

Chapter 113 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

"Thank you for this" Ophelia says quietly as I take a seat next to her.

"You have no need to thank me Luna, it's the right thing to do" I say with a smile.

"What are you going to do?" She asks me.

"Kia says all we need to do is hold your hands and we can both get into a calmer state, concentrate on your breathing a bit like with meditation and Kia will do the rest" I say to her comfortingly. "It's not going to hurt you."

With those words I see her posture visibly relax as I ease some of her worry. "Johnathon has assured me Kia would not have suggested this if she wasn't 100% certain. I never doubted her I just am wary when I don't understand something completely, but I can't understand everything can I" I chuckle slightly.

"Kia is brilliant, I have no doubt you can do this" Ophelia says with an encouraging smile. Holding her delicate hands out to mine I take them gently and we sit facing one another before closing our eyes and breathing calmly in time with each other. Feeling Kia push forward as she reaches to connect with Ophelia's wolf I hear her gasp slightly in reaction and grasp my hands tighter. Rubbing soothing circles on her hands she relaxes once again as she gets used to the intrusion in her mind and allows Kia to reach her wolf. Feeling my strength flow through my body I control my breathing as it my body begins to hum with energy.

After a few moments Kia pulls back in my mind saying she is done so I open my eyes to see Ophelia gazing at me in wonder.

"She spoke to me, she doesn't feel as far away now" she whispers. "I've missed her voice" she cries as sobs rack her body.

"Oh Luna" I breath as my eyes sting with unreleased tears, hugging her tightly I murmur in her ear, "please ensure you rest and don't do anything stressful."

"Being around pups will help" Kia links us both, "they will bring joy and your wolf will feel a natural instinct to interact with them. Another reason to live as such."

"Thank you Kia" Ophelia sobs before Alex pulls her into his arms whispering soothing words in her ear.

"I'll give you both sometime" I say before bowing and taking my leave.

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"So did you know your dad can heal others?" Jax asks as he drops into the seat beside me whilst we wait for everyone else to ready themselves.

"What?" I ask sharply throwing him a confused look.

"He told us today, Andrew has no scar because he snuck in and healed him" he says with an impressed smile. "I saw him at the training grounds just now and you can't even tell he was attacked."

"Why didn't he tell me?" I ask quietly hurt.

With a sigh Jax looks at me, "we need to remember his life hasn't been easy. In the last 25 years he has constantly had to look over his shoulder wondering if he would get caught, wondering if you were safe, his mate was safe, then he has Sophie to protect. He's had a lot to be wary of, and healing is a pretty big gift to have. If the wrong person found that out then he would have even more people after him, not just hunters."

"You're right" I agree quietly, "I can understand that."

"He only learnt of it after becoming the new Rogue King" Jax tells me.

"He said Drake grew in size quite recently as well" I muse with pursed lips.

"It confirms gifts come in times of need" Jax says, "he healed Sophie after an attack, that's the first time he used the gift and clearly she is one of the most important people in his life."

"I wonder what mine will be" I ponder.

"I'm sure we will find out in time" Jax says before standing up.

"Alright everyone, briefing time!" He shouts gaining their attention, "as you know it's important that we are not detected during this mission. We are observing NOT attacking" he says looking around clearly at the others with us. "Axel, Evan and Kingsley you will take the east viewing point as agreed, Nova, Alex and myself will take the west, we also will have two pairs of warriors at north and south to confirm their entry routes via the road. Theo you know to join us after, you can wait 2 miles back and keep your phone on incase I can't link you."

Suddenly I feel Kia surge forwards in my head making me bend over with a gasp, "it'll only hurt for a second" she tells me as I feel her power flow through me. The feeling leaves as quick as it comes leaving my body tingling slightly.

"What was that?" I gasp to her as I steady my breathing.

"Nova?!" Jax exclaims rushing to me concern evident across his face.

"I'm fine" I say straightening up as he grasps me to help me.

"You're not" he says narrowing his eyes as he looks me over.

"I am, it was Kia" I say as his brows furrow in confusion.

"What was?" He asks as I see my dad look at me curiously.

"I don't know" I admit before asking her.

"Ki?" I ask quietly.

"Get Laurence to scent everyone going" she says quietly.

"Laurence scent is all please" I ask him as he looks at me strangely but does as I ask.

Turning to me in amazement he opens and closes his mouth momentarily before speaking. "I can't..um your scent is masked."

"That's new" I laugh as Kia stands proud in my head. "Since when?" I ask her.

"About a minute ago, I just knew to try it...again instinctual" she says slightly sheepishly. "We don't know what we are going in to, we know humans can't scent us but what if they have anything else with them. It's unknown territory, it's safer this way" she explains.

"Ki says because we don't know for certain it is just human hunters that will be attending it is safer this way" I tell Jax and the group.

"Perhaps this way we can get closer?" Jax asks looking at Axel and Evan as they quickly discuss something between themselves.

Clearing his throat Axel steps forward to speak, "there is a large car park to the west side of the building which is also where the entrance is located. If they are simply going to park and use the normal entrance which I suppose would look less suspicious then there is a garage to the right hand side which I believe two of us could get into without being spotted."

"Jax and I will go there" I say immediately as Jax nods in agreement.

"Are you sure it's a good idea you that close?" Alex says to me.

"Our hearing is better, this way we might even be able to hear something that's talked about. If it gives us the chance to gain more information than yes, I think it's best" I explain as he quickly debates what I've said. "You're all there for back up as well if it goes wrong" I point out.

"True" he muses. "Ok I can't think of anything better so why not."

"Thanks for the vote of confidence" I comment dryly rolling my eyes at him as he simply smirks and flashes us a thumbs up.

"Alright, everybody knows what they're doing. Let's roll" Jax shouts as he jogs for the vehicles with us all following.

Meeting

Chapter 114 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

Jumping from the cars we jog to the tree line surrounding the area's outskirts. "Down there" Axel whispers to us from our viewing point, pointing to a large building situated right in the middle of a business park.

"Just perfect" Jax mutters to himself as his eyes scan over the area. "Axel and Evan link Nova if needed, Alex you too. Stay in contact" he instructs before motioning for everyone to get in position. Silently everybody slinks away soon disappearing into the quiet evening. Tapping my shoulder he gestures for us to head down, sticking to the side of the buildings we hang back in the shaded areas.

"There are workers in the buildings either side of the factory" I link Jax, "when we get to the car park we won't be able to hide so let's act like we belong there."

"Take my hand" he instructs as we reach the car park. Holding his keys in his hand he brings me in close and kisses my head, if anyone was to look at us we would look like a couple deep in conversation walking to our car.

"I'm almost expecting people in work outfits to come along. They are definitely clever as to where they hold their meetings. Laurence is gathering all the information Evan and your dad's

scout teams collected, it'll be ready for us to look at when we are back. But many were like this" whispers in my ear as I smile up at him maintaining the relaxed facade.

Whispering away to one another we casually make our way to a car parked alongside the garage, quickly ducking we take a deep scent of the area and note nothing suspicious. "In here" I link him before darting to a door, "it's unlocked" I say testing it before it swings open silently and I slip inside. Soon Jax's large form follows me noiselessly and we have a quick look around finding the perfect vantage point by a dust covered window.

"It stinks in here" Jax links me as he grimaces looking around at the machinery, "sharpened senses are great at times but this burns my nose."

"It's awful" I link him back pulling a face.

Reaching for his watch in his pocket Jax links me, "meeting is in 25 minutes. Good timing."

With a nod I take a seat and get as comfy as I can. Seeing a poster put up about 10m away I read "Private Investors Meeting This Evening" before pointing it out to Jax.

"They've had someone come today to put that up" he links me with a thoughtful expression.

"It's a good cover really, I should have asked for continual observation" I worry as I tap my knee anxiously. Seeing my movement he reaches over and rests his hand over mine.

"Relax, it could have been too risky I already thought about it" he links throwing me a killer watt smile which makes my insides melt whatever the situation. Nodding I lean my forehead against his and take a few deep breaths.

20minutes later we have a warrior named Charlie link us, "4 cars approaching from the north, each has 3/4 occupants." Not a minute later we have another warrior named Alexa link us repeating the same for the south.

Watching the vehicles pull into the car park Jax and I both crouch low being silent in our movements. The occupants step out busy talking between themselves with a couple looking around checking the area before they stride inside, the door unlocked.

"Not very secure" I link Jax with furrowed brows.

"They must not think they're at much risk" he replies tracking each person as they move inside. As more cars steadily arrive we watch as over the next 15 minutes people make their way inside.

"Large black car arriving, I'm sensing something different" Charlie links us making us look to each other with confusion.

