

I gave him a small nod and watched as he walked away.

As soon as I heard him close the cabin door, I approached the door and unlocked it.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN – Her Darkness

Emma's POV

Sophia woke up as soon as I entered the room.

“Mom?” she mumbled sleepily. “What are you doing?”

“Taking it away, honey,” I said as I approached the bed.

Her eyes widened a little. She opened her mouth to speak, but I used my magic to put her back to sleep.

I couldn't risk her mind-linking anyone.

I sat on the bed next to her and leaned in to kiss her cheek.

“I love you, honey,” I said quietly. “I will make it go away. I promise.”

I moved a strand of hair from her forehead. I smiled a little. I loved her so much.

I stood up and kneeled next to the bed. I wanted to spend more time with Sophie, but I couldn't. I didn't have time to. I had to hurry up.

I pulled out a box of everything I needed to extract darkness from her and put it inside me.

I pulled out three candles and walked away. I placed the candles on the ground in front of the room. I needed to do the spell outside of the room. I had no idea how would I react once the darkness was inside me. I needed to work fast and lock myself inside before I did something stupid.

I went back and used my magic to move Sophia from her bed to the ground outside the room. I grabbed her blanket from the room and covered her up. I kneeled next to her and kissed her forehead.

“I love you, my little girl,” I said softly. “I love you more than anything in the world. I am sorry I put you through all of

that. I should have done this a lot sooner. I should have taken it from you when you were still a child. I am so sorry, Sophia.”

I swallowed the lump in my throat and forced myself to stand up.

I really didn't have time to waste. I needed to hurry up. Hunter could be back at any second.

I placed the candles around Sophia and used my magic to light them. I stepped back into the room and took a deep breath.

The first thing I had to do was transfer the power to control the magic in the room to Anna. I knew that she wouldn't let me out. If I gave that power to Sophia, she could try to open the doors and I couldn't let that happen.

I knew that Anna would feel my power being transferred to her and I knew that I didn't have much time before she and Logan barged inside.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath.

“By the flame of this candle's glow, I seek to transfer power's flow,” I mumbled quietly. “From my essence, let it depart, to Anna, with an open heart.”

I felt my power and my magic leave the cabin. A soft breeze touched my skin and I opened my eyes.

I looked at the candles, making sure that the breeze didn't blow them out.

I took another deep breath and closed my eyes. Anna now knew what I was doing and I was sure that she was on her way to find Logan.

I raised my hands forward, with my palms turned outward. I focused on Sophia and the darkness inside her.

“Shadows encased, darkness untold, I invoke the light, bright and bold,” I said loudly. “From within, this brilliance shall rise, illuminating hearts and clearing skies.”

A second later I could feel the coldness seeping inside my body. I could feel the darkness leaving Sophia's body end

entering mine. It entered through my fingertips and it traveled through the rest of my body. I could feel it in my blood. I could feel it in my arms.

My whole body started shaking. An unimaginable pain spread from my hands to the rest of my body. I wanted to scream, but I stopped myself. I wanted to release my claws and stick them inside my chest. I wanted to cry and sob and beg for help.

But I stopped myself from doing all that. I was doing it for my daughter. I was saving my daughter.

The darkness traveled around my body, leaving a cold trail in my veins. My chest and my heart were the last places it traveled toward.

I knew it was time for me to go back into the room while I still had some control over it.

I forced my legs to move and I took a few steps back. I slammed the door shut and used some of my light magic to seal it.

The darkness touched my heart and I couldn't hold back a scream.

EMMA! Logan screamed through the mind-link. What did you do?! What did you do?!

I ignored him. I couldn't answer him even if I wanted to. The pain I felt was too strong for me to focus on anything else.

I fell to my knees and tangled my fingers into my hair. I screamed again as I started rocking my body back and forth.

EMMA! Logan screamed again.

I ignored him. I wanted to answer, but I couldn't. I just couldn't stop thinking about the pain.

The darkness took all the air out of my lungs. It made my heart spasm multiple times. I couldn't breathe and I couldn't feel the rest of my body. All I could feel was my heart spasming, trying to fight against the relentless darkness that was trying to capture it.

I could feel the darkness moving inside me. It felt like a cold, slimy snake was wrapping itself around my heart.

I tried gasping for breath, but I couldn't even do that. I fell to the ground and started trashing.

The snake gripped my heart tightly, stopping its movements completely.

My eyes rolled to the back of my head.

I was losing consciousness.

I was dying.

“NO!” I heard Logan's broken scream and I tried to fight against the darkness again.

I wanted to go to my mate. I wanted to tell him that everything would be okay.

I couldn't fight it, though. It was too strong.

So I used the last bit of my strength and consciousness to mind-link him.

I am sorry. I said through the mind-link. I love you. I will always love you.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN – What Did You Do?!

Logan's POV

“She will be out of that room soon, bud,” I said as I wrapped an arm around my son's shoulders. “Your mom is doing her best. She will find a way. I am sure of it.”

Alex looked at me and took a deep breath. He gave me a small nod, but the broken look in his eyes told me that he didn't believe me.

I sighed and pulled him closer to me. I kissed his temple and leaned my head against his.

“Your mom is amazing, Alex,” I said quietly. “She will find a way.”

Alex took another deep breath.

“I know, Dad,” he mumbled. “I'm not doubting her. I am just scared that it will take a while. I can't watch Fia locked up in that room again. It is making me so angry.”

I sighed and pulled him into a hug.

“I know, bud,” I said. “I am sure that your mom will find a way soon. We will have our Fia back soon.”

Alex hugged me back just as I felt a sharp pain in my chest.

I flinched and Alex let me go. I placed a hand on my chest and groaned.

“Dad?!” Alex said worriedly as he made me lean on him. “What's wrong? What happened?”

I couldn't answer him. I had no idea what was going on. The pain was weird. It was something I had never experienced before. It made my body shiver and my chest suddenly felt empty.

“Logan!” I heard Anna screaming my name.

She stormed into Alex's room with a horrified look on her face.

“Emma did something stupid!” Anna screamed. “We have to go get her!”

My heart raced and suddenly the pain in my chest increased.

NO! No, no, no, no!

EMMA! I screamed through the mind-link as I jumped up and started running toward the cabin. What did you do?! What did you do?!

My heart was racing a mile a minute and I was sure that I would pass out. I was panicking and a million different scenarios went through my mind.

EMMA! I screamed again.

There was no response, but the pain inside my body had gotten worse. It almost made me fall to my knees, but I pushed through and I kept running toward the cabin.

I had to get her and I had to stop her from the stupid thing she was trying to do.

And I knew exactly what she was trying to do.

“Mom!” Alex screamed as we finally reached the cabin and barged inside.

The first thing I saw when we approached the room was my daughter lying on the ground in front of the door.

Alex gasped loudly and ran toward Sophia. He picked her up and tried to wake her. She wasn't responding, though.

I knew that Emma must have used her magic to put Sophia to sleep.

My eyes fell on my beautiful little mate who was clutching her chest and trashing on the ground inside the room.

“NO!” I screamed as I ran toward the window.

I am sorry. She mind-linked me. I love you. I will always love you.

She completely stilled and the pain inside my chest exploded. I fell to my knees and screamed.

Alex ran to me and tried to get me to stand up. I couldn't, not even with his help. He let me go and looked at his mom.

“Mom!” Alex shouted as he started banging on the glass. “No! Wake up!”

I tried to force the air into my lungs, but I couldn't. The pain was flowing through my body with so signs of stopping.

It felt like she was being ripped apart from me. It felt like her soul was leaving my heart and my body.

Was she dying? Did she die?

No, no, no, no!

Please, Goddess, no!

“Emma!” I exclaimed as I tried to ignore the pain and get back to my feet.

Alex was slamming his fists against the glass. He looked like he was going to have a heart attack.

“Mom!” he screamed. “Wake up, Mom! You can't do this! You can't leave us!”

I somehow managed to get up. I looked at Emma and my heart broke. It didn't look like she was breathing.

Was she really dying? Was my beautiful little mate really dying?

No, no, no.

I was going to go inside and I was going to save her. Nothing and no one could stop me.

I rushed to the door and pulled on the doorknob. The door was locked and the panic inside my body increased.

Did she lock it from the inside?

“Emma!” I screamed as I started banging on the door, using all the strength I had left in my body.

My heart was racing so fast that I could feel it banging against my ribcage. The pain was almost unbearable. I was trying to stay on my feet so I could get inside that room and save her.

I took a few steps back and I tried to slam my body against the door. I was too weak, though. I couldn't muster up enough strength to do it.

Alex saw what I was trying to do. He approached me, pulled me to the side, and slammed his body against the door.

It didn't work, though.

I leaned against the wall and clutched my chest. I was having trouble breathing and the pain in my chest was only getting worse.

"Mom!" Alex screamed as he tried again.

"Stop it, Alex," Anna said. "She locked it with magic. You are not getting in there."

I looked at Anna and I tried to hold back a sob. I couldn't lose her. I couldn't let the love of my life die.

"Do something then!" Alex screamed. "She is dying!"

Anna didn't even flinch. She kept her eyes on Emma.

"She isn't dying," Anna said, making my heart race. "She is fighting it."

I pushed myself off the wall and moved so I can look at her.

I felt tears in the corners of my eyes. I just wanted to go in there and hold her.

Why did she do it? Why?

"Come back to me, my love," I mumbled as I leaned my forehead against the glass. "Don't leave me, Emma. Please, baby, come back."

I didn't know what I would do if she died. I didn't know how would I survive it. She couldn't die. She couldn't leave me.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN – What Would We Do Without Her?

Alexander's POV

My heart was racing like crazy.

I couldn't look away from my mom. She was lying on the floor and she wasn't moving. I couldn't even see her chest rising and falling.

Anna said that she wasn't dying, but it looked like it and I was terrified. I couldn't lose my mom. I couldn't let anything happen to her.

"Mom, please," I mumbled as I leaned my forehead against the glass. "Please, don't leave me."

I glanced at Fia who was still unconscious. I couldn't let her lie on the ground so I forced myself to move away from the glass. I picked Fia up and held her tightly against my chest. Anna picked the blanket up and wrapped it around Sophia.

I looked at my dad who was staring through the glass and mumbling how much he loved my mom. My heart broke for him.

I tightened my arms around Fia and turned my head to kiss her temple.

"Logan!" I heard my uncle shouting.

I approached my dad and placed a hand on his shoulder. He didn't move. He kept staring at my mom with a completely broken look on his face. If she died...

I could hear multiple footsteps approaching the cabin. Hunter was the first one who ran inside.

His eyes widened when he saw Fia in my arms.

"Logan!" Uncle Andrew shouted again. "What the hell happened?!"

His eyes fell on Fia and he gasped loudly. Both he and Hunter looked toward the room.

“No!” my uncle screamed as he rushed toward the window. “Emma!”

Mason ran past Hunter and rushed toward the window.

“Is she...?” my uncle screamed, his voice breaking.

“No,” Anna said calmly. “She is fighting it. She will be okay.”

Hunter never moved his eyes from my mom. He was completely frozen and I wasn't even sure if he was breathing.

I gulped and approached him. I needed him to take Fia back to our house. I knew how Fia would react if she woke up and saw our mom like that. I didn't want Fia to go through that. I wanted to protect her from this. I needed to protect her from this.

“Hunter,” I called him, but he didn't respond.

His eyes were on my mom and he looked completely shocked.

“Hunter, I need you to take Fia away from here,” I said, but he didn't react again.

He was breathing heavily and he kept clenching his fists.

“Hunter!” I exclaimed loudly and that finally got his attention.

He looked at Sophia and gasped as he had just now realized that she was out of that room.

“I need you to take her back home,” I told him. “I don't want her to wake up and see Mom like that.”

Hunter was frozen for another second. I kissed Fia's forehead and handed her to him. Hunter flinched and pulled her out of my arms.

“Oh, Goddess, Sophia,” he mumbled as he pressed her to himself.

I made sure that she was covered up with the blanket. I didn't want her to get cold.

"Take her home," I said and Hunter nodded.

He kissed Fia's cheek and looked at my mom.

"I will keep you updated," I said and he nodded again.

I looked back at my mom and approached the glass.

"No, Emma, no," my uncle cried out. "Wake up, please."

Mason was trembling and growling. I placed a hand on his shoulder and he looked at me. I saw the pain in his eyes and I almost sobbed.

It was like I wasn't even fully aware of what was going on. I wasn't fully aware of my mom who was lying on the ground inside that room, completely out of reach.

I couldn't do shit except watch. I couldn't do anything except wait for her to wake up. I wanted to break the wall and go to her. I wanted to save her. I wanted my mom to be safe.

"What the hell did you do, Emma?" my uncle mumbled. "What the hell did you do?"

I looked at my mom and gulped. She saved Fia. She saved my sister. She saved her daughter.

But at what cost?

What would we do if she never woke up? What would Fia do once she woke up and realized that her mom was gone? How would we survive her death?

She couldn't die. She simply couldn't die.

"Come on, Mom," I mumbled quietly. "Wake up."

She had to wake up. She fucking had to wake up!

My dad slammed his fists against the glass and we all flinched.

"EMMA!" he screamed. "Wake up! Now! I am not losing you! You are not dying! You are not leaving me!"

My dad was screaming and banging against the glass with such intensity that I was sure he was going to break it.

My uncle grabbed him and tightened his arms around him. My dad started thrashing and trying to escape Uncle Andrew's arms. If he was at full strength he wouldn't have any issues with getting out of Uncle Andrew's hold, but my dad was weakened and Uncle Andrew had no problem holding him.

"Come on, Emma," I heard Anna mumble. "Come on."

My dad started sobbing loudly. He was trying to catch his breath, but he couldn't, no matter how hard he tried.

I pulled him out of Uncle Andrew's arms and hugged him tightly. He hugged me back and continued sobbing.

"I can't lose her," he cried out. "Not her, please Goddess, not her."

I tightened my jaw and swallowed the lump in my throat.

"We won't lose her, Dad," I said, trying to sound brave. "She will wake up. She didn't die, Dad. You would know if she did."

My dad tightened his arms around me. He placed a hand on my head and held me close to him.

"She isn't gone," I said as my voice started trembling. "She is so strong and she wouldn't let this take her from us."

I meant every word that I said. My mom was the strongest person I knew. She had been through so much and she still managed to become such an amazing person. She was fighting the darkness and she was going to come back to us.

I was sure of it. I believed in it.

I couldn't let myself believe anything else.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN – Shocked

Hunter's POV

I was in shock.

I still couldn't wrap my mind around what happened.

Emma took Sophia's darkness? She was dying? She sacrificed herself for Sophia? She was dying?!

I was lying on Sophia's bed, holding her tightly in my arms. She was still asleep and I assumed that Emma did it. She knew that Sophia would fight her on this. She knew that Sophia would try to stop her. She had to put her to sleep so she could do what she needed.

I looked down at my mate and my heart clenched. I was so fucking happy that she was back in my arms. I was so happy that she didn't have darkness anymore. I was so happy that she wasn't in danger anymore.

But I knew how she would react once she woke up and realized what happened. I knew how devastated she would be. I knew how scared she would be.

I kissed her forehead and tightened my arms around her.

"I love you, Angel," I said quietly. "I will be here every step of the way."

If Emma died...

No.

I couldn't let myself go there. I couldn't let myself think about that. Emma wasn't going to die. She was so fucking strong and she couldn't die. She simply couldn't.

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes. I tried to calm my racing heart down. I couldn't let myself freak out. My Angel could wake up any second now and she needed me to be calm.

I let her scent soothe my soul and calm the panic inside my body. I ran my fingers through her hair, reminding myself that she was right here next to me.

My heart skipped a beat when I finally felt her stir a little. She groaned quietly and sighed.

I opened my eyes and looked at her beautiful face. Her eyes were still closed, but her eyebrows were furrowed a little.

“Hi, Angel,” I said softly as I caressed her cheek and kissed the tip of her nose.

She sighed contently and a small smile spread across her face. I wanted to smile, but I couldn't. I knew that her smile would disappear as soon as she realized where she was.

“I love you, Sophia,” I said. “I love you so much.”

She smiled again and raised her hand to cup my cheek.

“I love you too,” she mumbled quietly and opened her eyes slowly.

She still had a smile on her face as she looked at me. I didn't say a word. I kept caressing her cheek and holding her tightly. I was waiting for her to wake up fully. She would know that something was wrong immediately.

I was right because a few seconds later I saw her eyebrows furrow. She looked away from me and her eyes widened when she realized where she was.

“Why am I here?” she asked, trying to get up. “What happened?”

I stopped her from getting up and pulled her to my chest.

“Hunter?!” she exclaimed, trying to get out of my arms. “What happened? Why did you get me out of that room? The darkness could come back any second now!”

I cupped her cheeks and leaned my forehead against hers.

“It will never come back, Sophia,” I said softly. “It is not inside you anymore.”

She stilled for a few moments. I kept my eyes on hers, trying to find a good moment to continue. She beat me to it when she gasped and got out of my arms.

“Mom!” she shouted as she tried to untangle herself from the blankets.

I pulled her back to me, trying to stop her from leaving.

How did she know it was her mom?

“Shh, Sophia, it will be okay, Angel,” I tried calming her down, but it was useless.

She started thrashing and sobbing loudly.

“Let me go!” she exclaimed. “I need to go there! I need to take it back!”

I would never let that happen. I tightened my arms around her and flipped us so I was lying on top of her. I couldn’t risk her leaving me. I didn’t know if Emma was okay. If she died... If Sophia saw her like that...

“Hunter, move!” she screamed at me, but I didn’t listen.

“No,” I said sternly. “I am not letting you go there. Not yet. Not like this.”

I needed her to calm down a little. I needed Alex to call and tell me that Emma was awake.

The anger I saw in her eyes almost made me move. My need to protect her was stronger, though.

“Don’t make me use my magic on you, Hunter,” she said angrily. “Move or I will move you myself.”

I studied her face carefully, trying to find a sign that she was bluffing. I couldn’t find it. She would really do it.

So I had no other choice than be honest with her.

I sighed and caressed her cheek.

“Sophia, Angel, I need you to stay here with me,” I said softly. “I need you to stay until Alex calls.”

She gritted her teeth and narrowed her eyes a little.

“Why?” she asked angrily. “What happened to my mom?”

I gulped and tried to take a deep breath. It was impossible. A huge lump formed in my throat, stopping me from breathing normally.

“She didn’t take it so well, love,” I said softly. “She is unconscious.”

Sophia’s eyes widened. The look of anger was replaced with a look of fear.

I could tell that she mind-linked someone. It was probably Alex. She gasped quietly and she tried to get me off her.

“Sophia...,” I started speaking, but she interrupted me when she used her magic to throw me off her.

“I am going there and you are not stopping me!” she exclaimed as she jumped out of bed and started running out of the room.

I groaned and started following her.

“Why would she do that?!” Sophia shouted as she ran out of the house. “Why?!”

Because she wanted to save Sophia.

“I was handling it!” Sophia continued yelling. “I knew how to handle it! She doesn’t! It will hurt her! She will get hurt!”

I caught up to her and I took her hand in mine. I wasn’t going to stop her, but I wasn’t going to let her go in there without me.

I had no idea what Alex told her. I had no idea what would we see. I had to be there for her. I had to be strong for her.

I was just hoping that Emma was okay. She had to be okay.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN – Why?

Logan's POV

My whole body was screaming in pain.

Not just because Emma was in pain, but because I couldn't hold her in my arms. I could see her and there was only a thin wall between us, but I couldn't take her into my arms. I couldn't feel her skin against mine. I couldn't kiss her. I couldn't do shit and it was driving me fucking insane.

The pain that Emma was feeling suddenly changed. It wasn't as intense anymore. It was dull and bearable.

My heart raced. Did that mean that she would wake up? Did it mean that I wasn't going to lose her?

I let my son go and approached the window.

"Emma, baby, please," I cried out as I tried to focus on her chest.

I swear I could see it moving a little.

"Emma!" I cried out again. "Please, baby, please."

I couldn't lose her. I just couldn't. She couldn't leave me like that. Not after everything we've been through. Not after I fought against everyone and everything to have her. Not after spending so many beautiful years together. Not after having two beautiful children together. She couldn't leave me after all that.

"Come on, Emma," Andrew said, growling quietly. "Fight, Em, come on."

Come back to me, my love. I mind-linked her. Please, Emma, don't leave me. You can't leave me. I will die without you. My life doesn't make sense without you. I am nothing without you, Emma. Absolutely nothing.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and closed my eyes.

You made me the man I am today. I continued talking to her through the mind-link. You taught me how to love. You pulled me out of the darkness. You turned me into a great Alpha. You made me a great father. I owe you my entire life and I don't want to live it without you. I am nothing without you, my love. Nothing.

My heart was breaking and I just wanted her. I wanted my mate. I needed my mate.

That's not true. I heard her voice in my head and my heart stopped beating. You are everything, Logan. You are my everything.

She turned her head to the right and groaned.

"Mom!"

"Emma!"

I heard screams around me, but I was frozen. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't speak. All I could do was stare at her and watch as she raised her head. Her beautiful eyes met mine and I was sure that I would pass out.

"What the hell did you do, Emma?!" Andrew screamed at her. "Open the door and let us in!"

Emma kept her eyes on mine. I knew that she wouldn't listen to Andrew. I shook my head a little and I felt a tear fall on my cheek.

She wasn't going to get out of that room.

"Emma!" Andrew shouted, slamming his fist against the glass.

"Open the door, Mom!" Alex said, his voice laced with panic.

Why, baby? I mind-linked her.

I couldn't let our child suffer, Logan. She said. I couldn't watch her go through that pain again. I will deal with it myself.

"Mom!" Alex screamed at her again.

I love you. She said. I will be with you soon. I promise.

She looked away from me and I closed my eyes.

“I can’t open the door,” Emma said. “I don’t have control over the magic in the room anymore.”

I opened my eyes and watched as she slowly stood up. She looked tired. She looked like she was in pain.

“Who does?!” Andrew shouted.

I already knew the answer to that question. She would never give the power over to Sophia. Emma knew that Sophia would open those doors immediately.

I looked behind my shoulder at Anna who was leaning against the wall and looking at Emma.

She had the power.

Andrew figured it out a second later. He turned toward Anna abruptly.

“Open the door!” he yelled, but Anna didn’t even flinch.

She ignored him completely, keeping her eyes on Emma.

“Open the door, Anna!” Andrew yelled again.

“She won’t be doing that, Andrew,” Emma said, making Andrew turn back around. “I am now as dangerous as Sophia was. She can’t open those doors. She can’t let me out.”

Andrew clenched his fists and tightened his jaw.

“Are you kidding me?!” he exclaimed. “You almost died! I can see that you are still in pain! You need help!”

Andrew turned back to look at Anna.

“Open the door, Anna!” he screamed as he pointed at the door. “Now!”

I looked back at my mate, trying to ignore Andrew’s screams. She was so close, but so far away.

I am okay, Logan. She mind-linked me. My body just needed a few moments to adjust to the darkness. I am okay.

I felt your soul being ripped from mine. I told her. I felt you leaving me, Emma. I will never forget that pain. I can't lose you. Don't leave me.

A tear fell on her cheek. She approached the window and placed her palm on it. I lifted my hand and placed my palm on the glass as well. I wished that I could just break it and touch her.

"I am sorry," she whispered quietly. "I am so sorry, my love. I won't leave you. I will find a way to fight it. I promise."

Alex came to stand next to me. Emma looked at him and smiled.

"Mom," Alex mumbled quietly, his voice laced with pain.

"Hi, my baby," Emma said softly. "I am okay. I promise. I will be back soon. I need you to take care of Fia, okay? She will need you."

Emma looked at Mason who was standing close to Alex. She smiled at him and Mason shook his head. He looked down and took a deep breath.

"I will be okay, Mason," Emma said. "I will be out of here soon."

"Tell her to open the door, Emma!" Andrew exclaimed.

I hadn't even realized that he was still trying to convince Anna to open the door and let Emma out.

Emma took a deep breath and looked at her brother. She was about to tell him something when we were interrupted by footsteps running toward us.

"Mom!" I heard Sophia scream loudly.

She and Hunter barged in a few seconds later.

"No!" Sophia screamed when she saw Emma.

My heart broke hearing the pain in her voice and I wished that there was something I could do to just take away all the pain my family felt.

CHAPTER NINETEEN Give It Back

Sophia's POV

I started sobbing as soon as I saw her.

“Mom!” I screamed as I rushed to the window.

She looked at me and gave me a small smile.

“No!” I screamed loudly.

My heart broke and I felt the urge to break the glass between us. I couldn't let my mom do this. I couldn't let her get hurt. The darkness was mine, not hers. I was the one who was supposed to be in that room, not her. I was the one who was supposed to fight it, not my mom. She had enough. She did enough. She'd been through enough. She deserved to be happy with my dad. She didn't deserve to be trapped in that room.

“Hi, my baby,” my mom said, placing her hand on the window.

Something between a sob and a scream escaped my lips. I couldn't hold back the pain I felt. I had to get her out. I had to take the darkness back.

“Why, Mom?!” I cried out as I placed my hand on the glass as well. “Why?!”

I felt my dad's hands on my shoulders. He pulled me to his chest and wrapped his arms around me tightly.

“I couldn't let anything happen to you, baby,” my mom said, her voice laced with pain. “I had to protect you. I should have done this years ago.”

I shook my head and another sob escaped me.

“No, Mom,” I cried out. “Give it back to me. Let me in and give it back.”

My dad kissed the top of my head. I felt Lex take my hand in his.

My mom smiled through her tears.

“This curse is mine, Sophia,” my mom said. “It was never meant for you or anyone else. It was always meant for me. I won’t let it pass on to your children. This curse will end with me.”

My heart raced and I couldn’t hold back a sob that escaped me.

“Mom, please,” I sobbed. “Don’t do this. It’s mine and I need to deal with it.”

My mom shook her head and took a deep breath.

“It’s not yours Sophia,” she said. “It’s mine. It was always mine.”

Lex pulled me out of my dad’s arms. I buried my face into his chest and he hugged me tightly.

“Goddess, Emma,” my uncle sighed. “What the fuck are you planning to do now?”

I wanted to look up at my mom, but Lex wouldn’t let me. He placed a hand on my head and pressed me closer to him. I could tell that he needed comfort so I wrapped my arms around him and hugged him tightly.

“Find a way to get rid of it,” I heard my mom say.

There were a few moments of silence before my mom spoke again.

“I’ve been reading about curses and I found some interesting stuff,” she said and this time Lex let me look at her.

“What did you find?” Anna asked as she approached the window.

I watched as my mom got down to her knees and pulled a box from under the bed. I furrowed my eyebrows. I didn’t see her put that there.

She opened the box and pulled out an old, torn-up book. She sat on the bed and opened it.

I wanted to get closer to the window, but Lex tightened his arms around me and I couldn't move.

"What is that, Emma?" Anna asked. "I've never seen that book before."

My mom glanced up at her but didn't respond. She kept turning the pages that looked like they were falling apart.

"Emma," my uncle called her with a hint of anger in his voice.

I couldn't even look at him. I couldn't even imagine what he was going through. He loved my mom so much and I could only assume how scared he was. If something like that happened to Lex I would lose it.

My mom ignored my uncle as well. She kept turning the pages and frowning.

"Emma, I swear to Goddess...", my uncle spoke after a few moments, but my mom interrupted him.

"Here it is!" she exclaimed as she stood up and walked back to the glass window separating us.

Hunter came to stand next to Lex and me. He crossed his arms over his chest and tightened his jaw. He kept his eyes on my mom.

I took a deep breath and tightened my arms around Lex. He rubbed my back gently.

I am so fucking happy to have you back. Lex mind-linked me.

I gulped and took a deep breath.

I wish it wasn't at the cost of our mom being in there instead of me. I said.

Lex tightened his arms around me and kissed the top of my head.

I know. He said. She will find a way out. I am sure of it.

"Okay," my mom mumbled as she finished reading the page. "This book describes darkness as something that hurt us

in the past. It says here that dealing with that hurt could get rid of the darkness forever.”

