

Alpha Killian by Jane Doe Chapter 36

Claire's POV

"Kilian." His name left my lips 2 | heard the thundering foot steps closed in.

My hands gripped the cell bars tightly, waiting for the moment they rounded the corner and | could find the face of my mate.

My hope fizzied when a familiar face appeared in front of the rusted bars.

The big man from earlier had a cruel sneer on his face. "Expecting your mate?" He grinned at me.

My stomach was twisting itself into knots. The big man unlocked my cell and | scrambled to get away from him. | needed to

stay here and wait for Kilian. If they moved me | wasn't sure he'd ever find me or my body if things went south.

"Get away from me! | growled, pressing my back against the earthen wall.

The big guy sneered, 3 syringe in his hand. "No can do, mutt. We need to get a move on before your rabid mate gets here."

He grabbed me by the shoulder and forced the syringe into my neck, a whimper escaped my lips at the force behind his touch.

11 had my full strength he would've never gotten his hands on me.

Flames licked my veins and sent me into fiery agony. I could no longer feel my feet, and 3 whimpers escaped my lips as they

caved from under me and my world was sucked into darkness. When my eyes finally fluttered open, I was somewhere different, I nearly reeked out when I saw two hazy figures sitting next to

me, I kept my breathing even, resisting the urge to struggle against the hard bindings on my wrists.

The black sack over my head was partially see-through, and I could make out two figures on either side of me.

The bumping and jostling let me know we were in a vehicle, and I prayed Killan wasn't far behind.

I sat silently for what felt like hours, keeping my movements to a minimum and my breath steady. The fire in my veins was

beginning to dull and I could think clearer. "Once we're there throw her in the blue room. An unfamiliar gruff voice called out from the front of the vehicle.

et jittery and anxious, and I wasn't sure how much longer I could handle being in such a confined space.

My wish had been granted when the vehicle slowed and we turned onto a gravel driveway. The rocks crunched under the tires

of the vehicle, letting me know we must have arrived.

I couldn't see much through the darkened sack over my head, but I could just make out the outline of a large building

surrounded by trees.

"She should still be knocked out. Grab her.* The gruff man's voice snapped and I clamped my lips shut as one of the men

pulled me from the vehicle.

I kept my body as lifeless as possible, hating the feeling of being carried by another man. Once Killan found me, I wasn't

planning on leaving his side for the next ten years.

I kept my eyes open the entire time. The closer we got, the more I noticed smaller details of the house. It was tall, and it had to

be at least three stories.

I was thrown roughly on a spring bed and pretended to be asleep when the sack was ripped from my face.

"She'll be up in a few hours." Another unfamiliar voice spoke.

"Good. Inform me when she's awake." I could identify Damien's voice anywhere. His previous words ran through my head and I shuddered at what he had planned. He wanted me awake and conscious so that

I could feel everything.

"Sierra, I don't know if you can hear me. If you can, I need any strength you can spare." I reached out to her, ignoring the

throbbing pain radiating from my temples.

Once the talking ceased, and the slam of a door rang through my ears, I opened my eyes.

"This was definitely a step up from the underground cell. The walls were painted a light shade of blue and the walls were absent

of any windows. A small camera was mounted.

'The only piece of furniture in my upgraded cell was a ratty spring mattress and a "y blanket.

I sat up from the mattress and leaned against the wall trying to conserve all the energy | could.

'There was nothing to indicate how long | had been sitting for and | felt my self growing antsy with each passing moment.

I knew Killian was on his way, but would he make it in time? Did he have back up or was he going to fight all of these men by

himself? What if he got hurt?

My inner turmoil was cut off when the door opened and Damien stepped in. He didn't look like his typical cocky self. His skin

was pale and his hair was a mess, like he had ran his hand through it multiple times.

