

Chapter 41 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

Breakfast was a bit of a tense affair on my end, I tried to relax and engage in conversation with our families but my mind kept wandering to what was to come.

“You ok Nova you seem a bit distracted this morning?” Luca asks me quietly.

Pausing for a moment I look around the table seeing everyone is busy eating. “Do you fancy going for a walk?” I ask turning to look at him.

“Yeah why not, let’s go” he says before letting Sophie know he’ll be back shortly.

“I’m just going for a walk with Luca” I whisper to Jax as I stand. Seeing understanding in his eyes I smile softly at him before standing.

“Thank you for breakfast everyone it was lovely, Luca and I are just going for a walk we will be back soon” I say before we walk out the hall quietly.

As we head towards the forest I lead the way towards the lake where I know it will be quiet and I can calm my busy mind. “So Caroline is coming to the pack this afternoon, Axton called and he has arranged the transfer. They will be attempting to wake her up in the morning I believe” I say to Luca as we take a seat by the lake.

“Ah..” he says as takes in what I’ve said. “How do you feel?”

“I’m not too sure if I’m honest. I know this has to be done and I’m happy that we are starting the process of finding out more but I’m also apprehensive” I sigh as I watch two butterflies dance together in the morning sun.

“I think you need to go in there with your boss like attitude, you’re a badass Nova but you’re also understanding, kind and patient they all level out perfectly. What you need to remember is that there is a very strong possibility your mum may still be alive, I don’t want to say she is for definite as until we speak to the council we don’t know for sure that it affects a human wolf mateship the same. But if there is a chance she is and that waking Caroline may help..then it needs to be done” he says with conviction.

“I know it needs to be done, doesn’t necessarily mean I’ll enjoy the outcome” I mumble quietly.

Grasping my hand in his I see pain reflected in his eyes, “losing our parents was the most difficult day in my entire life” he starts, “but you have the chance of finding your mum..I would do anything to have our mum back. I would travel the entire world to help her if necessary. You have to do this Nova.”

“I know” I smile gently at him, “I’m going to go through with it, there is no way I wouldn’t. I’m just trying to keep control of my emotions. The amount of possible outcomes it could lead to it increasing and it makes me nervous not knowing what is coming” I tell him honestly.

“Don’t over think it, what did dad use to say..one step at a time. So..first we get Caroline here, secondly we try to wake her, thirdly..we find out what she knows” Luca tells me.

“Yes..you’re right” I whisper before going quiet for a moment.

“So..care to tell me about Sophie?” I ask chuckling as I see the love struck smile plastered on his face.

“She’s amazing, she’s intelligent, witty and absolutely stunning” he grins.

“She’s my sister, I mean surely some of those things run in the family” I joke.

“Oh goddess I’m going to have to make sure I now highlight that you’re my adopted sister and we share no blood relation. Can you image the looks id get if I introduced you as my sister and I’m mated to yours” he groans.

Snorting out a laugh I shake my head at him, “that is a very good point. I for one believe it’s all part of the moon Goddesses plan..surely you being mates with my sister means something.”

“And for this I think it’s your turn to be right. Either way I’m so glad I’ve finally met her..I was beginning to lose hope” he admits quietly.

“I know” I murmur making him look at me in shock.

Shrugging I look out at the lake again before speaking, “I’m your sister, I grew up with you and can tell every emotion you have going on in those eyes of yours. Id see your face when there would be new matings, you were happy of course you were, but you couldn’t hide the pain from me.”

Laughing lightly he nodded, “I should have told you from the start.”

“You didn’t have to Luca. I had faith your mate would come, and I knew deep down you did to. Just the longer it took the further down you buried that faith” I point out.

“Spot on. Who needs a therapist when you have a sister as observant as you” he jokes.

“What can I say, it’s just one of my talents” I laugh making him chuckle in response. “Come on, I best say goodbye to Jax’s family before they leave” I gesture towards the path standing up.

“You know I miss this” Luca says suddenly as we arrive back at the pack house.

“Me too, but this is life now. Jax said you’re welcome whenever” I remind him.

“But as a Beta I don’t get many opportunities to leave the pack, and now more than ever I need to be there to help Axton when I get back. The council got back to me this morning” he admits.

“Ah” I say not wanting to pry.

“We’ve been called in 4 days, Rose will be on trial then as Axton has said he cannot find the truth out without the risk of losing his temper” he explains.

“Well that’s mature of him..and correct” I agree.

“They may reach out to you, I named you as a witness and because of obvious reasons they will most likely want your version of events. To be honest I don’t even know if it was a true mate bond” he shakes his head as he says that in disbelief.

“Well like Jax and I said, if you need us we will be there” I assure him.

“Thanks Nova” he says as we walk into the downstairs lounge.

“Hey..nice walk?” Jax asks as he stands to give me a quick hug.

“It was love, I feel better” I assure him seeing the question lingering in his eyes. As relief crosses his face he kisses my temple softly.

“I apologise for missing some of breakfast, with Luca meeting Sophie last night and me busy celebrating we didn’t get much time to talk about..well anything really” I laugh lightly, “but I would love if you could come and join Jax and I for a private dinner in a couple of days?” I ask his family.

Seeing them all smile in understanding his mother steps forward embracing me, “of course darling. We are looking forward to it.” She assures me with a knowing smile.

“Thank you” I reply softly.

“That was a great idea” Jax whispers in my ear squeezing me softly.

“If you could excuse us, I’d like to speak to Laurence and Nova in private. It was lovely seeing everyone last night” Jax’s deep voice says from behind me.

“Dad will we be seeing you soon?” I ask as we reach him by the door.

“I’m going to go back to my pack now but I’ll be returning in the morning. I’m aware of what’s happening later but I need to ensure everything is ok at home. I’ve been away more than usual lately I don’t want to cause any issues” he explains.

“Of course, and Sophie?” I ask quietly.

“She will be staying here, I thought I may as well offer for her to stay here whilst Luca is visiting. It gives you the chance to spend some time with her also” Jax announces from beside me as my father smiles in approval.

“That’s wonderful” I say pulling Sophie in for a hug. “How about I meet you for some lunch?”

“That would be perfect” she assures me.

Changes

Chapter 42 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

“Sit the both of you, we’ve got some stuff to sort out” Jax says motioning to the chairs in front of his desk as he takes a seat.

“Yes boss” Laurence salutes as he sits down and leans forward on his knees ready to discuss business.

“So, as we have Caroline arriving this afternoon I have spoken to the pack hospital and arranged a room to be ready for her. I have it as a private room due to the sensitivity of this situation and the fact she is human” Jax starts.

“That’s sensible” Laurence agrees as I nod in agreement.

“We also need to discuss the Luna ceremony” he grins turning to look at me.

“Well I’ve had plenty of people offer to help. I’ve got Alice, Naomi and Flo all very keen to help which is good. I was also planning on asking for your mums help and input when they come for dinner, what do you think?” I check with Jax.

“Well that’s answered my next question he chuckles. She would love to help, I’ll wait for you to ask her” he decides. “Next..the council.”

“Have you spoken with them?” Laurence asks.

“They called after breakfast, Nova and myself have been named as witnesses for Roses trial. Apparently Alpha Axton has said he cannot deal with her fairly but he has doubts that it was a true mate bond. So for them to investigate they are holding a trial intervention” Jax says.

“Trial intervention?” Laurence asks.

“Apparently it’s new” he shrugs, “basically because Axton has admitted he cannot deal with this with a level head the elders will investigate. They have a witch which will use an enchantment to gain the truth.”

“Could they not just command her?” I ask confused.

“That’s what I said. Apparently its different and we will find that out when we are there. But they have also spoken about Nova and her father. If we travel in 3 days then we can speak to them before hand about their findings on Guardian Wolves but also inform them of Kingsley. He will be accompanying us, it’s one of the reasons he has travelled back today” he explains.

“Ok two birds one stone as they say” Laurence shrugs.

“Is that ok Nova?” Jax checks.

“Yes, one question though. What about Caroline?” I lean forward.

“I’ve spoken to Dr George, he has informed me that if he is successful in waking her then it will take her 2-3 days to come around due to the length of her coma. He said he would be comfortable with us speaking to her by Friday, so we have 5 days” he informs us.

“Right that makes sense. Well it sounds like you have this all covered Alpha” I tease.

“I have a question” Laurence starts before continuing, “will your father be in any bother about not letting the council know he is a Guardian Wolf?”

I start tapping my knee as I do when I’m thinking sometimes, “I’m concerned about that, but..there is also the reason that he didn’t do it because of the moon goddess visiting his wolf. So, I guess what I’m trying to say is we won’t know until it’s time.”

“There is nothing we can do until then” Jax agrees.

“I hate waiting” Laurence mumbles.

“Don’t we all” I laugh.

“Shall we do a run of the perimeter?” Jax suggests standing up and seeing the sun shining bright outside.

“I could do with a nice stretch of my legs” Laurence agrees eagerly. “Plus I’m intrigued to see Kia.”

“Me too, she looked bigger yesterday” Jax reminded me.

“Oh we have changed in more ways than one” Kia links us all making us jump slightly.

“Ki! Sometimes we could do with some warning” I scold her aloud making the men laugh.

“Fine” she huffs to me in feigned annoyance making me roll my eyes.