I furrowed my eyebrows.

“I don’t understand,” my dad said. “How are you supposed to deal with something that hurt Sophia?”

My mom looked at me and sighed.

“I can’t,” she said. “But I can deal with the things that hurt me.”

She looked at my dad and gulped.

“I think that this darkness always belonged to me,” she continued. “I think that’s the reason we couldn’t get rid of it before. Sophia couldn’t deal with it because the hurt wasn’t hers. It was mine.”

She looked back at the book in her hands and took a deep breath.

“I didn’t even know that this book existed until I decided to take Sophia’s darkness,” she said. “I went through every nook and cranny in our library and I never saw this book before.”

She looked back up at us and closed the book.

“This darkness was meant for me and I have to be the one to fight it,” she said and my heart started beating faster.

CHAPTER TWENTY Alone

Logan's POV

I had to hold back from trying to slam my body against that fucking glass window between us.

I wanted to slam my body against it until it broke. I wanted to get inside that fucking room and take my mate into my arms. Seeing her, but not being able to hold her was torture. It was pure fucking torture.

"I am so sorry, Logan," she said after Andrew finally walked out of the cabin.

He refused to leave at first, but Emma convinced him to go. We wanted some alone time. I needed her to tell me why she did it. I needed her to tell me why she didn't tell me her plans.

I already knew the answers, but I needed her to tell me. I didn't know why, but I needed to hear it from her. I felt like maybe it would get easier if she repeated it. I thought it would be easier for me to accept it if she convinced me that she made the right choice.

"Why, baby, why?" I asked as I leaned my forehead against the cold glass. "Why did you leave me?"

Emma approached the glass and placed her hand on it. She rubbed her thumb on it as if she was trying to rub my cheek.

"I didn't leave you," she cried out. "I could never leave you. I love you more than anything, Logan."

I knew that. I knew that she didn't leave me. I knew that she was doing that for our daughter. I knew it all, but I couldn't accept it. I couldn't hold her and it was killing me.

I felt a tear fall on my cheek and Emma whimpered.

"I will be back soon, okay?" she cried out. "I am not leaving you. I promise, Logan. I am not leaving your or our

children.”

I wanted to hold her. Even if it was just for a second. I just wanted to feel her in my arms.

“Tell me that you love me, please,” she said, her voice trembling. “Please, Logan, I need to hear it.”

I looked at her beautiful eyes and another tear fell on my cheek.

“I love you, Emma,” I said and she sobbed quietly. “I love you with my entire heart and soul. I won’t leave this cabin until you are back in my arms. I won’t let you leave me. I won’t leave you alone.”

She closed her eyes and bent her head down.

“I love you, baby,” I repeated wishing I could just snap my fingers and make the glass between us disappear.

Not knowing how long would it be until I got to feel her body next to mine was killing me. It could be hours. It could be days. It could be...

No.

It couldn’t be more than a few days. That would destroy me. That would kill me.

‘Leon?’ I called my wolf. ‘Are you okay?’

I didn’t even pay attention to him. I was completely focused on Emma. I didn’t even remember him.

‘I am angry,’ he mumbled. ‘But I am trying to keep it together. Eliza is helping to calm me down.’

‘Good,’ I said. ‘Don’t stop talking to her, okay? When the darkness took over Sophia, Stella was our main source of information. You can’t lose contact with Eliza in case the same thing happens to Emma.’

‘I know, Logan,’ Leon said. ‘I am putting all my effort into our connection. I won’t lose her.’

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

‘We won’t lose them, Logan,’ Leon added quietly.

I gulped and another tear fell on my cheek. I had no idea what would I do if she left this world before me. I couldn't see myself living without her. I wasn't strong enough to do it. I wasn't strong like she was. I was a weak man, and I wouldn't be able to continue without her next to me.

I was nothing without her.

She made me strong. She made me a good Alpha. She made me a good father. She was the source of everything beautiful in my life. My day started and ended with her next to me. She was my best friend and the only one I wanted to talk to every day. I couldn't imagine a second without her. Just thinking about it made my chest spasm and all the air leave my body.

"Emma," I called her, trying to sound calm.

She looked at me and smiled through her tears.

"I need you to listen to me carefully," I said and she nodded immediately. "I need you to memorize my words. I need you to remember them always."

She furrowed her eyebrows a little and gave me another small nod.

"You will fight this thing inside you," I said sternly. "You will fight it and you will win."

I took a small pause to focus on remaining calm.

"You will not leave me," I continued. "You will not lose. You will fight it and you will win. You will get out of this room. You will come back to me."

She took a deep breath and nodded.

"I am not letting you leave me after everything we've been through," I continued sternly. "I am not letting you leave me after I fought so fucking hard for you. I am not letting you leave me after I finally showed you how fucking much I love you."

A tear fell on her cheek and she let out a shaky breath.

“We have two beautiful children together,” I continued, trying hard to keep my voice from trembling, but failing miserably. “The love we have for you is bigger than anything in this world. You can’t leave us. You can’t leave your family.”

She sobbed loudly and placed both of her hands on the glass. She bent her head down and I couldn’t see her beautiful eyes anymore.

“I won’t, Logan,” she cried out. “I promise. I will fight and I will come back to you.”

I tried to swallow the lump in my throat. It was threatening to suffocate me.

“Look up, baby,” I said, my voice trembling.

She listened to me and I got to see her eyes again.

“I love you,” I said, trying to show her just how much through our connection.

She shivered and closed her eyes.

“I love you too,” she mumbled and her emotions washed over me.

I reveled in them, knowing that this was the only way I would be able to feel her in a while.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE Is She Crazy?!

Andrew's POV

"Is she crazy?!" my mate yelled as she ran inside our house.

I rushed toward her and pulled her into my arms. I took a deep breath, letting her scent calm me.

"Oh, I missed you so fucking much," I mumbled as I lowered my head and buried my nose into her neck.

Daisy sighed and ran her fingers through my hair. She kissed my cheek and I tightened my arms around her.

"I missed you too," she said quietly. "I missed you so much."

I kissed my mark on her neck and I felt her shiver.

"How is my little buddy?" I asked her after a few moments of silence.

I didn't let her go. I couldn't. I missed her so much and I needed to hold her as long as possible. I needed her comfort.

"He is doing great," she said as she placed another kiss on my cheek. "Drake and Amy are going out of their way to entertain them and take their minds off this mess."

I gulped and nodded. I missed my son, but I was glad that he was doing okay.

"Janet came to get Harry, but he refused to leave," Daisy said. "I think that he and Mike might be mates."

I smiled and raised my head to look at my beautiful mate.

"You think so?" I asked. "Is it possible that they can already feel it?"

Daisy shrugged and caressed my cheek.

"I am not sure," she said. "We will have to wait and see."

I smiled and leaned in to kiss her soft lips. She moaned quietly and the sound made me shiver. I missed her so fucking much.

“You can’t leave me again,” I mumbled against her lips. “I missed you too fucking much.”

I felt her smile. She tightened her hold on me and kissed me again. I was in fucking heaven and all the things that were bugging me suddenly disappeared. I couldn’t remember what was I afraid of. I couldn’t remember the things I was angry about. I couldn’t remember anything. Her lips and her presence were a cure for every ache in my body and my soul.

She stopped kissing me and reminded me of the thing that made my stomach twist and my heart spasm.

“How is Emma?” she asked, making me close my eyes and groan.

Daisy ran her fingers through my hair and I took a deep breath.

“I am so angry at her,” I mumbled as I leaned my forehead against Daisy’s. “I am so scared. She almost died, Daisy. If something happens to her...”

“Stop it, Andrew,” Daisy interrupted me. “Nothing will happen to her. She will be okay. She will find a way to deal with it. I am sure of it.”

I gulped and took another deep breath. Daisy’s scent entered my lungs and it helped me calm down a little.

“How is Sophia?” Daisy asked. “How did she take it?”

I lifted my head and sighed.

“Not well,” I said. “She tried to convince Emma to give the darkness back to her.”

Daisy nodded and furrowed her eyebrows a little.

“I am so angry at her, but I know that I would have done the same,” Daisy said.

I tightened my jaw and closed my eyes. I knew why Emma did it. I understood it from a parent’s perspective. I

wanted to take Sophia's darkness myself. I wanted to make sure that Sophia was safe. I loved that little girl so much. She reminded me of Emma in so many ways and I loved her even more because of it.

But speaking from a brother's perspective, I was terrified. Watching Emma lying on the ground and not moving reminded me of all those times I almost lost her. It reminded me of the fear and the pain I felt thinking that I would never see her again. Not to mention how the fact that I always saw myself as Emma's parent. I always said that she was like a child to me and that was the truth. I still saw her as that little girl I raised. I still saw her as that little girl I watched grow up. She would always be my child in my eyes. It didn't matter how old she was. I still needed and wanted to protect her.

"There had to be another way," I mumbled. "There had to be another way to contain the darkness without tying it to Emma."

Daisy caressed my cheek and I opened my eyes. She gave me a small smile and leaned in to kiss me again.

"I want to go see her," Daisy said as he pulled away.

Logan? I mind-linked him.

Yes? He responded immediately.

Is Emma awake? I asked. Daisy is here. She wants to see her.

She is. Logan said. Jake is here and he is currently yelling at her.

We will be right there. I said, cutting our mind-link.

"Logan says she is awake," I said as I tucked a strand of Daisy's hair behind her ear. "Jake is yelling at her."

Daisy snorted and shook her head.

"Of course he is," she said. "I'm betting his rant is even worse than yours or Logan's."

I chuckled and placed a small kiss on her lips.

“Logan wasn’t as angry as he was scared,” I said. “I yelled at Anna more than at Emma.”

“Why?” Daisy asked, furrowing her eyebrows.

“Emma gave Anna the power of the room,” I explained. “I wanted her to open the door and she wouldn’t do it.”

Daisy sighed and gave me a small nod.

“Let’s go see her,” Daisy said as she tried to step away from me.

I stopped her and pulled her back to my chest. I lowered my head and started sucking on my mark on her neck.

“In a few minutes,” I said as I started walking until we reached the wall.

Daisy moaned as I picked her up and squeezed her butt. She wrapped her legs around my waist and reached between us to unbutton my jeans. I reached under her skirt and moved her underwear to the side. She was already wet and ready for me.

I slid inside her and leaned my forehead against her shoulder. I focused on her and on the amazing feeling of being inside her.

I needed to forget everything and my mate’s incredible body was a perfect place to do so.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO The First Touch

Emma's POV

"There had to be another way, Emma!" Jake shouted for what felt like a hundredth time. "You didn't have to do this!"

He was pacing in front of the window, waving his hands, and shouting at me. He looked angry and he didn't even let me speak. Every time I tried to say something, he would cut me off.

Logan was leaning against the wall with his arms crossed over his chest, letting Jake rant on and on.

"I had to do it, Jake," I said. "I couldn't let my child suffer."

Jake looked at me and narrowed his eyes.

"We would find a way to free her from it," Jake said. "You would find a way."

"And I did," I said. "She is free from it."

"Not like this, Emma," Jake said, rolling his eyes. "Not by putting yourself in danger."

I sighed and shook my head. Jake was the hardest one to convince. He opened his mouth to yell again, but he was interrupted when Daisy came running in.

"Emma!" she shouted as she ran toward me.

She placed her hands on the glass and gulped.

"Oh, Em," she cried out. "Are you okay?"

"I am fine," I said as I approached the window.

I smiled and placed my hand on it as well.

"I missed you," I told her. "How are the kids? How is Mike?"

I missed my nephew a lot. I missed his contagious smile and his sense of humor. He always knew how to make me laugh.

“Mike is doing great,” Daisy said, giving me a small smile. “He is spending so much time with Harry. Janet came to pick Harry up, but he refused to leave Mike.”

A small smile spread across my face.

“Do you think they are mates?” I asked and she nodded.

“I am not sure if they can already feel it, but I think that they are,” Daisy said. “I am happy for him.”

I smiled brightly. I was happy for him too.

“How are the rest of the kids?” I asked, looking at Jake. “How are Hazel and Danny?”

“They are fine,” Jake said. “Amy and Drake are entertaining them and trying to keep them from asking a lot of questions.”

“Jake is right,” Daisy added. “They are taking them hiking, camping, swimming. You name it, and they are doing it.”

I smiled and a warm feeling spread through my body. I was happy that they were doing okay.

“Hazel and Haley are constantly asking about Sophia,” Daisy said. “They can’t wait to see her.”

I smiled again. They would finally be able to see her now that she was out of this room.

I took a deep breath and looked at my brother. He was standing next to Logan. His fists were clenched and he was staring at the ground. My heart clenched painfully. I knew how worried he was and I never meant for it to happen. All I wanted to do was protect my daughter.

“Andrew,” I called him and he looked up at me.

He tightened his jaw and gulped.

“I am sorry,” I said. “I needed to protect Sophie.”

He took a deep breath and approached the window. Daisy took his hand in hers. Andrew studied my face for a few moments.

“I know,” he spoke after a while. “I know that you did it to protect your daughter. I just wish there is something I could do to protect mine.”

I couldn't stop the tears that fell on my cheeks. Andrew was both a brother and a father to me. He was my rock and I loved him so much.

“I love you,” I told him. “I will be out of here soon. I will find a way.”

Andrew gulped and nodded.

“You better be,” he said quietly. “I can't lose you, Emma.”

“You are not going to lose me, Andrew,” I said. “I won't let this thing kill me.”

Andrew flinched a little and Daisy squeezed his hand tighter.

“You better not, Emma,” Jake said angrily. “I swear to Goddess if you...”

I stopped listening to him because a weird feeling made my knees buckle. It felt like someone wrapped a cold hand around my lungs. It made it hard for me to breathe.

“Emma?” Andrew called me worriedly.

I saw Logan push off the wall and walk toward the window.

“What's wrong?” Logan asked, his voice laced with panic.

I didn't know what to tell him. I didn't know what was wrong.

“I don't...,” I spoke, shaking my head, but the cold hand around my lungs tightened.

I placed a hand on my chest and gasped.

“Emma!” Andrew shouted, slamming his hand against the window.

I took a few steps back and tried to take a deep breath. It was very hard to do so.

“Fuck!” Logan screamed and rushed toward the door.

He knew he wouldn’t be able to open it, but he still started pulling on the doorknob.

“Get Anna!” Logan screamed. “She needs to open the fucking door!”

I shook my head violently. It was the darkness. It was the first touch of darkness and I was dangerous. Anna couldn’t open those doors.

I could feel it spreading from my chest to the rest of my body.

“I am fine,” I forced myself to speak. “I will be fine. She can’t open the door.”

Logan rushed back to the window and slammed both his hands on it.

“Breathe, Emma!” he yelled at me.

“Goddess, her lips are blue!” Daisy exclaimed, gasping loudly.

I fell to my knees and gasped for breath. I heard the screaming and slamming their hands against the glass, but I couldn’t figure out what they were saying.

My vision became blurry.

The cold hand moved from my lungs to my heart. It squeezed it, making me groan in pain.

“Emma!” I heard my mate’s panicked sob.

My heart hurt for him. My soul screamed for him. My body wanted his touch and his comfort.

“I love you,” I managed to mumble with the small amount of air I had left in my lungs.

My vision blackened and I felt something cold against my cheek. I could hear screams and loud sobs, but I couldn't look up anymore.

I didn't care anymore.

"Emma!" I heard someone scream my name one last time before I passed out.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE **Black**

Logan's POV

My heart was going to beat its way out of my chest.

She was still alive. She started breathing normally the moment she passed out.

But she wasn't conscious and she wasn't waking up no matter how loudly I screamed and banged against the stupid window.

"Please, baby, wake up," I cried out for what felt like a millionth time.

I heard footsteps rushing toward us.

"Dad!" my son yelled as soon as he ran inside.

I heard my daughter gasp and she ran toward me.

"What happened?!" Sophia cried out as she placed her palms on the glass. "Is she okay?"

"The darkness took over," Anna mumbled, making me turn around and look at her. "She won't be Emma when she wakes up."

Sophia sobbed and Hunter pulled her into his arms.

Alex came to stand next to me.

"How long ago did she pass out?" Alex asked, his voice laced with fear.

"About two hours," Andrew responded.

Two hours? It felt like fucking eternity.

Sophia was sobbing quietly and it was breaking my heart. I wished that I could comfort her, but I knew it would be useless. I didn't even know what to tell her. I needed someone to comfort me and tell me that everything would be okay. Emma usually did that. She was my rock. She made me strong and brave. I needed her to wake up so she could reassure me

and then I would be able to tell my daughter that everything would be okay.

“Hi, sweetie,” I heard Daisy’s soft voice.

“Aunt Daisy,” Sophie cried out.

I glanced to my left and saw Daisy pulling Sophie into her arms. Daisy placed her hand on Sophie’s head and held her close. Alex approached them and hugged them both. Daisy kissed his temple.

“When did you get back?” Alex asked her.

“A few hours ago,” Daisy said as she let Sophie go.

She smiled a little and caressed Sophie’s cheek.

“How about you and I go back to the packhouse?” Daisy asked softly. “There is so much I want to tell you.”

Sophie looked back at Emma and shook her head.

“No,” she said. “I want to be here when she wakes up.”

I looked at Hunter and shook my head. I didn’t want her here when Emma woke up. I wasn’t sure in what condition she would be in. I wasn’t sure what she would say.

Hunter understood immediately.

“Go with your aunt, Angel,” Hunter said. “We will keep you informed, okay? You don’t need to stay here.”

Sophie shook her head again.

“Go, Fia,” Alex said sternly. “You don’t have to be here when she wakes up.”

Sophie looked at Alex and he kissed her forehead.

“Go,” he said, pushing her gently toward Daisy.

Daisy wrapped an arm around Sophie’s shoulders and started leading her outside. Anna was leaning against the wall, keeping her eyes on Emma the entire time.

“Go with them, Jake, please,” I said. “I don’t want them to be alone.”

Jake nodded and started walking behind them.

“Keep me informed,” he said and I nodded.

I looked back at my mate. She was still lying on the ground, motionless.

“Where is Mason?” I heard Andrew ask.

“He was out on a run when Dad mind-linked me,” Alex explained. “He is on his way back.”

Andrew mumbled something, but I didn’t hear what. I was completely focused on Emma’s hand.

She moved her fingers.

She was waking up.

“Emma!” I shouted, drawing everyone’s attention back to her.

She groaned and my heart skipped a thousand beats.

“Mom!” Alex shouted, slamming his hand against the window.

She groaned again and turned her head to the other side.

“Em!” Andrew shouted, his voice trembling.

She opened her beautiful eyes and my heart stopped beating.

I knew that the darkness took over her, but seeing it was so much different. Her eyes were completely black and the smirk that appeared on her face made my stomach turn.

“Mom,” Alex breathed out, his voice laced with fear.

She ignored him, keeping her black eyes on me. I gulped and watched as she stood up slowly. She approached the window and narrowed her eyes at me.

“Hi, baby,” I said quietly. “I missed you.”

She was still my Emma. Even with the darkness inside her. I couldn’t help but call her by her nickname. I couldn’t help but tell her I missed her.

I studied her beautiful face and all I saw was my mate. Her eyes may have been different, but everything else was still

my Emma.

She looked at her hands and furrowed her eyebrows a little. What was she thinking?

I could feel how tense everyone around me was, but I ignored them all. I focused on her and it felt like we were the only ones in that fucking cabin.

“I love you,” I told her. “I love you with my entire heart and soul.”

She looked up at me and chuckled darkly. All I saw in her eyes was darkness. The

color of her eyes that I loved so much was completely gone.

“We’ve been through so much,” I said. “I am not letting this thing take you away from me. I am not letting it destroy us.”

She remained silent and tilted her head a little. My heart was breaking inside my chest. My love wasn’t here. That thing took her place.

“I love you,” I told her again. “I will never stop loving you.”

She looked at Andrew and tightened her jaw.

“Hi, Em,” Andrew said, his voice trembling. “We are here for you. We won’t leave you.”

She looked back at me and laughed.

“You don’t know who I am, don’t you?” she asked, shaking her head and laughing. “You already forgot about me?”

I furrowed my eyebrows and glanced at Andrew. What the hell was she talking about? She was Emma. The darkness came to the surface, but she was still Emma.

“Emma’s pussy was so good that you forgot about your first fuck, Logan?” she asked and I snapped my head back in her direction.

She was smirking and shaking her head at me.

What the fuck was she talking about? The first woman I had sex with was...

“Sienna,” Andrew mumbled, making my body freeze.

No.

It was impossible.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR Sienna

Alexander's POV

Sienna?

Who the fuck...

I gasped loudly and looked at my dad. He was staring at her and he wasn't breathing. He looked like he had been punched in the gut.

Sienna was the bitch who my dad chose as his mate after rejecting my mom. Sienna was the bitch who had my mom kidnapped. Sienna was the fucking bitch who almost had my mom killed!

"This isn't funny, Emma," my uncle said and I looked back at my mom.

She laughed and shook her head. She looked down at her body and sighed.

"I don't like it," she said. "I look like the person I hate the most. It sucks."

I gulped and clenched my fists.

"Emma...", my uncle spoke, but she interrupted him.

"It's Sienna, Andrew," she said as she looked back up at him. "Don't call me by that bitch's name. I hate it."

I growled and she looked at me. She smiled and approached the window.

"You should have been my son," she said as she looked me up and down. "It is too bad that your father chose that pathetic little girl over me."

My eyes widened. I could feel the tension in the air growing. No one said a thing. We were all too shocked to speak.

She grinned widely and looked at my dad

“It is nice to see you, Logan,” she said. “You are even more handsome than you were all those years ago.”

My dad was still completely shocked. He was barely breathing and I wasn't sure if he blinked since she told us who she was.

“You have nothing to say to me?” she asked. “Not even hi? It's nice to see you again, Sienna?”

She looked at her body and sighed.

“Well, you can't exactly see me,” she said. “I am trapped in that little whore's body.”

I saw fucking red. She was calling my mom names! Uncle Andrew and I growled. My dad was still completely frozen.

“Stop it!” my uncle screamed, slamming his fist against the window. “Stop it right the fuck now!”

She rolled her eyes and sighed.

“Oh, Andrew,” she said, shaking her head. “Your temper has only gotten worse, I see. Why are you screaming?”

The anger was pulsating inside me. I wanted to get in there and strangle her. But she was in my mom's body! I would be hurting my mom if I hurt her.

My uncle growled loudly and barred his canines at her.

“What the fuck do you want, Sienna?” he asked. “Get the fuck out of my sister's body!”

She laughed and shook her head at my uncle.

“Oh, Andrew,” she said, rolling her eyes. “I am finally where I wanted to be all along. I finally have control over Emma. I finally get to do what I always wanted to do.”

I clenched my fists and tried to take a deep breath. I couldn't do it, though. There wasn't room for anything other than anger and fear inside me. I was sure that I would explode.

“What is that exactly?” my uncle asked, narrowing his eyes at her. “You want what Emma has? You want her mate?”

You want her life?”

She laughed and shook her head again.

“That would maybe be possible if the bitch didn’t lock me up in this room,” she said, looking around and frowning. “I would maybe be able to take over without anyone of you noticing. I would maybe be able to pretend to be her for a while and then just enjoy the rest of my life with her mate and family.”

I imagined her taking over my mom. I imagined my mom being trapped in her own body, watching that bitch live her life. Just the thought of it angered me so fucking much that my claws elongated. I wanted to rip her into pieces.

She looked back at us and smirked.

“I can’t do that, can I?” she continued. “I am just a curse, nothing more. I am dead, aren’t I?”

I wanted to wipe that stupid smirk off her face.

But that was my mom’s face. My eyes saw my mom and nothing in the world would make me hurt my mom. Even if that stupid window wasn’t separating us, I wouldn’t be able to hurt her. I saw my mom even though I knew it wasn’t her inside anymore.

“What the fuck do you want then, Sienna?” my uncle asked. “Why are you here?”

She opened her mouth to answer him, but she saw something behind us and she smirked again.

“Sienna?” I heard Mason’s voice.

I turned around and saw a pissed-off Mason approaching us. His jaw kept twitching and he never moved his eyes from her.

“Oh, hello, Mason,” she said. “It is nice to meet you.”

Mason growled quietly and clenched his fists. I turned back around and tried to take a deep breath. It was still impossible for me to do it.

“What the fuck do you want?” Mason asked, gritting his teeth.

“You have your dad’s temper,” she said, shaking her head at Mason. “You are both so rude.”

My uncle slammed his hand against the window.

“Don’t fuck with me, Sienna,” my uncle growled. “Why the fuck are you here? What do you want?”

Sienna looked at him and smiled.

“What I always wanted,” she said. “I want Emma gone. I want her dead. I want you to feel the pain I felt when I realized that I was neither yours nor Logan’s mate. I want you to feel the pain I felt when that little bitch turned 18 and got the man I wanted. I want you to feel the pain I felt when I realized that you loved her more than you would ever love me.”

She narrowed her eyes and clenched her fists.

“I was there for the both of you since we were kids,” she continued. “I was there for you through everything and both of you just tossed me aside for some little bitch!”

She slammed her fists against the glass and growled.

“But I have her now,” she said. “The little bitch is at my mercy. Her body and her soul are at my mercy. I will kill her and I will make you watch.”

A scream got caught in my throat as I watched her elongate her claws. She was about to slice her stomach open when she flinched hard. It looked like she was struck by lightning. She stumbled back and collapsed on the floor.

There was a moment of complete silence before all hell broke loose.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE Inside

Logan's POV

I was too shocked to speak. I was too shocked to move. I couldn't do anything except stare at her.

It was my Emma, but at the same time, it wasn't. She looked like my beautiful Emma, but it wasn't my Emma.

I had such a hard time accepting the fact that my baby would be taken over by darkness, but I couldn't accept the fact that she was taken over by...

No.

It wasn't true. It couldn't have been true.

The bitch wasn't back. The bitch was dead and buried somewhere in the forest. Her body was long gone. She was fucking gone. She wasn't inside my mate's beautiful body. It wasn't fucking possible!

My body was completely frozen the entire time. I wasn't even sure if I was breathing. All I saw was my baby, but all I could hear was Sienna. It was a living nightmare and I just wanted to wake up from it.

I wanted to wake up next to my Emma. I wanted to pull her to my chest and kiss her soft lips just like I did every morning for the past twenty years. I didn't want to listen to this. I didn't want to see this.

I flinched hard when I saw her elongate her claws. My heart completely stopped beating when I saw her place them against her stomach.

I wasn't able to scream. I wasn't able to do anything except stare at her in utter terror.

But then she flinched back and collapsed on the floor.

It was like everything came rushing back like a tidal wave. Every emotion that was being held back by shock was now overwhelming my body.

“EMMA!” I screamed as I slammed my body against the window separating us.

“Mom!”

“Emma!”

I heard screams all around me, but there was another sound that caught my attention.

Cracking.

I looked at the window and gasped. I was just about to slam my body against it again when Anna’s magic blasted me and I flew back. I growled loudly, my canines and claws bursting out of my body with such intensity that I could feel the metallic taste in my mouth. My canines sliced through my gums, but I didn’t give a fuck. I felt Emma’s power raging inside me and I knew that I could bring that window down. I was going to get to my mate no matter what it took!

I jumped up and growled at Anna. I tried to run back toward the window, but she stopped me again, knocking me back down to the ground. My vision blackened completely. The rage I never felt before washed over me.

No one was going to stop me from getting inside that fucking room! No one!

I looked at Anna and barred my teeth at her. I could see her mouth moving, but my growls were so loud that I couldn’t hear anything else.

Did she really think that I would stop?! Did she really think that I wouldn’t fucking break through that window?!

“Logan!” I heard her voice in between my growls. “I did it! I knocked her down! She is okay!”

I couldn’t understand what she was telling me. I didn’t give a shit. I was getting inside that fucking room.

I looked at the window and saw the crack closing slowly.

“NO!” I screamed as I jumped back up and tried to run toward the window again.

This time Alex stopped me.

I looked at him wide-eyed. What the hell was he doing?! I needed to go to her!

