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"Why are you guys being weird?" I call over from the sink as I wash my hands.

"What do you remember this time? From the magic release, I mean." He lets me pass him and puts his hand on the small of my back, steering me towards the bed. Cam and Kota have switched spots.

"Seriously. What is going on? Why are you guys playing musical sleeping spots?"

Oliver just pushes me forward as Cam reaches out for me, smiling. "It's my turn, get over here."

I lay on my back as Cam wraps his arm around my waist and nuzzles into my hair taking an audible deep breath in. Oliver slides in next to me, laying on his back, one arm behind his head, the other draped across his bare torso. How did I not notice that before? I think I might be blushing.

I clear my throat. "So, we're here and not at the hospital, that has to be a good sign right?"

"They tried, after the last time we said 'no' and told the healers to come here. We don't all fit in a hospital room ..." Oliver grumbles.

"And frankly, we are getting tired of spending time there." Cam finishes in my hair.

"You kept mumbling 'don't leave me.' What did you see Smalls?"

I chew on my bottom lip. Still avoiding the question I ask

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one of my own instead. "Did you guys see anything this time?" All three of them tense. Far too much time passes silently. "Guys! You're freaking me out. What happened?"

"I saw you walk off with a faceless douche-canoe. You were smiling at him like he hung the moon and just walked away." Dakota breathes out. I can hear his wolf grumble in his chest.

"I saw the same thing. You didn't even look back. You found a mate and it wasn't us. I thought I was going to throw up." He squeezes me tighter.

"Oliver?" I turn to look at him, but he turns his head. I reach for his hand on his abs and try to keep my heart in check. "Tell me, please." I've never had to beg him for an answer before. He's always been the person to just tell me, even if it might hurt my feelings. He's never actively avoided answering me before and my heart starts to hurt all over. Maybe I will lose him like I saw. I sit up awkwardly since Cam won't let me go and turn my whole body to him. I lace our fingers together and give him a squeeze. I need to hear this.

"You're going to be the next Luna." He's still not looking at me. "You will have two Alphas to protect you. I'm just a Gamma, you won't need me." He looks at me then and I can see unshed tears in his eyes. He releases my hand and crosses his arms over his massive chest, looking down. He's my big, protective, moody guy. He's never been cocky or arrogant, but he's also never been unsure of himself and he is now. I did that to him, even if it wasn't really me, some version of me has caused him pain. 1

"We don't know what is going to happen. It's just the

magic fighting back.”

“We have always joked about you being a Luna. You have always put everyone else first. You take on things that should be far too much for you, but you seem to always make things work after a ton of personal sacrifice.” He looks up at me. “The saw you leaving, but I’ve seen you really leave and I don’t know if I can go through that again.”

“I’m here now okay. That’s all I can say. The mate thing is something none of us have control over. We need to go find Elena and Gentry, I want to get rid of a third point before Cam and Kota’s birthday. They mentioned something might be tied to when you guys come of age. I would like to have a majority control of the magic around here before that happens.”

“Told you.”

“Huh?”

“When you get up to pee, weird sh*t happens and you seem to like looking for it.”

“Shut up Dakota.”

“I like it when you use my whole name, Smalls.” I just laugh.

“I’m going to shower and we are going to go look for trouble together.”

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Turns out trouble finds me more quickly than I want to admit. Everyone is downstairs in the formal dining room. We have actually turned it into our version of a war room from the warrior house. There are maps and lists everywhere. Nathaniel hung a large screen to show surveillance videos in here. When we walk in, all eyes fall on us and Jena is pale.

I rushed to her in an instant. "What? What happened?" I look around for my brother, thinking something might have happened to him while I was out cold. But, he's right there beside her. There's only one other thing that would put that look on her face. "What. Happened?"

I look around and my whole team looks sick, like physically ill. Everyone else is worried, I'm sure, based on their reactions.

"We found something early this morning on patrol near the spot where we got Gentry back." Wyatt starts, but doesn't go on right away.

"Seriously! Somebody start talking now!" Every bad emotion I have is running through my body right now. Fear, anger, dread, shame. What could they have possibly found that would make every single person in this room look like they have seen a ghost?

"You got a delivery." Lil says, pushing a white box at me. I'm going to f*cking kill him and shove these white boxes down his throat. Anger surges through me.

"WHOA, Bitty. Take a breath.

"We got another box of who knows whose body parts and you're telling me to take a breath?!?" I turn and yell at Oliver.

"No, I'm telling you to take a breath because you might set the house on fire."

"WHAT!" I yell, How can he make jokes right now? Dakota is the one for jokes, not him.

"Baby, take a breath, please. I would hug you, but I'm kind of afraid right now." Now, Kota decides to step in.

"What are you talking about?"

"Look at your hands, Bitty." I look down.

"What the f*ck is happening?!" I looked surprised and scared. My hands are on fire. I can't feel it, but they are on fire. The flames are licking up my arms, but I can't feel a thing. I'm not even warm. "Is it just my hands?" I look at Oliver, he will tell me the truth.

"Uh, your eyes are red and glowing, but your hands are the only thing on fire."

"New power unlocked."

"Shut up Sam." My brother smacks him upside the head and I laugh. I let the anger go and laugh.

"No! Sam, keep it up. Whatever stupid you have going makes her happy. It's calming her down." Lil points to me and I look down too. The flames are receding.

I can feel myself calming down, but, "What the actual f*ck was that?! I catch fire now?!?! Is this common or some other bullsh*t reserved just for me?" I run my fingers

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through my hair and take a deep breath. "Are my eyes normal at least?" I look to Oliver again. He's my go-to for straight answers.

"Yeah, Bitty, your stormy gray is back." He gives me a half smile.

"Fine, add it to the list of things somebody is explaining to me later. What's in the box?" Lil slides it towards me. "And how do you know it's for me?"

"We think they have all been for you Sky." Kyle says from the corner of the room. 1

I reach for it and flip the top. I know there's a body part of some kind in here. I can smell the blood. It's not anyone I know, but it's still familiar somehow. I take a deep breath and Cam, Dakota and Oliver are at my side in an instant.

"It's the Luna's hands...from the first drop two years ago. The fingers where the mark from the Luna ceremony were in the first package we received. It was the first contact we had from... Who sent this?"

"There's a card." Lil slides a white cardstock rectangle towards me. The edges are purposefully frayed and there is a gold border embossed, like an invitation or announcement.

I picked it up and read out loud. 'It's time we finished what we started. I'm ready for my Luna to come home.'

"What the f*ck does that mean? You're our Luna, no one else can have you. Who else thinks they can have you?" 1

Jena and I say it together looking right at each other. "Mike."

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"We need to get the rest of these pentagram points taken care of. He's coming."

"And he seems to be coming for you." Cameron growls, wrapping an arm around my waist.

I look at Gentry and Elena. "What can we do? This is taking so long. I pass out after every clearing. How do I do better?"

"You are already doing everything you can. You take on the full power of the spell. It is literally filtering through your body while we transform the spell to something we can use. We can't push you any further, you are barely healing as it is." Elena looks concerned.

"It's not enough, we need to get these last three before Mike gets here and I have a feeling he has gone off the reservation. If he was working for the Rogue King, he isn't any more, or he's working some side agenda. He's crazy, but I'm sure he will attack around Cam and Kota's birthday. We have to prepare for that to be the attack day.

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