"Different how?" Jax responds.

"I can feel an energy coming from it" he responds sounding unsure of himself.

"Good work Charlie" I link him as we see a black car roll in. Feeling the air turn cold around me and my skin prickle I turn to Jax with narrowed eyes. "Witch?" I ask him as he nods his head in agreement.

"I think so..but it doesn't feel right" he links me his eyes focused on the car parking. "We didn't get this at the council building."

The back doors swing open followed by a tall man with a head full of white hair, his eyes dark and piercing standing out on his pale aging face. Standing straight and oozing confidence he stretches looking around.

"Charles" I growl through the link to Jax as I feel Kia bristle. I continue watching as another man walks round, even taller than my grandfather and with an aura of power radiating from him. His eyes passing over the garage giving us a glimpse of his brilliant purple iris.

"He's a dark witch" Kia links Jax and I making us tense. "His aura screams danger."

"Dark magic?" Jax links us, "fuck!"

"I thought that had been banned by the council a long time ago?" I ask with worry.

"It had" he growled. "Shit shit shit."

Watching them stride in I feel Alex link me, "dark magic I can sense it from here."

"I know" I snarl back as I feel Kia's anger surge through me.

"We need to tell the elders as soon as we are back" Alex links me urgently as I pass the message on to Jax.

"We will" he agrees. "I estimated a total of 75/80 people enter. I doubt that's their full force."

"I think it might be people from further afield" I voice. Seeing his eyes turn to me full of questions I continue, "think about it. He is going to want as much support as possible even with a dark witch. He's not going to risk having everyone in the same place, he's clearly too smart for that but this way he can recruit. Also I suspect more than one witch, this one seems to be far more powerful than anything I felt at the council building."

"You could be right" Jax links with a groan. "Nova you know what this means?"

Looking at him with understanding he grimaces before clasping my hand tightly.

"War" I whisper.

"I think telling those other packs was a smart move" Alex suddenly links me as I can't help but agree. "Ophelia is going to be heartbroken" he tells me quietly.

"We won't give up" I promise him before we sit back waiting for them to leave. Focusing on if I can hear anything I huff in anger as I can't make out a sound from inside the building.

"Can't hear a thing" I link Jax in frustration.

"Neither can I" he sighs. "I suspect that's due to magic"

A short 45 minutes later they begin to trickle out and drive off. "Everybody keep an eye on this black Range Rover" I order through the link.

"Not a subtle car" Jax comments before stiffening as my grandfather strides out. Hearing the noise of a loud engine approach my eyes shift to see a sleek black motorbike speed to a stop alongside where my grandfather is resting on his car. The rider pulls the helmet off swiftly shaking out their long hair and climbing off smoothly before speaking to Charles for a few moments in tones so low I barely hear anything despite being so close.

"No" I whisper as my stomach drops. Watching in horror as my grandfather gets in the car along with the witch and they drive off I hear Jax order through the link for Alex and my dad to trail him. The lady turns gathering her hair ready to put the helmet over before climbing on the bike.

Turning she keeps her head lowered before raising it slowly and looking directly at us in the garage. Giving me a cold smile, her hazel eyes icy and lacking life my surroundings fade away as I stand not dropping her eye contact.

Lifting her hand in a mocking salute she grins almost maniacally before putting her helmet on and roaring out the car park.

"Dad..the bike.." I link him whilst standing feeling lost.

"Who was it?" He asks.

"You couldn't tell?" I ask.

"Who is it Nova?" He asks desperately.

"Mum.." I sob out loud as Jas pulls me close and I hear Dad cry in my head.

What You Deserved

Chapter 115 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Watching the bike peel away I grasp Nova into my chest before kissing her hard and pulling her out of shocked state. "We need to act" I say. "I have Axel going to check on Charles and his companion as well as Alexa and hers, they didn't notify us of the bike approaching despite being ordered."

"They're not dead but something's happened, their pack tether is there but faint." Nova mumbles her eyes dazed as she speaks absentmindedly whilst staring after her disappearing mum. "We need to get them home asap" she whispers brokenly.

"My brothers will manage that, we are going to trail your grandfather" I order as we begin to run back to the cars. "I know it's shocking seeing your mum..like that. But we can't miss this opportunity" I grimace.

Hearing that Novas face sets in determination and pride swells inside me. "I know. I'll link Alex and we can follow him and Kingsley."

"That's my Luna" I say as we leap over the nearby fence and spring to the tree line. Reaching the car we were using Nova jumps in the drivers seat making me hesitate for a moment before shrugging it off and jumping in.

"Keys" she demands holding her hand out as I pass them over to her. "Alex can link me it makes sense for me to drive."

"I get it" I reassure her. "Just concentrate and be safe, can your dad not link us all?"

Hearing that she cocks a brow at me and smirks, "I can drive. And no I don't think so, it seems to just be something Kia can do. Wait..you linked Alex and my dad?"

"I did..I've never been able to mindlink anyone outside the pack before so that's new, I also didn't think about it. I've also never seen you drive" I laugh slightly nervously as the engine roars to life and she peels off from where we were parked with a powerful wheel spin.

"Well you're about to" she replies back sassily as she throws the car round a corner and floors it.

"It's a good thing I trust you so much" I say as I clutch the handle, my knuckles turning white. Handling the car with ease she simply smirks at me as she concentrates on following Alex's

instructions. After a few moments she slows down to a less noticeable speed and up ahead I spot the car Alex and Kingsley are in.

"So your dad couldn't sense your mum?" I check.

"No, and to be honest neither could I. I didn't have that family tether with her as I do with others" Nova admits. "But dad should have been able to detect his mates scent easily especially after so long apart and the fact that he couldn't means she has definitely been conditioned and exposed to all sorts of magic. Drake can't have sensed her."

"I wonder how she knew we were there" I wonder.

"I don't think anyone else did" Nova says watching Alex's car carefully. "No one else showed any sign of having an elevated heart rate or paid too much attention to the garage."

"Maybe she feels the family bond with you still" I suggest.

"I thought that" she admits, "but why didn't she tell her father."

"She is still bonded to your dad, you're her daughter. Maybe despite being conditioned a small part of her still wants to keep you safe" I say quietly.

"Maybe" she murmurs. "But she looked cold, there was no love in her eyes, no emotion."

"No there wasn't" I agree sadly.

Seeing Alex's car start to slow down ahead of us after driving down a country lane for a few minutes he pulls to a stop. We quickly park behind him before he jumps out running to the car.

"I have no idea where they went" he says frantically looking around.

"How?" I ask in anger.

"They literally disappeared" he says looking around lost. "FUCK" he shouts slamming a fist on our bonnet and denting it in the process.

"I can't scent anything" Nova says looking around also. Jumping out I take a deep breath and growl as neither can I.

"Where have they gone?" I growl.

"Not far" a voice calls out before Charles steps out of the shadows of the looming forest.

"Charles" Nova growls loudly.

"Athena" he says with a sardonic smile. "It's about time I met my granddaughter."

Nova stays silent before taking a menacing step forward then abruptly halting.

"What the fuck" she whispers as she hears the same as me.

"Who is with you?" She calls as I cock my head listening to the hundreds of heartbeats growing in volume.

Charles simply looks at her for a moment as the heartbeats continue to grow closer before slowly raising his hand and hundreds of pairs of red eyes snap open as rogues slowly slink forward from the forest behind him.

"The witch has masked their scent" I growl in fury. "It's a set up."

"Oh that it is dear Alpha" Charles chuckles slowly. "You think I didn't know you were in that garage?"

"How?" I shout.

"I'm sure you know I have more than just human supporters now" Charles says casually stepping forward. Hearing Theo pull up behind us before leaping from the car I grin.

"You might, but we have something you want" I smirk. "Or rather someone.."

"Caroline" he says calmly.

"Theo get her" I order as Kingsley finally eases himself out of the car.

"Ah..a family reunion" Charles calls spreading his arms wide. "It's about time."

Kingsley comes to stand beside us staying silent as his eyes focus on Charles's every move. Hearing Theo drag Caroline to us I grin as Charles's face momentarily slips into one of concern.

"Give her to me and just this once I'll let you go" Charles says quietly as we all listen to his every word.

"Send the rogues away then" I say just as calmly.

"You know I can't do that until I have Caroline Alpha" he says raising a brow at me.

"Charles you really went to risk it all for her?" Kingsley says with a cold chuckle. "You've not cared for where she has been for the last 19 months...why now?"

"Oh she stayed there because I wanted her to be, she always knew that would be the case" Charles laughs throwing his head back. "But now Athena and you have been brought together I think it's time Caroline came home."

