

Fated to my Enemy by Diane Doherty Chapter 51-60

Chapter Fifty-One

Alpha Blake

"Mom," I growled in warning.

"I'm just making an observation, son. She has a son but is unmarked. And that's uncommon." She defended.

"It's fine, Blake," Ryley reached over placing her hand on top of mine.

"I was seventeen when I found out I was pregnant. I didn't know he was my mate." She explained.

"And where is this mate of yours now?" She questioned. And I would have reacted but Ryley squeezed my hand.

"He marked someone else," Channing growled out. All our attention snapped to him. Aspen scuffed, beside him.

"What a f**ken idiot! Was he blind or g*y because those are the only two reasons I could think of where a man would leave a woman like Ryley?" Ryley let go of my hand and stood up from her chair. I thought she was going to storm out but instead, she walked over to Aspen, leaned down, and wrapped her arms around his neck before kissing his cheek.

"He is pretty dumb, isn't he?" She smiled.

"But he did give me Channing so there's my silver lining."

"Yeah, I guess, he's alright," Aspen shrugged and Channing whacked him in the chest with the back of his hand. Aspen let out a groan.

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Chapter Fifty-One

Ryley leaned over the back of the chairs in the middle of them, wrapping an arm around both of them to pull them close.

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"It's okay, Channing. Sometimes people are only in our lives for a short time. And I got you." She mumbled kissing her son's cheek.

"It's okay, man, I can be your new daddy," Aspen exclaimed after Ryley was making her way back to her chair. She looked at me with horror before looking towards my d**bass of a son.

"That's my mom, you f*ck," Channing growled.

"Just because you came out of her doesn't make her less hot," he shrugged and Channing smacked him in the chest again.

"Aspen," Ryley gasped.

The table went silent before my father burst out in laughter. My mother looked

at him in embarrassment. But I couldn't help but hold in my laughter.
"Blair," My mother scolded my father as Aspen joined in with his laughter.
"You are so lucky I love you," Ryley chuckled as she walked back over to him to pinch his cheek, before taking her seat beside me.

"Sorry," I mouthed to her and she brushed it off.

"Anyways," she started once their laughter had calmed down. I still can't believe my son would say that in front of her.

"Elizabeth, if you are asking if he is still in the picture, he isn't. We parted ways before I knew I was pregnant." Ryley explained.

"I apologize for my grandson's lack of manners. That is no way to

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Chapterny One

282 Voucherg

speak to a woman." My mother said, scolding Aspen.

"Maybe he was a little blunt but I want him to be himself around me. As weird as that comment was and I'm old enough to be his mother. I'll be laughing about it later." She told her with a chuckle.

"See, a woman likes a man that can make them laugh," I heard Aspen say to Channing.

"Unless her name is Hailey," Channing snickered and it was Aspen's turn to hit him in the chest.

"Shut up," Aspen whispered with a growl. I just shook my head.

The dining room was filling up with pack members and dinner was about to be served which I was thankful for. If my mother spends any more time with Ryley I know she will push her too far. And my chance of being with her will be gone.

"Ryley, why haven't you joined another pack?" She asked as the plates were being placed down. She thanked the server before turning her attention to my mother and her question.

"I didn't want another pack. Walter had often offered me to join his pack but I just preferred to be on my own." She answered.

"Walter?"

"Beta Walter of the Shadow Moon pack. He was there for her and Channing." I answered.

"Walter is a good man. I understand he lost his mate a few years ago." My father said, joining the conversation.

"She passed away almost eighteen years ago. I unfortunately didn't get a chance to meet her." Ryley told him.

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Chapter Fifty-One

258 Mothers

“And you and Beta Walter?” My mother questioned and both the boys cringed.

“Grandma, no, he’s old.” And my father scoffed.

“Are you saying I’m old?”

“You have grandma.” Aspen defended. And Ryley chuckled.

“Walter has always been like a father to me and a grandfather to Channing.

There is nothing romantic about our relationship. And you are right, Walter is a good man.”

I was thankful everyone started to eat after that. This evening has had me on the edge of my seat; my anxiety is through the roof. I can’t handle any more questions from my mother.

“So, Ryley, what do you think of the Luna position?” She just had to ask. I froze with the fork halfway to my mouth. I looked at Ryley who was staring at me.

“What about the Luna position?” Ryley stammered, placing her fork down and her hands went to her lap. I could tell she was nervous about this question. I suspected she was an alpha’s daughter and her mate was also an alpha. By all accounts, Ryley should be a Luna.

“Well, would you be willing to leave your job to lead by my son’s side?” My mother clarified. I don’t think I’ve ever been more embarrassed in my life. How the hell could she ask such a question when I told her, that Ryley and I were just friends?

“Ryley, you don’t have to answer that. Mom?” I quickly rushed out, not wanting Ryley to answer that question.

“Luna Elizabeth and Alpha Blair, it’s so wonderful to see you,” I cringed at the interruption. This night keeps getting better and better.

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“Gwen, it’s so good to see you,” My mother said, standing up to greet her.

“Bi*ch,” Aspen sneezed out, and my father snickered. I just shook my head before looking at Ryley. She was wearing an unreadable expression. I would have grabbed her hand if she didn’t have them hiding under the table.

“Why don’t you join us?” My mother asked and this dinner just went from bad

to worse.
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Chapter Fifty-Two

Ryley

I'm not sure what Blake has told his mother about the nature of our relationship but the questions she is asking has me on edge. How can I explain that I have no interest in being a Luna without hurting Blake's feelings?

"To be fair, Ryley, we are a Luna wolf. We are supposed to be leading a pack. And Blake is se*y as hell. If anything the pack is just the cherry on top," Lily purred.

Aspen fake sneezing the word b*tch pulled me from my thoughts. That's when I noticed Elizabeth was talking with Gwen. My hands were trembling in my lap. This was all I needed right now.

"Aspen," I turned and scolded him. As funny as that was, it was uncalled for. Even though I wish I could have been the one to say it. He looked at me and shrugged.

"Ryley, it's a business meeting. You got this. Put on your game face and don't let that b*tch win. You have already won the love of his son. She will never have Aspen's approval." Lily said. I took a deep breath and squared my shoulders. I can do this.

