

Werewolf's Heartsong by DizzylzzyN Chapter 213

Chapter 29: *"You'll have to wait..."

"Zane told me she is our mate, and I know he is right. He said the Goddess had to the Matthew and our Starlight together temporarily." Damien told him, Andrew was silent, not knowing what to say to that. Andrew looked down at his mate. Meeting her wide eyed gaze. "You're absolutely sure?" Andrew asked, but he already knew the answer to his question. Damien would never tell him anything like this unless he was.

"She was always meant to be ours." Damien said, "I told you the day we met her, she is our most important thing in the world."

Andrew understood then, Damien's wolf was a very old soul, reborn multiple times. This meant that his mate had also been reborn multiple times. Even if the human side will forget from death to rebirth, the wolf side wouldn't. Zane had known from the first moment who Alora was to him and Damien.

Ember looked at Andres, her expression one of wonder. Ember felt this explained so many things about her eldest pup's behavior when it came to Alora all these years. Ember smiled, becoming excited, she wanted to tell Alora about this, but her son's next words quelled that thought.

"I don't want either of you two to tell my Starlight about this. I will let her find out for herself when I get home, that way she won't have any doubts about our being fated to each other." Damien said in a firm tone.

Ember let out a disappointed sigh, but her gaze was understanding when it met Andrew's. Ember nodded her head. "Okay, your mother and I will remain silent about this."

"Thank you, dad, and because I know she's right next to you, thank you too mom."

Damien said, amusement in his words as he mentioned his mother.

"Good luck on your written exams Damien, I love you." Ember said, after leaning into Andrew to get closer to the phone speaker.

Damien chuckled. "Love you too mom, and you father."

"I love you too, pup and wish you luck on your exams." Andrew said, his voice full of affection for both his pup and his mate.

“Thanks dad, I’ll talk to you later, bye.” Damien said, before ending the call, Ember let out a slightly mournful sigh that had Andrew wrapping one arm around her shoulder to hold her tightly to him. With a kiss to her temple Andrew said, “Don’t worry mate, soon you will have our eldest pup back in your loving arms.” With her lips turned down in a sad and a somewhat pouty look that had Andrew wanting to kiss her. Ember said, “I know but I have grown impatient.” They were back to watching the rank advancement fights when Ember realized there was music going. Curious, she turned her gaze towards Jonathan. “What’s with the music?”

Jonathan was a little startled by that sudden question from Luna Ember, but he did his best not to show it. Sitting up straighter Jonathan cleared his throat and started to explain.

“When a challenge is issued and approved, the one being challenged is able to select up to two songs they would like to have played during their match.”

“Only two?” Ember asked,

“Yes, the fight shouldn’t last longer than two songs, and often ends during the first song picked.” Jonathan said.

“How does this work? Ember asked.

“After the approval, a message will be sent to the mobile phone of the one being challenged. If the student doesn’t respond to the message within a certain time, one of the staff members will seek them out in person and ask them.” Jonathan explained further.

At this moment, while Luna Ember and Principal Jonathan were talking about these messages, Alora had just received hers. Alora read the message, and an anticipatory smirk lifted one corner of her mouth. Next to her she heard the phone notifications of her fellow classmates go off as well.

Looking up, Alora’s smile now stretched across her lips to curl the other side of her mouth. “Were you all asked for song selections as well?” she asked.

“What are you going to pick?” Daren asked.

Alora turned her head and glared at Darien till he backed out of her personal space. With a small almost delicate sounding huff, Alora turned back to look down at her phone.

Feeling particularly persnickety Alora said, “You’ll have to wait till my match to find out.”

Darien gave her a sullen look and complained, "You're so mean to me."

Alora looked at Darien, her eyes narrowed and her lips pursed. "Really?" she asked.

Alora's lowly voiced words carried a warning, one that sent a shiver of apprehension down Darien's spine. It was then that he remembered one of his opponents would most definitely be Alora. If Darien annoyed Alora now, she would make sure he would regret it later during their battle.

Not wanting to publicly be pulverized to a pulp. Darien let out an awkward laugh and said with forced cheer, "No, no, no you're the best! The most amazing! The nicest best friend ever!"

Lifting one eyebrow and a wry smile lifting one side of her mouth Alora let out a snort and shook her head. The others, having seen Alora thoroughly trounce Darien, laughed at his expense. They all knew very well why Darien was trying to get himself out of hot water.

"Remembered who was to eventually be your opponent, did ya?" Mason asked in an amused drawl.

Darien turned and glared at him, prompting Mason and the others to burst into laughter once more. Darien was about to become extremely annoyed when he heard Alora burst into her own peels of laughter. It caught him off guard, but at the same time it made him smile.

Alora's peels of laughter could be heard by two others, one was Matt. When Matt heard Alora's laughter, he thought it was a beautiful sound. Even as his heart clenched in pain at the loss of what could have been.

The other was Sarah, and her reaction was vastly different from Matt's. For Sarah, Alora's laughter filled her with rage and had her screaming internally.

In the parent's section of the stadium seating. Bettina and Allister were still flipping through the program guide trying to find Alora. They were having no luck. They had scrounged through every fight class under Sarah's and could not find Alora.

Bettina took out her phone and shot off another text to Alora demanding to know what her fight class was. Bettina was so furious she was no longer able to keep a blank expression. The fury Bettina felt had twisted her expression to something that was almost demonic.

Allister's expression was dark, and almost expressionless in its stony anger. It was like Allister was cast in a dark cloud, his feeling for the little twat he was absolutely positive

wasn't his were complicated. Allister knew what the DNA results said, but he was sure they had been faked.

Absolutely none of Alora's features or coloring came from any part of him or his family. However, she did look a lot like Bettina's paternal grandmother, and Allister had also witnessed Bettina give birth to Alora. If not for these two things, he would think Alora was unrelated to Bettina as well.

As Bettina's fury mounted, Allister started to anticipate his time down in the basement with Alora tonight, Alora would be punished for every grievance they have suffered that day, and any other she may cause before the day ends.

Allister and Bettina's expressions didn't go unnoticed by Alora, who had returned to looking at them after she received another demanding text message from Bettina. Alora had received the message right as she had submitted the two songs she wanted played during her challenge fight.

Alora chuckled darkly as she read the text again, she was getting a unique thrill out of how angry she was making Bettina. Xena was highly amused as well, Alora had the image of a big wolly grin on Xena's face, and her long bushy tail waving languidly in the air back and forth. Xena's tail looked like it had been dipped midway in the blackest of inks.

Xena's ears also looked like they had been dipped in that same ink, then used that ink to paint a perfect crescent moon halfway surrounding a star on her left flank. It was when Alora focused on that last unique marking on her wolf that she remembered hers. The mark on Xena wasn't only on her, it was also on Alora. It was a birthmark, one her mother had told her was too ugly to be shown. Bettina had claimed that, if shown, it would have her hunted down and killed as a traitor to the Pack immediately.

Alora scoffed internally, thinking what Bettina had said was just another one of her many lies. It was only now Alora remembered her mark would be visible to everyone if she moved her sweater aside. Alora's hoodie hung down past her shorts, while standing her shorts covered the top half of her mark.

When she sat down though, her shorts rode up enough that the mark was on full display. If Alora had not draped the loose ends of her open hoodie across her thighs, that is

Chapter 30: "...finally get to display her strength..."

Abea thought about those long ago words from her mother. One of the reasons she was sure it was complete and utter bullshit, was because Luna Ember personally delivered her. Lona Ember had seen her birthmark, it was documented in Alora's birth profile.

Another reason was that her mark had been exposed again to Luna Ember, and by chance Alpha Andrew, Dumien, and Darien. All of them knew of Alora's birthmark. None of them said it was ugly, and none of them had any adverse reaction to it.

Alora decided it did not matter and refused to hide herself away anymore. As far as she was concerned, everything that spilled from Bettina, Allister and Sarah's mouths was nothing but lies. With that in mind, Alora's text back to Bettina was deliberately inflammatory

"My fight class and rank are the very last one you would expect, Alora looked up to watch her parents after she sent that message to Bettina.

Alora was rewarded at once, as her text had the effect she was going for. Bettina looked like steam would come out of her ears and foam out of her mouth any second now. It made her laugh, they were so angry at that moment, and there was nothing they could do,

Darien, who had been seeing all this, leaned down and asked in a tone that was both amused and serious, "Wouldn't it be great if they would lose all their composure in public and fully reveal themselves for the pieces of shit they are?"

Alora smiled widely and laughed and said, "I'm hoping to anger them so much that they blow a fuse or two."

Darien leaned back and laughed. "That would be great to see."

"Hey, hey you two, share in the fun." Garrett said, "What are you two laughing so much over there?"

Alora, thinking that the cat was already out of the bag, pointed in the direction of Bettina and Allister and said, "We're discussing how I'm attempting to make my horrible parents so angry they expire on the spot."

As one, all the Alpha Class fighters looked in Bettina and Allister's direction. Mason was the first one to start laughing. "If your goal is to make them expire from their anger, I believe you are very near success."

"I would have to agree with mon ami on this ma chéri." Jamison said, smiling in his own amusement.

"I feel they deserve it." Jaxon said, glaring at Bettina and Allister, he clearly did not like them.

"Agreed," Lexus said beside him.

"Horrible beings will eventually have a horrible end." Garrett said in a serious tone, "On a brighter note, have any of you seen the number of challenges we've received from the Beta Class fighters?" Mason asked.

wet all repeatedly. "Tecwat her all have

> of challenges" Momin said

mitation, and the kirk on his face was dark. "Damn little buggers think they can win against me * He growled. "They better

Aloes was no less imitated than Darien and it showed in her own expression. "I think I'm going to run out of song choices."

"Mosbe we could pick the same one for each challenge" Jaxon proposed, looking at his phone with a deep frown on his face.

"With as many times your phone has just dinged with challenges, please don't." Lexus said in a serious tone.

"I agree with Levis, we would come to hate you after the third time the same song played." Garrett added.

Jason's expression twisted a bit, before he growled out. "Then I hope nobody minds medieval metal or medieval instrumental music, cause that's all that's on my current playlist"

"Well, mes amis, we all better hurry and choose our music, the Reserve Class challenges, while many, were over quickly. Many Reserve Class fighters are now in the Enforcer Class fighter rank. Only a few have moved to the Scout Class fighter rank; Jamison told them all.

Everyone looked up and confirmed what Jamison had just said, the Scout Class rank advancement challenges were now starting. Looking at the list, you could see an almost fifty, fifty split of those wanting to advance into the Enforcer Class fighter rank and the Delta Class fighter rank.

It made sense really, this was the year that your body had their most dramatic changes, especially among the males. Many originally weaker beings were now much stronger than they were at the beginning of high school.

Now that Alora was thinking about it, her original annoyance over the many challenges

she had just received was gone. Alora had wanted to stop hiding away, she wanted to show everyone the real her and wanted to finally break the chains her family had on her.

Alora wanted her family to know just how powerful she really was, and that they cannot ever touch her anymore, all these challenges would be the perfect way to do that.

These thoughts had her smiling in anticipation. Inside, Xena was also happy, she would finally get to display her strength today.

Alora took her phone back out of her pocket, looking through all the challenges she had received. At first Alora wondered if all these challenges had something against her, then she remembered one of the ways you could issue a challenge was by Fight Class and Rank. The challengers did not have to know who Alora was, they just wanted to challenge her Fight Class Rank

Alora looked at the names and their fighter profiles, after a moment she would carefully select a song that she felt would fit for that challenge.

Damien sighed and ran a hand through his hair after he hung up with his father Damien was no longer as aptated as before, he felt a little better. He had gotten to hear his Starlight's voice and would be able to hear it again tonight. His Starlight had decided to break out of her shell finally.

Damien was glad his parents and brother were there for her at this moment when he could not be. Stuffing his phone in his pocket, Damien ran another hand through his hair and relaxed his shoulders.

"Feeling better after making your calls? Xander asked him, a hint of amusement in his tone.

Damien turned away from the window and looked at Xander with a narrow eyed expression. Xander let out a low and nervous sounding laugh as he looked at that glare. Xander lowered his head and raised his hands up in surrender.

"Who told him to be such a grouch that can't even take a joke. "Xander complained to Darius

Darius growled at his humanoid. "Who told you to annoy our Alpha?! I would like to keep my flesh on my bones, thank you very much!"

Xander grumbled at his wolf. "Oh shut up."

“Come on Xander, time to go take the first of our final exams.” Damien said, after watching the amusing show of surrender from Xander.

Xander let out a groan and got up from his seat. “The only bright side to these damn tests is it means we are one day closer to getting out of here and back home.”

Damien let out a soft chuckle. “I can agree with you there, enough grumbling, out the door with you.”

“Yeah, yeah.” Xander replied walking to the door and opening it, Damien following behind him.

“The sooner we get those tests done, the sooner we can get back here.” Damien reminded him, then added. “But that doesn’t mean the bare minimum to pass.”

Xander gave Damien an annoyed look. “You want me to go all out, don’t you?”

“Yes, we are here to be the best of the best. I am to eventually be the Alpha of Alpha’s, and you are my Beta. This means you must be the absolute best Beta.” Damien lectured him.

Xander grabbed the back of his neck and looked up at the hallway ceiling, letting out a sigh he muttered. “Damn need for meeting high expectations.”

Damien let out another chuckle of amusement at his friend’s words. Damien also knew that despite his grumbings, Xander wouldn’t allow himself to come in second to anyone but him. In Xander’s mind, if Damien was the best Alpha, then he had to be the best Beta.

are you anxious about Alora’s fights today?” Xander asked, pushing open the door to exit their dormitory.

Chapter 30: *...finally get to display her strength...”

