

Fates Hands by Lori Ameling

Chapter 36

Adira sat in their chambers, refusing to think on anything of the past that had happened. There was nothing good to dwell on in the past, so she was thinking up baby names, they found out that they were having a boy. She still couldn't settle on a name just yet.

Duncan was not helping, he kept coming up with weird names that no kid should have to endure. His last set of choices consisted of: Pubert, Ingleberk, Bertran and Huckleberry. Adira knew he was just making her laugh. She even thought of choosing one of them just to mess with him for awhile. 2

She had also been deciding on whether or not to go see Alfred. She knew it was stupid and it would not change anything. She just felt bad that his sentence was so harsh. To die slowly, alone in the dark. It has been a week, and at his age he is probably gone already.

As stupid as it all was, she gathered a basket of food and other items, nothing that would aid in his escape. Well that depended on how you looked at it. She felt that she just wanted to show him some mercy. Something she was never given.

Perhaps it was that he was dying alone and in the dark, she didn't know for sure but she made her way to the dungeons anyway. Hoping that they would let her in.

The guard stopped her at the gate...

"Lady Adira what brings you to the dungeons, this is no place for a lady in your condition."

"My condition, what is it with all the male population, you make it sound like it's a disease. I'm pregnant, not made of fragile glass that I might break at the slightest whim."

"As for why I am here, I wish to see one of your prisoners."

"Which one do you wish to see my Lady.?"

"Alfred"

"The guard looked taken aback, that prisoner is off limits my lady."

"Listen, I understand why he was sentenced to death, I understand that the king says that he has to die alone, I understand everything except one thing, why. I know what his thoughts are of me, what I don't understand is why he would betray his King."

"I want answers and the only way to get them is to ask Alfred before he dies."

"Alright my lady, under two conditions."

"1. You let me go with you as your guard."

"2. I have to inform the King."

"Fine you can come along and inform who you will, it will not stop me from doing what it is I wish to do here."

Alfred sat in the darkness feeling weak and tired. He was hoping death would find him in here. He wasn't so sure though.

He heard a noise or was it just another figment of his imagination. That was when the little sliver of light shined in his face and he hissed in pain. When the door was open there was a figure standing there and he knew who it was, before she even spoke one word.

"Why are you here?" he asked with a sneer.

Duncan and the King were in his chambers discussing the idea that Duncan and Adira were returning home to have their nun When

returning home to have their pup. When a guard, out of breath came into the room.

Your Highness and Alpha Duncan, I am here to inform you on what the Lady Adira is doing at this very moment.

"SHE IS DOING WHAT???"

Duncan and the King both raced down in a fury to the dungeons.

Adria went into the cell with a very nervous guard at her side.

"I just wanted to share some food and wine with you one last time and ask you some questions, if you are willing that is?"

"You mean you want me to suffer even longer by eating the food and drink, stretch out the time period of my suffering."

"No, that is not my intent at all. I thought that for one last time you could have the civility you always wanted to surround you. A bit of dignity if you will."

He looked at her with one eye and then nodded his approval.

She lit some candles to give light, the room didn't improve except that she could now see. She sat out what looked like a picnic but instead of a meadow it was more like the inside of a

cave.

She poured him a plastic cup of wine and set out a plate of food before him, complete with napkin and silverware. Well just a plastic spoon but it would have to do, she didn't want him getting any ideas. They ate in silence for a little while.

"So Alfred why did you betray your King? It wasn't just because you felt that I was not worthy of the title he gave me."

"Well, I must say I didn't think that you were all that smart. I betrayed him because of the mess he made out of everything, after his mate died he stopped caring about things. I started to help out with some things but there were times when he had to rule, no one else could."

"Then I tried to tell him about what his son was up to, he wouldn't listen. Brushing it off as rumors. When I told him that I was witness to the Prince's crimes, he still wouldn't believe me."

"Then you came along and he started to dote on you, you and Duncan were all he would talk about, he believed your story but he wouldn't

believe me a faithful loyal servant."

"I'd just had enough, that is all. Enough of commoners thinking above their stations, enough of my King not listening to me, while that son of his started to kill servant girls."

"Alfred, if you knew what the Prince was doing why didn't you try to stop him yourself?"