When Gwen sat beside the former Luna, I knew this was going to be terrible. She was trying to set me up with her son just to have another woman sit with us. Someone who has no interest in being a mother to Aspen. Now would be the moment I needed that drink.

I noticed the boys quickly finished their dinner, not wanting to stick around which I don't blame them. I no longer wanted to be here either.

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Chapter Fifty-Tw

24 Nouchers

"And have you found your mate, yet?" Elizabeth asked Gwen.

"Not yet, but I'm hoping to get someone's attention," She answered, looking at Blake. My nails dug into my palms as I tried to calm myself down. Both the boys gagged.

"Mom, can we be excused?" Channing turned and asked me.

“Of course, you both can. There’s the list on the fridge if you two would like to go grocery shopping for me.” I told them. Both of them stood to leave before Gwen interrupted.

“Excuse me, you have no right to give the alpha’s son permission to leave the table, he isn’t your son.”

“I would rather be her son than yours,” Aspen retorted. And even though she had put me on the spot I couldn’t help but smile at his comment. To me, Aspen will also be a part of my family.

“Dad, I’ll be at Channing’s,” he told his father before coming over to me. Aspen kissed my cheek first before my son did the same on the other one. “Be safe you two. I’ll be home soon.” I told them before they walked toward the exit of the dining room. When I turned back to the table, I wanted to run away with them.

“I didn’t realize you and my son had such a serious relationship.” Blake’s mother questioned.

“Mom, Ryley and I are friends and I trust her with Aspen. She would lay down her life for his. And Aspen is allowed to feel how he feels. If he feels that way, that is his choice.” Blake defended before I could answer.

“It’s good to hear that you and she are just friends, Alpha Blake. You

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Chapter Fifty-Two

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need someone who can be loyal to a pack to lead beside you.” Gwen commented.

Thankfully, a server came by to bring her a plate and to refill our drinks. This time I ordered what Blake was drinking, which was whiskey. If I had any chance of getting through this evening, I was going to have to drink.

“Are you okay?” Blake mouthed to me after I took a long sip of my double whiskey. I gave him a nod and a tight smile. This is not how I thought this evening was going to go. I wish a plane would fall out of the sky and crush me.

“We should all have dinner with my parents. I know they would love to catch up and I would get to spend some time with Alpha Blake,” Gwen announced and Blake downed his drink.

“I told you he didn’t like her,” Lily huffed.

“Then why did he show up smelling like her?” I retorted and she chuckled.

“You sound like a jealous girlfriend.

“Will you all excuse me?” I said as I stood up from the table. I needed a

moment to myself to think about what the hell was happening and how I was feeling.

I left the dining room with plans to head to the washroom but instead, I went up to my office. I was glad I brought my keys with me as I unlocked the door and stepped inside.

“Can you just finally admit your feelings to Blake so he can officially be off the market? Because I don’t know how much longer I can wait for you to make up your mind.” Lily said as I sat down in my chair behind my desk.

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Chapter Fifty-Two

288 Voucher

“And what are you going to do?” I questioned.

“I will take over and mark him myself if you don’t tell him how you feel. We both know you like him, love him. And having that bi*ch around bothers you. A mark may not stop her but you will have the power to end her if she doesn’t back off.” She answered.

“Lily, you wouldn’t?” I gasped. Lily has never taken over before. We have always been a team..

“I will if it means you get what you think you don’t deserve. You deserve the life you were meant to have. We are a Luna and we deserve to have a good alpha by our side and a pack to take care of. Why can’t you see that?”

“And what if he doesn’t want me? What If he just wants sex and I care about someone who doesn’t care for me? Again. Blake can have anyone, why the hell would he want a pack-less single mother?” I exclaimed. The tears I had been holding in were now running down my cheeks. The last person I cared about killed my entire family and took over my pack. All I have left is Channing, and I needed to protect him. Even if that meant giving up my happiness. And I don’t even know if I could be happy with Blake.

“You’ll never know unless you try.”

Chapter Fifty-Three

Alpha Blake

After Ryley had been gone for a few minutes my father also excused himself leaving me alone with my mother and Gwen. This just went from worse to unimaginable. I know my mother likes Gwen but when I witnessed how she treated Aspen, nothing was ever going to happen between us. I didn’t tell my

mother why but now I think I should have. Then maybe she would stop trying to make something happen that was never going to. And now my glass is empty. I wonder if it would look bad if I excused myself. I could fake an emergency.

“How’s it going?” Luca was in my head.

“Oh, thank g*d, help me,” I pleaded.

“That bad?” He chuckled.

“Ryley excused herself and my mother invited Gwen to sit with us.”

“I’ll be right there,” he rushed out, ending the link.

“I would love to have more grandbabies,” I heard my mother say. I inhaled my saliva and started to cough. Panic filled my body at that thought.

“I love children and would love to have a few,” Gwen told her.

“See, Blake, wouldn’t that be lovely?” My mother asked. I just stared at her. I didn’t know what to say. I never thought about having kids with anyone but my mate. And with her gone, I was happy just to have Aspen.

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Chapter Fifty-Three

288 Nouchets

“I have Aspen,” I said, just before Luca came rushing into the dining room.

“Alpha,” he exclaimed, getting everyone’s attention. I didn’t say make a scene, I said help me.

“Luca, it’s good to see you. How are you and your family?” My mother asked him with a smile as he approached the table. I could see Gwen glaring at his interruption..

“Everyone is good, Luna Elizabeth. I hope we get a chance to catch up before you leave. But right now, I need to speak with Blake.” Luca told her. I quickly stood up, not wanting to stick around.

“Can’t you handle it, Beta Luca?” Gwen pouted.

“I’m sure it’s important. Luca is capable of handling many issues without the alpha’s assistance. Lunas will always have to be understanding,” my mother said to Gwen and Luca gave me a questioning look. I mouthed the word help to him.

I can’t believe my mother is doing this. If Ryley would have just told her something, Gwen wouldn’t be sitting at the table with us. But if I would have told her, my mother would be planning the wedding already.

“Very important. Excuse us.” I announced. Luca nodded before we both rushed out, making our way to my office.

“What the hell was that?” Luca questioned as we walked down the hall to my

office.

"I have no idea. My mother was asking Ryley about how she felt being Luna and her mate. And then Gwen showed up and my mother invited her to join us." I explained.

