Chapter 0488

"Yes...It was. But with the brand I don't have any desire to do anything like that. Nothing romantic crosses my mind."

"Would you still feel it though? If I kissed you right now, would you be able to understand what it means?"

"I don't know. I'm sure people have tested it. Lil actually said she and Wyatt did."

"I would like another chance to show you what a first kiss should be like."

I think I might have stopped breathing again. I have no idea what the look on my face is, but clearly I am scaring Oliver, he backpedals.

"Bitty, we aren't mates. I don't care what anyone says, we both know it, but there is something here. And I will be honest, this is because I care about you, but I also kind of want to rub it in that you will always be mine in some way. I think it might get us the in that we need to save the twins. Do you trust me?"

I just nod my head, because I am curious about what it feels like with the warrior brand in place. He extends his arm a little further, then tilts his head up to mine slowly. I close my eyes and feel pressure on my mouth. It was closed

mouth and gentle. I don't open my eyes until I feel two hands cupping my face and I look down at my friend who just gave me so many things in a small moment. But then feral growls erupt through the training grounds.

In a flash Oliver and I are up and he doesn't bother to push me behind him, he stands next to me, two warriors ready for a threat. Both twins are running at us and there are yells everywhere, people scattering. It is chaotic. I see Alpha Lucas running after them and Kaley is screaming, but I can't understand what she is saying. I can't see Kevin at all.

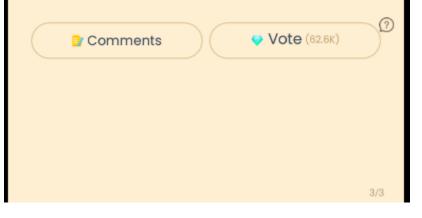
Cam goes for Oliver who takes the impact and they begin to grapple. Mateo jumps in front of me to catch Kota's flying mass, they tumble to the side of me. Sam runs in to take a place at my side, as Alpha Lucas runs straight for me. There is pain in his eyes and his movements aren't as smooth as they should be.

"Sam, let me do this. He doesn't want to hurt me. They set him on me. I will be okay. All of you are fighters. He's fighting this too. It needs to be me."

He nods, but doesn't look happy, then steps back from where I am standing just as Alpha Lucas collides with me. We both go rolling, but he has me caged in his arms. I knew he didn't want to hurt me, but he is under command to fight me. Again, whichever one of them is controlling this doesn't know what kind of fighters we are. I can hold my own against an Alpha and Alphas aren't supposed to hurt pack

members. It goes against the Moon Goddess' laws. Not everyone knows that, but when you study with Alpha Reggie as much as I have you pick up a couple things.

When we finally stop rolling, I am able to break from his grasp and run towards the first thing I see... The obstacle course. We weave in and out of the legs of the structure, then I climb on top and he follows. He is agile and can keep up with me, but I have been doing this course for so long that I could probably do it in my sleep. We run everywhere all over it, up, down, in and out. We jump so many times I can hear the wood start to creek from the force and his sheer weight. The thing is sturdy, but I am probably one of the biggest people to really pound on it, and that isn't saying a lot. Maybe it wasn't meant to have one of the biggest people in our pack slamming around on top of it.



Chapter 0489

I jump and swing on the rope climb and go down instead of up. I can't allow him to trap me up there and be forced to make me fall. Then I run under the structure towards the opposite side where we have blocks elevated on poles at varying heights so it looks like a garden of metal and wood flowers sprouting from the ground. As we both pass under the center, the structure creeks again, but this time the creaking doesn't stop, then I hear wood splinter and snap. The sound of wood thunking as the whole thing tilts to one side. I am frozen in place. Everything is in slow motion. All the training I did, the focus, the speed drills, strength training and it means nothing as watching one of my favorite forms of escape start to crumble is what does me in.

"SKYLAR, MOVE!"" The shout and the shove break me from my thoughts. I am thrown from my place under the obstacle structure. I hit something with my back then roughly collide with the ground.

Then all I hear is a loud set of snaps then a cloud of dust from the training ground floor as the deck of the obstacle course smashes into the dirt. A few yells and screams, then silence.

I can't see anything. There is dust and dirt flying everywhere. I stand up, sore from my impact, but I can't see

the Alpha, he was right behind me, he should be right here. Now I'm moving faster, adrenaline kicking into high gear. Where is he?

"ALPHA!!" I shout, and I can hear other commotion around me. ""ALPHA! Can anyone see him?" I shout into the air.

Naturally Oliver gets to me first. "Bitty, are you okay?"

"Fine. Where's Alpha Lucas?" I cut his perusal of my injuries off.

Then I hear the groan. ""ALPHA LUCAS?!" I shout, moving towards the fallen obstacle platform.

Now that the dust is starting to settle, I can see it's tilted to one side, all of the two foot thick support structures snapped and bent at odd angles. That shouldn't be possible, those should not be the weak breaking points.

Focus, Sky. I shake my head. The platform decking is all splintered too, sharp wooden spears sticking out everywhere.

The groan again, then I see a hand reaching out from under the decking.

"THERE! Help me! He's trapped!" Oliver and I race forward. I touch the Alpha's hand and it moves. Renewed endurance surges through me. "We have to get this off of him, now, he's hurt."

I hear footsteps near me, then hands all around to slowly lift

the fallen piece of planking. I slide under to assess his injuries as they move the boards. We don't want to pin him down worse by tilting it wrong. He's on his stomach, head turned towards me, eyes closed, but I can see he's trying to breathe watching the dust stir around his nose.