"I am not just a servant but a high servant, to do something such as to interfere with a royal member of the house I serve, would be unthinkable."

"So you knew what was going on and you just let it continue. Even if the King wouldn't listen I would of found a way to stop it or expose it. By knowing and doing nothing you're just as bad as the criminal that commits the crime."

Alfred didn't say anything more after that, Adria knew that it was the end of the conversation. With the help of the guard they picked up everything and put it all in the basket, just as they were leaving the cell, Duncan and the King came rushing in.

The guard shut the cell door as they walked away, Adira looked back once more and then moved on.

Once they were clear of the dungeons, Duncan and the King stopped Adira in the walk way.

“What were thinking Adira, to go there was taking a big risk. Not just for you but for our pup as well!”

“That is enough of yelling at me Duncan, I went because I needed answers and I knew that neither you nor the King would let me go. I was at very little risk, I was with a guard the whole time. Did you not notice that there were two other guards just outside the door as well?, I found the answer I was seeking and also gave him the mercy that he should of been given.”

“Adira, what are you talking about, what answer were you seeking and what mercy did you give him, feeding him and giving him wine is only going to prolong his misery.”

“I love you Duncan and I also care about you my King, if you go back to that miserable cell you will see that I have prolonged nothing.”

With that she turned and walked away to her chambers.

Duncan asked Apollo what was going on, he didn't know any more than Duncan did, Artemis wasn't talking at the moment.

The King turned and asked the guard that was with Adira and Alfred what was said while they were together.

“My King they didn't talk all that much but Alfred did tell her why he committed treason.”

“Did Lady Adira give him anything to keep.”

“No sir, they ate and drank. They talked for a little bit and then Lady Adira decided she wasn't going to get anything more more information. That was when we picked up all the stuff and left. There was nothing left in the cell, I made sure of it.”

The King motioned for Duncan to come with him back into the dungeon, to find out what was going on with Alfred, what this was all about.

When they opened the door to Alfred's cell, he was lying on his side in the dirt. Blood and foam coming out of his mouth his eyes were wide open, his face a look of horror. His hands were at his throat like he was trying to stop from choking. However Alfred was now quite dead.

Chapter 37

Duncan was a little alarmed at what Adira had done, he wasn't even sure how to approach the subject. He was also not entirely sure if he wanted to know.

Letting out a big sigh, he opened the door to their chambers. Adira was there waiting for him, she patted the seat on the sofa next to her.

He sat down on the opposite side of the sofa and patted his lap, she laid her head down where he wanted. Playing lightly with her hair and tracing the outside of her ear.

“Tell me my little wolf, why did you do it?”

“Oh, Duncan. I realized that it was his punishment for what he did. After talking with him I realized that he was so corrupted. That is why I gave him the poison, I brought it with me but I wasn’t sure if I was going to use it. He confirmed it with his answer.”

“I got the poison in Alfred’s room, he had two boxes one was potions the other was poisons. I took out the one with my name on it. “Spare”.”

“He had a poison with your name on it? That evil old turd, I should go and kill him again.”

“I think he was hoping not to use it, I think it was his back up plan should things not go the way he wanted.”

“Anyone who thinks that killing someone because they are different or not high enough of a class, are unhinged. These are dangerous people, first they start with one or two then before you know it, it is entire populations.”

“He knew that I was carrying our pup, he would of murdered not only me but our pup as well. I didn’t want to leave here not knowing for myself that he was dead.”

“Enough about that evil turd, lets talk about what will be coming in about two weeks.”

“Little wolf you are not due for another month and a half, what else could there be?”

“Christmas, you dolt!. “I have never had one, I was always in the attic and was not allowed to show my face. So I want a christmas, I want everything there is to do with christmas. Everything, leave nothing out.”

Duncan got a sad look on his face.

“What is it Dun? You don’t want christmas?”

“Don’t be silly little wolf, I was sad because

before all this crap started, we were starting to plan our wedding.”

"I know my love, I just thought we would do something simple and have a party or something. However now that I think about it, I don't want to compromise a thing. So how about we have a christmas wedding?"

"We will have the wedding and dinner celebration here and then we are going home to our pack, to have our party. I want to spend some time with you there and have our pup. Can't deprive the pack of its Alpha and Luna for too long."