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Chapter Fifty-Three

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"And where are the boys and your father?" He asked.

"My father excused himself after Ryley. And the boys left after Gwen sat down. But not before Aspen pointed out to everyone that he would rather have Ryley as his mother." I sighed, leaning against my office door.

"F*ck," he ran a hand down his face

"Yeah, and then Gwen made a point to point out Ryley wasn't part of a pack and she wouldn't make a loyal Luna." I groaned as I threw my head back.

F*ck, even replaying everything that happened, I'm sure Ryley will never speak to me again.

"And is that what you want?"

"What?" I looked at him and he shrugged.

"Do you want Ryley to be your Luna?" He clarified.

"I just want a chance." I breathed out. Luca didn't get a chance to say anything as we both turned to the sound of an opening door. My father stepped into the hallway from Ryley's office. That's where she must have run too. I know she always locks the door.

"Son, Luca, what are you doing up here? Did something happen?" My father questioned, walking towards us. I could smell Ryley on him.

"I should be asking you the same thing?" I scoffed, standing straight with my arms crossed. My father just chuckled. I may be bulkier than him but he was the one who trained me. And logically, I know he has a mate, my mother. But I didn't want her scent on anyone but me.

"Blake, are you okay?" Luca stammered out, as I stared at my father.

"I went to see if Ryley was okay after everything that wench said." He

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Chapter Fifty-Three

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growled, and I raised an eyebrow as Luca snicker beside me.

"Aspen sent me a video of her and Ryley's exchange." He confessed and I

was taken aback. He never said anything about this to me.

“Your mother doesn’t know. But I never liked that girl. I knew something was off and that video proved what I was suspecting all along.” He continued.

“That she’s a gold-digging bi*ch,” Luca huffed.

“Yeah, that.”

“And Ryley?” I questioned. I wanted to know what he thought of her since he met her and saw the video.

“Son, you can learn all you need to learn about someone with how they treat the staff. And Aspen is a good judge of character, he always has been and if he likes Ryley then you know she’s a good person. Now, you just have to decide what you want.” He answered.

“I don’t want Gwen if that’s what you are asking. Mom was talking about babies and I wanted to disappear.” I exclaimed. Luca chuckled and my father smiled.

“At least you have some sense.” He chuckled and Luca laughed before stopping abruptly.

“Wait, would you have a kid with Ryley?”

“The thought doesn’t make me want to vomit,” I shrugged and my father clasped my shoulder.

“That’s a start, but you may want to tell her how you feel about her. And I would suggest not coming back to dinner. I’ll handle-your mother and we can have breakfast tomorrow morning.” My father said.

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“Thanks, dad.”

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Chapter Fifty-Four

Ryley

I was on the verge of a panic attack when there was a quick knock on my office door. I didn’t have time to answer before the former alpha walked in. I quickly got to my feet and wiped away my tears.

“Alpha Blair, I’m sorry about my departure from dinner. I just needed a moment.” I rushed out.

“Ryley, I’m not here about dinner. I do apologize for my mate. She can get a little excited over her son’s love life.” He said and I chuckled, giving him a smile, which he returned.

“Now, come sit with me. I’d like to speak to you,” He said, standing by the small couch in the sitting area. If this was a few weeks ago, we would be

sitting on the floor.

I moved around my desk and sat down beside him. He turned his body towards mine and I did the same. Blake was the spitting image of his father. And Aspen was the baby version of the two of them. The only thing Blake has of his mother is her amber eyes. Which Aspen also has.

"I would like to apologize for ruining your family dinner. I didn't mean to intrude," I said before he took my hands in his. I jumped not expecting his touch.

"I would never hurt you, my dear. I suspect you have had a hard life. And you don't have to tell me but I want you to know that I appreciate everything you are doing for my grandson. He has missed out on so much. And being close to anyone who he can view as a mother is one

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of those. Aspen doesn't trust easy but you seemed to have won his heart." He said, squeezing my hands. Tears pr**ked my eyes again.

"And I also noticed the way you look at my son." He added and I sighed.

"I love Aspen. He is such a good kid. Blake was right when he said I would lay down my life for his. But I can't be with your son.

"

"Aspen sent me the video of your words with that wench. I haven't seen that level of love for a pack in a long time. And I don't know what happened between you and your son's father, but I do know my son is a good man. I understand you are leaving at the end of the summer?" He asked me.

"Yes," I nodded.

"I'm not saying you have to join the pack but I think you should give my son a chance to prove himself to you. Ryley, you have had to be independent for so long, you have forgotten how it feels to be loved and protected."

"But," I stammered, trying to hold in my so*s. How can a man I just met, read me so well?

"Don't say no, Ryley. Just open yourself up to the experience, to the opportunity to be a part of a family. Take some time to think about it. And don't worry, I'll make up an excuse for your absence." He smiled at me and squeezed my hands. All I could do was nod. If I tried to speak, I knew I would burst into tears.

"I hope we can do this again, soon." He said before he stood up. I reached out and grabbed his hand before he had a chance to leave.

"Thank you," I whispered. He smiled down at me before squeezing my hand.

He then left my office, closing the door behind him.

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Chapter Fifty-Four

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“I can see how Blake turned out to be such a great man,” Lily chimed in. I didn’t answer her, I knew she was right. Blake is a good man, but I don’t know if I can be the good woman he needs. Him and his pack.

I was always told I would be a Luna. I had a pack but then everything was taken and I didn’t know what else to do with my life. I felt completely lost without the path that was set for me. And it’s terrifying to think, it might happen. I would have to face my past and the council. And both could come after this pack, come after Blake and Aspen. And Channing. I would never forgive myself if something happened to any of them. I love Aspen and it was going to be hard to leave him at the end of the summer. But I don’t know how else to protect them.

A soft knock on my office door caused me to jump out of my thoughts. Ever since coming to this pack, I’ve become a very on-edge person. Before I could answer, Blake poked his head in. I was quick to wipe away my fallen tears.

“Ryley, are you okay?” He asked as he entered the office, closing the door behind him. I cleared my throat before I answered him.

“Yes,” I nodded, giving him a small smile. He came over and sat down beside me.