"Claire, Claire, Claire." Damien chuckled, taking 3 few steps in the room. | stood from the bed and flattened myself against the

wall, putting as much distance as | could from him. He looked like a rabid animal, ready to strike. In could still see the scratches.

running down his face from when we last met. 'Damien took another step forward and | glared at him. You marked him didn't you? Stupid £~~~"g mutt"
He spat. |

Whats it matte? He'l be hee soon anyway, and you'l e 4. My ips spokethe words before | could sop them, smug |

smile forming on my face. |

Damien chuckled, the kind of chuckle you'd expect from a mad man. "Oh we have tabs on what your little Alpha mate is doing. }

don't you worry about that* |

\

It ticked my head in confusion. How would he know what Kilian was up to? §

"Oh you didn't know? We have someone on the inside. You never even noticed, did you?" Damien laughed, getting much too. 3

do set me. |

I growled, "Back off Damien. 'm not the same girl you tried to k™ last year." 1

Damien paused as i he had actuallystened to what | sid bt acrelsneer came over his face, 'Realy? Has it Claire inally |

grown up?" |

"You have no idea." | growled, lunging for his throat as he took another step closer |

i

Realization crossed Damien's face a second oo late. My body slammed into his own and | felt my il extend into claws. ;

\

1 dug them nto i shoulder keeping us atche together. My energy waned before my caninescould fully extend totearbis

throat out and a grunt left his ips s he shoved me away. §

I rolled across the hardwood floor unti | reached a siting position.Jumping to my feet | prepared myselfto lunge again. 3 "You think 'm bad?*" Damien cackled, it was as if he couldn'tfeel the blood running down his shoulder. "Wait tll you meet my.

Before | could open my mouth to ask what the h™I he was talking about,his phone rang. He ripped it from his pocket and

slammed it against his ear, a string of curses leaving hislis.

"Don't worry your pretty little head, Caire. Your life will end at my hands soon enough." Damien grinned, as though we were

close friends.

He rushed out the door and slammed it behind him, a loud click indicating he locked it behind him.

I slumped against the wall, my head pounding with 3 million questions.

'Damien had someone on the inside, someone in Killian's pack. Killian wasn't safe. And what was all this nonsense about his

sister?

Alpha Killian by Jane Doe Chapter 37

"Killian's P.ON"

Our fast pace came to a halt as we approached the house in the middle of the woods. It was the perfect location for a safe

house. Completely off any pack's territory and far enough away from town to subdue any suspicion. Each of us shifted into our

human form and slipped on a pair of sweatpants.

"What would you have us do, Alpha?" The tracker turned and asked. The rest of the men's eyes were on my own.

I grimaced at the house only twenty feet away, "K™ them al. If you see Damien, capture him. | want him alive" | growled,

mind-linking them an image of Damien | pulled from Claire.

I watched a5 a big man came out into the porch, and | didn't hesitate. | launched myself through the brush and across the yard

of the house. The man registered me a moment too late. | felt my nails extend into claws as | shoved them into the man's eye:

sockets. 'The man reeked of urine and panic as he struggled to remove my claws from his eyes.

"Where is she!" | growled, digging my claws in deeper.

'The man sputtered and screamed, "I-I- Inside!" His voice was garbled and weak.

I raked my claws across his throat and tossed his draining body to the ground. A perfect image of Claire resided in my mind,

forcing me onward.

There were more than a dozen men in the house, and | wasn't surprised. They had known we were coming.

Without warning, | ripped open the front door and launched myself at the closest human. The rest of the wolves with me

followed suit. I was completely in my element. The smell of blood and sweat filled the air along with screams of agony. A few gunshots rang

out, but that didn't deter me. Pathetic hunters were no match for werewolves, let alone anyone from my pack.

I could feel Titan ripping and shredding his opponents with glee. The more hunters we k**"d, the closer we were to Claire.

I lost myself in the carnage, tapping into my base animalistic instincts. A red tinge clouded my vision, but | had never been

more lethal.

It 3 hand grasp my shoulder and | turned with my claws raised. "Alpha, their all &*°d"
The tracker murmured, snapping me out of my murderous rampage.

Took around at the carnage before me. Blood painted the walls and bodies littered the floor, but | could've cared less.

"Alpha, | searched upstairs" One of the men bounded down the stairs.

