

## Clay's P.O.V

Loss. It was one of the main reasons a wolf turned rogue.

A feral creature with no humanity...no emotions. A creature that hunts and kills the people they used to know. A creature to be hunted and killed for the sake of everyone's safety.

Loss...it was one of the main reasons.

But what had I lost? Who was I moaning?

What was I running from? Who was I losing myself for?

The earth seemed to shake beneath my feet as I ran blindly. A red haze started to cover my vision from the corners, slowly moving in towards the centre.

No!

I couldn't give in! I couldn't become a rogue!

But I couldn't seem to fight this unseen enemy as my mind began to clog, shrouding my memories in grey mist, forbidding me from accessing them. It was like everything I once knew was being erased, including my former existence.

I tried one last time to peek through the dark grey mist in my mind, to unlock the reason why I was driving myself mad, but came up with nothing. Something was blocking my mind, erasing my identity.

Clay...

Who is it? Whose voice is it? Why am I remembering this voice?

A piercing headache blinded me temporarily and I tripped on a fallen branch, tumbling down a slope at phenomenal speed. The stones on the ground tore through my skin, drawing blood. When I finally stopped rolling down the slope, my entire body felt like it was on fire. The pain was unimaginable but I didn't seem to care. What I was worried about most was why was I turning? Why was I becoming rogue?

And I couldn't find the answers anywhere.

Clay...

There it was! That voice again. A woman's voice.

Did I know her? Was she the one I lost? Was she my mate?

I love you. Always and forever.

A scream tore through me as my head felt like it had split open. I clutched my head with my hands and closed my eyes to let it pass. I couldn't recall where I was or how I got here. Who was I? Where had I come from? What was I doing here, in the middle of the forest? I couldn't remember my name or anything other than the fact that I was a wolf who was turning rogue. Every time I tried to remember, my head pounded even harder, the pain unbearable.

I couldn't remember anything at all...except for that woman's voice. And ever her voice seemed to be fading in the darkness. No!

I clutched onto that memory with whatever remained of my mind, etching it in so I wouldn't forget. I could lose my memories, I could lose my identity but I couldn't erase her! I wouldn't erase her. I don't know what made me think this way but it felt like if I lost her, there would be no point in me staying alive anymore.

A second later, I heard howls from all around me...wolf howls.

Rogues.

I opened my eyes as the pain subsided and saw the red haze creep over my eyesight once again. This time, I didn't fight it anymore. There was no point. Once the transformation started, there was no going back no matter how hard anyone tried.

I couldn't understand how I had that knowledge but I guess I had no way of finding out now.

I looked up at the night sky as a cold wind began to blow. The moon was full in the sky, shining bright in all her beauty, but I didn't see beauty. A sudden rage took over me as my vision turned full red, turning the once luminescent moon blood red.

A growl escaped my lips as I stared at the moon with hatred. Everything was her fault and I would make her pay.

My eyes snapped to the shrubs surrounding me as I heard a twig break not far from me. Getting up from the ground, I growled at the intruder, my lips pulled back over my teeth. But then I saw them, the rogues.

There were at least fifteen of them that emerged from the woods and I could see several more pairs of glowing eyes from the bushes behind them. One by one they all came forward on silent feet, surrounding me until they formed a circle with me at the centre and then, they all bowed, their heads touching the earth.

They weren't my enemies anymore; they were my brethren...my soldiers. And I was their Alpha.

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 1

Flora's P.O.V

"One day, Selene, the beautiful and serene Goddess of the moon was

riding through the sky in her beloved silver chariot, driven by two stunning steeds whose coats were as white as snow and they bore wings of the same pristine white on their backs. Morning was almost upon her and she was travelling back home to rest. But while crossing a large grassland near the hills behind which the sun would rise, she saw something that immediately caught her attention. "Or, rather...it was someone. "It was none other than Endymion, the shepherd who lived nearby. But

what made Goddess Selene pause in her way was the stunning beauty of the mortal man that outshone any God she had ever laid eyes on. Golden haired and blue eyes, but in her eyes his beauty outshone even Apollo, the God of the Sun. "Selene fell madly in love with Endymion at first sight and the two

started a relationship. She gave birth to fifty of his daughters, but as days passed, Endymion grew older and even more gorgeous. It worried Selene for he was a mortal, bound to return to dust from which he was created. So she went to Zeus, the King of Gods, for help. "Zeus took pity on the lovely Selene, who had born him two lovely daughters and offered Endymion eternal life and youth. But there was one condition. For if he was granted eternal life and youth, he must be put into a deep slumber forever. He would remain unchanged in his sleep while the world changed around him. "Since Selene and Endymion loved each other dearly, he decided not to

part with his beloved and chose eternal sleep. Till now, he is supposed to be asleep in a hidden location and each morning, after the Goddess of the Moon has performed her duties, she would go back to her eternal lover, her consort and lay next to him, telling him of her day and how much she loved him. "That is the story of eternal love between Selene and Endymion, and

that is why, the Goddess has given us mates. So that we too can have someone that would love us with the same passion and devotion with which the Goddess loves her Endymion."