“Dad!” he screamed at me. “Stop it! You need to listen to Anna!”

I tightened my jaw and tried to get out of Alex’s arms. I didn’t need to do shit. All I fucking needed to do was go to my mate!

Anna approached us and cupped my cheeks. Her magic entered me and I couldn’t move. I couldn’t do anything. I couldn’t speak, I couldn’t breathe, I couldn’t look away from Anna. If Alex wasn’t holding me, I would have crumpled to the floor. I couldn’t feel my legs.

“Listen to me, Alex,” Anna said sternly. “Emma is okay. I knocked her out so Sienna wouldn’t be able to hurt her. She is unconscious, but she is okay. You need to calm down.”

How could I calm down when that bitch was inside my mate’s body? She could hurt her! She was surely going to try to hurt her once she woke up again!

“She is going to try to hurt her when she wakes up!” I managed to mumble, my voice sounding like I was choking.

Anna gulped and nodded.

“I know,” she said. “That is why I am going to open those doors and let you inside.”

My eyes widened. I heard quiet gasps around me.

“I have limited control over that room,” Anna continued. “Emma’s magic is too strong for me. There isn’t much I can do. I don’t even know how I managed to knock her out. You need to go in there and make sure that Sienna doesn’t hurt her.”

I nodded immediately. That is all I wanted to do.

“But what if she hurts him?” Alex asked, his voice laced with worry. “She can still do magic in there. What if she hurts my dad?”

Anna looked at Alex and took a deep breath.

“Her use of magic is limited in there,” Anna said. “She would be able to shock him a few times at best.”

Anna looked back at me and raised an eyebrow.

“You can take a few shocks, can you?” she asked and I nodded again.

I would die for her. I didn’t give a shit about what her magic could do to me. If I had to die for her to live, I would do it in a fucking heartbeat.

“Are you sure, Dad?” Alex asked worriedly. “She is still powerful. She could still hurt you.”

Anna moved her hands and her magic left my body. I looked at my son and pulled him into a tight hug.

“I am sure, bud,” I said as I kissed his temple. “Your mom needs me and I will do whatever I have to do to keep her safe. I will endure whatever I have to, but I will make sure that she gets out of that room alive.”

Alex tightened his arms around me and I kissed his temple again.

I looked at Anna who was standing in front of the door, mumbling something I couldn’t understand. The door glistened for a second and Anna turned the doorknob.

My heart raced impossibly fast as I let my son go and rushed to get to my mate as soon as fucking possible.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX What Are You Doing Here?

Logan's POV

The relief that washed over me when I finally pulled Emma into my arms was so intense that I almost fainted.

One second, I was ripping the door open, and the next second was on my knees next to her cold, still body.

“Baby!” I cried out as I pulled her into my arms.

I kneeled on the floor and pulled her into my lap. She was so cold and I was terrified. I pressed her close to me and took a deep breath.

The knots in my body that were formed when I saw her in this room were starting to loosen a little. I finally had her in my arms.

I kissed her forehead and looked at her beautiful face. She was pale and she was shivering a little.

I hadn't noticed that before.

“Logan?” Andrew called me worriedly. “Is she okay?”

I looked up at him and saw him and Mason staring through the window. Both of them looked completely distraught. Alex and Hunter were standing behind them. They were talking about something quietly. Anna was nowhere to be seen. I didn't even realize that she had already closed the door behind me.

“Logan?!” Andrew called me as he slammed his hand against the window.

I flinched and looked back at him.

“Is she okay?!” he cried out, his voice laced with pain and fear.

I looked back down at my mate and gulped. I pressed my lips against her forehead and took a deep breath.

“She is cold,” I mumbled as I stood up with her in my arms.

I walked to the bed and laid her down gently. I lay next to her and I covered us both with blankets. I pulled her to my chest and held her close to me. I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath, letting her scent soothe me.

“Is she hurt, Logan?” Andrew asked, his voice trembling. “Did she manage to cut herself?”

My heart raced.

Why didn't I check that as soon as I walked inside?!

But I would be able to see the blood if she was hurt, wouldn't I? She was okay. She had to be okay.

My hands were shaking as I lifted the blanket and looked down at her lower belly. There was no blood. Her shirt wasn't torn. I reached under her shirt and caressed her soft skin, crying out in relief when my fingers didn't find any kind of wound on her stomach.

“She is okay,” I said. “She didn't hurt herself.”

Andrew cursed loudly and I looked up to see him lean his forehead against the window. Mason placed a hand on Andrew's shoulder and squeezed it.

I looked at Alex whose face was a mixture of fear and relief.

“Hunter and I will go talk to Fia,” Alex said and I gave him a small nod. “Mind-link me if anything happens, okay? I won't be gone long.”

“It's okay, bud,” I said softly. “Go be with your sister. I will mind-link you if I need you.”

Alex gulped and looked at Emma.

“She is okay, bud,” I told him. “I will make sure that nothing bad happens.”

I tightened my hold on her and pressed her even closer to me. She was still shivering.

“Go with them, Mase,” Andrew mumbled, but Mason shook his head.

“No, Dad,” he argued. “You need me here.”

Andrew looked at him and gave him a small smile.

“I will be okay,” Andrew said. “At least she isn’t alone anymore. Go be with your mom and Sophie.”

Mason tightened his jaw and looked at Emma. I knew how much he loved her. She was like a second mom to him. They always had a very special bond.

“Go, Mase,” I told him softly. “We will mind-link you if anything happens.”

I really wanted them both out of here. I could barely remember the last time any of us slept or ate. Everything was happening so fucking fast and I knew that they needed a small break.

Daisy? I mind-linked her.

Is everything okay? She responded immediately. Is Emma okay?

She is. I said as I ran my fingers through Emma’s hair. The boys are on their way back. Make sure that they eat something, okay? Don’t let them come back here until they ate and slept.

Okay. Daisy said. Is Andrew coming back?

He will come back soon. I said. How is my princess?

She is still a bit upset. Daisy sighed. She will be better now that the boys are coming back.

Thank you, Daisy. I said and cut our mind-link.

I looked back down at my baby and gulped. I bent down and kissed her cheek.

“Do you think that Sienna will still be there when she wakes up?” Andrew asked quietly.

I looked up at him and took a deep breath. We were now the only ones in the cabin.

“I don’t know,” I said. “I will deal with her, though. I won’t let her hurt Emma.”

Andrew lifted his head and ran his fingers through his hair.

“How is this possible, Logan?” Andrew mumbled. “How can that bitch still be here? Why is she still here? What the fuck is going on?”

I looked back at Emma and sighed. I caressed her cheek, dragging my fingers along her jaw, and enjoying how her skin felt under my fingertips. The tingles I felt never lost their power. They were exactly the same as the first time I touched her after finding out that she belonged to me.

“I don’t know, Andrew,” I said. “But I am not leaving her alone. I will stay here until we can both come out.”

I leaned in and kissed Emma’s cheek softly. My heart raced when she furrowed her eyebrows and stirred a little.

“Emma?!” I exclaimed as I cupped her cheeks and lifted her head a little.

Andrew gasped and I could practically hear his heartbeat increasing.

Emma opened her eyes a little and looked at me. Her eyes were back to the color I adored and I almost started sobbing in relief.

I looked at Andrew and smiled.

“It is her,” I said, my voice trembling. “It is our Emma.”

Andrew’s eyes widened and he let out a relieved breath. I looked back at my baby and smiled.

“Logan?” she called me quietly. “What are you doing here? You need to leave. It’s not safe.”

I shook my head immediately.

“That is not going to happen, baby,” I told her. “I am in this with you. I am not leaving you. I am not letting you do this alone.”

I meant every word I said. I wasn't going to leave this room without her. I would endure everything and I would be there for her through everything. She was wrong when she said that this curse was hers. It wasn't. It was ours and I wasn't letting her deal with it alone.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN I Need To Take It Back

Sophia's POV

"How are you, honey?" my aunt asked as she ran her fingers through my hair.

I couldn't answer that. I wasn't sure what I was feeling. So many emotions were flowing through my body and it was so hard for me to name them all. I knew that I was terrified. I knew that I was sad.

"I don't know," I mumbled. "I don't know how to describe it."

My aunt sighed and kissed the top of my head.

"Your dad mind-linked me," she said. "The boys are on their way back. Your dad said not to let them go back there without them eating and sleeping first."

I agreed with my dad. All of us barely slept for the last few days. Lex especially. He needed to rest a little. I could tell that he was on edge and needed a break from everything.

"Do you want to help me make them something to eat?" my aunt asked and I nodded immediately.

I needed something to distract me from all of those emotions I felt. I had to distract myself before I lost it completely.

I stood up and approached my aunt. She smiled and handed me a bowl and a whisk. I took it from her and placed it on the counter. I was staring in front of myself and I didn't even realize that my aunt had already placed a carton of eggs in front of me.

"Sophie?" she called me softly. "Why don't you go sit down? I will take care of everything."

I flinched a little and looked at her.

“No, it’s okay,” I said as I opened the carton and grabbed an egg. “I want to help.”

I wasn’t sure what we were making, though. My aunt probably told me, but I was too distracted to listen to her. She gave me a whisk and a bowl so she probably wanted me to use that, right?

I started cracking the eggs and putting them in the bowl in front of me.

My mind was on my mom and no matter what I did, I couldn’t stop thinking about her. Would she be okay? How would she handle the darkness? What if something happened to her? What if she got hurt?

She should have never taken it from me. I was dealing with it. I would be able to handle it.

I was so distracted that I didn’t even hear the boys coming. I felt someone wrap their arms around me and I flinched.

“I am sorry, Angel,” Hunter mumbled as he placed a kiss on my shoulder. “I thought that you heard me coming.”

I turned my head and kissed his cheek before I looked at my brother and Mason. They looked horrible and I knew that something happened.

My heart raced as I let go of the whisk and walked toward Lex.

“What’s wrong?” I asked him. “Is mom okay?”

My voice was trembling and I was on the verge of tears.

“Mase?” my aunt called my cousin.

I could tell by the sound of her voice that she also noticed that something was wrong.

Lex sat down and took my hand in his. He took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Mom was taken over by darkness,” Lex mumbled, making my heart stop. “But when she woke up Sienna was inside her body.”

What? What the hell was he talking about?

There were a few moments of silence before my aunt spoke.

“What do you mean?” Aunt Daisy asked, her voice trembling. “How can Sienna be inside her?”

Lex looked at our aunt and shrugged.

“I don’t know,” he said quietly. “She was inside our mom and she spoke to dad and uncle Andrew. She even spoke to Mason and me. She told me that I was supposed to be her son.”

My heart spasmed painfully. I had to sit down. I couldn’t look away from Lex. He was joking, wasn’t he? But why would he joke about something like that? That was cruel and my brother wasn’t cruel.

“Who was Sienna?” Hunter asked, but I couldn’t respond.

I kept looking at Lex, expecting him to tell me that he was kidding. I heard Aunt Daisy talking to Hunter. She was explaining to him who Sienna was. Lex looked at me and gulped. I had a feeling that his story wasn’t over. I had a feeling that something else happened.

“What?!” Hunter exclaimed loudly. “Fuck!”

“What did she do, Lex?” I asked, my voice cracking. “What did she do to Mom?”

Lex’s eyes filled with tears. He looked at my hand in his and let out a shaky breath.

“She tried to kill Mom,” Lex mumbled and I could feel my body shutting down. “She elongated her claws and tried to slice Mom’s stomach open.”

The room started spinning. I could barely hear my Aunt Daisy scream. I couldn’t hear anything other than my blood rushing through my veins.

Lex started speaking again and I forced myself to listen to him.

Was my mom dead? Was she gone?

No, please Goddess, no.

“Anna used her magic to knock her unconscious,” Lex said, looking back up at me. “Mom is okay. She isn’t hurt.”

I felt a tear fall on my cheek.

“Oh, fuck,” my Aunt Daisy cried out. “Thank you, Goddess.”

Lex reached out and wiped the tears from my cheeks.

“I need to go back,” I mumbled as I tried to get up.

Two strong hands stopped me and made me sit back down.

“No, Angel,” Hunter said as he bent down and kissed the top of my head. “Your mom is okay now. You can’t go back.”

How could she be okay when she had that awful thing inside her?! Sienna tried to kill her! I had to go back. I had to take the darkness back.

“Dad is with her, Fia,” Lex said, making me freeze. “Anna let him go inside. He is with her and she is safe.”

I furrowed my eyebrows.

“What?” Aunt Daisy mumbled. “What do you mean?”

Lex looked at Aunt Daisy and sighed.

“We knew that we couldn’t leave her alone in there so Dad went in,” Lex said. “He will keep her safe.”

I couldn’t hold back a sob that escaped me. Lex looked back at me and pulled me to him immediately. He wrapped me in a tight hug and I couldn’t do anything else except sob on his shoulder.

Both of our parents were locked inside that room. Both of our parents were in danger. I had no idea what were we going to do now.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT When We Were Little

Alexander's POV

I was lying on my bed, staring at the ceiling. I couldn't sleep. I was exhausted, but I couldn't sleep. I couldn't stop the thoughts that were eating at my soul.

Would I ever get to hug my parents again? Would something terrible happen to them? How strong was my mom now? Could she hurt my dad? What would happen to my mom when she realized that she hurt her mate? What if I lost both of them? How the fuck would I survive losing my entire family?

I closed my eyes and tried to take a deep breath. It was impossible, though. My chest was being squished by so many emotions and I couldn't breathe normally. The air was barely entering my lungs and my whole body hurt due to the lack of air.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and turned to my side. I grabbed one of the pillows that were on my bed and held it close to me. I buried my nose in it, hoping that the softness and the scent of the pillow would somehow soothe me. My pillow always smelled the same. My mom always used the same fabric softener and the scent reminded me of her. It reminded me of simpler times. It reminded me of my childhood and how my biggest concern was if my mom would create four or five clouds over my bed. I liked five better. There was more lightning if she created five clouds.

I forced the scent into my lungs and breathed out slowly. It soothed me a little, but I still wasn't able to relax enough to go to sleep.

I tried to get more comfortable just as Fia mind-linked me.

Lex? She called me, her voice laced with sadness. Are you awake?

I am. I responded immediately. Is everything okay?

Can I come to your room? She asked instead of answering me.

Always, Fia. I said softly.

My heart raced a bit, wondering if something happened to her. She calmed down a bit before we went to bed, but she sounded so fucking sad when she mind-linked me.

I heard her soft footsteps approaching my room. She opened the door and walked inside. She was wearing her pajamas and carrying her favorite blanket. I knew immediately why she had come here. We always did this when we needed comfort. I wanted to ask her to come to my room earlier. I needed her. I needed to hold her hand and sleep next to her just like when we were little. Being with her was sometimes the only thing that could get me to fall asleep when I was upset. I knew it would be the same now. I knew that I would be able to fall asleep now that she was here.

I moved the pillow away and made room for her in my bed. She climbed in and lay next to me, covering us both with her blanket.

I took her hand in mine and squeezed it tightly.

“I miss them,” she said quietly, making my heart clench.

I rubbed the top of her hand gently and sighed.

“I miss them too, Fia,” I said and she turned to look at me.

The pain in her eyes almost made me scream.

“Will they ever walk out of that room, Lex?” she asked, her voice trembling. “Will we ever get to hug them again?”

The lump in my throat was threatening to suffocate me. I didn’t know how to answer that question. I was wondering the same.

“I don’t know, Fia,” I told her honestly. “I really hope so.”

A tear fell on her cheek and I reached out to wipe it away.

“Do you remember when we were little and dad would always make us pancakes on Sundays?” Fia asked and I nodded.

“I remember,” I said as a small smile spread across my face. “He always burnt one side.”

Fia shook her head and chuckled.

“He once told me that mom always did that when they started to live together,” she said. “I think that he had just gotten used to the taste over the years so he made them just like she would.”

My heart clenched and the lump in my throat only grew. The love my parents shared was one of a kind. I hoped that I would find a love like that someday. I hoped that Fia would find it. She was on a good track with Hunter, but he still had a lot to prove to me. Fia was my twin and my standards were high.

“He loves her so much,” Fia mumbled, looking down. “I should have known that he would find a way to get inside that room.”

She was right. We should have seen that coming.

I raised my hand and caressed her cheek.

“Thank you for coming here,” I said. “I was having trouble sleeping.”

Fia smiled and squeezed my hand.

“I know,” she said. “I felt it. I wanted to come to you immediately, but Hunter made me stay until he fell asleep.”

I smiled and tried to take a deep breath. The weight on my chest felt a bit lighter now that she was here.

“How is Uncle Andrew?” Fia asked.

“Terrified,” I mumbled. “I don’t know how he survived everything that happened to our mom. I lost you once and I barely managed to live through that.”

Fia sighed and pulled me closer to her. I leaned my head on her shoulder and closed my eyes.

“You will never lose me again, Lex,” Fia said softly. “I promise. I will always be here.”

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

“Even when you leave with Hunter?” I asked her, feeling my heart spasm.

I knew that she had to go, but I really didn’t want her to.

“Especially then,” she said, smiling back at me. “We will talk on the phone every day. We can even meet at the border every damn day. I already know that I wouldn’t have a problem with that.”

I chuckled and gave her a small nod.

“It’s a deal,” I said. “We will meet at the border every day.”

Fia smiled again and leaned her head on mine. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. I tightened my hold on her hand and let myself drift off into sleep.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE Emma or Sienna?

Logan's POV

Emma was falling in and out of consciousness until she finally fell asleep again after a few hours. I kept trying to talk to her and reassure her, but it was hard for her to focus. It looked like she was fighting hard and her eyes kept changing color from blue to black.

All I could do was hold her and tell her that I was there for her and that she was safe. In those moments when I was sure that my Emma was back, she would hold me tight and try to tell me that she loved me.

Being in here but not being able to help her was torture.

But at least I got to be here. At least I could hold her and kiss her.

'Is Eliza okay?' I asked Leon.

'I am forcing her to talk to me all the time,' he said, his voice laced with pain. 'She is holding on, but barely.'

My heart clenched. I buried my nose into Emma's hair and closed my eyes.

'Don't let go of her, Leon,' I said. 'Keep her talking. Don't lose her.'

I missed Eliza so much. I couldn't wait to see her again. I couldn't wait to run my fingers through her soft fur.

'I won't, Logan,' Leon said. 'Just focus on Emma, okay? Let me handle Eliza.'

I kissed the top of Emma's head and ran my fingers through her hair.

'Okay, Leon,' I said. 'Keep me informed.'

'I will,' Leon said and retreated.

"Eliza is okay," I said. "Leon is making her talk to him."

I looked up and saw Andrew nodding.

“I know,” he mumbled. “Asher is trying to do the same.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Maybe you should go back home, Andrew,” I said. “You need to eat and sleep.”

Andrew shook his head. “I am fine. I am not leaving her.”

I sighed and leaned my head on Emma’s.

“She won’t be alone, Andrew,” I said. “I am here. I will mind-link you immediately if something happens.”

He shook his head again.

“I am okay,” he said. “Daisy will bring me something to eat soon.”

Andrew took a deep breath and closed his eyes.

“I am not leaving her,” he said quietly. “I can’t leave her.”

I gave him a small nod and looked back down at my mate. She was frowning and a little beads of sweat formed on her forehead. My heart raced as I placed my hand on her cheek.

She was burning up.

Fuck! How didn’t I notice that before?!

I removed the blanket and jumped out of bed.

“What’s wrong?” Andrew yelled, panicked.

I grabbed a towel from the closet and rushed toward the sink.

“Logan!” Andrew screamed, his voice trembling.

“She is burning up,” I said as I wet the towel.

Andrew gasped and cursed loudly.

I rushed back to her and removed the blanket from her body. She was now shivering and mumbling something quietly.

“It’s okay, baby,” I said, trying to stop my voice from breaking. “I am here. Everything will be okay.”

I kneeled next to her and placed the towel on her burning forehead. She opened her eyes a little and I saw the color flickering from blue to black.

“Emma?” I called her softly.

She turned her head toward me and smiled a little.

“Hi, baby,” I said as I leaned in and kissed her cheek. “I am here, my love. I am here.”

She chuckled a little, but it sounded so wrong. I pulled back and looked into her eyes. They were now completely black.

Fuck.

“I’m back,” she mumbled, her voice quiet and raspy. “Did you miss me?”

I gulped and looked at Andrew. He was staring at her and his jaw was twitching constantly. I wasn’t sure if he was breathing.

She groaned and I looked back at her. Her eyes were now closed and she was turning her head from side to side. She grabbed the sheets beneath her and pulled. I gently cupped her cheek and made her turn back toward me. She opened her eyes and they were back to the color I adored.

“Fight, my love,” I told her. “You can do it. Fight her.”

“I love you,” Emma mumbled quietly.

“I know, baby,” I said caressing her cheek and trying to swallow the lump in my throat. “I love you too.”

She groaned and closed her eyes again. I breathed out slowly, trying so fucking hard to stay calm.

“Come on, Em,” I heard Andrew mumble.

I looked up at him and saw that he leaned his forehead against the window. His eyes were closed and he was breathing deeply.

Emma groaned and arched her back, making me look back at her. She looked like she was in pain and I felt my heart break. I just wished that I could take it all away. I wished that I could go through it instead.

I took her hand in mine and kissed it.

“Come on, baby,” I mumbled. “You can do it. You are so much stronger than she is, Emma. I believe in you.”

Emma cried out and opened her eyes again. They were pitch black again. She glanced at me and smirked.

“Emma will win,” I said, tightening my jaw. “You will never get what you want.”

She chuckled and shook her head.

“Are you sure about that?” she asked and I felt the anger inside me pulsate.

“Logan!” Andrew screamed, making me look up.

She elongated one of her claws and she was about to stick it inside her tight. I grabbed her hand and growled, pinning it to her side. I grabbed her other hand as well, making sure that she couldn't hurt my mate's body.

“That's pointless, Logan,” she said, panting hard. “You should just say goodbye to your mate.”

I looked at her and growled loudly. Emma came to the surface for just a second and my heart raced.

“Fight her, Emma,” I said, knowing that she was fighting so hard to push Sienna back. “I believe in you, my love. Fight her and come back to me.”

She laughed and arched her back again. She groaned loudly and started thrashing. I tightened my hold on her. Her eyes closed and she fell on the bed. She stilled completely and my heart skipped a beat.

“Logan?” Andrew called me after a few moments of complete silence.

I looked up at him and gulped.

What the fuck happened? Who would we see once she opened her eyes again? Emma or Sienna?

CHAPTER THIRTY A Dark Place

Emma's POV

I opened my eyes slowly, trying to figure out where I was. I wondered if I would see Logan again.

Was he really in the room with me or did I just imagine that?

I hoped he wasn't there. It wasn't safe. I was dangerous. If something happened to him because of me...

I groaned and tried to lift my head. I could tell that I was sitting on a chair.

That confused me. I was lying in bed with Logan the last time I woke up. Did he move me? Did that mean that he was really there with me?

"Wake up, Emma," I heard a voice that was oddly familiar to me.

I couldn't remember who the voice belonged to, though. It was a female voice, but I couldn't remember anyone who sounded like that.

Was someone else in the room with me? Did they let Sophia in?

Oh, Goddess, please no! She would try to take the darkness back!

I forced myself to open my eyes. I had to stop my daughter from taking it back. I couldn't let her do that. It was my darkness. Sienna was my problem, not my daughter's.

"Well, hello, Emma," the woman said, making me turn to my left.

I was pretty sure that the voice was coming from there.

I blinked a few times, trying to adjust my eyes and see who it was.

The first thing I noticed was darkness. It surrounded me completely and I couldn't see anything. I wasn't even sure if I opened my eyes or not.

Was something covering my eyes?

I heard a quiet whine behind me. I turned around a little, trying to see what it was. My heart stopped beating when I saw Eliza and Leon. Eliza was lying down and Leon was crouching over her protectively. Both of them were looking at me with so much love that I couldn't help but cry.

But how could I see them in the dark?

It was actually like the light was coming off them. I could see them because they were the light. They were my light in the darkness.

I wanted to stand up and go to them. I wanted to bury my face into Leon's fur. I knew that I would be safest there. I knew that I would be safest with him.

"I wish those two weren't even here," the female voice said, making me turn back around. "They are annoying. That mutt keeps growling at me."

My breath got caught in my throat.

No.

It was impossible.

"Surprised to see me?" she asked as she sat on the chair opposite me.

I didn't see that chair before. When did it get there?

"You are dead," I mumbled quietly.

My heart was racing. Everything she did and said came back like a tidal wave. I felt like that helpless 18-year-old girl again.

She sighed and looked around.

"Unfortunately," Sienna said. "I got to feel alive through you again, though."

I furrowed my eyebrows. What the hell was she talking about?

“I got to talk to Andrew and Logan,” she said, smirking a little. “I even got to talk to Alexander. He is a handsome young man.”

I saw red. She talked to my child? When?! How!

“He should have been my son,” she said, sighing quietly.

I growled and tried to stand up.

Something stopped me.

I looked down and saw that I was tied to the chair I was sitting on. How did I not notice that before?

Sienna laughed. “You are helpless here, Emma. Don’t even try to stand up.”

I looked back up at her and narrowed my eyes. She was smirking at me and it made me want to punch her.

“Leave my family alone,” I said, clenching my fists. “How did you even manage to talk to them? You are dead. Your body is rotting away in the middle of the forest.”

Sienna smiled and crossed her arms over her chest.

“Oh, I borrowed yours,” she said, making my heart stop. “It was such a pleasure watching Logan’s reaction as he realized that I was in his little mate’s body.”

My heart broke and I had to hold back a sob. A growl made me glance behind me. Leon was staring at Sienna with a murderous look on his face.

“I even tried to kill you,” she said and I looked back at her. “I was just about to slice you open with your own claws, but that stupid witch was quicker.”

Sienna rolled her eyes and sighed.

“I will have to wait for another chance,” she said. “I am sure that I will get one.”

My heart hurt so much. Who saw her do that? Was Logan there? Was Andrew there? Oh, Goddess, were my children

there?!

I couldn't think about that now. I had to focus on something else. I had to focus on finding my way back to Logan and my family. I couldn't waste time wondering what they saw. I needed to go back to them.

The first thing I needed to figure out was what Sienna wanted. The darkness chose her to be here because she was a huge part of my life. She was one of the people who hurt me the most. The darkness obviously chose her because we had some unfinished business. At least that was what I read in that book.

"What the hell do you want, Sienna?" I asked, trying to focus only on her. "Why are you here?"

"That is an easy answer, Emma," Sienna said, laughing quietly. "I want you dead."

I wasn't surprised by that answer. The darkness was feeding off death and misery. It had been trying to kill my daughter for years. I didn't have any doubt that it would try to kill me too.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I needed to stay calm.

"Because I took Logan from you?" I asked her and her jaw twitched. "Because my brother loved me more?"

Sienna laughed darkly. She stood up and approached me slowly.

"He never loved you, Emma," Sienna said. "Logan never wanted you. You were always a task and a burden to them both."

My heart clenched painfully, but I didn't let her see how much her words hurt me. I remained calm and shook my head.

"You are wrong, Sienna," I said. "They love me. They always did."

Sienna's eyebrows furrowed. She looked confused and it made me want to smile.

She thought that it would be easy to make me believe her lies but she forgot that I wasn't that naive 18-year-old girl anymore.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE A Violent Storm

Logan's POV

A violent storm was raging inside my heart.

My Emma was struggling and there was nothing I could do. She kept whimpering quietly. She kept shivering and thrashing. Her fever kept rising and no matter how many cold towels I put on her body, it just wouldn't go down.

"Come on, baby," I mumbled as I tightened my arms around her. "Come back to me."

I was lying next to her, pressing her whole body against mine. Our mate bond should be able to help with the fever. She should feel a bit better. It should help her. It had to help her.

I ran my hand down her back. I reached under her shirt and almost whined when I felt how hot her back was. She felt like she was on fire.

Another quiet whimper escaped her and I had to hold back a sob.

I couldn't help her with whatever the fuck was going on and it was killing me.