I growled, "Did you find Damien? Is Clare here?"

"Damien isn't here, it likely the coward left before we arrived. There is a locked door upstairs, and her scent is all over it" The

man nodded.

At his last words | lurched forward and sped up the stairs, letting her creamy scent guide me. | knew | was standing in front of

the right door when her scent smelled stronger than ever.

With no hesitation, | lifted my foot and knocked the door down.

My heart was nearly pounding out of my chest. | wasn't sure what I'd do if she wasn't here. This was my last resort. | knew the

hunters intended to kill us both, but certainly they wouldn't be so stupid as to kill her and leave me alive.

The door crashed to the ground and my eyes searched the bedroom frantically.

"Claire." Her name rolled from my lips as | met her ocean colored eyes.

It was as if all of the tension had finally left my body, All of the stress, agony, and rage had vanished at her appearance. | could

feel the rage return, tightening my muscles as | scanned her for any wounds. She looked beautiful yet horrible. Her hair was a mess of knots, and she looked as if she hadn't eaten since being taken.

Even after being kidnapped for over a week, she was the most beautiful thing | had ever seen.

Her blue eyes were wide with shock as they scanned my face, and | felt my heart leap when her cheeks turned their familiar

shade of pink.

“Killian?” My name fell from her lips and it sounded like music. I had never felt fear like this in my life, the fear of losing my mate.

As my name left her perfect lips, I lunged forward and scooped her into my arms. I felt her wrap her legs around my waist, and let out a sigh as the sparks scattered along my skin.

I buried my face in her neck and breathed deeply. Her scent was as incredible as ever. I wrapped my arms around her torso tighter when I felt her shaking.

I could feel her every emotion as though it were coming from myself. I could taste her fear, love, relief, and her anger.

“I love you, Killian.” She whimpered into my neck and I felt Titan nearly demolish my self control.

She pulled her face away from my neck and slammed her lips against my own with desperation and I completely caved under her touch.

“You’re never leaving my side again.” I growled after we finally pulled away from each other. I held her close to me, absolutely.

refusing to set her down. It would be quite some time before I would. I had over a week to make up for.

I was so absorbed in my little mate, I had completely forgotten about the rest of the men. I could feel many of their eyes on me

as they followed me up the stairs. As a giggle escaped Claire’s pink lips, and I looked at her in awe. I was thinking the same thing”

Just then, Claire said something that completely caught me off guard.

“Did you find him? Did you find Damien?” Her voice came out in an angry whisper, I wanted to be the one to tell him, Kian”

“Shhh” I rubbed circles along her back when she started shaking, “I find it, Claire. I won’t rest until I do.”

I carried Claire out from the house and climbed into one of the hunters SUV. I had one of the men search each of the vehicles

for trackers, When things were clear the rest of them piled into different vehicles

I held Claire in my arms the entire ride, one of the men in my group sat in the driver's seat

I could tell she was staying and exhausted, as she fell on and out of sleep most of the ride.

"Killian" Her angelic sleepy voice called out from the crook of my neck.

"Yes, Tt mte?" I had never been more relieved to hear someone say my voice.

Claire murmured a few, and I knew she was fighting sleep. He has a sister, Killian" Claire hispered.

"Shh, just go to sleep baby:" I murmured against her hair, soaking in as much of her scent as I could.

I could go back in time, I would've gone to this moment I had paid more attention to what Claire had said things would

have turned out differently.

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Claire's P.O.V

I gripped the soft comforter under my fingers and smiled at the wonderful dream I had. In my dream, Killian had found me and had taken me into his arms. His touch melted away the horrific week I had and burned the bad memories from my mind. His lips were pressed against my own and it felt like I had never left his side.

My body jolted into a sitting position as my memories flooded through my mind. My heart was hammering and I felt ecstatic. It hadn't been a dream. My eyes darted around at the familiar room. The room Killian and I had shared for so long, the room I had given him my heart, mark and body.

His scent filled my nose and the hammering of my heart slowed. I was finally able to focus and jumped as I saw two familiar faces beaming at me.