"I am not sure what the King has in store for the future but I know it is going to take him sometime to set things in motion. I am taking that time to just be a pack, you barely met any of the pack members. You are their Luna after all."

Duncan was done talking, he wanted his mate all night long. He had already ordered their dinner brought to them. He grabbed her hand and helped her stand up. Turning her around, reaching her front he began to undo the the buttons on her blouse.

She moved to help him, he stopped her. Whispering in her ear.." I want to go slow, I

want this to last all night long.

His lips slowly made their way down her neck to his mark, he licked it and nipped it, driving her insane with pleasure. He held her back tightly to him and was massaging her breasts, he started to suck on his mark like he was giving her a hickey.

She gave out a high pitched wail and a moan as she reached her climax, she would of fallen to the floor if he hadn't held her upright.

He turned her to face him once again, she started to undress him but it wasn't fast enough. He ripped off his shirt and pants. Standing naked before her, he picked her up and carried her to the bed.

She crawled up it till she was on her hands and knees. Duncan wasted no time, he came up behind her and entered her in one slippery naked thrust. He tossed his head back and let out a howl. He was home. She was his. He was hers. Perfect.

He stood in the middle of what used to be The Rising Moon pack. Now it is nothing but burnt grass and ash. He was furious. He at first thought that piece of shit shifter packed up and

left. This was different though, this looked like annihilation. (?)

Everything was gone, he sensed movement off to the right of him just inside the forest line. He didn't know who or what it was but he ran back to his car, driving off in a hurry. Just what he fucking needed, he has a shipment due in two weeks. If it was just the average pervert he could get the females anywhere.

These guys were scientists and they wanted shifters. They wanted werewolves, werebears, werecats it didn't matter as long as they were shifters they would pay a premium price for them.

He wasn't sure where to go to get more, he was going to have to go find his initial contact which wasn't going to be easy. This shifter was a ghost, if he didn't want to be found, you were not going to find him. He also knew because of all the damage done to Rising Moon, that there was at least one stronger group of were's nearby.

He is going to have to locate that pack and send in a team to harvest some of them."

Jack was at a gas station fueling up and getting some snacks for the road, when his cell went

off. It was one of the guards he left at what was left of the Rising Moon pack. He reported that they had a late night visitor. He didn't stay long enough to get a good look at him but they did get his license plate number.

Jack hung up, well it seems the third player is going to come out and play after all. He knew that Alpha Micheal wasn't acting alone. He had the prince to finance it all, Micheal took care of acquiring the products. That left distribution of product.

Jack knew that it wouldn't be easy to find the one who was shipping the products. They were never easy to find because of all the paperwork and programs they hide behind. Shell companies and fake addresses by the time you find them all, they would of already made twenty more.

Jack hoped that this third wheel would stay away, no such luck. Seems like when shit rolls down hill, it takes the whole outhouse with it. To get this guy he was going to have to call in all kinds of favors.

He would have to tell Duncan when he could, let him know that one more turd was still floating in the bowl.

Duncan had just gotten the text from Jack about the third guy involved. How was he going to tell Adira this? It's going to ruin everything. He let out a few swears into the air.

Adira came into the room with concern written all over her face.

"What is wrong, Duncan?"

"Well I just got some bad news from Jack, he texted to tell me that there is yet one more idiot to deal with. The one that took care of shipping everything and finding new clients for Alpha Micheal."

“Adria didn’t look happy and that was the last thing that Duncan wanted, even Apollo was pissed. He didn’t like anyone near Adira since she became pregnant and now he wants to kill things.” 15

“I’ve talked to Marco, we leave here in three days, just long enough to have our little wedding and pack up. Marco will be sending a boat load of pack warriors to escort us home. My sister is on her way here right now so she can be part of the wedding. Then she will be with us as we travel.”

“Everything is ready to go Duncan, we have everything we need for the wedding, including

8:37 PM | 2.4KB/s 9 . the fact that I had to alter my dress.”

“The King is seeing to all the arrangements as well as the license. He is going to have a dinner banquet in honor of our marriage, there will also be a few royals but no one else.”

“The King is still paranoid about who he can and can’t trust. He also says he has a surprise gift for us too. Everything is ready to go for tomorrow night.”

