

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire by Moonlight Muse

Chapter 66

66.66. Knowing the Answer

LEO.

The office was tense and even Alejandro was dead serious, any sarcasm was gone as he stood there with arms crossed, watching me coldly. That was his concentrating expression.

Azura was sitting on the armrest of the chair I was in, and Kiara told me to remove my shirt i pulled it off and Azura took it from me, holding it to her chest. I could hear her heart beating violently, although she was trying not to let it get to her.

Kiara took a deep breath, a frown of concentration crossing her face as she knelt in front of me. Her eyes blazed purple, and for a split second, I was reminded of the flicker I had seen in Azura's eyes the other night. 1

Usually, when your wolf comes to the front, if you watch carefully, or in my case, record it and slow down the speed just to observe it, you will see the wolf's eye colour bleed into yours. What just happened with Kiara's was like a flame spreading from the bottom of the iris.

I was brought out of my thoughts when Kiara placed her hands on my shoulders. Her frown deepened as she ran her hands down my chest, my flanks, and parts of my stomach as she tried to assess the extent of the damage.

I heard her heart skip a beat, I kept my face a mask of indifference as I knew what was coming.. She would try and fail, but you know what is going to be fucking hardest? When I'm going to have to act like it's fine and watch the emotion in their eyes... A coolness began spreading from her hands, and I felt it wash through me, an edge of the pain seemed to lift a little, but I knew she wasn't succeeding...

She didn't stop, her purple aura wrapping around us both to the extent that Azura was being pushed away, but she refused to let go of me, her arm firmly around my sh ters.

Kiara bit her lip, her forehead now covered with a layer of sweat as she poured everything she had into me.

"What's happening?" Alejandro asked, his voice dark and cold as he looked between us.

Kiara wasn't able to reply as she looked into my eyes. A trickle of blood ran from her nose, and her eyes were glittering with tears as I felt another strong surge of intense power rush through me.

But we both knew it was futile.

The blood wasn't stopping and even Azura was beginning to worry, Kiara's entire body was tense, her brows furrowed as she gave it her all.

She was going to fucking pass out at this rate.

"Stop!" I commanded sharply, taking hold of her arms and moving her back.

She collapsed to the floor and Alejandro was by her side in a flash, scooping her up into his arms.

Azura's heart was pounding, and when Kiara looked at me, I knew what her next words were

going to be. "I'm sorry, I'm unable to heal you." She whispered, her gaze going to Alejandro, who looked shocked.

There it was – the concern, worry, and sadness as he looked at me, but I knew as long as I didn't look at Azura I'll be ok...

Her arms tightened around my neck, and trickles of her thoughts and emotions seeped into my mind

Her worry and pain.

Her fear of losing me, of our children losing me. Her terror of nothing being able to heal me. I could feel her body shaking a little, and despite the fact that it was going to fucking break me, I pulled her into my lap, wrapping my arms around her.

The moment our eyes met, I realised she was fighting herself not to cry and it fucking hurt. This was the pain I wanted to keep her from... I couldn't give her the life she wanted... "I was expecting that answer anyway," I said to Kiara and Alejandro, who were obviously conversing through the link from the looks on their faces.

Azura shifted, straddling me, and locked her arms around my neck tightly. I closed my eyes, inhaling her scent deeply as I caressed her back. "It ain't fucking over until we have drained every fucking avenue, how long do you have?" Alejandro growled. I leaned back slightly, my hands on Azura's ass, making sure my face was still set in the same "I don't give a fuck" expression. "A month or two max, if that." I replied coldly.

“And you didn’t think to seek out help earlier?” Alejandro frowned. “Does Marcel know?” My own irritation rose, I knew he was fucking worried, but I didn’t need to explain shit to him. “I never fucking realised it was that serious until it was far too fucking late, and it wasn’t like I was going to ask the very same people who I didn’t want to fucking face.” I growled, unable to keep my anger at bay.

“We’re family Leo and.”

“And what? I fucking told you I didn’t think it was fucking serious!” I growled, my aura raging around me.

“You shouldn’t have taken the fucking chance, you had a son, and what about your father?” Alejandro shot back, his aura filling the air. I placed Azura down and stood up, glaring at the man who stood opposite me. Our alpha auras raged around us, so intense you could feel it. Blazing red eyes met magnetic blue.

“I’m not a fucking god that I can see the future. Now end this shit, it’s fucking done, don’t make me regret even allowing Kiara to try.” I snarled, my eyes flashing. “This isn’t over, Al – relax, i know you’re upset.” Kiara whispered, cupping his face and forcing him to look at her.

“Fucking hell.” I muttered, taking out a packet of cigarettes and taking one between my lips. “Still, he tried to deal with that shit alone.” Alejandro growled, “He may not care for us but I fucking care.” “I know, baby.”

Dickhead.

“You don’t fucking know me so don’t think you know shit.” I growled back. “Stop it. Both of you.” Azura snapped, standing up and when she placed her hand on my shoulder as she looked between us it was clear she was angry as much as she was upset. “There’s no point in ifs and buts, it’s happened, and I wasn’t able to heal him. We need to find a solution.” Kiara said quietly.

“Yeah, and he’s trying ok, despite everything he’s been through, he’s trying to be a better person, Alejandro! Try to see that. I get that you are upset too, but this is hard for him too.” Azura added, her eyes flashing with pain and frustration.

Alejandro’s eyes met hers. A frown on his face.

“Then he better fucking try harder to live.” He growled, his eyes flashing once more, before he turned and stormed out of the room.

Kiara looked at me and Azura apologetically. “He’s just hurt, I told him only a little earlier... I hoped I could fix it – he feels he failed you entirely.” She whispered, reaching over as she placed a hand on both our ch before she looked down. “We will find a way,

there's Delsanra, Raihana, and maybe Dante might have the answer... We are going to figure this out... Excuse me." "Thanks for trying." I said when she turned to leave.

I didn't even look at her, simply smoking my cigarette. She sighed softly, and I saw her nod sadly before she left.

"We will find a way." Azura murmured, and I looked down at her, wrapping my arm around her shoulders.

"Yeah." I murmured while kissing her forehead softly. She leaned into me, and just then there was a light knock on the half-open door.

"Mind if I come in?" Dante asked, entering anyway.

Azura turned to him, her heart racing, and I knew she was about to ask him for help.

"Give us a minute Beautiful? I asked quietly. It was obvious Dante wanted to talk about something, and I really didn't want her to hear any more bad news today.

"Why can't I be here?" She asked.

I kissed her lips slowly, and she sighed in frustration.

"One minute." She said frowning.

"Make it five." I replied, smirking slightly.

She nodded slowly and reluctantly let go of me, our eyes met, and I realised she only agreed because she was about to break...

"Ok." She said, gripping my face as she pulled me down, kissing me hard.

I kissed her back, letting the sparks roll through me.

I will try... for her, for our kids and maybe for the other bastards who throw a hissy fit when shit doesn't go their way. 5

She pulled away before turning and leaving the room.

"What do you fucking want?" I asked Dante, smoking my cigarette.

He smiled slightly, taking a seat in his dad's chair and crossing his ankles on the desk.

"I have a question... Years ago, I swore an oath on Azura that I will grant you a favour whenever you needed it. Why didn't you ever call? I owed you; it would have just been a favour owed, nothing more."

I raised an eyebrow.

“Don’t you usually fucking know everything? You should know the answer to your question.” I replied, I’m fucking surprised I never looked deeper into why he had chosen Azura to swear

1.on.

The fucker was smart, I’d give him that. He smiled faintly. “I think people forget I don’t know everything, I’m a demi-god, not a god, and even then, even gods are not all-knowing or all-powerful... Even they! ? weaknesses.” He replied

“Hm.”

“So, tell me why you didn’t call on that favour?”

Great, he’s still stuck on that.

“Why would I call on a favour that involved saving someone’s life?” I muttered, turning my back on him.

A moment’s silence followed as I walked over to the window and opened it, leaning against the frame as I smoked.

“Rayhan’s mother, who you hated at the time.”

“Still hate.” I growled.

“Sure. But answer the question.” “I have nothing against her, and besides... no one deserves to lose their parents... unless, of course, the parents are fucking twats.” 4 He chuckled, and I heard him get up

“You’re really a good person, Leo. If only you knew...” He leaned against the other side of the window and looked up at the moon.

I wondered what he meant, but even if I asked, he wouldn’t tell me.

“I should have fucking known something was up when you took an oath on her, back then, it was fucking weird since you two argued and fought a lot.” I remarked. “Well, I had to play it smart since I didn’t know what you might ask for and I knew you’d never be able to take a wrong oath on her.” “You were a smart little shit.”