Kira and Maria were grinning so hard I wondered if their faces hurt. A girl I hadn't met before stood at their side, a relieved smile painting her delicate face.

"Welcome back!" Kira half laughed and half sobbed as she launched herself at me.

I winced at the pain that rocked my body, but wrapped my arms around her anyway. Maria pulled me into a hug and I gripped her tightly.

The girl I never met before stepped forward and extended her hand.

"I'm Sabrina. Welcome back, it's great to finally meet you Luna." She grinned at me, her brown eyes twinkling.

I smiled at Sabrina, "It's great to finally be back." I chuckled.

My eyes scanned the room for the face lyrics had been longing to see. When I noticed Killian wasn't here, I frowned.

"He's on his way, Claire. There was a lead on Damien and he wanted to chase it down himself." Kira gave me a reassuring smile.

While I already missed Killian, I needed Damien in our clutches. He had gotten away with far too much, and I anticipated the day his mistakes would catch up to him.

"That's what he gets for pissing off our mate." Sierra's smug voice rang loud and clear in my head.

"You're back!" I cried out, "Thank you so much, Sierra." Without her strength, I wouldn't have been able to get the upper hand on Damien.

"He'll never hurt us again, Claire." Sierra smiled, "We're both much stronger now."

"How long have I been out?" I found myself asking the three of them.

Maria shrugged, "Two days or so. You were very sleep deprived when he brought you back."

My stomach rumbled in response and Kira laughed, "That reminds me. I'm supposed to give you this."

Kira handed me a big bowl of spaghetti and I happily dug in. I couldn't eat as much due to being starved for over a week, but I still ate what I could.

"Killian made it special for you." Kira smirked, as if she knew something lyrics didn't.

My mind went back to when I had tried to make Killian spaghetti, The noodles were tough and the sauce tasted kind of burnt. Killian's spaghetti tasted nothing like my own, and I stifled a giggle as I realized he had lied to me when I asked how it tasted.

"So that's what actual spaghetti tastes like." I snickered to myself.

Kira giggled, "Killian said you'd get it."

"So tell me," I sighed, wanting to get this unhappy topic out of the way. "What's been going on in the pack?"

I had a distant memory of when Killian and I had finally arrived back home, and I noticed some things had changed. For one, there were way more people in our town. We already had a decent amount of people to begin with, but the town square was absolutely packed with people.

Kira frowned and glanced at Maria and Sabrina. "Well, Killian's kind of preparing for war."

"War?" I nearly choked.

Maria nodded sadly, "Killian got some information from Blake. He said the hunters were planning an a****k on the pack."

I frowned, "There aren't nearly enough hunters to do massive damage on a pack this size?"

"Blake said they had rogues on their side. He told Killian that Damien promised our land to them if they helped him." Kira frowned, not liking the thought of someone trying to k**l her brother.

I rolled my eyes, "And the rogues believed that?"

"Their not very smart. Plus the offer was too tempting to refuse." Kira grimaced.

"The hunters are just going to k**l the rogues off when their finished." I groaned.

"The hunter's need the rogues. They know they won't stand a chance against a highly trained pack this size." Kira rolled her eyes.

I frowned, "When is this war supposed to start?"

"Soon. Very soon. Kira sighed, and I wondered if she was thinking about Travis.

I could feel a knot of panic worm it's way into my stomach, "What are we going to do? Are we even prepared?"

Kira placed a hand on my shoulder and gave me a reassuring smile, "Killian's called in all of his warriors and anyone else whose willing to fight. You wouldn't believe how many people showed up. Our entire town and pack house is full of warriors. Even the next town over is filled to the brim. Their all here to fight for Us."

"Hello my beautiful little mate." Killian's deep voice ran through my head and I nearly shouted with excitement.

"That excited to hear from me?" I could practically see the smirk on his face. "Now I'm even more excited to come home."

"I'm beyond excited, actually." I giggled. "And thanks for the spaghetti." I added teasingly.

