Banquet a⁶ No, I was morethan angry. đ Damien couldn't just do this. He shouldn't act like a jerk just to get his way. Maybe I want something once and a while. You can't just throw temper tantrums when something isn't going you way. I walked down the stairs behind my mate. He carried both our suitcases in his hands. I nearly growled at myself for noticing how handsome he looked in a suit. I knocked Gladys into the back of mind, because I knew that she would fine a reason why I should listen to Damien unconditionally. I waved to Josie, Kurtis and Christian when we passed the kitchen. We went down the driveway to see a black Escalade. The Cadillac was tall and demanded attention with it seek paint and fresh rims. I didn't miss how the license plate said "Alpha" on it. a Damien opened the hatch back and place our bags inside. Once he finished that, he opened my door for me. I pushed past him and got into the passenger seat. Damien slammed the door so hard I almost thought the windows would shatter. When Damien had settled himself in the driver's side I made a show of starting out the window. "Jillian..." His voice was apologetic and sad. "No." I waved him away and within moments the engine turned over and we were on our way. a⁴ I looked out the window and loved how the woods changed into the highway. The green of the trees and some of the snow still weighing down on their branches. It all reminded me of Gladys. How's it going? asked. Damien is angry. You should have listened to him. He can get over it. He isn't the boss of me. He is trying, Jillian. He really is. It's hard to make someone happy and keep them safe at the same time. "Jillian, sweetheart..." "I said no!" I snapped. Damien growled but he le me alone. He is so annoyingly possessive! He can't get everything he wants, I'm trying to teach him that. Threatening the marking date is too intense. You do understand that he could mark you anything he wanted to? He is physically bigger and stronger than you. ਕੰ Damien wouldn't do it without my consent.argued. Damien deserved every moment of the silent treatment I was giving him. I turned on the radio. Just as the so tunes started playing, Damien We went on like that for about 10 minuets until I was fed up and continued to look out the window. Gladys was nagging me about making up with Damien. I kept on ignoring her. The scenery outside became more snowy and forest covered. Mountains were o in the distance and seemed to be a ways away because the farther we traveled made no di erence on how far the mountains seemed. Werewolves were always fond of the woods, we never liked cities. They were too full of stinky humans. We were headed to Canada from, what i had assumed to be Oregon. When I moved in with Damien we were in our wolf form. State lines do not matter when it comes to territory. So I only had a foggy idea of what state I was in. A warm hand was placed on my thigh, "Jillian, baby, I didn't mean to "This is why I never wanted to mate to an Alpha!! You have no handle on your reasoning, and the stupidest things set you o !!" I exploded in rage. I ripped Damien's hand away roughly. a⁶ Damien then placed his hand on his lap and his fingers squeezed into fists. He took a deep breath before saying "And I didn't want a weak mate, but I'm not complain am I?" ã° I almost thought I didn't hear him right. Gladys stooped begging me to forgive him. Tears stung the back of my eyes, and a knot grew in my throat. "You d-didn't me-" I choked on a sob, but tears didn't come. Damien seemed full of remorse and he looked to be in pain. "You didn't mean a "Did you mean what you said about mating to an alpha?" Damien's voice was strained. I didn't mean it. Damien had started to grow on me, I cared about I cared about Damien a lot. We didn't speak for a long while. Tension had grown so thick in the air I wasn't even sure we were breathing. "I'm sorry Jillian, I can't promise that I won't mess up again, because I away will. but it doesn't mean that I won't always be sorry. I didn't mean what I said about your strength. You are a strong woman to have gone through so much and still able to push through it. And if anyone says something like what I just said to you, never believe them, because they speak lies." "If it wasn't true, then why did you say it?" "Should't the same go for you?" å "I'm sorry for hurting your feelings." I kissed Damien's cheek. "Also you will still mark me tomorrow" a⁴ His smile started out small, but it grew across his face slowly. "And in regards to the dress.." a "You will stay by my side all night. You aren't marked yet, and