With that all said, they cuddled next to each other in bed, Duncan had his hand over Adira’s abdomen protecting their pup.

“I love you, Adira.”

“I love you, Duncan.”

Chapter 38

Jack made it back to his clan with all the much needed supplies. They could get normal things in town, getting supplies when you are not human can be a challenge. Special herbs and medicines for instance that you can’t find in a normal store. Bulk food is always a good thing, they could get it at a whole foods store but it isn’t the same. He even managed to bring ten cases of jars back for their honey and maple syrup production.

They sold both honey and syrup in town, they also made their own jams as well. That was mostly for their own consumption.

Did they need all these things from the King, not really but it was a gift. Jack never turned down gifts as long as there were no strings attached. This particular gift was a simple thank you from the King.

Werebear’s tend to like things as natural as possible, such as they grow their own foods and can, dry or freeze them. They hunt and fish for their meat of course, what things they buy are really more of a luxury than a need.

They don’t have internet or television. Nor do they use cell phones while in clan territory. Cell phones don’t work in the mountains anyway

phones don't work in the mountains anyway. They do have a land line for the phone so they can call if there is a need.

They have their own doctors and hospitals. They also have jobs out in the human towns. Such as sheriff and police officers to truck drivers. A wide assortment of jobs they tend to hold down, the only thing in common with them all is that werebears tend to stay in the small towns and rural areas.

Jack's clan is a little bit more unusual than normal, they are a big clan mostly grizzly which is very rare so rare that it is more legend and old stories than reality any more. 😊

Adira stood in front of a full size mirror looking on in disbelief that the woman that was staring back at her was in fact her. Her gown was gorgeous, it was empire waist, it was off white with gold trim and designs. It was made as a velvet over skirt with silk and tulle under skirt. It had lots of sparkle.

Adira almost didn't wear it because she found out that the sparkle was actual diamonds. It also had a cathedral train. Her ladies maids did a fantastic job on her hair, it was in up in an elaborate style, of braids and curls.

Upon her head was a small golden crown with diamonds and sapphires, attached to a long flowing lace veil. It was perfect. She was just about ready to leave to go to the waiting area at the court, when a knock came at the door.

When the ladies maids opened the door, there stood the King in his finest, with a huge smile on his face.

"Your highness, Adira gave a very graceful curtsy."

That was when she noticed what the King was holding in his hands. It was her bridal bouquet, it was beautiful with white and cream colored roses the roses themselves looked like the tips of their petals were dipped in gold.

"My dear girl you look beyond amazing, I thought that you would be needing someone to walk you down the aisle. I would like to volunteer for this duty if it is alright."

"With teary eyes she spoke the words, Yes, I would be honored to have you walk me down."

"Adira, the honor is mine little one. Now let's get going before your very nervous Duncan explodes."

"Why would Duncan be so nervous, He knows I love him and that we are forever."

"All males whether they know it or not, that their brides love them and it is a sure thing. Are still nervous up at that end of the aisle waiting for their brides to come join them."

Just in the nick of time in a deep red and gold trimmed velvet bridesmaid dress looking absolutely beautiful was Marnie. She was practically jumping up and down in excitement. She then gracefully picked up Adira's train, gave the King a curtsy and they were off to the hall.

As Duncan stood at the alter, everything went beyond what he thought was possible. The King went all out for their wedding, he gave a chuckle to himself. Small wedding indeed.

Everything was covered in gold or silver sparkles, there were at least 10 christmas trees, that were also done in mostly gold and silver sparkles, fairy lights were everywhere. Someone magically made snow fall from the ceiling, it never landed on the floor though it was magical.

A red carpet was going down the center of what looked like a sea of chairs made out of sparkling

looked like a sea of chairs made out of sparkling snow. There was light music playing though Duncan couldn't pin point where it was coming from

He was there with Marco at his side, Duncan was happily surprised when Marco showed up with Marnie. He simply told Duncan that he wasn't going to let his best friend get married without him. That was that and now here they are waiting.

The chairs were now full and the music became just a bit louder as they heard the main doors to the hall begin to open, everything but the music was silent.

There she was on the arm of the King, it was as if time stopped there was no one else there but Duncan and Adira. Apollo had to remind him to breathe. She was a goddess, his goddess. Till death do they part and beyond.