"Anything for you, Claire." The sincerity in his words sent butterflies to my stomach and I nearly shivered with longing.

I giggled, "You're going to have to teach me how to make it. It was very different from the spaghetti I made you."

I could feel his amusement through the mind-link, "Your spaghetti was still very good."

"Oh I'm sure." I smirked, "When will you be back?"

"I'll be pulling up to the house in just a moment. I love you, little mate." This time his voice did send a shiver down my spine. My heart ached at his words, and lyrics wasn't sure it was possible to miss someone this much.

"I love you too, Killian." I smiled, ending the mind-link.

I let out a shaky sigh, feeling extremely guilty. While I knew it was stupid, I felt like all of this had started because of me. Would Damien still a****k Killian's pack if he had k****d me last year?

"Most likely." Sierra frowned, trying to let me know it wasn't my fault.

While I didn't blame Killian for me getting kidnapped, I still held a lot of blame on myself. In situations like this, sometimes you needed someone to pass the blame off on.

"Wipe that look of your face. None of this is your fault." Maria shook her head, crossing her arms over her chest.

I sighed, "You're right. It's still a huge mess though."

"It definitely is." Kira chuckled, "But once the hunters and rogue's are taken care of, everything will go back to normal. And you and Killian can focus on giving me a niece or nephew."

My eyes nearly bulged out of my head at her words, "Um excuse me, I could say the same for you."

Kira's eyes widened and she shook her head, "No no, my older brother is having babies first."

I cackled at her, feeling as though I had never been missing. "What kind of logic is that? Have you talked to Killian about this?"

I could hear Sabrina's light giggle at our argument, "If you told Killian you wanted a baby he'd strip down and--"

"Alright alright!" I could feel my face heating up and glared at the smirk on Kira's face.

I pulled the blanket off my legs and scooted myself towards the edge of the bed. After two days of sleeping, I was beyond ready to get up and stretch a little.

I stood from the bed and steadied myself. Letting out a yawn, I raised my arms and stretched. My sore muscles were in desperate need of a hot bath.

Something sharp pierced my torso and I winced at the sensation.

I took a step forward, confused at the look of h****r on Kira's face.

As my foot lifted and finally touched the ground, excruciating pain ran through my torso. I could feel black spots dancing along the edges of my vision.

In the back of my mind I wondered if I had hurt myself when I was last in Damien's presence. Maybe I ripped some stitches?

Without thinking, my hand reached down to where the horrific pain was radiating from.

Familiar red liquid stained my fingers as the smell of copper filled the air.

I had almost believed that I was injured and ripped my stitches.

The silver knife hilt protruding from my torso told me I was very wrong. I could feel Sierra's consciousness plummet to the back of my mind, the silver keeping her from giving me any aid.

I looked up at the person who had stabbed me, confusion and pain evident on my face.

“W-Why?” The word left my lips angrily, garbled by the loss of blood.

The black spots in my vision swarmed like angry hornets, knocking my legs from under me and sending me plummeting into the darkness.

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*Killan's P.O.V™

I knew something was wrong the moment I came into the pack house.

Everything looked exactly the same as left it and yet something was stitching at me.

It was like a hole had begun forming in my chest and I hadn't noticed it yet.

“Do you smell that?” Titan's voice called out in my head. I lifted my nose to the air and stiffened as the smell of fresh blood registered in my mind.

Not just fresh blood; Claire's blood.

The night she tried to end her life, the smell of her blood seared itself into my head. I couldn't forget the smell even if I tried.

As Claire actively went to therapy and improved, my fear for her life had diminished. She had become happy with me and the

life she had finally claimed.

Titan's strength and speed slammed into me, and I bolted up the stairs. I couldn't place my finger on what was worse, having

Claire kidnapped or smelling her fresh blood and wondering if I was too late.

It was like the mate bond processed what I saw for me, and deemed everything besides Claire irrelevant.