I don't want some male to take advantage of you because they don't know you have a mate who will kill them for touching you." a I nodded in agreement. I understood why he wouldn't want me to wear the dress now. The way the sleeves were cut made my markless neck exposed. It still didn't excuse his behavior. ď The three hour drive seemed to go by much faster than I had expected. In no time we arrived at a grand hotel. The lights were shining through the many floor-to-ceiling windows. I could already hear the mass congregation of werewolves that would be mingling and talking. Damien had told me that we would be sleeping upstairs and downstairs is where the dinner would be hosted. The Red Moon Pack Alpha and Luna had hosted this dinner for about 12 years now. The dinner gave Alphas of other packs the chance make alliances and it was a great chance to just catch up with other packs. Damien had told me that at least one fight broke out every year, and that it was always quite entertaining. My only fear was that Damien would be in the annual fight this year. He and his wolf were really on edge lately, and that's why he had me on such a short leash. We rolled up to the entrance, and a valet took Damien's keys when he helped me out of the SUV. I hooked my arm in his and I used his body as support for I was having some trouble walking. First o I was wearing black stilettos and second, my legs had fallen asleep from being in a car for three hours. I was already worried about making a fool of myself and Damien just by making a presence. Now I had wobbly legs to add to my list of worries?! The list included forgetting English and my dinner table manners. a "Alpha." the doorman nodded his head toward Damien, bowing slightly. "Luna" he did the same to me. " Will you be alright, sweetheart? Your heart rate sped up when the usher took your coat" I don't like social situations, used mind-link to speak. I didn't trust my voice. I was too freaked out, my throat was all dry and if I spoke I would sound like a sputtering car engine. The amount of people increased immensely when we entered the ball room. Werewolf bodies swarmed around, some omegas were walking about carrying drinks like champagne and what I hopped was apple juice. Werewolves had a much faster metabolism than humans, so our alcohol tolerance was extremely high. In all my years I had never seen a drunk werewolf. I've seem a tipsy werewolf before though, but the buzz only lasted about 20 minuets until they were completely back to normal. So drinking was useless, but I knew that some wolves liked the taste. I never understood why. "Alpha Kingsley!" a voice called. Damien turned and smiled "Luna Lois! Its so good to see you!" Luna Lois was quite beautiful. Her red hair was collected into a neat bun atop her head. Her eyes shone like crystals and she smiled sweetly with her perfectly straight teeth. Her dress was a so gray and it had little rhinestone detailing around the waist. She looked young, but she seemed like she had witnessed much for her age, making her seem like a more mature and old soul. "It is so good to see you Kingsley, you haven't changed since last "I like to think that as a good thing.." "I never intend to o end, Alpha, you know my ways" Their conversation continued as such until Damien brought me up. I was clinging to his arm and hid behind his back as usual. "This is my mate, Jillian" he introduced me and I smiled shyly from behind my mate at Luna Lois. "Why hello there. We have been waiting to meet you for a long time. Kingsley must be lucky to have such a pretty lady on his arm!" I smiled and shook my head. I didn't deserve any credit for meeting Damien, it was all Gladys' fault. Luna Lois le soon a er she greeted us. Damien told me that she was Alpha Cross's mate. She was the host and was thus required to greet wolves as they arrived. We wouldn't be talking to her anymore for the evening if everything went well. Then Alpha Cross arrived. "Alpha Kingsley, I have yet to meet your mate. I have heard many wonderful things about her form my own mate." Alpha Cross was a tall man. His muscles we obviously straining against his suit jacket. The man just seemed, I don't know....Beefy. ď "This is Jillian" Damien pulled me forward and his hand rested on my exposed back. Sparks of strength and power tingled my skin. I nodded and fought the urge to run to the nearest restroom and barf. "Hello, It is such a pleasure to meet you. Alpha Kingsley here has been waiting for his mate for years, but we knew you would come along" The Alpha smiled down a me. He was trying to be nice. I had