Adira was in a state of awe. It was everything and anything you could possibly ever want for your wedding and so much more. She gave the Kings arm a little squeeze of thank you. That was when she looked down the aisle and there he was, her Duncan.

Everything else faded away, time no longer had meaning as she looked into his loving eyes. The King leaned in and whispered in her ear, "Just Breathe".

They slowly made their way down the aisle to Duncan. The High elder asked, "Who Gives this Bride?".

The King spoke in a very firm and loud voice... "I do." He then reached for Duncan's hand and put Adira's hand in it. He stepped back and went to his seat.

Duncan and Adira only had eyes for each other, they would answer the questions when asked. It was time for them to say their vow's. Duncan went first.

" Adira you woke my heart from a winters sleep,

the flames of my love are yours forever to keep.

I will always protect and love you till my dying day.

I am your rock, always I will stand, never will I stray.”

Adira looked at him with happy tears in her eyes, they shined like diamonds. He felt their bond grow even more than he thought was

possible.

“Duncan, I am your other half, forever be 1 here.

Facing all our troubles and facing all our fear.

My love for you will never be broken or end.

My prayer they did hear, for you they did send.”

Now they spoke the last lines of their vow’s together. while holding hands.

” Together we are tied, as before all we stand,

We are blessed and it is by the goddess’s hand.

On this day till the end of days, our love will

be,

Forever and beyond it’s just you and it’s just me.” 2

“The elder spoke again..Your highness, lords and ladies. I now give you Alpha Duncan and Lady Adira of the Storm Crow Moon Pack. First bound by Love and now by Law.”

“You may now kiss your bride.”

Duncan pulled her in for a deep passionate kiss, not caring who was watching. Hoots and whoops

were heard coming from the audience. Adira was bright red as they walked back down the aisle and out into the hall.

Once the doors closed once again, Duncan picked up Adira and swung her in the air, as they both laughed in happiness. She pulled his head in close to hers for another kiss. Deep kisses came one after another as their happiness consumed them.

"I am the luckiest wolf in the world right now. You are so beautiful I feel there isn't a word created that would do justice to describe your beauty."

Duncan carried Adira all the way to the banquet hall, kissing and laughing all the way there.

Marnie and Marco followed from behind taking pictures as they went. The couple were completely unaware that it was going on. Which made for some great pictures.

The banquet hall doors opened and trumpets sounded as they entered, the King himself announced their presence. Everything was decorated just like it was at the court hall. Except for the chair for the bride and groom, it was a love seat in red and gold velvet. Duncan sat down with Adira on his lap. Not letting her out of his sight as they fed each other.

out of his sight as they fed each other.

That was how they spent their last night in the castle, in each others arms.

Chapter 39

###WARNING### Dark memories, situations and language. ###WARNING###

Lily was in new territory for herself, she had been going through some very intense therapy sessions. The more she remembered and had things pointed out to her, like how Micheal groomed her from an early age.

That way as she got older, things that should of never happened to a 5 year old, were made to seem normal. The ultimate manipulation. She had been really tired lately and was glad that she had her room as a retreat of sorts, she was allowed a TV and now she can watch movies.

She was also treated a lot better now by the guards and servants. The guards even got her snacks now and then. The nightmares still come at night, they are not as long term anymore, she has them but she can also calm herself down after.

The door outside isn't locked anymore, she still has one guard though at night, it was a suggestion from her therapist. It was to help her feel safe at night and to also help her if she started sleep walking again.

At first she didn't like the idea of a strange male

At first she didn't like the idea of a strange male hanging around with the ability to enter her private space at will. Over time they managed to gain her trust, especially after one night of sleep walking

She left her room, the guard on duty George' called her therapist and then followed her outside, she went up on the ramparts of the castle.

George got very nervous because she kept getting closer and closer to the edge. She came to a part that had a step down shelf. He went under her on the shelf. That was when she jumped, instead of falling to her death he caught her.

She woke up right then and there. At first she struggled, until he calmed her down enough for her to look and see where she was. When she did she grabbed onto George with a death grip. He grunted at the pain but walked her all the way to her room, where the therapist was waiting.

Since then George has been on duty most nights and the nights that he is not, there is someone he personally vouches for.