The sounds of different birds waking up and singing their unique songs were all around them. Damien looked at Xander, the sunlight glancing off their eyes made it look like they were glowing. Under the light, the gold and white blond highlights of Xander’s hair glitter, and the dark blue highlights of Damien’s hair appeared.

There were several females nearby, and all of them sighed at the sight of the two most wanted males on campus. Each of these females were lamenting never having been able to spend even one night in either Damien or Xander’s bed. The females also envied the future mates of these two males, knowing that they would both be absolutely devoted to whoever was fated to them.

Damien shook his head, a smile curling up one side of his mouth. “No, I’m not worried.”

Xander gave Damien a wide eyed look, then exclaimed, “Wha?! why not?!”

Chapter Comments

Meeka Hodshon

Werewolf: Heartsong

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Domien koked at Xander with one zyatane raised and a smirk libing now side of his mouth. “Are you saw you didn’t major in Drama” He asked (

Kander growled in indignation. “You know very well what all my majors are! You’re in them?”.

Damien threw his head back and laughed then said, “Okay, okay, don’t be such a drama king” His words only made Xander growl more in britation.

Then with a look of wide eyed astonishment asked, “How the hell do you know that expression?”

Dam n gave Xander a muld glare, with a dry tone he asked. “Is there any reason for me not to know this expression, especially with such a dramatic being as my Beta?”

“You have such a “studious” manner about you, it’s hard to tell if you actually reside in this century or not.” Xander said sarcastically while using air quotes.

Damien snorted. “Just because I’m ‘studious” as you put it, does not mean I don’t keep up with the current dialog”

“But you always seem so ancient when you meet with the elders of different Packs, Xander commented.

“With as long lived as most supernatural beings are, I have to know.centuries worth of traditions, customs, and those older ways of speaking. Not just current traditions, customs and current ways of speaking. It is a form of respect when meeting those elders in their own territories. Just as I would expect the same respect in return if they were to come to our territory” Damien explained.

Xander let out a sigh. “Do you have to prove over and over again what a great Alpha of Alpha’s you will make one day?” His question was meant to come out sounding

sarcastic, but Xander could not help the bit of admiration that had taken over his tone. Damien scoffed, then pointed out to Xander, "I would not have had to, if you had not made me do so."

Xander felt his face twitch as he thought over the conversation he just had with his Alpha, Inside Xander, Darius let out a sigh, then shook his head, wondering why his humanoid had to be so foolish at times. Xander constantly bounced between annoying his Alpha and amusing him greatly.

Sticking his hands in his pockets, Xander walked shoulder to shoulder with Damien. Eyes followed the pair their entire walk to the main building of the University. They were to take the first

Damien and Xander had both amorous and platonic admirers everywhere, from both genders and across species. Going into the town nearby the University brought on a lot of unwanted attention.

With their amorous admirers, Damien and Xander ignored their advances. Pushing those amorous admirers away with an icy politeness that somehow managed to come off as courteous and not rude.

With the platonic admirers it was different, Damien and Xander were able to relax, their politeness and courtesy coming to them naturally and with warmth. Their actions made it clear to everyone just the type of attention Damien and Xander would welcome, and what attention they would not.

The main building of the University was a behemoth of a building much like their high school back home, only with a few more floors. It was very castle like in its structure, with a few basements with indoor training levels. The roof of the building was a botanical and arboretum garden, with both open and covered greenhouse areas.

Supernatural beings drew their very life from the elements of the world. This meant where there was a large collection or cities of Supernatural beings, there were also a lot of botanical and arboretum gardens.

In parks, on rooftops, and inside dwellings, on balconies and terraces with plant covered pergolas, surrounding gazebos and inside business buildings and restaurants, inside courtyards and lining public walking paths,

It made for beautiful places to live with lots of clean fresh air, a very important quality for those beings with extra sensitive olfactory senses, which were most supernatural.

beings.

!

Upon entering the main building, Damian and Xander bumped into a fellow senior Alpha and Beta pair. Alpha Nabonidus and Beta Shapur, much like Damien and Xander, were unaccompanied to the university by their Gamma and two Delta Enforcers.

This allowed Damien and Xander to form a quick friendship with the two from the land bridging the second continent to the third. They had heavy rolling accents that were exotic. Paired with their looks, and obvious power, Nabonidus and Shapur get the same amount of attention as Damien and Xander.

They had dark black hair that was nearly shaved at the sides, the top left several inches long, the tips a chestnut color, Dark bronze skin tone with chiseled features. Downward tilted almond shaped eyes with inner rings of silver green and outer rings of deep brown. They were shorter than Xander and Damien, Nabonidus at seven foot six and Shapur at seven foot five, both lean of body with lean tightly packed muscle.

“Greetings friend, how has your morning been?” Nabonidus asked Damien, with a smile stretching across his full lipped mouth.

“It has been an adventure this morning my friend.” Damien replied.

“Did Xander have to remove another beauty from your living quarters again this morning?” Nabonidus asked, amusement in his tone.

Damien nodded, letting out a sigh. “I am becoming more and more impatient for our final day at this University. If only to get away from all of these females who keep trying to force their way into my bed.”

Nabonidus nodded in understanding. “I feel your pain, it has been a constant struggle, avoiding all the beauties and their advances.”

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Chapter 11 ama King”

Hariga boule 1. “Ven leave not tested quits that strongly and have had neas that a few beauties accompany you to bed at nigda *

kakatika bangkod at Banna’s comment. “This on the truth you speak, lost in my defense, I have not met my mate as you two have most likely done. At last that a mu popicana la pou karveshularn in winding relibate while attending dis Labersity. That and someone must console all those broken hearts you leave

Bowdon kogbad draph, amused by his fiend “When my mating ia confirmed, I will send

an invite to the ceremony” He said to Nabonidus, smiling

Nahamika ended brightly in return “I will be looking forward to attending such a momentous event.” His words were filled with good humor.

Shapour moved closer to Xander. “Which female did you have to remove this morning?”

He asked with curiosity in his tone.

“Must wear Alpha Feronia Bemandi.” Xander told him.

Shapour’s brow furrowed for a moment, a frown on his pursed mouth as he tried to place the name with a face. “I have heard of this female, but we have not made her acquaintance just yet” He said, with a shake of his head.

Xander looked at Shapour in surprise. “Really?”

Shapour raised one dark eyebrow “Is it truly such a surprise we have not met a first year in this massive school?” He asked Xander.

Xander thought about it for a second, when put in that way, it would be logical that Nabonidus and Shapour did not know Feronia. “Now that you say it, it is not that surprising that you and your Alpha have never met Feronia Bemandi.”

“In what state did you find the female this time?” Shapour asked him.

With a wide grin on his face Xander said, “I found her sans clothing, and while her figure was quite voluptuous, I resisted and gave her two choices.”

Shapour had amusement dancing in his eyes. “What choices did you give her?” He asked, thoroughly enjoying the story.

Damien and Nabonidus stood off to the side, both of them watching their Betas gossip.

“I don’t know whether to be embarrassed to have such a gossip for a Beta or laugh.”

Nabonidus commented.

Damien smiled and said, “Laugh, because I have one as well. Although your Beta seems better composed than mine,”

Then Nabonidus laughed and continued to listen to the two gossiping Betas.

Xander

“I told her she could either be thrown off the balcony naked by Damien or get dressed and leave through the front door with me.” Xander told Shapour.

Shapour laughed. “Assume the chute in dress and follow you out the front door?”

“She did. Unfortunately for her, this is not the first time I’ve had to fish her out of Damien’s quarters.” Xander said, “So when Damien recognized her after I had flushed her out.

Shipur grimaced. "I assume he did not take it well."

"No, no he did not." Xander said, shaking his head. "He gave her a warning I'm sure will haunt her nightmares for centuries to come."

"The poor beauty, but maybe now she will set her sights on more available prey."

Shapur commented.

Xander smirked, then asked in a dry tone. "Like you?"

Shapur laughed and shook his head. "No, like my Alpha."

Both Betas laughed, until they felt the hair on their necks start to rise. Slowly turning around, Xander and Shapur met the dark gaze of their Alphas.

"If you two are done gossiping like two centuries old ladies we have a final exam to take. Time to enter the examination hall," Damien said in a stern voice,

Contrite now, both Betas followed their Alphas into their first written examination of the day.

Chapter Comments

Chapter 32: **...if she wins her first fight.**

Alora was leaning back, her hands braced next to her hips on the bench. Her legs stretched out in front of her with her ankles crossed. Alora's hoodie had fallen off her shoulders and was midway down her biceps. Alora tilted her head one way then the next, stretching her neck muscles.

Down in the arena, the last fighter of the Scout Class defeated his opponent, earning a rank advancement to the Beta Class. The buzzer went off, the music stopped, and the light brightened up all over the stadium.

"We will go into a twenty minute recess now, before we continue with the Rank advancement challenges from the Enforcer Class. Please take this time to cather food and drink, stretch your legs and use the facilities" The announcer boomed out over the stadium.

Alora was blinking, and sympathized with Garret when he said, "Goddess I forgot how bright these lights were after being in the dark for so long"

Everybody stood up and stretched their stiff limbs, letting out moans and groans of both relief and pain. While stretching, Serenity, with her brothers following closely behind, ran up the steps to their row,

Darien lit up like the sun the moment his gaze landed on Serenity: Alora laughed as she watched Darien bound over to Serenity like an excited pup. He scooped up Serenity

and squeezed her to him while she gizzled and hugged Darien back.

Galen and Kain had matching expressions of annoyance at their sisters antics. Alora, amused and curious, got closer to the twins.

“What’s with the dark looks?” Alora asked them teasingly.

Behind Alora, the rest of the Alpha Class was demanding an introduction from Darien.

“The moment the light went on and the announcer said recess, Serenity was out of her seat and running up here.* Galen grumbled, looking slightly embarrassed.

“She should have waited for the announcer to finish speaking before jumping out of her seat. Instead, she decided she would rather act like a hooligan.” Kain crossed his arms and his eyebrow twitched.

Jason walked up behind Alora in time to hear what his cousins were saying. He was highly amused and knew Alora to be when she burst into laughter. Alora’s voice was like music, the notes were filled with her emotions.

Those emotion laden notes wrapped around those in hearing distance, filling them with Alora’s feelings of amusement. Jaxon could almost see them, it was interesting. Jaxon also saw the emotions in the eyes of his twin cousins.

He knew what those looks meant, because he was feeling the same emotions those looks spoke of. Kain and Galen had the Alpha they wanted to serve as their Delta Enforcers. Then Galen and Kain finally noticed Jaxon was behind Alora and waved a hello at him.

Jaxon nodded, acknowledging their greeting. “Did you two see that Sarah challenged Alora?” He asked the twins.

Kain and Galen looked at Alora with matching expressions of surprise. “Really?” They asked in unison.

Alora nodded. “She did.”

“How do you feel about that?” Galen asked Alora.

Alora shrugged, then with a half grin said, “I’m kind of looking forward to it.”

“That’s if Sarah even wins her first fight.” Serenity said, her voice coming from behind Jaxon.

Jaxon and Alora turned to look at Serenity at the same time, but it was Jaxon who asked. “What do you mean?”

“Sarah, while ranked in the top five of the Enforcer fighter class, has to fight someone in the top five of the Delta class or the Beta class in order to fight Alora.” Serenity

explained.

“Why?” Garrett asked.

Hand on her hips, Darien’s arm around her shoulders, Serenity huffed adorably as she glared at the others. “Were none of you paying attention to our VP while she was explaining the rules of the challenge?”

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her first fight.”

Every male of the Alpha Class but Darien started to shuffle and look off in a different direction with various expressions of guilt.

“It’s not that they were not paying attention to our VP.” Alora said, and all heads snapped in her direction, their expressions now a combination of panic and embarrassment. “It’s that they were paying attention to how gorgeous our VP is, instead of what she was saying.”

Serenity’s glare had more than one male look at her with apologetic faces. With a snort she said. “It figures.” With a shake of her head her gaze focused on Garret and began to explain,

“The rules are... you are allowed to challenge two fighters to advance your rank. For your first fight, the fighter you challenge can’t be ahead of you by more than two fight classes. They also must be within five rank placements of your own rank in your fight class. If you win your first challenge, the rules of the challenge will adhere to your new fight class and rank.”

“What happens if you fail your first challenge?” Mason asked,

Serenity turned to Mason to answer. “If you fail your first challenge, and your second challenge is outside your current fight class and rank, your second challenge will be canceled, and you won’t advance.”

Lexus raised a hand, his fingers half curled. “What happens if you win the first, but fail the second?”

Turning her head. Serenity again looked directly at the one who asked her a question and answered. “If you win the first challenge, but fail the second, you remain in the same fight class and rank that you advanced to in the first round.”

“Meaning Alora will only get to fight Sarah if she wins her first fight.” Jaxon said with a sigh, repeating Serenity’s earlier statement.

“Exactly.” Serenity said with a bright smile.

“Did anyone see who Sarah’s first challenge was?” Mason asked.

“No, I only happened to look because it had Sarah challenging Alora.” Jaxon said.

Several more “nos’ later and everyone looked at Serenity with questioning expressions. Serenity looked at each one of them in turn in silence.

Finally, Serenity shrugged and said, “I think Sarah was wanting to play it safe so she could challenge Alora. Her first fight is with the fourth ranked Sighter of the Delta Class” Jamison let out a startled laugh, and when everyone turned his way explained. “I only know who the male is that you are talking about, because he is in my science class. I caught him and Sarah doing the deed in an empty classroom one day.”

“Ewww.” Serenity said, cringing.

“Doesn’t surprise me.” Alora said placidly.

“This means Sarah’s not completely stupid, she made a plan.” Lexus said with a stony expression, crossing his arms over his chest.

“Sarah’s plenty stupid, believe me, but she also happens to be a conniving bitch on top of it.” Alora said in a caustic tone.