"He knew only my dad could have identified Caroline, he must have known with the tracker as soon as we moved her that something was up" Nova links me without taking her eyes off of Charles.

"And if we say no?" I ask Charles without moving an inch.

"Then these rogues will attack you, and I can assure you that even with two Guardian Wolves you won't stand a chance" he says coldly gesturing as the rogues continue to advance to alongside him.

"There's hundreds of them" Alex says aghast. "There is 10 of us.."

"I know" I say silently cursing.

"Don't let him take Caroline" Nova links me before speaking up and stepping forward once more.

"No" she says simply as Charles's face hardens and his eyes narrow.

"No?" He repeats.

"No" she confirms, "you will not get Caroline."

"And why is that?" He asks amused.

"How about because of the damage and torment you have caused my biological parents, the fact you hurt someone I consider a sister, you wanted me dead when I was only a baby" Nova snarls fury clear in her eyes. "I could list so many reasons why."

"You would hurt your own mother by stopping her from seeing her mother after almost 2 years apart?" Charles asks baiting Nova.

Laughing lifelessly Nova shakes her head. "What a hypocrite you are Charles. Because of you my mother was killed, her heart ripped from her chest before I could even say goodbye. So your attempt at making me feel guilty will not work."

With that Charles's eyes brighten, "oh Athena, your mother is very much alive. I thought you'd realise."

"I saw her..but at this point she is no more than someone I share blood with, I have spent no more than 2 weeks with her because of you. 2 weeks I don't remember" she growls. "The lady I saw today was no mother of mine, but the one that for 23 years cared for me, loved me and eventually died for me..that lady I do consider my mother, and I will never get her back" she says in a broken whisper as I feel her loss seep through the bond.

"So you aren't thankful for what my daughter did for you?" Charles asks.

"Of course I am, she saved my life. But I am certain that lady who I saw today is nothing like who she used to be, she isn't someone I can call my mother" Nova says calmly despite the strong waves of anguish and heartbreak I feel from her at those words. "So your attempt to guilt me like I said, will not work."

Shooting her dad a look I see the unspoken communication between them before Charles roars "ATTACKKK!" And the rogues spring into action.

No sooner than they start Nova stands proud and releases her full aura, "STOP" she commands freezing all the rogues as they physically can not move. Gaping we all stand astounded at Novas show of power.

"She won't hold that for long" Zeus says worriedly.

"How..?" Charles asks in shock.

"Jax take Caroline, Alex, Theo and the warriors ready the cars. Dad..you know what to do" she links us all and we quickly do as she orders.

"Because Charles, you have greatly underestimated me" she snarls looking him clearly in the eye. Seeing her body start to shake from the power of her command as her strength begins to fade I pass Caroline to a waiting Kingsley and step forward to provide Nova my strength. Grasping her shoulders with my hands I hold her up and kiss her head softly.

"I'm here" I whisper in her ear as I feel my strength pulse down the bond.

"You have made me experience loss like no other, I lost the only parents who were there for me growing up because you ripped my biological ones away from me..so now it's your turn to suffer" she managed to shout just loud enough for Charles to hear as his face contorts to panic.

"CAROLINE" he screams as we turn to a waiting Kingsley and he slits her throat with one extended claw.

"You got what you deserved you bitch" he whispers into her ear as blood spurts from her, the life quickly fading from her eyes. Seeing Alex, Theo and a warrior fling the doors open Kingsley drops Caroline's body and with a cold accomplished smirk he jumps into my car.

With a final push Nova holds her head high and calls "ROGUES..RETREAT!" With that they step back and begin to disappear from view before her eyes roll back and she slumps to the grounds.

"Nova..NOVA" I cry as I lift her to the car and slam the door behind me. Hearing her breathing steady but faint I sense Kia sleeping and turn as the cars pull away leaving a lone stranded Charles in the middle of the forest line.

"Floor it" I instruct as I see the witch step out beside him. "We need to go..NOW" I roar as we speed away leaving them in the dust.

"Theo call Laurence, have the pack hospital ready for Nova. She's used too much strength" I link quietly as I hold her close to me.

"Yes Alpha" he replies instantly.

Seeing Kingsleys eyes on Nova in the mirror I shake my head at him, "I don't know how she did that but because of her we lived."

"She's incredible" he whispers.

His Weapon

Chapter 116 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Pulling up by the pack hospital Laurence opens the door and I jump out keeping Nova tight to my chest as I run to the waiting nurse.

"Put her down Alpha we've got her from here" she says calmly. Lowering her onto the bed gently I kiss her forehead before they wheel her to her assigned room. Rushing after her I'm quickly stopped by the Doctor.

"Alpha i know the need to be near our Luna is over whelming right not but please let us check her over and once we have done our job you can be by her side" he says holding his arms up to placate me.

Growling I try to push past him but Laurence holds me back, "the quicker they can treat her the quicker you are there with her Alpha."

Gritting my teeth together I nod stiffly as Laurence pushes me back. "What happened?" He asks.

"It was a trap" I growl.

"How?!" He exclaims looking shocked.

"They knew we were there, they went ahead with the meeting but there was a dark witch there. We saw Charles and after Novas fucking mother turned up we trailed him. Next thing Charles steps out alone shortly followed by hundreds of rogues" I growl slamming a hand into the wall and crumbling it.

"How did you get away?" Laurence asks slowly.

"Nova" I whisper before falling silent for a moment.

"She commanded them Laurence, I've never seen someone have enough power to command that many before" I admit.

"You need to back up Alpha. First.. Novas mother?" He asks slowly.

"Peeled in on a motorbike, spoke to Charles then turned, saluted Nova and drove off" I growl running a hand through my hair as I stress.

"What the fuck" he growls as I feel his worry for his Luna rise.

"She left and we followed Charles because it was too good of an opportunity to miss. He fucking spoke to us, he had the guts to try and make Nova feel guilty for separating her mum and her grandmother when he's kept her own mum away her entire life" I say rolling my eyes. "Nova put him in his place don't worry."

"And Caroline?" He asks cautiously.

"Dead" I reply simply. "Killed in front of him before we sped out of there."

"Good" he sighs.

"How is Charlie and the others? What happened?" I ask feeling guilty I hadn't checked before hand.

"They'd been knocked out, some kind of powder which put them to sleep" he says. "No physical harm to any of them and they're sleeping it off upstairs."

"I think it was her mum" I say thoughtfully. "But I guess we will know more when they wake."

"How strong exactly is our Luna..?" Laurence asks quietly.

"Incredibly" I murmur. "But that was too much for her, I gave her some of my strength, I don't even know how but I could feel it pulsing through the bond. As soon as Caroline had been killed and the rogues retreated she fell."

"Shit" he whispers.

“I knew she was fine, her breathing was steady and I could sense Kia sleeping but it was terrifying all the same” I admit quietly.

"I bet" he murmurs.

“I linked Alex and Kingsley despite them not being in our pack. I think her gifts are being shared with me but nowhere near as strongly” I tell him as he looks at me impressed.

“It fits with what Johnathon has told us” he says with a smile. “That’s a good thing, a bond of true power.” After that we sit in thoughtful silence for a few moments before I hear the sound of rushing footsteps and turn to see Kingsley storming into the hospital his aura pulsing uncontrollably and his face full of anger.

“How’s my daughter?” He demands as soon as he sees me stand.

“Being checked as we speak” I reply motioning to the room behind us.

Running a hand over his face in stress I grasp his arm in a show of support, “she’s getting the care she needs Kingsley” I say calmly as he nods in acceptance. Pacing in front of us I can almost see his mind racing as he comprehends what exactly we have just experienced.

“You saw Lizzie?” He asks eventually in a low voice, his eyes that are filled with pain searching mine for the truth.

“Yes” I say clearly holding his gaze. “We didn’t speak, she simply looked at Nova, saluted her and then drove off.”

“How..” he starts before clearing his throat, “how did she look?”

“Healthy” I admit slowly, “but cold. Her eyes showed no emotion, there was no love there when she looked at her daughter.”

“That’s not my Lizzie” he whispers as a tear drops down his face. “She loved Nova, she said she was life’s greatest blessing, even more so than me because she was a product of the both of us.”

“I’m sorry Kingsley” I say quietly.

“I couldn’t sense her” he states. “There was no scent, Drake didn’t even react and we were close enough to see the bike arrive that we would have known she was our mate. Is there any chance you were wrong?” He asks desperately.

Shaking my head reluctantly I reply, “we weren’t wrong Kingsley. She was Novas mother, in fact she barely looked like she’d aged from that photo of when Nova was born. But she showed no connection to Nova and Nova couldn’t sense the family bond.”