She still keeps her door locked from the inside to help with the sleep walking,

Last night though she had a different nightmare, a memory she had pushed away to the back of her mind. She was 10 years old, Alpha Micheal was holding her hand as they were walking down a long hallway, it was like a hospital.

There were people in white lab coats all looking at her as she was put up onto a table. They strapped her down and she was very scared. They poked her with needles and scraped her skin till it bled.

As she got older it was a lot harder to trick her so, first they used her parents to drug her food. After that she stopped eating and drinking things her mother gave her. They resorted to hunting her down with tranquillizer darts.

They stopped all of a sudden though, she wasn't sure why except maybe Alpha Micheal was getting worried they might force her into drastic measures or their secret getting out. After all he could only threaten someone for so long, before it would no longer matter.

There was always this one guy in the shadows, he wasn't one of the doctors but he was always there, she could always see his eyes glowing gold, he always gave her the creeps, she called him the Lurker.

Valdis Cessair hated shifters even though he was one. He was tall, with an olive complexion, dark hair and golden eyes. Most women would consider him handsome, that is till they spent any time with him.

He was not one to settle down and have a family, he preferred to hunt, kill and eat his dates. It was great sport and a stress reliever.

Waiting for this informer was a pain in the ass, he was the only source of information at the moment that he had, so wait he did. When he saw a flash of light he got out of his car and headed into the woods.

He really never saw the informer but he could smell him a mile away. He was a rogue. The longer they are rogue the stinker and crazier they got. From the smell of this guy he was most definitely crazy.

Val was waiting for the day he could kill this piece of crap. He hated rogues more than anything else in the world. It will be just a matter of time before he out lives his usefulness and then Val could have his fun.

Val waited for it to start talking.

“There are two packs in this mountain region,

One is the Storm Raven Moon pack, the other is the Bear Mountain Clan. Werewolves and Werebears, if I were you I would leave the bears alone, they are assholes and well others have gone missing when they go into their territory.”

The Storm Raven isn't anything to take lightly either, it's a warrior pack. Their Luna will be back soon and it's rumored that she is having her first pup. That means that the pack will be even harder to infiltrate.

That is all the info I have for now, I will try to get more but the two packs you asked about are the worst ones for rogues to go near.

Val walked away back to his car. So werewolves and werebears too. The bears being together in a clan is something unique and dangerous. It is a temptation he couldn't resist. If he could get both Werewolf and Werebear specimens then the secret society of Science will get off his back.

It's is kinda funny though, that those arrogant scientists never discovered that he was a shifter too. Then again he suspected that they knew but he was more useful to them in getting them specimens than being one.

He would also make sure to get children and

adults this time, they will pay a premium for both but they love the kids the most. Something about them being more resilient against pain and experimentation.

Time to get his extraction groups together for some recon and training. First though he called in two of his best to scout out the territories and see how far they can push in without being discovered.

Duncan, Adira, Marnie and Marco were all returning to the Raven Moon in a long line of black SUV's. The King was not playing when it came to security. He made sure that no one was going to attack them on the road.

He also assigned all the security that went with them to stay with them, adding to Duncans already impressive force.

Marnie and Adira were in the back seat going through baby names and baby stores sites online. Duncan mind linked Marco. “Our pup is going to spoiled rotten before he is even born.”

Marco laughed. “Wait till you see what is waiting for you both at home. You don't honestly think that they were not going to

throw a party did you?"

Duncan laughed, "I know and I look forward to it, Adira never got much of chance to meet the pack. This will be ideal for her, soon she isn't going to have as much mobility."

"I just hope everyone is on board with their new Luna, she wasn't officially recognized or given the official Luna acceptance ceremony."

"Don't worry Duncan I had a ceremony of sorts and everyone was on board and loves their new Luna."

Duncan couldn't help it he was getting an uneasy feeling, something was stirring in the air and hiding in the shadows.

Sigh, he hoped it was just because he was tired. Still he wasn't going to ignore the feeling. Once things are settled down he was going to have a meeting with all his warriors.

"Marco after the party tomorrow as soon as possible I want a meeting with all the warriors and all the one's sent by the King. I will not be caught with our pants down."

"Yes, Alpha, it is good to have you home again. Now I can get some sleep."