Darien let out a derisive snort and said, “Sarah is the definition of every nasty insult she has hurled at Alora over the years.”

“Ah! You mean Sarah is throwing stones from a glass house” Jamison said.

Alora let out a short laugh. “That’s as good an explanation as any.”

“All right everyone, enough talking unless we are walking. I am hungry and thirsty, and we have already used up seven of our twenty minute break just standing here,” Garrett said, waving his hand in a gesture for everyone to start moving.

With a little bit of maneuvering, Darien wound up in the middle of Alora and Serenity.

Serenity was cuddled up into Darien’s side, with his arm draped around her. Alora was casually strolling along his other side, hand in the pockets of her hoodie

Behind them was Kain, Jason and Galen, behind them was the rest of the Alpha Class.

They made their way down to the ground level where the food courts were.

“What are you in the mood to eat Darien asked Serenity.

“I’m thinking of a couple of Chicago style hot dogs, with a basket of fries.” Serenity said, while rubbing her belly.

Darien chuckled, then he turned to Alora and asked the same question. Serenity’s comment on hot dogs sparked a desire in Alora for some of her own. “I want downtown New York style hot dogs, with an order of Jalapeno poppers.”

There was a gagging sound behind her with a muttering of "Sauerkraut, bleck."

Alora looked back at Mason, narrowing her eyes a little. "I happen to like sauerkraut on my hot dog and a few other things."

"But never on its own." Darien added.

Masori grimace. "How can you like that stuff?"

"On a hot dog with spicy brown mustard and onion relish." Alora responded in a dry tone, making several in their large group laugh.

"Yeah well, I will stick to a nice normal chili cheese dog with fries, nothing fancy." Mason responded.

"I'll find a California style dog and a Mediterranean salad." Jamison said, gaining a couple of funny looks.

"Whats a California style hot dog? Lexus asked.

"It comes on a toasted bun with a grilled all beef hot dog, sliced avocados, tomatoes, and crumbled feta cheese." Jamison replied.

"Quit judging rach other's food choices and let's just get to ordering our food," Jaxon said.

They all managed to get their food ordered and received. With drinks and food in hand, the group went back to their seats to sit down and eat without any mishaps.

Chapter Comments

Susan Moledor

Yummy. I think I would like all of their choices

Chapter 33: "...what the hell is wrong with her.."

T

Darien was sad when Serenity had to go back to her section. Currently, he had her in his lap with arms wrapped around her waist and was refusing to let go. Burying his face in Serenity's neck.

"But I don't want to let go. Why can't you stay here? It's not fair" Darien said in such a childish way, Alora thought she was hearing a five year old pup instead of an eighteen year old Alpha wolf.

Serenity though, was giggling up a storm as Darien nuzzled his nose into the crook of her neck, tickling her. Serenity felt his real reluctance to separate through their already strengthening bond.

Darien smiled, loving the sound of Serenity's laughter. He could listen to it for the rest of eternity. Darien wanted to spend every day for the rest of their lives together, finding every way there was to make her smile. He did laugh.

When Darien lifted his face from her neck, Serenity ran a hand over one cheek, lifting his face. Serenity's gaze and the smile on her face was so warm and loving. Darien

wanted to drown in that look. He burned that image into his mind, so he could never forget.

"I'll be back up as soon as we get another recess." Serenity Bold Darien, amusement in her sweet voice.

Darien touched his forehead to hers and let out a soulful sigh. "Okay"

With a smile Serenity kissed Darien gently on the lips, lingering a little to let him feel just how much she had already fallen for him. The growl Darien let out when she pulled away before the kiss could deepen further let Serenity know he got his message.

With a giggle, Serenity hopped off his lap and scampered away quickly, her brothers following behind her. They both had matching expressions of annoyance as they watched her behavior.

"Can't you be more discreet?" Galen asked, his tone vaguely pleading

Serenity giggled again and shook her head vigorously, a huge smile on her face. Serenity said. "Nope," in such a cheerful way her brothers could only look on with disgruntled expressions.

Alora let out a delighted laugh, entertained by Serenity's interaction with her brothers, "I love that she's the one you were fated to be with." Alora said with a smile.

"So am I" Darien said, his gaze glued to Serenity even as she sat down in her seat. So am I* He repeated, feeling it needed to be said twice,

The lights in the stadium turned off again, the only lights left on were above the arena, where the fights were to take place. The four video screens, where the previous challenges and the results were displayed, are now changed to list the remaining challenges by fighter class.

"We will now be entering into the Enforcer and Delta Class Rank advancement challenges. These fights will no longer as more than a few of the Enforcer and Delta Class fighters have issued their allotted two challenges. After the final Delta Class challenge, we will take another break, this time for an hour." The announcer boomed over the sound system.

On the video screen, the challenge list shrank to the side till it was a continuously scrolling list, and a large side by side fighter statistics took up most of the screen. At the top of each fighter's information, their picture switched between all the fighter's forms.

After the fighters for this match were announced the music started to play.

As soon as it did, Alora felt a pain start behind her left eye, and she immediately wisted to cover her ears, Darien looked down at Alora as soon as he heard the music and saw her strained expression. The song was, How Do You Like Me Now by Toby Keith.

Listening to the lyrics, it did not seem appropriate for this kind of battle.

Alora was grateful that the battle only lasted for half the song before it was over, and the challenger had won and advanced from the Enforcer class to the Beta class. The fighter was now two classes and four ranks higher than they had been previously.

The music got better with the next several fights, until it came to Sarah's first fight and the song she had picked out. It was Fuck U Betta by Neon Hitch. There was a clean version of this song, called Love U Betta, but Sarah chose the vulgar version.

"Seriously, what the hell is wrong with her, it's like she's screaming "I'm the whore I accuse my sister of being the hell...?!" Darien tanted.

“Maybe...this is just what was in her play lat...she might not mean anything by it.” Mason tried to sound optimistic, but he sounded so doubtful of his own words, he failed

: “...what the hell is wrong with her..”*

Alora shook her head, knowing that the song was chosen for a reason. “That guy down there, now that I see him, I recognize him too. He met his mate about three months ago.” She informed them, then looked at Jamison. “Probably right after you caught them in that empty classroom.”

“Oh shit! That’s right, he has himself a mate now!” Garrett exclaimed, having just remembered.

“I do not remember if I heard that rumor or not. So many classmates have found their mates this year. It is hard to keep up with it all, let alone who is mated to who.” Jamison commented

“I agree with you on that Jamison.” Lexus said, then he leaned forward enough in his seat to look at Alora. “Do you know who his mate is?”

“Dasha Kuznetsov, a Sibenan tigress shifter from a clan of blacksmithing tigers. The whole Kuznetsov’s tiger clan migrated to our Pack several centuries ago. They are artists with what they can do with metal and the magic they can incorporate into the items they craft.” Jaxon told them all in a calm voice.

Everyone turned to look at Jaxon, with shocked and questioning expressions. Jaxon, feeling a little uncomfortable with all the attention, asked, “What?”

With narrow eyes, Mason asked, “How do you know so much about Dasha Kuznetsov, the curvaceous and statuesque beauty that she is.”

“I’ve taken her father’s Master Blacksmithing course at the university and have worked with Dasha on more than a few projects.” Jason said, “She was heartbroken at first to learn her fated mate had been with the High School slut. Then she got over it after weeks of him groveling like a good wolf. Then he proved himself at one point in an altercation that involved her, him, and Sarah.”

“So, are your friends with Dasha?” Garret asked.

“Yes, we are friends.” Jaxon said, “Dasha is an extraordinarily sweet female with a big heart and an infinite amount of creativity. Her mate, Arthur Treasuregard, comes from a long line of various kinds of art lovers and collectors.”

“Oh, that’s gotta make both families happy.” Lexus said

“It does, you have one family of amazing Blacksmiths and crafters who create functional and stationary art and another family who loves and collects all things art.” Jaxon said.

“That has to kill Sarah.” Alora said.

“Definitely.” Darien agreed.

“What do you mean?” Mason asked.

The fight in the arena was becoming a little strange. Sarah was like a vicious tornado of fury, fighting dirty and going after vulnerable points. At one point it looked like she was trying to castrate the wolf. This was not a challenge, this was a mauling.

“All Sarah has is sex, but Sarah believes that once any male has her, that male will want no other female more than her, even a mate. However, Sex between a mated couple is said to be infinitely more powerful than sex between a non mated couple.”

Alora said this clinically so she would not blush. “Then add in the fact that Dasha and her family are the perfect complement to Arthur and his family. All of that would have

driven Sarah insane with jealousy. The incident Jaxon mentioned, most likely involved Arthur defending Dasha from Sarah, or him proclaiming something that made it clear to Sarah she was less than Dasha to him. This is what Sarah punishing someone for not worshipping her looks like.”

They all cringed as they watched Sarah tear into Arthur, like she was trying to shred his skin from his body. Arthur fought back, but with the way Sarah kept trying to maim him, he finally surrendered after losing more blood. This meant Sarah was able to advance, Alora was her next fight.

Everybody in the top row was quiet, no one really knew what to say at that moment. A couple opened their mouths like they were about to make a comment, but ” nothing would come out. They could only shake their heads and continue being silent for the moment. It was about three fights later that someone finally said something “Exactly how bad is this fight between you and Sarah going to get?” Darien asked her with a worried expression.

“Do you mean how bad am I going to beat her, or how bad she will attempt to hurt me?” Alora asked with one eyebrow raised, her tone and the sharpness in her eyes daring him to doubt her fighting ability or strength.

Darien realized what he did with that question and cringed internally, Axel was even calling him stupid for insulting their sister with that question.

Not wanting Alora to be angry at him, Darien rephrased his question. “I mean, how had are you going to beat Sarah?” Chapter 34: *”Next up!”

Alora continued to study Darien with a sharp-eyed look for a moment longer, then let him go with a “humph,” when it looked like he was truly remorseful for what he had implied about her strength

Facing the arena Alora said, “I have already told you, I am not holding back this time. When I face Sarah, I will give her a beating she will not soon forget.”

Darien studied Alora, outwardly she seemed calm, only her words and the slight growl in her voice gave away the anger simmering under the surface. As Darien studied Alora, he felt another flare in her power. When it settled, it was like Alora was more powerful than she was a second ago.

If Darien could compare this to something, he would compare it to the breaking of a seal, one designed to hold back an immense amount of power. It got him thinking.

Darien would not have put it past Bettina to have done something to Alora when she was just a newborn pup.

Alora and Xena went into a state of calmness, a stillness found before a storm. Inside her space, Xena lay in a regal pose. Her front paws were in front of her, crossed at the wrists, her head up and her look focused. Xena’s tail would slowly lift and then softly go back down.

Alora was reclined back on the bench again, her long muscular and shapely legs extended in front of her, crossed at the ankles. Her hands braced on the bench beside her hips, her hoodie once more halfway down her biceps. This time the connecting ends of the hoodie were left to fall on each side of Alora, no longer hiding away her birthmark. Although it was darkest at the top row of the stadium where they were, Werewolves had excellent night vision. Jamison caught sight of the mark on Alora’s thigh, after having studied her legs. He truly found Alora attractive, and he had a thing for legs. It was not the first time he had seen that mark on Alora, and he thought of the legend his family

had taught him.

If the legend proved true, her family would soon be punished by the Moon Goddess for the treatment she received, if they had not already. Jamison wondered more than a few times if Alora knew of the legend behind the mark on her thigh. Now that he knew some of what Alora had suffered growing up, he was now sure she did not.

Jamison debated on whether he should tell her but decided not to after glancing at Darien. The Alpha and Luna of the Pack would know this legend, and if they had not yet told Alora about it, they must have their reasons. With that in mind, Jamison forced himself to focus back on the fight happening in the Arena.

Lexus leaned in close, almost intimately. "It's her legs, isn't it?" He whispered the question into his ear, his lips accidentally brushing as he did, sending a shiver of awareness through Jamison.

That confused him for a moment, he knew he had a slight attraction for males, but he was very attracted to females with legs like Alora's and the Vice Principal's. Jamison would not turn eighteen till the last day of exams, he was hoping he would be able to find his mate that day. The reaction he just had to Lexus was now making him nervous. Clearing his throat, and forcing himself to remain calm and collected, Jamison whispered lowly. "They are quite lovely, yes,"

"You want to know which female I think has the best legs in the whole school?" Lexus asked him, still whispering in his ear.

Lexus was already eighteen, and he had not met his mate yet, but that did not mean he would not soon. "Who" Jamison asked, hoping to distract himself from what he was feeling

"Katrina Novikov." Lexus said, and Jamison knew exactly who she was. Katrina Novikov was a polar bear shifter female who was just as tall as he was. Jamison had a crush on the female, she was another curvaceous and statuesque beauty with a muscular and shapely form. A pale white-haired beauty who seemed to shine from the inside out, as pure as freshly fallen snow, Katrina turned eighteen the same day Jamison did.

Before Jamison could make a returning comment about Katrina to Lexus, the fight down below ended, and the announcer came booming over the speakers.

"Next up! Sarah Frost Northmountain, formerly Enforcer Class fighter third rank now Delta Class fighter fourth rank, has challenged Alora Luna Heartsong. Alpha Class fighter first Rank!"

Bettina and Allister's heads popped up in surprise and fury as they heard this announcement. Then they looked at each other silently for a moment before looking down and frantically flipping to the back of the program where the Alpha Class fighters were listed.

There she was, Alora, only her middle given name was supposed to be Frost and her surname was supposed to be Northmountain. "That whore! How did she find out?!" Bettina hissed her fury out in a whisper.

"There is no way Alura could have changed her name without our permission or the permission of one of our Clan Alphas. Not without breaking from their Clans. The only way she could do that is if she were to pledge herself individually to The Pack Alpha. She can't do that until she reaches adulthood." Allister was so shocked he forgot to lower his voice, lucky for him the music was already playing loudly.