nothing to say. I mean I was already aware Damien's age, he was 25. Most mates meet when one of them turns 18. I was the one who kept Damien waiting. But if he had found me, he could take me. Not until I was of age and my wolf noticed him would he be able to mark me. In that regard I was thankful for our age gap. Damien's hand gently massaged my shoulder, as if a silent reminder that I was capable of responding. But I just smiled awkwardly until Alpha Cross le to mingle with other couples. Once he le I drew out my long held breath. Damien did the same, "Oh, Jillian.." he sighed exasperatedly "what am I going to do with He pulled me into his chest and rubbed my back soothingly. I nestled in to his embrace, not caring that others were watching our public display of a ection. All to soon Damien pulled away and tucked my under his arm once again. We walked around some more. Many people crowded the space and di erent sents filled the air. Many wolves tried to talk to me and make conversation, but I continued smiling and waving until my cheeks hurt and my wrists started aching. Then we met Alpha Easton. The man was tall and he seemed strong, but he had no athletic looking body. His beady brown eyes shone with delight as his gaze raked up and down my body, occasionally stopping at my legs or chest. My breathing became more rapid when I saw no mark on his own neck. Damien held my waist tighter and The two acknowledged each other angrily. Well, Damien was angry, Alpha Easton was too focused on the slit in my skirt of my dress to care. The alpha put his hand to shake, and unconsciously I shook his hand. He li ed my hand to his lips and brushed my knuckles with his Or should I say tongue? ď "Your beauty is unforgettable young lady" He murmured. This was the most disgusting thing that had ever happened to me. Thank the Moon Goddess that Damien acted quickly. He swiped my hand away from the creepy alphas paws so quickly you would get whiplash trying to watch his reflexes. "Watch it" Damien growled as he possessively put himself in front of me in a gesture of protection. Alpha Easton walked away like nothing ever happened. But not before smiling at me and fluttering his long claw-like fingers. đ As soon as Easton was gone Damien turned around and placed his hands on my shoulders. He quickly swept his gaze over me to make sure I wasn't hurt, he occasionally sni ed me for blood. I was shaking. This is why I don't like social places. "Damien, I don't feel good." I whimpered. Damien's arms quickly wrapped around me and he picked me up. It was an awkward way to hold me, he couldn't really do much for I was in a dress. Some Lunas and Alphas looked at us funny, but I hardly noticed for I was already hyperventilating. Damien weaved our way through the crowd full of wolves and the turned into a hallway. He set me down and his voice rumbled quietly. His hands balled up in fists and I saw blood start to run down his palm and drip on the ground. "Damien" I said once I regained control of my breathing. I needed a moment to breathe apart form all the other people. "Will you be okay?" My voice wavered, I knew Damien. At times like this I knew that he would eventually snap, ans right now my only fear is that he He looked up at me. His eyes were pitch black. "I ought to kill that man right now for touching you. But I have this feeling that you'll be upset if I do." He gave a defeated sigh, and he flexed his fingers and examined his palm that had been healed now. I walked up to him and tilted his face up by cupping his jaw in both my hands. "Damien, look at me.." I begged when he refused to meet my gaze. He looked into my eyes, and soon enough they turned back to their green and brown colors. "I can only imagine how upset you are, but I'm safe and killing him won't fix anything. Easton did what he did, no matter how much you make him pay, you can never change what happened." Damien snarled and looked away, his jaw ticking. Soon he sighed, "You're right. How are you feeling now?" I was about to tell him that I was fine, and how happy I was to know that he wasn't going to go on a murdering rampage, but my phone beeped in my clutch. I checked it and saw that it was a message from Ruby. I gasped with delight when I read that she was in the parking "You missed your sister?" Damien asked when I jumped up and down All I could do was nod and smile. "Alright, then we should go out and meet them" We didn't have to go very far because we were soon met my the glowing smile of my sister. Her blond locks were swept to one side and she looked elegant and womanly. She seemed