He was going to see about expanding his territory a little bit, there were no other packs near, him except for Jacks. With all these extra's, he could have a guard every ten feet on all his borders and still have plenty left over.

The very next day Jack was home, one of his border guards informed him of some unusual tracks, they didn't go far into their territory but they did get inside it. Jack went with his second in command to investigate.

Once they got there, Jack could smell the faint scent in the air and looking at the tracks he knew instantly that it wasn't good.

His second was right there with him, knowing also what they were dealing with as he let out a sigh.

"Great, things just get settled down and now we have to deal with fucking werecats. Not sure which type we are dealing with, the scent is too faint. It doesn't matter though, they are all tree climbing, asshole jerks with a superiority complex."

Jack nodded his head in agreement, he met a few werecats in his time and he even had one that was a good friend of his, to be honest

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though most werecats were assholes and bastards to deal with. So what is this one up to.

That Rising Moon crap is still floating around even after they burned it to the ground. That pack wasn't werewolves it was wercockroaches. Wolves would of died by now. Not these nasty bastards, they just keep popping up like daisies.

Jack was tired of this crap, it was time to call in his friend the werecat and his pride, to see if they can nip this in the bud. The time for having fun with your enemy is over. It is time to get serious no more playing. Time to bring the pain.

He also made a mental note to call Duncan to be on the lookout for sneaky kitty cats.

Chapter 40

The pack was all settled down now, the party was a huge success. Luna Adira was resting and hanging out with Marnie. Adira telling her all the details of the things that went on while they were at the castle. Marnie was making sure that she took it easy from now on.

Not only had Marnie taken up as Adira's personal lady guard, also apparently the King sent three personal guards for her and for him. Duncan liked that Adira had extra security but he hated it for himself.

He decided since it was still a little early to sleep, he and Marco would go patrolling together along the borders. Of course his three shadows had to tag along as well, one good thing about them is that they stayed out of the way.

Duncan was having a great run with Apollo, it was what they had needed the most. A good run in their own territory. They were heading to the western border when both of their wolves stopped in alert. They could sense that they were not alone and were being watched.

Duncan and Marco shifted back, grabbing shorts from a nearby stash. They stopped and pretended to just talk and catch up with each other all the while moving closer and closer to

other, all the while moving closer and closer to the source of the energy they were feeling.

Duncan mind linked his three shadows to come from different directions to the tree they were standing by.

As the guards approached a very loud snarl could be heard, it was a big werecat. Duncan and Marco looked at each other, Marco started walking around the tree taunting the cat. "Here Kitty, Kitty." It was working the cat didn't like taunting. They never did. ?

Just as they thought that they were going to catch themselves a cat, it leaped with an angry growl onto another tree, then another till it was gone. They didn't bother to give chase, since it was no longer in their territory.

The werecat did expose itself long enough for them to get a good look at it, it was a leopard shifter.

Everyone marked the smell of it's scent to share with other guards and warriors. They also armed themselves as well. Cat shifters tend to like playing dirty. It's best to just get them at a distance and kill them. Otherwise you have to change into lycan form.

Either way werecats are pains in the ass.

Duncan didn't like that this one was so close. Usually they get a drifter now and then. They will stay the night and then move on.

A few of them were really good guys and relayed information on rogues. Some were loners passing through. Once in awhile you get a real asshole and have to put him down.

Duncan mind linked all his warriors, telling them of what they found and that there would be extra training for those who haven't had to deal with werecats before.

He was going to have to give Jack a call and let him know that they have a stray cat problem.

Val sat in his office listening to his spies, they were not happy to be sent into bear territory. No one is ever happy to go into bear territory, not even other bears.

For now they had been gathering human specimens, they were easy pickings. Humans with special abilities were coveted by his buyers. He wanted the real prize though.

Sir, are you sure you want to do this? These two packs are going to be a lot of trouble if not deadly. The werebear clan we couldn't even get

far into their territory before a fricken grizzly came out of the bushes to investigate.

The werewolf clan was in some ways worse, his spy there couldn't get inside the territory at all and was almost captured. Werewolves have one **advantage over** werecats. Werecats can mask their presence and their smell. Werewolves have one annoying ability though, they can sense their energy.