Bettina hissed in a fury filled whisper, "That dark skinned bitch from the office told us earlier she was already eighteen! That whore probably did it the day the Allister was looking at Alora's fighter statistics, they had her listed as the first rank fighter of the Alpha Class, and according to the information in the program, she has held that Rank starting her first day at the high school. Allister started to eat, the glare that Alora had given him every time they had beaten her lately had begun to scare him a while ago.

It was like it said she was only letting this happen for now but would soon seek her retribution. It was why he had lessened the number of beatings in the last couple of years. He could not stand his own fear at that glare, and no matter how much he beat her, he could not get rid of it.

"Sarah is not her match." Allister whispered, his words shaky.

Bettina was so angry she did not even notice the fear Allister was suddenly saturated in. "That whore better submit to Sarah if she knows what is good for her. If that bitch does not, she will be sorry the second she steps through our front door."

In other areas of the stadium the reaction to the announcement was different. Darien knew the song Alora had picked out the moment he heard the opening chords. Love the way you hate me, I Like A Storm. Before Darien could make a comment about her song choice he froze, as Alora's Alpha aura washed over him. It felt so strong, a lot stronger than his own.

There was a deadly edge to Alora's aura, it warned those within its path not to cross her. As Alora stood up, she allowed her hoodie to fall away from her and slipped off her sandals, leaving them behind with her hoodie. Power sang through Alora's veins and radiated outward from her body.

Looking every inch like a dignified and powerful Alpha, Alora started her descent to the bottom row of the stadium seating. As she passed each row of fighters, they all had the same reaction when her Alpha's aura washed over them. They tilted their heads and bared their necks in submission.

Sarah had already run down and was in the arena standing there, she turned to face Alora. Waiting impatiently for Alora to get into the arena for the beating Sarah had planned for her Sarah watched as Alora made her way to her, too slowly in her opinion, Sarah became even more infuriated, when she noticed the reaction the other students were having to Alora's presence as she passed them.

Alpha Andrew and Luna Ember had been waiting for the challenge between Alora and Sarah. They knew Alora was not going to let Sarah win against her and were looking forward to Alora asserting herself against one of her abusers. Ember already had her video camera out and was recording it all.

Ember noticed it when it happened as Alora passed the Delta Class fighters. With a surprised expression she looked up at her mate wide eyed. Andrew had also caught the reactions the students had to Alora as she passed by them and was just as surprised as his mate.

"She's finally letting out her Alpha's aura." Ember said her words coming out breathy with her surprise and joy.

"Yes, and it is quite strong judging from the reaction of those students." Andrew said, his voice held a faint note of pride Ember could feel through their bond.

That was also when Ember noticed the lyrics of the song that was playing over the

sound system. "Oh my. This song is most definitely a message, and if Sarah were smart, she would listen to it."

Andrew looked down at his mate in confusion for a moment, then some of the lyrics of the song caught his attention and he understood what his mate meant. "I do not think Sarah would listen to that message even if she did know what it meant." Andrew told his mate after he thought about it for a moment.

Leaning into her mate Ember looked back in time to watch Alura vault over the railing of the bottom row of the stadium seating. Alura landed in a graceful crouch then stood up smoothly. Making her way to the fighter's platform in the middle of the arena in long powerful strides.

Chapter 35: "...recompense..."

I took Darien until Alura passed by the Delta Fighter Class row for him to take his phone out and start recording. Darien knew if he missed getting this fight on camera his brother would kill him. He was glad he started his recording when he did as he was able to capture Alura's vault into the Arena.

"Am I the only one freaking out about how strong Alura's Alphas aura is?" Mason asked, his voice had a high pitched note to it.

Darien turned his head to look at the others of their class as they shook their heads. Their expressions varying from shocked admiration to silently freaking out. If Damien were here, he would either be laughing at them all or looking at them with a smug, I knew it all along, expression.

Darien stood up to get a better angle with his phone, then he smacked himself as he remembered he had a video camera in his bag. He almost stopped his video to grab it and continue with it, but he glanced up at the row his parents were in and caught sight of his mother using her video camera.

Darien decided to keep recording with his phone, he could send this one to his brother right after it was done. Darien would get a copy of the video his mom was catching and send it to Damien in an email later tonight.

Only a minute and a half into Alura's five minute song choice and she was now standing in front of Sarah, towering over her. Sarah looked at Alura with a twisted expression, her insanity and fury came from her in waves.

There was a scent to Sarah's insanity, one Alura could only describe as a sickly-sweet smell. Just underneath that scent there was another. This other scent seemed wrong to Alura, it was like something inside Sarah was rotting.

Xena did not like the smell of Sarah any better than Alura did. "She has become most

foul Xena commented, her disgust in her tone.

“It took you long enough to get down here whore!” Sarah snarled,

Alora did not reply, she just stood there with her arms crossed under her bust and looked at Sarah. Her face showed no emotion except in her eyes. In the glowing violet and silver orbs, you could see just how much disdain Alora felt towards Sarah.

Sarah did not like the way Alora was looking at her, like she was better than her. Sarah thought she would put Alora in her place today and take her title. Sarah felt Alora did not deserve her spot as a first rank Alpha class fighter, only she did.

“You better submit to the beating I’m about to give you, or else you’ll pay for it later!”

Sarah yelled at her.

Alora’s expression did change then, a smirk curled up one side of her mouth. “I don’t even need to bring forth Xena to defeat you.”

Sarah looked at her and was nearly foaming at the mouth in her anger. Unable to hold back any longer, Sarah charged, and had her legs kicked out from under her. As Sarah fell face first towards the platform’s floor, she was kicked upward by her stomach. The blow to her stomach had all the air leaving Sarah’s lungs, preventing her from being able to scream from the pain.

After her upwards kick to Sarah’s stomach, Darien watched as Alora jumped and delivered a spinning downwards kick across Sarah’s back. Reversing Sarah’s upward rise and slamming her down onto the floor of the platform with a loud thump

“Goddess.” Jaxon gasped out, “Alora’s not giving her an inch.” Darien and the others all silently agreed with him.

Alora backed away a bit from Sarah and started to circle around her. Waiting patiently for Sarah to get her breath back and attempt another attack. Sarah gasped, drawing great big gulps of air, and then coughing, only to have her lungs seize up as pain wracked her body.

It was not a pretty sight. Sarah’s face was dark red, tears made her mascara run down her face. Drool was dripping off Sarah’s chin and the white of her eyes turned red. It took a minute before Sarah was able to breathe enough to get up and stand, her fury returning as she did.

“I will make you pay for that tenfold tonight?” Sarah growled out. Sarah’s words only came out in a husky growl instead of a shriek because of the damage coughing had done to her throat.

Alora did not say anything, she just let out a short chuckle. Sarah was mindless in her rage now, and Alora's smile was like waving a red cloth in front of a bull. Sarah staggered a moment then she was rushing forward again. This time Alora only stepped to the side and swiped Sarah's legs out from under her.

Sarah found herself face down on the platform again, her nose breaking on impact. Sarah shrieked in pain and grabbed her bloody nose rolling around for a moment. Then she looked at Alora, who was standing there looking down at her one hand on her hip. Sarah let out another shriek, this time in fury.

Sarah hopped up to her feet and started to pull off her clothes. "That's it you whore no more mercy! I am going to rip your throat out!" Sarah's shriek came out

stuffy sounding, because of her broken nose

Sarah forced her body to shift into her Lycan form, the fur on this form was pure white. Sarah could have been a powerful Werewolf if Sarah's wolf had not refused her. This forced Sarah to ingest daily persons just to be able to use the power of her wall stained her white fur. With her Epean form, even in her Lycan form, Sarah was now as tall as Alora, blood dripped from her faster, and more powerful. However, she lacked the fight training Alora had, and the instincts of her wolf as formed, Sarah

Alora did not shift, instead she brought her feet close together and started to do a bit of a pinking foot dance. This was something lowers did before a fight. Alora let out more of her power, and now arcs of purple colored electricity would occasionally snap around Alora, some traveling through her fur

Alora's eyes glowed, her longer than human upper and lower fang teeth, were exposed by the anticipatory grin stretched across her face. Sarah charged at her, prepared for Alora to sidestep her again. Only this time Alora was not going to dodge

With a fierce grin and glowing eyes, Alora stepped forward into the attack. As her fist came up, multiple streaks of purple colored lightning arced around it. The purple arcs of electricity flashed brightly and cracked loudly as Alora's fist connected in a powerful uppercut to Sarah's muzzle, sending her flying upwards.

Not wanting to end this battle yet, Alora grabbed Sarah by her fur covered ankle and slammed her back down onto the platform. There was a boom from the impact and Alora heard it when the air in Sarah's lungs was forced out. As Alora waited for Sarah to recover, the first song she had chosen ended.

Sarafi was finally able to get up, her breathing heavy, her shoulders hunched in obvious pain, and a crazy look in her eyes. The second song was now playing, the hypt's a challenge to all the suffered at the hand of Sarah and her parents, Mutiny by Neoni "I thought you were going to teach me a lesson?" Alora asked, taunting Sarah, her fang revealing grin still in place.

Sarah could not understand what was going on, this whore had never fought back like this before. The grin Alora had on her face was driving Sarah crazy with rage, the whore was laughing at her. Sarah's rage continued to deteriorate her thinking ability, and Alora's question only triggered an uncontrollable urge to attack.

No longer able to think, Sarah turned into a reactionary beast that only knew how to attack, but not really fight. Sarah was no match for Alora as a fighter. Noner of Sarah's attacks landed on Alora, instead she was kicked, or punched up into the air only to be slammed back down into the ground repeatedly.

The maction of those connected to Alora and Sarah, in one way or another, were varied as they watched the fight. This was revenge, a public beating Sarah had coming for a long time. There were many females in the crowd who were feeling a sense of recompense, as they watched Sarah receive such a severe beating. Sarah had seduced nuny of their mates before they were able to claim them.

Then after the females claimed their mates Sarah would come and cause trouble. Duha Kuznetsov was one of those females, she had been extremely upset with the way Sarah had attacked her mate in the arena earlier. Dasha felt Sarah deserved every blow she received from Alora.

Bettina and Allater were both extremely furious, feeling humiliated as they watched the female, they considered nothing but trash, beat the female they considered their treasure. Jaxon, Kain, and Galen were all thinking to themselves that they had chosen the right Alpha to serve if Alora would allow them to.

Darien felt like it was about time Alora broke out of the restraints her family had placed on her and fought back. Alpha Andrew and Luna Ember both felt a sense of pride at how calmly Alora systematically tore Sarah apart and taught her an unforgettable lesson.

Just as the final note of Alora's second song choice was sung, she landed her finishing blow. A powerful kick to Sarah's chest, purple arcs of electricity sparking and snapping

as the blow connected. This time Alora did not stop Sarah's flight off of the platform and across the arena.

silent for full minute before the crowd stood up, roaring and howling in approx

Chapter Comments

Susan Moledor

Those idiots who believed Sarah's rumors are proba

Chapter 36: "...changes to the rules..."

The roar of the crowd surprised Alora for a moment, she had forgotten they were there while she was fighting Sarah. It took the loud voice of the announcer making her win official to rouse Alora from her stunned state. Alora took a deep breath, and centered herself.

Alora turned her back on Sarah and left the fighter's platform. As she reached the wall, she paused to look back at her parents over her shoulder. By the expressions on the faces of her parents, she could tell that they were not only shocked at what Alora had done to Sarah, they were furious.

Alora did not care that they were angry and planning to make her pay for today's humiliation. In fact, Alora was hoping they would give her an excuse to teach them a lesson as well. Alora would never return to being the obedient torture doll anymore. Alora gave them a taunting smirk before she dismissed them by turning her back on them. Bending slightly at the knees, Alora only used a little of her strength to launch herself up and over the railing to the first row of seats. Walking casually, Alora made her way up the steps and back to her own seat.

Although Alora now had her Alpha's aura mostly tucked away again, the students still displayed the same submission as before when she passed them going up. Alora chose to ignore their reactions, as well as the open-mouthed wide-eyed looks of her fellow Alpha Class fighters.

They were all silent for the moment as they all watched the school medics, who were on standby, go into the arena for Sarah. Darien was staring at Alora with a complicated expression.

Alora looked at him, finally annoyed with all the staring, and asked. "What?" The word came out sharper than she had intended it to.

!!

Darien swallowed, raised his gaze to look up at nothing, then nodded his head several times. Darien then opened his mouth like he was going to make a comment, then he frowned and stopped himself.

Darien did this several more times before Alora became impatient and said, "Just spit it out."

Darien cleared his throat. "When you said you would teach Sarah a lesson....I never imagined it would be that.... that...." Darien's brows were furrowed as he thought of the word he wanted to use. "That..., unrelenting."

Alora studied Darien's expression with narrow eyes for a moment, wondering at what was now going through Darien's mind.

“Do you think I was too harsh?” Alora asked Darien in a cautious sounding tone. Darien shook his head. “No...no I was...I was just thinking about what you said earlier.” At Alora’s questioning look, he elaborated. “About not holding back anymore.”

Alora looked at Darien curiously, nodding her head. “I remember saying that this morning, what about it?”

Darien let out a nervous sounding laugh. “Well, I was just thinking that I now have a full understanding of what you meant.”

Alora looked at him mutely, not knowing how to respond to that. She noticed the various expressions on the faces of her fellow classmates, faxon’s expression was particularly complicated.

Alora decided she needed a moment to herself right then. “I’m going to go to the lady’s room really quick.” Then she was up and heading swiftly down the stairs.

Jason waited till Alora made it to the stairway leading to the underground before he spoke. “You all remember how Alora mentioned putting a chair under her doorknob earlier.” They all turned to look at faxon, their bodies tensing up at his question.