“I’m sorry about dinner. And I didn’t mean to overstep with Aspen.” I told him, without looking at him. I know what I did was wrong but being Aspen’s parent just feels natural to me. But I’m not and I need to remember that. Blake twisted his body towards me, the same way his father did just moments ago. Instead of taking ahold of my hands, he placed a hand on my thigh. I looked down at his hand before meeting his eyes.

“I should be apologizing to you. My mother was out of line with her questions. And Gwen with her statements. Aspen is my son, but I trust you with him and she has no right to question that.” He said. He let out

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Chapter Fifty-Four

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a long breath before moving the hand on my thigh to my cheek. Blake leaned in close, our noses almost touching.

My heart was pounding against my chest and I knew he could hear it. Blake’s

touch had a way of calming me and lighting my body ablaze at the same time. I felt like I was panting as I waited for him to say something. My mind was in a haze and I couldn't think of anything but him.

I licked my dry lips, and I watched as Blake's eyes watched, shifting between his and his I bit my lower lip, trying to bring myself back to reality. But it failed miserably when Blake's thumb, pulled my lip from my punishing grip. I closed my eyes, enjoying his touch, when his lips brushed against mine.

Chapter Fifty-Five

Riley

Even though I was emotionally exhausted, I didn't get much sleep last night. And now I was lying in bed looking up at the ceiling. The sunlight was coming through the curtains, telling me it was now morning. I didn't want to move. I needed to run, but I couldn't get my body to move.

After Blake's lips touched mine, we were interrupted by Luca bringing in a tray of food for us. He had also brought a bottle of wine. Blake and I had a picnic in my office after Luca left us. We ate and then he walked me home. He never tried to get close enough to kiss me again.

I was thinking maybe he was just caught up in the moment of us being so close. And now I was left confused about my feelings.

"You would be less confused if you just told him how you felt?" Lily huffed.

"But what if he doesn't feel that way about me? What if this is just a ploy to get me into bed and then that's it? I thought I loved our mate and he didn't feel the same way. I was just a means to the end." I sighed.

"If all he wants is sex then you can ask him. And if so, you move on. If he doesn't feel the same about you then you say f*ck it and find someone else, Riley. I know you are scared but if you don't take a chance then you'll never know." I knew my wolf was right. And I know on the outside I may seem like a strong, independent woman. But it's hard to let people in when you know they can destroy everything you have built. Blake has that power over me.

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288 Nouchers

I want his attention, his touch, and this is all overwhelming. I never thought I would feel this way about anyone again. But here I was, laying in bed thinking about a boy who I wanted more than anything to like me.

My alarm went off and it was time to get ready for the day. I needed to head into my office but then I was going to work from home the rest of the day.

Channing had his first practice tonight with this new team and a few games

this weekend. I wanted to make sure I was there watching from the stands. And I get more work done at home than in my office.

When I was done getting ready, I made my way down to the kitchen.

Channing and Aspen were already sweaty, sitting at the kitchen counter eating cereal.

"I made coffee," Channing mumbled, his mouth full.

"Thanks, sweetie." I didn't get to see them last night. They went out after they went grocery shopping for me and I wasn't home yet. I laid awake in bed until I heard them come home.

"How was your night?" I asked them, as I poured myself a coffee.

"Ryley, are you in love with my dad?" Aspen blurted. I had my back turned to them, which I was thankful. I almost dropped the coffee pot. I replaced it as carefully as I could with my hand trembling.

"Why would you ask that?" I was able to ask after a few deep breaths. I turned around to face them. They were both staring at me.

"Mom? If we notice, don't you think everyone else would as well?" Channing chuckled, and I pushed my lips into a line.

"I joke about being Channing's daddy but it would be better if I could call him my brother," he shrugged and my heart ached. This would be easy if he hated me.

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Chapter Fifty-Five

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"First, it takes two to be in a relationship. And second, family isn't always blood. Aspen, you will always be welcome in our home. No matter what happens." I told him, leaning over the counter, I took a hold of his hand.

"I know my dad likes you." He said. My heart sk**ped a beat at his words. But I knew if I was going to keep them safe, that I would have to leave.

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"I don't want to lie to you, both of you. There are things in my past that could put you both in danger and your pack, Aspen, if I was to be found."

"But we can protect you, Ryley. Nobody would be able to get through the three of us. And I know Walter would protect you with us." He rushed out. Channing was nodding his head in agreement.

"And if anything were to happen to either one of you, I would never be able to forgive myself. Blake would be devastated if anything happened to you, Aspen. And if protecting you both means, we leave at the end of the summer. It's what we are going to do." I explained, taking Channing's hand as well.

"If we had our wolves, would that sway your decision about leaving?" He

mumbled.

“If I was with Blake, our relationship would be made public.” I started.

“My father would hunt you?” Channing asked, and I nodded.

“My past is a lot to carry and I would never ask someone to carry it. But that doesn’t mean that you aren’t welcome to visit anytime you want to.”

“Could you move closer? If you can’t join the pack would you move to a city closer to the pack so Channing can go to school here?” Aspen

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Chapter Fifty-Five

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pleaded.

“Is that what you want, Channing?” This was the first time I was hearing this.

“I don’t want to leave, Mom. I finally feel like I belong.” Channing confessed. I sighed as my mind raced.

“I’ll see what I can do, but not a word until I figure something out. There’s a promotion at work I’m waiting to hear about.” I told them. Before I knew it, I was being squished between them in a bear hug.

“Thanks, Mom,” Channing mumbled

“Not a word to anyone. And I have to get to work. I’ll see you both this afternoon.”

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Chapter Fifty-Six

Alpha Blake

I could have killed my Beta for interrupting Ryley and me last night.

Remembering her taste on my lips had me instantly hard and unable to focus.

After walking her home, I went for a run until I was no longer able to move. My mind raced with every possible scenario where I could make her mine. There was something about Ryley I couldn’t shake, not that I wanted to. I wanted to make her mine.

Luca walked into my office and Gunner growled his disappointment. He’s been grumpy ever since our moment was interrupted. I don’t blame him, I’ll be grumpy until I can see Ryley. But instead, I’m in my office getting caught up before Alpha Dorian arrives.

“Don’t give me your cr*p, I didn’t know you were about to do something.”