As we reach the forest line we all separate and quickly shift. As Kia pads out I see Zeus pause mid step as he takes in her size.

“Fucking hell Luna, you’re huge..no offence” Laurence links us in amazement. Padding over to stand beside Zeus I internally gasp as I realise we are now the same height as him.

“Ki you look so strong, absolutely stunning” I hear Jax link us making Kia preen at the compliment. “Shall we run?”

“Yes” Kia growls eagerly to everyone before leaping off the mark and zipping between the trees of the forest. After a few minutes of getting lost in running I hear Jax link me.

“I know you’re enjoying yourself Ki but we can’t keep up” he chuckles, “fancy slowing down a little?”

Hearing that Kia skids to a stop before spinning round and gazing at where we came from, about 30 seconds later Zeus bursts through the tree line and immediately comes up to us rubbing himself against Kia as they purr happily together.

“Like cats at times honestly” I joke to Kia earning a warning growl which makes me giggle, “I’m just joking don’t worry.”

“Be glad you are” she links back in amusement.

For the next hour we run around the perimeter of the territory and allow our wolves to play amongst themselves before we arrive at the front of the pack-house in high spirits. After dressing I walk out from behind the trees to see Laurence and Jax chatting between them, when they hear me they both spin round excitedly.

“Luna, Kia looks amazing, honestly I have never seen a wolf as fast as her! Did you feel any different?” Laurence asks excitedly.

“My senses have gotten sharper for sure, I didn’t actually realise how much quicker I’d got at first as everything seemed so clear and focused when I passed by if that makes sense. Plus my

sense of smell has increased tenfold, I can literally smell what they're making for food in the kitchen right now" I muse.

"Seriously?" Laurence asks, "we have a good sense of smell but I can't smell what food it is."

"I can even tell they're using cayenne pepper..it's actually a bit overwhelming" I say with a little grimace.

"Do you think you and Ki could control that in any way? So on a day to day basis it's not too much?" Jax asks intrigued.

"Could we?" I ask Kia.

"I don't think so, but I think it's like when you first shift and your senses increase. At the time it's a bit much but you soon get used to it..I imagine it will be the same for us" she links everyone making Jax and Laurence nod in understanding.

"Makes sense" Jax agrees. Coming to stand close to me he pulls me in for a hug whilst taking a deep breath in my neck, "I think I'm a little in shock at how quick Kia is now" he admits chuckling.

"Is she that fast?" I ask shocked.

"You have no idea" Laurence mutters, "seriously put us to shame."

"I find it incredibly attractive" Jax states making Laurence smirk.

"And why's that Alpha?" He teases. Jax throws him a sharp look making him hoot in laughter even more.

"Child" Jax mutters annoyed but with a large smile on his face.

"You know I don't even feel tired either, I think we could have kept that up for a long time" I muse as we walk inside.

"Well Jax will definitely find the stamina attractive, do you think you'll be able to keep up with Nova?" He asks with a suggestive wiggle of his brows.

"I'm an Alpha, of course I can" Jax smirks confidently before schooling his face, "you're lucky you're my friend. If anyone else made a comment like that about our sex life they'd be on the floor."

"Hmm" I hum before darting over and tapping Laurence over the back of his head making him yelp in surprise.

"Pay back" I smirk as he rubs his head glaring at me whilst Jax let's out a deep booming laugh.

“Damn Luna fair play but did you have to hit so hard?” Laurence winces.

“I didn’t? It was just a tap” I looked at him in confusion

“Well then your strength has gotten ridiculous, that fucking hurt like hell” he admits.

Gasping I cover my mouth as I realise I’ve hurt him rushing over I pull his hands away before looking at his head. Hearing him laugh I step back and look at him questioningly, “you didn’t break the skin don’t worry but if I wasn’t a Beta with some Alpha blood I would definitely be feeling that for a few days.”

“I’m so sorry Laurence I had no idea” I mumble in embarrassment.

“Don’t be, you had to find out one way or another” he says as he laughs my apology off. “Plus now maybe Jax won’t kick my arse in training so much” he winks.

“Hit him all you like, he asked for it” Jax smirks as he winks at me. “The thought of that strength in the bedroom is doing things to me” he links cheekily.

Raising my brows at him I lift my lips in a slight smile, “oh but will your Alpha ego be ok with me in charge?” I tease back through the link.

“For you I’d do anything” he promises. Seeing Laurence has walked off I walk up close to him before wrapping my arm round him and resting it on his muscular bum.

“Even let me explore here?” I ask seriously.

With that he pauses before looking down with guilt in his eyes, “ok that may have been a lie, anything but that” he says worriedly.

Throwing my head back laughing I take a minute before I look up to see his eyes glinting in amusement, “don’t worry your bum is off limits” I tell him. But then I pause whilst a thought strikes me, leaning up I bite his love teasingly before whispering “but you never know..maybe mine isn’t.” Hearing his breath hitch I settle back down to my height as I look into his darkened eyes as he stays frozen in his spot.

“Don’t be saying that or I’ll be taking you right back upstairs” he growls after a moment of staring at me in shock.

Shrugging my shoulders I walk past him towards the lounge, “well at least you know the offer is there” I call back with a wink making him grin as he follows me.

“I’ll be taking you up on that offer” he links me huskily making me shiver as we walk in to meet Theo and Flo.

Taken

Chapter 43 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

“So..are you ready for this?” I hear Luca ask me as he joins Jax and i outside the pack house. We are waiting for Caroline to arrive with the Gamma from the White Mountain Pack.

“As ready as I’ll ever be” I sigh when I hear the noise of vehicles in the distance. “They’re almost here” I let them know. We wait as we see an ambulance and 2 cars one at the front and one following coming up the drive to the packhouse causing me to burrow my brows in confusion.

“Everything alright?” Jax checks sensing my confusion through the bond.

“I thought it was more than 3 vehicles” I shrug, “I’m still getting used to being able to hear so well. Maybe I was wrong.” Seeing his eyes narrow slightly as his lips purse I can tell he has more faith in my assumptions than I do.

“I’ll go down and meet them with Luca, we will double check the vehicles they brought” Jax informs me as he squeezes my hand reassuringly. “Laurence stay with your Luna” he instructs as the Beta appears beside me. Happy to be staying back so I can avoid seeing Caroline for now I nod in acceptance and watch as my brother and my mate walk down to the waiting vehicles with a strong air of authority surrounding them.

“How are you feeling Luna?” Laurence asks quietly.

“Nova Laurence honestly, it’s only us two” i mutter.

“I know but I also like acknowledging we have a Luna” he smiles at me slightly embarrassed. Hearing that my face softens at his admission.

“Oh..that’s actually really sweet. Thank you” I say softly before adding on “Beta” which a smirk.

“Touché” he whistles making me snigger.

“To answer your question I’m ok. I have to admit everyone has been great at allowing me to keep myself busy and distracted, I just feel uncomfortable not knowing what’s going to come of the next few days you know” I shrug.

As we wait for Jax to come back I tap my foot slightly impatiently as I begin to feel more anxious. Suddenly I feel Kia's ears prick up as something comes to my attention, lifting my head up to the sky I take a deep breath and freeze once I understand what I'm smelling.

"Shit" I exclaim.

"Jax is Caroline bleeding?" I link him quickly seeing him spin to face me with confusion on his face. As he runs to look in the back of the ambulance I link him again, "quick I need to know."

"No..no she's not. It just looks like she's asleep with a lot of wires" he links me back.

"Shit shit shit, Laurence with me" I order before sprinting down to Jax and Lucas confused faces. "I smell blood, I need you with me" I order before shifting and allowing Kia to scent the air. "NOW" I link them shocking them.

"Theo and Flo I need you to come and stay with the Gamma from the White Mountain Pack outside the front of the packhouse and protect the ambulance. I will explain later" I hear Jax link them as he keeps the link open to me.

"Luca on second thoughts stay with Theo and Flo, you can be the link between them and your warriors if necessary" Kia links him allowing Jax to hear as we bound away with Zeus close behind. "Sorry Jax I wont make a habit of correcting yours or Novas orders I just found it to be more suitable and as I could link I thought it would save time" she links Jax as we run.

"Don't apologise it was a smart decision" Jax instantly responds showing his trust in her. Following the scent of blood as it grows stronger I hear Zeus growl menacingly, "where are the patrol teams?" I ask Jax.

"They're all currently out doing their rounds, everyone is where they are supposed to be" he assures me.

"I heard the vehicles arrive and thought they were the escort for Catherine but now I think it could have been a combination. Im sure what I heard wasn't the sound of 3 vehicles alone" I worry to Jax. As we draw closer Kia speaks, "I scent humans" she informs us all causing snarls to be heard from the two wolves behind me. "They've gone I cannot hear their heartbeats and we are too close to the source of the blood for me not be able to if they were still there" she growls in frustration.

Bursting through the trees we reach a small clearing where I see a large body draped over a log with blood pooling on the ground below. "No" I gasp as I realise who it is.

"It's Andrew" I cry to Jax. Shifting I don't care about my nudity as Jax and Laurence do the same. Seeing his leg is bleeding heavily from a deep wound and he has a gun wound to his shoulder i hiss in annoyance.