"Dad!" I heard my daughter's voice and I looked up.

My princess was standing on the other side of the window, staring at her mom with a terrified look on her face.

"What's wrong with Mom?!" she cried out.

I looked down at my mate and kissed her forehead.

"She has a fever, princess," I said as I caressed Emma's burning cheek. "She is fighting so hard."

Sophie sobbed and I looked up at her. Alex wrapped his arm around her shoulders and pulled her to him.

I looked behind them and saw Daisy. She was wiping her cheeks with one hand and rubbing Andrew's back with the other.

Andrew looked like shit. He needed to go eat and sleep.

"Can you please take him home, Daisy?" I said, making Andrew shake his head.

"I am not leaving her," he said as he took a step closer to the window. "I am staying here."

"Andrew, honey...", Daisy spoke, but he interrupted her.

"No," he said, glancing at her. "I am not leaving."

"You need to sleep," Alex said before I could. "We will be here and we will mind-link you if anything changes."

"No," Andrew said again. "I am fine."

I sighed and narrowed my eyes a little. He was so stubborn.

"You are not fine, Andrew," I said sternly. "You will go back home. You will get something to eat. You will sleep. You will come back after you ate and slept."

He opened his mouth to argue with me, but I interrupted him before he could even start.

"I don't want to hear it, Andrew," I said. "Emma will kill us both if she sees you like this. Go home."

Andrew tightened his jaw and looked at Emma.

"She wouldn't want to see you like this honey," Daisy said softly. "Let's go home. We will come back later."

Andrew took a deep breath and released it slowly.

"Fine," he mumbled. "I am coming back as soon as possible."

"After you ate and slept," I said sternly.

Andrew nodded and turned around. I saw him clenching his fists as he rushed out of the cabin. Daisy kissed Sophia's cheek before she followed Andrew. She glanced at Emma one more time.

Mind-link me if something happens, please. She said through our mind-link.

Of course. I responded. Take care of Andrew.

I will. She said before she cut our mind-link.

I focused back on my kids. I gave them a small smile, but they didn't smile back.

"Where is Hunter?" I asked.

"At the packhouse," Sophie said. "He is talking to his dad."

I nodded and kissed Emma's forehead.

"How long has she been like this, Dad?" Alex asked quietly.

I sighed and looked down at my beautiful mate. She was shivering, but being close to me helped her a little.

"Since last night," I said. "Her fever won't go down."

Sophie sobbed quietly. Alex cursed.

"That's just what happened with Fia," Alex said. "She had a fever too."

I nodded and looked up at my kids. Both of them looked so afraid and I just wanted to hug them and tell them that everything would be okay.

"Your mom will be okay," I told them as I tightened my arms around her. "She is the strongest person I know. I don't know anyone else who would be able to handle this. She will beat the darkness. I am sure of it."

I wasn't just convincing them. I was convincing myself as well. I meant every word that I said. She was the strongest person I knew. She would beat the darkness.

But there was a small piece of my heart that held so much fear and pain it was almost unbearable.

What if she never woke up? What if I never got my beautiful mate back?

No.

No, no, no, no.

I focused on that screaming peace of my heart and tried to soothe it by breathing in her scent. She was here. She would be okay. She had to be okay.

“She is going to be perfectly okay,” I said as I placed a soft kiss on her forehead. “She will come back to us.”

“When?” Alex mumbled quietly.

I looked up at him and gulped.

“Soon, buddy,” I said, my voice quiet and raspy. “She will come back soon. I am sure of it.”

I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on Emma’s lips. They were hot too.

“You will come back to us soon, won’t you, baby?” I mumbled quietly. “We are all here waiting for you. Fight for us, baby.”

Emma shivered and groaned quietly. I leaned my forehead against hers and took a deep breath.

“I will go talk to Anna,” Sophie said, making me look up at her. “Maybe she found a way for us to help Mom.”

I nodded immediately. I didn’t want her here. I didn’t want Alex here. I didn’t want them to watch their mom suffer.

“Go do that, princess,” I said and looked at Alex. “Go with her, buddy. Maybe you could help them search for something useful.”

“Dad...,” Alex spoke, but I interrupted him.

“There is nothing for you to do here, bud,” I said softly. “I will let you know if anything changes.”

Alex took a deep breath and looked at Emma.

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

Alex tightened his jaw and gave me a small nod.

I watched Sophie take his hand in hers. She started pulling him away. He was looking at Emma until he couldn’t

see her anymore.

I looked back at my mate as soon as they left.

“I love you, baby,” I said as I kissed her forehead. “I am waiting for you. Come back to me.”

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO Something

Sophia's POV

I could feel Lex's fear and it made my whole body hurt. I didn't like to see him scared. I didn't like to see him in pain. I wished that I could take it all away.

He didn't say a word as we walked toward our mom's office. He was holding my hand tightly and staring in front of himself. I could tell that he was completely lost in thought.

"Lex?" I called him softly as we entered the packhouse.

He looked at me and the broken look in his eyes almost made me whimper. I stopped walking and pulled him into a hug.

"She will be okay, Lex," I said, holding him tightly. "Dad is right. She is so strong and she will win."

Lex hugged me back and took a deep breath.

"I know," he mumbled. "I just can't stop worrying. I can't stop wondering if..."

"Stop," I interrupted him. "There is no if. She will win. She will come back to us."

I had to believe in that. I would break if I didn't.

Lex tightened his hold on me and kissed the top of my head.

"I am so fucking happy that I have you," he said quietly. "I don't know what would I do if I were an only child."

I chuckled and rubbed his back.

"You wouldn't have anyone to leave your bedroom door open," I said. "It would always be closed and there wouldn't be any fresh air for you to breathe."

Lex snorted and let me go.

"I would still have a window," he said. "That's where I always get my fresh air from, you know. That's where most

people get their fresh air from actually.”

“Fine,” I sighed, rolling my eyes.

“Your bedroom door would always be closed and there wouldn’t be any hallway air for you to breathe,” I said, making Lex laugh.

“Fair enough,” he said as he wrapped his arm around my shoulders.

I smiled at him and we continued walking toward our mom’s office.

I took a deep breath as Lex opened the door. We walked inside and Anna looked up at us.

“How is she?” Anna asked worriedly.

“Fighting,” I said. “She has a fever.”

Anna sighed and shook her head. “It’s one of the symptoms. Her body can’t take it so it’s trying to fight back every way it knows how to.”

I nodded as I sat in the armchair. I watched Lex as he walked to the couch and sat down with a huff.

“Where is Hunter?” Anna asked and I looked back at her.

“Talking to his dad,” I said. “He will probably have to go to his pack for a day or two.”

Anna raised an eyebrow at me.

“And leave you?” she asked, making me sigh.

“He is an Alpha,” I said. “He hasn’t been back home in a very long time. There are issues his dad can’t solve anymore.”

Hunter’s pack members were starting to ask a lot of questions. They hadn’t seen their Alpha in a while and they were getting suspicious and worried. Alpha Nathan explained the situation to them, but he felt like it would be better if Hunter came home for a day or two. Hunter wasn’t too happy about it, but he knew that his dad was right. He was an Alpha and he needed to go talk to his pack members.

I would miss him terribly, but it was only for a day or two. He would come back as soon as he could.

Anna nodded and walked to my mom's desk. She sat in my mom's chair and opened the book that was in front of her.

"Tell me you found something," I said, my voice trembling slightly.

Anna looked up and furrowed her eyebrows.

"I am not sure," she said, leaning forward and flipping a page. "Not much is written about this curse or the darkness that followed."

I wiggled in my seat nervously. I already knew that.

"But?" Lex asked, making Anna glance at him.

"But there is a paragraph in the original books about the curse that I can't seem to get out of my mind," Anna said, flipping through the pages.

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked at Lex. He was staring at Anna with a confused expression on his face.

"Ah, here it is," Anna said as she picked up the book.

"What does it say?" I asked, swallowing the lump in my throat.

"It says that the witches didn't choose the first True Luna only because of her qualities and her mate being an Alpha," Anna said, keeping her eyes on the book. "Another reason is mentioned here. There is only one sentence written about it and that's probably why we never paid much attention to it."

"What reason?" Lex asked and I could hear the impatience in his voice.

"There was a rumor going around that True Luna's fated mate was going to reject her," Anna said as she looked up at us. "The dark witches thought that him rejecting her would only add to his anger and jealousy once he realized that there was another man for her."

My heart raced.

“I don’t understand,” Lex said. “How is that connected to my mom’s darkness?”

Anna took a deep breath and looked at me.

“Our dad rejected our mom,” I said quietly, making Anna nod.

“Your mom is now fighting Sienna somewhere in her mind,” Anna said. “She is someone who hurt your mom. She is a dark stain on your mom’s past.”

I swallowed the lump in my throat. It was getting harder and harder for me to breathe.

“Unfortunately, a lot of fuckers hurt my mom,” Lex said as he stood up and approached Anna and me. “Are you telling me that she will have to fight them all?”

Anna looked up at him and shrugged.

“I am not sure,” she said. “Maybe she will.”

Anna glanced at me before looking back up at Lex. I knew what she was going to say next and my stomach kept twisting and turning.

“But I believe that the last person she will have to fight will be the hardest,” Anna said. “I believe that if she defeats him, she will defeat the darkness.”

“Who is he?” Lex asked angrily.

I closed my eyes and tried to force the air into my lungs.

“Your father,” Anna said and I felt my heart break into a million tiny pieces.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE **Insane**

Alexander's POV

Waiting for my uncle to wake up was the longest four hours of my life.

I wanted to wake him up immediately. I wanted to scream and tell them all that Anna was insane.

Because she was.

There was no fucking way that my mom would have to fight my dad. No fucking way.

What did Anna even think would happen? Did she think that my parents would even want that? Did she think that my dad would willingly fight my mom? He would surrender immediately. He would never hurt her, not even if it cost him his life. But why did Anna think that my mom would just accept that? Did she really think that my mom would hurt my dad? She gave herself to The Rogue King to save everyone, including my dad! There was no fucking way my mom would hurt him. No fucking way.

"Lex...", Fia spoke, but I interrupted her when I looked at her sternly.

"I don't want to hear it, Fia," I said as I continued pacing around the office. "She is wrong."

"I could be wrong, Alex," Anna sighed. "But something is telling me that I am not."

I growled at Anna.

She was wrong. She had to be wrong. Not only she was wrong, but she was insane too.

The door opened and I turned around abruptly, ready to scream at my uncle and tell him that Anna was fucking crazy.

It wasn't my uncle, though. It was Hunter.

I rolled my eyes and continued pacing around the office.

“What happened?” Hunter asked as he approached Fia. “I could feel Alex’s Alpha aura even before I entered the room.”

He was glancing at me worriedly, but I couldn’t give a shit about that. Where the fuck was my uncle?

“Why is it taking him so long?” I growled as I ran my fingers through my hair.

“He will be here in a few minutes, Lex,” Fia said with a small sigh. “He was sleeping. He should still be sleeping. The only reason Aunt Daisy woke him up was because you wouldn’t stop pressing her to do so.”

I rolled my eyes at her.

“Will someone explain to me what is going on?” Hunter asked with annoyance in his voice.

I continued pacing around. I wasn’t going to explain anything because there was nothing to explain. Anna was wrong. She was so fucking wrong.

“Well, Anna thinks...,” Fia began explaining, but she was interrupted when the door opened.

My uncle, aunt, Mason, and Jake walked inside. My uncle looked exhausted and regret washed over me. Maybe I should have left him to sleep for a little while longer.

But we had more important things to do. He would sleep later.

“What’s going on, Alex?” my uncle asked as he sat on the couch.

“I think that I know what Emma needs to do to get rid of the darkness forever,” Anna said, making my uncle jump off the couch abruptly.

“What?!” my uncle exclaimed loudly.

Aunt Daisy gasped and a smile spread across her face. I could see small glimpses of excitement on Mason and Jake’s faces.

“Don’t be so excited,” I said, glancing at Anna angrily. “It’s not true.”

“Just because you don’t want it to be true, it doesn’t mean that it’s not,” Fia said with a small sigh.

I growled at her and Hunter immediately growled back at me. I rolled my eyes at him.

“Talk, Anna,” my uncle said sternly as he sat back down.

Anna took a deep breath and began explaining to them what she told Fia and me earlier. I shut her out completely. I couldn’t listen to that again. I couldn’t even imagine it. It just couldn’t be true. It was just one irrelevant sentence in an ancient book. What were the odds of that one sentence mattering so fucking much? The odds were minimal. They were non-existent. They had to be.

“Hold on,” my uncle said, interrupting Anna and pulling my attention back to them. “You think that Emma will have to fight Logan?”

I growled and continued pacing around the office. I could feel the tension in the air increasing.

“Yes,” Anna nodded. “I am not sure how, but I think that she will have to fight him.”

The room was silent. I looked at my uncle and saw a mixture of shock and anger on his face.

“She won’t be able to do that,” Aunt Daisy mumbled. “She will never be able to hurt him.”

I swallowed the lump in my throat and tried to take a deep breath.

“Will she have to fight me too?” my uncle mumbled, making us all look at him.

He rubbed his palms against his jeans and shook his head.

“I was on Logan’s side when he rejected her,” my uncle said. “I hurt her too. Will she have to fight me too?”

My eyes widened and I looked at Fia immediately. She was staring at our uncle with shock and fear written on her face.

Would my mom have to fight her brother too? She could never hurt him as well. My mom loved her brother so much.

I didn't see how she would win. I didn't even see her try. She was going to give up if Anna's theory was true. I would lose my mom.

"What if it's not them who mom needs to fight, but only versions of them who hurt her?" Fia mumbled, breaking the silence.

We all looked at her. Her eyebrows were furrowed and she was staring in front of herself.

"What do you mean?" Anna asked her.

Fia stood up and started pacing around the room.

"Well, we believe that Mom is fighting Sienna right now," Fia said. "She is somewhere else. Her mind is stuck somewhere else. What if all those battles are meant to happen there? What if she doesn't have to fight Dad and Uncle Andrew right here? What if she has to fight them in that place instead?"

Fia stopped walking and looked at Anna.

"Maybe she has to face that small part of my dad that hurt her," Fia continued. "That part of my dad died the moment he regretted rejecting my mom. Maybe that part of him is at that place and maybe my mom has to face him, not my dad as he is now."

The room was silent again.

Fia could have been right. It made sense and it was easier to accept than having to watch my mom and dad in a real fight.

But I knew that my mom wouldn't be able to hurt even that part of my dad. She loved him and accepted him with all of his flaws. How the hell would she be able to destroy a part of him?

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR Leaving

Hunter's POV

Tensions were running high after what Sophia had said.

I believed that she was right. Her theory made the most sense. Emma adored Alpha Logan and she could never hurt him. Alpha Logan was now a very different man than all those years ago. If Emma had to fight someone, it was Alpha Logan from that time, not Alpha Logan now.

Alex was so tense that he couldn't control his Alpha aura. It radiated off him in waves that were sometimes almost suffocating. I completely understood his anger. If I was told that my parents would have to fight just so one of them could live, I would lose it too. I would react like that too.

I sighed and looked at my Angel.

I missed her so fucking much. We barely got to spend time alone with everything that was going on. I understood why, but it still bothered me. I wanted to be alone with her. I wanted to make love to her. I wanted her and no one else.

Angel? I mind-linked her. Can we talk in your dad's office, please?

She looked at me and gave me a small nod.

"I will be right back," she said to her family as she approached me and took my hand in hers.

No one even heard her. They were talking loudly and trying to make sense of everything that was going on. I was ignoring them because I had a bigger issue to worry about.

I had to go to my pack.

I didn't want to. I really didn't want to. It would be for only a day or two, but leaving Sophia even for a few hours seemed like an impossible task. How the fuck would I survive without her for a whole fucking day?!

I wanted to ask her to go with me, but I knew how selfish that was of me. I would put her in a terrible position and I didn't want to do that. I knew that she needed to stay here. Her parents were in danger. Her brother was distraught. She was distraught. Separating her from them at a moment like that would only hurt her and I didn't want to do that.

But that selfish part of me was screaming at me to take her back to my pack. That selfish part of me was screaming at me that we would only be gone a day or two. That selfish part was convincing me that nothing relevant would happen in a day or two and that Sophia wouldn't miss anything.

But what if something happened while we were gone? What if her mom or dad got hurt? What if one of them died? Sophia would never forgive me if she wasn't here to help or to say goodbye. She would hate me because of that and I couldn't let my mate hate me.

My love for her was bigger than my selfishness.

"What did your dad say?" my Angel asked as we walked inside Alpha Logan's office.

I sighed and ran my fingers through my hair.

"He needs me to come back for a day or two," I said, trying to hide the sadness in my voice. "Our pack members are getting nervous and worried. I've been gone for a while. The members of a non-ally pack spent a few days at our territory. They are worried and they have started doubting my dad. They think that something happened to me."

Sophia sighed and nodded.

"I understand," she said as she approached me. "When will you leave?"

I wrapped my arms around her and pulled her to my chest. I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath.

"Tomorrow morning," I said quietly. "I will try to come back tomorrow night."

Sophia looked at me and smiled. I leaned in and kissed her forehead.

“I am sorry, Angel,” I mumbled. “I wish I didn’t have to go. You need me right now.

“It’s okay, Hunter,” she said, giving me another small smile. “Your pack needs you too. I will be okay for a day or two. I won’t be alone. My family is here.”

“It’s our pack, Sophia,” I said as I kissed her forehead again.

She chuckled and nodded. “Right. I will have to get used to that.”

I nodded and leaned in to kiss her softly. Goddess, I would miss her terribly.

“I wish I could go with you,” she mumbled against my lips.

That selfish part of me broke through and I almost asked her to do it. I almost told her how fucking much I wanted her to go with me.

She interrupted me by sighing and caressing my cheek.

“I can’t, though,” she mumbled quietly. “My family needs me right now. Le needs me. He is not used to being helpless. He always finds a way to fix everything. This is throwing him off completely.”

I nodded and took a deep breath.

“I know, Angel,” I said softly. “I wish you could go with me too.”

I had to tell her that I wished she could go with me. I had to give that selfish part of me just a small relief.

Sophia gave me a small smile and I kissed her again.

Her lips were soft, wet, and warm. I wanted more. I parted her lips with my tongue and she moaned quietly. My dick got hard immediately. I picked her up and wrapped her legs around my waist. I took a few steps forward until she was pressed against the wall.

“You are perfect,” I told her as I pressed my dick against her pussy, trying to show her what she was doing to me.

She moaned and rolled her hips against me.

“Fuck,” I said, growling quietly.

I lowered my lips to her neck and started sucking on her mark. She cried out in pleasure and grabbed a fistful of my hair, pressing me closer to her.

I wanted to fuck her right then and there, but I knew that someone could walk in on us. I reluctantly slowed down until I was just pecking her lips and caressing her beautiful face.

“I will fuck you tonight, Sophia,” I said, making her moan quietly. “I can’t leave before I bury myself inside you.”

She gave me a small nod and kissed me hard.

Fuck.

She was making it so fucking hard for me not to fuck her right there and then. I wanted her so badly, but I knew that I would have to wait until tonight to have her.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE The Rope

Emma's POV

"It's tight, isn't it?" Sienna said mockingly.

I stopped trying to free my hands and looked up at her.

"You will never get your hands free," Sienna said, chuckling darkly. "You will die in that chair."

Anger blinded me.

"Well, if that is the only way to get away from you, I won't object much," I said, clenching my fists repeatedly.

Sienna laughed, throwing her head back.

"What would Logan and Andrew say to that, Emma?" she asked and I regretted my words immediately. "Would they really want you to give up so easily after all they've been through to save you?"

I tightened my jaw and swallowed the lump in my throat.

"Or maybe they wouldn't even care," she said as she stood up and approached me.

My heart tugged painfully.

Sienna placed her hands on each side of my head and leaned in. Her face was so close to me that I could see all the different color freckles in her eyes. I was still wondering how was that possible when we were in complete darkness.

"You took what I said for granted, Emma," she said. "I told you the truth the day Rolf kidnapped you. Why didn't you listen to me? Why did you forgive them?"

I furrowed my eyebrows. I spent years trying to forget what she said on that day. I didn't want to remember it. It hurt too much to remember it. A part of me knew what she said. A part of me would never forget it. But I never wanted to remember it again.

She smirked and lifted her hand to caress my cheek. Her hand was icy cold and I pulled back immediately. I didn't want her to touch me.

Sienna smiled and stood back up.

"They don't love you, Emma," she said. "They never loved you. Andrew hates you and you were always just a burden to him. Logan accepted you out of pity. He felt guilty because you got hurt and he tried to fix it by accepting you as his mate."

I was staring at her with a shocked expression on my face.

Did she really think that would work? Did she really think I would believe her?

I laughed and shook my head. Her eyes widened in surprise.

"I am not that naive 18-year-old girl anymore, Sienna," I said. "You can't expect me to believe that again."

Sienna tightened her jaw and forced a smile on her face.

"Why not?" she asked, shrugging. "Do you think that I am lying just because they've been playing happy family with you all this time?"

Leon growled loudly making Sienna look up at him.

"Does this mutt really have to be here?" she asked, sighing quietly.

I saw red when she called him a mutt.

"Leave him alone," I said, growling quietly. "This is between you and me."

She looked back at me and rolled her eyes.

"Don't worry," she said. "I can't do anything to him. I can't reach him."

I furrowed my eyebrows and glanced back at Leon and Eliza. It looked like they were just a few feet behind us.

“You can’t see it, but there is glass between us,” Sienna said and I turned back to look at her. “We can’t reach them and they can’t reach you.”

A small wave of relief washed over me. Sienna couldn’t hurt them.

She sighed and walked back to her chair. She sat down and crossed her arms over her chest.

“Where were we?” she asked, smirking at me. “Ah, yes, playing happy family.”

Leon growled again, but this time Sienna ignored him.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and grabbed the armrest tightly. I knew that she was lying, but my heart still tugged painfully. Just imagining that her words could be true was hurting my entire body and soul.

The rope around my wrists tightened. I looked down and furrowed my eyebrows. Why did it tighten? That had never happened before. The ropes were tight, but I never felt them tighten until now.

“Do you really think that they love you just because they took you back?” Sienna asked mockingly. “They just felt guilty, Emma. Don’t confuse guilt with love.”

I looked back at her and scoffed.

“I am not,” I said, clenching my fists. “They didn’t do it out of guilt. They did it out of love.”

The rope around my wrists loosened a bit.

I looked down and my eyes widened.

“They love me,” I said, tugging on the rope. “They always loved me. I was never a burden. They made mistakes, but they love me.”

The rope was getting looser with each word I spoke.

I smiled and looked up at Sienna. She was staring at my hands with an angry look on her face.

“They never loved you!” she exclaimed as she stood up. “Logan always wanted me. Andrew spent more time with me than with you. Why do you think that was? You were nothing but a burden to him, Emma.”

I smiled at her. She really thought I was going to believe her. She really thought that I was still that naive 18-year-old girl.

“Their lives would have been so much better without you,” Sienna added as she approached me slowly. “I should have let Rolf kill you right then and there on your kitchen floor.”

I chuckled and shook my head.

“You are wrong, Sienna,” I said. “Both of them love me so much. I made their lives better. They made my life better. We are a family and we love each other so much. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for them. Nothing you said is true and I know it with my entire heart.”

I believed every word I said. Nothing and no one could tell me that I was wrong. I knew that I wasn’t. I knew how much my family loved me and how important I was to them. Sienna was terribly wrong if she thought that I would fall for her lies again.

I could feel the rope around my wrists disappearing. I looked down and smiled. I was free.

I stood up and looked at Sienna. Her eyes widened.

“I am sorry about one thing, though,” I said. “My brother and Logan really loved you. They really thought of you as a friend. I looked up to you when I was a little girl. I am sorry you couldn’t appreciate all the love we had for you. I am sorry that you let your jealousy destroy what could have been a wonderful friendship.”

Sienna screamed and fell to her knees.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath, praying to the Goddess that I would be back with Logan when I opened them again. Maybe this was the end. Maybe I finally defeated the darkness.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX Theory

Logan's POV

Seeing Emma in such distress weighed heavily on my soul. I cried silently after everyone left. I kept begging her to open her eyes and come back to me. I felt like my soul was burning. I just wanted her back.

“Come on, baby,” I mumbled for a millionth time. “You can do it. I know you can. I believe in you.”

She groaned again. I wiped her sweaty forehead with a towel and kissed her cheek. She was so pale. Everything except her cheeks and her lips was pale.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and wiped the tears from my face. I cupped her cheeks and pressed a small kiss on her burning lips.

“I am here, baby,” I mumbled. “I will always be here.”

I heard the door to the cabin open and a few sets of footsteps approached the window.

I wrapped my arms around Emma and buried her head into my neck. I didn't want them to see her like that. They would freak out. She looked worse than she did before everyone left.

Andrew was the first one to approach the window. He looked like he hadn't been sleeping.

“Andrew,” I said sternly. “Did you sleep?”

He gave me a small nod and looked at Emma.

“How is she?” he asked, his voice laced with pain.

I ignored him completely. I looked behind him and saw my son and my daughter. Mason and Daisy were there too. All of them looked worried and afraid and my heart clenched painfully. I wished that I couldn't reassure them and tell them that everything was going to be okay. I wished that there was

someone who would reassure me and tell me that everything was going to be okay.

“Why didn’t you sleep, Andrew?” I asked, looking back at him. “You look like shit.”

“I slept,” Andrew said quietly. “I am fine.”

Emma groaned painfully, making me look down at her.

“It’s okay, baby,” I said as I kissed her cheek. “I am here. You can do it.”

I looked back up and saw everyone staring at her. My daughter and Daisy were crying silently. Alex looked like he was going to be sick. Mason looked pissed. Andrew went visibly pale.

“She is worse,” Andrew mumbled and I could tell that he was on the verge of tears.

“She is going to be okay,” I said, tightening my arms around her. “She is so brave and so strong. She is going to be okay.”

I looked at her and kissed her forehead.

“You are going to be okay, Emma,” I told her. “You will come back to me.”

I had to keep repeating that. I had to keep saying that to myself. I would go crazy if I didn’t.

I heard the cabin door opening again and Anna walked inside. I looked up and saw her leaning against the wall and crossing her arms over her chest.

“Did you tell him?” she asked, making me furrow my eyebrows.

Did they tell me what?

“She is worse,” Andrew mumbled instead of answering her.

Did they tell me what?

“She is in the final stages of fighting Sienna,” Anna said calmly, making us all look at her. “She is going to be okay, I

am sure of it. We need to tell him.”

“What do you mean final stage?”

“Tell me what?”

Andrew and I said at the same time.

Anna sighed and approached the window. She looked at Emma and smiled a little.

“She is going to be okay,” Anna said. “I am sure that she is winning. Did you talk to Leon?”

I gulped and shook my head. I couldn’t feel Leon for the last couple of hours. I was sure that he was with Eliza and I didn’t want to disturb him. I didn’t want him to lose his connection with her. We couldn’t lose Eliza.

“Try talking to him later,” Anna said, giving me a small smile. “I am sure that he knows something. He is probably with Eliza.”

I nodded. I wanted to talk to him immediately, but I also wanted to know what my family hadn’t told me.

“What didn’t they tell me, Anna?” I asked, glancing at Andrew.

He was staring at Emma with a mixture of fear and pain written on his face. He looked like he was going to be sick.

“We have a theory about the darkness,” Anna said, making me look back at her. “It was something that Sophie and I came up with.”

My heart raced. I looked at my daughter but the expression on her face didn’t give me much hope. Was there any hope?

It had to be! It fucking had to be!

I pressed Emma even closer to me. I couldn’t lose her. I couldn’t fucking lose her!

“I’m listening,” I mumbled, trying to swallow the lump in my throat.

I felt like I was going to suffocate.

“We believe that Emma will have to face the people who hurt her the most,” Anna said. “Sienna is just one of those people.”

I furrowed my eyebrows a little.

“Okay,” I mumbled. “What does that mean exactly? Will she have to face Rolf and Samuel too?”