Luca, scoffed, taking a seat in front of my desk.

“I know,” I grumbled. It was just easier to blame him. I should have made a

move after Luca left us but I didn't. And I'm kicking myself for it.

"Now, stop being such a di*k, Alpha Dorian is here for your meeting. And you need to focus." My beta scolded me.

"I'd be less of a di*k if you didn't co***lock me," I retorted causing him to chuckle.

"I was in the room for five minutes. You coc****cked yourself. Now, get up, you have to meet the alpha, who is about to arrive," he commanded. I mumbled as I readjusted myself for the hundredth time. I've never had blue balls like this before.

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Chapter Fifty-Sm

288 Vouchers

"Come on, you can see Ryley this evening. Channing has a hockey practice and I know she will be there. Bring her a coffee and warm her up." He grinned as I stood up from my desk. He wiggled his eyebrows.

"Let's just get this over with. Have you alerted a team to go in and help?" I asked him as he followed me out of my office.

"I have two ready. From what I understand, only warriors are being attacked. Women and pups are not being hurt." Luca answered. This entire situation puzzled me. Rogues don't hunt like packs and they will go after anyone. So why are these rogues attacking like a pack and only attacking warriors? And how are they winning?

When we exited the pack house, I saw Ryley walking towards her house. She must be going home for lunch, I thought as I looked at my watch. I know she hasn't eaten in the dining room, since the first day she started working, besides yesterday for dinner. I should have taken them to a restaurant, it would have saved us all from that disaster of a dinner.

Moments later, a few black SUVs pulled up in front of the pack house. Alpha Dorian was traveling with one of his ga*mas and a few of his warriors. As soon as the alpha stepped out of the vehicle, his head snapped in the direction of Ryley's house. I looked to see if she was walking back to the pack house, but there was no one there. When I looked back at Alpha Dorian, he looked confused before he masked his face.

"Alpha Dorian, is everything alright?" I asked, approaching him. His ga*ma was standing beside him, now and his warriors were standing around the vehicles.

"Yes, sorry. Thank you for seeing me, Alpha Blake." He said, shaking my hand.

“Let’s speak in my office,” I told them, he nodded before I walked back

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Chapter Fifty Stx

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into the pack house. They followed me inside and up to my office on the second floor.

When I opened my office door and offered them to enter, Alpha Dorian was looking down the hallway. His chest rumbled like he was arguing with his wolf.

“Dorian?” His ga*ma called out, snapping this alpha’s attention back to us. He entered my office, while I glanced at my beta, who just shrugged. What the hell was going on?

“Take a seat and we can get started. I understand you are having trouble with rogues.” I said as I took my seat behind my desk. Luca stood beside me while the ga*ma and alpha sat down in front of my desk.

“That’s correct. They move and attack as a pack.” The gam*a answered.

“But they aren’t going after women and children. How long has this been going on?” Luca asked them.

“The attacks were every few months but now it seems to be happening weekly. We have lost twenty-five warriors already. And we can’t seem to figure out when and where their next attack will be. We do know it seems to be the same rogues.” He explained.

“How many have you killed?”

“One,” he confessed. For a pack of rogues to outsmart a pack as big as Dorian’s was a red flag. Where would these rogues have learned such - techniques and the area in that depth to outsmart a pack that is living there?

“Would there be any reason a group of rogues would want to target your pack, alpha?”

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Chapter Fifty-Six

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“No,” he answered quickly and firmly. I didn’t believe him.

“Is there something you’d like to tell me, Alpha Dorian? I’m not risking my men, if this is a retaliation for something you did. Rogues don’t usually target bigger packs, but they are going after yours?”

“I don’t know why they are targeting my pack, Alpha Blake. If I knew, I would have stopped it.” The alpha said.

“Beta Luca, who is the lead ga*ma?” I asked him.

“Ga*ma Connor, alpha,” he answered.

“I’ll set up a meeting with him before you leave this evening. Beta Luca will show you and your men to rooms. And if you could forward all the reports to my Beta.” I told them, standing up from my chair. Both men stood up from theirs. The ga*ma was the first to shake my hand and thank me for my help. Which I found odd. What has Alpha Dorian so distracted?

“Maybe he’s worried about his pack while he is away,” Gunner suggested. Luca led the men out of my office, closing the door behind them. He could be right, but I have a feeling the alpha is hiding something.

Chapter Fifty-Seven

Alpha Blake

It didn’t take long for Luca to come back to my office with Ga*ma Connor. I wanted to look into everything before making the decision to send my warriors. If these rogues are acting like a pack, maybe they were one. While I was waiting for Luca, I emailed a request to the council for a list of all packs that have been taken over. I asked for all to not raise suspicion. I’m sure Alpha Dorian has people in the council building.

I was in the middle of explaining this to Luca and Connor when my father entered my office.

“Shouldn’t you be keeping an eye on mom?” I asked him.

“She went shopping with some friends. So, now I can be useful. What do we know so far? And where is Alpha Dorian?” He questioned, looking around the room.

“I gave him and his men rooms. None of this is making much sense, Dad. Why would rogues work as a pack and only attack warriors.” I pondered.

“And they have killed twenty-five warriors compared to the one rogue they have killed,” Luca told him.

“This is not random attacks. They are going after his warriors. Did you ask him?” Connor asked.

“I did. He said he didn’t know why they would be targeting his pack.” I answered.

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“Well someone is lying. They may be rogues now, but I suspect these rogues were all a part of the same pack. And they are holding a grudge against Alpha Dorian.” My father said. And we all agreed with him.

“I requested a list of all takeovers from the council. But in the meantime, what

do you think we should do?" I asked them.

"I think you should send some warriors. If this is about attacking warriors in their pack then they won't touch ours. We can try to capture one and ask them what this is all about." My father suggested.

"I know for a fact our warriors are better-trained but we don't know the area. It puts us at a disadvantage. But let's see if there is a pattern to the attacks." Connor said.

I grabbed a map while Luca opened the email that was sent over by Alpha Dorian's beta. After placing a sticky note on each attack area and dates, there didn't seem to be a pattern. They would hit, north, west, south, then west again. But there was never an attack on the east.

"What about this area?" I pointed to the map.