Ezra, the Shrine Maiden of the Lindersay Shrine, finished narrating her story to the seven beautiful children sitting in front of her as they looked up at her in adoration and devotion. Her hair was tied in a lose braid that was casually slung over one shoulder and her white robes were in pristine condition as she sat with her admirers on the marble ground of the shrine and indulged them in their daily story telling sessions. To be honest, I didn't think the children came here every day because

they wanted to know more about their Goddess. The little hellions were smitten with Ezra as was the rest of Lindersay and they wanted to visit her just to spend time with her. But till date, I had never seen Ezra complain or scold them. Ezra never scolded anyone for that matter and people still obeyed her. It was the sense of peace and serenity around her that drew people towards her like magnets, and despite her busy schedule, she always made time for everyone. “Flora.” Ezra looked up at me with a gentle smile on her lips. “Come, I was waiting for you.”

“Children,” she looked down at the little hellions who gave her puppy eyed looks. “Your session for today is over. Go on now.” They made sad faces but obeyed her as they left one by one, promising Ezra to come early the next day. She simply smiled and waved them goodbye. I came inside the shrine only after everyone had left, lifting up my robe to make sure I didn’t trip on it. It had been two years since I arrived at Lindersay, but I couldn’t quite get accustomed to the gowns yet. Ezra, on the other hand, appeared to glide across the room in her floor length robes without any problems. I bowed to her once she was in front of me and Ezra held out her hand once I straightened myself. “Come,” she smiled gently as I took her hand. “Do you want some chamomile tea? I left some to brew before I was swarmed.”

“Thank you,” I told her. “I’d love some.” Ezra’s parlor was towards the back of the shrine, which was attached to her own room and bathing area. All Lunar Maidens had extravagant rooms just like the rest of the palace, but as the Shrine Maiden, Ezra enjoyed a few extra privileges than the rest of us. So naturally, her room was bigger and prettier than ours.

“So,” Ezra asked after we had taken a seat on the mahogany chairs in her parlor and she had handed me a cup of warm chamomile tea. “How are you feeling today? Did you remember anything at all?”

I took a sip of my tea and thought about how to properly answer her. “I’ve been well this past week.” I decided to go with honesty. “But that feeling seems to have intensified.”

“Feeling?” Ezra sipped on her tea. “The sense of loss and longing that you have been feeling since you woke up?”

“Yes.” I nodded. “Sometimes, I look at the woods and I feel like someone is calling for me. It makes me want to run over...search for whatever is calling out to me.”

“Absolutely not!” The sharpness in Ezra’s voice had me startled. “The woods are extremely dangerous and I shouldn’t have to be the one to tell you this, Flora. There are rogues everywhere who will love to give you a slow and painful death. So, no matter how strong your urges, ignore them as best as you can and meditate.”

I blinked several times to clear my head. I had never heard Ezra get angry and I never imagined I would be the one to make her mad. Ever since I woke up from my coma two years ago, Ezra has always been by my side. Even though I had lost all my memories and could hardly remember my own name, she had never treated me any differently. In fact, she had pretty much taken me under her wing and become the mother figure in my life that I desperately needed at that time. I had been so lost and confused and so, so scared. I couldn’t remember who I was or who my parents were or which pack I had belonged to. But then Ezra had helped me heal. Not my physical wounds, since they were healed by a healer, but my mental wounds. She had quite literally saved my life, just like how Alpha Malachi had saved my life after he had found me stranded on the middle of the road. I didn’t know what I was doing there but I was informed after waking that I had been attacked by rogues. Because of the traumatizing incident, I had lost my memories and they were showing no signs of coming back. Maybe that was a relief? Maybe it was my mind’s way of keeping me safe? “I’m sorry for worrying you.” I told Ezra now, ashamed of my desires to

venture into the woods. “I know just how dangerous the woods are and I promise you, I will never mention them again.”