“Oh goddess what have I done” Kingsley sobs as he grasps his face. “What do I do?”

Seeing the Rogue King sitting there broken as silent sobs rack his body I feel my heart clench for the pain Novas father is going through, “we can’t give up Kingsley. You can’t give up. But you need to know it’s going to be tough, she isn’t the same lady you left behind anymore.”

“I can’t lose her again” he says after a moment.

“We will do everything we can to get her back to you” Laurence says coming to sit beside him.

“Alpha..” he links me without looking up. “I’ve just had a horrendous thought..”

“What now” I groan through the link.

“Do you think Charles loves his daughter?” He asks slowly.

“I’m not sure” I admit. Thinking for a moment I reply, “I think he loves the idea of her being part of the hunters and fighting for his cause. But after everything he has put her through I’m not sure he loves her as a daughter.”

Freezing I realise where my Betas mind has gone I growl loudly in anger as I feel Zeus howl in my mind.

“Charles’s weapon is Novas mother” I growl, fur prickling my skin and my eyes flashing as I fight to stay in control.

“What?” Kingsley asks looking confused.

“Nova will want to help her mother..what if that gets her killed? I don’t doubt for a second Charles would kill Lizzie..which would kill you. FUCK” I roar loudly as Laurence looks at me with panic for his Luna etched across his face.

“He’s going to use Lizzie to get you both” he snarls turning to Kingsley whose face drains of colour as he clutches the wall for support.

Feeling Zeus pushing forward he forces a shift as he shreds my clothes before howling in pain as he bounds from the hospital. Hearing Laurence shift and follow he races towards the forest, rage flowing through his body as the worry for his mate consumes him.

Luna Awake

Chapter 117 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

Forcing my eyes open has me blinking slowly as they adjust to the brightness of the surroundings, “ahhh” I groan trying to lift my hand to cover my eyes but having it drop back down to my side with a thump.

“Nova” I hear Jax's voice say in relief. “Laurence close the blinds please.” Feeling his hands embrace mine as tingles erupt on my skin from his contact I breathe in his scent and feel it warm my body.

“Drink please” I croak as Jax comes into focus in front of me. Feeling a straw poke my lips I open my mouth sipping greedily as I let the cool liquid soothe my throat.

“Is everyone ok?” I ask as I focus on Jax.

“Everybody is fine Nova..thanks to you” he says his deep voice soothing my worried thoughts. “We are home and you're in the pack hospital. You used too much energy and collapsed.”

“Thank the Goddess” I breathe. “The warriors?”

“Still sleeping upstairs, they were given something that put them to sleep but apart from that they had no harm caused to them” Jax says calmly.

“Why are they still sleeping?” I ask confused.

“The doctor believed it best for them to sleep it off, it was not causing them any harm” Laurence says as he comes into focus next to Jax. “You gave us a scare there Luna” he says with a small smile.

“Sorry” I say with a slight wince.

“Are you in pain?” Jax asks picking up on my discomfort.

Shaking my head slightly I moan from the movement and catch his disbelieving look, “Maybe a bit. I have a pounding headache and I feel like I've been hit by a bus.”

“That's to be expected, you need to rest love” he says quietly dropping me a kiss on my forehead.

“I want to go home” I murmur.

“Let's speak to a doctor first. I'm sure if you promise to rest and let us look after you for the time being you can go home. Laurence can you let them know our Luna is awake?” Jax says without taking his eyes off of me.

“Of course Alpha” I hear Laurence say before he slips from the room quietly.

“Fuck Nova, you had my heart racing for a while there” Jax says with a sad smile as he takes a seat on the bed next to me.

“I’m sorry I didn’t mean to worry you” I whisper.

“Don’t apologise” he says sternly. “What you did was nothing short of incredible, I’ve never seen that much power before in anyone.”

“We used the strength of the Moon Goddess” I hear Kia say to us with a yawn as she stretches in my mind. “A time of great need.”

“You did what?” Jax says in shock. “That explains a lot.”

“Yeah” I sigh stretching my muscles gently. “I don’t know how.”

“What matters is everyone is ok” Kia says to me.

Hearing the door reopen Laurence walks into the room with a smile followed closely by a nurse. “Luna how lovely to see you awake” she says warmly before coming over to introduce herself. “I’m Natasha and I’m just going to have a quick check of your vitals. We had you on an IV drip and you definitely have some more colour in you then you did when you arrived.”

“Thank you” I say politely as her small hands begin to efficiently check over me. Leaving her to work in peace for a few moments I hold onto Jax tightly needing the comfort of the mate bond.

“You are recovering well” Natasha says with a reassuring smile. “Our Beta says you are keen to go home and I’m happy to release you. But you have to promise to rest and take it easy for the next 48 hours. Light movement is ok just make sure you eat well and get plenty of sleep. Alpha you heard that yes?”

“Loud and clear, I’ll make sure Nova rests” he says as he stands beside me. “Laurence can take us back and we can go to the suite love.”

“Thank you Natasha” I say softly as she bows her head and leaves the room as quietly as she came. “Get me out of here” I say with a slight laugh as Jax helps me stand.

“I’ll go get the car ready while you get dressed” Laurence says before leaving.

“How’s dad?” I ask quietly as Jax helps me into a loose dress.

“He’s fine Nova, let’s discuss it when we are back. I promise to fill you in on everything” Jax says looking at me with a smile. “First I want to see you in our bed and maybe Zeus will be less on edge then.”

“He’s been worried huh?” I ask with concern.

“You have no idea” Jax says with a little laugh. Running a hand through his hair he pulls me in close for a soft embrace, “but he’s much better now after hearing your voice and Kia.”

“I’m really sorry for worrying you Jax” I whisper.

Hearing a low grumble in his chest at my apology he pulls away, “I want that to be the last time I hear you apologise..got it?”

“Got it” I whisper smiling. Picking up the bag off of the bed which I assume has some of my things in he quickly picks me up to carry me bridal style.

“I can walk” I lightly protest.

“Let me” he says quietly, “Zeus and I need to know you’re recovering as best you can.”

Kissing his shoulder softly I nestle my head into his neck as he walks us out of the hospital. Lowering me gently into the car he shuts the door before jogging round and sliding in beside me.

“Let’s go” he says to Laurence before he pulls out and begins the short drive to the pack house. “Do you mind bringing the bag up and asking for some food and drinks to be brought up?” Jax asks Laurence as we pull up and he walks round to lift me out once again.

“Already done” Laurence says with a smile. “I’ll go grab everything and shall I meet you up in your room once you’re settled?”

“Yes please” Jax says as he cradles me close. “We need to talk to you about some things” he explains as I look at him questioningly. Feeling me tense in his arms he quickly continues, “it’s nothing you need to worry about. But I’d rather make you aware than not broach the subject. Your dad will be coming by later as well, he’s just taking some time to himself after what happened.”

“Have you spoken to Luca and Sophie?” I ask softly.

“I have, and I’m under strict instruction to keep them updated hourly and once you’re up to it you have to call them” he says with a smirk. “Quite impressive a Beta having the balls to tell me what to do.”

“He’s a good brother” I smirk up at him as he nods in agreement.

“I also asked Sophie to speak to your father, I think he needed some family comfort” Jax says quietly as he opens our suite door and walks me over to the bed.

“I’m worried about him” I admit. “Where is Johnathon?”

“Travelling back from seeing Sophie, he’ll be back within the hour” he says as he pulls the duvet up and sits next to me, tucking me into his side. Feeling my eyes grow heavy I fight to keep

myself awake, “sleep love. I’ll ask Laurence to come by in an hour and we can have some food. I’ll stay right here” he murmurs his warm breath fanning my head.

With those words my lids flutter shut and I welcome the darkness once again.

Next Move

Chapter 118 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

“Nova love” I hear Jax’s voice calling me softly. “I hate to have to wake you but the doctor said you need to eat.”

Moaning against his warm chest I feel his body shake with silent laughter as I pout up at him. “Nice try” he whispers before I open my eyes fully to see him looking down at me fondly.

“Come on” he says helping me sit up and making sure I’m comfy before he smoothly gets up from the bed and brings a tray over to me with soup and bread on.

Hearing my tummy growl loudly as the delicious aromas hit my nose I blush furiously while he simply grins and gets a tray for himself also.

“Oh this is good” I whisper as I swallow my first spoonful.

“Ma will be pleased, she made this for you” he smiles, “it’s what she always made us when we were younger and had a tough day training or at school.”

“So good” I mumble before tucking in to the rest of the bowl. Once finished I stand up slowly and take the tray to the table before walking towards the bathroom. Seeing Jax make a move to get up I shake my head at him, “it’s ok I need to do some light movement remember and I just need to use the bathroom I won’t be long.”