My fists clenched involuntarily. Just thinking about her alone with them had me ready to destroy the room. I didn’t want her alone with them even if they were just some fucking ghosts of our past. I wanted to be there and protect her.

“I am not sure about that,” Anna said, shaking her head. “But I think that she will have to face someone else.”

I furrowed my eyebrows again. Who? Nathan?

“I think that she will have to face the part of you that rejected her,” Anna said quietly. “Maybe even the part of Andrew who sided with you.”

My heart stopped. I looked at Andrew and saw him staring at the ground with his jaw clenched tight.

“What?” I mumbled, pressing Emma even closer to me.

“It is our theory that Emma will have to face and kill the part of you that rejected her,” Anna said and my vision got blurry. “She will have to face that part of you and she will have to destroy it in order to completely destroy the darkness.”

My stomach turned.

I wanted to kill that part of me. I did kill that part of me a long time ago. I fucking hated him. I hated Logan who even for a second thought that Emma wasn’t good enough. He wasn’t a part of me anymore.

But he was me. He looked like me. He sounded like me. Would Emma be able to destroy him? Would she be able to kill a part of me?

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN He Is Dead

Andrew's POV

"He is dead," Logan mumbled. "That part of me is dead. It is long gone. How is that possible?"

"Sienna is dead as well," Anna said.

I closed my eyes and tried to take a deep breath. My whole body hurt like someone beat the shit out of me. I felt sick. I was scared. I was in both emotional and physical pain.

Would Emma really have to fight me? Would she have to see Andrew who hurt her? Would he talk to her? Would he say something hurtful to her? How would she react? Would she believe him? Would she believe his lies?

I hated that Andrew. I hated him with every fiber of my being. He hurt my sister. He hurt the only family I had at that moment.

Well, he didn't hurt her. I did. But I liked to think that I wasn't the same man as before. I liked to think that I destroyed that part of me. I liked to think that I made up for the mistake I made. I liked to think that Emma forgave me.

What if she woke up and hated me? What if seeing him reminded her of all the shit I did to her? What if she didn't want me anymore?

I felt my throat close up. I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes. I felt my lungs clench, pushing the remaining air out. I felt my heart fall to the bottom of my chest. I felt my stomach turn.

What the fuck would I do if she woke up and hated me?

Daisy wrapped her arm around my waist and placed a small kiss on my upper arm.

Stop, Andrew. She mind-linked me. I can feel your emotions and I can guess what you are thinking. Stop it. She

loves you, Andrew. She loves you so much and nothing will change that.

I looked at Daisy and she gave me a small smile. All the pain in my body lessened a bit.

I love you. I mind-linked her. I don't know what I would do without you.

Her smile widened.

You will never know the answer to that question because I never plan on leaving you alone. She said and my heart skipped a beat.

I wrapped an arm around her shoulders and kissed the top of her head. I breathed her scent deeply and let it calm me down a little.

When I opened my eyes I saw Logan cupping Emma's cheeks and telling her something quietly.

"It is just a theory, Dad," Alex said, his voice laced with fear and anger. "It doesn't have to be true."

Logan looked at Alex and took a deep breath. He gave him a small nod and looked at Anna.

"How did you even come up with that theory?" he asked.

"I went back to the original books about the curse," Anna started explaining. "I read that one of the reasons the witches chose that girl to be the first True Luna was also a rumor that was going on."

"What rumor?" Logan asked.

"That her fated mate was going to reject her," Anna said and Logan tightened his jaw. "The witches thought that her fated mate would be even more jealous of her cursed mate if he rejected her and later saw that she had another mate who would accept her. They thought it would create even more friction between the two Alphas."

Logan closed his eyes and took a deep breath. He kissed Emma's forehead and buried his nose into her hair.

“It’s all my fault,” he mumbled. “If I didn’t make that stupid mistake, she would be awake now. She would be with me. There wouldn’t be darkness. There wouldn’t be anything but us and our happiness.”

He opened his eyes and looked at Emma.

“I am sorry, Emma,” he cried out. “I am so sorry, my love.”

My heart tugged painfully. Sophie sobbed and I instinctively pulled her into my arms. She hugged me tightly and I kissed the top of her head. She calmed me down a lot. She was a part of my Emma and it felt like I was holding my sister in my arms.

“She would still be cursed, Logan,” Anna said softly. “She would still have darkness inside and she would still have to fight it.”

Logan shook his head and hugged Emma tightly. I closed my eyes and swallowed the lump in my throat. I wished that I could hug her. I wished that I could tell her how fucking sorry I was.

“But she wouldn’t have to fight me,” Logan said. “She wouldn’t have to go through that again. She wouldn’t have to see that fucked up version of me. She wouldn’t have to listen to him and his idiotic excuses.”

Logan stopped to let out a broken sob. He started kissing Emma’s cheeks, forehead, and lips repeatedly.

“I am sorry, love,” he cried out. “I am so sorry.”

I’d never seen Logan so hurt and it made my heart break. I had known him since we were kids. I’d been through so much with him, but I never saw him sob like that. Not even when Emma was taken. As terrified as he was then, he knew that we would find her. He knew that we would help her. He was able to take action. We were able to take action. We were able to find the fuckers and kill them. He wasn’t helpless then, but he was helpless now.

We all were.

Emma was alone in that fucked up place. She had to face them alone and we couldn't help her. None of us could do shit about it.

I tightened my arms around Sophie and kissed the top of her head again.

"Dad...", Alex spoke, but Logan's loud gasp interrupted him.

"Emma!" Logan screamed and I looked up.

My eyes widened when I saw Emma's half-open eyes.

"Emma!"

"Mom!"

All of us screamed at the same time.

She tried to look at us, but Logan turned her head toward him.

"Emma," he cried out. "I am here, baby. Please say something. Talk to me."

Emma shut her eyes tightly and furrowed her eyebrows.

My heart jumped to my throat. No! She couldn't go back to sleep!

"No, no, no, no!" I exclaimed, slamming my hand against the glass. "Wake up, Emma!"

My heart was going to jump out of my chest. I couldn't breathe. All I could do was stare at her and beg the Goddess to keep her awake.

She couldn't go back there. She had to stay awake. She had to stay with us.

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT For A While

Logan's POV

I leaned in and pressed a kiss on Emma's lips.

"Wake up, baby, come on," I cried out, trying to ignore Andrew's screaming.

She opened her eyes again and looked at me. I was sure that my heart would stop. Her eyes were blue. It was her. It was my Emma.

"Oh, Goddess," I cried out. "It's you!"

I kissed her again and sobbed. She groaned quietly and tried to lift her hand. She was too weak though. I took her hand in mine and lifted it a little. She placed it against my cheek and gave me a small smile.

"I beat her," she mumbled quietly. "She is gone."

I smiled through my tears.

"I knew that you would, baby," I said as I placed another kiss on her lips. "I never doubted it for a second."

Emma tried to give me a weak smile, but she groaned instead.

"What hurts, baby?" I asked, panicking a little.

She shook her head a little and forced a small smile on her face.

"I am okay," she mumbled. "It will go away."

"Emma?" Anna called her before I could protest and made her tell me how could I help her.

Emma tried to turn her head to look at Anna. She smiled a little when she saw everyone.

"Mom!" Sophie cried out, pressing her palms on the glass.

“Hi, honey,” Emma mumbled.

“I need you to listen to me, Emma,” Anna said, making Emma look at her. “It isn’t over. You will be pulled back and I think that there will be more people you will need to face.”

Emma furrowed her eyebrows a little.

I closed my eyes and buried my nose in her hair. Just thinking about her having to face that motherfucker who rejected her was tearing my soul apart. I wished that I could be the one to face him, not her. I wished I could be there to tell him how much I hated him and how much I hated that he used to be a part of me. I wanted to punch him. I wanted to strangle him. I wanted to watch him die for good.

“You will be pulled back there, Emma,” Anna continued and Sophie sobbed. “There will probably be someone else waiting for you back there. You need to be strong, Emma. We are all here for you.”

“Who?” Emma asked quietly.

I opened my eyes and leaned my forehead on her cheek. I tightened my jaw and took a deep breath.

“Me,” I said and she looked at me with a confused expression on her face. “Anna thinks that you will have to face the version of me who rejected you.”

Emma’s eyes widened a little.

“I am sorry, baby,” I cried out. “I am so sorry. Don’t believe him, okay? Don’t believe anything he says. Kill him and come back to me.”

“A part of Andrew who supported Logan will also probably be there, Emma,” Anna said, making Emma look back at her. “You will have to face them both. I think that is the key to getting rid of the darkness.”

Emma shook her head a little.

“I need to kill them?” she asked quietly.

I could tell that she had trouble speaking. I could tell how hard it was for her. I could tell that she was in pain.

“You need to do whatever you did to Sienna,” Anna said. “You can’t kill what is already dead, Emma. What did you do to Sienna?”

Emma closed her eyes and shook her head a little.

“I don’t...,” she mumbled quietly before groaning.

I pulled her against me immediately, trying to use our bond to ease her pain. She relaxed a little and opened her eyes again.

“I’m not sure,” she mumbled.

“Whatever you did with her, you need to do with them as well,” Anna said.

Emma looked up at me and smiled.

“Leon and Eliza were with me,” she said, making my heart skip a beat. “I wasn’t alone there.”

A tear fell on my cheek.

“Of course you weren’t,” I told her as I leaned my forehead against hers. “You couldn’t see us, but we were all there with you, Emma.”

I caressed her cheek and took a deep breath.

“I am always with you, baby,” I said as I placed a hand above her heart. “I am with you even if you can’t see me. I am always right here in your heart, Emma.”

She placed her hand on top of mine and smiled a little.

“Don’t forget that, okay?” I continued, my voice strained. “I am always in your heart, Emma.”

She nodded and closed her eyes.

“I am always in your heart too,” she mumbled quietly.

I sobbed and pressed her closer to me. She was being pulled back. I could tell by the way her grip on my hand loosened.

“I love you, okay?” I told her, trying so hard not to start screaming in pain. “Don’t believe that Logan, okay? Don’t believe him, baby.”

She shook her head a little. She tried to say something, but she was already being pulled back.

I heard screams coming from outside the room. I heard loud sobs.

I couldn't focus on them, though. I couldn't. All I could do was wrap my arms around her as tightly as I could. All I could do was bury my nose into her hair and sob.

I already missed her. She was with me for just a little while and I wanted her to be here longer. I didn't have time to tell her to kill that fucker. I didn't have time to tell her not to hold back. I didn't have time to tell her to make sure that the fucker was finally gone forever.

My heart felt like it was breaking apart.

What if she couldn't defeat him? What if she believed him? What if seeing him brought back all the ache I caused? Would she die if she didn't kill the fucker? Would I ever see her again?

The noise outside the room suddenly quieted down. I heard a few quiet gasps, but I couldn't find the strength to look up.

"Logan," Andrew mumbled.

I could tell by the sound of his voice that he was a bit stunned.

I looked up and saw that everyone was staring at Emma with shocked expressions on their faces.

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked down at my mate.

My heart stopped.

Emma looked like she was 18 again. She was wearing that same pajama she wore the day I rejected her on those stairs.

My breath got caught in my throat and suddenly Anna's theory became the reality.

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE Shocked

Sophia's POV

I somehow managed to drag myself back to my room.

To say that I was shocked would be an understatement. The ray of emotions I felt was indescribable. I was confused. I was scared. I was in complete and utter shock.

My mom transformed in front of my eyes. She became a girl my age. I watched it happen and I thought that I was going crazy. I thought that I was dreaming.

I had to leave the cabin. Aunt Daisy and I had to get out of there. I needed to clear my head a little. I needed to see Hunter. I needed him to hold me and tell me that everything was going to be okay.

"Hi, Angel," Hunter said as I walked into the room. "How is your..."

He stopped talking when he saw my face. He was packing his stuff into a small bag, but he threw it all to the ground and rushed to me.

"What's wrong?!" he shouted as he cupped my cheeks and looked me up and down. "Are you hurt?!"

I shook my head and tried to swallow. My mouth was completely dry and I felt like I'd swallowed sandpaper.

"What the fuck happened then, Sophia?!" Hunter shouted again. "Why are you so pale?!"

I could hear the panic in his voice. I could see fear in his eyes. My heart broke and I wanted to say something to comfort him and reassure him. I just couldn't find the words to do it. Everything I wanted to say was stuck in my throat.

Was I going crazy?

"My mom...", I mumbled and Hunter's eyes widened.

"Is she okay?" he asked. "Did something happen to her?"

It did, but I had no idea how to explain that to him. What was I supposed to say? How could I explain that my mom just went back in time and was 18 again? He would surely think that I was crazy.

“Say something before I lose my shit,” Hunter said, growling a little.

I closed my eyes and tried to take a deep breath.

‘Let me explain to them,’ Stella said softly.

‘Thank you,’ I said.

I really had no idea how to do it. I didn’t know what to say. I didn’t know how to say it.

I opened my eyes and watched as Hunter got all the information he needed from Holden. A few moments passed before his eyes widened in shock.

“What the...,” he mumbled quietly.

I nodded and let out a quiet sob. Hunter wrapped his arms around me immediately.

“Fuck,” he said as he rubbed my back soothingly. “How is that even possible?”

I shrugged a little.

“I don’t know,” I managed to say. “It was surreal. I’m still wondering if I made it all up. How can something like that even happen? What is the meaning of that?”

Hunter sighed and kissed the top of my head.

“Well, it probably means that Anna was right,” he said. “Everything will end with her facing the part of your dad that rejected her.”

I shut my eyes and hugged Hunter as tightly as I could. I breathed in his scent deeply.

“Oh, Angel,” he said softly as he kissed the top of my head. “She will be okay. I am sure of it. She is so strong.”

I looked up at him and nodded.

“You are so much like her, Sophia,” he said. “You are kind, brave, and strong. She will always be a part of you, no matter what.”

I teared up a little. Everyone always said that I looked so much like my mom. I didn't see it until now. I really did look so much like her.

“Where is your brother?” Hunter asked as he caressed my cheek.

I took another deep breath and sighed.

“At the cabin,” I said. “I had to leave. I had to get some fresh air.”

I leaned my head on his chest and tightened my arms around him.

“I had to see you,” I mumbled quietly.

Hunter picked me up and walked to the bed. He sat down and I straddled him.

“I don't have to go, Angel,” Hunter said softly. “I can stay here with you.”

I shook my head and cupped his cheeks.

“It's okay,” I said, trying to give him a small smile. “Mom probably won't wake up for a while now. There is nothing to do except wait.”

Hunter caressed my cheek and kissed me softly.

“You will let me know if anything happens,” he said. “I will come back immediately.”

I nodded and wrapped my arms around his neck, kissing him and pressing him closer to me. I would miss him so much.

Hunter tangled his fingers into my hair and grunted.

“Goddess, I wish I didn't have to go,” he mumbled against my lips. “I don't know how I will survive without you.”

I chuckled a little and caressed his cheek. I started caressing his jaw and I enjoyed feeling his beard under my

fingertips. It grew a little and I liked it.

“It’s just for a day or two,” I said softly. “You will be okay.”

He shook his head a little and buried his nose into my neck.

“I hate being away from you even for a minute,” he mumbled. “It reminds me of the time when I didn’t know where you were.”

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

“I know, my love,” I said quietly. “I am so sorry it happened. I wish it never did. I wish you didn’t have to go through that.”

Hunter kissed my collarbone and looked up at me. He gave me a small smile and pressed a soft kiss on my lips.

“At least I know that you will be safe,” he said. “Alex won’t let anything happen to you.”

I smiled and nodded.

“You definitely don’t need to worry about that,” I said, chuckling a little. “He barely let me walk back home without him.”

Fia? Lex mind-linked me just as I finished speaking.

Yes? I responded immediately.

Anna is opening the door. Lex said. We are getting Mom out of there.

CHAPTER FORTY Burn It

Alexander's POV

"Because she isn't fucking dangerous!" my uncle screamed.

"We don't know that," Anna responded calmly. "I don't think it's a good idea."

"Are you fucking shitting me right now, Anna?!" my uncle screamed again as he pointed at my mom. "She can barely lift her head! She isn't fucking dangerous!"

I couldn't stop staring at my mom. I knew it was my mom, but it was so fucking weird. She was an 18-year-old girl. She looked more like Fia than my mom. She looked so young and so innocent.

My dad was completely speechless. He kept staring at her and touching her. It looked like he was trying to assure himself that she was real. He hadn't spoken a word since it happened. I wasn't even sure if he had taken one single breath since it happened.

My uncle was trying to convince Anna to open the door and let him in. He kept screaming that she wasn't dangerous and that Anna should let him get her out of there. I agreed with him. She wasn't dangerous. The darkness didn't affect her as it did Sophia. It was more internal. The battle my mom was leading was inside her.

"Please, Anna, please," my uncle cried out. "Just let me get her out of there, please."

I forced myself to look away from my parents. I looked at my uncle and my heart spasmed painfully. He looked terrible. He was on the verge of tears. He looked completely unhinged.

"He is right, Anna," I said, making them both look at me. "She isn't dangerous. Open the door."

"Alex...", Anna spoke, but I interrupted her.

“No, Anna,” I said, looking back at my mom. “Open the door. We are taking her home.”

I glanced at Mason. He was staring at my mom with a shocked expression on his face. He was pale and I was sure that he hadn't moved an inch since my mom transformed in front of our eyes. I reached out and took his hand in mine. He didn't even flinch.

“Open the door!” my uncle exclaimed loudly.

Fia? I mind-linked my sister.

Yes? She responded immediately.

Anna is opening the door. I said, squeezing Mason's hand tighter. We are getting Mom out of there.

Fia was silent for a moment.

Anna agreed? She asked.

She had to. I said. I am not letting her stay there a minute longer.

Will you bring her home? Fia asked.

Probably. I said. I will mind-link you when we get her out, okay?

Okay. Fia said softly.

I cut our mind-link and focused back on Anna. She approached the door and took a deep breath. She mumbled something quietly and the door glistened for a second.

I watched as my uncle unlocked the door. His whole body was shaking. His breaths were short and fast. He fumbled with the lock for a few seconds before he finally managed to rip the door open.

“Emma!” he exclaimed as he rushed into the room and ran toward the bed.

My dad looked up at him with a mixture of shock and confusion on his face. My dad let my mom go so my uncle could pull her to him.

“Oh, my Goddess,” my uncle cried out as he wrapped her in a tight hug. “Oh, my dear Goddess.”

I watched as my uncle cupped my mom’s cheeks. He shook his head and sobbed.

“How is this possible?” he cried out. “How can she be 18 again?”

My dad gulped and stood up slowly. He started pacing around the room, staring at his feet. I forced myself to move. I walked inside the room and approached my dad. He sobbed as soon as he saw me. I pulled him into a hug and looked at my mom and my uncle.

My uncle kept caressing my mom’s face. He kept kissing her forehead and her cheeks. He was crying silently and the sight broke my heart.

“What are we going to do?” I asked quietly.

No one answered me. The room was silent. All I could hear were my uncle’s quiet sobs.

I tightened my arms around my dad. He kissed my temple and let me go. He turned to look at my mom.

“Goddess, this is surreal,” he said as he ran his hand over his face. “This is completely insane.”

My uncle looked up at him and gulped.

“She is wearing the same pajamas she wore the day you rejected her,” my uncle said and my heart stopped.

My dad nodded. Mason gasped quietly.

“Does that mean...,” I mumbled as I looked at Anna.

She gave me a small nod. “I was right.”

I looked back at my mom and my body shuddered. She was facing my dad, wasn’t she? She was wearing those pajamas because she wore them when he rejected her, wasn’t she?

“Okay,” my dad said, taking a deep breath and releasing it slowly. “There is apparently not much we can do to help her.

She is alone, wherever she is. We need to do our part on this side.”

“What are we going to do?” I asked and this time my dad answered me.

“I am taking her home,” Dad said. “I want Wren to examine her. She still has a fever and that can’t be good. I need him to keep her body healthy.”

I nodded.

“And then?” I asked and my dad tightened his jaw.

“Then we wait,” Anna answered. “We can’t do anything for her. She needs to do this on her own.”

My heart clenched painfully. I wished that there was something I could do to help her.

My uncle placed another kiss on my mom’s forehead before he stood up. He wrapped her up in a blanket and picked her up.

“Let’s go home,” he said as he started walking away with her.

My dad wrapped his arm around my shoulders and kissed my temple. We followed my uncle out of that fucking room. Mason started walking beside us. He was still pale and in shock.

“What are we going to do with the room?” Anna asked as she closed the door behind us.

“Burn it,” my dad said. “We will burn the whole fucking cabin to the ground.”

We wouldn’t need it anymore. At least I hoped so.

CHAPTER FORTY-ONE Mate

Emma's POV

I was awoken by a loud knock on our front door.

I opened my eyes and groaned. What time was it?

I blinked a few times and let my eyes adjust to the darkness in my room. The moonlight that shone through my window was bright enough for me to look at my watch. It was 11 p.m. Who was here this late?

I removed the covers and went towards my bedroom door. I opened it in time to hear my brother's voice.

"Logan?" he said. "What are you doing here?"

"Where is she? Where is Emma?" Logan asked nervously.

His voice was the most amazing sound I have ever heard. It was like music to my ears. What was wrong with me? It never sounded like that before. It must have been because I was tired.

But he sounded cold, rushed. I didn't know why he was asking for me, but I had a feeling that I was in trouble. But I didn't do anything wrong.

"Emma?" my brother asked. "She is sleeping. Why?"

I could hear surprise and confusion in his voice.

I started walking toward the stairs and was instantly hit with the most fantastic smell, pine needles, and snow. It smelled like a winter forest.

"Wake her up," Logan growled. "Now."

He sounded mad. Why was he mad?

"I am awake," I said and started walking down the stairs.

I stopped in the middle to look at Logan.

Everything shifted when I looked into his eyes. He was now the center of my world. He was everything. I felt this great need to touch him, to be in his arms.

He was my mate!

He was my fated mate!

An overwhelming wave of emotions washed over me. I was happy. I was excited. I wanted him so much. I wanted to run to him, but I stopped myself when I saw how cold his stare was.

What was going on?

“Logan?” My brother called him.

“She is my mate,” Logan said through his teeth.

My brother gasped and looked up at me. I nodded and looked back at Logan. He was standing there looking at me with a cold expression on his face. His fists were clenched, and his posture was rigid.

He didn't want me. That's why he was so angry. I was not good enough to be his Luna.

“Emma,” Andrew called my name. “Go to your room. Now.”

He must have seen how angry Logan was and wanted to talk to him about this. I turned away and walked back upstairs.

But there was no way I was going back into my room. I wanted to hear what Logan would say. I had a feeling I knew, though.

I heard them walking to the kitchen, and I sat at the top of the stairs. I would be able to hear them talk, and hopefully, they would be focused on their conversation and unable to hear or sense me. I just had to be very quiet.

I hugged my knees and waited.

“Talk,” my brother said coldly. “How did you know before you even saw her?”

“I don’t know,” Logan sighed. “I could sense and smell her. It happened about an hour ago. At first, I thought I was going crazy, but then I decided to follow that smell. I knew for sure when I came closer to your house. Leon started going crazy.”

“That is weird,” my brother said. “Mates usually know when they see each other. They can’t sense it before.”

“I know. But I did,” Logan growled.

My brother sighed. “Why are you angry?”

“She can’t be my Luna, Andrew,” Logan said.

My heart broke. I hugged my knees even tighter. I felt warm tears running down my cheeks. Nothing hurt like your mate’s rejection.

“What? Why?” my brother asked angrily.

“She is a child,” Logan said. “She is not strong enough to be Luna. I need someone stronger.”

“You are kidding me, right?” my brother yelled. “You are going to throw away Goddess’ gift because you don’t think she is strong enough?!”

“It is for the pack,” Logan said calmly. “You know our pack needs strong leadership. Especially now that rogues are attacking even more frequently.”

“Alpha is always stronger when he has his Luna by his side,” my brother growled.

“He is and I will have my Luna,” Logan said. “I am thinking about taking Sienna as my chosen mate.”

My heart stopped beating. He was choosing another she-wolf instead of me. And not just any wolf. Sienna. She wanted to get rid of me. And she would. She would become a Luna, and she would exile me from my pack. Maybe she would even kill me after she discovered I was Logan’s true mate.

“Why didn’t you already do that if you think she will be a great Luna?” my brother asked angrily.

“I wanted to wait for my true mate,” Logan answered. “To see if I was gifted with a strong, she-wolf. But now that I see that is not the case, I can freely choose somebody else.”

“I can’t believe this,” my brother said quietly.

“You know I am right, Andrew,” Logan said. “You know that you, me, and Sienna will be great leaders, and the pack will benefit greatly from our leadership. We can’t do that with your sister. She is only 18.”

My brother said nothing, and I think he agreed with Logan. He thought that I wasn’t strong. I didn’t think my heart could break even more.

I’d heard enough. I got up and walked to my room.

My heart was breaking into a million tiny pieces. I didn’t think that I would ever be able to put it back together. And he hadn’t officially rejected me yet. I didn’t know how I would survive when he did.

Mates could reject each other. It didn’t break the bond, though. Nothing did. It was only words. But it let you know that your mate didn’t want you, which was horrible. The bond was alive, but you couldn’t do anything about it.

Watching Logan and Sienna together was going to kill me slowly.

‘Eliza?’ I called my wolf. ‘Are you okay?’

She didn’t respond. I couldn’t even feel her. She probably retreated to the back of my mind to heal.

I needed to do the same. I needed to leave and clear my mind. I couldn’t stay here. I couldn’t see my brother. I couldn’t see him.

I quickly put on my tights, a hoodie, and sneakers. I grabbed a jacket from my wardrobe and approached my window.

My room was on the second floor, but there was a roof just underneath it. I always sneaked out this way when my brother forbade me from going out with Amy. He never caught me. I hoped that tonight would be the same.

I tried to open my window, but I couldn't. It was stuck.

“What the hell?” I mumbled as I tried again.

I just closed it before I went to bed. Why couldn't I open it now? What the hell was going on?

CHAPTER FORTY-TWO They Are Coming Back

Alexander's POV

"Goddess, this is so weird," Fia mumbled.

We were standing in our parents' room, staring at our mom. She was lying in bed and she was hooked up to all sorts of machines and IVs. She looked so peaceful. She looked like she was sleeping.

She also looked like an 18-year-old girl and it was freaking both Fia and me out. I couldn't stop staring at her. I couldn't stop comparing her to Fia. They always looked alike, but seeing them side by side now that my mom was 18 again was just so weird.

Saying that my mom was 18 again was also so fucking weird. No matter how many times I said it, it still sounded completely insane.

"Do you think that she is fighting Dad right now?" Fia mumbled and I looked at her.

"I don't know," I said, shrugging. "She doesn't look like she is struggling."

Fia sighed and furrowed her eyebrows. I placed an arm around her shoulders.

"She is on some meds," Fia mumbled. "They are keeping her fever under control. Maybe she is struggling, but we can't see it."

I swallowed the lump in my throat. I wished that she wasn't struggling. I wished that she would wake up and hold me. I wanted my mom back.

But would she go back to looking like my mom once she woke up? Would she stay like this forever?

I heard footsteps approaching the room and I knew it was my uncle. He opened the door and stepped inside. He sighed

and ran his hand over his face.

“Goddess, this is so freaking weird,” he mumbled as he approached the bed.

He kneeled next to my mom and ran his fingers through her hair.

“Did she really look like this when she was 18?” Fia asked, making our uncle look up at her.

“She did,” he said and a small smile spread across his face. “She looked exactly like this.”

He looked back at my mom and shook his head.

“This is just unbelievable,” he mumbled. “She is my little girl again.”

My uncle leaned in and kissed my mom’s forehead. He wrapped his arms around her and leaned his head on hers.

I glanced at Fia and saw her wiping her cheeks. I placed a kiss on the top of her head and took a deep breath. This was weird for all of us, but it was definitely hitting my dad and my uncle the hardest.

“Where is Dad?” Fia asked, drawing our uncle’s attention back to us.