"Let me pull up a satellite image of the area," Luca said. He was sitting behind my desk, working off my computer. I looked over his shoulder as he typed away until an image of the area was loaded.

"Look there," he pointed at the screen and the other two came over to look as well.

"There's a canyon with a river. There also isn't very much cover in the area. The rogues must know this area is dangerous." Luca told us.

"Or there aren't any warriors patrolling there. No one could jump over the river banks and climb up. The sides look fairly smooth." Connor said, observing the images.

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Chapter Fifty-Seven

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"I don't think the goal is to get into the pack. If this area is under protection and these rogues know the area then it would make sense for them to enter here. I think they want to attack the Warriors. They want their presence known." My father said.

"Connor, you and your team, head out tomorrow to the pack. Get a feel of the situation. Talk with warriors who have been a part of the earlier attacks. And in a few days, I'll visit the pack. And hopefully, they will leave some kind of a message."

"I'll get the team ready to leave tomorrow morning," Connor said before leaving my office. I flopped down in a chair in front of my desk. Luca was still typing away on the computer.

"Son, what's bothering you?" My father asked, he was sitting beside me.

“The alpha seemed distracted.”

“I noticed that as well. After you spoke to him yesterday his beta called me. He seemed grateful for our help. And today, his ga*ma seemed more grateful than Alpha Dorian.” Luca added.

“He could just be stressed. We don’t know what else could be happening in his life.” My father defended. But something just didn’t feel right.

“Dad!” Aspen yelled through the link.

“Dad, we need you. Someone just broke into Ryley’s house. She told us to run.”

“Get men to Ryley’s house,” I yelled out, standing up from my seat.

“Aspen, I’m on my way. Tell me what happened.” I rushed through the link.

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Chapter

288 Nouchers

“I don’t know, she told us to run. Dad, something is wrong.” He exclaimed.

“Are you hurt?” I yelled but I didn’t get an answer. Gunner let out a murderous growl as I ran out of the pack house.

“Blake, what happened?” Luca called to me, as he followed.

“I don’t know.”

A few of my warriors, met up with us as we ran in the direction of Ryley’s place. My heart was pounding against my chest as panic filled me. I heard growls, before the sound of shattering glass. There was a loud yelp before the scene came into a few.

A big black wolf was attacking a smaller black and white wolf. The smaller wolf had a piece of wood embedded in its side. The front window of the house was broken and the railing of the porch. The smaller wolf, only took its eyes off the black one to pull the piece of wood from its side.

The black one was about to pounce when two massive wolves jumped out from behind the house. One was black with some grey and the other was white. They blocked the smaller one. I knew the black one was Aspen. He had shifted early.

The black one shifted revealing Alpha Dorian. My warriors instantly surrounded him. He held up his hands in surrender.

“What the hell is going on?” I demanded.

“Always making things difficult, Evelyn,” he growled, as I rushed over. My son and the other wolf growled, baring their teeth to the alpha. Evelyn?

“F*ck you,” I turned to find the smaller of the wolves had shifted back

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into Ryley. I could barely see her as my son and the other wolf stood over her. The white wolf shifted and Channing was now standing over his mother, protecting her.

“Stay the f*ck away from my mother!

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Chapter Fifty-Eight

Ryley

A cloud of smoke greeted me when I walked through the front door just before noon.

“Hello?” I called out, coughing as I inhaled the smoke.

“In here,” Aspen called out from the kitchen. I entered to find him trying to put out a burned grilled cheese sandwich.

“What on earth?” I exclaimed, trying to get it under control. Once it was out, I opened a few windows to air out the kitchen.

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“Sorry, I left it too long.” Aspen shrugged shyly.

“It’s okay, I’ll make it. Where’s Channing?” I asked as I dumped the contents of the pan into the trash.

“In his room. He has some work to finish up.” He answered as he sat down on a stool by the counter.

“I’m sorry about the mess, Ryley. I’ve never cooked one before,” Aspen confessed. I had lived the life Aspen has, so I know I wouldn’t have been able to cook one at the age of seventeen either.

“It’s okay. Let’s cook them together so next time you will know how to.” I told him, with a smile. I never had to cook in my old life but I discovered a love for it after I left.

Aspen and I had just finished toasting the third sandwich when Channing came into the kitchen.

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Chapter Fifty-Eight

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“Why do I smell burnt cheese?” He asked, sitting at the counter.

“There was a little accident but we have some not burnt ones,” Aspen smiled as he held up the plate stacked with sandwiches.

“You two eat and I’ll cook up some more for you both,” I told them before getting a few more ready to be toasted.

“Are you excited to play tonight?” I asked Channing, who just stuffed half a grilled cheese into his mouth. All he could do was nod. I chuckled, shaking my head.

After they had four each and the kitchen was cleaned up, I set up my laptop on the dining room table. I needed to get some work done before going with Channing to his practice. I also needed to get out of the pack house and away from Blake. The boys were in the living room, wasting some time before their afternoon training class and I was pouring myself a coffee, before sitting down to work.

I dropped my mug and let out a scream when the front door was kicked in. I could see the door from where I was standing, and I gasped when the one person I never wanted to see again came through the door.

“Ryley?” Aspen yelled out.

“Run,” I screamed. I heard as they rushed to the back of the house and out the back door.

My heart was pounding as Dorian approached me. I backed away, making sure the kitchen island was between us. He let out a chuckle as he stalked me, like the predator he was.

“I thought you were dead,” he spat out.

“No thanks to you,” I retorted, my voice sounding stronger than I felt. Lily let out a warning growl as he tried to move around the island to

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Chapter Fifty-Eight

get closer.

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“Do you honestly think you could take on an alpha, Evelyn?” he mocked and Lily growled louder. Mate or not, she wasn’t going to back down.

He moved quickly around the kitchen, grabbing my hand, he crushed me against his chest, trapping me against the counter.

“F*ck, you smell so good.” He breathed out against my neck. I fought against his grip but I couldn’t move.

“You always were a feisty one. It made chasing you more fun,” He grinned, looking down at me. I felt sick with his skin touching mine, with his scent on me.

“Get the f*ck away from me,” I growled out. He leaned in closer, his nose touching mine.

“Or what?” He taunted. I fought harder but it just seemed to amuse him.

“If you think anyone in this pack gives a f*ck about a rogue, you’ll be disappointed,” he chuckled.