“Ok but if you need me just shout” he says quietly. Seeing Zeus forward in his eyes I know he’s trying to control his wolf’s urge to care for his mate. Freshening up quickly I brush my teeth and wash my face before slipping into some comfy joggers and a top. Brushing my hair I pull it in to a messy bun and then softly open the door and make my way back to the bed.

“You up for Laurence coming by?” Jax asks standing up from where he was sat.

“Yes that’s fine” I tell him as he helps me back down and sits next to me. “So what actually happened yesterday?”

“The rogues retreated when you commanded them to, I gave you some of my strength I don’t know if you remember that? But it made you hold on long enough for Kingsley to kill Caroline, we then got in the vehicles and high tailed it out of there” he explains. “The witch appeared as we were leaving but they made no move to follow us.”

“Do you think we should have tried to kill Charles?” I ask quietly.

“I don’t think we could have, the witch is clearly watching him” he replies.

“Why didn’t he make a move on us other than the rogues then?” I wonder.

Hearing a knock on the door Jaxs eyes glaze over to show he’s mind linking before Laurence opens the door and peaks round.

“Come in” I laugh when I take in his closed eyes.

“Just checking everyone is decent” he says mischievously as he opens them.

Rolling his eyes Jax shakes his head at his friend, “she’s been sleeping Laurence.”

“Just checking” Laurence replies with a grin.

“In reply to what you asked before Nova I think it was a way to measure your strength” Jax says as Laurence sits on a chair nearby. Hearing that Laurence’s face turns serious as he leans forward engaged in our discussion.

“Have I given it away?” I worry.

“Well considering we had no idea you could do that, never mind you knowing then I doubt it” Laurence says calmly. “They’re probably shitting themselves right now as they realised they have no idea how strong you are, but..the dark witch is a problem.”

“What do we do about that?” I ask nervously.

“Alex has been speaking to the council and he also has some pack witches he has called for advice and that are coming here tomorrow. I don’t think it’s possible to fight your grandfather without their help now” Jax admits.

“So the hunters have help from witches, a dark witch at that” I scowl. “He appears to have put his dislike for other species to one side for this.”

“I think he’s doing anything he can to make sure he’s successful” Laurence agrees as Jax stays silent. Sitting in thought for a moment I look up from where I’ve been playing with the duvet hem to see Laurence and Jax looking at one another.

“Ok” I sigh making them look at me. “What’s going on?”

With a frown Jax grasps my hand and clutches it tightly. “We both had a thought whilst you were in hospital, and it’s not a particularly nice one.”

“Spit it out Jax” I say with a frown as he furrows his brows in thought. Looking to Laurence I raise a brow and point at him, “speak” I motion to him.

“Your mother was there” Laurence says calmly. Feeling Jax tense beside me I rub his arm lightly before replying.

“She was” I say slowly. “It was a surprise to say the least.”

“I can imagine. But what if she is your grandfathers weapon?” Laurence points out.

“Weapon?” I check.

“What if they use your love for her or your longing to try and get back the mother you so wish for and it kills you? Then if your mother dies your father would also” Laurence says almost reluctantly.

“We think it’s possible Charles would kill your mother for this cause” Jax admits lowly.

Taking a deep breath I think over what they’ve just said. From what my father has told me about Charles and his relationship with my mother from before I was born it wasn’t one that was based on love. He wanted her to be like him and when she didn’t have the same beliefs he was disappointed, even more so when she was fated to a wolf and bore a pup. Chasing after us showed that he had no wish for a normal relationship with his daughter, especially with the threats she got before I was born.

“I think that’s highly probable” I sigh after a moment.

“Even with her being the only family he has left potentially?” Laurence asks.

With that I let out a cold humourless laugh, “I’m also his family..but he wants me dead. So yes, I wouldn’t put it past that man to kill his own daughter just to rid the world of a Guardian Wolf. My only question really is why hasn’t he done that yet?”

“Because of you” Jax shrugs. “What if she is his last hope at killing you? He needs a back up plan and I bet getting her to the stage of disconnect that she is in took time.”

“Do you think your mum could kill you?” Laurence asks me.

“She didn’t look like my mother yesterday trust me. The look in her eyes, the lack of emotion and simply her reaction to seeing me..I think she could in this state yes” I say trying to hold back the surge of emotion I suddenly feel. “I don’t recognise her.”

“You wouldn’t though Nova” he says quietly, “you haven’t seen her since you were 2 weeks old.”

“Nova nor Kia felt the family bond with her Laurence” Jax says to him. “I think the witch has used dark magic to suppress the mate bond and prevent the family bond between Nova and her mother.”

“So we need to kill the witch” Laurence says quietly.

Hearing a knock at the door Laurence stands up to open it before Alex and Ophelia walk into the room quietly.

“Nova..” Ophelia breaths in relief before rushing over and giving me a gentle hug. “I don’t know if I need to thank you first or scald you for scaring us so much.”

“I’ll take the thanks” I laugh softly as she pulls away with eyes full of unshed tears.

“You are something else” she whispers with a small smile. “Thank you for keeping my mate safe.”

Feeling my cheeks blush I nod and offer her a smile unsure of how to react to being praised so much. Seeing Alex’s imposing figure by the bed I look up to see his eyes which are trained on me filled with concern.

“How are you feeling Nova?” He asks quietly.

“Better as time goes on” I assure him as he smiles slightly from my words.

“Yesterday was interesting” he comments as he pulls two seats over for his Luna and him to take.

“Wasn’t it just” I chuckle with a wry smile. “Seems to be a current theme at the moment.”

“Alex told me about the witch, and I have to say it sounds like the one I encountered when I was taken” Ophelia says her voice full of sadness.

“I’m sorry Luna” I say looking at her as she takes deep breaths to control herself. “We are going to get him.”

“But how?” She asks quietly.

“How..we don’t know yet. We need to kill him” Jax says. “But first we have to make sure that his curse on you is lifted.”

“Our pack witches are coming in the morning, they will be able to offer us some more advice” Alex says reassuringly to his Luna.

“Once we have spoken to them we need to plan our next move” Jax says his voice full of authority as I feel his anger towards the situation through the bond.

“We need to bring them to us” I say quietly.

“Yes and gather our allies, they want a war then they will get one” Alex says venomously.

“Wait..” Jax says looking around in a panic. “Oh fuck” he whispers. Turning to look at us his eyes wide he asks, “Charles wasn’t surprised we were at the meeting..he knew where we were going to be and when didn’t he?”

“He didn’t specifically say that but he knew we were there yes” I say slowly.

“So how did he get that information?” He asks me with a raised brow... “is there anyone you think could be a traitor?”

“No” I says furrowing my brows in thought. “No one seems suspicious to me here.” Hearing Laurence and Alex agree we sit back thoughtful.

“But..there was someone who was acting suspicious before wasn’t there?” Ophelia asks quietly.

“My dad” Jax says angrily. “Laurence go find Axel quickly” he orders.

“Why?” I whisper.

“Because one thing we do know is the hunters use electronics to their advantage, they’re good with technology and make no effort to hide it” Jax says barely containing his anger as his hands shake fighting a shift.

“So..” I whisper my eyes widening.

“I want the pack house and grounds swept for bugs that could have been planted” he snarls.

New Day

Chapter 119 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

Waking up to a new day I reach for Jax's body only to feel his side of the bed cold like he hadn't been there for a while. Wondering what time it is I roll over moaning as my stiff body stretches, seeing 8:30am on the clock I stifle a yawn and slowly sit up.

"Where are you?" I link Jax as I make my way to the bathroom.

"Morning love, in the office" he replies instantly, "I couldn't sleep and you looked so peaceful I thought I'd come and get some work done."

"Have you had breakfast?" I ask him.

"No not yet, just coffee" he says.

"Meet me at the landing of your floor, we can go eat together. Give me 10 minutes" I say not giving him room to budge.

"You sure you're up for it?" He asks.

Rolling my eyes as I brush my teeth I reply, "yes. I slept most of yesterday away and then 10 hours last night. Now all I want is food."

Hearing his laugh down the mindlink I smirk knowing he's not going to argue with that. Throwing some training leggings, a sports bra and tank top on I find my trainers before quickly re doing my messy bun.

I wonder if they found any traces of listening devices I think to myself as I head downstairs. Reaching the landing I lean on the wall as I wait for Jax taking in my surroundings. Looking at a large photo of Jax and his family that is hung in the centre of the wall I feel my heart clench momentarily as I think of how David could possibly have betrayed them.