Bears can smell them even when they mask their scent. The only way in would have to be a gap in their security, that isn't going to happen there though, that

clan is much too large. They would have to wait and see when they left the safety of their territory, to see if they could ambush them.

As for the werewolves, he was going to have to come up with a really big distraction to deal with them. Dang, he hated this kind of shit. Dealing with weak or corrupted packs were easy pickings, dealing with these two however was going to be a challenge.

He might have to call in some back up on this one. He would rather not because it was less of a pay day for him. However if he was dead he can't enjoy the money anyway.

Lily couldn't stop that damn nightmare, it would play over and over everytime she shut her eyes. It was getting frustrating. It was like her mind was trying to find something but couldn't so it kept playing the same memory over and over till it did

Her therapist was trying to help her figure it all out, they even tried hypnosis, again it was the memory of that moment and those damn golden eyes. She was starting to feel that she was close to figuring it out, it was staying just out of reach.

Even if its painful, she vowed to find out the whole memory.

Jack and Duncan met at the little coffee shop in town, they were discussing the things that had been happening and trying to figure out this next puzzle.

They picked up a local paper and found a possible link, several human girls and young boys have gone missing. Cops can't find any suspects or even a hint of a clue. The town went into lock down. No one went out after dark, during the day they never went anywhere alone.

It slowed things down no new cases had been

It slowed things down, no new cases had been reported. That just means that they are laying low waiting for their guards to drop, so they can continue again

Jack decided it would be a good idea to give the town some added protection, since they both now have extra warriors, they were going to assign some of them to the town itself.

They figured that it had to be a small group of cats, werocats are the worst for getting along with each other especially males. They only form groups if there is a family connection.

Stray females they will take in, males though are killed on sight. Any lone females that have young tend to stay away in fear that their cubs will be killed.

Sometimes though it is rare, a group of stray males will group together. It makes it easier to take over other family groups. When they attack they kill all the males and male cubs. Keeping the females.

Depending on the type of werecats, the females can be more deadly than the males, especially if they have young to protect. Jack had heard stories of one female weretiger that killed a whole group of wereleopards that tried to take her daughter.

Marnie was sitting in her room, looking at designs on her computer. She was put in charge of designing the pups nursery. She was enjoying herself, she loved Adira like the sister she'd always wanted.

Still though she was getting a bit lonely, it seemed like forever waiting for her mate to show up. In truth she'd pretty much given up after a couple years passed by. At first she hoped that it would be Marco but it wasn't. Still she hoped.

She had been practicing her magical skills with the Mages. She can create fire and throw it. Her other skills though are really lacking. Still it was something she could depend on along with her fighting skills.

She'd been feeling restless lately, not even going for runs with her wolf Hera had helped. Perhaps she should arrange for her and Adira to go shopping in town. Nothing elaborate just a little outing.

Yes, that is just the thing she needed, Adira needs it too. She is getting bigger and soon she won't be going out too far to do anything. Maybe more baby clothes or perhaps some comfortable maternity clothes.

She jumped up from her room and skipped

down the hall to her brother's office. Time to see if her brother would allow Adira out of his sight for a couple of hours, not like she would be alone anyway, not with all the guards as their shadows.

Duncan was just finishing up some reports, when his sister came barging in. He smiled to himself, what is she up to now.

"Duncan I want permission to take Adira on a shopping trip, just into town. Not the city or big malls. Just some small shops and maybe have

lunch. Soon she isn't going to be going too far, she still needs some maternity clothes and some small things for the pup."

"Sooooo can we go?" She was giving him those puppy dog eyes she has used ever since they were kids. Duncan though wasn't sure if it was such a good idea. Things were calm right now and the borders had been silent, still he wasn't sure.

"Alright you can go but you will not only take her personal guards, you will also take three of our warriors along as well as a driver.""

You will both keep your cell phones in hand, if anything goes wrong, I want you both gone, let the guards and warriors handle it."

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You will both keep your cell phones in hand, if anything goes wrong, I want you both gone, let the guards and warriors handle it."

"Also Marco and I will be meeting with Jack, he is bringing by a friend of his to help us with a new issue. You will be on your best behavior."

"Understood?"

She stood up and hugged him, then saluted just before bouncing out the door.