“Alora said it was because she did not have a lock in her bedroom door. Then text messages asking for our fight music came in and we did not follow up on it. The way she said it though, was like it was no big deal.” Mason said, quietly, his expression dour. “She did, but her eyes said something different.” Jaxon said, “So I was just texting one of my cousins, she’s a counselor, and asked her why a female would block her bedroom door with a chair under the doorknob.”

Darien, like Jaxon, had also seen that Alora’s eyes had a different tale to tell than what her lips were saying. “What did she say?” Darien asked, a faint growl in his tone.

Jason’s expression became even darker. “My cousin told me it depended on the situation. One scenario is if the female lives in a place or area where they feel door locks are not enough of a security measure. They then would use this trick to give themselves time to grab a weapon just in case there was an intruder.” [axon paused, clenching his hands into tight fists.

“The other soetano. is it a female was a yatim ol sexual assoli at one point on another “Jason impest is, his mind. murell be the last ku usments that it’s not the second chong idea. “I have been trying to tell

Semnal aumilt by who? Mason asked

Jawn turned to look at Darien. “Why is it you sporation. Aloia, about whether or not Allister is bei biologivál father?

Danen booked down at the posed, his chooched fats set vis his kowes. “The may be Jacks at Alora sometimes when he thinks no one is locking 11 makes my fur stand on end *

The other males looked at Burien with varied expression of honor. None of them wanted to even contemplate what all the clues were hinting at.

“Alora woodle) want us talking about this would she “* Mauris asked, his voice how and a little raspe

Darson’s expivision looked strained as he shook his head. “No, ma she would not “Darien looked down, unclenching one fist to grip the back of his neck. “Alora has always been a very private person. Damit neat nechavive ”

“Victims of routine violence generally are. It is a mentality that is forced upon them until it becomes instinctual.” Jason commented calmly, a note of sadness in his tone

Their conversation ended with the return of Alosa and the voice of Vice Principal Kalia over the sound system,

After Alora had landed her winning blow against Sarah, Vice Principal Kalia made her way over to Principal Jonathan. The number of challenges to the Alpha Class was going to require them to place a time restriction on those fights.

Kalia was there to confer with Jonathan on just what that amount of time would be. Kalia respectfully to the Pack Alpha and Luna, greeting them first before greeting Jonathan

“There were too many challenges issued to the Alpha Class fighters this year and we need to set a time allotment for each match. If we do not, we will have to postpone the written exams by a full day” Kalia told Jonathan

Jonathan leaned back, he had one arm crossed over his waist, and the elbow of the other braced on it. Jonathan rested his chin on his raised fist and studied Kalia with a faint smile

“And what solution have you come up with, Vice Principal” Jonathan asked, a faint smile on his lips

“I think we should limit the allotment of time to five minutes” Kalia said confidently.

Jonathan’s smile deepened. “What if the match were to end in a draw?”

Not missing a beat, Kalia answered. “If there is a draw in the match, we will advance that student as we would if there would have been a clear cut victory. After that, it will be up to them to defend and keep their ranking in their new fighter class,”

Jonathan nodded, satisfied with Kalia’s answers. Not that he expected it to go any other way: Jonathan respected the female quite a lot, for her work ethic, intelligence and her genuine kindness and dedication to the pups of the school.

“With your solution. When do you plan to implement that” Jonathan asked.

“Starting with the Delta Class challenges. As soon as the medical staff is done scraping Sarah Noethussountain off the arena wall, I will make the announcement” Kalia replied.

Jonathan nodded again in approval. “Then I will leave you to it

Kalia nodded. “Thank you, sir.” Then she bowed respectfully again to Aishrew and Bebet. “I will take my leave from them,

“It is times like these that I am grateful we are so long lived. You and Kalia have both proven to be the best thing for this school and the students. These students and teachers have thrived under you two for several decades now.” Luna Ember said, after Kalia had left.

Jonathan blushed and was surprised, to think he could still blush at his age. He felt honored to have been given such a compliment from his Luna. He would tell Kalia about it later.

“Thank you, Luna, to receive such a high compliment is truly an honor.” Jonathan said, smiling.

Just then, Kalia walked to the center of the fighter’s platform with a microphone in hand.

“Hello everyone if I can have your attention for a few moments, I am here to announce there has been a minor change to the rules of the last of the challenges for advancement. Due to the overwhelming number of challenges issued, we are limiting the battles to five minutes. In the event any fight was to end in a draw at this five minute

mark, the challenger will be allowed to advance. We will begin the Delta Class fighter part of the challenges in five minutes. With that announcement made, Kalia calmly walked off the platform.

POST COMMENT

Chapter Comments

Meeka Hodshon

wait what happened after Sarah shifted???? it just said Alora bounced around like boxers do then this chapter the fight was just over, did I miss something???

Tremblay Gabrielle

for the battles I prefer the chapters in the first version, I'm a bit disappointed for the news

Chapter 37: Clan Alphas Frost and Northmountain*

There was a low rumble from the crowd as everyone started talking after Vice Principal Kalia's announcement. Students talked to other students. Parents and family members talked to other parents and family members. The row where the Alpha Class Fighters sat was the only quiet section at the moment.

One corner of Mason's mouth was twitching, while one of Garrett's eyebrows was twitching. Darien let out a short wry sounding laugh. Jaxon and Lexus just sat there glaring up at the screen with the last of coming challenges, their expressions gloomy. Alora's face, other than having one eyebrow raised, was expressionless.

"Are we even going to have the energy to fight in the main part of the examination after all the challengers are through with us?" Mason snarled the question,

"At least the school is considerate enough to limit the matches to five minutes each?" Jaxon said, his tone rife with sarcasm.

Alora laughed, finding Jason's words humorous. The others looked at her, with varied expressions of irritation. Amused, Alora looked back at them.

"What?" Alora asked, trying to sound and look innocent.

"Why are you not as irritated by this as we are?" Mason asked, annoyed with how serene Alora was acting about all the challenges she was about to fight.

Alora, her expression still innocent, feigned ignorance. "Irritated by what?"

Darien sat back a little so he could watch them, he had never seen Alora deliberately play with someone else the way she was now,

"How many challenges did you receive?" Mason demanded.

Alora shrugged. "I'm not sure, but it's a lot."

www

"Seriously?!" Mason asked in shocked disbelief. "How can you be so calm about all this?"

Garrett put a hand on Mason's shoulder and Mason looked at Gerrett, startled by the sudden contact. "Dude, she's f uc kin with you." He said.

Mason looked at him in surprise for a moment, then his expression shifted to one of realization. Then Mason whipped his head around to glare at Alora, growling when she started to laugh.

Darien wrapped his arms around his belly and laughed. Mason growled again, making Alora and Darien lean into each other as they laughed some more. Their Laughter didn't show any signs of stopping, until Alora's phone sounded with a notification.

When Alora's phone sounded, their laughter stopped abruptly, startling their classmates with this drastic change in their actions. With a careful expression, Alora took her phone out of her hoodie pocket. Alora had put her hoodie back on earlier when she had returned to her seat. Alora was still feeling a little too exposed without it.

The message was another challenge and a song request for it. Seeing who the challenger was made Alora grin chillingly. Feeling aggressive, Alora chose one decades-old rock song and one of the newer alternative pop songs. Putting her phone back in her pocket Alora focused on the battle now happening in the arena.

At least she did until she felt the states, Alota turned her head and met the curious and wary gazes of her classmates. Alora knew they wanted to ask her what the message was about. However, fear of upsetting Alora kept their mouths shut.

"I have been challenged by Wesley Frost." Alora said straightforwardly.

Mason jerked back, looking stunned. "Clan Alpha Frost's grandson?"

Alora nodded, and then another test sounded on her phone. Looking down at it, Alora saw that it was another challenge. "This one is from Byron Northmountain."

"Clan Alpha Northmountain's grandson." Darien said in a hard tone.

"Seriously?" Garrett asked loudly, shocked.

Mason looked angry about the situation, he and those two challengers did not get along. In fact, whenever Mason encountered them, they tried to beat him, but it was Mason who always trounced their asses thoroughly instead.

Looking down at her phone, the song Alura chose this time was in the heavy electronic genre. While Alora was doing this, Darien was sitting like an angry statue. The others were talking in angry tones about her two challengers.

They considered Alora one of their own, so naturally, they were upset about this. They

felt this was a deliberate attack against Alora, and Mason's next words

"The Frost and Northmountain Clan Alphas hate Alta. Now she has not only publicly humiliated Sarah but has also publicly distanced herself from her own Clan by changing her name. The Alphas will attempt to use their grandsons to put Alora in her place."

Mason growled.

"What the hell? Why??" Garrett asked angrily.

"Don't worry, I've been looking forward to paying them back for things they did in the past. They will be the ones taught a lesson. The icing on the cake is that this will slag those two Alphas in the face with more humiliation." Alora said in a horrid sounding tone.

Alora had placed one foot on the bench and loosely hugged her leg while resting her chin on her raised knee. Combined with the serene air around her, this made Alora look bored and unbothered.

"Maybe I should have chosen Tech Nine's Bitch Slap as my challenge song instead of the others." Alora said it in a wondering tone, then she shrugged. "The ones I do choose should still be good enough to get my message across."

The others stared at her silently for a moment. "This doesn't bother you?" Mason asked. Alora turned her head and looked at him with a raised eyebrow. "Are they stronger than Darien?" she asked, her tone dry.

Mason snorted. "Hell no."

"Then there is no reason to worry." Alora said, then went back to watching the current challenge.

Darien laughed at the look of stunned realization on the others' faces, especially Mason's. "What did you expect her answer to be?" He asked them.

Jaxon was the best to recover. "Well, when you put it that way, it makes sense. None of us can beat her, and those two are only Beta Class fighters."

The others started to talk to each other again, Darien however, was looking at Alora, Darien thought of a conversation he once had with Damien, after he had watched Damien and Alora spar. For some reason he couldn't remember, Darien had asked Damien about how strong he thought Alora would get. Damien's response was to tell him that Alora would one day be stronger than anyone in the Pack.

Clan Alpha Frost and Northmountain were now sitting behind Bettina and Allister. They sat like two Kings, and Bettina and Allister practically bowed to them in subjugation. The

two Alphas had both become rather furious, as they watched the dark stain forced upon their Clans thoroughly humiliate one of the shining stars of the Clans. Now they were over here to get an explanation for everything that had happened.

These two Clan Alphas looked identical to each other, their dual-colored eyes were inner rings of icy blue and outer rings of a watery blue. Their long white hair was waist length, the same color as their goatees. They had chiseled features, and while they could be called gorgeous, they were so ice cold and stone faced it was off putting. Unlike Allister, the two hundred year old Clan Alphas trained daily, so their bodies were thick with hard packed muscle. The Alphas were also much taller than Allister at the height of seven foot seven. They dressed in matching three piece suits. The blazers, trousers, and button up shirts were a bright white. Over the button up shirts were pale gray pocket vests with silver embroidery. The suits were completed with royal blue ties. "It is bad enough that she was born wrong, now she has blatantly challenged our Class by changing her surname to that of the Heartsong Clan. We could have let her off lightly if she had not done this." Clan Alpha Frost said angrily.

"At most we would have locked her up and taught her a good lesson for daring to disobey the orders of her superiors." Clan Alpha Northmountain added.

"What should we do with the wretch now, Clan Alphas?" Bettina asked, sounding aggrieved.

"First, we have already videred our grandsons to challenge her and teach her a lesson. They will then be able to compete with her in the final rounds and take her Rank from her. This way we can redeem our Clans Clan Alpha Frost said in an imperious tone.

"You, Bettina, will send her a message and let her know that she is to submit to the punishment of our two future Clan leaders. After this is done you will bring her to us" Clan Alpha Northmountain ordered.

"Uhuu you bung bei bo u, we attend school" Clan Alpha Frost said

but to change her name back, and she will it be allowed to graduate. As she is now righten, she no longer needs to

Clan Macwives. We will make sure she passes death every day we allow her to love for today & transgressions" Clan Alpha Frost said.

Bettina felt happy when she heard the plans for the Alpha but she was not happy about the last part of however, having an intense feeling of inferiority, was not too happy about the last part of

the plan. He wanted to keep klora with them, so that he could punish her however he wanted, whenever he wanted.

Fast, Allister wanted to get a DNA test done on Mora. If his suspicions about Mort being his daughter were confirmed, then he could really do to her everything he wanted to do.

Chapter 38: **...scary female...

Damien and Xander were on a break from their exams. They had finished the first portion of the exams earlier than most other students. It was during this time he was sent a video from his mother. His mother, it seemed, was wasting no time by editing the recording before sending it to him. So, Damien received the cow footage as it played out in real time.

Damien sat against a large tree in the campus courtyard, Xander leaned in close and watched the video over his shoulder. Xander felt a chill down his spine as he watched. The power Alora unconsciously displayed in the video was that of a Pack Alpha not that of a high school age werewolf.

Xander glanced at Damien to see his reaction and felt like his mouth instantly filled with blood in indignation. Was his Alpha concerned...? No! His Alpha was not concerned. Instead, he looked down at his phone's screen with a loving smile and soft eyes! The world was so unfair to him at the moment, did his scary Alpha have to pick up another scary Alpha as his mate?!

Feeling Xander's glare, Damien knew Xander had a dramatic internal monologue going. "Are you done being overly dramatic about my mate's power yet?"

Xander felt like a bolt of lightning slammed into him. Did his Alpha have to read his mind now?!

"I'm not reading your mind, I just know how you are." Damien said in response to Xander's continued silence.

This did not calm Xander down. If anything, it affirmed his belief that his Alpha could read his mind.

"You need to quit freaking out before Darius starts to mock you again." Damien said in a calm tone.