He smirked.

“But if we’re talking smarter, it’s you. I just know things; you figure them out.” He replied as Azura entered the office again, I glanced at the time.

She sure didn't waste time; she had left exactly five minutes ago, and when she came in front of me I could see her eyes were red.

She had been crying...

I pulled her close, wrapping my arms around her and kissing her neck softly. She leaned into me, her heart pounding under my touch. "Well, first of all, Delsanra, Raihana, or even I can't heal you, but..."

Azura was about to react when I tightened my arms around her.

'Relax Sexy Mama.' I murmured through the link seeing Dante's face turned towards the moon.

"But what?" I asked.

He looked at us before turning back to the night sky. "It's just a little clue but I'm sure you'll figure it out..." Clue? He sighed softly before he continued. "When the full moon is at its peak, only in those moments can the Heart of Fire heal all. Find it and you will live." 16

His words echoed in my mind as I tried to make sense of it.

"Heart of fire?" Azura asked, now turning in my arms to look at him, with hope ignited in her eyes.

"Leave the thinking to Leo." Dante teased her, making her try to kick him, but he was far enough away that she failed. 3 "The only Heart of Fire I've come across is..." 3||

Suddenly I think I may have the answer. I don't know how, or what will make it happen, but... I think I'm right.

I looked up at him sharply, my hand going to my neck, when Azura's gaze snapped to it, realisation dawning on her. "Wait his mark?" She asked, confused. "Like I said, my Temperamental Miracle, leave the thinking to Leo."

"Ass... So somehow your mark will help?" She pulled away, turning, and looking at me sharply.

INO said, slowly watching Dante, and when the corner of his lips curled upwards... I knew I was right.

I looked into the bright blue eyes of the woman I had come to love without realising. "The Heart of Fire itself..."

“What is that?” She frowned, but my attention was back on Dante and when his smile grew, I knew I had hit the nail on the fucking head. 2

“You. You’re the Heart of Fire.” I murmured, my head spinning as I stared at her. 1

I may have found one answer... but there were a thousand more that took its place.

She looked confused and doubtful, turning to Dante for confirmation. He simply tilted his head and said one word that confirmed it all. 2

“Bingo.”

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Chapter 67

67. A Turn of Events

AZURA.

It was the following afternoon, and we were ready to head back home. Last night when I had thought all hope was gone, I realised I was the answer. Sure, we didn’t know exactly how it would work and I knew Dante wasn’t going to tell me the answer, but at least we knew the main thing and we wouldn’t let the chance pass by. There were less than two weeks until the next full moon and we’d figure it out. Or I’m sure Leo would, and I will just stick to Leo and hope for the best.

Last night we didn’t sleep much, he had held me in his arms, stroking my hair and back. It wasn’t sexual but it was so intimate that the emotions I was feeling, were unexplainable. I loved him and as much as that was gushy mushy, I did want to tell him. I just needed to find the right time.

“Are these all for me?” Corrado asked in awe as Dante finished loading the trunk with all the toys and clothes that Kiara had gotten for Corrado.

The weather was warm, and despite the sun being up, a cool wind was blowing. “Yes, they are.” She smiled as she leaned down and gave him a soft kiss on the forehead.

“Thank you so much Aunty Kia... but I don’t need so many things. My Daddy gets me lots of things.” He replied, looking at Leo who was smoking, as if for approval if he can have the things. I placed my hands on my knees bending over next to him. “It’s ok kiddo, it’s from Aunty Kia, we can keep them all.” I whispered, ruffling his hair. “Aunty? She’s his grandma.” Alejandro smirked as he came out of the house with another two boxes.

(al

“She isn’t as old as you, besides she’s my sister. So, he can call her aunty through me. You can stick to being a grandad, I mean you’re old enough to be my grandad” I stated, making him grab my head, I knew he was going to give it a squeeze, so I ducked, swatting his hand away. “You need to treat the Westwood women better.” I glowered.

He always treated Raven, who was one of Kiara’s best friends, in the exact same way.

He dumped the boxes in the boot, only for Kiara to catch them in time, and place them down gently. Dusting his hands off, he looked at me. “Oh yeah? You’re

practically a Rossi now. Remember when you used to go on about hating Rossi men?”

I rolled my eyes; he got me there... “Not really I mean, I said most men, I’m ok with the Giant Shrimp and Rayhan—” Leo’s eyes narrowed and I stuck my tongue out at him. “And of course, Leo, besides he’s totally different from you.” “Is he?” Rayhan asked, as Dante scoffed, before he hid it fast, earning himself a glare from me. “I don’t see much difference.” Rayhan added as he walked down the steps, raising an eyebrow as he looked at me. Folding my arms, I pouted slightly. “You have a point...” Kiara laughed as Corrado looked between Leo and Al. His eyes became wide as saucers. “Oh, I see it!” Both tattooed men looked at him, Alejandro smirked as Leo raised an eyebrow. Both speaking at the same time.

“I’m his secret role model.” “We’re nothing alike.” Leo glared at him. “Like I said, we aren’t alike...”

Dante simply chuckled, pulling the trunk shut, and leaned against it. “Oh, you two definitely have so much in common. It isn’t a bad thing.”

“Whatever, let’s get going.” Leo said, taking a final drag of his cigarette before getting rid of it. Our eyes met, and he closed the gap between us and pulled me into his arms, kissing my neck. Clearly not bothered that everyone was watching us.

He wanted me, and I wanted him as much... It’s crazy how strong this connection and the hunger for one another was.

“Atlas.” Alejandro’s voice made me slowly move away from Leo.

He approached, holding a bag and smiling slightly. His gaze went to Leo who simply watched him coldly and it was then a thought occurred to me. One regarding my other brother Liam, Leo was not going to forgive him as easily as the rest had... 6

“Hi.” Atlas greeted. Kiara smiled, brushing her hair back. “Hello, you came just in time.” He scratched the back of his neck. “Yeah, I’m glad I made it in time, I wanted to say goodbye.” He looked at me and I nodded, gesturing at Leo. “This is my mate, Leo and

this is our son Corrado.” He didn’t question anything, simply holding his hand out to Leo, who took it,

giving it a firm shake before he winked at Corrado.

“Hello.”

Corrado tilted his head “Hello. Who are you?”

“I’m a frien–” “This is one of my brothers. Atlas.” I announced cutting Atlas off. He looked up at me, surprise clear in his eyes, but I wasn’t going to lie. I realised I was being unfair; he had done nothing wrong and the time I spent with him showed he wasn’t a bad person. He didn’t deserve my hostility. Sure we weren’t close, but who knows, maybe someday?

A small half smile crossed his lips, and I smiled back before brushing my hair back.

“Oh... So you’re my uncle. I have such a big family now. I need to remember everyone’s names!” Corrado said thoughtfully. Atlas smiled at him. “Definitely, but once you get to see everyone more and more, it gets easier.” Corrado nodded before I motioned Atlas to follow me to the mansion steps. He followed and I stopped on the bottom step looking at him. Ah, this was better, the step gave me some additional height. The rest could still hear but I didn’t really care, at least the Rossi giants weren’t surrounding me. Atlas looked down at the bag in his hand. “I won’t keep you for long, this is just a little something for you. I’m sorry I didn’t know you had a son or I would have made sure to get him something too.” He explained, holding the bag out to me.

Accepting it, I smiled, and he shoved his hands into his pockets. “Don’t apologise it’s not like I told you, you didn’t even need to get me anything but thanks.” I replied with a small smirk.

He ran his hand through his hair. “Thanks... for reaching out to me.”

I looked down at the bag, then glanced at the Rossi men, watching Rayhan and Leo conversing before they shook hands. I smiled softly and looked at Atlas. We did the right thing. “I’m glad I did.” He was about to speak when the mansion door opened and Song stepped out, busy texting on her phone. She was so lost in her phone that she didn’t realise there were steps and fell face forward, stumbling as she slipped on the stairs. “Whoa!” I exclaimed, making to grab her, only for Atlas to catch hold of her. She

snatched hold of his shirt, her heart thundering as she slowly regained her balance, his hands supporting her waist. Atlas slowly let go of her. “Easy there.” She glanced up at him, her eyes widening as she stared up at him. My eyebrow shot up and I cleared my throat. “This is Atlas.” I introduced.

Her eyes widened and she nodded jumping back, almost stumbling over the bottom step and if Atlas didn't grab hold of her elbow I was sure she was going to get knocked on her ass again.

"Oh hey!" She said, her cheeks tinged pink. "I mean thank you!" It was amusing seeing her so flustered, she waved at him before looking as if she wanted to kick herself. Ah babe I'm not going to let this slide, first Rayhan now Atlas? The girl needs to get laid. Smirking at my own thoughts, I crossed my arms.