“In the kitchen,” Uncle Andrew said. “Your aunt is forcing him to eat.”

Fia nodded. “Good. He needs to eat something.”

Uncle Andrew looked back down at Emma and sighed.

“Are you fighting, Em?” he mumbled. “Are you kicking their asses right now?”

He caressed her cheek and gulped.

“Don’t trust them, Emma,” he continued talking to her. “They are lying to you. Please don’t trust them. Win and come back to us. We are all waiting for you, Emma.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. I tried to remain calm, but it was so hard. I wanted to grab my mom’s shoulders and shake her until she woke up. I wanted her back.

I wanted my family back. I wanted everything to just go back to the way it was.

Uncle Andrew sighed and looked up at us. He continued running his fingers through my mom's hair.

"Did your aunt tell you that everyone is coming back?" our uncle asked.

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked at Fia. She looked confused.

"She didn't," Fia said, shaking her head. "Who is coming back?"

"Everyone except your grandma," Uncle Andrew said, looking back at Emma. "They didn't want to tell her what happened. She will remain in Drake's pack until Emma comes back to us."

I nodded. I didn't want Grandma here. She loved my mom so much and she would freak out if she saw her like this.

"Oh, I am excited to see Mike," Fia said as a small smile spread across her face. "I missed him."

Uncle Andrew smiled at her. "He missed you too. He keeps asking about you."

Fia's smile grew. It wasn't her usual smile, but it was better than that worried look she had lately.

"When are they coming back?" I asked, making Uncle Andrew look at me.

"Tonight," he said. "They are on their way here. Drake and Amy are coming too. We told them about Emma and Amy almost freaked out. She wanted to see her immediately."

"Are they bringing their kids?" I asked and Uncle Andrew nodded.

"Yes," he said. "Both Hayden and Halley are coming."

"But what about Mom?" Fia asked, furrowing her eyebrows again. "They will want to see her. How will we explain this to them?"

“We won’t,” Uncle Andrew said. “We told the kids that Emma went on a small vacation with your grandma. We told them that your dad had to stay here and work.”

Fia sighed quietly.

“Okay,” she mumbled. “I hope that none of them will figure it out.”

“They won’t,” Uncle Andrew said, looking back at my mom.

He leaned in and kissed her forehead.

“When is Hunter coming back?” he asked, keeping his eyes on my mom.

“He said that he wants to come back tonight, but I think it’s more likely that he will come back tomorrow,” Fia said and I could hear pain in her voice.

She missed him a lot.

I sighed and placed a kiss on her temple.

“Harry and Janet are also coming here,” Uncle Andrew said. “Harry and Mike are just refusing to be without each other.”

Fia and I smiled a little.

“Do you think that they are mates?” I asked my uncle.

“Maybe,” he said, running his fingers through my mom’s hair. “I wouldn’t be surprised. The Goddess is apparently dead set on connecting us to that family in every way possible.”

Fia and I chuckled quietly.

“Would you have a problem if Harry was Mike’s mate?” Fia asked him and our uncle shook his head immediately.

“Of course not,” he said, looking up at us. “I am happy as long as my children are happy. Harry is a good kid, just like Hunter. If he is Mike’s mate, I will be thrilled. I can already tell that he cares about my son. That is all that matters to me.”

Fia and I smiled brightly. I was glad to hear my uncle say that. I was glad that the rivalry between ours and Hunter’s

family was over. We didn't need that anyway. We needed to stick together.

We needed to be united and help my mom go through this. We needed to show her that she wasn't alone.

CHAPTER FORTY-THREE I Locked It

Emma's POV

“What the hell are you doing, Emma?” my brother asked, making me flinch and turn around.

I was trying to open the window and get the hell out of here, but no matter how hard I tried it just wouldn't budge.

“Were you trying to leave?” Andrew asked, frowning at me.

He approached me, grabbed my upper arm, and pulled me away from the window.

“Are you crazy?!” he exclaimed angrily. “You can't go out there alone, Emma! Rogues are everywhere. It is cold. You could get hurt.”

Well, I got hurt in my own home so that argument was completely invalid.

“Why is my window locked?” I asked as she started pulling me out of my room.

He looked down at me and sighed,

“I locked it,” he said. “I know that you've been using that window to leave the house and go out with Amy and Jacob.”

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked back toward my room. It was open before I went to bed. I was sure of it. I closed it before I lay down. When did he have time to lock it?

Andrew and I started walking downstairs. I tried to pull my arm out of his grip.

“Emma...,” he spoke, but I interrupted him.

“No,” I said sternly. “I don't want to see him. I don't want to talk to him.”

Andrew sighed and stopped walking. He caressed my cheek and gave me a small smile.

“I know it hurts right now, Em,” he said softly. “But you will move on. You will find another mate.”

I studied my brother’s face for a second. Something was wrong. Something was off about him. My brother would never let anyone hurt me like that, not even his Alpha.

I was right before, wasn’t I? He agreed with Logan, didn’t he? What happened to my brother?

“You agree with him, don’t you?” I asked. “You don’t think that I am strong enough.”

My brother sighed and ran his fingers through his hair.

“He agrees with me,” I heard my mate’s voice.

Hearing him say that felt like a burning knife was being pierced through my chest. I kept my eyes on my brother. I felt the tears burning the corners of my eyes.

“Why, Andrew?” I asked, ignoring Logan completely. “Why?”

Andrew gulped and glanced at Logan.

“You are young, Emma,” he said, looking back at me. “You are too young for this. You are inexperienced. You are going to get yourself hurt and then both Logan and I will suffer.”

A tear fell on my cheek. Who was this man in front of me? It wasn’t my brother. My brother would never say those words to me. My brother would fight for me. He would stand up for me.

This wasn’t my brother. This was someone else.

Andrew sighed and wiped the tears from my cheeks.

“I am sorry, Emma,” he said. “I am just being honest. I am just trying to save you. This pain will pass. If Logan accepted you as his mate, it would only hurt you both.”

I shook my head and tried to move away from him.

“No,” I said. “You aren’t my brother. My brother would fight for me. My brother wouldn’t let Logan do this.”

Andrew sighed again and tried to reach out for me. I moved up the stairs so he couldn't grab my hand.

"Who are you?" I asked as another tear fell on my cheek.

Andrew tightened his jaw and clenched his fists. He looked angry and hurt.

"I am your brother, Emma, and I am doing this because I love you," he said as he climbed up the stairs and picked me up. "I am doing this to save you, not to hurt you."

I tried to get out of his hold, but he was too strong. He walked past Logan and we entered the kitchen. He put me down on the ground and took my hand in his, keeping me close to him.

I tried to rip my arm out of his hold again, but he only grabbed me tighter.

"You can't run away from this, Emma," Logan said as he approached me. "We have to do this. I have to do this."

I wanted to sob, but I held it back. I didn't want to show him how much he hurt me. I didn't want him to think that he was right. I wasn't weak. I was strong.

Logan sighed and ran his fingers through his hair. Andrew stood behind me, wrapped an arm around my shoulders, and pressed me to his chest. I couldn't move even if I wanted to.

"I am really sorry, Emma," Logan said, shaking his head. "I wish there was another way. I wish we were never even mated. I wish I didn't have to hurt you."

"You don't have to hurt me," I said, trying to swallow the lump in my throat. "Don't do this. Don't hurt me. Please don't hurt me."

Logan gulped and glanced at Andrew.

I couldn't understand why I was fighting for him. Why was I fighting for a man who clearly didn't want me? I should have just let him say those words and be done with it.

But I couldn't. Something was telling me that I couldn't. Something was telling me that I had to fight for him.

"I am sorry, Emma," Logan said. "You are just not made to be my mate and my Luna."

I pushed down a loud sob. His words made my heart clench painfully. It hurt so bad that I was sure my heart would stop. My whole body was burning in pain.

"I, Logan Carter, Alpha of the Crescent Moon Pack, reje..." he spoke, but I interrupted him.

"Stop!" I screamed. "Stop it! No! Please!"

I was going to die if he said it. My heart was going to stop. I was sure of it. I felt it. I felt myself slipping away as soon as he started voicing out his rejection.

I couldn't let him do that. I couldn't let him reject me. I had to fight for him. I had to fight for myself.

CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR I Missed You

Sophia's POV

"Sophie!" Mike screamed as he ran toward me.

A huge smile spread across my face. I missed him so much. He picked me up and hugged me tightly.

"I missed you so much," he said excitedly.

I smiled and hugged him back as tightly as I could.

"I missed you too, Mike," I said. "How are you?"

Mike put me down but kept his hands on my shoulders.

"Better now that I am finally home," he said, grinning widely.

"I expected you to say hi to your brother first," Mason said, faking hurt.

Mike rolled his eyes and went to hug his brother and Lex. I looked behind him and smiled brightly.

"Sophie!" Both Hazel and Halley ran to me and hugged me tightly.

I was so happy to see them. I missed them both so much. I could swear that both of them had grown a bit as well.

"Oh, I missed you," I mumbled as I leaned my head on Hazel's. "I missed you guys so much."

Hazel tightened her arms around me and sighed contently.

"We missed you too, Soph," Halley said. "Can we hang out tonight? Just the three of us?"

She looked up at me and smiled. I gave her a small nod.

"Of course," I said. "We have a lot to catch up on."

Hazel looked up at me and grinned widely. I caressed her cheek and smiled. These girls meant the world to me. We grew

up together and I considered them my sisters.

“Hi, kid,” Mason said as he pulled Halley from me. “I missed you.”

“I’m not a kid,” she mumbled, frowning and rolling her eyes at Mason.

He just laughed and ruffled her hair, pulling her into a tight hug. Mason loved Hayden and Halley so much and I knew that he wished they were around more often. Amy and Drake came to our pack very often, but I knew that wasn’t enough for Mason. He was very attached to our family and loved spending time with all of us.

I hugged Danny and Hayden next. I missed them so much as well. I missed everyone and I felt like it had been years since I last saw them.

“I feel like I haven’t seen you in ages,” I said as I rubbed Hayden’s back.

“That’s because you didn’t,” Danny said, making me roll my eyes playfully.

“Did you grow?” Hayden said, smirking at me. “It looks like you grew.”

He was younger than me, but he had outgrown me already. He always loved teasing me about that. I just rolled my eyes at him and he laughed.

My eyes fell on Harry and Janet. They were talking to my aunt Daisy, Uncle Andrew, Amy, and Drake.

I gave another quick hug to the boys and walked over to Harry and Janet. Harry looked at me as I approached them. He smiled and hugged me tightly.

“Hi, Soph,” he said, rubbing my back. “How are you?”

“I’m okay,” I said, giving him a small smile. “What is going on?”

“Oh, nothing,” Harry said, giving me a small smile. “Just catching up. When is my brother coming back?”

“Tomorrow,” I said, feeling my heart clench. “He wanted to come back tonight, but he still has some work to do.”

I missed him so much already. I didn’t know how I would be able to sleep without him tonight. I would probably have to go annoy Lex. Maybe I could make him watch a movie with me. He would probably just fall asleep, but it didn’t matter. I just didn’t want to be alone.

“Oh, good,” Harry said, grinning widely. “I missed his ugly face.”

I chuckled and shook my head.

“He missed you too,” I said. “And he doesn’t have an ugly face.”

Harry snorted and rolled his eyes.

“He does,” he said. “You just don’t see it because you are his mate.”

“She doesn’t see what?” Janet asked as she pulled me into a hug. “Hi, sweetie.”

I didn’t even realize that she approached us. I was still chuckling and shaking my head at Harry.

“Hi, Janet,” I said as I hugged her back.

“She doesn’t see how ugly Hunter is,” Harry said. “She is blinded by the mate bond.”

Harry sighed dramatically, making both Janet and me laugh. I loved how playful Harry and Hunter were.

“Well, you look a lot like your brother, Harry,” Mike said as he approached us. “You are ugly too, then.”

Mike wrapped an arm around my shoulders and smirked at Harry. I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from laughing. Harry gasped and placed a hand on his chest.

“Michael!” he exclaimed, faking hurt. “Did Hunter pay you to say that? I look nothing like him.”

I couldn’t stop myself from laughing this time. Harry looked exactly like Hunter. He was his exact copy. If I didn’t

know any better, I would think that they were twins.

“Okay, enough,” Amy exclaimed as she pulled me from Mike. “Leave the banter for when Hunter returns. Poor guy can’t even stand up for himself.”

Aunt Amy hugged me tightly. She kissed the top of my head and rubbed my back.

“How are you, sweetie?” she asked quietly.

I looked up at her and took a deep breath. All the playfulness suddenly disappeared and my thoughts went back to my mom. I felt my heart clench and my stomach twisted.

“I don’t know,” I said, sighing quietly. “I try to stay positive and focus on something else, but it’s hard. I can’t stop thinking about her being trapped somewhere.”

Amy took in a shaky breath and gave me a small nod.

“She is so strong,” Amy said. “I know that she will be okay. She will come back to us. She has to.”

Drake approached us just as she finished speaking. He gave me a small smile and hugged me.

“Daisy said that we can go see her now,” Drake said, looking at Amy.

Amy nodded and looked around.

“Should we wait for Rosie?” she asked. “Where is she anyway?”

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked around as well. I didn’t even realize that I hadn’t seen her until now. Everyone else was here. Danny, Hayden, Hazel, and Halley were talking to Lex and Mason. Mike, Harry, Janet, and my aunt and uncle were standing close to us and laughing at something Mike had said. Everyone was here, but Rosie.

“She is with Jake,” Drake said, making me look back at them. “He didn’t take what happened to Emma well. He hasn’t even seen her since she...”

Drake stopped talking and furrowed his eyebrows. He was struggling to find a word to describe what happened to my

mom. We were all struggling to find words.

“Anyway,” Drake mumbled, sighing. “Rosie is trying to convince him to go see her.”

Amy nodded and took a deep breath. She looked at me and tried to give me a small smile. She didn’t really succeed. All I saw on her face was worry.

We were all worried. We were all helpless. My mom was stuck somewhere and there was no way for us to help her.

CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE We Lost Her

Logan's POV

I ran my fingers through Emma's hair and tried to swallow the lump in my throat. She looked so peaceful. She looked like she was sleeping.

She looked the same as she looked the day I fell completely in love with her.

I loved her my entire life. I loved her even before I knew that she was my mate. My love for her was different back then. I felt the need to protect her. I felt the need to keep her safe. I watched her grow up and my love for her was always there.

But that completely changed the moment I saw her standing on those stairs. The love I felt before was nothing compared to the love I felt for her the moment I figured out that she was my mate. Everything else became irrelevant. She became the center of my world. She became the reason my heart was beating. She became the source of air and life. She became my everything.

I was an idiot who didn't listen to my heart and my body. I was blinded by duty toward my pack and I made the biggest mistake of my life. I thought that I needed someone stronger. I thought that she was too young to be a Luna. I thought that my pack came first.

I was so fucking wrong.

She was supposed to be first. I didn't see it then, but our love was all the strength I needed. I could have chosen the strongest she-wolf in the pack to be my Luna, but I would have still been a weak Alpha because I wouldn't love her like I loved Emma.

And I loved Emma with my entire heart and soul. I was strong because I loved her. I was strong because I would fight

against everything and anything to be with her. I was strong because I would win for Emma.

I would do anything for Emma.

But my hands were tied now. I couldn't do anything except pray to the Goddess to bring her back to me. I couldn't do anything except hold her and whisper into her ear how much I loved her.

I wasn't even sure if she could hear me. I wasn't even sure if it all made sense.

'Leon?' I called my wolf.

'Yes, Logan?' he responded immediately.

I could hear the desperation in his voice and I knew what the answer to my question would be before I even asked it.

'Can you feel Eliza?' I asked, my voice trembling. 'Are you with her?'

'No,' Leon said and I closed my eyes. 'I lost her. We lost her.'

I couldn't hold back a sob that escaped me. Eliza was our only connection to Emma. She was the only one who could tell us if my baby was okay.

'I will keep trying to talk to her, Logan,' Leon said, whining quietly. 'I won't give up.'

I opened my eyes and leaned in to kiss Emma's cheek.

'Okay,' I said. 'Keep trying. Find her.'

I ran my fingers through Emma's hair again. I kissed her cheek. I buried my nose into her neck and took a deep breath, letting her scent relax my muscles. I did anything and everything to feel close to her.

But I still missed her. I still wasn't as close to her as I would be if she had been awake and talking to me. I wanted to hear her voice. I wanted to see her smile. I wanted to know that she would wake up and that I would hear her say that she loved me.

“Please, baby,” I mumbled into her neck as another tear fell on my cheek. “Please come back to me.”

I placed a soft kiss on her collarbone and looked up. She was still sleeping. She was still gone.

“Oh, my Goddess,” I heard someone mumble and I looked up.

I was so focused on her that I didn’t even hear anyone coming.

Amy, Drake, Rose, and Jake were standing by the door with shocked expressions on their faces. Amy and Rose were crying. Drake looked like he’d seen a ghost. Jake looked like he was going to burst into tears.

I looked back at Emma and caressed her cheek. I heard footsteps approaching.

“Oh, Goddess, Emmy,” Amy cried out as she kneeled next to me and took Emma’s hand in hers.

Amy shook her head and looked at me.

“How is this even possible?” she asked. “How can she be 18 again?”

I wish I knew how to answer that question. I wish I knew how to answer any question. I was clueless. I had so many questions and so many theories, but I couldn’t find the answer to any of them. I didn’t know shit and it was driving me crazy.

“I don’t know, Amy,” I mumbled, keeping my eyes on Emma. “I don’t know anything.”

“Is she really trapped somewhere?” Drake asked. “Is she really fighting you?”

I shrugged and looked up at Drake.

“That’s just a theory,” I said. “But considering the fact that the same pajamas she wore the day I rejected her just somehow appeared on her, I would say it’s a pretty solid theory.”

Drake shook his head in disbelief. “This is crazy. I thought that Daisy was messing with us when she told us what

happened.”

“I just wish that there is something I can do,” I said, trying to swallow the lump in my throat. “This helplessness is killing me.”

Amy took my hand in hers and squeezed it tightly.

“You are doing a lot, Logan,” she said softly. “I am sure that Emma knows that you are here. I am sure that she can feel you.”

She gave me a small smile and looked at Emma.

“Your presence gives her strength,” she continued. “I am sure of it.”

I looked at my mate and closed my eyes. I leaned in and kissed her temple.

“Is it true, baby?” I mumbled. “Can you feel me? Do you know that I am here?”

She didn’t respond. I knew that she wouldn’t, but the hope was bigger. I would never lose hope that she would open those beautiful eyes and look at me. I would never lose hope that she would talk to me again. I would never lose hope that I would be able to tell her how much I loved her and hear her say it back.

“She knows, Logan,” Jake mumbled, making me look up at him. “She knows that you are here and she is fighting.”

Jake tightened his jaw and I saw tears gathering in his eyes.

“I always knew how strong she was,” he added. “And she is about to prove to all of us that I was right.”

CHAPTER FORTY-SIX Who Are You?

Emma's POV

I was sitting on the couch with my legs pressed against my chest. I rested my chin on my knees and just started in front of myself.

I couldn't understand what was going on. I just found my mate and this should have been the best night of my life. I should have been happy, ecstatic, and excited about my future. I should have been in Logan's arms, kissing him and telling him how much I loved him. My brother should have been happy for me. Logan should have been happy. Logan should have wanted me.

But everything was wrong. This wasn't the best night of my life. It was the worst. I wasn't happy, ecstatic, or excited. I wasn't in Logan's arms. I wasn't kissing him or telling him how much I loved him. He wasn't smiling at me and telling me that he accepted me as his mate and Luna. He wasn't happy. My brother wasn't happy. I wasn't happy.

Nothing was right and I wanted to scream and run out of the house.

I clenched my fists and swallowed the lump in my throat. I wanted to cry, but I didn't want to show them how hurt I was. I embarrassed myself enough in the kitchen a little while ago.

I looked at the little table next to our couch where the picture of our parents was. I always looked at it when I needed comfort. I missed my parents terribly. I loved Andrew the most in this world, but I didn't want his comfort now.

My eyebrows furrowed when I realized that the picture wasn't there. I looked around, assuming that Andrew moved it and forgot to put it back, but I couldn't see it anywhere.

As I was looking around the room I realized that all the pictures were gone. There were a lot of pictures of Andrew

and me hanging on the walls, but those were now gone. Another picture of my parents and grandparents that was on the mantle was also gone. Every picture was just gone.

How didn't I notice that before?!

"Where are all the pictures?" I asked, looking at Andrew who was sitting on the couch opposite me.

He sighed and leaned forward, placing his elbows on his knees.

"That's not important now, Emma," Andrew said. "You need to talk to Logan. You need to let him reject you."

I furrowed my eyebrows and narrowed my eyes.

"Where are the pictures, Andrew?" I asked.

I didn't care about Logan. I wanted those pictures back.

"We are not here to talk about pictures, Emma," Andrew said. "We are here to talk about Logan and you."

I felt tears gathering in my eyes.

Andrew loved those pictures. He never let anyone touch them. He chose the pictures of me and him he wanted to hang on the walls. Why didn't he care? What the hell was going on?

"Why did you take them down?" I asked as I felt a tear fall on my cheek. "You love those pictures, Andrew. Why did you take them down?"

When did he even have time to do that? All the pictures were here when I went to bed. I was sure of it.

"You need to let Logan reject you," Andrew said, completely ignoring my questions.

I couldn't stop the sob that escaped me.

Who was this man sitting in front of me? It wasn't my brother. I couldn't have been my brother.

"Who are you?" I mumbled, feeling my heart break.

He tilted his head and furrowed his brows.

“What do you mean, Emma?” he asked. “It’s me. It’s Andrew.”

I shook my head immediately.

“No,” I said. “My brother wouldn’t take those pictures down. My brother wouldn’t let my mate reject me. My brother wouldn’t let anyone hurt me.”

Andrew sighed and stood up. He approached me and sat next to me. I wanted to move away, but he stopped me. He pulled me to his chest and kissed the top of my head.

“It’s me, Emma,” he said softly. “I don’t want to hurt you. I want to save you from the pain you would feel later on. Letting Logan reject you is the best thing for you. Trust me.”

I didn’t. I couldn’t trust him.

He was wrong. It wasn’t the best thing for me. The best thing for me would be to have my mate next to me.

And they were wrong about all those things they said. I wasn’t weak. I was strong. I was stronger than they knew.

“I am not weak,” I mumbled. “I am stronger than you know.”

“Oh, sweetie,” Andrew mumbled.

Sweetie? He never called me that. Why was he calling me that now?

“You are strong,” he said. “You are strong in so many ways, Emma, but there are just some things that you wouldn’t be able to do. Being Luna is one of those things.”

I pulled back so I could look at him. I studied his face for a few seconds. He looked like my Andrew, but something was telling me that he was not.

Was I going crazy?

“You don’t know me very well,” I said, trying to remain calm. “I am brave. I am strong. I am kind. I would be a great Luna and I can’t let him reject me. That would be a mistake.”

“Emma...,” Andrew spoke, but I interrupted him.

“No,” I said. “I don’t want to hear it, Andrew. You are wrong and I am going to prove it to you. I will show you that I am not weak. I will show you that I am good enough to be a Luna. I will show you that you made a huge mistake when you underestimated me.”

Andrew’s eyes widened and he looked speechless for the first time since this whole mess with Logan started. I was glad, though. I didn’t want to hear anything he had to say. I was done with him.

I stood up and walked out of the living room. I wanted to leave the house and go on a run, but I needed to find those pictures first. I had to put them back where they belonged.

CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN *Anxious*

Hunter's POV

I was trembling with the need for her. My whole body felt knotted up ever since I left her yesterday. I just needed to hold her. I needed to feel her in my arms and breathe her sweet scent in. That was all. I didn't need anything else. Only that. Only her.

I gripped the steering wheel tighter. I just crossed the border and it wouldn't be long until I saw her. It wouldn't be long until I got to hold her.

Angel? I mind-linked her.

I was finally close enough to be able to mind-link her.

Hunter? She responded immediately and I felt my body relax a little.

I missed her voice.

Hi, my love. I said as a small smile spread across my face. I just crossed the border. I will be there soon.

I can't wait. She said and I could hear the excitement in her voice. I missed you.

Oh, I missed you too, Angel. I said. You have no idea how much.

Your mom and brother are here too. She said.

I know. I responded. I am excited to see Harry. I missed him a lot.

Oh, he missed you too. My love said and I could hear amusement in her voice.

I missed seeing her smile.

I will be right there, love. I said. Are you home?

No. She said. I am at the packhouse. Anna and I are going through the books. We are trying to find a way to help my mom.

Okay, Angel. I said. I will be right there.

I cut our mind-link and slammed my foot on the gas pedal. I needed to get there as soon as possible. I needed to see her as soon as possible. Hearing her voice only made me miss her more.

My heart was racing and my body started trembling even more. Everything around me was a blur and I wasn't even aware of how fast I was going. I kept my eyes focused on the spot where I knew I would see the packhouse first. I needed her so fucking much it hurt. Every inch I came closer to her, just seemed like an inch further away from her. I wanted to leave my car in the middle of the road, shift, and just run to her. It seemed like that would be faster.

I was on the verge of losing it, but then I finally saw the roof of the packhouse. I sighed in relief and I felt my body relax a little.

I was too anxious without her. I was a complete nervous wreck without her. I wasn't going to do that again. I wasn't going anywhere without her anymore. It was too fucking hard.

I thought that my heart would jump out of my body when I saw the packhouse door opening and my beautiful mate walking outside. She had a huge smile on her face and my heart fluttered.

"Sophia," I cried out as I stopped the car and shut the engine.

Sophia was fast. She ran to the car, opened the door, and threw herself at me.

Her scent and her touch caused my body to relax so suddenly that I felt a bit dizzy. I wrapped my arms around her and pulled her onto my lap.

"Oh, fuck, Angel," I mumbled as I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath. "I missed you. I missed you so fucking much."

She ran her fingers through my hair and the tingles I felt made my eyes roll to the back of my head. How the fuck was it possible to miss her this much?

“I missed you too,” she said as she raised her head and pressed her soft lips against mine.

I grunted and tangled my fingers into her hair, keeping her as close to me as possible. Her lips felt perfect against mine. Her taste was amazing. She tasted even better than she did before I left. How was that possible?

She stopped kissing me and I wanted to whine.

“Did you take care of everything at home?” she asked as she caressed my cheek.

I placed my hand on top of hers and brought it to my lips. I placed a soft kiss on her palm and smiled.

“I did, love,” I said. “Our pack members were relieved when they saw me. I explained the situation the best I could without telling them too much about what happened here.”

Sophia nodded.

“They asked about the Luna ceremony, though,” I said, giving her a small smile. “They are excited about it.”

“They are?” Sophia asked as a small smile spread across her face.

“Of course, Angel,” I said as I leaned in and kissed her cheek. “They are about to get the best Luna that ever existed. They have to be excited.”

Sophia laughed and shook her head. I kissed her before she could respond. I couldn’t hold back any longer. I missed kissing her.

“Will you get that ugly ass out of that car already?” I heard my brother’s voice and I immediately laughed.

I stopped kissing Sophia and looked over her shoulder. Harry was standing by the front door and grinning at me.

“Shitface!” I exclaimed happily.

Sophia laughed and got out of the car. I missed her already, but I knew that we would have time to catch up a bit later.

Harry approached me as I left my car and I pulled him into a hug.

“I see that you are ugly as ever,” Harry said teasingly. “I was hoping you would get a little bit prettier while I was gone.”

I slammed my elbow into his ribs and wrapped my arm around his neck, grabbing him tightly. Harry laughed and tried to get out of my hold.

“No way, shitface,” I said, grinning. “You deserve it.”

“You stink!” Harry exclaimed as he thrashed.

“No, I don’t.”

“Yes, you do.”

“No, I don’t.”

“Yes.”

“No.”

“Yes.”

“No.”

“Enough!” Sophia interrupted us, laughing. “You are making my head hurt.”

I let Harry go and he pulled me into another hug.

“I missed you,” he said, tightening his arms around me.