The only thing that mattered was Claire. \

She was on the floor, pool of blood surrounding her. The blood looked so dark compared to her porcelain skin. Claire had I

always been fir skinned, but this time she looked almost translucent. She looked lie a sheet of white paper that had been |

dipped in vater. i

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\

I could feel and hear Titan's how o absolute agony as he ooked down atour it mate. Titan completely became unraveled |

atthe sight before him. He couldn't decideif e wanted to ip through me and find who hurt her, or retreat to the back of my |

mind and d**n in his sorrow. }

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Iheld myself together for the moment. Claire's unconscious face was now seared into my mind, and | knew Id never be able to |

forget this moment. The faint thudding of Claie's heart forced me to stay strong and work fast. i

I need a pack doctor to my bedroom. Now!" My voice echoed across the entire pack. | could feel the surprise from each }

member as my hostility, fear, and desperation reached them. }

\

\ One of the pack doctors voice's rang through my head, "On my way, Alpha."

Idropped to my knees in front of Clire, tuning out the rest of the room. The only thing that mattered at the moment was

Claire.

Ttumed her on her back and paled at the sight of the silver dagger protruding from her abdomen. | ripped my shirt from my

body vithout a second thought, balling it up as | removed the dagger from her body.

While it would've been smarter to leave it in, the silver would only kill her faster.

I pressed my shirt against her wound tightly, holding my breath as her chest continued to rise and fall,

Conflicting emotions battered and bruised me, I felt such hatred towards myself for leaving Claire, but I was determined to find

Damien for her, I had promised not to leave her side, but I wanted to be the one to bring Damien to her. I needed to be the

one who made sure she had her closure.

Lost track of time. It could have been hours or minutes, I counted the slow beats of her heart and my fear only grew at the

thought of it stopping. I sucked in a sharp breath as someone's hand touched my shoulder. My initial reaction was to

disembowel the person touching me.

"Alpha, you did the right thing. You need to let go now." The pack doctor leaned down as he looked over Claire.

I could feel other people behind me, but I still hadn't registered the rest of the room.

"Shit! Kill!" I could hear the panic in Travis's voice and in the back of my mind I wondered what else had happened. The pack doctor went to Claire's shirt up, and I couldn't hold back the growl that tore through my chest

"Alpha, I've assessed the wound." The pack doctor spoke cautiously.

I clenched my fist and let him work. Now wasn't the time to let my instincts or jealousy take over, Claire's life hung in the

balance. He barked orders to some of the other people in the room and they rushed forward to Claire.

"Where are you taking her? I growled. Is she going to be okay?"

The questions spewed from my mouth without hesitation. I looked down into the pale face of my mate. I didn't feel like

the big bad Blood Alpha everyone's knew me as I felt weak and helpless I looked into the face of my mate.

“Alpha, you helped stop the blessing. I you had gotten here any sooner I’d be able to do anything, but I can’t

everything in my power to save her.” The pack doctor’s words stopped me. I closed my eyes to fight the urge to kill her,

“Got it.” I commanded him, along with the men who held Claire’s body. “I will be there shortly.”

Let another piece of me shrivel and die. I forced myself to stay here. I needed to figure out what had happened. How

could someone have gotten so close to her?

If they stayed any longer, I wasn’t sure I’d be able to control myself.

Only when they left was I able to stop and scan the rest of the room.

All of my belongings were in order, nothing was ransacked. The entire room had looked exactly the way I left it.

The window against the far wall was shattered, and a small amount of blood trailed from the window. Whoever had done this, somehow escaped from the window. My feet pushed me closer and landing stuck my head out and looked down. A pipe ran

down the side of the house, and would be perfect to climb down if you needed to make a hasty escape.

My eyes trailed down to Travis, who was bent over his mate.

I felt dizzy on my feet as I turned from the window and walked over to Travis, and I fell to my knees at Kira’s unconscious body.

“She’s alive.” Travis seemed to be repeating this to himself. He sounded like a man on the brink of madness. I recognized the

tone and sympathized with him. I had sounded the same.

Travis turned Kira’s head and removed a vial of blue liquid from her neck. The needle that had pierced her skin was long and

glinting maliciously.

“It’s just wolfbane.” Travis let out a sharp breath.