Atlas smiled slightly, holding his hand out to her. "It's nice to meet you..." He trailed off, and Song smacked her forehead.

"Oh yeah, sorry I haven't introduced myself, I'm Song."

"Nice to meet you." He said as I saw Leo getting Corrado into the car.

"Come on Mommy!"

My heart skipped a beat, last night he had called me 'Mommy' without Azura once and I had loved it, but I had thought he hadn't realised and had done so by accident.

"Coming!" I called turning to Atlas and raising the bag. "Thanks for these and I'll definitely keep in touch." He nodded as we looked at each other, almost as if waiting for the other to make the first move. Oh for fucks sake! Stepping forward I gave him a quick awkward hug around the shoulders, I was about to move away when he gave me a gentle squeeze. I really was glad we did this... He let go of me and gave me another smile. "Take care of yourself." "You too, I'll be fine." I said confidently before Alejandro called us. "You three fucking done?"

I rolled my eyes, and Atlas smiled slightly, "Coming! Are you desperate to get rid of me?" I questioned as we walked over.

"Na, but I just realised you three got some weird shit for names." , "What do you mean, I like my name." Song protested. "A song, atlas and a colour." Alejandro smirked. Maybe I need to staple gun his ass too. Oh my god imagine if Alejandro has a pierced dick! Wait does he? Eww, I don't want to know! Gross Gross!

'Yeah, why the fuck are you even thinking about that shit?' Leo's voice came through the link. Shit these damn walls.

I needed to really question Selene about the right to privacy.

'Hey, don't make me sound like I'm weird, I just have a very advanced overactive imagination. I bet you men think of women's boobs and stuff.' I felt a sliver of jealousy at just the thought. Na, not once have I wondered who has what piercing or what fucking

wax they got going on. Unless it comes to you. You're really something else you know that?

I smirked smugly. I had the perfect comeback. 'Of course, I am, I'm the Heart of Fire.' I cackled, hugging Kiara tightly. "Something totally special." 'I'm going to hear that often, aren't I?' 'Absolutely. Once I had greeted the Rossi's, I got into the car. Alessandra wasn't around but I had met her in the morning before she had left. Leo leaned over, shutting the door for me, and kissing me softly. I kissed him back before he strapped me in and we began our journey. We would drop Song off at home and then return home...

We had dropped Song off over an hour ago, and had stopped at the service station for McDonalds. It had taken a little longer with an accident on the motorway, but we should be home within the hour.

Home.

I smiled softly sitting back in my seat, as I finished my fries off. Corrado had fallen asleep in the back after eating. Leo was tracing circles on my thigh, making sparks dance, his eyes on the road." Any ideas exactly how I would heal you? Maybe you have to like drink my blood."

He cocked an eyebrow, smirking and I knew before he even opened that sexy mouth of his, he was going to mock me. I shoved a few fries into his mouth." Don't you dare." I warned. He swallowed and was about to reply when his phone rang. He accepted the call, it on as the music lowered.

"Leo, you need to get back here!" Jax's voice was strained. My own heart lurched wondering what was going on, I had never heard Jax sound so... distraught?

Leo's heart was racing, and his entire body looked tense. "Update." His voice was icy as he slammed his foot on the accelerator, speeding up. I was thrown back into my seat as the speed increased superfast. I could hear shouting in the background of the call. Jax took a shaky breath. "Three is down."

Suddenly Leo's face paled, and his foot hit the brake, making the car jolt. A horn blared from behind and we narrowly missed the lorry as Leo pulled us back into our lane speeding up again.

My heart was thundering as Corrado stirred in the back.

Three? Who was three?

"Jax, what happened?" I asked.

"Shane... He's dead." His voice barely hid his anguish, making my blood run cold. A

Turning to Leo, I realised he had just lost another loved one.

Leo's eyes were blazing. "What happened?" The passing cars were a blur as he rushed to get back.

"He and Dan were performing some tests—" "She's dead... FUCK!" 3 Ace's voice came from the background. "Shit... Leo get back here... I'll tell you everything then." "No, tell me who is Ace talking about?" Leo threatened. His heart was thundering no matter how in control he was acting. "Jackie, she tried to sedate him but he... Fuck I'm sorry Leo, but she's dead." 18 My own heart sank, horror enveloping me, and my ears rang. Leo's shock and

pain began seeping through the bond, mixing with my own. I knew they were close but the pain I was feeling in my chest was intense. She was dear to him. 1

Like a sister to him.

Tears stung my eyes as memories of them as children flashed in my head. Him promising to be there for her always...

My heart bled for the man I loved.

He had just lost two of his closest people in the blink of an eye... just when he had begun mending his broken bonds.

She would never know that Leo would be ok... I never got to thank her for caring. She had an entire future in front of her...

I wish I called her last night... Goddess...

I ran my shaking fingers through my hair as Leo began questioning Jax. "... Details now." His voice was so cold and void of emotions, that I almost didn't recognise it. How was he able to hide his pain? I felt his walls go up, and once more he was in Alpha mode.

"Dan and Shane were conducting some tests; we were all fucking there this shouldn't have happened but... I don't fucking—".

"Fuck it, get to the point." Ace's voice came in a menacing growl. But it was his next words that shook me to the core. "Judah the dead guy, well he wasn't fucking dead. He's gone Leo and I'll tell you one fucking thing. He ain't no werewolf."

A/N – For those on my social pages, please do not leave spoilers in your comments. ♡

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Chapter 68

68: Failed

LEO.

Shane and Jackie, I didn't want to fucking believe it. I had failed them both... Kareena, Shane's mate too... Her life was over too. I could only imagine losing Azura. It would fucking destroy

me too.

I didn't fear anything, save losing those that I loved.

The last conversation between Jackie and me that took place before we left yesterday flashed before my eyes, and I wish I had a little more time with her... she was always worried about me.

How she would have been fucking happy to know that I would be ok. How fucking happy she would have been that I would be healed. Little did we both know she'd die before me...

Fucking bastard.

Anger flared through me, my eyes blazing as I drove as fast as possible, sending orders through the phone.

"...possible breach, there was an explosion on the far left of the pack. Nothing was seen but-

"I want a code red, fucking lockdown right now, have everyone on high alert."

"Alpha Marcel's got everyone on duty." Ace replied.

"Good, get teams one, three and seven ready to set out. Tell Raj I want the best scouts now. Ace, Li Sheng, Jin, you three are to follow. Dan, Jax I want you both ready to tell me what the fuck went down."

"I want to know too." Marcel's voice came.

"Got it." The men replied.

I knew Dad would have plenty of fucking questions, considering the Six weren't those I hung with on pack premises, aside from Jax. Yet they held power and individual squads at their disposal.

Jackie...

I couldn't think about it right now. I had a bastard to catch. Azura reached over, placing her hand on top of mine. I could hear her heart thumping, and could feel the pain and guilt she was feeling.

"This isn't your fault." I said through the link, and I fucking meant it.

"He was here because of me." She replied quietly.

I glanced at her beautiful face, she was wearing that blank expression she always did when her mind was in turmoil.

"No, he should have been fully guarded and I will fucking find out how Jackie even got there." I growled murderously. He wasn't on pack grounds so what the fuck happened?

She didn't reply and I promised I would reassure her, but right now there were a few things I needed to make sure were done first.

Cash

I was pissed at the boys, why would they even let Jackie fucking go there?

"Don't leave even an inch of the pack unscoured, if there was an explosion-"

I heard a sharp hiss of pain and some sound. "Dan here, Leo. He tried to break in but didn't manage to, so he ran when we tried to capture him. He was far too fucking fast." Dan's breathless voice came.

"Got it"

Frowning, I pondered over his words. So somehow, Judah knew exactly where the pack was... Did he know beforehand? Why was he so fucking infatuated with Azura?

I looked up sharply seeing the fire that was coming from the trees in the distance. "Is anyone making sure that damage control is taken care of? If the humans question it, shit will get harder."

"I'm on it." Marcel replied.

"Daddy? What's happening?" Corrado's sleepy voice came.

“Shush baby I’m here.” Azura soothed him, unbuckling herself.

“Careful.” I warned.

“I am.” She climbed into the back, and I heard the belt click as she comforted our son.

“Good I’ll be there soon.” I said through the phone coldly, putting them on hold. I needed to call Alejandro.

Hitting call, I waited for him to pick up.

“Missing me already?” His cold mocking voice came.