“I need something long that I can use to tie round his leg, we then need to keep it elevated until we are at the pack hospital otherwise he could lose that leg. Reaching over his shoulder I look at the bullet wound, “fucking silver” I growl.

“Andrew I’m not sure you can hear me but I need to get this bullet out of you asap, it’s silver and the longer we leave it in the more damage it will do. It will hurt like hell for a moment but I’ll be as quick as I can ok” I say before I extend a claw out and make a quick incision making it easier for me to reach the bullet.

“Luna no you’ll burn” I hear Laurence gasp as he kneels beside me.

“Silver doesn’t harm me remember, we need to get this out fast and this is the best way” I say calmly as I grasp the bullet between two fingers and give it a sharp tug to pull it out. “It’s going to take a while to heal and there will be a scar because it was silver but he is incredibly lucky it hit his shoulder. I assume they were aiming for his heart.”

Seeing Jax sprint out from the trees holding a top I stand to meet him, without saying a word I tear the bottom off creating a long strip and make quick work of tying it tightly above the wound.

Twirling to face the men who are looking at me in admiration I take a deep breath to calm myself and freeze once again. “No..no no NOOO!” I scream twirling around my eyes darting around the clearing.

“Theo has Flo met you?” I link him asking in a panic.

“No she hasn’t got here yet” he says immediately his nerves evident in his voice.

“Laurence you need to shift and we are going to have to drape Andrew over you for you to take to the pack hospital immediately. Be careful not to drop him and try to keep his leg elevated or as level as you can. I know it’s a lot to ask but please” I ask him desperately as he immediately nods in acknowledgment of my instruction.

“Hang on a second Nova..I can scent” Jax starts.

“Flo” I finish for him, “I know..I think she’s been taken” I cry as Laurence immediately shifts and Jax and I lift Andrew up laying him carefully on his back.

“Go” Jax orders his face etched in concern, “be careful.”

“Nova we are going to follow Flo’s scent, I’ve got 15 warriors running behind who will track us” Jax informs me motioning for me to lead.

Without having to say anything I hand control over to Kia and she immediately bounds through the trees tracking Flos scent. We run for another 10 minutes before reaching a beat down track which leaves out the eastern side of the territory. Seeing the deep tyre tracks Kia huffs in annoyance, “they’ve gone..and quickly.”

Shifting back I let out a scream of annoyance before I feel Jax's strong arms wrap around me bringing me in close, holding a hand against the back of my head he kisses my temple as tears stream down my face.

"This is all my fault" I whisper.

"No" he says sternly, "none of this is your fault. They must be hunters, I can't think of why any other humans would do this. Also there were no traces of her blood that I could see, I think she must have been sedated. That lady can fight there would have been more signs of a struggle any other way. So.." he says pulling back and grasping my chin to look at me clearly, "we are going to go home. Check Andrew is recovering and contact your father. Then we are going to make a plan. I'm going to contact Axel as soon as we are back and get him to hack into all the road camera in this area and we will find them...ok."

Taking a deep breath I steady my breathing and try to stop the tears from falling, "ok.." I whisper.

Hearing the others approach we quickly shift back to our wolves as they reach us. "Gamma Flo has been taken, I want a group of 5 to follow the tyre tracks as far as you can. Follow emergency plans to update and contact and if nothing is found in the neutral territory we will notify surrounding packs. I will send a notice out to them all to notify them of what has happened and to keep an eye out anyway as soon as we are back at the office" Jax commands through the pack link to the warriors.

"Yes Alpha" the all chorus back before 5 split away and dart off between the trees running parallel with the road.

"The rest of you I want you on extra border patrol. I will be increasing patrol sizes and frequencies" Jax informs them.

"Yes Alpha" they immediately respond.

"Nova with me, let's go back and quickly" he says knowing the longer we wait the harder it will be.

"She will be ok Nova, she is strong willed and an incredibly intelligent fighter. She took after her big sister" he links me as we set off for the pack house. "By the way..when did you learn to be so calm in a medical emergency?"

"Part of it was the elite warrior training, that and I am a qualified doctor" I admit.

"Seriously?" He asks clearly impressed.

"Yeah. There is still a lot you don't know about me really" I admit.

“Well as soon as this is all over with, I intend to learn every little thing” he promises me as we shift and quickly throw some spare clothes on.

Message

Chapter 44 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Bursting through the packhouse doors I immediately head for the meeting room where I requested everyone meet.

“How is Andrew?” I ask Laurence seeing him arrive at the same time.

“Unconscious but stable, his Wolf is healing him and he didn’t lose too much blood, he has had to have a few stitches but thanks to Lunas quick work he will be fine” he says calmly his Beta side prominent now. “They will contact us as soon as he’s awake and I have 2 warriors stationed outside to help if required.”

“Thank you Laurence” I say as we walk in. Glancing at Nova I see her calm and collected, if it wasn’t for the bond telling me she was anxious and worried I wouldn’t have a clue.

“Ok everybody listen up, there has been an attack which we are almost positive was made by hunters. Andrew has been injured and is recovering in the pack hospital however our Gamma Florence we believe has been taken” I start as Theo lets out a loud growl.

“I’m so sorry Theo” I hear Nova whisper as she wraps an arm around him offering comfort.

“It’s not your fault” he whispers his voice trembling with the worry he feels for his twin.

“Laurence I want you to go to my office and contact Axel, ask him to hack into any roadside cameras, CCTV etc in that area that he can and if he finds anything for him to contact us immediately” I order to my Beta as he leaves immediately to do as I’ve asked.

“I have 5 warriors trailing the tracks as far as they can, they are following emergency protocol so they have a phone for them to check in and contact us as they will be too far to mind-link. I have 10 extra wolves patrolling the borders focused on the eastern side as we speak however I want an additional 20 wolves to go join them. In case of an attack I want the rest of the warriors to be prepared, I know we haven’t had one in a long time however everyone knows what to do. Protect

the vulnerable and the young, anyone who can fight fights. Theo I need you to focus, to find your sister I'm leaving you in charge of the warriors as you're the best for the job" I inform.

"Yes Alpha" he replies his voice stronger than before.

"I want you to get two wolves, one being tracker Ellis to go back to the clearing they were taken, it's 5 miles east you will find it if you follow the scent of blood. I want you to report anything you find as we didn't have time to explore the area" I order Theo as he stands to leave.

"On it Alpha" he replies. As he walks past I quickly grasp his arm causing him to pause in a low tone I speak to him alone, "we will find her Theo. Put your skills to use and focus on what I've told you to do. I will do anything I can to find Florence" I assure him.

"Thank you Alpha" he says quietly as his eyes grow steely with determination.

"Ok Naomi, Alice I want you to go and speak to pack members. Inform them of what has happened as I will never lie to them but be sure to inform them we are acting quickly and if they have any questions then I will be holding a pack meeting as soon as possible. Reassure them that they are safe and we will protect them" I order them.

"Yes Alpha" they chorus as they stand to leave.

"Naomi before you go where is Luca?" Nova asks quickly.

"Theo asked him to escort Caroline and the warriors to the hospital, she is currently being transferred to the private room and Luca has 4 of our warriors there also which will stand guard at all times. He will meet you here as soon as it's done" she informs us.

"He's a good man" I tell Nova aware that her brother has taken on responsibility to aid our pack during an emergency.

"He's an extremely worthy Beta" she says with pride in her voice, "he will do anything he can to help."

"I need him to contact Axton and ask if they have had any suspicious activity around their pack recently. I also need to speak to the escort and check to see if they were followed or noticed anything suspicious on the drive here" I think out loud.

"I'll link him" Nova says immediately reminding me she can link anyone she needs to.

"Perfect" I say. "Come let's go meet Laurence and see if he has managed to contact Axel." I stride out the door I run up the steps to my office 3 at a time.

"Hello Alpha" Laurence greets me as he stands behind my desk, "I have Axel on a video call here and he is currently accessing cameras nearby the track Gamma Florence was taken."

“Hello Axel” I say as I step into the camera frame.

“Jax” he greets shortly as he’s busy doing as I’ve requested. “I have managed to hack into the house CCTV cameras from the old mill 2 miles down the road. There was a large transit van and a smaller caddy pass by an hour ago going much quicker than the speed limit other than that there has been no movement since this morning when the residents of the mill house left for work. I’m just getting the number plates now and then I will be able to track their movements much easier.”

“Thank you Axel” I say grateful for my brothers quick thinking.

“Sir I need you to come to the pack hospital immediately, as we were changing Andrew to his hospital gown we noticed a note tucked in the waistband of his trousers. It was very nearly missed. We haven’t read it as it is addressed to the Luna” a nurse links me quickly.

“Ah fuck” I grunt. “They’ve found a note on Andrew addressed for you Nova. We need to go over there immediately.” Seeing her face drain of colour I immediately know the guilt is growing inside her. “Stop that immediately” I say calmly grasping her head in my hands and resting my forehead against hers.

“What?” She whispers her lips trembling.

“I can feel the guilt you are feeling Nova, and I am going to remind you..again. You are not to blame. Let’s focus on finding Florence, this is not just about you. It has been going on since before you were born and you are a pawn in their game.”

With a nod of her head she brushes the tears away that have fallen quickly before straightening her shoulders. “You’re right, let’s go. Laurence please can you contact my father and inform him of what has happened. Also be sure to reassure him Sophie is safe, she is in the downstairs lounge with warriors and is fine.”