“What the f*ck do you want, Dorian?” I growled. I gasped when he rolled his hips, I could feel how hard he was and the thought made me sick.

“Don’t be like that, Evie.” He mumbled, nipping my neck. Tears pr**ked my eyes, as I tried to move but he had a firm grip on my wrists and his body had mine pinned.

“Lily, help,” I pleaded.

Dorian pinned my hands behind me, with one of his before he ripped

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Chapter Fifty-Eight

open my blouse.

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“Still f**ken s*xy,” he purred, taking in the sight of my bare chest. Lily took that moment to shift: Her black coat covered my body. She had a white undercoat giving her the appearance of being two-toned.

Dorian stumbled back as Lily’s large frame filled the space. He looked surprised at first but then a smirk appeared.

“We can do this the hard way.” He shifted into a large black wolf. Lily snarled and snapped, trying to get an opening. His wolf backed up, not wanting to fight his mate. He must have known when he watched me fall off the cliff and into the water.

Regardless, Lily pounced and they rolled, taking out the front window. When Lily’s body hit the wooden railing on the porch she let out a yip. Pain filled our side as she quickly got to her feet. She quickly looked at her side and pulled out a large splitter. Chaos was happening around us, but Lily never took her eyes off her prey.

Dorian quickly shifted back when a massive black wolf and white wolf, landed in front of me, protecting me. I could smell it was Channing and Aspen but they shouldn’t have been able to shift yet. The pain in my side became too much and I was forced to shift back.

I heard Blake’s voice but I didn’t hear what he said, my attention never leaving my former mate.

“Always making things difficult, Evelyn,” he growled.

“F*ck you,” I yelled. I let out a gasp when Channing shifted, confronting his father. I tried to stop him but I winced in pain, not able to get

up quick enough.

“Stay the f*ck away from my mother.

Chapter Fifty-Nine

Alpha Blake

As Channing sized up Alpha Dorian, it clicked. He was Channing’s father and Ryley’s mate. But why did he call her Evelyn?

“You f**ken bi*ch!” Alpha Dorian roared and his son punched him in the face.

“Channing,” Ryley hissed. Aspen’s wolf was helping her to stand. The wound down her side was bleeding, badly. Why the hell wasn’t it healing?

“You even turned my son against me,” the alpha spat.

“You did that yourself. You don’t think I knew who you were. I’ve been following your pack for years. I know what you did to her and her pack was the truth, you piece of s*it. You tried to kill her, which would have killed me.”

Channing retorted. I grabbed his arm, pulling him back towards his mother before unbuttoning a few buttons on my shirt. I pulled it over my head before placing it over Ryley’s to cover her naked body.

She didn’t waste time in grabbing her son.

“Hey, it’s okay. I’m okay. And your wolf is beautiful.” She whispered, holding onto his cheeks.

“Evelyn?” I heard his ga*ma exclaim.

“Dorian, what the hell is going on? You said she was dead.” He questioned his alpha.

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Chapter Fifty Nine

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“And who is the boy?” Alpha Dorian didn’t answer, he was too busy watching Ryley with their son. I stepped closer to them and the alpha growled.

“I see you have a type,” he growled. That seemed to set her off, she pushed Channing behind her and marched up to him. I wanted to punch the smirk off his face. Even Aspen growled and approached with her.

“And what’s your type? Teenage girls who don’t have a wolf to protect them.”

He sneered. He raised his hand and I grabbed his wrist before he could slap her. My father and beta both had to hold Aspen’s wolf back. I grabbed Ryley with my other hand, placing myself between her and Alpha Dorian.

“I would choose your next words very carefully,” I growled.

“She isn’t worth it.” He said and I pushed him back, releasing my grip. Just

then, Ryley slumped against my back. Her breathing and heart rate had slowed. My arm was wrapped around my back holding her against me by her waist.

“Mom,” Channing yelled and Aspen shifted.

“Mom? Evelyn is your mate?” His ga*ma commented.

“Beta Luca, detain Alpha Dorian and his men in the pack house,” I ordered.

“You can’t f*cken do that. This is a dispute between mates,” he argued.

“The mark on your neck means she is no longer your mate. And this is my pack and she is under my protection. Now, you will either go with my beta willingly or I will have you locked up in the cells. Choose?” I demanded.

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“Son, we got this,” my father said. I nodded before turning my body quickly to not let Ryley fall.

She flopped against me before she caught herself. She was pale and swaying on her feet. My white shirt was ruined with blood as it ran down her side and legs.

“I’m okay,” she mumbled, grabbing onto the boys, who were standing on either side of her. I kneeled and lifted the shirt. There was still a large splinter still embedded in the wound.

“Ryley, we need to get you to the hospital,” I said, looking up at her.

“I just need to rest. I’ll be okay. I’ve been through worse,” she hissed, trying to chuckle.

“Please, Ryley,” Aspen pleaded.

“Mom, please.” As soon as she nodded, I scooped her up into my arms.

“F*ck,” she panted, digging her nails into my arm.

“I’m sorry,” I told her and she nodded, trying to calm her breathing.

“Boys, get dressed and meet us at the hospital,” I told them.

“No,” they exclaimed in unison.

“Don’t argue,” Ryley exclaimed as firmly as she could. Both boys huffed before storming into the house to get dressed. Ignoring the chaos around us, I began walking towards the hospital.

“Blake,” she whispered, she didn’t finish as her body went limp against mine.

“Ryley, stay awake,” I panicked. I increased my pace but I didn’t want to hurt her as I rushed to the pack hospital. It was on the other side of

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Chapter Fifty Nine

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the pack house.

Doctors and nurses were already waiting outside as I hurried across the parking lot. I was still desperately trying to get her to open her eyes to no avail.

I placed her on the waiting gurney. I was pushed back as the medical team rushed in. It was a blur as they rushed her back into an operating room. I followed not willing to leave her side.

“Alpha?” The head doctor, Dr. Perry called out.

“Don’t worry about me, do your f*cken job,” I growled, as I watched my shirt being ripped off of her.

The nurses worked on getting an IV inserted and the two doctors quickly cleaned the wound.

“I see it. Tweezers.” He yelled. Everything was happening so fast. But I couldn’t take my eyes off all the blood. I knew I was covered in it.