Furrowing my brow, I clenched my jaw. “No. We just dropped Song off at her house, however, the man who had her last time wasn’t dead... I’ll explain later, but can you make sure the Coven takes her under their wing. She isn’t safe out there and watch your girls – although I don’t think he’d make them his target.”

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A low menacing growl left his lips. “Understood, I’ll contact the coven and have Song removed. If you need help Leo we’re here.”

“I’ll be in touch.” Ending the call, I turned to Azura. “Call her, fill her in on what’s happening.” “Got it, pass me my bag.” I grabbed it, passing it to her and heard her rummaging in it, before she rang her.

My own eyes were fixed ahead on the fire that rose from the trees... slowing down as we neared pack grounds.

Two hours had passed, and I was finally satisfied that the pack was secure. Judah had managed to tamper with the electric barriers on the far side of the pack borders, but he had failed to breach.

The bodies of Shane and Jackie were taken to the morgue, and I forced myself to command them to tie their bodies down. I still hadn’t seen them... and I knew when I did, it would all feel so much more real.

The blood of more lives was on my hands...

When we had returned, I had made sure a whole squad was watching Azura as well as Corrado, who was now with Winona with heightened security. Azura refused to stay home and wanted to help. She decided to go to Kareena’s who had felt her mate’s death... she was someone I would have to face too, and I was grateful that Azura was with her. Sera was also with her as

well as the Beta female.

I had just filled Dad and Raj in regarding everything about Judah before the three of us headed to the hospital.

I now entered the hospital where Dan and Jax were being treated. Eric was walking towards us, his eyes bloodshot.

“Leo, you’re back.”

“Yeah, how is Emmet doing?” I asked quietly.

He looked down, shaking his head. “He’s in shock or... something.”

I nodded, unable to say anything and instead motioned him to follow me to the ward. I opened the door, and only one doctor was there, he was busy wrapping Jax’s chest up.

My eyes flashed as I tried to control my anger. “Why was Jackie there?” I asked quietly. Jax glanced toward Dad as if uncertain of what he should mention, and I frowned. “Continue, he knows about Judah.”

Dad nodded, his face serious.

Dan sighed heavily; his eyes ridden with remorse. Making us all turn to him. “I was showing her some of the results that were really confusing me, I felt like I was having a breakthrough... I should have waited for you... I never should have asked her, but I did.”

The pain in his voice was so strong I could feel it. It was a mistake; this wasn’t his fault. He took a deep breath, before continuing. “After I showed her the reports she was intrigued and wanted to see him, saying it was something she’s never seen before, and I agreed. Ace said not to... he fucking said not to!” He kicked the bed in frustration, his eyes blazing, and I saw the blood spreading from his bandage. “It’s my fault she’s dead!”

Lowering his head, he held it in his hands and I looked away. A painful silence fell in the room. There was no denying that he made a mistake and above all, I knew he’d feel it most.

After all... he had been in love with Jackie before she found Emmet... they had dated for a while too. I had hoped he was the one she would be mated to but life had other plans... When she found her mate... they ended it.

When I had mentioned Jackie would probably end it with Emmet, I had seen the glimmer of hope in his eyes that he had tried to hide. But I know my friends well enough.

He held hope and once more it was taken from him.

The doctor excused himself and Jax sat up and swung his legs off the bed that he was sitting on. "I agreed to it too... he's been dead for a while... I didn't think anything would go wrong and then... When Jackie went close, he instantly got up and held her hostage. She said not to care about her... and to kill him by any means."

He sighed heavily, running his hands through his hair irritably. "We tried to save her, but when we just about got her safe, she was already severely wounded. Shane bought us some time and he died in the process. When he attacked, she said we can't let him go. He was fast and he vowed we were all dead, that he knew where the pack was. That's when she tried to sedate him, she refused to sit back..." His voice cracked and he refused to continue.

The pain inside was far too intense... breathing felt hard, like I was drowning underwater but still I tried to remain emotionless and strong.

Dan turned to me. "Her last words were; 'I'm the delta female and I am not going to let him hurt anyone else.' She prioritised this pack's safety and sacrificed her life."

The painful silence that fell over the room was somehow deafening and I turned away.

I needed to see them.

Stepping out of the hospital ward I headed to the morgue.

"Leo..."

Her voice made me stop, my hand on the lift door to the lower floor. I wanted to tell her I would be fine, that I can handle this shit, but I needed her. Our eyes met and she broke into a run, closing the gap between us and locked her arms around me.

I sighed heavily, inhaling her hair deeply. "How is she?" I murmured quietly.

"Devastated. She has been sedated so she can get some rest." She whispered back, pain clear in her voice. "Where are you going?"

"To see them." I replied when she looked up at me. "You don't need to come."

Our eyes met, both of us unable to hide our emotions and she reached up cupping my face. "So I should just let you go alone? You don't need to hide your feelings from me, Leo... We are one."

One.

We were one but two halves... and one could be lost.

I never want to lose you.

I pressed my forehead to hers, wrapping my arms around her tightly. She tilted her head up and softly pressed her lips against mine. I closed my eyes, kissing her back deeply. The sizzling sparks rushed through me, calming me, and giving me the strength I didn't know she had to give.

I'd never get enough of this... of her.

She was now my

life.

We broke apart, and exhaling, I entered the code, letting us in. We stepped into the large lift, designed to wheel down bodies, and I pressed the button to the only other floor it led to.

The morgue.

The doors opened and I saw several men standing to attention, these were my orders too.

"This room – Alpha, Luna." One said, motioning to the door he was guarding. He lowered his head, clearly knowing why we were here.

This time I had made sure to keep it in place, just in case something unexpected happened.

After Judah came back from the dead, I wasn't going to risk him changing Shane and Jackie into something. Until we knew what he was, we couldn't take risks.

They opened the door and I stepped in, seeing the two tables that held the bodies, each covered with a white cloth. Metal chains were binding them to the tables, outlining the two distinct body shapes. One male, one female.

A man I considered my brother, and a woman I considered my sister...

Guilt rushed through me at my treatment of their bodies being bound but until I was sure Judah didn't have a hold on them, I was going to have to keep them in place... Right now I couldn't afford to make any more mistakes than we already had.

The pain was crushing, my heart thundering, as I slowly walked over to Shane's body. I slowly moved the sheet back and Azura gasped, turning away. I realised that there was no need to bind him... He was missing limbs and his entire chest was a gaping hole. ↑

How was I going to present this body to Kareena? I placed my hand on his forehead, slowly caressing his hair.

Shane – one of my closest friends.

Fuck I'm sorry.

This shouldn't have fucking happened. I looked him over, Judah hadn't held back, his entire body was ripped apart. It was obvious that this was all they had been able to salvage...

I'm sorry man, I owe you...

I lifted his arm, the only one that was left hanging from his shoulder, bending down I held it to my forehead.

How many more do I need to lose for it to be enough?

I felt Azura's touch, as she wrapped her arms around me from behind.

I hope you're in a better place... this wasn't just one death... I knew Kareena would follow...

In heaven, they would reunite...

Placing his hand down slowly I pulled the sheet over him before turning to the other table. The body was visibly smaller.

Fuck

"You don't need to see her today." She whispered softly.

"I can't delay it." My voice was hoarse as I walked over to the table.

These steps were as hard as it was when I had walked to my mother's body...

How I fucking wished this was just a prank. Maybe she'll wake up. My heart was beating so violently it hurt and I looked at Azura seeing the tears silently streaming down her cheeks.

I caressed her cheek before I took hold of the white sheet.

The moment I moved the sheet back, it felt like time suddenly stopped as I stared down at her. Her face was pale, her neck was completely ripped to shreds and it was clear he had torn out her jugular vein. There were dried tear stains down her cheeks and the top of her head was sticky with blood. They truly were gone.

“Fuck!” I swore, he was fucking dead.

I quickly undid the chains, the sound of the metal clanging echoing in the empty room, when they dropped. My hands were shaking as I wrapped the white sheet around her body gently and pulled her close.

Jackie...

And for the first time in years, I was unable to stop myself from breaking down. 3

I dropped to my knees, holding her tight to my chest. My eyes stung, burying my nose in her hair, her faint scent reached my nose through the blood. A scent I would never smell again...

I had been like a big brother to her, but I hadn't done the one most important thing a brother should be able to do for his sister.

Time and time again, I wasn't able to protect her. I failed her. 12

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire by Moonlight Muse

Chapter 69

69. Burning Emotions

AZURA

My heart shattered watching Leo on his knees, cradling her body to his chest. Not one sound left him, but the pain and anguish that radiated off him was something I didn't even need the mate bond to feel. It filled the air and I had never seen him so... vulnerable.