“Will do Luna, if Luca isn’t back in the next 20 minutes I will check on her myself” Laurence says with a small smile.

“Thank you Beta” she says before spinning on her feet and storming towards the hospital. Feeling the anger brewing in her I walk by her side and allow her to process everything hoping it will calm her down.

“She may feel extreme anger but she has excellent control of it Jax, it’s not something we need to worry about. Kia assured me they use it to their strength” Zeus informs me.

“Never doubted her for a second” I tell him.

As we walk into the pack hospital there is a young nurse waiting for us who immediately runs over, “if you could follow me Alpha, Luna I will show you to Andrews room.”

“Thank you” I say taking Novas hand lending her my strength.

Walking in I see Andrew lying down half undressed but his wounds treated and wrapped. “We will finish getting him changed once you have taken the note, we didn’t want to touch it once we saw it has Lunas name on the top” the nurse explained.

“You did the right thing, I can’t smell any poison either so I believe it’s safe for me to touch” Nova says as she leans forward taking the note.

Before she opens it I reach a hand out and cover it with my own looking at her before turning to the nurse who is watching, “could you take us to a vacant room so we can open this in private?”

Understanding dawns in the nurses eyes as she immediately opens the door, “of course Alpha, there is a room down the end of the hall.”

Walking in I utter my thanks before closing the door quietly and turning to have Nova, “whatever it says we will deal with it ok love?”

“Ok” she says quietly gazing at the note clasped in her hand. “Let’s read it.”

Opening the note her hands stay steady as she controls her breathing helping stay calm, I stand behind with my arms wrapped around her waist to comfort her as I read over her shoulder.

“Nova,

The day you were born was the day we lost our daughter forever. She was unable to complete her mission and for that she had to withstand the consequences. She failed in ridding of the last Guardian Wolf, your father, something we had been working towards for 20 years previous, ever since learning of his survival. She let herself be led astray by the foolish man and continued to live in a false sense of security different to what she was destined for. The disappointment I feel for the decisions our daughter made will never fade, she is a disgrace to our family and she will continue to suffer because of that.

But you..you and your father have made the lives of those around you at a far greater risk. I will not stop until you are both gone and the Guardian Wolves are eradicated from this world.

But for now I want two things, if you return my dear Caroline to me then your she Wolf will be returned safe. But that will only be the case if your father and yourself bring Caroline to me. You have one week. At 2pm in 7 days time we will be at the address at the bottom of this note, be sure to come alone. If there is any other activity of others being nearby or with you I will know and everyone will suffer.

It’s time to embrace your fate granddaughter, the future of the werewolves depends on it.

C.

“Shit” Nova whispers before falling back into my waiting arms.

Extracted

Chapter 45 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Cradling Nova in my arms I stroke her hair as silent sobs rack her body.

“What am I supposed to do?” She whispers to me her voice full of conflict.

“We will figure this out Nova. First we need to know how he knew Caroline was coming here today, a few days ago we didn’t even know she was your grandmother. We need to speak to your father” I say calmly not allowing her to sense the stress I’m experiencing.

“I’m so sorry Jax” she cries softly, “I don’t want to hurt anyone and now I’m this packs Luna all I’m causing them is worry and harm and it’s only been a day.”

“Don’t be silly Nova. Do you think Axton could have been involved in this?” I ask suddenly as I realise we only made plans this morning for Caroline to be transferred.

Hearing that she looks at me before slowly shaking her head, “I know where you’re coming from I really do. But I wasn’t lying when he said he treated me well, I was mated to him and I know that man, he is a good man. That’s why I was so upset when he slept with Rose, it made me think I didn’t really know him at all but now we know why he acted the way he did.” Taking a deep breath she looks me in the eye, “neither Kia or myself think Axton is responsible for this.”

Trying to hide the grimace on my face when I hear her praise him I clearly fail as my body stiffens making her reach a hand out to cup my face gently, “he is not my mate, you are. And I wouldn’t change that for anything, you are mine Jax and I am yours. You have shown me what true love is and it is the greatest gift of them all. I know it’s not nice to hear me speak about him like that and I know you’re protective of me after seeing what he did but I will never lie to you. I don’t believe it was him.”

Clasping my hand over hers I smile gently, “I know love you don’t have to explain.”

“We need to go back to the office and speak to Laurence” I say after another moment of holding one another, “are you ok to do that?”

She stands up and holds her head high, “let’s do it.”

“Thank you for your discretion” I say to the nurse as we leave to which she smiles and bows to us respectfully.

“We will keep you updated regarding Andrew” she says softly squeezing Novas hand.

We walk to the park house quickly thankful that there are not many around so we can progress quickly. Striding in the office I move the chair for Nova to take a seat and go to stand beside Laurence.

“Read this” I order giving him the note before turning my attention to Axel. “Any updates?”

“Yes, I’ve sent you the vehicles registrations. I can follow them 20 miles then they disappear. But 6 miles west of losing them a traffic camera has just logged the vehicle plates again. I am searching cameras on the routes connecting the two but the time frame doesn’t suggest they made any stops” Axel says as he looks at me through the camera.

“So what next?” I ask.

“Either we intercept the vehicles or we wait to see where they go and formulate a plan there” he answers.

“Intercept” Nova says suddenly. Turning my attention to her I gesture for her to continue speaking. “They cannot have many with them in two vehicles alone, if we can intercept them before they reach their destination we also have the element of surprise, and we can have greater numbers. We don’t know where they are going or what will be there if we let them take Flo.”

“You’re right” I say admiring her quick thinking.

“We can intercept and you can join us at our pack” Axel suddenly pipes up.

“Are you sure?” I ask sharply.

Suddenly I see my uncles face appear off screen, “we want to help. As Alpha of the Scarlet Moon Pack I know we are the closest to them, the route they are travelling I estimate we could intercept them in 20 minutes if we leave immediately. You are further away and in the time it takes you to catch up it could be too late. You helped us with rogues 4 years ago, let me show this packs gratitude in supporting you.”

“Thank you Uncle Henry” I say gratefully, “are you able to monitor their route?”

“We will set off immediately, I have 20 warriors downstairs 6 of which are part of the elite squad. I have a feeling they safe travelling to the neutral territory to the south of our pack but we will be able to meet them either way they won’t get away from us” he assures me.

Knowing they are more than capable of holding their own I nod In agreement, “I’d be very thankful. We will set off to your pack shortly and keep us updated please.”

Suddenly Nova surges up and comes to stand beside me, “hello Alpha Henry, I’m Alpha Jax’s mate Luna Nova. First I’d like to say thank you for offering to help, Flo is my sister and I am most grateful. But I also want to let you know these hunters will be armed, they are after me and will do anything to get me. We know they have silver bullets from the wounds Andrew sustained and they must have sedatives to have taken Flo. Please watch your backs.”

“Of course dear, thank you for informing us. I’m looking forward to meeting you later I’ve heard good things. We are going now, Jax have your phone on” he reminds me before disappearing from the screen.

“I’m going to stay here and be their go between” Axel explains as I look at him with raised brows as it’s not like him to miss out on any action.

“Good plan” I say before sighing and running my hand through my hair. “Laurence come next door we need to chat, Nova you too. Axel Laurence will be back shortly.”

Walking in I shut the door before standing to look at my Beta and mate. “Laurence I want you to stay back. I trust you running the pack in my absence but I also need Theo close to me for Florence. Ensure patrols stay heightened although I doubt there will be an attack if they are continuing moving away” I order quickly.

“Yes Alpha” he says.

“The note, obviously if we can get Florence beforehand it changes things but we will deal with that as soon as we are back. Did you contact Kingsley?” I ask him.

“He will be here in 2 hours tops” I assured me.

“Ok, keep him close to you. He’s also wanted by them but he has had much longer to learn how to avoid them” I say bluntly.

“Nova we are going to go with Theo and 5 wolves to meet my uncle, I have good faith in him” I say turning to look at Nova.

“Ok” she replies simply.

With an exasperated sigh I shift my weight uncomfortably, “what’s up Jax?” Nova asks sensing my conflict through the bond.

“I’m unsettled leaving the pack when we have just got Caroline here, I haven’t had chance to check she has settled or check in with Luca” I worry.

“Would your father be ok stepping in to help?” Nova asks tentatively. “I know Luca will be happy to help and will take any orders Laurence issues.”

“That’s a good idea Luna, I would be happy to contact him and get both him and your mum here. I think a night at the pack house would be a safer option for them anyway just to be cautious” Laurence says looking for my agreement.

“You are full of bright ideas my Luna” I say making her lips turn upwards slightly.

“Ok Laurence you know the plan. If all goes well we will be back tonight, keep in contact” I order him seriously.

“You can rely on me boss” he assures me confidently.

“I know” I reply before Nova and I head downstairs to meet the waiting warriors.

“Alright listen up, we are going to head to my uncles pack Scarlet Moon. It should take us approximately an hour and a half to get there if we go in Wolf form however I think we should take vehicles. I’m unsure as to how Gamma Florence has been treated so i think it offers us more options for travelling home, if she’s been sedated she may not be able to shift” I explain. “Theo and a warrior with your Luna and myself, the rest of you in the other vehicle” I instruct.