“Why kill Claire and not the others?” I found myself asking no one in particular.

I tried to understand how someone managed to get into the pack house to begin with, and instantly thought back to when I

found Claire.

She said something about a sister, but I hadn't paid any mind to what she said. She was starving, dehydrated, and suffering

from wolf's bane,

Titan roared to life in my mind, slinging a string of insults and curses my way. I paid him no mind, I held enough hatred for

myself without the help of Titan. I had single handedly caused the death of my little mate.

"She's not dead yet" Titan growled, "Fix this, Killian. Don't let these fuckers get away with it I promised myself and Titan that no matter what happened, anyone involved would suffer a painful death."

"They didn't have enough time." Travis whispered. I felt envious of Travis as he looked down on his mate, relief clouding his

features as he watched her breathe.

"Claire said something about a sister" I wasn't sure why I was telling him. Travis and I had never been close before, and that

hadn't changed over the months.

Our eyes locked on each other and traveled the rest of the room, stopping when we caught sight of another body.

"Maria." Her name left my lips as I registered the identity of the other body on the floor.

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Kilfans PON"

"How could she do this?" Travis was at a loss for words. He sat on the floor with Kira's head in his lap.

I shook my head. I couldn't focus knowing Claire was lingering between life and death.

et completely torn. Torn between my duty towards my mate. and my duty towards my pack

Titan desperately wanted to be with Claie at that moment, all reasoning had left him. While I wanted nothing more than to be

at my mate's side. I needed to find out how this happened. The threat of war hanging over the heads of everyone in this pack, and it was my duty to minimize the damage as best I could.

I

knew war was coming. I lost my bones. I

I had multiple groups of warriors stationed all around the pack perimeters, ready to alert me when the hunters brought the

fight to us. I

ran from the floor and walked over to the second unconscious body. I

I

The rage of betrayal flooded through me, and my vision was drenched in a red tint.

My eyes lingered on Sabina's unconscious body, the small tube of wolfbane protruded from her neck

I pinched the vial between my fingers and plucked it from her neck.

My mind raged with thoughts of Maria. How she had gotten so close to Claie, and had quickly become her friend.

"How could Maria have escaped?" Travis mumbled, his wide eyes glancing up at me.

I took a deep breath, trying to soothe the anger that threatened to overwhelm me. "She must have had help. There's no way she

had the time to stab Clare, poison Kira and Sabrina, and then make an escape." "The thought of someone else within my pack betraying my trust had me on edge. I wanted to hunt Maria down and skin her

alive.

"What should we do with them?" Travis frowned down at Kir's blank face.

I glanced at the two unconscious girls and thought for a few moments. | wanted Kira far away from the fighting.

“Let's bring them to one of the spare bedrooms in the house. When the Hunters bring the fight to us, we're going to lead them

to the northern side of town.” | nodded.

Travis seemed to agree with my suggestion and lifted Kira into his arms. | grabbed Sabrina and led Travis to one of the spare

bedrooms. After placing both of them on the bed, | mind-linked the warriors in my pack.

“If any of you encounter the Hunters or rogues, lead them to the Northern part of town.” | commanded them, feeling their

awareness flicker in my head. “This is where the war will begin. All who are not fighting, travel to the Southern part of town.

‘The pack house will be open for those who need it’

“She's going to want to fight with us, y'know.” Travis shook his head, his eyes locked on his sleeping mate.

I grimaced at Kira, silently agreeing with Travis.

“Don't let her out of your sight” | nodded, locking eyes with Travis.

Travis looked confused, “What do you mean? When the war starts-”

“When the war starts, you'll be with Kira.” | nodded, “Keeping her safe.” turned to leave the room, | wouldn't stay away from Claire any longer. ‘Keep her safe Traia™

It felt for the small hospital in the center of town. A second = | walked inside, nurse appeared.

“Alpha. The middle aged woman greeted me, Here for the Luna?”

“Yes I kept my words clipped. | needed to know how Clare was doing.