The man that tried not to show emotions, who was always strong and cold, was now broken. Devastated by the loss of his loved ones. I wished I could turn back time and stop this from happening. I wish I could take his pain and make it my own.

Why her?

I wish I had called her last night... she must have been hoping I got her message.

Jackie...

I simply knelt behind him placing my arm around his shoulders, hoping it gave him some reprieve from the pain and heartbreak he was experiencing. His thudding heart was beating far faster than it should.

Closing my eyes, I tried to squash the guilt that was consuming me.

I brought Judah to them... I cost him his sister... and a best friend.

I made sure my walls were up, and never had I ever reinforced them as much as I did now. I didn't want to let him know how I was feeling. Not wanting to add to his pain.

Biting my lip, I held him tightly from behind, squeezing my eyes shut, trying to control the burning pain that was rushing through me.

Breathe...

I was so lost in my thoughts that I didn't even notice the door open behind me, until Emmet's angry shouts reached me.

"Don't touch her!"

My eyes flew open to see Eric and another guard holding him by the arms, his hands were bound, and although he couldn't awaken his wolf, he was staring at Leo with such hatred that it made up for the lack of his wolf's rage. My own anger flashed through me, hating how he was staring at Leo.

"Watch your tone." I growled.

He sneered at me, as he looked me over as if he had just seen me. "Ah... the one whose fault all of this is..."

A pang of pain rushed through me. My fault...

Leo's eyes flashed as he looked up, brushing strands of Jackie's hair back. "Be happy I'm allowing you to see her when you don't even fucking deserve that." He said, his voice dead of emotion and ice-cold. His aura suddenly grew as his eyes flashed. "And one more word against Azura..." He left his threat hanging.

"She was my mate! Who died because of your lack of capability! You both are at fucking fault!" Emmet spat, "Let me see her!" He struggled against the men holding him, but he was weakened. "Don't do this Emmet!" Eric growled; his voice strained. Leo stood up, lifting Jackie's body gently and placed her on the table. Planting a kiss on her forehead. He turned to Emmet, his arm possessively moving me behind him as if he didn't even want Emmet to look at me. "I am the one who is allowing you to fucking be here, so show some respect to her and stop acting like a fucking prick." Emmet sneered, "That's

my mate, I may have hurt her in my anger but I'm not the one responsible for killing her. That's on you, Leo!"

Leo's anger filled the room like a beast ready to destroy, his blazing steel blue eyes glaring at Emmet as he advanced on him. "For her sake, I am not going to fucking rip you apart but remember she was the only fucking thing keeping me from killing you. With her gone... I'm not seeing a fucking incentive."

He stopped in front of him, his entire body on the brink of shifting, I could see his claws, and hear the deepening of his voice. "For someone who just lost their mate, I can't figure out why you aren't running to her side to hold her." Leo snarled venomously, clenching his fists as he glared at the man before him. "She was ready to reject you and move on with her life, she deserved far more... You have five minutes."

Emmet didn't reply, walking towards the table. For a moment, I did see the sadness in his eyes, but I was unsure if it was him or the bond... He had just lost his other half, but Leo had displayed far more emotions. It was clear that Emmet was not feeling the loss as deeply as Leo

was.

Leo's arm went around my shoulders, guiding me towards the door at the same time Eric and the guard moved Emmet closer to Jackie. Eric was crying as his eyes fell on her corpse. I moved away from Leo, placing my hand on his shoulder as he looked away, almost as if ashamed to show his tears.

Our eyes met and I gave him a sad smile.

"Come on." Leo said quietly, holding his hand out to me. I nodded and made my way over to him when Emmet spoke, his voice bitter and icy. "Karma will not forget this, Leo." 4

Leo's frown deepened as he looked over his shoulder at Emmet. "Excuse me?"

"My mate died because of your carelessness... Karma will come to collect... I'll await the day I see the blood of that elite next to you, running down." An animalistic growl left Leo's lips as he turned, lunging at Emmet. "I will kill you." He growled venomously, slamming Emmet to the ground, and punching him across the face, making blood spray from his nose. His heart was beating, and Emmet simply laughed. "So much for respecting Jackie." "Leo come on." I said going over to them, I glared down at Emmet, as I forced Leo off him. "He isn't worth your time." "Get him out of here, he doesn't deserve to spend time with her." Leo hissed, before storming

to the door, his anger swirling around him. Emmet shook his head as Eric and the other guard restrained him, pulling him to his feet. "Go ... but this is all the elites are good for... causing death... To protect them, once more a few more of us lost our lives.

Congratulations Westwood, you're the reason she's dead." Guilt enveloped me as Leo pulled me from the room, my head felt like it was going to explode, and my entire body burned as if it were enveloped in fire.

I was the reason she was dead... I cast Judah's shadow over this pack... I am the reason she's gone. Emmet wasn't even wrong... Leo knows it, deep down he knows it...

She died because of me because I made the mistake of getting entangled with someone as sick as him.

"Leo! Jackie's gone!" I looked up when Nikki came running over, tears streaming down her cheeks as she ran straight to Leo, flinging her arms around his neck. 4

My eyes flashed as I looked at them, both devastated at the loss of someone special, but I still wanted to rip her out of his arms.

Maybe I was selfish.. The moment Leo's hands went to her waist, I turned away. I couldn't focus anymore; everything was a mess, and the excruciating pain in my head was about to burst. Why did I even think I could make a place here? I could hear them speaking, but I couldn't focus. I took a shuddering breath, and I broke into a

run.

"Azura!" Leo's voice came, but I felt like my entire body was fighting against me. I was the reason behind this. All I do is take the lives of those around me. I stumbled into the fresh air, my heart pounding as I fell to my knees heaving, the blinding light around me felt too much. Go away! Let me stay in the darkness. Wrapping my arms around myself, I dropped to my knees, feeling sick. My frustration and anger swirled around me.

This was all his fault. I was going to kill him. Judah had fucking messed with me for far too long!

The burning felt too intense, and I was unable to stop the scream of anguish as the pain erupted, and I just wanted it all gone.

"Azura..."

I gasped when I felt Leo's touch, I looked up, my eyes widening as I saw him fight against the energy radiating off me. I looked around, but all I could see was the blinding silver and gold flames surrounding me. •

Flames?

My heart pounded as my gaze dipped down, and I realised that the blinding light was

emanating from me.

A flame-like aura...

Strong arms wrapped around me, taking away the crippling edge from the pain and guilt that I was feeling

It was my fault.

'None of this is your fault.' Leo's voice came as he fought against the surging aura whipping around me as he held me. Wasn't it?

I wanted to believe that, to feel like it wasn't my fault...

"It's going to be ok Baby Girl." Leo's voice came as the shock of the bond made me shiver." Breathe..." His voice sounded strained, his heart thumping as he held me in his arms, as he knelt on the ground. Placing my hand on his chest, my eyes fluttered shut as I let it all go.

I felt it, the pulsing power that was emitting off me... so similar to that of my siblings'. Why now?

My legs gave way and Leo caught me as darkness blanketed the area around us.

"I know you're hurting... but if that bitch touches you even once more... I will destroy her Leo." I hissed, trying to find an outlet for my emotions. I glared up at him, only for my anger to dissipate when I looked into his eyes. "Understood... but if you stayed a moment longer, you'd have noticed that I only touched her to get her off me." He said quietly. Gazing into his blue eyes, I wanted to argue, but I was just being selfish. He had been through so much... he'd shown me what I meant to him, I wasn't a fool... I wanted an outlet for the turmoil inside, but he had just been through so much... and so I simply hugged him back. Tightly.

He made me feel better.

"That aura... it looked... I'm assuming that's the first time it happened."

Frowning, I looked at my hand. "Yeah it was, and I don't know why now..." I murmured.

"Seemed like Kiara and Liam's..." Leo mused quietly running his fingers through my hair. I knew Kiara's had awoken when she had felt extreme emotion which triggered it... my heart thudded as I realised something similar had just happened to me. My emotions had been out of control, it had just been building up. Looking around I realised we weren't alone, several people had rushed out, probably to see what the light was.

Great.

"I don't get it... Where was this ability when I needed it..." I muttered, relieved as the small group dispersed.

He placed a soft kiss on my forehead. "I don't really know... Sometimes Selene works in mysterious ways... Let's get you home." He whispered, and I looked up at him as he stood up, carrying me. I was too exhausted to argue, resting my head on his shoulder, I allowed him to carry me.

I felt the baby kick, and my heart leapt as I placed my hand on my stomach. It was almost as if my baby was telling me to stay strong.

We entered the apartment, and Leo carried me to his room, placing me on the bed. For a moment I thought he was going to leave me, but instead, he dropped onto the bed next to me and I pulled him close.