"Alpha Lucas, I need you to talk to me. I know you have some kind of 'don't talk to Sky' thing going on, but I need to know where you're hurt. This is an emergency, push past it, please."

"Luna..." He grumbles.

"I'll have someone check on her, but I need to know about you. Tell me where you're injured so I can help." I turn my head to the random legs behind me. "I need someone to get Luna Ava, NOW!!!"



Chapter 0490

"Bitty, talk to us, this sh*t is heavy, we need to get him out of there."

"I can't see his whole body yet, I don't want to move him until I know he's completely free of the structure, get a few more guys to help. Move it slowly."

"Alpha Lucas, talk to me." I can feel my aura surfacing. I haven't felt it in a while, but I also don't always have control either. Apparently it comes out when I'm super emotional. "Where are you injured, we need to get us both out of here. It's too dangerous to stay."

The structure creeks again as it lifts higher, a muffled scream comes from the Alpha and that's when I see it. "
STOP!!! Don't move, I need help under here, we have a problem."

Cam and Kota crawl under with me and they both curse at the large plank of wood sticking out of his side. Kota goes to move it.

"NO! Don't touch it. If the wound is not bleeding, it's probably the only thing keeping him alive right now. I don't see anything wrong with his legs, so I think we can try to slide him out once we make sure the plank is free from the structure. You need to call for healers, I can't talk to the pack right now. Alpha, this is going to hurt a lot but we have

to move you okay?"

I am using every ounce of training I have had with the Elite Warriors now to give directions to the twins where to hold him and trying to jostle him as little as possible we move him out from under the structure and a safe distance away. I can see Gamma Brett wrestling a frantic Luna Ava out of the corner of my eye. When he sees us clear of the structure he lets her run to us.

She drops down onto her knees next to his face, tears streaming down her face. "We need to remove it so he can heal!" She's shouting at no one in particular.

"Luna, we have to wait for healers. We don't want to do any more damage." Brett is trying to console her. I don't think anyone else knows what to do or say.

Oliver is next to me on one side, Cam and Kota on the other, Sam and Mateo are behind me. I think there is commotion going on around us, but, like Luna Ava, I only have eyes for the Alpha. 2

He was always such a big strong man. His happy presence lit up a room. He is tough but fair and kind. He would always listen more than he would give advice. But, right now he seems small, like a fraction of his former self. I reach for his hand and squeeze. He jolts at the contact, but I don't care about whatever spell is on them to not touch me. I hold tighter, letting my aura do its thing, it seems to have a mind of its own anyway.

I don't want to mess anything up so I don't want to try and force him to heal, so I focus more on comforting thoughts, limiting the pain. Luna Ava leans over and lays on his chest, sobbing. I know that through the mate bond you can feel when your mate is in danger or seriously hurt, but I wonder if she can feel his actual pain or just that he's injured.

I'm sure it's only been minutes, but it feels like it has taken hours for the healers to get here. They are some of the most intelligent people in our pack. They will be able to save him, he's held on this long. Their knowledge and training is two-fold. They have all of the ancient herbs, salves and potions and, more than likely, some level of magic training from witches, but they also go to school and train like human doctors, because let's face it, we're more than a little hard on our bodies and not everything can be fixed by sprinkling some leaves on it.

They do a quick assessment and get him on a stretcher. As they start to wheel him away he shouts "Luna!" and grabs both Luna Ava and I and won't let go. We just start to follow the gurney as they wheel it to the ambulance. I don't want to fight him right now. Right now he needs to let these healers work.

I have every intention of letting him go when they load him up, but he drags me forward.

"Alpha, you have to let me go so they can take care of you."
I try to be soothing, but the delay could be terrible for him. "I

will come visit soon, okay." I try again to pry his fingers off of me, looking at the healers who are trying to get him in. He still doesn't let go, so I climb in as they load him in the truck. Luna Ava on the other side. "Luna Ava, I don't know what to do. I can't go with you, they'll never let me go in with you. He needs to let me go, so they can heal him."

"He'll never let you go, sweet girl. Let's go." She doesn't look at any of us, but the healers close the door on my guys and Lil and we are rushed off to the hospital.

Lil, let the team know what's going on and the borders need to be double checked. The Alpha, in this condition, is bad for the pack. Have someone contact Elena as well, she might have some tools our healers don't and Osiston needs to let Alpha Reggie know, if we can get a message past whatever stupid barrier is up."

On it boss. I'll get Nathaniel and Jena to get eyes in the air and check the perimeter cams."

"Thank you. I'll check in as soon as I can and we can debrief at the house later."

His eyes are closed the whole way to the hospital and his breathing is labored, but his grip is strong and steady. I just focus any healing energy towards him. I have no idea what I'm doing, but I figure the intention is what matters.

We get to the hospital and unload him, none of us fighting the grip he has on Luna Ava and I anymore. He's wheeled into a room and they get to work removing his clothes and assessing any external damage quickly. I move back near his head, taking his arm as far as I can with me without stretching the muscle around the massive piece of wood in the wound.

"Alpha, we need to remove this wood, now, you need to release your hold on the Luna and Beta. I promise they will be here when you return." An older healer is using her most patient 'mom voice.'

I tried to pry his fingers again. He fights, but eventually lets me go. Then Luna Ave leans forward to give him a gentle kiss and he finally lets her go too. The healers use this opportunity to rush him out of the room and to surgery, I assume. Luna Ava sinks into a chair in the corner. She looks so sad and broken, but I probably would be too if it was my mate in danger and there was literally nothing I could do to help.