Xander felt like his mouth was full of blood again, his Alpha's words were really too harsh. However angry Xander was at Damien's words, they held true as Darius did start mocking him.

"How did I get paired with such a drama King? I should ask the Moon Goddess for a refund. Such trivial things send you into hysterics!" Darius growled.

Xander felt another wave of indignation. "A refund!" He roared internally at his will. "Yes! A humanoid refund!" Darius growled.

"The music she chose for this battle...she's sending a message," Damien said, distracting Xander and Darius from their fight.

Xander was listening to the lyrics of the song and looking at the fight that was happening. "Love The Way You Hate Me?" Xander asked in a questioning tone, then said, "If there is a message, Sarah didn't listen to it."

Damien nodded, letting out a hum of agreement. "She did not."

As the battle went on, if you could call it that, the song changed. "This song is a

message to her parents and their Clan Alphas.” Damien said after identifying the “Mutiny?” Xander said, his tone once again questioning. “Is she finally rebelling against her family?”

Damien gave him a glare that said, “Is that not obvious.” While his wolf Darius said, “idiot! Of course, that is what that means?” Xander felt that if this kept up, he would never get rid of the imagined taste of blood from his mouth

“Even your wolf knew the answer. Damien told him.

Xander let out a growl of irritation. “It’s bad enough I have to hear my wolf berating me inside my own head, but do you have to be so cruel as to encourage him?!”

Damien let out a deep chuckle. “Is it berating you to point out the truth?”

Xander was unable to offer a response, he could only sit there with that coppery taste in his mouth and stew for a moment. Although Xander was quick to anger and offer hysterics, he was just as quick to calm down, forgive and then forget.

Xander watched the footage till the end, then Damien started it all over again. This time Xander paid attention to every detail he could see from the video. From start to end it was a show of power, it was a female saying she was done submitting to her family’s cruel treatment of her. It was also a public beating for one of her abusers.

beaty female”

“Har slpud just lu a sample of ahal is capable of, she in this year’s Alpha Class frst rack fighter. Anyone challenging les

Damien had a demdpan espersen as he baked

Beattien mould join them, aral hem she wondd laugh and smile at all

iga before puberty, when she became fem friends with land,

ek, we’ll investigate what made Beatrice change in drastically” Darkien told Xander

Damien’s windi shot through Kander, sending him deep into his thoughts for a motsent.

“Thank you” Xander said, his mice hoarse with em

coffed ashly. “Why do you thank me? This is something I shudd di as your friend and Alpha.”

ikle in response to Damien’s words. “Then I thank the Moon Goddess for having such a friend and Alpha *

“Okay, magh with the emotional stuff, lets grab something to eat the the next portion of our exams.” Damien said at he

Xander was quite woman when it came to certam subjects, his family, his mate, the protection of his Alpha, and the prosperity of their Pack, Outside of subjects. Kander allowed his emotions and reaction fier teign.

“No matter what I will not net accept Neutrice’) tejection. “Xander told his wolf, his tone serious.

Darius did jud jespond right away, he knew very well that has humanoid would not give up on their mute. “I know be it a few months, jean, or

““Let us hope we do not have to wait centuries for her to accept us. I am hoping when we go back this time, we will be able to finally claim her. “Xander replied.

7 pray to the Moon Goddess we will be so fortunate. “Darius said, has tone had a mournful note to it.

With that, Kander quietly followed Damien into the campus food court. Damien and Xander together, was always an intimidating sight. They were two of the powerful

beings on campus. Today, however, they were especially intimidating, as the normally smiling and jovial Xander, had a dark and brooding expression Pan Xander's expression with the stone faced expression Damien had, and it was a nerve wracking experience for those who encountered them. Normally, Xander would be telling Damien to lighten up, and there would be at least a dozen brings surrounding them.

The only two who had the guts to join them today and did not feel intimidated by them the way others did, were Nabonidus and Shapur. This was because Nabonidus and Shapur's status was the same as Damien and Xander's.

Nabonidus Emami Kiarash was the eldest son of the second continent Alpha of Alpha's Cyrus Bardiya Kiarash, and Shapur Kaveh Farzaneh was the eldest son of The Alpha of Alpha's Beta Bahar Abtin Farzaneh.

"Ah my friends, you do not seem to be in high spirits anymore. What has happened?" Shapur asked Xander.

Xander did not really want to talk out the mate who continued to reject him, he instead deflected the issue onto his Alpha's shoulders. "My Alpha has chosen a scary female as his mate

Damen glared at Xander, not appreciating Xander's comment about Alora. "She is only scary for those on the other end of her ire." Damien defended.

"Loc, now that is an old word. You have been hanging around with the Elders for too long again my friend Nabonidya said, amusement in his tone.

Damen laughed. "I fear you are correct in that assessment, Nabonidus."

Nabonidus smiled. "So, what has your Beta claiming your mate in way?" He asked.

Damen let out a sigh. "It is my mate fighting exams day back home. She was challenged to a fight for Rank advancement and had to defend herself. My mother sent me a recording of the fight"

Nabonidus raised his eyebrows, his expression shifting to one of interest. "May I see this battle?"

Damen smiled and nodded, bringing out his phone to play the several minutes long video of Alora fighting Sarah, Shapur, just as nosy as Xander, watched the video over Nabonidus's shoulder.

"I have to agree with Xander, your female is scary." Shapur said, earning a glare from both Damien and Nabonidus.

After Shapur backed away, Nabonidus returned his gaze to Damien. "Your female is so young to be so strong already. However, there seems to be some kind of grudge between her and the other female."

Damen let out a sigh. "You have guessed right. They are sisters, but in order for my female to be my mate...she had to suffer through a rejection first."

Nabonidus jerked back, his expression horrified. "Who would reject such a beautiful and strong female?"

Chapter 39: "...have to tell you something..."

Damen glanced to the side, his relationship with my female's sister

almost glaring as he answered Nabonidus's question. "This fool a younger brother, who

has been in a several years long sexual

Nabweidus fuud a wide ryed expression on his face, stunned by this turn of events.

Then he turned to look at Xander. "Xander." He spoke.

"Vex?" Kander responded.

"Your brother....." Nabonibus trailed off.

"Yes?" Xander asked after a moment of silence.

"Your brother is an imbecile." Nabeonidas finally said.

Damien laughed at the complicated expression that appeared on Xander's face caused by Nabonidus's words.

With his eyeboow and one corner of his lips twitching, Xander said, "In that regard your Alphaship.....I cannot disagree."

Shapur could not help but laugh at Xander's use of the word "Mplaship ""Alphaship, I will have to remember that one in the future."

Nationidus gazed at Shapsit with a veiled expression. "And post who are you thinking of addressing with such a title?" He asked, his tone cold.

Shapur stopped laughing abruptly and gave Nabonidus a nervous look. "Ah. no one, no one, just a joke"

Nabonidus glared at Shapur a little longer, post to make sure he was properly contrite, then he once again focused his gaze on Damien. "May I know the name of this young female you claim as your muate?"

Damien's gaze softened and a small loving smile curled his lips. "Alora Luna Heartsong, the Lost descendant of the Alpha Luna Bloodmoon Heartsong"

Nabonidus sat up straight and looked at Damien in suprise. "One of the original bloodlines. Is she Goddess Blessed?"

Damien pulled down the V-neck of his shirt, baring the deep red colored mark in the center of his chest. "Just as I am." Nabonidas's surprise at this revelation was physical as his body jerked in his seat. "The differences between het maik and mine are the colors, and mine is not visible when shifted while her mark is."

"How is it we have never seen it before?" Nabonibus asked.

"Even when I was young, I drew a lot of attention. That is not something I am fond of So, I asked my mom to come up with something to cover it, something that would not come all even if wet. My mother found a tattoo concealer that was waterproof and needed a special remiser to get it off. I just haven't applied it today:" Damien told han

“Do you plan to continue to hide the mark?” Nabonadus asked, feeling that he had been right all along about Damien, and that there was more to him than met the eye. Damien shrugged. “I’m not sure, it depends on how I feel tomorrow and the next day. We only have these last three days before we are able to go home. With such a short amount of time left here, I no longer feel the need to hide it.”

Nabonidus nodded his head several times. “I see what you mean. I would find it tiresome at this point.”

*That is how I’m feeling about it at the moment. Damien agreed.

The atmosphere lightened considerably after that, their talks shifting to the exams they had finished, and the ones that were to come next. They finished their meals just as the campus bell rang, signaling the need to return to exam rooms.

“All of these Delta Class challengers are more annoying than anything else. I didn’t expect them to be this easy to defeat.” Garrett said, letting out a sigh.

have to tell you something

Therim and Ung he

“Well

father asked Master

University “ Danim explained.

““Mich, well that explains his yoL THE

many more fights

before the next bout” Lemun asked.

“There are four more challenges left. Thanki

“Thank the Goddess. I’m starving.”

“You’re not the only one

“Tei hungry too.” Alora said as she rubbed her belly.

*I think we

Jamison commented, forcing himself to nod. Sam

had heard the way Lexus hated agatati kiin ta kek, and

“I know I’m hungry” Lexus said, his deep voice

Janusun shifted his head a little, and he felt the barest brush of Lexus’s lips against

a patch through his system, and Jamison decided to feel them. WAS

Datami’s phone vibrated and he looked at the message he just received. But then she said

they had something they need to tell you about

kú get her attention. “Hes, my parenty want you to prun as he hash.
Alota kooked up at Darien with a confused expression. “Okay, are we
lunch un

“I third tay’I want to take us wanewhere clar: “ Darien said

*What about deretuty?” Akaa asked

Darien frowned, he was unwilling to spend any modr lata

“Serenity’s paietti air going to wait to spend time with her with her spending lunch with
you” Jaxson told Darien

Darien looked at Jason with a smile. “Thanks for letting me

40 you and beverely are fated mates, I believe her puenti

Darien sent out a text to his parents asking if it would be okay for him to invite his mate
along. When be revened the affirmative, be then tested Sermily, telling her about the
situation and asking if the wanted to join them. Darien had gotten Semuity’s under
during their last bevak, and they had been testing here and there

Dusen was told by Serenity to hang on while she messaged her parents. I didn’t take
long before Serenity was testing him back that her parents were okay with her joming
him and his parents for hitch. They were fated mates and this would count as the, meet
the parents moment in their burgeoning relationship.

“Serenity will be joining us for lunch.” Darien told Alora.

Alora chuckled, a wide smile appearing on her face. “I figured that would be the case.”

“So, what do you think my parents have to talk to you about? Darien asked.

Alora shrugged, shaking her head she said, “I honestly have no clur.”

Darien shook his head, running a hand through his hair. “Just thought I would ask, see if
you knew something I didn’t.” He said with a sigh.

Alora shook her head. “Nope. I am just as much in the dark as you are. Where are we
meeting your parents?*

“We will meet them at Best of All Worlds Food Palace on the comer of Cheshire Avenue
and Main Street. They have large and small private dining rooms. That
way whatever mom and dad have to talk to you about won’t be overheard by the
restaurants other patrons.” Darien told Alora.

“I have been there. They have cuisine from all over the world. They also have alternates
and substitutes for any diet.” Jamison told them

Darien looked at him. “You have? Is the food really good?”

“Yes, everything I have tried so far has been delicious.” Jamison replied.

In no time, the last of the Delta Class Challenges had been fought. The lights came up and the announcer’s voice boomed over the sound system.

“We will now enter into an hour-long recess, please remain aware of the time and be back on campus in the allotted time. Thank you, students, faculty and parents, Clan, and family members.”

Before Daren could even stand up, Serenity was there flinging herself into his arms. Darien chuckled as he braced himself, preventing them from falling backwards. Alora couldn’t help but smile at what a cute couple they made. However, it was the exasperated expression on the faces of Serenity’s brothers that had Alora bursting into laughter.

“Why do you have to laugh? You will only encourage her unruly behavior.” Kain whined. Alora looked at Kain, and tried to stop laughing, but his words and expression made that impossible, and instead Alora laughed harder.

Chapter 40:...cleaning slave does not need...”

konathan, ba phone

Bettina. Northma

pool and hoths, Jonathan dikel

whood Vant we for her back, isto the Clan without letting her tar

“Why do we have to force her to change her surname back to ours!

by having it ” This sentensor had lonathan lifting has phone to moved what was happening

“Because of the terms on my father’s Will, If Alma’s sa is not changed back, the The one to inherit all that laid and named the Alpha of that Clas” Bettina shocked. “But if bot name remaina Northmssuntaan till after her tweets third Mithlon. I will inherit the last, the manswas, all that alth and the title of Clan Alpha Onor I have that our status will be equal with the Alphas of the Northmountain and Frost Clans.”

“Oh.” Sarah said, stunned. Aher thinking about it for a moment, she became ngrly. “Why is it that whore is the granddaughter that inherits, why not me??!”

“Because of that stupid buthmack on that wielch’s hip! It marks her as being part of the Heartsong’s original Moalline and a future Alpa?” Bettie lowby, nying to keep het voor down, but it was still loud enough to be heard cleath by the hidden Jonathan,

“Is that why you always made her hide it, and told her it was a cursed mark that would get her banished from the Pack if mother

one ever saw it? Sarah asked her

This question sent a jolt of surprise through Jonathan. He knew all this time that Alora had to be suffering from abuse at home. Abuse Alora refused to speak about or acknowledge the existence of Jonathan’s suspicions were just confirmed, and he now had knowledge of some of the cruelty Alora had been suffering all these years

“Yes?” Bettina’s shriek now held a growl to it. “I even tried to cut it off her with a whetstone. When that didn’t work, I tried to burn it off, but like every wound we have given her it has always healed without a scar and that damned mark would appear again on the healed flesh!”

“Then what are we going to

Karah whined.