I adjusted my position, only for him to slip his arm under my head and hold me tight against his chest. We remained like that for a while before he spoke. "Don't blame yourself for anything he has done. I'm going to find him, one fucking way or another, and he will pay. For everything." He said quietly. Sighing, I nodded slowly. "I wish there was more I could do, I feel useless as your mate." I mused quietly.

I never thought I'd be the future Luna...

He gripped the side of my neck, forcing me to look up at him. "Are you for real? Being by Kareena's side today was what a Luna would do... you don't need to do anything different... just follow your heart, Beautiful, and you'll be ok." I nodded slowly, a thought that had occurred to me earlier returning.

"The funeral organising... shall I get onto it tomorrow." I whispered.

His heart thudded, and I reached up, running my fingers through his hair.

"Yeah, if you're ok to do it. Kesha will help you." He said quietly, referring to the Beta female.

"I will." I nodded, as our eyes met, his were still a little bloodshot, full of emotions. "I will never lose you." He whispered, almost as if promising himself. His gaze dipped to my lips, before he claimed them in a deep intense kiss.

'No, you won't, because I'm not going anywhere.' I murmured through the link, kissing him back with equal passion. We moved back after a while, and I looked towards the window." Shower and change, I'll make you a coffee and check up on Corrado. He must be worried."

He nodded, and for a moment, those words were on the tip of my lips. But instead, I simply smiled at him, and he pulled me close, kissing me once more.

I left the room, switching the coffee machine on, before walking down the hall to Corrado's room. I peeked in, spotting Winona sitting by the bed, but it was obvious Corrado was awake. "Mommy!" He exclaimed the moment he spotted me, pushing his duvet off.

Winona stood up apologetically. "He has not slept."

I shook my head slightly. "That's ok, you can go, get some rest too." She nodded as I smiled gently, walking over to Corrado. "Hey... not tired?" I asked softly. Flinging his arms around my waist, he shook his head. "What's happening, Mommy?" He asked, and my heart squeezed seeing the uncertainty and fear in his eyes. Even children picked up on everything.

Shaking my head, I gave him a small smile. "It's just... don't worry, how about you sleep with Mommy and Daddy tonight?" I asked softly, brushing his hair off his forehead. He looked up at me with hopeful eyes. 1 "Can I?"

"Of course you can, let's go have some milk." I replied, smiling warmly at him before I took his hand leading him out of his room. In just a few short weeks I was already a Mama with my own family, and for them I will always stay strong. I'll make sure to be the binding to keep everything together. 1

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire by Moonlight Muse

Chapter 70

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire by Moonlight Muse Chapter 70 Moons

LEO.

I let the shower water run over me, washing away the soap suds from my body. I was unable to remove the images of both Shane and Jackie's bodies from my mind. Those final memories of their bodies would always remain in my mind.

Anyone could have died, and no matter who it was, I would have felt it. No matter how much I tried, I still wasn't doing enough. Judah Gallahan was someone I was going to figure out, I will find out exactly what the fuck he is. To stay dead, pretend to be dead for that long...

He held certain traits of a vampire, but he wasn't one, he didn't fit the box... I have seen vampires and have been around them when Endora had managed to capture a few.

There wasn't really much in England in comparison to the States, but there were a lot of differences between Judah and vampires. However, I wouldn't rule it out completely. I needed to start

somewhere... 2

Switching the shower off, I leaned my head against the wall for a moment, sighing heavily. They were gone.

Fuck...

It still hurts.

Sliding the door open, I grabbed a towel and roughly dried myself off before I walked to my wardrobe area and took out some boxers and sweatpants. I was heading out to the lounge

when I heard the sound of Corrado and Azura talking.

Had he still been awake all this time?

"... lumpy sandwiches, Mommy, but I know Daddy will like this goopy dish." I saw him examining something that clearly smelled like nachos as Azura stood there next to him, hands on hips. The small curve of her stomach was noticeable from this angle. Our pup was growling, and I could hear its heartbeat too.

I smiled faintly, leaning against the door as they conversed.

"It's nachos, not goop!" Azura protested prodding the Nachos with a finger before she licked the Salsa off her finger.

Fuck girl...

"Oh yes, it just doesn't look as nice as Daddy's nachos... but don't worry, Mommy, Daddy will love them." 2

Azura grinned. "I didn't have any doubt until you put that doubt in me. But your dad has no option but to eat this!" She looked up, noticing me, and I smirked when her eyes swept over

my shirtless torso. Her heart was racing as I slowly walked over to them.

"Daddy! Mommy made nachos!"

I picked him up and looked at the tray she had prepared, nachos, topped with plenty of cheese, salsa, and jalapenos. Coffee for me, milk for the two of them, and some other small snacks. For my girl, this was a big effort.

“It looks good,” I said, wrapping my arm around her and pulling her close. “As long as I don’t get food poisoning,” I added teasingly, making her smack my waist and glare up at me.

Always resorting to violence... 2,

Smirking slightly, I kissed her lips feeling Corrado staring, and it took a lot to keep my tongue to myself. We moved back, our eyes locked, and I felt a wave of strength wash through me.

Their presence helped...

Corrado giggled and made kissy sounds as I picked up the tray and took it to the table.

“I’ll be right back; I’m just going to change into something else.” Azura added. I watched her leave, my eyes on her ass only for Corrado to giggle again.

I raised my eyebrow sitting down. “What are you finding so funny?” I asked, grabbing the remote and switching the TV on.

He giggled covering his mouth. “Daddy and Mommy just kiss all the time. Lucy at school said you kiss, you make a baby. Is Mommy having lots of babies now because you kiss so much?” His eyes widened as he scanned the room. Where will we keep all the babies...” 7

if

What the hell do kids talk about?

I smiled slightly, ruffling his hair. In his Batman pyjamas, he looked super cute.

“It takes a lot more than a kiss to make a baby, and before you ask what that means, it means there’s a certain time of the... moon cycle that is also needed to make a baby.” I took a bit of nachos, this actually tasted pretty good, although I felt like I had no appetite. I realised we hadn’t eaten since the McDonald’s we caught earlier. 2

A frown creased his cute little face as he pondered over what I had just said. I put on a cartoon just when I heard footsteps and her scent reaching my nose. I turned, spotting her running her fingers through her hair, my breath caught in my throat, She was wearing a workout shirt of mine that was hanging off her, and a pair of my boxers that left her sexy legs on display.

Well fuck... There was just something about her in my clothes that was a total turn-on...

She looked up, smirking as she leaned over the back of the sofa, kissing my lips

'Like what you see?' She taunted seductively, pulling away and planting a big kiss on Corrado's head.

'Oh absolutely.' I replied, caressing her thigh as she walked past and took a seat on the other side of Corrado and wrapping her arm around him.

"So, what am I missing? What are you father and son chatting about?"

"Oh, how babies are made. Daddy told me all about it." Corrado said seriously, making her eyes widen into saucers. Damn, she had big eyes...

I smirked slightly. Despite the pain that lingered in my chest, these two were taking the edge off, making it a little more bearable.

"Shocked?" I mocked her, as she turned her attention back to Corrado.

"Did he now? What did he say?" She asked.

"He told me about the moon cycle, and that only at a certain time can you make babies." He repeated, well at least he was damn smart and paid attention.

Azura laughed, giving him a squeeze. "Yup, the monthly cycle really means a lot."

"So it's special like the Blood Moon..."

"Yeah, it definitely consists of red..." I smirked, earning myself a look from Azura.

Corrado nodded, "Oh we are never told this at school. Oh, dear. So how many sisters and brothers will we have? Because if there's lots and lots, we need a big house! I help you take care of them, ok?"

"Awe of course! But I don't know, I think just the two of you might be enough?" She said, looking at me. "Unless your dad wants many more."

I wrapped my arm around her, placing the Nachos in my lap and fed her a piece. "Not sure, but two sounds good enough. By the way, these don't taste half bad."

She bit into it, and I was very aware of the big pair of eyes watching us from the middle. She took it, her lips brushing my fingers, and smoothly licked the salsa from my fingers. Yeah, I think this just became my favourite meal right after her...

She moved back, her heart pounding as Corrado clapped his hand.

“Wait, we need to find more Winnie’s then! To help with more babies... Do you think Jackie will want to help take care of our babies?”

My heart clenched as I looked at Azura, and she reached over, running her fingers through my hair. I’ll let her handle this one...

“Jackie has gone to the Moon Goddess baby.” She whispered, lifting him into her lap.

He looked confused as he stared between us before his smile vanished and he buried his head into her shoulder. She stroked his back and head, her own eyes full of tears that she refused to

let fall.