"I hope he hasn't" Kia says to me quietly, "Zeus will be heartbroken."

"It's bothering them a lot more than they're letting on" I say to her. "Struggling to sleep beside your mate shows there is a lot on your mind."

With that I hear the office door opening and Jax steps out, his bright green eyes find mine and relax instantly as he does a quick sweep of my body before landing back on my face.

"I'm fine love" I chuckle as he smiles sheepishly. "But it's nice of you to worry" I say reaching up and kissing his lips softly. Feeling the mate sparks I moan as I melt into his body, his hand automatically finding the back of my head and pulling me closer deepening our kiss as he does so.

“Morning” he breaths pulling away as I giggle against his lips before pecking them once again.

“Morning” I breath happy to see him. Stepping back I look at him carefully and see the circles under his eyes showing the lack of sleep as well as the tightness of his features hinting at stress. “You’re not ok.”

Raising his brow at me he chuckles deeply, “that wasn’t a question” he says.

“No it wasn’t” I confirm. “I’m worried about you” I say as I cup his cheek.

“I’m fine” he assures me but I simply narrow my eyes and bite my lip waiting for him to speak again. With a sigh he steps back to lean against the wall as he pulls me against his chest needing the comfort I bring him. “I’m just worried about everything.”

“Your dad?” I link him as I feel him shudder slightly beneath me.

“Yes” he replies quietly. “Axel found 5 bugs planted around the pack house and grounds. One on the bench we were sat on by the fountain, one outside my office, in the foyer and gym and then the last one was in the hospital reception.”

“Are you certain it was your dad?” I ask him.

“Yes” he sighs. “No one else in this pack has any reason to betray us. Have you sensed deception from anyone?”

“Only your father” I admit quietly. “I thought it was because of everything that happened..but it could have been more.”

“I just don’t understand why he would work with the hunters, it makes no sense” he stresses through the link as an Omega walks past smiling at us both.

“Good morning” I say to her before she disappears into a nearby room to start her cleaning duties.

“Well we don’t know for certain but I think it’s best we rule it as a strong possibility that your father is working with them. Sometimes we don’t know answers until it’s too late..that’s life Jax as much as it sucks at times” I link him as I feel him kiss my head. “But you’ve got me.”

“Thank Goddess for that” he says out loud with a hint of a smile on his lips.

“So I assume there is definitely nothing else we need to be aware of?” I ask him out loud motioning him around us.

“No..nothing” he assures me. “Axel did a thorough sweep and Evan checked also” he adds on through the link aware of pack members around us. “We just aren’t sure how much they heard.”

“Crap” I sigh as we stroll into the dining room. Seeing Naomi and Laurence eating we head over and grab a plate of food before sitting down.

“Morning Luna” Naomi says happily as she caresses her growing bump. “You feeling better?”

Putting my concerns to one side for a moment I force myself to relax. “Much thank you Naomi” I say, “do you mind?” I ask pointing to her bump.

“Go on” she says with a smile as I rest my hands feeling the pups being very active.

“Oh my” I gasp as one delivers a particularly strong kick to under my right hand. “How do you get any sleep?” I joke.

“I don’t” she sighs dramatically, “but I love it.” Looking at her she has the warm glow all expectant mothers get as they take on the journey of becoming a parent.

“You look amazing” I comment as she blushes at my words.

“Mmm if she looks this good pregnant we will be expecting many more pups in the future” Laurence says with a cheeky growl making Naomi gasp.

“Laurence!” She hisses blushing furiously now. Jax and I laugh at their antics relieved to momentarily relax as we enjoy our breakfast and discuss how the pack is getting along.

“I need to do some paperwork this morning” I tell Jax as he looks to me, “I’ll be sat down and anyway I feel much better. But I wondered if I should run both Alice and Naomi through some of the admin work I do, that way we have more pairs of hands who can help when necessary.”

Getting what I am hinting at he nods in agreement, setting his napkin down he pushes his plate to one side before leaning forward. “Definitely” he agrees, “why don’t you also run through some of the paperwork for my businesses outside of the pack. Or our businesses I should say.”

“Our businesses?” I ask furrowing my brows, seeing Laurence smirk knowingly from the corner of my eye I gasp and turn to Jax seeing him smiling widely. “What did you do!?”

“Well..nothing yet. The paperwork is ready to go but I said we should hold off until the hunters threat has gone, having your name out there is a beacon and I don’t want to risk anyone at the businesses” he says with a grimace his worry for how that sounded leaking down the bond. “But like I said, the paperwork is ready so after everything all you need to do is sign it and everything will be changed from my name to the both of ours. We will both be directors and owners.”

“Jax you don’t have to do that..that’s your hard work” I say quietly. “I also get your concerns, i don’t ever want to risk anyone else you know that.”

“I want to” he shrugs, “what’s the point in working hard if I can’t share my achievements. You’re my mate, my Luna..our Luna, it’s only right.”

“I’m not going to change your mind am I” I chuckle.

“No” he smirks.

“Thank you love” I whisper blowing him a kiss as he winks at me.

“Well in that case I have a lot to show you” I say turning to Naomi who is grinning.

“I’m ready to learn” she says enthusiastically.

“Shall we head up?” I ask her.

“We have a meeting in an hour with Alex, Betas, Gammas and also your brother and Alpha Axton will be joining over video link” Jax says as I stand to leave.

“Office?” I check.

“Conference room” he replies.

“Ok, bye guys” I say to them as we leave.

“Laurence try get Jax to relax, I’m worried about him” I link him without looking.

“Will do Luna” he replies understandingly.

Esmerelda

Chapter 120 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

“Everybody here?” I check as I step into the conference room with Alex close behind me. Looking around I see my ma and siblings sat by my Gammas, Luca and Axton already on the screen and Laurence sat with Kingsley and Johnathon.

“Just me sorry” I hear Nova say as she steps in behind us. “Naomi and Alice are both taking a nap, I assured them their mates would update them but they need their rest.”

“Mila when do you go to Axtons?” I ask quietly.

“I was planning on two days time, I wanted to be here for ma” she explains. “But I will be back by Saturday as I have the visit with the council planned.”

“No need to explain I understand it’s just so I can plan that’s all” I reply with a smile before turning to Kingsley. “Kingsley..how are you?” I ask as I sit down with Nova squeezing his shoulder as she passes.

“Better” he says, “I’m sorry I haven’t checked in Nova. I’ve been a bit..”

“Preoccupied?” She finishes for him. “I get it, I know you were at the hospital I’ve been told.”

“Yes” he sighs.

“Stop worrying, I am perfectly fine” she says shooting him a stern look.

“So this meeting is about everything that has taken place over the last few days in particular. Obviously with the incident after the hunters meeting you are all aware of what happened. But what we haven’t disclosed with everyone here is that Axel and Evan found 5 listening devices around the packhouse which I believe my father placed” I explain as my mother bolts upright with a growl.

“I’m sorry your father left them?!” She snarls.

Nodding my head I motion for her to calm down as Mila grasps her arm, “yes ma. Nova can sense lies, she has a very high ability to detect deception and she is certain that no one else who we have been around has lied to us. The only person who has been in this pack acting suspicious is him.”

“Arsehole” she hisses her eyes flashing with that of her wolf’s. “When will it stop?” She moans taking her seat again.

“I know ma” I sigh. “We have had no indication of where he may be after leaving Alpha Henry’s pack, nor have any other packs contacted us saying they have come across him or been approached by him. It’s very suspicious. So..we can’t confirm exactly what was picked up by the listening devices but I think it’s best we assume almost everything at the point.”

“So we have no way of being ahead of them?” Theo asks in annoyance.

“Well..kind of” I admit. “However Laurence, Alex, Ophelia, Nova and I did have a conversation in our room yesterday where there was no listening device when we agreed that we would have to involve other witches. With the hunters having a dark witch working with them it puts us at a serious disadvantage even with two Guardian Wolves. So I believe it necessary to involve those witches who can help us.”

“Can we trust them?” Axton asks from his video link.

“They’re my personal pack witches so I would confirm we can yes” Alex says speaking up. “They have also been screened by the council before joining my pack..I would trust them with my life” he admits as a few show shocked faces around the table.

“I know we don’t normally work with witches but this is no normal situation” I explain to everyone. “So are we all comfortable with that?” I check looking around. Seeing everyone agree I take a breath as I motion to Alex.

“Good because they’re here” I say quietly as Alex opens the door and 4 ladies walk in. 3 elderly ones who have white hair and another younger one who I would guess at about 30 years old.

“Esmerelda...?” I hear Kingsley ask slowly as the second witches eyes fall on him.