Sarah couldn’t stand the thought of Alora becoming a Clan Alpha and having such a higher status than her. It wasn’t fair in Sarah’s mind for that mongrel bitch was going to inherit all that land and a title just because of some stupid birthmark. Sarah was the eldest and if anyone should inherit all that from their grandfather it was her. That whore Alora deserved none of it, and Sarah was not about to let her have it any more than her mother would.

“There is already a plan in place thanks to our Clan Alphas. We just have to follow it. Tonight, when that wretch comes home, we will lock her up in the basement. and wait for the Alpha’s to send someone to retrieve her. Once they have her, they will force her to change her surname back to Northmountain.” Bettina said, sounding vindictive

Sarah smiled, delighted in the plans her mother had, then she frowned. “What about school, there are still two more days left.”

“The stupid bitch is eighteen now and is no longer required to attend school. That and the Clan’s soon to be cleaning slave does not need a high school diploma.” Came Bettina’s cruel reply.

Allister did not add anything to their conversation at all, he stood off to the side brooding. Allister was still upset with the part of the plan that involved them handing Alora over to the

Jonathan was horrified by the details of the conversation between Bettina and Sarah.

Their level of cruelty was unfathomable to Jonathan. There was one thing about this plan that Bettina did not Even if she had the ability to pull Alora out of school early, which she did not, Alita would not lose out on her diploma

Seniors took two types of exams before the end of the year final exams. The pre final written exams and the Senior Class Final Fight Class Kank Placement exami These exams were taken a month before the end of the school year.

If something happened in that last month that prevented a Senior from taking the end of the year final exams, those early exams would be used to determine Seniors eligibility to graduate. Mora's scores on those exams were perfect, and they alone would secure her place as the top graduate of this year's Senior Class

Jonathan bet, based on the cruelty and filth he had just heard, that this group would be furious to know that detail. Jonathan stayed behind the pillar, waiting for the group to move on so they would not know their conversation had been overheard, Allister got tired of just standing there and listening to Bettina and Sarah bitch and moan about Alora. "Come on you two, I'm hungry and we don't need the wrong person to come along and hear you two"

Jonathan found those words from Allister ironic, considering he was the "wrong person" to have come along and overhear their conversation, Now that Jonathan knew of this plan to harm Alora, he would not stay silent. Jonathan watched as the group moved further into the parking garage.

Jonathan waited until he saw the Northmountain's car drive past the pillat he was behind to move. After he got into his car, Jonathan made sure to send the recording of the conversation to Alpha Andrew's email, then he called him, not wanting to delas getting them this information,

Alpha Andrew and Luna Ember had already reached their car and were sitting inside when Andrew's phone rang. Andrew looked down at his phone to see who was calling, and his expression became curious.

Ember leaned over his shoulder to see who was calling, and her brows rising in surprise. "We just left him not too long ago, what could have caused him to call us after such a short time." She asked her mate.

Andrew shrugged and said, "There is only one way to find out." Accepting the call, he placed it on speaker mode before greeting Jonathan. "Hello Jonathan, is there something I can help you with?"

“I just got done overhearing a horrific conversation between The Wicked Bitch of the West and her daughter, The Wicked Bitch of the East. They plan to lock up Alora as soon as she gets home tonight. They are working in tandem with the Alphas of the Frost and Northmountain Clans. They do not plan to let Alora finish school and are aware of the terms in her grandfather’s Will. They plan to make her a slave to their Clans” Ember gasped, horrified, “How dare they! We do not condone slavery of any form!” “There is more, my Luna, my Alpha ” Jonathan said, his tone becoming strained. Frowning in concern, Andrew asked. “What is it?”

“The cruelty Alora’s suffered in their hands it’s more than I could have imagined. Bettina described how she attempted to permanently remove Alora’s birthmark by slicing it off with a silver blade, when that did not work she tried to burn it off her.” Jonathan’s voice was shaking by the time he finished telling them those details. “The emailed you the recording I took of their conversation.”

Ember’s hands were over her mouth, her eyes wide with horror. Andrew was shaking with anger and tried not to crush the phone in his hand.

“Thank you...for informing me of this matter.” Andrew finally growled out. “Your Luna and I will take it from here.” He said before disconnecting the call.

Ember looked at Andrew, her expressions both angry and worried. “I want to rip them to pieces and wrap Alora up in so much love the things those people did to her disappear!” Ember nearly sobbed those last words.

Andrew wrapped his arms tightly around his mate, kissing the Top of her head. “I know my darling mate, I feel how much your heart breaks for that pup. After today she no longer belongs to those two, we will bring her home tonight.”

Ember used the comfort her mate brought her to get control of her emotions. Ember reminded herself she was the Luna of the Moon Mountain Pack, mate to the Alpha of Alpha’s.

“I know she is already eighteen, but I want to adopt her into our family. Break any and all ties those horrible brings have to Alora.” Ember told her mate.

Ember’s eyes narrowed dangerously as she thought of all the ways she wanted to make them suffer for what they had done to Alora. As the Luna of the Pack and a Doctor, Ember always felt she was supposed to be benevolent and magnanimous in her actions and disposition. In this moment she did not want to be those things, she wanted to be vengeful and unforgiving towards the Northmountains.

Andrew was the only one who could ever truly understand what his mate was going through at that moment. Being able to feel your mate's emotions gave you a whole other level of insight into them you could not get from a non-fated pairing.

"Okay, we'll ask her if that is something she would like. Although, if our pup Damien has his way, she will soon be our daughter in law." Andrew reminded her.

Chapter Comments

Chapter 41 "...number thirteen..."

That was right, their oldest pup had

| let her become bonded to

That reminder perked Ember right

that her bond with Matt was out of the way, then

Feeling Ember's emotions had stabilized, and she once more had control over

himself loving at his mate

Andrew was grateful he had to help his mate with her emotional struggles over this, it had given him.

He had to focus on when his started to boil out of control. While he was comforting his mate, he made his decision. Grabbing his phone off the dash, Andrew sent out messages

They had already planned on inviting Alora to stay with them at both Damien and Danen's request graduation day before handing her the responsibility of being the Heartsong's Clan Alpha.

worry over her safety. He had planned to

Now, due to this new development he was having to accelerate his plans. Fortunately, he had already set things in motion the day Abra turned eighteen and changed her surname.

"Alright my darling, we have a date with the pups that includes our new daughter in-law. We also have something else important we have to do to Ember.

"What important thing? Ember asked, curious.

"Having a will processed and bestowing a title." Andrew said, not needing to say anymore. Ember knew what her mate meant by those words

Andrew said

With a nod and a “Mhm,” as a verbal acknowledgement, Ember buckled herself in and let her mate drive them to the restaurant they had chosen for this meeting

Alora sat sideways in the back of Darien’s car, her legs on the seats with her back braced against the side of the car. At the moment she was giving serious thought to what Damien wanted her to do. Damien would not have asked her to move in with the Alpha and Luna without a valid reason.

The knowledge that Damien was worried enough about her to ask her to move into the Moonstar Mansion early, caused a melting sensation inside her heart. Life would be so much easier to live if Damien was her mate. That thought had Alora freezing in place a moment as a swell of panic started to engulf her.

Alora couldn’t allow herself to think that way. It would break her in ways her family never could if Alora allowed herself to hope, only to have been crushed brutally by reality. It was not an experience Alora wished to put herself through. Shaking her head, Alora let go and buried that train of thought.

Alora’s phone vibrated with a message, looking down she felt a jolt of excitement that she immediately suppressed. Damien had sent Alora a message. After reading the message a blush bloomed across her cheeks and her heart melted again. Damien was making it hard if not impossible for her to protect her heart from him.

Alora couldn’t help rereading Damien’s message. “My mother sent me the video of you teaching Sarah a very public lesson. You shined so beautifully in the video my Starlight. I can’t wait to see you fight in person again and feel all that strength myself.”

.

Alora had to think hard on how to reply to Damien. She typed in a message, then erased it, doing this repeatedly a few more times before finally settling on something simple. I look forward to training with you again once you make it home.”

After sending the message Alora looked up and was slightly startled. Darien and Serenity were staring at her from the front seats. Frowning, Alora sat up and looked around and realized they had already arrived at the restaurant. Alora had been so worried about how to reply to Damien, that the world around her had disappeared until she found the right way to answer his message.

Cleaning her throat and ignoring the curious looks Darien and Serenity shot her way, Alora hopped out of the car. The top being down made getting out of the back seat super easy, Darien and Serenity got out of the car, both staring at her with curious eyes.

The worst thing you could do was intrigue a Werewolf's curiosity. They were relentless when it came to finding answers to their questions. Alora let out a lamenting sigh, knowing that even though she did not want to answer those inquiring looks, she was going to anyway.

Alora was only giving in because it was easier to give in now than suffer through the constant battery of questions that was surely to assault her if she did not "Damien sent me a text saying he saw the video your mom took of my fight with Sarah. He said he was looking forward to sparring with me again.*

There that should have solved their curiosity...right? Unfortunately for Alora it did not.

"What exactly did my brother say that had you blushing so hard?" Darien asked.

Then Serenity jumped in excitedly. "Yes! And why did it take you so long to reply to this message? You must have typed and erased a dozen messages just now."

Alora looked at them, her eyes a tad wide with a sense of panic in them, this was the last thing she wanted to talk about. To talk about it would mean acknowledging that hopeful desire she was desperately trying to ignore the existence of

Darien's phone rang before he and Serenity could press Alora for any further answers.

"Hello mom." Darien said as he accepted the call, turning it on speaker mode.

"Hella son, have you three arrived at the restaurant yet?" Luna Ember asked.

"We are in the parking lot now, about to walk in." Darien told her.

"Oh good!" Ember gushed, sounding pleased. "We reserved dining room number thirteen, it is a corner balcony room on the top floor. It overlooks our central park's garden and arboretum section."

The Best of All Worlds Food Palace was on the corner of Cheshire Avenue and Main Street, it was one of many businesses and restaurants that backed up against the Pack's central park. Surrounding the park were four streets, Main Street, Cheshire Avenue, Moonwalk Avenue, and Parkview Lane

Parkview Lane lived up to its name, there were no buildings and businesses down this road to hinder the view of the park. There were dozens of well-maintained gravel parking spaces in front of this area of the park, so you could park and take the numerous trails into the park.

Toenale. ita a poyat day posilut wore, we thuribd be able to open the balcony daje to let in the borroE AL NE

Darien sail, happy with the dining room.

Barwn thught it the perfect place to him to introkan ternity to his parents as his mate. Serenity looked up at her mate, ansement on her face

Pol you knem, mai humani umundet the number thirteen to be undul

asked him, a wide smile on her face.

“) da, most understand why though “Burien said, “I have never hand the number sindacky myself, yet there are so many humans who go out of their way to avoid

“It was a mussstilini binight absait due to a volim idental happening at one of their religious gatherings some two thousand years or so ago” Alora told them, kouwingg a bit about this superstition.

bo a world full vl mags, Shapeshifters, Vampires. Werewolves and even Dragons, vanj wisild think that humans would have tossed away such superstitions long apn. In fact, it was that very sans religion that made thitveit such a feared number, that professed that all the Supernatural brings were the work of their devil and newded to be eradicated him the world as they were Tunatural brings

There weer beings still alive to this day who remembered this religion when it was still in just its indancy. The Supernatural World Council had labeled this religion as being Cub like in its mindset. Fanatics of this religin were to be ausded jy they were considered to pose a high thrift to any Supernatural being

Nite is birth to muslern times, many supernatural beings have been harmed in the name of this religion. The humans would say they only did what they did for the greater paal of all humankind and in the name of then gad. Hier hunsked years doo, Supernaturals vouldid, and often would, quietly deal with these kinds of offenders on their own withosil alaining the rest of the human populations.

Nowadays, it took long out botiles that often escalated to the world counts, to resolve the issue of a human hurting or killing a Supernatural being in the name of that religon. The Supernatural beings that were targeted, were targeted while living as human among the humans, doing so usually because their mate was a

Wer the death of then supernatural mate, it was common for the boutian mates left behind to go mad from grief with their kiss. It was hard for another human who had never experienced a male bond to understand what that kind of los did twa being. Making it necessary for the Supernaturals to be the ones who would pinsko the care that humans would need after such a loss.

Alora explained all this offhandedly to a wide rved Serenity and Darien as they made their way into the busy live story restaurant,

Chapter 42: "My grandfather's Will?"

The test four of the five foot restaotait was set up for open dining, with dozens of different sized tables set up for a variety of customers. From couples out for a romantic shining experience, to patents with a brood of pips, to a large gathering of friends. To maximize customer space and comfort, the kitchen of the restaurant took up the entire basement level of the building

There were several large elevatous that led from the kitchens to all the different floors. A set of large elevators dedicated to customers only were in the large girst lobby behind the host's desk. This was to maximize serving efficiency and customer comfort as well as service.

The second through hith doors were where the private dining rooms were located. There were only sixteen large corner balcony rooms that could accommodate a party of twebe, more with the addition of balcony seating. There were two smaller side bakony rooms in between each corner balcony room. There were thirty-two of these smaller rooms and they osuld weat a party of six, or more with the use of balcony seating.

In the center of each of the upper floors were two conference style dining rooms that could seat twenty to thirty guests in each. These right conference style dining rooms could also be divided in half, to accommodate several smaller business meetings as well. When the rooms were not peserved, they could be used an open dining rooms. This allowed the restaurant to operate at full capacity throughout the day.

The restaurant provided its own training to its staff and paid a high wage for their lowest paid position. A part time worker could make enough to pay tuition and the living costs of a decent one bedroom apartment. There was a small luxury apartment building down the street that was reasonably priced.

Alora knew all this because she wanted to work for the restaurant at one point, the income would have been enough for her to purchase a vehicle. Unfortunately, Alora knew if she had gotten a job at this place, Sarah would have found some way to either sabotage it or take away all the income she would have made from it. The income she earned from Will's Bite Burger Palace was too piddly for Sarah to care about.