Silence followed as we sat there. She soothed our son, as I wrapped my arm around her tightly too, before she slowly made light conversation about the cartoon that was playing.

Slowly he began speaking, but he was quieter, and when we headed to our bed, Corrado was the first to jump onto the bed, Azura got on next, wrapping her arms around him, and I slipped in on his other side, slipping my arm under her neck, placing my arm over them both.

Then he mentioned her.

“Is Jackie happy with the Moon Goddess?”

“Yes, she is. She’s on the moon now.” Azura whispered, both gazing out of the window...

I watched them, wanting to protect them forever. This was my family...

I know if they weren’t here tonight, I wouldn’t have been able to handle the pain that was crippling me inside...

That night the nightmares of my past had returned in full force and each time Azura had woken up too,

I knew she had seen them too and I wished there was a way to block her from suffering through my nightmares too. In the end, I didn’t sleep, simply laying there awake, wanting her to get her rest.

It was now two days later, and the funeral had just taken place. I was the one who had delivered a short speech, with neither Kareena being able to nor anyone for Jackie either. Nikki didn't even offer to. 9

The burial had taken place and most of the pack had dispersed. Dad, Raj, Kesha, Eric, Nikki and the five and their mates were still here. Kareena sat on her knees before Shane's body, crying her heart out. I walked over to her, crouching down and placing a hand on her back. 4

It wasn't the first time I was talking to her since his death, but it didn't get any easier.

"I'm truly sorry," I said quietly, giving her shoulder a comforting squeeze.

She looked up at me, an image of someone who was truly devastated. She would die unless she moved on... A witch could break the bond, but it wouldn't fully take away the pain unless she took a chosen mate.

I just hoped she was able to stay strong enough to move on... but deep down, I wasn't sure if she was strong enough to live without him...

Sera wrapped her arms around her, hugging her tightly and I stood up.

Gazing down at the graves, a soft wind blew, and I realised they truly were gone...

Azura stepped forward, her presence beside me was comforting.

She looked up at me and said, "Gone but not forgotten."

"Yeah, they never will be." I said quietly, kissing her forehead softly.

I turned my head to the cloudy sky, searching the heavens.

Mom... takes care of our pack members for me...

Evening had fallen, and everyone was at Marcel's for the wake. Kareena seemed to have stopped crying, but I knew she'd need a lot of support going forward. Azura, Sera and Kesha hadn't left her side, and I could tell she was grateful for it.

I had just stepped outside for a smoke when Dad followed.

"Leo, can I have a word?" He asked as a sharp breeze ruffled our hair.

I glanced up as I lit my cigarette. "What is it?"

He sighed heavily, swirling the drink in his glass. "We don't know what that man is... to not be breathing for days... we need to call for assistance."

"I know, I talked to Alejandro yesterday. I've already sent him what data and images we had, including the footage of the attack." I felt sick, having been unable to watch the footage myself but I knew I would have to soon.

He looked surprised but nodded in approval. "Perfect, can I ask why now?"

I raised an eyebrow. "This is above my ego, I thought I had killed him and managed to get rid of him... but clearly not. We need to figure out what the fuck he is."

"Are you sure he isn't a vampire?"

"Yeah... if he was, when we stabbed him, I would have known... maybe some kind of hybrid. I'll figure it out." I said smoking my cigarette.

Sighing he looked at me. "Are you ok Leo? Jackie and Shane were both close to you. Especially Jackie."

"I'd be lying if I said I'm fine. Shane was one of my closest men too."

I saw the questioning look in his eyes, but he didn't question it. Sooner or later, I would have to mention my truth. The full truth of Schurke Wolf...

He placed his hand on my shoulder. "I'm sorry, son, for your loss. You have handled this with strength. I am proud of you Leo, always remember that. I love you son." 3

Our eyes met and when he wrapped his arms around me, I hugged him back. "Thanks... Dad." I was unable to say the words out loud, but I hope he understood that I cared for him too. In the end, he was still my father, the only family I had through it all...

"If there is anything I can do, do not hesitate to let me know." He said when I pulled away.

Taking a drag on my cigarette, I looked up at him calculatingly. "There is something actually..."

"

"Oh?"

I nodded as I looked out into the dark sky. "If it's alright with you, can we move to the mansion? I may not always be home and I need to make sure that Azura and Corrado are safe."

A smile crossed his lips and he nodded. "I will welcome you all home with open arms, that was nothing you needed to ask me. This home is yours son, and I could wish for nothing more than to have you come home."

I looked into his eyes, the intense emotions clear in them and I realised he had been waiting to hear those words for years.

I'm sorry I'm late Dad... I was clouded by my hatred and resentment... but... I'm here now, I'll make amends and I'll fix my mistakes. I promise... if I live, I will make it up to you all. 2

I promise.

A/N – If you get an update notification later it will be me reposting the index with different species mentioned so far and the rules of this world, not a chapter hehe.

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire by Moonlight Muse

Chapter 71

71. You can Never be too Careful

AZURA.

“We are going to live with grandad forever?” Corrado asked excitedly as he struggled to hold his bags of plushies. Although he was barely managing and the bags were dragging on the floor, he was content.

“We’ll see... the mansion’s a little outdated for my liking...” Leo replied.

“Oh Daddy, you can fix it then, then we stay with Grandad, because Grandad is all alone there. Right Azura Mommy?” He asked me.

I smiled, he still deviated between Mommy and Azura Mommy, although it was getting less frequent. Either way, they both made my heart melt. “Right!” I smiled at him.

“You two are always on the same side, aren’t you?” Leo said as he came up from behind me and kissed my neck, his fingers brushing my stomach. 2

My heart skipped a beat at his gesture, feeling the baby move. It was still small, and I knew he couldn’t feel it yet, but I had felt it. I tilted my head up, looking into those icy blue eyes of his incredibly handsome face.

‘Your pup just moved; I think it can sense your touch.’ I murmured through the link, as his lips pressed against mine.

'I'm glad it does...' He murmured as sparks rushed through me, and only when Corrado giggled, did I move away, trying to calm my beating heart. The way he wasn't hiding his emotions from those sexy piercing eyes of his shook me every time.

"Yes Daddy, I be on Mommy's side now." He said hurrying over and dragging his bag. He looked up at me,

before looking down at my tummy. "Because Mommy needs to grow our little baby too." He patted my stomach before placing a kiss on it, making my heart beat faster, and I gave him a hug. He dropped his bags, and some of the plushies tumbled out as we enjoyed our hug. Leo grabbed them, stuffing them back in the bags.

"You look cute holding a plushie. Wish I had a camera..." I teased, making Corrado laugh. We both earned a look from the arrogant Alpha before we continued on our walk to the mansion. The essentials we needed had already been taken earlier. Leo had told me to order myself more stuff, but I really wasn't much of a shopper, although the band of my pants were beginning to feel tight. Besides, I had so many things at home, I was going to have it all sent over to me too.

It was the day after the funerals, and I was going to Kareena's later, Sera messaged, saying she had stayed in bed all morning, not speaking or eating. I hoped she would get better soon... She was already weakening with despair...

Reaching the mansion, I raised my eyebrow at the huge pile of parcels that were piled near the front door. From the labels, I could see they were all clothing brands.

"What are these?" I asked stepping over a few bags carefully, only for Leo to take hold of my elbow, making sure I didn't slip on the plastic.

Winona came hurrying over. "Sorry for this mess, I went a bit crazy shopping." She apologised and gathered up a few bags, but there was only so much she could carry in her slender arms.

"You do seem to like your shopping." I replied amused, as Marcel came over and we both helped with the bags.

"At least she bought the stuff I told her to." Leo said, taking his phone out. "They're yours."

My eyes widened in surprise as I looked at the bags and parcels. "I told you I didn't need anything..."

"Let him spoil you." Marcel smirked, passing the bags to someone else to take upstairs and taking the ones I and Winona were carrying from us.

“Thank you.” She said, looking around as if to see what she could do, only to realise the bags were all picked up.

“Were all of these scanned when you picked them up from the depot?” Leo questioned Winona sharply, who nodded.

“Yes, Alpha.”

Scanned?

Seeing my questioning look, he frowned slightly.

‘Just making sure... I don’t trust anything right now.’

I didn’t blame him, and it’s always a good thing to be cautious. My mood darkened when Judah returned to my mind...

He was sick.

I wish I could turn back time and never ever have met him... 1

It was a short while later and Corrado was happily in his room with Winona. The bedroom was already made for him as he visited and stayed over at Marcel’s sometimes, but he had been pretty enthusiastic to set up his new room. We were in Leo’s old room, and I was looking around, although the place was dust-free it was obvious that nothing had been changed or moved around.