“Yes Alpha” they respond before immediately jumping into action making pride flash through me. I open the door for Nova to climb into the truck before running around and jumping in the truck myself, I wait for everyone’s door to be shut before tearing down the driveway away from the pack-house with a roar of the engine.

The journey there is a tense one with little spoken, I have Nova sat with the phone ready incase anyone makes contact but as we enter my uncles pack we have heard nothing bad a few texts from Laurence.

“Do you think they’re back?” Nova links me suddenly.

“I don’t think so, I assume he would have contacted me if they were” I reply quietly whilst reaching over and squeezing her hand. Hearing her sigh softly I pull up outside the packhouse and immediately see Axel is waiting. Theo who has been silent on the way over here jumps out eager to hear if anything has changed.

“News?” I ask as I open Novas door and help her out.

Without responding Axel points making me turn and see a van driving cautiously up the road. Walking forward I see my uncle is driving with his son Abel in the passenger. I feel Novas stress build up through the bond so I quickly gather her in my arms as I spot a medical team arrive on standby.

“Axel come on man, is she there?” I ask quietly whilst rubbings Novas shoulder.

“She’s there” he confirms which causes Nova to gasp as a couple of tears drop down her face in relief. “She will need medical attention though I’ve been told” he warns us.

Throwing open his door my uncle steps out, smelling blood on him i grimace as I wonder whose it is, “Jax I will need a hand” his deep voice calls out.

“Wait here” I whisper to Nova before running down. Hearing her soft footfalls behind me I turn around with a frown.

“I’m not waiting, I’m her Luna and her sister as well as a trained doctor. I’m not sitting on the sidelines watching whilst she needs me” she says calmly making me relax as I know she’s right.

Leaning forward I try to smother my gasp as I see Florence, she’s lying across the laps of 3 warriors whilst they attempt to stem some bleeding. “She was injured whilst we extracted her, all the hunters are dead but one managed to stab her multiple times before we reached her, she was unconscious so couldn’t fight back” my uncle growls.

“Keep her as level as you can” I order those around me before we carefully lift her from the car. As Nova steps forward and sees her sister lying there deathly pale and covered in blood I see her lips tremble before she shakes her head and reaches over to help us lift him.

“Her wolf Jax...she’s dying” she whispers to me in pain.

Florence

Chapter 46 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

Standing outside Flos hospital room we sit in tense silence as we let the nurses do their work in peace.

“How did you know her wolf is dying?” Jax asks quietly worried to disturb my thoughts.

With a deep sigh I look up at him with pained eyes, “Ki and I have a family bond with Theo and Flo, when we rescued them and took them in we were all they had for a while. We took on the responsibility of their well-being and provided for them every day. She may not be my sister by blood but I consider them both family and have done ever since I met them. Ki told me as soon as had killed the rogues that attacked them.”

“Is there anything we can do?” Theo asks his voice trembling.

Hearing the worry he has for his twin I sit up straighter and with new found strength I speak, “yes there is. Being surrounded by family will help with her healing, as soon as the nurses are finished we need to go in there and keep her company. You too Jax, you are her Alpha and she will gather strength from you being there. It would have been best if Andrew was here as their mate bond would help but in the current situation I know that can’t be for now.”

“Do you think it’ll be enough?” Jax asks nervously.

“Honestly..? Yes I do but I don’t want to promise” I admit.

“I can help her” Kia suddenly links us.

“You can help Ki?” Jax asks in confusion.

“I don’t know how and I wish I could explain but I just can’t, I have this knowledge that if I’m there it will help her” Kia says leaving me wondering.

“But we’re not a healer?” I ask confused.

“No I don’t mean we can heal her, but I believe her wolf will benefit from me being there. It’s similar to having her Alpha there or when you used to accompany child births as the Luna, our strength can be used to help in her recovery. Remember how much it has increased in the last couple of days, we were strong before but now we are stronger...by far. It will be enough to strengthen her for transport back home where both her and Andrew can finish their recovery together” Kia assures us all.

“That makes sense” Jax says in admiration, “Ki you really are a blessing” he finishes making her purr with happiness in our heads.

At that moment the nurse walks out and with tired eyes she offers a small smile, “she’s stable. Her wounds aren’t healing as quickly as we like as her wolf is so weak. But we have given her something for the pain, I’d say she is incredibly lucky right now. All the wounds she had were from silver weapons and she has been heavily injected with a combination of drugs, a mixture of a sedative and a paralysar.”

Hearing that Theo gasps as he surges to his feet, “will she be ok?”

“Time will tell, her wolf is incredibly weak after this ordeal. If she wasn’t a Gamma and a strong one at that, I doubt she would have made the journey back with the amount of blood she lost” the nurse admits.

“Can we see her?” I ask whilst standing and moving to comfort Theo.

“Yes of course, she is asleep and will need more pain medicine in a couple of hours” she informs us whilst holding the door open for us to file inside.

“Oh Flo” Theo cries as he rushes to her bedside and grasps her hand holding it to his chest. Swallowing the rising feeling of guilt as I see her pale frame lying on the bed I walk to her other side and drop a light kiss on his forehead.

“My gorgeous Flo, you are strong” I whisper in her ear.

Turning to look at Jax in motion with my head for him to move close, “I think it’s best if we all keep hold of her for the time being, she may not be conscious but that’s best for her to recover.”

With a nod of his head he comes to my chair where I get up allowing him to sit before lowering myself back onto his lap resting my head on his chest. He reaches out to grasp Flos hand in his own whilst I stretch my arm to stroke her hair.

“You used to do that whenever we had a bad dream after the attack” Theo says after a few moments of watching me.

“And I will do it whenever needed, you may be big strong Gammas now but that doesn’t mean you’re invincible. It’s ok to feel emotions Theo” I say to him softly as I see the pain and concern in his eyes.

“I have to be strong for Flo” he says in a strained voice

“And you are being for her and the pack” I point out, “you are here for your sister and you have done everything that has been asked of you perfectly since the attack. I’m proud of you, I always am.”

Hearing Jax’s breathing has evened out behind me I smile as I realise he’s finally catching up on some sleep. “I really can’t explain how happy Flo and I are that you’re our Luna Nova” I hear Theo say. “We felt like we were missing something for years until you came back into our lives, a void that just couldn’t be filled.”

“You missed your family” Kia says to him making him nod in understanding.

“Yes we did, we knew there was nothing to bring them back but we knew you were out there somewhere and in our eyes you were our family. We could never explain it but we always knew you were alive” he mumbles.

“You’ve known what loss has felt like Theo, true loss. We left to protect you both and it was so hard, but it was the right thing to do” Kia tells him in a motherly voice.

“What was the threat?” He inquires.

“That’s something I intend to find out when we go to the council” I say with furrowed brows. “I know it was a big threat because Kia and I knew, like a sixth sense we were on high alert and our bodies were filled with dread, but the council refused to tell me. In time I became..complacent i guess, I never pushed to find our more and I should have.”

“But why would they refuse to tell you?” He asks confused.

With a snort and a roll of my eyes I feel Jax stir below me, I kiss his forehead to settle him before continuing. “Because I was still below them and a child in their eyes. There may have been people within the council who helped me throughout the years but I do believe they kept a lot from me. I’ve begun to wonder if they knew my father was alive” I admit.

With a sigh he looks up, “I thought that as well.”

“Yeah..maybe they did it to protect me but most likely they did it to protect themselves. They held power over me this way, control. The first decision I made without having to consult them was to leave Axton and move to your pack” I explain. “I mated with Axton at their request, even becoming a doctor and training at the elite academy wasn’t entirely my choice. I loved it and I wouldn’t change it now, but I did have different aspirations for life at one point.”

“It’s almost like they were moulding you” he ponders as he looks deep in thought. Hearing that I freeze as Kia’s ears perk up.

“Oh my goddess...you’re right” I gasp as my mind begins to face with possibilities.

“But they must know then can’t control us” Kia growls.

“But maybe they tried, can you remember a few years ago they wanted me to go in for testing and I refused to submit. They couldn’t force me without causing unnecessary attention so it never happened. What if it wasn’t just testing they were going to conduct?” I ask her horrified.

“We had a bad feeling about that as well, the same sense of dread” she points out.

“Why can’t I just live a normal life, have a mate, have pups, work, have friends” I whisper sadly.

With that Theo walks round and pulls me up, looking down into my eyes he smiles softly, “you will do. We will make sure you do” he promises before pulling me in to his chest and stroking my hair as I had been doing for Flo moments earlier.

Alpha Henry

Chapter 47 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Waking up I see Nova is stirring at the same time after having dozed off on my chest, looking across Florence's bed I see Theo still sat watching his sister whilst drawing circles on the back of her hand with his thumb.

"Sorry Theo I didn't mean to doze off" Nova whispers as she stretches slightly. Holding her steady on my lap I stop her moving to avoid any friction in my trousers at this inappropriate time.

With a tight smile Theo waves us off, "don't be, I needed the time to process everything, plus with everything that's gone on recently you need some rest yourself" he assures her.

Just then a nurse comes into the room and checks Flos vitals whilst we watch her work efficiently. After a few minutes she turns to us with relief in her eyes, "she's making progress, I believe the drugs they administered are wearing off now and her wolf is regaining strength. I imagine it will be another 24 hours before her wolf has the strength to help heal her wounds so for now there won't be any change. We will continue to sterilise them and change the dressings when necessary."