“Got it,” he announced.

“She has still lost too much blood,” a nurse shouted. I could hear the slow beating of her heart over the noise of the room. The heart monitor was blaring to let everyone know it was too low.

“The wound is closing. Get her cleaned up and moved into a room.” I felt like I could breathe.

“Alpha,” a nurse touched my arm and I jumped.

“Put her on the alpha floor,” I commanded.

“Alpha, are you hurt?” Dr. Perry asked. I looked down, my bare chest was covered in her blood. I shook my head.

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“Alpha, her son, and your son are in the waiting room.” The nurse informed me.

“Go, she’ll be moved to the alpha floor soon.” The doctor said. I didn’t move until her heart started to beat a little faster. A nurse quickly changed her fluid bag, as the first one was now empty.

Before leaving, I kissed her forehead.

“He won’t hurt you ever again,” I mumbled, promising her this was real for me. I didn’t care that she wasn’t a part of my pack. I didn’t care about her past. I wanted us and for us to be a family.

I met Channing and Aspen in the waiting room. Both looked scared.

“She’ll be okay. There was a wooden splitter blocking her wolf from healing the wound. As soon as it was removed, it closed.” I explained before both of them hugged me.

“Can we see her?” Channing breathed out.

“As soon as she is moved to a room, we can see her.”

Chapter Sixty

Ryley

An excessive beeping woke me from my not-so-peaceful sleep. The beeping became louder as I remembered the events of what happened. I don’t know what day it is but I know I saw Dorian. And he met Channing. He knows he has a son.

I sat up, blinking away the haze before looking around the room. My breathing was harsh as I groaned from the dull pain in my side.

“Channing,” I yelled, trying to focus my vision.

“Ryley, breathe, baby. Channing is safe.” Blake was sitting on the side of the bed I was lying in. The room was white and smelled like disinfectant.

He rested his forehead against mine, taking a hold of my cheeks. My breathing was still harsh but his touch started to calm me.

“Where are they?”

“Aspen is with him at hockey practice,” he said, and my panic started to rise again.

“Breathe. I have warriors with them. I would never let anything happen to him. Luca has eyes on your ex and his pack members. You’re safe, baby, no one is going to hurt you.” He whispered the last few words before his lips touched mine.

And once again we were interrupted when the door opened and someone walked in. Blake’s chest grumbled as he rested his forehead against mine again.

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Chapter Sixty

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“Alpha. Miss Halliwell, I’m Dr. Perry. How are you feeling?” He introduced himself.

“It’s nice to meet you,” my voice came out raspy. Blake reached over and grabbed me a glass filled with water. I’m thankful he held the straw to my lips. My limbs felt heavy.

“I feel tired,” I answered him after the glass was empty. The cool liquid soothed my dry throat. Blake returned the glass to the table before taking hold of my hand. I haven’t seen this side of him before. He always seemed so tense around me, like he was afraid of doing something wrong. But this Blake seemed more natural and I liked it.

“You lost quite a bit of blood. There was a large wooden splitter preventing your wolf from healing. As soon as I removed it, the wound closed. I’m surprised you’re awake already. It’s only been a few hours since you were brought-in,” Dr. Perry explained.

“Does that mean I can go home?” I asked him. The doctor glanced at Blake, causing me to look at the alpha. There was something he hadn’t told me yet. “I’ll give you two a few minutes,” the doctor said, before quickly leaving the room.

“Ryley, we need talk,” he sighed.

“About you kissing me or calling me baby?” I asked with a smirk.

“Sm****ss,” he chuckled shaking his head. I reached up, caressing his cheek. He leaned into my touch as I swiped my thumb across his bottom lip. He shivered, closing his eyes, he leaned his forehead against mine again.

“F*ck,” he breathed out: I smiled at the effect I had on him. He has the same effect on me.

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Chapter Sixty

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Blake let out a growl when the boys rushed into the room. Both ignored him as they filled the bed, pushing Blake out of the way.

“Mom, I’m so glad you’re okay.” Channing hugged me. Aspen hugged me from the other side and I wrapped my arms around both of them.

“I want to hear all about hockey but first I want to know about your wolves. Why did you shift early?” I questioned.

“To protect you. As soon as you told us to run, we were terrified something was going to happen to you. I never thought it would have been Channing’s dad.” Aspen answered.

“Sweetie, are you okay?” I asked him, caressing his cheek.

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"It's weird. I should feel something because he's my father but I don't feel anything. All I cared about was keeping you safe." Channing said, leaning his head on my shoulder. My heart ached for him. I had my reason to keep him away from his father but it doesn't ease my guilt.

"I don't blame you, mom. He tried to kill you." He said as Aspen cuddled into the other side of me. I think they forgot they were the size of a grown man and now I was squished between them on this small bed.

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"He underestimated how strong you are," Aspen mumbled. I kissed both boys on the forehead before looking at Blake. He was sitting in a chair beside the bed.

"Ryley, we need to talk about your living situation. I need you to move to the pack." Blake said.

"Okay," I nodded.

"And I know you are going to fight me but I can't protect you if you go back to the city. Wait, did you agree with me?" He asked confused. I

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Chapter Sixty.

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just nodded.

"The boys had asked me to consider moving closer. I have been looking into it. I've been trying to get a hold of Isaac or Isabella. I'm supposed to be up for a promotion. But I haven't been able to speak to either of them." I explained.

"Mom, what if you can't work remotely?" Channing asked.

"Then I quit. You are what's most important and if you want to live here, then I'll try my best to make it happen. I was going to find a house in the closest city but it would seem I need to find one in the pack." I told them.

"You already have one. You two can move into the pack house with us."

Aspen announced:

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"Aspen, that's a big step," I stammered, trying to process what he just said. I know wolves usually move fast. They find their mates. Mark, mate, and move in within days but this is different. And terrifying.

"Ryley, the house needs repairs and we have extra rooms on our floor. No one will bother you. I promise." Blake said, leaning forward, resting his hand on my leg.

"Okay, for now," I sighed, agreeing.

“Good, the doctor mind-linked me and said you can go home to rest. And a nurse will be in soon to remove your IV. Also, Alpha Dorian wants to speak with you before he’ll leave.”