“My boy” she says her voice calm and soothing as he stands and rushes to her. Pulling him into her she hugs him like a parent would their own and rubs soothing circles on his back. “Life has been so cruel to you” she whispers softly as I look to Nova who is staring wide eyed at the scene in front of them.

Clearing my throat slightly I feel bad for interrupting momentarily before shaking my head knowing I need answers. “Kingsley..?” I ask.

Turning to the room we can all see the emotion he is trying to control before he speaks, “I told you I was taken in by a witch..this is her. Esmerelda.”

“You looked after my dad” Nova says quietly.

“I did child” the lady says looking at Kingsley with fondness. “He needed some light in his world and I was going to make sure he got that at some point or other.”

Seeing the questioning look in our eyes she continues as Alex motions for them to take a seat. “I knew I needed to be there for that boy at the time, I brought him up and guided him as best I could whilst protecting him from the world around him.”

“You knew what he was?” I ask her with interest.

“I had a vision” she admits. “It’s one of my particular gifts, 3 days later I met Kingsley and I took him in. It was the best decision I made.” Seeing the warm smile she directs to Kingsley I can see the genuine care this woman has for him which makes me relax slightly.

“So you’re Esmerelda..it’s a pleasure to meet you” I say politely. “May we all be introduced?” I ask looking at the others.

“Aunty Corina and Aunty Michaela” Kingsley says motioning to the two other ladies who he stands and hugs gently as they cup his cheek. Looking at them in surprise I cock my head noticing the similarities in their features, the same cheekbones and eye shape, as well as their hair.

“We are sisters Alpha” Esmerelda says with a laugh, “I am the eldest and these are my younger twin sisters.”

“Understood” I say with a chuckle as Kingsley looks relieved to have them near. “And you are?” I ask politely turning to the younger witch.

“I am Kara” she says. “I am Corina’s daughter” she explains.

“I’ve heard a lot about you” she admits to Kingsley.

“I wish I could say the same for you” he says with sadness, “I missed out on so much when I had to leave.”

“You did son, but we were always watching you” Esmerelda says her voice quivering slightly.

“Why didn’t you do anything to help him when he left you?” Johnathon asks leaning forward.

“Ah..the elder brother” Corina says with a smile. “As much as we wanted to help, we can’t change fate. Life is not meant to be easy and we cannot change things that have to happen despite how much we want to at time.”

Sitting back in his chair he looks down as he takes in her words, “I should have been there for my brother” he says pained.

“No..Kingsley had to experience this life, it’s what made him who he is today. I cannot explain it in a way that makes it alright because it’s not, but I can just say this is how it had to happen” Corina tells him as understanding crosses his face.

“You’re willing to help us?” I ask interrupting their conversation slightly to remind them why we are gathered.

“We are” they reply in unison.

“How do you propose helping us? Has Alex filled you in completely?” I ask quietly.

“Yes I have..everything” he assures me.

“We need to kill the witch who is using dark magic, or as you know them..the dark witch. He has broken many mage laws and has brought upset to the balance of life as we know it. Dark magic was ruled out because it was unnatural” Esmerelda starts.

“Everything about us and you is unnatural” Florence says with a little laugh before throwing us an apologetic look, “sorry that was rude.”

“But true” Esmerelda says with a smile, “but dark magic draws on people’s life forms and can overwhelm the host so much so that they become consumed by the dark magic and no longer

make decisions that protect people's lives. It screams danger and it needs to be ridded from this world."

"Will it ever be gone entirely?" Alex asks.

"Most likely not but we can continue to try" Michaela says her voice quiet and strained as if she doesn't use it much.

"Can you kill him?" I ask.

"Yes" Esmerelda says as a look crosses his face so fleeting I'm unsure if I imagined it before I see Kingsley lean forward.

"At what price?" He whispers.

With that Esmerelda simply smiles at him sadly but doesn't answer. "Es what price? You know don't you" he probes.

"I have seen 4 possible futures because in this there are many factors which could change the outcome" she admits. "We can kill him and that's what matters."

"Es tell me" Kingsley says his voice breaking.

"At the price of one of us" Michaela speaks again as Esmerelda shoots her a glare for telling him.

"No..no" Kingsley says, "we cannot ask that of you."

"You're right you cant" Corina says with a chuckle, "but it's a good thing we didn't ask."

"Why would you do that for us?" I ask in shock as everyone else simply listens their faces showing the surprise they are feeling.

"Because Guardian Wolves are the answer to balancing life for everyone, our ancestors served them and even worshipped them. What is one life to save those of many" Corina points out.

"Save many?" Nova asks quietly.

"The world would be a much worse place to be in, in the future especially, if you and your father were not around young lady" Esmerelda says with an unreadable expression in her eyes.

"So how do we do this?" I ask broaching the subject.

With that the witches look between one another before Esmerelda leans forward, "well.."

Chapter 121 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

“Well..there is a way we can locate the use of dark magic. There is a spell we are strong enough to do together that will give us the location of where it is being used, but it will leave us drained” Esmerelda explains.

“We would need rest after that so we wouldn’t be able to go to them immediately” Corina adds.

“Laurence have you managed to get anything from the rogue in the cells?” Jax asks suddenly.

“No, he’s pretty banged up as well” he admits. Turning his eyes to me he speaks quietly, “I was going to ask you to speak to him but I needed you to regain your energy Luna.”

“I understand” I say with a smile. “I’ll go there after, I’m strong enough now.”

“Kara” I hear Corina whisper making me spin to see her sat stiffly upright her eyes milky as she stares blankly at the space in front of her.

“What’s happening?” Jax asks moving to stand before Alex’s hand shoots out to stop him.

“She gets visions of a kind” Alex mutters so everyone can hear in the room. “They’re not as clear as Esmereldas nor as they as informative but they are always definite. If we can understand them.”

“Just wait and see what she saw” Alex says quietly as we stay still for a moment.

With a deep gasp Kara slumps as his mother and aunty hold her arms from either side of her keeping her straight as she regains her bearings.

“You need to speak to the rogue” she says turning her eyes to me, “you are the only one who will get the information from him that we need.”

“What did you see Kara?” Alex asks.

“I saw a full moon and I felt pain, an unimaginable amount of pain” she shudders.

“That’s it?” Luca asks through the video link.

“Luca” I hiss throwing him a look which immediately has him looking embarrassed.

“I apologise that was wrong of me” he says looking to Kara who simply shrugs it off as if she is used to it making me feel for her.

“The full moon is in 3 days..” Jax says looking thoughtful. “Do you think Charles is planning an attack for then?”

“He could be” I admit looking at him quietly. “The full moon could be important, it’s when our wolves yearn to be free and our emotions are heightened yes? Such as the need to protect or be there for one’s mate is almost overwhelming.”

“Yes” Jax agrees before turning to look at my father.

“So if we are right in our assumptions about Lizzie it could be incredibly risky for my father” I point out.

“But that’s what Charles wants isn’t it, he wants to target you when you’re at your weakest. Drake will be more vulnerable on the full moon especially after being apart from his mate for so many years, the need to protect and reunite will be heightened” Alex says.

Seeing Kara looking pale I stand quickly and go to get her a glass of water before taking it to her. “Here have this Kara” I say gently as I squeeze her shoulder in comfort. As soon as my palm comes into contact with her shoulder however my body stiffens and Ki rushes to the forefront of my mind as my head snaps back.

“Ahhhh” I moan before my vision goes black and I hear a rushing sound in my ears.

Suddenly everything goes silent and shapes begin to form in front of me, blurry and faint at first I try to focus on what I can see. Seeing the full moon above me I gasp before my eyes dart around taking in the solidifying shapes of clashing wolves and humans alike around me. Turing my head slowly I see Zeus standing protectively over a small form on the floor with the pack house looming behind him, but from here I’m unable to make sense of who it is he’s protecting from the rogues prowling towards them. Trying to move closer I find I’m stuck as I desperately look around watching the chaos unfurl in front of my eyes.

Hearing a heartbreaking scream I turn to see myself stood facing Charles a look of devastating loss on my face as I move forward menacingly.

“For all to live one must fall” I hear a mystic voice whisper in my ear as everything around me begins to evaporate before I’m thrown back into the present staring at Kara’s wide eyes in shock.

“What?” I whisper in horror as she whimpers at me.

Seeing the hair on her arms static and bristling I wince as I pull my hand away. "I'm so sorry..I don't know.." I splutter out as she stands and hugs me abruptly.

"You cannot tell anyone" she whispers barely loud enough for myself to hear. "To tell may change the future and we cannot risk that, find out their numbers from the rogue."

Pulling back she shoots me a warning glance before I feel Jax's strong arms rip me back and into his chest.