There was also the added protection of the fact that Sarah luted the food there, always complaining about how the food made her gassy and bloated every time she ate there. Sure, Alora had to settle for a lower income, and she went home smelling like french fries. However, at least she was able to keep all her money and Sarah rarely came to her workplace to cause trouble:

Alora was abruptly brought out of her brooding thoughts as Luna Ember let out a joyful cry when they stepped into dining room thirteen. "Finally, there you three are, Alora my sweet girl its so godd to see you?" She said before she wrapped Alova up in a tight and unexpected hug.

Alora felt so much warmth radiating from Luna Ember with that hug, she couldn't help but smile and enjoy it. After giving her another squeeze Ember let her go. Alora then got another unexpected hug, this one from Alpha Andrew. This embrace was different, this one made her feel like a beloved pup, and not the abused one

she was

"No matter what those people who claim a blood relation to you say you are eighteen and you have rights that any other adult Pack member would have." Alpha Andrew told her.

While Alora was confused as to what prompted the Alpha to tell her this, they gave her a much needed comfort. "Thank you, Alpha Andrew."

Behind Alora, Luna Ember was absolutely gushing over Serenity. Making the poor females face turn the same shade of red as her hair. After the hug, Alpha Andrew and Alora stood there and watched Luna Ember welcome her family's newest member.

"Oh! You are just darling! As pretty as a sunset and that bhash just makes you absolutely adorable!" Luna Ember was not acting as Luna Ember, she was acting as Ember Moonstar, mother of Darien Moonstar.

Daner looked embarrassed and voiced a desperate plea trying to rescue his mate from his mother. "Mom, you'll chase her off before I even have the chance to get her to accept my mark "

Alora suppressed her laughter, not wanting to interrupt what had turned into an amusing show for her. Alpha Andrew smiled widely as he too was highly amused by his mate, their pup, and their pup's mate.

"I will not, now stop worrying." Ember said to Darien, brushing away his complaint. "Now Serenity, I want you to know that unless we are at an official event, you can call me mom or mom-in-law. I don't like being so formal all the time, it's too exhausting"

Now that Serenity was over her initial shock over the very normal, mother-in-law meets her child's mate greeting, she was smiling and giggling. "Okay." She said, readily agreeing with what Luna Ember said.

Once Serenity started smiling and giggling, Darien seemed to relax. Although there was still a bit of nervous energy about him as he pushed the two females towards the set tables and made sure his mate had everything she needed.

The large round wooden table had enough seats for ten guests, Placed in the center of the table on oscillating three- and five-tiered serving trays, were all kinds of appetizer

type dishes from around the world. Alora sat in between Luna Ember and Alpha Andrew. Serenity sat between Ember and Darien, the rest of the table

was empty.

Darien was asking Serenity which dishes she wanted to try and filled her plate. There were several diverse types of cold drinks on the table, and a drink menu was provided with other drink options including a lot of hot drinks. There was a whole page for coffee and one for tea, and they were fully customizable.

“Now I have already talked to your mother Serenity, her, your father, your brothers Kain and Galen and your cousin Iaxon will be joining us for the dessert portion of lunch. This will give your parents a chance to meet Darien as your mate.” Ember said, in a bright and chattering manner.

Alora giggled, amused at Darien’s reactions to Ember’s words, next to her there was a deep chuckle from the Alpha. Alora looked up at him, Andrew’s eyes were dancing with amusement as he watched Darien’s moment of panic knowing he would be meeting his new in-laws. Andrew was hiding his smile behind a cup of black

Alora was drinking sweetened mint and dandelion tea, she had been told it was good for the digestive system. Being able to quickly digest her food so her body could turn it into energy was important to her today. As she had several fights during the next round of the exam.

Andrew set his tea down and gave Alora a decisive look that had her setting her own down to pay attention to whatever it was the Alpha clearly had to tell her. “What is it, Alpha?” Alora asked him curiously.

With a grim expression on his face. Alpha Andrew told Alora of the conversation that took place between Bettina, Sarah, and Allister in the school parking lot. He told Alora about the horrifying details of the torture she suffered at the hands of Bettina, and the malicious plans they had for her. All this was revealed in a parking lot and overheard by a bystander.

While Alora was okay with no longer hiding the abuse she had suffered all these years, it was an entirely different matter to be confronted with details of that abuse. Details that she herself had not personally revealed. The events happened to her, so it should be at her discretion what she revealed about it, and when. Alora’s complexion had gone pale, losing most of its color.

Alora forced herself to give this moment a silver lining. If the details of her abuse had to be overheard by anyone, at least they were heard by someone who would not use that information against her. Instead, he gave the information to his Pack Alpha and Luna out of concern for her wellbeing and safety. Alora knew that Principal Jonathan had no malicious intent toward her, and only released that information to protect her.

With her ears ringing. Alora forced her emotions under control and her mind to function. Alora rubbed her left flank where her birth drowns in those awful memories. There was a reason for the Alpha to tell her about this conversation, and she forced herself to pay

was and tried not to

I'm assuming

"I are." Alora said, looking away from the Alpha to gaze down at her cup of tea. 'Maybe I should switch to chamomile after this' she thought returning to the Northmountain's home is not in my best interest today?' Alora pressed her lips together in annoyance when her question came out a little shaky.

"No sweet girl it's not." Ember answered, sounding sad.

Alora turned to gaze into Ember's eyes, they were soft and loving with a touch of sailorss, but no pity. Thank the Goddess she found no pity in Luna Ember's eyes, Alora felt she wouldn't have been able to take it if there was even an inkling of pity in that gaze.

Alora swallowed as her suppressed emotions threatened to choke her. "What should I do?" Alora asked her.

"First things first." Alpha Andrew said, regaining Alora's attention. "We need to talk about your grandfather's Will."

Alora looked at the Alpha with wide eyed curiosity. "My grandfather's Will?"

Alpha Andrew nodded. "Yes, your grandfather's Will was a big reason for approving the change of your surname to Heartsong. It was one of the steps you had to take in order to claim your inheritance."

Alora looked at the Alpha with a disbelieving expression on her face, she was questioning whether she had just heard what she thought she had.

Alora blinked a few times before she hesitantly asked, "Claim_my_inheritance?"

Chapter 43: ...believe we have traitors in our Pack?*

gang in Alma's car was bou

and unable to move

| there now was this hipong serisation she kept feeling from maida Akira started to feel as desperate and almost all consuming need ke bendom from those chains started to build made her. All of that wat D

Kora called out, panic starting to

Kuna was feel

even

up her spine. "What is happening

was about to change. In them, her space was already changing. "I do not know what is happening, things are changing inside here.

Alora forced herself to focus back on the Alpha, she could not help but think at this moment, "Out of all the times for me to start falling apart, why now??

"Yes Alora, you are to claim your inheritance." Alpha Andrew said to her in a serious tone. "You already know about your mother Bettina's true origins, and just who your grandfather really

Alora nodded, using the details he was giving her to steady herself. By focusing on these details, the ringing in Alora's ears started to fade away. The chaos that was happening inside her was pushed to the back of Alora's mind, no longer taking center stage.

"There are a lot of things that have been hidden from you that you need to be made aware of," Alpha Andrew said, letting out a tired sounding sigh. "The landslide that killed your aunt and your grandmother Heartsong was thought to be a natural disaster at first. After a thorough investigation, it was determined that it was not caused naturally, but with magic. A taint of Black Magic was left at the site where the landslide originated from,"

Alora looked at the Alpha wide eyed. "Did they ever find the person who did it?"

Alora had not been close to any of her blood relations ever. Because of this, she never developed any emotional attachment to them. However, she did not like that a Pack member and her pup had been murdered in such a way.

Alpha Andrew shook his head. "No, they did not. It was one of the reasons the former Clan Alpha of the Heartsongs, handed over the raising of his daughter to someone outside his Clan. Between dealing with the loss of his pup Amethyst and his fated mate Helen, Brodie felt he was not fit enough to protect his youngest

lighter *

Alora nodded, remembering this part of the story. "But for some reason when the former Clan Alpha was able to once more take up the responsibility of raising Bettina again, she didn't go back with him."

Alpha Andrew nodded again, a quick smile flashed across his lips, pleased Alora was able to readily offer up that information. "It is correct that Bettina did not go home with her father when he came to retrieve her. Your grandfather was a good friend of my father's and became one of mine as I grew up. Bettina did not just refuse to go back with your grandfather, she tore into him with her words and accusations first. To his death, Brodie believed he deserved everything she had said to

Alpha Andrew looked down into his cup of tea with a sad expression on his face. Alora stayed silent as Alpha Andrew took a moment to travel down memory lane. Alpha Andrew took a drink of his tea, emptying the cup.

Alpha Andrew reached for the pot that had his preferred tea in it and refilled his cup. "When your sister was born, I was the one that informed your grandfather of the birth, not Bettina. Brodie was happy for your mother, but he was disappointed Sarah, as a daughter of the Heartsong's Alpha family, did not carry the Moon Goddess' mark"

Alora felt a nerve twitch where her mark was located, she reached down and rubbed it, trying to relieve the sudden painful nerve spam.

"he talking about our mark?' Xena asked.

"I think so," Alora answered.

Alpha Andrew noticed Alora rubbing her mark and remembered the horrifying details he had just been told of Bettina's repeated attempts to remove it. "Brodie sent your mother a small dowry for a successful delivery. It was at that time, Bettina started trying to get to know Brodie again, but Brodie always suspected that Bettina had ulterior motives for trying to rekindle their father daughter relationship."

Alora nearly choked on the sip of tea she had just taken. It seemed, even as guilt ridden as her grandfather had been over the fallout between him and Bettina, he was not entirely blind to her schemes. Alora wiped her mouth off with a napkin. Alora coughed a couple more times before she was able to calm down enough to take another sip of tea.

Alpha Andrew waited till after he saw that Alora had solved her minor coughing fit to continue. "His suspicions had Brodie writing and filing his first Will. He was there for your birth as well, called there again by me without Bettina and Allister's knowledge. When you were born with that mark on your hip, Brodie revised his Will again that night. In his final Will, you were named his heir and the sole inheritor of everything he owned. However, there was a condition to you being able to claim your inheritance, one you have already complied to "

Alora looked at the Alpha confused for a second, then a look of realization came over her face as she thought back to the beginning of their conversation. “The changing of my surname.”

Alpha Andrew nodded. “The Will states you have to have your name changed to Heartsong by your twenty third birthday to claim your inheritance, or it was to be turned over to Bettina to be distributed between you and Sarah as Bettina saw fit.”

Alora frowned. “At the time you allowed me to change my surname to Heartsong, you said you approved it based on my DNA test proving that I was of the Heartsong Bloodline.”

“I did say that, and what I said was true. In the paperwork, the reason for the name change request is listed as a “Voluntary change of surname after DNA confirmation of bloodline.” The stated reason for approval is “For the continuation of the DNA confirmed bloodline’s original surname.” This shows that the change in your surname was not forced or done for the sole purpose of claiming your inheritance. Keeping certain busy bodied Council members from alerting the wrong people to your name change.”

Luna Ember cut in this time, placing a comforting hand on Alora’s shoulder. “We were hoping to be able to protect you from any possible danger, but unfortunately, it seems you would be in danger regardless.”

Alora looked back and forth between Alpha Andrew and Luna Ember with a confused look on her face, noting their concerned expressions. Alora focused her gaze back to Alpha Andrew and asked, “Wrong people? Danger?”

Alpha Andrew’s expression became grim. “Brodie started to suspect just as I was, that all the premature deaths of both of our Clans Alpha family members in the last two centuries, were not natural. The confirmation of Black Magic being used to cause the mudslide that killed your grandmother Helen and aunt Amethyst validated that suspicion. Brodie theorized that there is a hidden faction of the Black Magic coven that managed to survive the war all those centuries ago, and that the deaths would be connected to them.”

“Unfortunately, the only way that a faction of the Black Magic Coven, or a Black Magic user would go unnoticed in a Pack is if someone, or several someones, was

helping them.” Luna Ember said in a somber tone.

Alora looked at her, her gaze serious. “You’re saying you believe we have traitors in our Pack?”

“Yes, that is exactly what we are saying.” Alpha Andrew said in his deep rumbling voice, his tone grim.

Darien sat there and listened to the conversation with clenched fists. Serenity looked up at Darien with a concerned gaze and a worried frown. She wove her arm through his and leaned into his side, placing her other hand on his clenched fist, and gently rubbing her fingers over the back of his hand. Serenity let out a startled squeak when that hand suddenly turned over and laced its fingers through hers.

Looking back up, Serenity met Darien's grateful gaze, even as his expression revealed how affected he was by this conversation. Serenity did not blame him, not every day that you were made aware of a friend being subjected to extreme torture by her own parents. Or that your family has been plotted against by a hidden faction of the Black Magic Coven.

The only part of this that Serenity could relate to was finding out that it was members of their Pack who had betrayed it and allowed Black Mage to cause those deaths. It sent shivers of apprehension down Serenity's spine, at the same time her extraordinarily powerful sense of honor made her want to track down those traitors and have them punished.

Serenity did not realize she was looking away from Darien, or that she was growling while clutching Darien's arm tighter, until his lips were brushing against her ear as he whispered into it.

Darien's deep voice was low and raspy as he said, "Your growl makes me want to do all kinds of dirty things to you."

With what Darien thought was an adorable squeak, every inch of Serenity's exposed skin turned a lovely shade of dark red. Serenity felt she had never blushed so hard in her life, she wanted to be mad, but for some reason seeing the pleased smile on Darien's lips, and the teasing light in his eyes, she could not be

Darien and Serenity were so lost in their moment that they were unaware of the amused expressions on the faces of the other three occupants in the room with them.