like the perfect role model for any shewolf. She was beautiful as well as smart, kind but respected, she was strong but dainty, my sister was pretty great. We looked and acted nothing alike, but I would always call her my best friend. She saved me from my father and made sure not to neglect me when her Luna duties came in full swing. I looked up at the man on her arm. Alpha Sharpe. He ruled with an iron fist, but when you got down to his core he was one of the sweetest people you could ever meet. He was tall, dark brown hair, but not nearly as dark as Damien's, his suit was obviously tailored just to his muscular shape. I smiled at him, he was the perfect mate for my sister, he could be serious when she was being crazy and vice versa, I hoped that one day Damien and I could be like that. Right now we spent most of our time fighting or we were apart. "Jillian!!" my older sister shrieked and she threw her arms around me. I hugged her back and held on tightly. When I le we didn't get to say good bye, so this was our way of making up for it. Something is weird..Gladys commented. She was right, my sister smelt weird. She smelt like Sharpe. She had ever since they met, but it was like Sharpe was insidemy sister. When we pulled away I looked at her funny. My sister was hiding å Damien cleared his throat loudly "Jillian, will you introduce me to the only person you've talked to all evening?" I looked back at him but I quickly looked back at my sister. She was nestled in her mates side. He was holding her di erently. He seemed more gentle with her, like she was made of glass and would shatter at any moment. "Right... ummm...Damien this is my sister Ruby, Ruby this is my mate Damien. Alpha Sharpe, this is Alpha Kingsley of the Cresent Moon Pack." I say. All the while I stare at my sister đ Sharpe and Damien started talking. Damien eased into the conversation as a nice contrast to how angry he had been before. I got all shi y-eyed about my sister. She really smelt funny... "Ahem, Alphas if would you excuse us to the ladies room.." My sister stared at my me blankly. I could tell she was holding a mental conversation with her mate. Both Damien and Sharpe nodded in unison Ruby grabbed my forearm and dragged me to the bathroom. Once we got there and I was practically shoved inside Ruby looked at me with her so brown eyes. they sparkled. "So I can tell you thing I looked at her expectantly. A smile broke out on her face. "Ian and I are gonna have a pup!" a Oh my goodness.... My sister was pregnant. She smelt like Sharpe because he was growing inside her. a⁵ I was completely flabbergasted. "Wow, that's amazing..." then I realized something "When did you Ruby sighed "The day a er you le .." "What?! You never told me and you've known all this time?!" Ruby told me all kinds of stu I didn'twant to know, and when its something important like having a pup she doesn't tell me? Ruby turned slightly and tapped her chin with her finger "Mom was right, you would be kinda upset if I waited to tell you. Even though it was only two weeks worth of waiting" "Wait, Mom knew before I did?" "Well you make it sound like a crime, but yeah. A girl needs advise from her mom in situations like that." The relationship my sister and I had with our mother was anything but stellar. When dad would beat me mom never knew, because she was quite neglectful. My sister had a big fight with her last year when she decided to have me go with her to Harvest Moon Pack. She said that Mom was a terrible excuse for a mother, and that she cared more about work than her pups. The fact that she and Ruby could even speak to one another was a big enough deal, but the fact that Ruby told our mother that she was pregnant before she told me was like a octopus giving birth on land to a wild cougar. It never happened. "Oh, ok. Cool, so you think your ready for this?" Thant was a stupid question, my sister had practically mothered me all my life. Her having a pup would be no issue with her, she always loved kids. She knew all about them and anytime she was given the choice, Ruby would rather sit at the kids table than the adult table. a "Ian and I have wanted pups for a while. You know this, we just didn't think that the pack would be ready for a new alpha anytime soon." Ruby smiled nostalgically, "But soon enough the elders were telling us about how we weren't getting any younger and if it was something we really wanted, that we should do it." That got me thinking about how one day I would have Damiens pups. As Alpha and Luna we were required to have an heir. Nine times out of ten that Alpha would