"Thank you Nurse" Nova says politely as I echo her thanks as she bows her head and leaves the room.

Seeing we have been here for 6 hours I turn to Theo, "would you mind if Nova and I go to thank my uncle, we won't be gone too long but I don't want to be rude?" I ask quietly as Flo twitches slightly in her slumber.

"Absolutely fine Alpha, please pass on my thanks I will be sure to say it in person when I'm comfortable leaving Flo" Theo says. "Thank you for asking" he adds on quietly.

With a quick pat on his shoulder I open the door for Nova and I to leave. "How are you holding up?" I check with Nova as we walk towards the pack house.

"I'm relieved she's doing better, it's calmed my worries. But I did have a chat with Theo whilst you were asleep which has opened my eyes to some things. I'd like to talk to you about it later" she mentions.

"Not now?" I ask.

"I need to think it through and it can wait, for now I want to thank your Uncle. What he did for us, for Flo..I am incredibly thankful for" she says with a smile.

"Ok love. Im here when you're ready" I assure her knowing her logical mind.

As we reach the packhouse door I hear our voices being called, “Hello Axel” I say giving him a bear hug.

With a grunt he elbows me, “I know you’re my big brother but do you have to do that?” He whines like a child.

Hearing a giggle I turn to Nova, “men” she says with a roll of her eyes.

“Hello Luna, it’s lovely to see you again” Axel says giving her a quick kiss on the cheek earning himself a low growl for me, smirking he shrugs his shoulders. “She’s going to be my sister-in-law, chill.”

Nova tries to hide her amusement by looking up at the sky quickly before answering, “and it’s a pleasure to see you Axel, but please Nova to you is fine.”

With a grin at me he holds the door open for us and escorts us up to my uncles office.

“He’s expecting you, go right in” Axel says as he holds the door open once again before following us.

“Ah Jax, Luna Nova, how are you both?” My Uncles powerful voice asks as he stands from his desk to greet us.

“We are well considering thank you” Nova says graciously. “I’d like to personally thank you for everything you have done Alpha Henry, Flo is recovering and her Wolf is gaining strength as we speak. Without you I dread to think what she could have suffered.”

With a smile at Novas words Henry motions for us to sit, “we are happy to have helped” he assures us.

“Did anyone else suffer any injuries?” I ask.

“Light scratches, nothing to worry about at all” Henry says easing my concern. He looks at me for a moment before raising a brow, “so..are you going to tell me any more?”

Feeling Nova tense beside me I grasp her hand not missed by my uncles watchful eyes. Sighing I look at him, “I’m going to tell you something not only as an Alpha but also as family, we can tell you some..but not everything. Not yet anyway, and what we do tell you is up to Novas discretion. What she is happy to share I am happy with and I am in no way forcing her to say more” I say sharply.

My uncle leans forward with his brows furrowed, “Jax, when have I ever pushed anything with you? You are an outstanding Alpha and Nova is your mate, I trust your judgement and also your support in her” he says firmly. Turning to face Nova he softens his gaze, “Luna, please don’t feel like I am pressurising you in anyway. I have heard rumours, the news Jax has found his mate is

spreading like wildfire and of course I'm intrigued. But, I will never force anything" he assures her making her relax.

"Thank you Alpha, I appreciate hearing that" she replies politely her voice clear and unwavering.

"Let's just say pa wasn't as understanding" I sigh to Henry as his eyes meet mine as silent understanding is passed between us.

"Ah" is all he says sitting back in his chair.

"Alpha Henry, we are meeting with the council this week and then we have another issue to deal with on Friday, hopefully by the weekend we will be able to explain more about what exactly is going on. But for now what I can say is both my father and myself are being sought out by hunters. I was adopted when I was 3 weeks old, left on my parents door step by my mother a human" Nova starts as she maintains my uncles gaze. "She was the daughter of hunters but was my fathers true mate, so as you can imagine her parents were not happy with what happened. They have been looking for me ever since and they are the ones who took Gamma Flo."

"So they took your Gamma to get your attention?" My uncles asks inquisitively having not reacted once to anything Nova had said.

"Yes" I reply, looking at Nova she nods my head for me to continue. "Her grandfather left Nova a note on Florence's mates body after seriously injuring him. It said that if Nova and her father went to an address they provided at the time they mentioned then Florence would be returned. An exchange as such, but the only thing would have been Nova and Kingsley would have been walking into a situation without any support, walking into something where they would have been killed."

"This is serious Jax" my uncle acknowledges as he stands to go look out of the window. "Would it be acceptable to ask for a meeting early next week and we could discuss this further? I am more than happy to support and aid where possible, but I would also like to know what we are walking into."

"Of course, we can call at the end of the week and arrange it further" I reply.

"Thank you Alpha Henry" Nova chimes up from beside me gratitude clear in her voice.

"The council, is it serious?" He asks turning his gaze back to us.

"They have helped me over the years, my life growing up was slightly different to most and i needed a little extra guidance. The last few weeks has raised some questions, some concerns and I want to delve into that a bit further before I can give you more information" Nova explains.

"I hope it goes well for you, the council are a tricky bunch" my uncle says with a chuckle.

"Do you know much about witches uncle?" I ask quietly.

“Witches?” He asks with surprise showing on his face for the first time.

“Yes..witches. This is a different issue we have going on as well, but Nova here has been mated before to Alpha Axton of the White Mountain Pack” I start. Hearing that my uncles eyes widen as he turns to Nova quickly.

“You’re that Nova!?” He exclaims.

“Yes Sir” she murmurs.

“Oh my dear, I know Axtons parents extremely well. The things you did for that pack are simply outstanding!” He praises her making her cheeks flush in embarrassment.

“That’s lovely to hear, thank you” Nova says as I smirk at her.

“Back to the point” I continue, “he met his fated mate at a meeting Nova had arranged, they broke mateship laws and marked one another whilst Nova was suffering betrayal pains. But since that has happened more information has come to light, Rose as she’s called has admitted to using a drug to seduce him so he couldn’t control his lust.”

“I am wondering how he managed to control it better at the meal though” Nova interjects thoughtfully.

“I have a theory” I start, “the first time you were there but he had just felt the supposed mate bond for the first time so was weakened because of that making him more susceptible to it. At the meal you were sat opposite, and as he pointed out the drug then made him lust for you..not Rose. But he controlled it because of you Nova.”

“That makes sense” she agrees quietly.

“Anyway Axton has referred the trial to the council, he wants answers as he’s doubting it is a true mate bond so I wondered if it could involve the work of witches” I muse turning to Henry.

He sits tapping his finger on the desk as he contemplates what I’ve said, “I haven’t heard of it before but that isn’t to say it’s not possible. I think it’s smart of him to have contacted the council and they will get the answers needed.”

“I thought as much” I sighed before leaning back.

“Are you staying the night?” My uncle asks changing the subject.

“I think we should head back, the pack needs our presence and it will ease our state of mind. Laurence has been in touch and has confirmed everything is in order but who knows what’s going to happen with the hunters having not got their way” I reply. “Can Theo stay?”

“Of course, he’s her brother I wouldn’t expect anything different” he replies already knowing what I was going to have said. “I’ll contact you how Florence gets on and we can make the necessary arrangements.”

“Thank you Uncle” I say reaching my hand out for him to shake.

“It’s good to see you Jax, and Luna Nova it was an absolute pleasure to have met you, I hope to see you again” he says sincerely.

“Alpha if I can have a quick word?” Axel requests before Nova has chance to reply.

“Go ahead” Henry replies.

“I’d like to return with Jax following the meeting you have next week, I want to be there to offer support and it is only a month earlier than we had agreed” Axel says firmly.

“That’s a good idea, Jax?” Henry checks.

“I’d like both him and Evan to return” I answer immediately.

“Done” Henry agrees.

Hearing that I smile in relief as Nova steps forward, “thank you for your help, I look forward to seeing you again” she says whilst shaking his hand.

He bats it aside gently before offering her a hug, “we are family, anything you need don’t hesitate to ask.”

“Thank you” she whispers into his shoulder as her lips wobbles slightly with emotion.

Awake

Chapter 48 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

"You're awake" I exclaim surprised as we walk back into Flos room.

"Uhh" she mumbles as her eyes scrunch in pain.

"Don't talk, just rest" I instruct before turning to look at Theo.

"How did it go?" He asks before I have chance to speak.

"Good, my uncle is a fair man and is understanding of what we can say about the situation" Jax answers calmly as he keeps his attention on Flo.

"Do you have the strength to mindlink?" He asks quietly.

"Jax.." I mutter knowing we have to ask but wanting my sister to rest. He turns to me with an apologetic look in his eyes but before he can say anything more Flo links us.

"I'll say what I can about the attack but I will need to rest after, I'm exhausted and the pain medicine will kick in again soon making me sleep" she explains.

"You sure you're up for it?" I link her quietly.

"Yes" she replies back confidently.

"Ok I have a few questions but the rest we can go over in the next few days" Jax starts. "First what happened?"