A huge smile spread across my face.

“I missed you too,” I said as I hugged him back as tightly as I could.

“Come on,” Harry said as he let me go. “Mom is waiting inside.”

I smiled and reached out for Sophia. She took my hand in hers and we walked into the house together.

CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT I Didn't Find Anything

Andrew's POV

I ran my fingers through Emma's hair and took a deep breath. I kept doing that. I kept running my fingers through her hair and forcing air deep into my lungs. It was the only thing that kept me calm.

Her fever increased again and not even the meds were working. She was shivering and sweating. She looked so pale and tired and my heart kept breaking again and again.

Logan was a complete mess ever since her fever spiked. He was somewhat calm until then, but this just threw him off the edge. He couldn't stop pacing around the room and growling. He kept walking back toward her and checking if the fever was gone.

We were both terrified because we didn't know what the fuck was going on. Based on everything we knew so far, she was fighting. But why the fuck did her fever increase if she was on meds? How bad was it?

The protectiveness I felt over her only exploded after she transformed in front of my eyes. All I saw was my little girl. All I saw was the girl I raised.

I placed a kiss on her forehead and caressed her cheek.

"You can do it, Em," I mumbled quietly. "I know you can. You are so brave and so strong. You can win. You will win."

Logan approached the bed again and placed a hand on her forehead.

"Fuck!" he exclaimed angrily.

I sighed and kissed Emma's forehead again. Wren was here about half an hour ago. He increased her meds, but it didn't seem to help. He said that there wasn't much he could

do when the cause of her fever wasn't physical. It was magic and he couldn't do much.

Logan continued pacing around the room, mumbling and cursing quietly.

"I am so proud of you, my little girl," I said quietly. "You are so strong and so brave. I will be here when you open your eyes. I am waiting for you to tell me that you got rid of those idiots forever."

I took another deep breath and released it slowly. I was full-blown panicking on the inside, but I had to keep my cool on the outside. Maybe she could hear me and I didn't want her to know how fucking scared I was.

What hurt the most was being helpless. There wasn't anything I could do. I couldn't go where she was and help her. My hands were tied and it was driving me insane.

I heard footsteps approaching the room and a few moments later Anna walked inside.

"Did you find something?!" Logan exclaimed as soon as he saw her.

"No," Anna said, shaking her head. "I didn't find anything."

She looked at Emma and gulped.

"She is on her own," Anna added quietly.

My heart tugged painfully. Logan cursed and groaned, burying his face into his hands.

"There has to be something," I mumbled. "There has to be something we can do. This can't be it. She can't be doing this alone."

Anna tightened her jaw and shook her head.

"This is it," she said. "This is all we can do. We can't help her fight this. We can just sit here and wait."

Anna's face was a mixture of anger, pain, and fear. She leaned against the wall and closed her eyes.

Logan laughed, making me look at him. He was pacing around, shaking his head, and laughing darkly.

“Are you fucking kidding me?!” he shouted. “Is this really how this whole fucking thing is going to end?! After everything we’ve been through, this is going to end with her in a fucking bed fighting some fucking imaginary ghosts?!”

He grabbed a lamp from his nightstand and threw it against the wall, shattering it to pieces.

“Logan!” I shouted, standing up abruptly. “Enough!”

I heard footsteps rushing toward the bedroom. Alex and Mason ran inside, growling loudly. Both of them looked ready to fight, but I could tell that they were afraid. They immediately looked at Emma as they entered the room.

“Dad?” Alex said, looking from Emma to the shattered lamp on the floor. “What the hell happened?”

Logan kept growling and pacing around, ignoring Alex’s question.

“Dad?!” Alex called him as he approached Emma.

He placed a hand on her forehead and cursed under his breath.

“I told him that there is nothing I can do,” Anna mumbled quietly. “I told him that Emma has to do this on her own.”

Mason ran his fingers through his hair, pulling on it and cursing. Alex tightened his jaw and looked at Emma.

“She can do it,” he said. “She is strong. She will win.”

I gave him a small smile and looked back at my little girl. Alex was right. If anyone could do it, it was her.

“What if she doesn’t?” Mason asked quietly. “Will this thing really kill her?”

I looked up at my son and saw him staring at Anna. He looked like he was going to cry. He loved Emma so much.

Anna sighed and shook her head.

“I don’t know,” she mumbled. “It looked like it was killing her when she took it from Sophia, but I don’t know.”

She looked back at Emma and gulped.

“It could go two ways,” she added. “Either it will kill her or it will take over her and she will be even more powerful than she was.”

My stomach twisted and I instinctively wrapped my arms around her. I was trying to protect her, but I knew that I couldn’t.

“Either this thing will kill her, or she will kill us,” Anna said after a few moments of silence.

I looked down at my sister and I felt tears gathering in my eyes. If this was just about me, I would gladly trade my life for hers. I would let her kill me if it meant that she would live.

But this wasn’t just about me. I had a mate. I had children. I had a family. I couldn’t let her kill my family.

She had to win. There wasn’t any other option. She had to win and destroy that thing forever.

CHAPTER FORTY-NINE The Attic

Emma's POV

Every photo that was missing from our living room was in the attic. All the picture frames were neatly placed in a box, while all the pictures were put in an album.

“What the hell?” I mumbled as I took the album off the shelf. “Why did he put them here?”

I started looking through the album, making sure that every picture was there.

Why did he do it? When did he even have time to do it?

‘Eliza?’ I called my wolf.

Maybe she knew something. Maybe she could talk to Asher and ask him what the hell was going on with Andrew.

She wasn't responding, though. I couldn't even feel her.

‘Eliza?’ I tried again, hoping that she would answer me.

She didn't, though. She was completely silent. I sighed and closed my eyes. She was so hurt by everything that happened that she retreated and refused to talk to me.

‘I am sorry, Eliza,’ I said softly. ‘I will try to make it better. I promise.’

I heard a loud howl coming from the forest. It sounded like a wolf was injured. The howl was so familiar and it terrified me. My breath got caught in my throat and my entire body froze.

Was it Asher?!

I forced my legs to move. I ran to the window, trying to look outside, but it was so dark that all I saw was my terrified face. I tried to open the window so I could get out and help him, but it was locked.

What the...

“Asher?!” I screamed as I slammed my hand against the window.

Why the hell did Andrew lock every fucking window in the house?!

‘Eliza?!’ I screamed as I turned around to leave and go outside to look for him. ‘I know that you are angry, but you need to listen to me! Asher is hurt! You need to talk to him! He needs to tell you where he is so I can go help him!’

I dropped the album I was holding and some of the pictures fell out, scattering under my feet. I didn’t care about it. I needed to find Asher. I needed to help him.

But before I could even move away from the window, the attic door opened and Logan walked inside.

“Logan!” I exclaimed, rushing toward him. “Asher is howling outside! He is hurt! We need to go help him!”

Logan grabbed my shoulders and shook his head.

“That’s not Asher, Emma,” he said calmly. “Andrew is at the packhouse. He is okay.”

I furrowed my eyebrows. A wave of confusion washed over me. The howl was so familiar and I felt like I knew that wolf. No, I was sure that I knew that wolf. I was sure it was Asher.

But if Andrew was in the packhouse, why did the howling sound so familiar then? Who was out there?

Well, it didn’t really matter. Someone was hurt and I needed to go help them.

“Well, it doesn’t matter!” I exclaimed. “A wolf is hurt! We need to go help him!”

Logan squeezed my shoulders tighter, keeping me in place.

“Patrol will take care of it,” he said coldly. “You and I need to talk.”

My eyes widened. Was he serious?! That was his pack member out there!

“Are you kidding me?!” I screamed at him. “That is someone from our pack! Your pack, Logan! They need help! We can’t just leave them!”

What the hell was going on with Logan and my brother today? This wasn’t them. Logan would never turn his back on anyone who needed help, especially not his pack members.

“I handled it, Emma,” he said, tightening his jaw. “A patrol member is looking into it.”

I scoffed and shook my head.

“I want to go help,” I said as I tried to get away from him.

He only grabbed me tighter. I started thrashing in his arms.

“Let go!” I yelled at him, but it only made him hold me even tighter.

“Stop it, Emma!” he exclaimed. “Someone is taking care of it. You can’t leave.”

I stopped thrashing and narrowed my eyes at him. I was angry and confused. This wasn’t Logan. This was someone else. Logan I knew would never do this.

What the hell was going on? Was I dreaming?

“You and I need to talk,” Logan said sternly. “I need to reject you and you need to accept it.”

I felt my body tense up. My heart started racing impossibly fast. He was really going to do it, wasn’t he?

“Why, Logan?” I asked, my voice breaking. “Why?”

He sighed and loosened his hold on me. He kept holding me, though. He probably thought that I would try to run again. He wasn’t wrong, though. I really, really wanted to run.

“You are not made to be a Luna, Emma,” he said. “You are not strong enough. You are too young. You are not a mate I would choose for myself.”

Every word that came out of his mouth felt like I was being sliced in half. Nothing ever hurt as much as hearing him

say those words did.

“I am sorry, Emma, but that is the truth,” he said. “You won’t be my mate. You won’t be my Luna.”

I couldn’t even look at him anymore. I bent my head and tried to stop my heart from breaking and shattering into a million pieces.

Logan kept talking, but I stopped listening. I didn’t want to listen to him anymore.

I was trying to remember how to breathe when my eyes fell on a picture I had never seen before. It was lying under my feet and it must have fallen out of the album.

It was a picture of Logan, me, and two little children. We were older in the picture. We were happy in the picture. The kids looked so much like us. We looked like a family.

I shut my eyes tightly. I must have imagined it. My mind had just been playing games with me, hadn’t it?

I opened my eyes slowly, expecting to see nothing but dirty, old floorboards. My breath got caught in my throat when I saw that the picture was still there.

It meant something! I had to mean something!

“Logan...,” I called him quietly, but he interrupted me.

“I, Logan Carter, Alpha of the Crescent Moon Pack, reject you, Emma Parker of the Crescent Moon Pack,” he said and my whole world came crashing down.

I looked up at him in horror. Pain exploded in my body and I fell to my knees.

I couldn’t help but scream in pain.

My vision got blurry and my lungs were burning with the lack of air. I couldn’t feel my body and I wasn’t even sure if my heart was beating anymore.

“No...,” I mumbled quietly as my head hit the floor.

CHAPTER FIFTY Losing

Logan's POV

Pain hit me so suddenly that I completely lost my balance.

I gasped as I fell to my knees.

“Logan!”

“Dad!”

I heard screams around me and I felt hands trying to lift me back up.

I couldn't focus on anything or anyone. I didn't feel my legs. I didn't feel my entire body.

All I felt was pain. Immense, indescribable pain. I felt like my soul was being ripped out of my body. I felt like my insides were burning. My heart didn't feel like it was breaking, it felt like it exploded into a million tiny pieces.

“Dad!”

“Lift him up!”

“Check on her!”

My ears were buzzing. My vision was blurry.

“Oh, Goddess, Emma!”

Emma?

I tried to look at her, but I was completely disoriented. I didn't know where she was. Was she in front of me? Was she to my left? I tried to figure out where I was standing when the pain struck, but I couldn't focus enough to do that.

Where was my mate? What happened to her? Was she okay?

I groaned loudly as a wave of nausea washed over me. My head was spinning and I couldn't do anything to stop it.

“Dad!” I heard a woman scream.

It was my princess. It had to be my princess. I wanted to look at her, but I couldn't find her. Everything was blurry and the beads of sweat that were continuously falling from my forehead and into my eyes weren't helping at all.

I felt Sophia's hands on my face.

"Dad!" she cried out. "Dad, please!"

She leaned over me and I could see something that resembled my daughter's beautiful face. It was blurry, but I could see it.

I could tell that my princess was sobbing. I wanted to comfort her, but I couldn't find my voice. I couldn't speak. I was in too much pain.

But my child was scared. My child was crying. My child needed me.

So I forced my arm to move. I focused all my attention on that place on my body where my arm should have been and I forced myself to move it. I lifted it slowly and tried to hold my daughter.

Someone helped me. Someone took my hand in theirs and placed it against my daughter's cheek. I felt her hand grab mine.

"Oh, Dad," she cried out. "Stay with me, please. I need you. Lex needs you. Mom needs you."

Emma needed me?

I shut my eyes tightly, hoping that my vision would clear up when I opened them. I needed to see Emma. I needed to find her.

"Maybe we should help him up and lay him next to her," someone said. "That could help them both."

Oh, yes. I needed someone to take me to my mate. I needed to make sure that she was okay. I groaned and forced myself to nod, hoping that someone would see me do that. I needed them to see. I needed them to help me.

I felt someone grab me and pull me up. I sighed in relief and wanted to thank them, but I still couldn't speak.

"It's okay, Dad," I heard my son's voice. "I will take you to her."

I forced my legs to move. I could see something that resembled a bed in front of me and I wanted to sob. I was close. I was close to her.

"Come on, Dad, sit," my son said and I felt him pulling me down. "She is here."

I felt some sort of fabric being placed on my forehead and the sweat was gone. I wanted to thank them for doing that, but I couldn't. I still couldn't.

I started feeling around until my hand found what I was looking for. I sobbed in relief and wrapped my arms around her. My boy fell limply next to hers.

Feeling her against me eased the pain a little. I pressed my cheek against hers and tried to take a deep breath. Her scent entered my lungs and I could think clearly for a second.

Was this it? Was she dying? Was she losing?

No! Fuck no!

Being next to her made it easier to find my voice.

"Emma," I managed to mumble. "Fight, baby, fight."

"Dad," I heard my daughter's broken voice.

I was now able to focus a bit better. I turned my head to my left and saw my daughter next to me. She was crying and she looked like she was about to pass out.

"It's okay, princess," I mumbled as I wrapped my arm around her, pulling her to me. "Your mom will be okay. She is fighting so hard."

I felt Alex wrap his arms around Sophia and me.

"Hi, bud," I mumbled, trying to look at him.

"I am so scared," Sophia cried out. "You and Mom can't leave us. You can't."

I tightened my arm around her and pulled her closer so I could kiss her temple.

“We won’t leave you, princess,” I said, trying to sound convincing. “I promise. Your mom is fighting and she will come back to us.”

I saw Alex leaning his head on hers. He looked completely distraught. He looked like he was about to scream and cry. He looked like he was in pain.

My heart broke and I wished that there was something I could do to make this easier on my kids.

“I love you,” I told them. “Your mom loves you so much. She is fighting for you. She is fighting to get back to you. I am sure of it. She will come back to us.”

Alex tightened his jaw and gave me a small nod. Sophie sobbed and leaned more into me. I kissed the top of her head and looked at my mate.

It was the first time I was able to see her beautiful face clearly.

“Come on, baby,” I said. “We are waiting. You can do it.”

I had to keep repeating that. I had to keep convincing myself that she would come back to me.

If she died, I would die too and we couldn’t do that to our kids. I couldn’t leave them. She had to fight. She had to win.

CHAPTER FIFTY-ONE I Would Rather Die

Emma's POV

“That’s a bit of an overreaction, Emma,” I heard Logan sigh.

I was lying on the ground, trying to find a way to breathe. The only thing that kept me going was the picture I was holding in my hand. I kept staring at it, and forcing my brain to focus on that and not the pain in my body.

I looked so happy in that picture. Logan looked so happy. The kids were so beautiful and just looking at that picture made my heart skip a beat. Well, it probably did. I didn’t know. I couldn’t feel my body.

The kids were young. I couldn’t tell for sure, but they were probably five or six years old. Both Logan and I looked a bit older.

How did that picture get here? How was it even possible? How was I looking at the picture that was clearly taken in the future?

“Stand up, come on,” Logan sighed and I could hear the annoyance in his voice. “You need to accept it so we can end this.”

Accept it? How could I accept it if we were supposed to end up together? What would happen to those kids if I accepted it? Would they be born?

The pain in my body increased. I never met those kids, but I loved them. I loved them with every fiber of my body. I wanted them to be born. I needed them to be born.

I looked up at Logan and swallowed the lump in my throat. He looked cold. He looked heartless.

What happened to him?

I placed the photo against my chest and pushed myself to stand up slowly. My entire body was screaming in pain, but I had to do it. I had to do it for those kids in the photo.

“Come on, Emma,” Logan sighed, rolling his eyes. “Why are you dragging this along? I clearly don’t want you. I clearly want to end this. Why won’t you just accept it?”

I leaned against the closet because it was too hard for me to stand without help. Every part of my body hurt and my legs felt like they would give out any second now.

I shook my head and closed my eyes, trying to figure out how to respond to him.

“I don’t want to do it because I know it’s not the right thing to do,” I said as I opened my eyes and looked at him.

The picture I was pressing against my chest was proof of it. It was proof that we should be together. It was proof that he was making a huge mistake by rejecting me.

Logan shook his head and chuckled darkly.

“Oh, come on, Emma,” he said as he took a step closer to me. “How hard do I need to hurt you? How many insults can you take before you give up?”

I pressed the photo against my chest and tried to take a deep breath. That photo was the only thing that kept me going and I wasn’t even sure if it was real.

I wasn’t sure if anything was real. My brother and Logan were acting differently. My house was different.

Was I dreaming?

“Do you need me to tell you why Sienna is better?” Logan continued, smirking at me. “Do you need me to tell you that she is a great fuck and that I would never want to touch you like that?”

My stomach twisted and I felt like I was going to throw up. I knew that he slept with her, but I didn’t need to know how good she was.

“Do you need me to tell you that you are nothing compared to her?” he added as his smirk grew. “Do you need me to tell you that I love her and hate you?”

His words felt like someone was stabbing me with a knife. I looked at my chest because I was sure I would see a knife sticking out. His words caused more pain than I could even imagine.

“Do you need me to tell you that...” he continued, but I interrupted him this time.

“Stop it!” I screamed as I got down on my knees. “Just stop it!”

Logan laughed.

He laughed?!

I looked up at him and saw his eyes change color. His green eyes became completely black and he looked terrifying.

My entire body froze.

He laughed and a shiver ran down my spine. I could feel cold sweat on the back of my neck.

Who was he?

What was he?

“Does it hurt, Emma?” he asked as he crouched next to me. “Does it feel like dying?”

I wanted to sob, but my breath was stuck in my throat. All I felt was warm tears sliding down my cheek.

His eyes were completely black. He looked like a demon. He looked like my worst nightmare.

“I want you to die, Emma,” he said. “I want you to die so I can take over your body. I want you to die so I can destroy everything you built.”

A small scream escaped me as I felt an intense burning sensation in my lungs.

Logan laughed.

“I don’t want this,” I cried out, barely managing to speak.

“Oh, are you finally ready to reject me?” Logan said as he tucked a strand of hair behind my ear. “Are you finally ready to die?”

I was. I was ready to die. I didn't want him if it brought so much pain. I would rather die and be with my parents than hear him say anything else.

“Yes,” I cried out. “I would rather die than stay here with you.”

Logan smiled and caressed my cheek. I flinched and tried to pull away from him. His fingers were ice cold.

“Come on, Emma,” he said tauntingly. “Say the words. Break our bond. End the pain and the suffering.”

I gently moved the picture away from my chest so I could look at it.

“I am sorry,” I mumbled. “I love you so much. I don't even know you but I love you with my entire heart and soul. I am not rejecting you. I am rejecting him. I have to reject him.”

I was sure that the Logan in the picture and the Logan who was next to me weren't the same. The Logan who was next to me was someone else.

“What are you doing?” Logan mumbled, trying to look at the picture in my hands.

I wouldn't let him. It was mine. The family in that picture was mine. They didn't belong to him. They would never belong to him. They were mine.

I tightened my jaw and looked at him. I felt anger boiling in my blood. I wanted to break the bond. I wanted him gone. I wanted to prove to him that I wasn't weak.

So I forced myself to stand up.

He remained crouching, staring at me wide-eyed like he didn't expect me to stand up. He was staring at me like he didn't think I would be able to do it.

So I did it and smirked. I wasn't going to let him win. If I was about to die, I was about to die fighting. I was going to

show him how strong I really was.

“I, Emma Parker of the Crescent Moon Pack, accept your rejection.”

CHAPTER FIFTY-TWO Are They Gone?

Sophia's POV

Watching my dad suffer was the hardest thing I ever had to do. He spent hours groaning in pain and holding onto my mom like he thought she would disappear. He was crying and begging her to come back to him.

I never saw my dad so helpless and it was breaking my heart.

I kept wiping his forehead and trying to comfort him as best as I could. He was mostly aware of his surroundings, but there were a few times when I wondered if he knew where he was or what was going on around him.

Hunter was my rock through it all. He held me and comforted me the best he could. He was the only one besides Lex who didn't leave the room once.

My uncle was a mess. My aunt had to take him outside to calm down a little because he looked like he was going to have a heart attack. Mason kept coming and going, but each time he entered the room he looked even more freaked out than before. Jake and Rose had to leave because Jake looked like he was going to pass out. Anna left the room as soon as my dad collapsed and she hadn't been back since.

Lex, Hunter, and I were the only ones who refused to leave. Lex and I refused to leave our parents and Hunter refused to leave me.

I was sitting on the bed, holding my dad's hand tightly. Lex was pacing around the room, mumbling curses under his breath. Hunter was leaning against the wall, staring at my parents with a worried look on his face.

The bedroom door opened and Anna walked inside.

I was a bit surprised to see her. She was gone for hours.

“How are they?” Anna asked as she approached the bed.

I looked at my parents and gulped.

“I think it’s getting worse,” I mumbled.

Anna sighed and crossed her arms over her chest.

“We need to take Emma back to the room,” Anna said and snapped my head toward her.

Lex growled loudly.

“Why?” I asked as my eyes widened. “She can’t do anything, Anna. Look at her.”

“Forget it,” Lex said angrily. “I am not locking her up again.”

Anna sighed and glanced at Lex.

“We don’t know if the darkness is winning,” Anna said. “She can’t hurt anyone right now, but if the darkness takes over she will be extremely dangerous.”

“I don’t give a shit,” Lex said angrily. “She is not going back there.”

I squeezed my dad’s hand tighter. He rubbed the top of my hand with his thumb gently.

“I agree,” I said. “We can’t move her. We can’t move them. She won’t do anything. I won’t let her.”

I was ready to use my magic if I had to. I would find a way to stop her if the darkness really took over her.

“You wouldn’t be able to stop her, Sophia,” Anna sighed. “She would be too strong.”

I tightened my jaw and narrowed my eyes at Anna.

“The room wouldn’t be able to stop her then either,” I said. “She isn’t going back.”

“The room was designed to stop her,” Anna argued, but I shook my head immediately.

“No,” I said. “The room was designed to stop me from using dark magic. I was meant to be stopped by my mom’s

magic. Not the other way around. My mom was always more powerful. The room wouldn't be able to stop her."

"She changed it, Sophia," Anna argued. "She changed it before she went in and got you out. It is strong enough to hold her. It is..."

Anna was interrupted when my dad groaned loudly.

"Dad!" Lex shouted as he rushed to us.

My dad's groan turned into a scream of pain. His eyes shot open and he placed a hand on his chest, gasping for breath.

"Dad!" I screamed as I tried to grab him.

Hunter pulled me back, but I screamed and trashed.

"No!" I yelled. "Let me go! I have to help him!"

Hunter only tightened his arms around me and pulled me even further away. My eyes fell on Lex who was backing away from the bed slowly.

What the hell was he doing? Dad needed someone to help him!

I was just about to scream at him to help Dad when Hunter's words interrupted me.

"Sophia, look," Hunter said quietly as he pointed at my mom.

My breath got caught in my throat. I could feel my blood rushing through my veins and I could feel something pulsating in my temple.

A black liquid was pooling out of my mom's eyes. It looked like she was bleeding, but the blood wasn't red. It was black. It stained the sheets and soaked my parents' clothes. My dad was still groaning in pain, but his eyes were shut tightly and it didn't look like he was aware of what was going on,

"Oh, fuck," Hunter mumbled, pulling me even further away.

Lex looked at me and I saw pure terror in his eyes. I reached out for him and he immediately ran to me. He pulled me into his arms and hugged me tightly.

“What the hell is going on?!” Lex shouted. “What the fuck is happening?! Are they gone?!”

No. Please, please no.

“I don’t know,” Anna mumbled.

She was staring at my mom in complete shock.

I heard footsteps running toward the room and a moment later my uncle barged into the room. He gasped loudly when he saw my mom and dad.

“Emma!” he shouted as he ran toward her.

“Andrew don’t!” Anna screamed and tried to stop him.

It was useless, though. My uncle grabbed my mom, pulling her away from my dad.

“Emma!” he screamed as he cupped her cheeks.

My dad groaned louder, trying to pull my mom back to him. I could see him squeeze her upper arm tightly. I could see him trying to pull her back.

“Uncle Andrew let my dad...,” Lex spoke, but he was interrupted when my mom opened her eyes abruptly.

They were completely black.

None of us had time to react. My mom screamed loudly and a powerful blast knocked us all unconscious.

CHAPTER FIFTY-THREE Until She Wakes Up

Alexander's POV

I groaned when I felt something cold being pressed against my forehead.

“Come on, Lex,” I heard Fia's soft voice. “Open your eyes.”

Why the hell was she waking me up? And why the hell was she pressing that cold thing on my forehead? What the hell...

And then I remembered.

I opened my eyes and sat up abruptly.

I looked around the room, trying to find my mom and dad, but I wasn't at home anymore. I was at the hospital.

What the fuck happened?!

My eyes fell on Fia and I saw a big cut on the side of her head, near her hairline. My eyes widened and I grabbed her to get a better look at it.

“What the fuck?!” I exclaimed and moved her hair so I could see the wound.

“It's okay, Lex,” she said as she tried to get me to lay back down. “It's not bad. It's a small cut. It will go away.”

I growled. It wasn't a small cut. It was big and it was still bleeding a little.

“Fia...,” I spoke, but she interrupted me.

“I am fine,” she said. “You need to lay down. You got the worst of it.”

My mind went back to what happened in the room and I started panicking.

“Where are mom and dad?!” I shouted and tried to get up.
“Are they dead?!”

Fia pushed me back to stop me from getting up. I was staring at her wide-eyed and I was panicking. My heart was racing a mile a minute and I could swear that my insides twisted up in a knot. Where were they?! What happened?!

“They are alive, Lex,” Fia said softly. “I will tell you everything, but you need to lie down.”

A small sob escaped me. Fia caressed my cheek and gently pushed me back down.

They were alive? My mom won? Was this over? Was it all finally fucking over?

“Mom and Dad are alive,” Fia said as she pulled the blanket over me. “They are both still unconscious.”

I swallowed the lump in my throat and tried to take a deep breath.

“Is the darkness...,” I mumbled, but I couldn’t finish the question.

I was terrified of the answer.

Fia tightened her jaw and shook her head.

“We don’t know,” she said. “We won’t know until she wakes up.”

I tightened my jaw and clenched my fists. I felt anger rising up. What the fuck was all that then? Why was there a fucking black liquid pouring out of her body if that fucking thing inside her wasn’t gone?!

“But Anna says that she thinks it’s gone,” Fia added and my heart stopped. “She isn’t sure, but she says that she can’t feel it anymore.”

My heart started beating painfully again.

“What do you think?” I asked. “What do you feel?”

“I don’t know,” Fia said, shaking her head. “I haven’t seen her yet. Hunter wouldn’t let me leave the bed. I am not

even supposed to be sitting here. He will..."

Fia was interrupted when the door opened and Hunter walked inside.

"What did I tell you about leaving the bed, Sophia?" Hunter said angrily as he closed the door.

"Freak out," Fia finished what she wanted to say before Hunter interrupted her.

She turned around and gave him a small smile.

"I am okay, Hunter," she said. "It's already healing."

I took a moment to look around the room. I was too panicked and too confused to do that before. There was a bed next to mine and I could tell that someone was lying on it. Did Fia really get up to take care of me? Oh, she was in for an earful.

"Why do you have to be so stubborn, Sophia?" Hunter said angrily. "Alex is okay. The cut on his head isn't as bad as yours."