be a boy, rarely did a girl rule the pack. Girls produced by an Alpha and Luna were almost guaranteed to have an alpha or a mate. And since Alphas needed to rule a pack, and couldn't just leave; the Moon Goddess designed it to be that most of the Alphas were males. Even though a female Alpha wasn't unheard of, it a Ruby grinned, "So you met your mate.." I shrugged, I knew that Ruby wanted all the nitty-gritty details of our relationship, but I didn't really have anything exciting to share. I was going to tell her about all the fights we've had in the past, but Ruby's "Oh mom and Dad are in the parking lot. They will be here soon" a Holy Father of my pups... Damien will have a heyday on Dads face before the night is out, predicted. Gladys rapidly agreed. a Ruby lead me out of the restroom and we met back up with Sharpe and Damien. I took my place at my mates side and I felt his arm wrap around my waist before he whispered in my ear, "Is everything ok?" I automatically nodded, but I decided that I would tell him about my dad. I placed a hand on his chest and whispered back "My dad is Damien's grip tightened signifigantly, he growled but fought through it. We continued talking to my sister and her mate. Everything was going well until I could smell my father more than I could smell all the other wolves mingling around. I held my breath and buried myself closer in Damien's hold. "He's here.." I murmured. Damien's hand went up and down to calm me, but I could tell that it was forced, his blood lust was becoming stronger by the moment. "Jillian, this is a closed Alpha and Luna meeting, what are you doing here?" His voice was sickly and scary. Personally I would hide or run away. Memory a er memory came rushing of him hitting me and Damien let me go and turned around to face o my dad. "I'm pretty sure that my mate qualifies for all of those things. Why wouldn't she?" His voice was deep and protective. My father looked shocked to see Damien, one of the strongest Alpahs in the word defending me. "Hello" he said once he regained his composure. My father was a handsome man for his age. We had the same dark hair and eyes, his hair had some gray highlights running through it. He was lean and tall, and next to him was my mother she stood about a foot shorter than her mate, but she still had him wrapped around her finger. Ruby and Mom looked alike in almost every aspect except for their eyes, while Ruby had so brown eyes, my mother's "Jillian! Baby, give your mother a hug" My mothers arms opened and I shyly walked into them. "Why didn't you tell me that you had found your mate?" She murmured into my ear. Well you never seemed to care too much about my well being, why tell you now?I thought bitterly. "I never got the chance, my time has been very divided, I hardly have time for myself." I lied. I had all the time in the world all, I did was lounge around the house waiting for Damien to get home. I retreated back to Damien's arms, he was staring my dad down. Even though my father had height to him, Damien was still taller and he was in his prime. If Damien got his hands on my father everything would be over for my dad. I could already tell that it was going to be extremely di icult for Damien to control himself tonight. I patted his arm and smiled up at him. My mom will want to meet youl told him through mind link, for if I spoke I knew he wouldn't listen to me. My mother shoved herself in front of my father and my mate, she smiled like a pageant queen and said "Hello, Alpha Kingsley, its so Damien looked down "Hello Luna Vivianne, the pleasure is mine" He gave ner a 100 watt grin and nand snake. I knew by the way my mother looked at him that Damien had already won her over. Mom wasn't hard to please, all you have to do is treat her like a queen and she's yours. We spoke for a few minutes, Damien, me and dad all listened while mom babbled on and on about the state of all the packs and how she thinks that every pack should unite in case humans find out about us and a war starts. No one tells her that the chances of the humans finding out about us was slim, and no one said that if the humans were to rise against us, werewolves would kill them all in a heartbeat. All packs would protect themselves, but no one had the guts to oppose her. Damien might have, only I don't think he was listening. đ Then Lunas and Alphas were starting to all walk away. I looked at Damien, who was checking his watch. "Dinner is starting" he grumbled. We walked together into a grand dinner hall. Chandeliers hung above tables and a band played so ly on stage. Omegas in