There were a lot of books on the shelves, and most were gibberish to me. Programming, analytics, and all that boring stuff. “You really were a geek weren’t you...” I mused, crouching down as I took out one of the books, only to see so many notes that my head began hurting.

Damn.

Whoever said you can’t get a headache from just staring at a textbook, was lying; you really can!

I shoved the book back and scrunched my nose in disdain, making him raise his eyebrow. “Studying hard doesn’t make a person a geek.” He remarked from where he was flipping through some papers, a sexy frown on his face.

“Kinda does.” I retorted, thinking it was unfair to have such sexy looks, brains, and personality ... “I dislike studying... I mean, I tried, and did ok but I didn’t enjoy it. Kat’s the smart one out of us, Sky has brains and doesn’t even have to study to get straight A’s. You damn Rossis.” Leo smirked. “I can smell jealousy.” He mocked me as I stood up and pulled out another book.

"I'm not jealous, but it is annoying..., especially you... It should be illegal to have looks, brains, and the full works. Although, I'm glad you do have a big dick, that puts even my biggest dildo to shame. A girl won't complain... and that ladder... Oo wait so you haven't really been in this room for a while. I bet I'll find a pile of porn somewhere." 2

I yelped when he slapped my ass, I didn't even realise when he had come over.

"Tell me, does the string of dick compliments mean you want something? Stop wriggling that ass of yours in front of me, before I decide to fuck you till we pass out." He growled in my ear, his arms wrapping around me. "As for porn... you won't find any around here... but I could make you my pornstar if you like, I wouldn't mind a show." 1 Smirking, I leaned into him. "Hmm... you know I can pole dance." I responded seductively, pressing my ass against him as I grinded against him, feeling him harden. 1

"Oh yeah?" His voice was rough, his hand slipping under my top as he grabbed my breasts making a wanton moan escape my lips. "When do I get my personal show?"

Fuck... He kissed my neck sucking hard and I had to bite my lip to stop myself from crying out with the pleasure that consumed me. "Maybe someday. Depends on how good your behaviour is." I murmured back, his hand now slipping into the band of my pants. "Leo..."

I gripped the shelf in front of me as his fingers massaged my pussy, making me whimper as shooting pleasure coursed through me, only for his phone to ring. He growled. "Ignore it." I frowned. If he left me now...

His lips pressed against my mark, 'It's probably important... I'm expecting a few calls. Just make sure you don't make a sound...'

Before I could even answer, he let go of my breast and took his phone out of his pocket. "It's Alejandro." He muttered, I was about to speak when his finger twirled on my clit making me moan. "Better keep it down baby girl."

My heart skipped a beat when he actually took the call at the same time, and he plunged his fingers into me... 1

LEO.

I swore in my head when my finger squeezed into her, she was soaking for me and the way her body was reacting was a total turn-on. "Yeah?" I said taking the call, her heart was racing as she gripped the shelf in front of her. 'Take your pants and thong off now.' I commanded, tucking the phone between my ear and shoulder. Like a good girl, she obeyed. I watched her slide the tiny fabric down between her ass, wanting to bend her over and fuck her hard. The moment she had discarded them, I snaked my arm around her waist and pulled her to the bed, sitting down with her on my lap. 'Leo... are you really going to – She was cut off when I began working my fingers inside of her.

“I checked the documents you sent over... I’m sorry for your losses... In the slowed-down footage that you sent this morning... Did you see the smoke?” Alejandro asked.

I frowned remembering the video that I had enhanced and slowed. I had seen it too... and

although it had been hard to see them getting killed when I had put it in complete slow motion, I had seen the smoke that seemed to follow Judah...

“I did.” I replied, pumping my fingers into her as she rested her head back on my shoulder, biting down on her lip as she tried not to scream out in pleasure. It was a fucking mission to focus on the conversation, my mind a mix between the anger and hatred for the bastard, and the woman who was wrapped around my fingers like the dirty little girl she was. “Any ideas what he is?”

He sighed in frustration, “No, I’ve sent it over to the coven and Delsanra to see if they can come up with anything. The reason I called... I wanted you to speak to the council yourself.”

I frowned making Azura grip my thigh as I fucked her harder, my eyes on her pussy. Her heart was pounding, and her juices were trickling out of her, I was taking it slow, knowing if I sped up, the slick sound of her juices would reach Alejandro through the phone. “I’m not speaking to the council. I still don’t like them and do not plan to be a part of it.”

She sighed as I slipped my fingers out, playing with her clit as her body tensed, she spread her legs wider, her face an image of pure bliss. Fuck did she look fucking good...

“At least come and see it first-hand... It’s not a dictatorship Leo but a united front to protect our people together. Give them a chance, with your insight I’m sure we can have a good plan. You’re a smart fucker, plus your future father-in-law will probably want to see you.”

‘H-he’s not wrong...’ Azura’s breathless moan came into my head.

Right now I wanted to hear her screams of pleasure... Although there was something fun about watching her struggling to not make a sound too... I plunged my fingers into her again, exhaling. “Fine, but I’m not leaving the pack to come to yours, we’ll have a meeting over a video call. Deal?”

“Deal.” Alejandro’s approval was obvious in his tone. “Tomorrow at ten am then.”

“Fine.” I said hanging up and tossing the phone onto the bed. She gasped in relief the moment the phone was switched off, and I grabbed her breast and began fucking her hard with my fingers.

She moaned loudly as her juices squirted out of her, "Fuck Leo... I'm coming!" She gasped, her back arching as I felt her tightening around my fingers. The moment I felt her entire body tense, her walls clamping down on me, I sank my canines into her mark, re-marking her. Pleasure rushed through me and an intense current that felt like a mini orgasm.

A delicious moan left her lips as her release tore through her. I kept fucking her until she had ridden it out before slipping my fingers out and shoving them into her mouth.

'Fuck...!' She moaned as she licked them clean, whimpering as I twisted her nipple. Tugging her head back, I kissed her hard, tasting her in her mouth as she twisted in my arms, pushing me back onto the bed and climbing on top of me. Reaching down I yanked her top off over her head, tossing it to the ground just as she pulled my top off, our lips meeting in a hungry kiss

once more...

After that hot sex session, Azura had showered and left to spend some time with Kareena, having gotten back a short while ago. Night had already fallen, and I could tell she was tired, emotionally. I had spent the day trying to come up with a plan to trap Judah. I had stopped by

the graveyard too...

I still couldn't believe they were gone...

I didn't blame her, spending the day with someone who had lost their mate, seeing their despair...would exhaust anyone. I would never wish it on anyone.

We had just finished dinner and Winona had gone to put Corrado to bed, the excitement of the day had worn him out.

Sitting here, I was sure this was the first dinner in a long time that there wasn't tension between me and Dad... no... it definitely was the first in years...

"Alejandro called a little earlier regarding the meeting tomorrow."

Picking up my coffee mug I raised an eyebrow. "Do you two like gossip over shit every minute of the fucking day?"

He smirked, "Not every minute but we do stay in touch. He did say you'll stick to a video conference."

I nodded. "Yeah, after what happened, I am not leaving this pack unattended unless I absolutely fucking need to."

“You’re being careful, but it makes sense.” Azura said, resting her head on my shoulder.
“The doctor stopped by to see Kareena earlier... She gave me some vitamins too.”

I frowned. “Vitamins? Have you eaten any?” 2

She raised an eyebrow and looked up at me. “Not yet, but they are just vitamins?”

“I guess it’s hard not to be paranoid.” Dad chuckled as Azura shook her head.

Maybe I was being too paranoid... But you really can’t be too careful... not when the likes of Emmet do exist... “Where are the vitamins?” I asked, making a tense silence fall over the table.

“I’ll go grab them.” She said, but it was obvious she was thinking I was overdoing it.

“Leo...” I looked up at him sharply, Azura’s footsteps fading away as she left the room.
“Are you alright son?”

“I’m not going to lie that I’m not on edge... until he’s caught, I’m not lowering my guard.”
I stood up, my anger and hatred toward Judah only growing.

Dad sighed heavily, “I agree...he is a monster of some sort... he took on so many of our warriors and still escaped...”

“Yeah, and I plan to fucking kill him, once and for all. I don’t even know what she even saw in the bastard.” a

I turned to leave, only to see Azura standing there, an expression of hurt in her eyes as she held a few bottles of multivitamins in her hands.

‘Azura...’

She shook her head, holding the bottles out to me as she looked away. But it was the guilt and hurt in them that fucking tore me up.

Fuck I didn’t mean it like that. 2

“Goodnight Marcel.” She said with a small smile before she turned and walked off.

Fuck.