Titan paced in my head, causing my temples to ache. He was nearly frantic. all kinds of scenarios running through his head. It

was proving harder and harder to say calm while he practically lost his mind.

The woman nodded and gave me a small smile. She gestured for me to follow her and I did obediently.

"The doctors are right inside." She gave me a small smile before she turned and went back the way she came.

"The sight of Claire lying on a hospital bed was enough to send me into a fit of rage. It wasn't just the heart monitor and its

steady beep, I would have lost my mind already.

"How is she?" I sounded impatient and much more stressed. As my eyes roamed Claire's face,

she wasn't nearly as pale as she had been. Her cheeks even had a slight tinge of pink to them. The peaceful look on her face

helped soothe some of the turmoil raging inside of me, but I knew I wouldn't be whole until she woke up. "She's extremely lucky. The doctor replied, his eyes were also on Claire. "If you had gotten there ten minutes later, she would

have died."

"Her heartbeat sounds steady." I nodded towards the heart rate monitor by her bed.

"The doctor nodded, "As of right now she is healing. We had to do a blood transfusion to help her rid the poison from the

river. She took to that extremely well. The mate bond is doing what it can to speed up her healing process. It would be best

for her if you stuck around for as long as possible."

"I intend to." I nodded once at him. "I owe you my gratitude." My eyes met his own for a split second.

"You owe me nothing. Just thank whoever decided to hurt her." The doctor grimaced.

I nodded, "I intend to do just that"

"I'll leave you two alone for a while." The doctor nodded and left the room.

I pulled a chair up next to Claire's bed and sat down. Her hand felt warm in my own, and I let out a shaky sigh as the familiar

sparks soothed my nerves.

Just being in her presence completely changed how I was feeling.

I could feel Titan calm down as we held onto our little mate's hand. We both still feared for her safety, but we would make sure

the war never reached the hospital.

We had the numbers and the training. The plan was set. I didn't leave Claire's side for the rest of the night. I conducted my typical business through mind-link. While I was still

from sleeping in a chair, I refused to leave the room. The comforting sound of the heart rate monitor lulled me into a decent sleep. It

was a sign that Claire would survive.

'The next morning the pack doctor returned to change the bandage on Claire's wound. I grimaced at the stitches that were

threaded through her creamy skin.

'They were red and angry, but I could already see where her flesh had begun working to heal itself.

"You staying here with her helped speed up the process." The doctor nodded, writing something down on a clipboard. 'I

assume you'll stay here until she wakes up?"

I nodded, "I plan to. If the Hunter's don't attack first"

"Good." The doctor nodded and left the room.

It myself drifting in and out of sleep for most of the day. Sometimes I would simply sit there and watch the blush form and fade

on Claire's cheeks. That was one of my favorite things about my little mate. Her emotions played so clearly on her face, and she

was so terrible at hiding them.

It was late in the afternoon. While I felt tired from spending twenty four hours in this chair, I felt energetic and relieved. Claire:

would survive, That was all that mattered.

"Killan, s Claire alive?" Kira's frightened and anxious voice ran through my head.

"She will survive." | confirmed, and | fet her relief flood through me. Her guilt was nearly overwhelming. "m coming to visi her." Kira replied.

I shook my head, "No. You will stay where you are. The hunters could come at any time and | want you far out of reach."

"Killan-" Kira began, but | cut her off.

"No, Kira. I snapped. "Claie will be safe, but | need you safe as well"

It felt strange saying this to my sister. Her and | always had a strange relationship. She had long been ignored by our parents,

while | had been taught to be cruel and unforgiving. There was never any time to be emotional towards eachother.

| want to fight, Killan Kira sounded on the edge of tears, and | sighed.

"You wil not fight." | commanded her, "You wil stay safe with Travis and Sabrina. Just stay with Travis for me, Kira"

"Alright, fine." She let out a shaky sigh. 'm sorry | couldn't protect her, Killian. | really am. Maria wasn't alone. She stabbed!

Claire and then he barged in and-"

Kira's voice was cut off by the sound of another.

"Alpha, the Hunter's are here."