tuxedos were moving around giving drinks and food to the wolves sitting at the table. One long table cut through the center of the room, little nametags indicated where we were to sit. I had my arm hooked in Damien's and I dragged him to our spot at the table. When we arrived he was still staring o into space, Mom and Dad had le us a few minuets ago, and I knew he was searching the crowd for their faces. I brushed a kiss to his stubbly chin and smiled when he looked down at me. "Sit with me" I tugged on the sleeve of his jacket as I took my seat. "How can you be so calm?" He asked as he pulled out his chair and "I'm not" I answered. Immediately Damien turned to me and looked at me intensely with his green and brown eyes. "Sweetie, if you want to leave we can" his hand rested on my knee and his thumb rubbed circles around it. His suggestion was awfully tempting, but I needed to be strong for myself and Damien. I would make the entire pack look weak if I chickened out and le. "No, we can stay. I'll be fine. You're the one I'm worried about." I placed my hand on top of his and squeezed it, thanking him for the support. Damien made a face, "Nah, don't worry about me" he sat up "Worry a I couldn't respond because my sister, father and mother all came to sit across from us. Damien's hand became dangerously tight around my leg, and soon I lost all feeling in my foot. "Oh aren't we lucky? We all can sit together!" my mother crooned. Soon they were all sitting with us. Ruby looked at me and rose her eyebrow and she gestured to Damien with a jerk of her head, is he going to be ok? It looks like your mate is going to murder someoneMy sister used mind link to talk to Oh he will be alright, I told him about dad this morning, and he's pretty upset about it. Baby sis, only you can make him feel betteMy sister scooted over so Sharpe could sit next to her. Our food was being delivered when our mom started talking "So Alpha Kingsley is it true that your father killed himself because of his mates suicide? Leaving you to become the alpha at 12 years old?" ä HOLD UP! Did my mother just say what I thought she said? Damien must have thought the same thing, because all he could do was nod slowly. We ate as we listened to my mother ask my mate ridiculous and prying questions. It was shocking how stoic Damien was staying He didn't chew my mother out for being do nosy, he just let her talk and he answered yes or no to her as he shoveled more steak into his mouth. His appetite seemed to be the only thing keeping him at bay. Our dessert was set in front of us and I nearly cried at how good the chocolate mousse cake with vanilla ice cream and chocolate fudge tasted. My mother though didn't comment about the cake but she made an observation about Damien "I can see why you and Jillian are mates, you are both so quiet!" I thought it was quite true, Damien speaks with his facial expressions, I just stare at people. "And weak" my father muttered under his breath, not to be heard but Damien could hear him quite well because he caught my father by the collar and practically dragged him over the table. ď "Mind repeating that old man?" Damien growled at him. I gasped, I would grab Damien and hold him back but he quickly shrugged me o and threw my dad against the wall. "Damien!" I screamed. This is exactly what I didn't want. I watched in horror as my mate pummeled my father to the ground. Dad tried to fight back but my mate wouldn't allow it. Soon Damien was on top of him and turned his face into ground beef with his fists. Tears stung my eyes, and bile climbed its way up my throat. a⁶ Blow a er blow, pained wail a er wail.... "Come here Jillian, lets get you to your room" My sister turned me away from the horrible scene just as Alpha Cross and Alpha Sharpe started to try and haul Damien o my father. I tried to fight against my sisters hold, but she pushed me toward the stairs. I was borderline hysterical when she dropped me o at our room. "But Damien!" I cried. Ruby held my shoulders and looked into my eyes, "Jillian, he will be fine." "DAMIEN!!" I screamed in the direction of the staircase. I struggled đ a

"Alpha."

"Alpha."

lips.

would snap at me.

happily.

something....

thoughtfully.

something is up.."

Wait what?

find out?"

was quite rare.

phone buzzed.

coming soon."

yelling at me.

were gray blue.

Yup

sat.

about your father"

me

nice to meet you"

Jillian's POV

I was angry.

turned it o.

I turned it back on.

He turned it o.

that did vou??"

"Damien..."

I swallowed.

Yeah it should.

I groaned.

I was infuriated.

Continue reading next part \Box