"Andrew and I were out running, we've been so busy with border patrol and training that we haven't had much time together recently. I suggested we go for a run whilst we both had some time free as it was the last time we would be able to before going away with Theo and Alice" she explains. "We always shift at that clearing and as we arrived i commented how it felt too quiet, there were no sounds of wildlife around us or anything it was quite eerie. The next thing i know Andrew is falling over and blood is seeping everywhere, I call his name and before I reach him I feel a sting in my neck, I'm positive I heard someone mutter about being quick as the scent masking was wearing off but it's a bit fuzzy. I'm afraid after that it goes black. Next thing i know I'm in the back of a van surrounded by hunters with weapons pointing at me."

"Scent masking makes sense" I mutter quietly, "i couldn't scent the humans until we were basically at the clearing and with Kias senses increasing I should have been able to scent them much earlier. It would also explain how they got into our territory without being traced."

"But how did they get into our territory so easily?" Theo asks. "Our border patrols are tight so they must have had an extremely small window."

"How many took you do you know?" Jax asks.

"I'm positive there were only 2 before I blacked out" Flo says.

"That's not many" I say confused.

"Im sure that's what I could sense but I know how unlikely it sounds" Flo says sadly.

"I don't doubt you Flo, I just think there must be more to it that you didn't have chance to figure out before you were sedated" I reassure her.

"What happened in the van?" Jax asks.

"Not much, again it wasn't clear at all but I do know at first they were talking about their leader being happy they had been successful and that they would be rewarded. Umm I don't know much else as I was in and out of consciousness until the van was made to stop and the doors were literally ripped off" Flo explains. "I wasn't sure who was there and I thought at first it was you all so I tried to kick and fight my way out but I couldn't move my limbs. A man shouted to another that they had been compromised and to follow plan B, he then proceeded to attack me with a knife I think. Something was stabbing me I'm certain of it and then again I can't remember anything."

Reaching forward I kiss her forehead as I stroke her hair softly, "I'm so sorry Flo" I whisper quietly.

"Plan B" Theo says confused.

"If they couldn't take Flo then they intended to either kill her or harm her so much she lost her wolf, I suspect the latter. If they wanted to kill her they could have shot her I assume?" Jax asks looking at Flo for confirmation.

"I think so" she agrees quietly.

"Florence I'm not going to ask for anything more until you have some rest, but if you do remember anything of importance then please contact us. I know the nurse said at first you may be disoriented and it could take a little while to feel more like yourself. You are healing as a human at the moment as your wolf gains her strength" Jax says giving her a small smile.

"I can't feel her" she whispers sounding broken.

"She's there Flo. She's resting, I asked the nurse to get some blood samples so we can figure out what you were given. Hearing that you can't feel her makes me think you were given something that stops the connection between your wolf and yourself but she will be back. The nurse thinks it could be another 24 hours before your wolf is able to start healing you" I say stroking her hair comfortingly.

Seeing a tear roll down her face I hold back a sob, "Flo I am so sorry" I whisper again as her eyes flick to mine.

"Don't ever apologise to me Nova, you saved Theo and me years ago and I will never forget that, what you've done for us far outweighs this ordeal. Besides I would do the same all over again for family" she links me sharply.

I nod slowly before looking away trying to stop my emotions from becoming overwhelming.

“How can I mindlink?” She asks confused.

“What?” I ask.

“If I can’t feel my wolf, how can I mindlink?” She asks again.

“Well your wolf is there you just can’t sense her, but Nova can and as can I now and most likely Theo can now as you’re family” Jax points out. “But even if that wasn’t the case you are part of our pack and would maintain that link plus you are mated to a wolf” Jax explains.

Hearing that Flos eyes flit to mine again with tears filling them quickly, “Andrew? Have you heard any more? Theo has filled me in so far.”

“It was the first thing she asked me” Theo chuckles softly.

“Nova and I are going to head back to the pack shortly. We wish we could stay but I’m sure you both understand we need to get back and organise things for the coming days. I’m not comfortable with our plans so we need to figure out a way forward and we need to reassure pack members. I’m sure everyone will be relieved to hear you are doing better. I will call Laurence before we leave and ask about the latest update with Andrew but I’ll also make sure you are updated every few hours” Jax promises looking at Flo clearly.

“We also think as soon as you’re stable we should move you home, you and Andrew will heal quicker closer together with the help of the mate bond” I explain quietly making relief flood Flos features.

Seeing her lids flutter as she fights sleep I rest my head against hers, “sleep Flo. Theo will be right here” I comfort her.

As we wait a few moments for Flos breathing to even out I continue to stroke her hair as my mind races whilst I gaze at the injuries she has sustained because of me.

“2 humans doesn’t sound right” Theo murmurs once we are sure Flo is sound asleep.

“Unless they weren’t only human” Jax says darkly.

“What are you thinking?” I ask him in confusion.

With a sigh he looks at me with a pained expression, “to be honest I’m not sure. Even with Flo sedated in her human form it seems unlikely two humans were able to extract her so quickly without alerting us.”

“But how did I only scent humans?” I ask confused.

“We need to speak to the tracker but we’ve heard about witches recently, do you think it’s too far fetched for them to be involved?” Jax points out.

“I have never heard of hunters teaming with anyone other than other human hunters” I say softly.

“But it doesn’t mean it’s impossible, Flo mentioned how she thought it was eerily quiet..that could be the effect of a spell” Theo says dejectedly.

“But what about during the time your uncle extracted her?” I wonder.

“They could have left by that point” Jax says with a shrug. “Your grandfather could be growing desperate, he has been unsuccessful for many years.”

“True” I sigh. “Goddess why has life become so confusing.”

Seeing Jaxs face sadden momentarily I look at him before quietly asking through the mindlink, “are you ok?”

He looks at me with an unreadable expression, “I should be asking you that.”

“But I’m asking you” I reply quickly.

“I just wish we could have had longer than one day to enjoy being mated before drama strikes. I don’t like us having so much to deal with, I want you and I to enjoy time together..in peace. I also am worried for the pack” he answers making my face soften.

“At least we are doing it together, I wish I hadn’t brought so much drama to everyone’s lives as well. But I’ve come to realise we need to put that to one side, the sooner we deal with all this the sooner we can enjoy our lives together” I say with determination.

Seeing him nod slightly at my mindlink he offers me a small smile, “I love you” he replies simply.

“And I love you..my Alpha” I reply with a little wink to cheer him up, making him smile slightly as we enjoy a few seconds of gazing at one another.

“Theo I hate to say this but we are going to have to rush back. I want to assure you Alpha Henry and my brothers will be here to offer any support. Axel and Evan will be returning with us after this week so please don’t hesitate to go to them if you need” Jax says as he stands up.

Giving Flo one last kiss on her forehead I turn to embrace a tired Theo, “get some rest yourself” I instruct him with a stern look. “Flo will need you to look after yourself, if you need us we are only a phone call away and we will keep you updated with everything” I assure him.

“Thank you both” Theo says with relief.

“See you soon” I whisper as Jax opens the door for me, with a nod of his head at his Gamma we walk quietly out the door.

Idea

Chapter 49 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

"Wait Jax.." I say quickly as he opens the car door for me. Hearing me speak he looks at me questioningly, "I know we have to go see the council this week and we have to spend time away from the pack. After the attack on Flo and Andrew I'm just as concerned about you leaving it, but I have an idea."

"What is it?" He asks quickly intrigued.

"Obviously I think it would be beneficial if Laurence stays with the pack, having your Alpha, Luna and two Gammas off of pack land it's a given he needs to stay. But what if your brothers come back earlier and with the help of your parents the pack would feel like we are making sure they have the support needed?" I suggest.

Hearing that he pauses whilst his eyes brighten, "that's a good suggestion. A very good suggestion" he says with wonder.

"We need to speak to Alpha Henry again before we leave" I insist, "get your brothers there as well."

"My logical Luna" he says dropping a chaste kiss on my lips before shutting the door and turning to walk towards the pack house again. "How did I not think of that?" He mumbles to himself.

Reaching a hand out to caress his shoulder I smile slightly, "I think it's safe to say a lot has happened, I should have thought about it earlier myself but I have a lot running through my mind" I admit.

Seeing Axel in the entrance Jax waves him over, "where's Alpha?" He asks quickly.

"In his office, why?" Axel asks curiously.

"Get Evan and head up there as soon as possible" Jax instructs before leading me upstairs. Knocking loudly three times we hear his uncles voice shout for us to enter.

"Ah I thought you both were leaving" he says in surprise as he stands up from his desk.

"We were but Nova had a suggestion" Jax replies.

"You did?" Henry says turning to me with interest.

"Yes Sir. As we mentioned we have to go to the council this week and will be spending a few days away from the pack, after the attack I assume you can understand our unease with being away. Not only that but it would mean both the pack Gammas and the Alpha and Luna would be off of the territory" I points out.

"It's not ideal" Henry agrees.

"We would have Beta Laurence there to run the pack and we don't doubt him for a second, but for added strength and support i thought it could be beneficial for both Axel and Evan to be there. They could work alongside Jaxs parents who have also offered to help in our absence" I explain as understanding dawns on Henrys face. "We also have the Beta Female and Gamma Female who are pregnant, they are more than able to help the pack but Goddess forbid if there is an attack they can't fight."

"That is a very valid explanation, I know we agreed for them to come next week however I think they should travel to you this evening. If they could return when you are back from your visit to the council I'd appreciate it, I need them to finish a few things up for me before they go to your pack permanently" he says.