"No, but his arms are injured," Fia said, pointing at my arms. "He is more injured than I am. I needed to make sure that he was okay."

I looked at my body for the first time since I woke up. I had some minor cuts and bruises, but it was nothing bad. I felt around my forehead until my fingers found the cut. Hunter was right. I could tell that it was smaller than Fia's just by touching it.

I growled, making Fia look at me.

"Get back to bed, Sophia," I said angrily.

She rolled her eyes and I growled again.

"Now, Sophia," I said sternly.

She sighed, stood up, and walked over to her bed. Hunter approached her and covered her up with a blanket. Sophia sighed again.

"You are overreacting," she said. "It's a cut. I am fine."

“Stop it,” Hunter said. “I am not arguing with you over this. You will be in bed until it heals.”

“Hunter...,” Fia started speaking, but I interrupted her.

“Enough, Sophia,” I said. “Hunter is right. You will be in bed until that cut is healed. Stop being so stubborn all the time.”

She rolled her eyes at me again. I tightened my jaw and raised an eyebrow at her. She huffed and mumbled something under her breath. I just shook my head at her. She could be so fucking stubborn sometimes.

Hunter sat on the chair next to her and took a deep breath.

“Did you talk to your dad?” Fia asked him.

“I did,” Hunter said as he took Fia’s hand in his. “He is freaked out. He barely managed to talk him out of coming here.”

Hunter took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“He really loves your mom,” he said as he looked down at his lap. “He never talked badly of her. After he told me the truth about what happened, he always reminded me that I had her to thank for having a dad. He always said that she saved his life. He will always be grateful to her because of it.”

I looked at Fia and saw a small smile on her face.

“She is amazing,” Fia said quietly.

Hunter looked at Fia and smiled.

“She is,” he said softly. “I am so grateful to her. Not just because she saved my dad, but because she made you.”

Fia chuckled and caressed his cheek. Hunter looked at me and I smiled at him.

The door opened and Anna walked inside. She had a small smile on her face and my heart raced a little.

“Your dad woke up.”

CHAPTER FIFTY-FOUR My Family

Emma's POV

I heard quiet voices around me. I couldn't recognize who was speaking, but the voices were comforting. They made me feel safe.

I wondered what happened after I rejected Logan. I couldn't remember anything after I said those words. Did I faint? What happened to Logan? Did my brother find me?

I could tell that I was lying, but I was sure that I wasn't lying in my bed. The sheets felt different. Mine were soft and they had a comforting smell. These sheets smelt funny.

Where was I?

I suddenly remembered the picture and my heart raced. I couldn't feel it in my hand. Where was it? What happened to it? Was it gone?

I wanted to sob. I didn't want to lose that picture. I loved that picture. I needed it.

"Are you sure?" a familiar male voice distracted me.

It sounded like Andrew.

"Yes," someone said. "I am telling you. I can't feel it anymore."

Someone sobbed and lifted my hand. My body started tingling. It was such a pleasurable feeling. Who was that?

"Oh, thank you, Goddess," a voice that made my heart skip a beat said.

I felt lips being pressed on my knuckles and I almost moaned in pleasure. Those lips felt wonderful against my skin.

"She doesn't look like she is 18 anymore either," someone said. "That has to be another good sign, right?"

I felt fingers caress my cheek.

“I suppose so,” Andrew mumbled quietly. “I am just too fucking scared. I won’t calm down until she wakes up and I see it for myself.”

Andrew was scared? Why? I really needed to wake up and tell him that I was okay. I was just a little bit confused. Who were those people around me?

And most importantly, where was my picture?

Maybe it was on the bed next to me. Maybe Andrew saw me holding onto it tightly and maybe he put it next to me because he realized how much it meant to me.

I moved my hand a little, trying to feel around the bed.

I heard a loud gasp.

“She moved her hand!” someone screamed.

I felt someone cup my cheeks and turn my head abruptly. Tingles spread all over my body again.

“Emma!” that person shouted. “Wake up, baby, come on!”

I furrowed my eyebrows a little. Why was he yelling so loud?

“Oh, Goddess,” he cried out and I felt his lips on my forehead. “Come on, Emma. Come back.”

“Maybe we should all take a step back,” I heard a woman say. “She could be dangerous. We still don’t know if this is Emma or someone else.”

I got confused. What was she talking about? Who even was that?

I was Emma. Of course I was Emma. Who else would I be?

Goddess I really needed to wake up and figure out what the hell was going on.

I forced my eyes to open a little. Someone sobbed loudly.

“Hi, baby,” the man who was cupping my cheeks said.
“Hi, my love.”

I opened my eyes a bit more and I saw...

Logan?

He sobbed loudly and leaned in to press his lips against mine.

“Oh, Goddess,” he cried out. “It’s you. It’s finally you.”

“Are you sure?” someone asked him.

Logan looked to his left and nodded.

“It’s her,” he said. “It’s Emma.”

I was so confused. Who else would I be? Why did Logan look so much older? What the hell was going on?

“Mom!” someone cried out and I felt two sets of arms wrap around me.

I turned my head slowly and saw...

My heart stopped beating and it all came rushing back to me. Memories hit me like a train and I gasped in shock.

My hands instinctively wrapped around my children. My heart was beating a mile a minute. They were real. The picture was real.

I looked at Logan and sobbed.

“Oh, my baby,” he cried out as he wrapped his arms around me and our kids. “You are okay. You are back.”

Alex and Sophie were both sobbing quietly and holding onto me like they were afraid I would disappear. I ran my fingers through Alex’s hair and kissed the top of Sophie’s head.

They were real. Everything that happened at that house was nothing but a terrible nightmare. Everything that happened there was created by darkness.

I looked at Logan and gave him a small smile. He pressed his lips against mine and tightened his arms around us.

“I thought that I lost you,” he mumbled, his voice breaking.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and caressed his cheek. It was amazing to see the real Logan. It was amazing to know that he loved me.

“I love you,” I told him quietly.

He sobbed and buried his face into my neck. I tangled my fingers into his hair and kissed the top of his head.

I turned to look at my beautiful children. Both of them were still holding onto me tightly and I couldn't see their faces. I kissed Alex's temple and he raised his head to look at me. I smiled and wiped the tears from his face.

“I missed you, Mom,” he mumbled quietly. “I missed you so much.”

“Oh, honey,” I said as I felt a tear fall on my cheek. “I missed you too.”

Sophie looked up at me and sobbed loudly. I pulled her as close to me as I possibly could. She buried her face into my chest and I kissed the top of her head.

“It's okay, honey,” I said. “I love you.”

I looked up and saw my brother. He was standing next to the bed and crying. He kept wiping his cheeks and staring at the ground.

My heart raced and a huge wave of relief washed over me. This was my brother, not that man the darkness created.

“Andrew,” I cried out reaching for him.

He looked up at me and placed a hand over his mouth to muffle out his sobs.

Logan let go of me and took a step back so Andrew could come closer. He wrapped his arms around me and I sighed in relief.

“Oh, Em,” Andrew mumbled. “I was so afraid. I thought that I lost you.”

I leaned my head against his chest and took a deep breath. Andrew kissed the top of my head and a small smile spread across my face.

I was finally back with my family. Everything that happened at that house was nothing but a lie. My mate loved me and we created a beautiful family together.

The picture I found in the attic was real.

CHAPTER FIFTY-FIVE I Can't Feel It

Logan's POV

I couldn't stop touching her.

I couldn't stop kissing her and breathing in her scent. I wanted to glue myself to her forever. I couldn't believe that she was back. I spent days in complete agony. I started to lose hope at one point. The fear clouded my judgment and I was sure that I would lose her.

But I didn't. She was here. She was in my arms and she was okay.

I placed another kiss on her temple and she got more comfortable in my arms.

"Where were you, Em?" Andrew asked her as he took her hand in his. "What was going on while you were asleep?"

I didn't want to talk about it now. I wanted to be alone with her, kiss her, and tell her how fucking much I missed her. Andrew insisted that we talk about it immediately. He wanted to know what happened. We made everyone else leave, though. I didn't want my kids to hear what happened and Anna was too emotional to stay. So it was now just Andrew, Emma, and me.

Emma took a deep breath and released it slowly. She bit her lower lip and furrowed her eyebrows.

"I'm not sure where to begin," she said. "I am not even sure what that was."

I ran my fingers through her hair and she looked at me.

"We know that Sienna was there," I said quietly.

Emma nodded. "She was, but that was different."

Emma furrowed her eyebrows and I could tell that she was struggling to find the words to explain what happened.

“Before I woke up I was back at our house,” Emma said as she looked at Andrew. “I relived the night Logan rejected me, but the end was completely different.”

I swallowed the lump in my throat. I hated remembering that night. I would lose my shit if I had to relive it. It hurt just to remember the mistake I made.

“Different how?” Andrew asked.

“I left that night,” Emma said. “Do you remember that? I heard you and Logan talking in the kitchen and I left through my bedroom window.”

Oh, I remembered it. Andrew was panicking because he thought that something happened to her. I rejected her when we found her. I remembered every second of that night. How wouldn't I? It was the night I made the biggest mistake of my life.

“I remember that,” Andrew said, nodding his head.

“Everything was the same until that point,” Emma said. “I tried to leave through the window again, but it was locked.”

I glanced at Andrew and saw anger flash in his eyes. She was trapped in that house.

“What happened then?” Andrew asked, clenching his fists.

“Logan tried to reject me, but I didn't let him,” Emma said and looked at me. “Something told me not to let him do it.”

I took a deep breath and kissed her temple again.

“Both of you were very different,” Emma continued. “Both of you were cold and...”

She stopped talking and shook her head.

“Everything was different,” she added. “Every picture in the house was gone. Everything was just different.”

She looked down at her lap and gulped. I wrapped my arms around her and pressed her against my chest.

“I don’t understand why you two were there,” Emma said after a few moments of silence. “I understand why Sienna was there. I expected to see Rolf and Samuel, maybe even Nathan, but not you two.”

I looked at Andrew and gulped.

“The book I read described darkness as something that hurt us in the past,” Emma continued. “Sienna hurt me more than you two ever did. I mean, Rolf and Samuel tortured me. They hurt me more. Why weren’t they there?”

Emma looked at us and I saw confusion on her face. I had to try to explain. I had to make it easier on her.

“I hurt you a lot when I rejected you,” I said, trying to hide the pain in my voice. “Andrew hurt you a lot when he supported me. Andrew and Logan you faced while you were asleep were the versions of us that hurt you the most.”

Emma furrowed her eyebrows a little.

“The darkness was always the pain I was carrying in my heart,” she said after a few moments of silence. “It was feeding on it. The curse latched onto it and it kept growing.”

Andrew and I looked at each other. I saw guilt on his face and I knew that he saw it on mine too.

“It was never about the people I didn’t care about,” she added quietly. “It was about people I did and do care about.”

Andrew ran his fingers through Emma’s hair. He gulped and took a deep breath.

“Those wounds hurt the most,” Andrew said quietly. “You had to face the three of us because we hurt you the most. You trusted us and loved us and we hurt you.”

Emma looked up at him and a tear fell on her cheek. I wiped it away gently.

“I looked up to Sienna when I was a little girl,” Emma said quietly. “I loved her before she changed. She wasn’t always mean to me. At least she didn’t show it.”

Andrew nodded. “I know.”

I kissed her temple and closed my eyes. I hated myself for hurting her.

“What happened at the end?” Andrew asked her. “How did you manage to wake up?”

Emma sighed and shook her head.

“I am not sure,” she said. “I was talking to Logan and I realized that I didn’t want to be bonded to him. He wasn’t someone I wanted.”

Emma looked at me and caressed my cheek.

“He wasn’t you,” she said quietly.

I felt the lump in my throat grow. I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes.

“So I accepted his rejection,” Emma continued, looking back at Andrew. “I don’t know how I ended up here, though. He wanted me to accept it because he was sure it would kill me.”

A quiet growl escaped me.

“I guess that he was wrong,” Emma said, shrugging. “Rejecting him didn’t kill me. It broke the connection I had with the darkness.”

Andrew nodded and squeezed her hand tighter.

“So you can’t feel it anymore?” he asked her.

She smiled and shook her head.

“I can’t feel it anymore,” she said quietly.

I couldn’t stop the tears that fell down my cheeks. It was over.

She won.

CHAPTER FIFTY-SIX My Luna

One month later

Sophia's POV

"I am so proud of you," Lex said as he pulled me into a hug. "You are going to be an amazing Luna."

I hugged him back and leaned my head on his chest. I would miss him terribly. Well, I already did. I moved to Hunter's pack about two weeks ago. I missed everyone, but I missed Lex the most.

"Thank you," I said quietly. "I miss you so much. Can you move here, please?"

Lex chuckled and kissed the top of my head.

"Oh, I would trust me," he said as he rubbed my back. "I miss you too."

I looked up at him and smiled. I didn't have any idea how hard it was going to be without him. I was used to being with him all the time. I never did anything without him. He was always around and I was having trouble accepting that it wouldn't be like that anymore.

I felt tears gathering in my eyes. I just missed my twin so much.

"Don't start crying," Lex said softly. "You will ruin your makeup."

I rolled my eyes and Lex chuckled.

"I just miss you a lot," I mumbled as I raised my hand to wipe the area under my eyes. "I didn't realize it would be this hard to be apart."

Lex sighed and kissed my forehead.

"I know," he said. "It sucks. But I promise that we will see each other more. I was just too busy last week."

He took over the pack about a week ago and he was busy catching up with everything. Our dad prepared him well, but it was still a big task.

“I know,” I mumbled. “I am sorry for being so emotional.”

“Goddess, Fia, don’t apologize for that,” Lex said as he pulled me back into a hug. “We’ve never been separated before. It is hard.”

He was right. It was hard. It was harder than I expected it to be.

The door opened and my mate’s scent made me relax instantly.

“What’s wrong?” Hunter asked worriedly.

I heard him close the door and approach us.

“We just missed each other,” Lex said, tightening his arms around me.

Hunter sighed and placed a hand on my back. He rubbed my back gently and I relaxed even more.

“We can go see Alex anytime you want,” Hunter said softly. “He can come here anytime he wants. I told you that, Angel.”

I knew that, but I also knew that life and obligations would come between us. I knew that Lex and I wouldn’t be able to see each other often. It was hard to accept that. It was hard to say goodbye to him and not know when I would see him again.

“Hunter is right, Fia,” Lex said. “We will see each other all the time. I promise.”

I looked up at him and smiled. I knew that we would at least try to see each other often.

“Come on, Angel,” Hunter said. “The ceremony is starting soon.”

Lex grinned and let me go. A wave of nervousness washed over me.

I looked down at my dress and gulped.

“Are you sure that I look okay?” I asked, trying to smooth out a wrinkle.

“You are beautiful, Angel,” Hunter said softly as he wrapped an arm around my waist.

You are more than beautiful. He added through the mind-link. You are breathtaking. I can’t wait to get you out of this dress later.

I looked up at him and he smirked.

“You look amazing,” Lex said. “I already know that mom is going to cry.”

“Oh, she already is,” Hunter said, laughing. “She and Daisy started crying when they saw the decorations.”

Lex snorted and shook his head.

“I am going to go find my seat,” he said as he kissed my forehead. “See you out there.”

I watched him leave the room and my heart clenched. I wished I had more time with him. He had to go back to our pack right after the ceremony and I didn’t know when I would see him again.

“We will go there over the weekend,” Hunter said, making me look at him.

I furrowed my eyebrows. Go where?

“Alex and I talked when he came here,” Hunter said as he wrapped his arms around me. “He knew that he wouldn’t be able to stay long, but he misses you and he asked if we would be able to go to his pack over the weekend.”

My eyes widened and I smiled brightly.

“Really?” I asked excitedly.

“Yes,” Hunter said and caressed my cheek. “I know how much you miss him.”

I pulled him in for a kiss and he grunted. He ran his hand down my back and slapped my butt lightly.

“No,” he said sternly. “No kissing. I am barely holding back from ripping that dress to shreds and fucking you. Kissing is just making it harder for me.”

I chuckled and placed a soft kiss on his jaw. He growled and narrowed his eyes at me.

“You will get to rip this dress off me later,” I said quietly.

Hunter groaned and took a step back from me.

“You are killing me,” he complained. “We really need to go before I cancel the ceremony to fuck you.”

I laughed and shook my head at him.

Hunter took a deep breath and pulled me back to him. He kissed the tip of my nose and caressed my cheek.

“I can’t believe that this is finally happening,” he said. “I can’t believe that you will finally become my Luna.”

I smiled and ran my fingers through his hair.

“I was always your Luna,” I said. “Even before we met. I was made for you.”

Hunter leaned in and placed a soft kiss on my lips.

“And I was made for you,” he said. “Every part of my body and soul was made for you. It was always yours and it will always be yours.”

My heart skipped a beat and I wanted to stay here so he could rip my dress off. I wrapped my arms around his neck and kissed him again. He grunted and pressed me closer to him.

“Fuck, Angel, we really need to go,” he mumbled against my lips. “You can’t miss your Luna ceremony.”

I smiled and gave him a small nod. As much as I wanted to stay here with him and make love to him, we had to go. But we would be alone later. We would make love later. We had all the time in the world to do that.

“I love you,” I told him, feeling my heart race.

I loved him with every fiber of my body.

“Oh, I love you too, Angel,” he said and pressed his lips against mine.

CHAPTER FIFTY-SEVEN All Together

Seven years later

Alexander's POV

My mate wrapped her arms around me and my whole body tingled. I couldn't believe that I finally found her. I already gave up and thought that it would never happen to me, but I was apparently a lot like my dad. I was 25 when my little trouble turned 18 and I finally got a chance to worship her.

I turned around and smiled at her. She was beautiful and I couldn't believe that she was really mine. Well, maybe I should have known. She always ran to me for help when we were kids.

"Sophie will be here in a few minutes," Hazel said excitedly. "She is late because she had trouble getting Ethan and Riley ready."

I chuckled and shook my head. I loved those kids so much and I couldn't wait to see them.

I leaned in and kissed my mate's soft lips. I loved kissing her so much.

"Stop doing that," she complained. "It makes me want to chase everyone away and just be alone with you."

I laughed and shook my head.

"My mom will have your head if you do that," I said as I let her go. "She's been trying for ages to get us all together."

Hazel groaned and wrapped her arms around my waist. I kissed the top of her head and rubbed her back.

"I know," she said, sighing quietly. "I just miss you so much."

I smiled and leaned my head on top of hers.

“I am always here, trouble,” I said. “I know that I’ve been working a lot lately, but I am always here for you.”

Hunter and I have been talking about expanding and taking over smaller packs between our territories. Some of the packs were left without adequate leadership and some weren’t able to financially sustain themselves. Hunter and I were discussing taking over and expanding our borders.

Hazel looked up at me and smiled.

“I know,” she said. “I am sorry for being so needy lately. I don’t know what’s wrong with me.

I smiled and caressed her. “I like it when you are needy.”

Hazel blushed and I was just about to kiss her again, but we were interrupted when the front door burst open and Ethan ran inside.

“Uncle Alex!” he screamed and I smiled brightly.

He ran to me and I picked him up. He wrapped his tiny arms around my neck and I kissed his temple.

“Hi, buddy,” I said. “I missed you.”

“I missed you too, Uncle Alex,” he said. “I bet Riley that I will get to you first.”

Hazel and I laughed. Ethan was four and Riley was two. I was sure that Ethan made that bet with himself.

“How many times do I have to tell you not to run off like that?” I heard my sister’s voice and I grinned widely.

I hadn’t seen her in two weeks and I missed her like crazy.

Hazel took Ethan from me and I rushed to Fia. I hugged her tightly and kissed her temple.

“I missed you,” I told her.

“I missed you too,” she said, tightening her arms around me. “You spent more time with Hunter than with me in the last two weeks.”

“He spent more time with Hunter in the last two weeks than he did with me,” Hazel said, making Fia snort.

“I feel attacked,” I complained as I let Fia go.

“You are attacked,” Fia said, smirking at me.

I rolled my eyes at her and looked at Hunter who walked in carrying my niece in his arms. She smiled and squealed when she saw me.

“Oh, my little cutie,” I said as I took her from Hunter. “I missed you.”

I kissed her cheek and she wrapped her arms around me.

“Sometimes I think that she loves you more than me,” Hunter said.

“That’s because she does,” I said, smirking at Hunter.

“Grandma!” Ethan screamed and jumped out of Hazel’s arms.

I turned around and saw my mom picking Ethan up. She had a huge smile on her face.

“Oh, I missed you so much, sweetie,” my mom said as she kissed his cheek.

“Where is Grandpa?” Ethan asked, making my mom smile and shake her head.

“I am still jealous that he is your favorite,” she said as she put him back on the ground. “He is in the backyard.”

Ethan grinned and ran outside. My mom approached us and hugged Fia and Hunter.

“Oh, I am so glad we are finally doing this,” my mom said. “It’s been so long since we all got together.”

“And it’s about time for Hunter and Lex to take a little break,” Fia said, narrowing her eyes at us. “They will just split the entire planet between themselves if they continue like this.”

Hunter and I both snorted. Hazel and my mom laughed.

“Taking over a pack is a lot of work,” Hunter said. “It’s mostly paperwork, but there is a lot of it.”

“We are not talking about that today,” my mom said, waving her hands. “Let’s go outside. Everyone is waiting.”

My mom smiled at Riley and took her from me.

“Hi, pumpkin,” she said. “Grandma missed you so much.”

Riley smiled and leaned her head on my mom’s shoulder. My mom kissed her cheek and started walking outside.

“Oh, did Mason get here already?” Fia asked as she started following my mom.

“No,” my mom said. “He and Mia will be here in a few hours.”

Mia was Mason’s mate. He met her when we were on a business trip a few years ago. She was an amazing girl and I was so happy for him. They went on a short trip to her pack to visit her family. She was pregnant and it was the last time she would be able to travel and visit her family until the baby was born.

“What about Mike and Harry?” Fia asked as we stepped out to the backyard.

“Oh, we will never be able to catch those two,” Hunter said, shaking his head. “They will never stop traveling.”

My mom chuckled and nodded.

“Andrew talked to Mike and he said they will be back in two weeks,” my mom said, “But that could change at any time.”

Fia sighed and shook her head.

Hazel wrapped her arm around my waist and I pulled her to me immediately. I kissed the top of her head and smiled at her.

I was so happy that I sometimes thought I was dreaming. I had a perfect family. I had a perfect mate. I couldn’t wait to spend the rest of my life with them.

CHAPTER FIFTY-Eight– What Makes Us Strong

Emma's POV

I finally sat down next to my mate. My feet were hurting from running after Ethan and Riley all day long. I wasn't complaining, though. I loved it. I loved every second I got to spend with those kids.

Logan wrapped his arm around my shoulders and kissed my temple.

"Are you tired?" he asked softly.

I looked at him and nodded

"Tired, but so happy," I said, smiling at him.

"I know," he said. "I am so happy we finally got everyone together."

He leaned in and placed a small kiss on my lips. I sighed contently. His kisses always felt amazing and I would never stop wanting more.

I looked around our backyard and smiled. Everyone was here and my heart felt so full.

Nathan and Janet arrived half an hour ago. They were sitting at the table and talking to Jake, Rosie, and Drake. Halley, Hayden, Hazel, and Danny were sitting on a blanket and laughing about something. Hazel was holding Riley and I couldn't help but smile. I adored her and I was so happy when we found out she was Alex's mate. She was an amazing girl and I knew that she would be an amazing mom one day.

Amy and Daisy were standing next to the table and talking to Mia. Daisy kept rubbing Mia's belly and she had a huge smile on her face. Hunter was chasing Ethan around the backyard, trying to get him to finish his dinner. Ethan was completely focused on the toy car Mason got him and he was completely ignoring Hunter.

I chuckled. That reminded me so much of me chasing Alex around and trying to get him to stop playing and eat.

“That was us not that long ago,” Logan said, laughing quietly as he watched Hunter. “I still can’t believe I am a grandpa. Every time Ethan or Riley say that I think that they are talking to someone else.”

I chuckled and nodded. “I know. I am still getting used to being called grandma.”

Logan looked at me and smiled. “This was all I ever wanted, you know? I wanted to grow old with you and watch our kids and grandkids run around our home.”

I pressed myself closer to him and pulled him in so I could kiss him. He smiled against my lips and cupped my cheeks.

“Goddess, I love you,” he said quietly.

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

He hugged me tightly and I heard him snort a second later. I furrowed my eyebrows and pulled back so I could look at him.

“Our son is 25 years old and an Alpha, but my mom is still lecturing him,” Logan said, shaking his head and laughing.

I looked over my shoulder and saw our kids and Mason sitting with Aunt Gloria. I could tell that she was scolding Alex about something. Sophie and Mason were laughing and Alex kept trying to interrupt his grandma. I laughed and looked back at Logan.

“It’s probably about the wedding,” I said. “I am sure that she has a lot to say.”

Logan snorted and shook his head. “She sure does.”

I heard the back door open and I looked to my left. Andrew walked out of the house and approached us.

“How’s Mike?” Logan asked him.

“Great,” Andrew said as he sat down. “He called to tell me to let everyone know he and Harry are saying hi.”

“Did they already change their plans about coming home?” I asked, chuckling.

Mike and Harry loved to travel. None of us was surprised when it turned out they were mates. It was obvious even before they turned 18.

“Not for now, but you never know,” Andrew said as a small smile spread across his face.

I followed his gaze and saw that he was looking at Mia.

“Goddess, I can’t believe that I am going to be a grandpa,” he said quietly. “I feel kind of young still.”

“What are you complaining about?” I mumbled. “I became a grandma at 43.”

“That’s because you are old and I am not,” Andrew said, smirking at me.

I rolled my eyes and Logan chuckled.

“Will you two ever stop bickering?” Logan asked teasingly.

“Probably not,” Andrew said. “That’s my favorite activity. Especially now when we are retired and I have more time for it.”

I rolled my eyes and shook my head at him. Andrew wrapped his arm around my shoulders and kissed my temple. I smiled and leaned my head on my brother’s shoulder.

“Will Hunter ever manage to make Ethan eat something?” Andrew said, laughing quietly. “He’s been chasing him around even before I went in to talk to Mike.”

“Probably not,” Logan said, shaking his head and smiling.

I chuckled and looked around the backyard again. A warm feeling spread through my chest. I was so happy to be surrounded by so many wonderful people. I was lucky to have them in my life.

“We created a wonderful family,” I said quietly.

I lifted my head from Andrew’s shoulder and Logan pulled me to his chest.

“We did,” Logan said. “We deserve it after everything we’ve been through.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I would do it all again,” I said. “I would go through it all again if it meant I got to have them in my life.”

Logan and Andrew were silent. Logan ran his fingers through my hair and Andrew took my hand in his and squeezed it.

“We love you, Emma,” Andrew said quietly. “All of us love you so much.”

I looked at my brother and smiled.

“I know,” I said. “That is why I am here with you today. I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for your love.”

Andrew squeezed my hand even tighter. He nodded and gave me a small smile.

“Thank you, Emma,” Logan said after a few moments of silence.

I furrowed my eyebrows and looked at him. He was looking at our family and he had a small smile on his face.

“Thank you for being so strong and forgiving us,” Logan continued. “None of us would be here if it weren’t for you. None of us would be here if you hadn’t forgiven me for the biggest mistake of my life.”

He looked at me and caressed my cheek.

“I love you so much,” he said. “Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for accepting me. Thank you for giving me such a wonderful life.”

Logan leaned in and kissed me. I closed my eyes and tears fell on my cheeks. I didn’t wipe them away. They were

tears of joy. They were tears that showed how happy all the love I gave and received made me.

The love I received was immeasurable. I felt it every day. I felt it every morning when I woke up next to my mate. I felt it every time one of my kids smiled at me. I felt it every time I was surrounded by my family.

But the love I gave was even stronger. The love I gave brought me where I was. I survived everything because of love. I survived everything because I had to go back to the people I cared about. I loved them too much to leave them. I loved them too much to give up on them.

The love we received made us strong, but the love we gave made us resilient.

And I was lucky enough to have both.