"Nova? What was that? Are you ok?" He asks rapidly as he once again steps back to check me over.

"I'm fine" I mumble looking around and seeing everyone's shocked faces. "I just saw what Kara saw before..I'm not sure how."

Seeing the slight nod from Kara at my reasoning I gulp as I hate lying to my own mate. "I will talk to you after" I link him without looking at his eyes, knowing I will have to explain slightly more to him.

"Are you feeling alright Luna?" Laurence asks coming to stand in front of me as I see Luca pacing on the screen.

"I'm fine honestly, I feel like I did before there is nothing to worry about" I say calmly to everyone in the room with a reassuring smile. "The attack will take place on the night of the full moon. We need our allies here..now."

"Now?" Jax asks sensing my urgency.

"Now" I confirm my voice strong and steady. "Dad do you have those that you could bring here? Your pack witch?"

"I have warriors ready waiting for my orders, I will notify them immediately and they can camp in the woods if that is acceptable for you?" He says looking at Jax and myself.

"Camp? If they want housing to stay in we have spares?" Jax says furrowing his brows.

"I think it would ease everybody if they camped" Kingsley says, "I trust them and I know you will also but I know it will take time for others to trust them themselves. It's fine and my warriors are understanding, trust me they are just happy to have a second chance."

"The witch?" I ask hopeful.

With a regretful shake of his head he looks at me apologetically, "I cannot risk taking her and her daughter away from the pack. They are what cements the orders I give and I need them there, if anything happened to them then what I have worked so hard to achieve could begin to fall."

“I understand” Jax says with a sharp nod. “We don’t want to upset the growing peace you have amongst your pack. It’s not only beneficial for you but for all other packs.”

“You do not need more than us” Esmerelda says knowingly, her eyes sparkling with wisdom.

“Ok this meeting is adjourned” Jax calls loudly. “Axton, Luca id like to formally request your presence along with those of the warriors you can spare?” He asks turning to the screen where they agree immediately.

“We will be there by mid morning tomorrow” Axton confirms.

“Laurence and Alex if you could come with my Luna and I we need to contact the other packs who swore allegiance” Jax instructs before turning to his Gammas and brothers.

“Can you gather the warriors and run emergency training. Tell them a war is coming and we will address the pack tonight, you know what to do” he says looking to Theo and Flo who immediately stand with a bow and rush from the room with the twins close behind them.

“Amelia and Mila, please can you go and get Naomi and Alice?” I ask them as they look to me in confusion. “We need to arrange for all pups, anyone that is vulnerable and the elderly, anyone that cannot fight really to move somewhere more secure. Mila id also like you to go to the pack hospital and notify them that they will need to be on emergency standby for battle casualties. They need to be ready for the night of the full moon. Amelia if you could speak to Omega Brea and ensure there will be plenty of food for those that are coming to help I would be grateful.”

“Here?” Mila whispers.

Taking a breath and looking at everyone who is left in the room I speak loudly, “they are coming to us. The battle will take place here.”

Rogues Information

Chapter 122 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Watching everybody leap into action and do as we've requested it leaves just Nova and myself alone with Esmerelda.

"I know what you saw" she says to Nova.

"What does it mean?" Nova asks rubbing her forehead with her fingers as she stresses.

"We can't know that for definite" Esmerelda says as vague as ever. "We can interpret it in many different ways really couldn't we. But I'm afraid that's the problem with some visions, you won't know until it happens."

"Then what is the point of them" Nova growls angrily to herself moving to look out the window.

With that Esmerelda simply laughs before going to stand beside her. "You gained information from it, you know when and now where the attack will be. The spell my sisters and I were going to perform is no longer necessary which means we can be at full strength."

"But who is going to fall?" She whispers making my brows furrow.

"What is going on?" I ask making them both look to me.

"I know Kara said to keep it quiet and normally I would urge you do the same. But the bond between you both is unlike one I've ever seen before" Esmerelda says thoughtfully as she studies me. "Tell him Nova. But Alpha..you cannot say a word to anyone. Interfering with fate is dangerous and we cannot risk it. I've seen the possible outcomes..this is the only way."

"The only way for what?" I ask confused.

Shaking her head she simply leaves the room leaving me with more questions than before as I look at Nova lost. "Love?" I ask quietly seeing a range of emotions in her beautiful eyes.

"I saw you Jax..well Zeus" she starts making me stiffen. "You were protecting someone but I don't know who, behind you I could see the packhouse and the full moon's glow was cast down on the pack grounds making me able to see the hundreds of people, in both human and wolf forms fighting..and then there was me. I was facing Charles and I looked broken Jax. Then I heard a voice in my ear saying, "for all to live one must fall". It was so real" she sobs as I rush to comfort her.

"The unimaginable pain Kara felt...that was your pain wasn't it?" I ask quietly.

"I fear so" she whispers into my chest as my breath hitches in panic. "I have to go speak to the rogue" she says frantically pulling herself away and wiping her face.

"I'll come with you, I'll let Laurence know I'll join them after" I say following close behind her, "I'm not letting you do this alone."

"I know" she whispers. I quickly link my beta while tucking her closely into my side as we hurry down to the cells.

"Open them up" I shout to the guards as the entrance comes into view. Striding in I take the lead guiding Nova down the darkened steps past the guards as the pungent air of blood and urine hits

our noses hard. Getting the keys from my pocket I swiftly open the last door and walk Nova down to the farthest cell where the pathetic rogue is curled up naked and shivering in his restraints.

Slamming the door open I walk in and hold it for Nova. Seeing fury blazing in her eyes as she strides past she immediately walks up to the rogue and slams his head back against the concrete wall making him yell loudly in pain.

"We can do this the easy way or the hard way" she snarls in his face. "It's your last chance as you haven't been so helpful to our Beta."

Taking in the many bruises and open cuts that haven't been able to heal due to his silver cuffs I scoff before taunting him. "It looks like our Beta has been having his fun though." Seeing one of the rogues fingers lying on the floor not too far from him I smirk kicking it to in his eyeline as he winces at the sight. "Perhaps you need more pain, lose some limbs even?"

"No" he gasps.

"It's only a finger" Nova says with a raised brow before her claws extend and she swiftly cuts two deep gashes down his chest making him howl. Holding his dirty hair in her hand I smile proudly as she doesn't even blink at the mess she has made, "how many rogues does Charles have?"

"Who?" the rogue gasps.

"That's not a number" Nova scowls before slicing an ear off as the rogues face contorts in agony. Holding on to his other ear tightly she moves her lips to whisper into his ear, "last chance. How many rogues does Charles have?"

"Charles?" He asks looking genuinely lost.

"Master" I growl as the rogues eyes widen before Nova punches him hard in his stomach.

"I would say easily 500" he wheezes in pain as blood begins to pool below him.

"How many witches?" Nova growls.

"We only saw two" the rogue grunts as she yanks at his ear once again.

"Are they going to attack us?" She asks softly, her eyes cold and calculating as they bear into the man's pained ones.

"On the night of the full moon they will attack" the rogue whispers, "Saturday."

"Where are they based?" She asks cocking her head still gripping his ear tightly.

“They move constantly but their camps are protected by the witches. You will never find them” he cries as she kicks his leg hard causing him to shout out in pain.

Smiling coldly Nova drops the man’s ear as she stands swiftly. Wiping her hand on her clothes to rid herself of the blood she shrugs, “see that wasn’t so hard was it.”

“N..no” the rogue stutters. “Please can i have some water?” He begs looking around the cell desperately.

“No” Nova says coldly without batting an eyelid before stepping in front of him and grasping his head twisting it powerfully as with a resounding crack she breaks his neck and his body slumps to the floor.

“Damn” I whistle.

“We got what we needed” she says simply as I grin at her. “You don’t have to look so happy I killed someone” she says rolling her eyes as she passes me.

“No but it’s refreshing not having to be the one that does so, plus..angry Nova is impressive. I’ve told you I can’t help it” I say with a wide smirk as she looks over her shoulder to shake her head at me.

“Alphas” she moans dramatically making me chuckle. “I’m going to have a quick wash” she tells me as we reach the pack house.

“I’ll be in the office” I say as I kiss her lips softly. “Come find us when you’re ready.”

Pausing before she leaves she looks at me, “what do you think Esmerelda meant when she said our bond is like no other?”

“I don’t know for certain Nova but one thing I can say is that together we are incredibly powerful. Charles will regret everything he has done to your family..I promise” I say looking her in eyes as she holds my gaze with steely determination.

“See you soon” she whispers after a moment of staring at one another before she rushes for a shower and I make my way to the office.