Hearing a sigh of relief from Jax Henry turns to him with a playful smirk, "did you doubt I'd allow it?"

Swing a grimace cross Jaxs face I pause, "no, not you. I don't know how my father will react."

"You're the Alpha Jax, not David. He needs to remember that" Henry says bluntly.

"Is there something I need to know here Jax?" I ask quietly sensing the tension.

"My father is a good man, but he struggled letting the Alpha position up. He sent Axel and Evan here to learn more about running a pack and also because he believed they weren't good at following instructions" he admits.

"Mila mentioned that after our conversation. I tell him. "I know Alphas and inquisitive and want to feel in control of all situations, I'm sure you both understand that yourselves. We will make sure he knows you're the Alpha even in absence, his help will be what you instruct him to do and he also needs to be willing to work alongside Laurence. He may have been his superior at one point but with this situation Laurence knows more..I think it would be beneficial for Laurence to take the reins in our absence. Were they bad at following instructions?"

"With his Alpha blood he is more than capable" Jax agrees. "And no, they were young twins who had lots of attention. They never put the pack in danger or anything of the sort but Pa believed they were reckless and needed some extra guidance."

“I’ll speak with my brother if you need, those boys have been great assets in their time here” Henry says suddenly.

“I’ll let you know if we get to that point” Jax says, “I’m going to have a word when we get back.”

“I can always command him” Kia suddenly pipes up playfully whilst laughing making me flush in embarrassment.

“Jax we would never” I say horrified.

“She’s joking Nova relax..but I won’t forget it as an option either” he smirks.

“That would be amusing” Henry chuckles.

“You heard that?” I ask shocked.

“Yes, I assume it was your wolf” he says shrugging.

“Kia yes. You don’t look surprised” I say quietly.

“With which bit? That you can mindlink me despite not being in my pack, that your wolf can mindlink? Or that she can command an Alpha?” He asks in amusement.

“All of it” I chuckle quietly.

“I don’t understand but what i do know is you’re strong. You have this aura about you, it’s pure and powerful. Plus my wolf knows to respect yours, for an Alpha wolf to be happy to bow down to another you must be something special” he points out logically.

Nodding my head without saying more he smiles with a soft shrug, “all in good time Luna Nova” he assures me, “no rush I’ll be here when you can talk.”

“Thank you Alpha” I say quietly.

“Thanks Uncle” Jax says whilst coming and wrapping his arm around my shoulder, “we appreciate everything.”

“I will let Axel and Evan know once you leave, they are outside the office. They will be at your pack by 8pm” he says whilst standing. “We will speak in due course.”

“Thank you Alpha Henry” I say with a gracious smile.

“It’s my honour, travel safe” he says as we open the door.

“We will be seeing you soon” Jax says clapping both his brothers on their shoulders as we pass making their eyes widen curiously.

“Let’s go my Luna” he says as we reach the car where he opens my door like a gentleman.

Suspicions

Chapter 50 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

I must have dozed off on the drive home as next thing I know I have Jax gently shaking me to let me know we have arrived.

"Feel better for some more sleep?" He asks gently.

"Yeah I do" I say stifling a yawn. "Sorry it's been an eventful few days I think it's just catching up with me."

Casting his caring gaze on me he smiles softly, "I know love you don't have to apologise" he assures me.

"So what next?" I sigh as I turn my gaze to our packhouse.

"Talk to Laurence" he says simply as he leads me inside clasping my hand tightly in his own. On the way to the office we stop and talk to pack members and ensure they are feeling ok after recent events.

"I think we should hold that pack meeting this evening" I say to Jax as we reach the top of the stairs.

"Already organised it" he says with a playful nudge.

"Good thinking" I wink as I walk through the door he holds open. As I take in the scene in front of me I can't help but snort with laughter, sitting with his feet on Jax's desk crossed legged and snoring is Laurence.

Still giggling I see Jax walk around and grab the glass of water off of the desk, "this will teach him" he mutters to himself before standing next to Laurence and pouring the water over his face.

"W..what?" Laurence splutters jumping up from the chair in shock before freezing as he sees us both.

"Sleeping on the job?" Jax growls.

With a gulp Laurence shakes his head slowly.

"You were" Jax says bluntly.

"Sorry Alpha, I've had barely any sleep since the attack and I thought I'd just calm my mind for a few moments, I didn't mean to fall asleep" Laurence says apologetically casting his eyes down.

They pause for a moment with Jax studying him before he lets out a deep chuckle, "as long as you've done the work I don't give a shit to be honest. I know you've been working hard I was just pulling your leg."

"Fucking Alpha" Laurence mutters narrowing his eyes at his friend.

"Although if I ever catch you with you feet on my desk again we will have a problem" Jax smirks before taking a seat and grabbing the paperwork in front of him.

"Fill me in then" he instructs Laurence as he's back to his business self, shaking my head at the two of them and sit myself down.

"Your parents have been staying in a family suite upstairs, they are happy to help whilst you're away. I've also managed to track the caddy that escaped when Alpha Henry recused Flo" he starts.

"I didn't realise the caddy had gotten away" I interject.

"It was left there, but since then it has been taken away" Laurence explains. "It was actually a plan of mine, I thought if we left it then it may be taken and may lead us to the hunters."

"You know where it is?" I ask.

With a nod of his head he smiles knowingly, "warrior Elliot put a tracker on it before leaving, I've been tracking it since. Nothing of note so far but I'm hoping in time we will gain something from it."

"Smart thinking I like it" I praise him.

"I try" he smirks before continuing, "Andrew is recovering well. He's been awake since this morning and his wolf is healing him well, his shoulder is taking a little more time due to the exposure to silver but it will heal he will just have a scar left."

"That's good to hear" Jax says with a nod of his head. "Caroline?"

"She's still unconscious, the doctors asked if they could proceed with attempting to wake her but I thought the both of you would like to be present so I have it scheduled for this evening" he explains. "Her room is guarded 24/7 and she's stable."

"Yes we want to be there" Jax agrees with his Beta.

"How are Luca and Sophie?" I ask quickly.

"They've been enjoying spending time together, your sister is a quick learner and has gained confidence. I think she's looking forward to seeing you some more" Laurence says with a smile. "Luca has been a great help, he's helped guard Caroline's room and he has also spoken to Axton."

"And?" Jax probes.

"He said no one from the escort reported being followed this morning or noticed anything out of the ordinary. I was there when Luca spoke to him and he sounded genuinely surprised so I don't think he had anything to do with it" Laurence says. "Luca has to return this evening he stayed to be able to see you both before leaving."

"I thought that would be the case" I say quietly.

"So how do you think they knew we were getting Caroline?" Laurence asks with a frown. "I don't think the leak was on our end."

"No I don't think it was either, I'm going to have to speak to Axton when we visit the council" Jax says.

"The council" I suddenly gasp.

"What?" Jax asks with confusion.

"The council knew she was in the long term care unit at the White Mountain Pack, when my parents were killed the council visited due to it being hunters. They're aware Caroline was kept there and they demanded we inform them of any changes, I assume Axton will have had to inform them when she was being transferred here" I say with worry lacing my tone.

"You think it has something to do with the council?" Jax asks standing up as his eyes widen.

"I think it's a strong possibility. When I was speaking with Theo earlier I came to the realisation that although the council helped me growing up due to them knowing I am a Guardian Wolf it was more like they tried to control me. They have shaped me into the person I am today, I became an elite warrior at their suggestion, I became a trained doctor at their suggestion, I even became Axton's chosen Luna at their suggestion" I trail off. "I don't know how they would react if I didn't do what they suggested because I never opposed them when it came to decisions like that."

“Is this what you wanted to speak about earlier?” Jax asks softly.

“Yes” I breath. “I loved becoming a warrior and a doctor don’t get me wrong, but if it hadn’t of been for the strong suggestions and help from the council I doubt that would have been the route I would take. They pushed to keep Caroline with them but I refused and the agreement was she could stay at the White Mountain Pack but like I said, they had to be updated if anything changed.”

“You have valid doubts” Jax confirms.

“Yes” I whisper, “I just don’t know if it’s the entirety of the council or if it’s the voices of a few that have been directing decisions over the years.”

Tapping his pen thoughtfully Jax looks out the window, after a moment he looks back at us, “I think you’re right.”

“Really?” I ask shocked. “You don’t think I’m being overly cautious?”

“I agree with Alpha” Laurence says quietly from beside me. “I didn’t know of the influence they have had over your life until now but it doesn’t sound normal. Even with you being a Guardian Wolf, they have led you in the direction they wanted..not what you wanted.”

“So what do we do? We have to go to them tomorrow” I fret.

“Nothing” Jax says sharply his Alpha aura bristling. “We can’t let them know we are suspecting them, this stays between us. Laurence I have Axel and Evan coming to help you in our absence, I am leaving this pack in your hands..not Pa’s, yours. Do not let him try dictate what is happening and do not let him question your decisions. We will be an hour and a half away.”

“Yes Boss” Laurence says with excitement, “I won’t let you down.”

“We know” I reply simply, “and we are going to get some answers.”

“Kingsley is here” Jax says standing up, “Laurence go meet him and say we will be there shortly. Nova and I are just going to speak to my parents. Time to get this over with” he finishes with a groan.