Ezra sighed and placed her cup on a nearby table before she knelt before me, taking my hands in hers. “I’m so, so sorry for getting angry at you. It’s not your fault; it’s my worry for you that caused my sudden burst of anger. But I appreciate your honesty. I don’t want you to feel like you can’t come to me with your problems anymore...it’s just that, whenever I remember your blood covered body...I get scared.” Even as I watched Ezra shudder, I couldn’t recall a single incident of my past, not even a glimmer. But if it made Ezra feel like this, then I must have gone through something horrible. I went to comfort her but a sudden knocking on the shrine doors startled us both. “Who is it?” Ezra asked as she stood up and faced the door and the

knocking became urgent. "Healer! We need the healer!" Came a panicked voice from outside. "Rogue! There has been a rogue attack." I felt my eyes widen in shock as the cup fell from my hands to shatter onto the floor.

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 2

Flora's P.O.V

I hurried behind the soldier as he led me to the healing room with haste. I had never once heard about rogue attacks on any of the soldiers since

I came here, and to be honest, I was a little worried. I had treated small wounds before, usually scars that the soldiers faced while training or a few sprains here and there. But I had never seen a soldier getting injured by a rogue before. So I had no idea what horrors I would come to. "In here, healer." The soldier who had been accompanying me stopped

suddenly, almost making me bump into him. When I had regained my composure, I noticed that we were outside one

of the healing chambers and there were drops of blood all over the floor. Swallowing my nervousness, I entered the room only to have my heart almost leap out of my chest. The soldier was lying on the bed unconscious and there was blood all

over him. However, the scariest part wasn't the blood but the three deep claw marks on his abdomen that had cut through skin right down to the bone. I shook my head to get rid of the shock. The soldier must be in

tremendous pain! Walking over to the chest of drawers at the back of the room, I took out a syringe filled with morphine and injected it directly into his blood stream. It would temporarily lessen the pain but it would give me time enough to heal his wounds. Taking a cloth from another drawer, I sterilized it with alcohol and then

walked over to the bed to clean the cuts. I had only just begun cleaning when there was a knock on the door. "Flora." The man who entered had long white hair was tied back at his neck and

his handsome face could make any woman kneel before him. His eyes were a blue so pure that it hurt to look at them, but I didn't feel even the slightest bit of desire as I looked into the face of the godly man. He was wearing dark clothing today and it threw his porcelain white skin into stark focus, but his face was marred with lines of worry.

"Alpha Malachi?"

I stood up from beside the injured soldier and bowed to the Alpha as he

came to stand beside me. "How is he healing?" Malachi asked, his jaw clenched and eyes hard as

he looked at the deep gashes on the soldier's stomach. "He was just brought in, Alpha." I kept my head bowed as I answered him. "I haven't begun healing him yet."

"Then start immediately." He told me. "You have my power at your disposal."

"Yes, Alpha." Once again, I used the cloth in my hands to wipe at the soldier's wounds

before I started healing. It was necessary to sterilize in case any debris remained in the cuts and caused infections later on. Once I was sure the cut was cleaned, I placed my hands over the wounds

and began to heal him. Through the Alpha's bond, I felt Malachi's power flooding into my bloodstream, filling me with his energy. I used my powers to direct that energy towards my hands from where it transferred to the injured soldier. Within seconds, the gashes began to patch up and the wounds shrunk in

size until they were only angry red marks. In any other case, I would've left it at that and let the rest of it heal naturally, but this was an emergency, so I kept going until the marks almost completely disappeared. Only three fine lines remained on his skin after I was done and those lines would disappear in a few hours. Malachi wasn't just powerful, he was a power. I don't think there were any other Alpha's like him in the world. If only I had my memories, I could've remembered something about the pack that I had come from or how my previous Alpha had been, but even after two years, I had no recollection. "Thank you, Flora."

I turned to bow to Malachi once more. "His wounds are completely healed, Alpha. He should be waking up soon."

"Good." He nodded and took a seat on the empty chair next to the bed. "You can go rest now; I'll stay with him and find out what happened. I'll call for you in case I need further assistance."

"Of course, Alpha." I went straight to the door and closed it behind me once I was outside. "Flora!"

I turned towards the eastern hallway where the resting quarters were and found Daphne, another one of the Lunar Maidens and one of my closest friends, waiting for me. She came forward as she saw me exit the healing room. Her short black hair was combed back neatly and the rays of the setting sun fell on her dark skin, making it glow. Her gown

was pristine white, unlike mine that now had blood stains on it. "How is the soldier doing?" She asked worriedly. "His wounds are healed." I assured her. "Alpha Malachi is with him. He's probably going to question him once he wakes up."

"Poor thing." Daphne sighed. "We haven't had a rogue attack in ages. I thought things were quieting down."

"Rogues are unpredictable." I told her with a sad smile. "And this attack was isolated. Maybe the rouge found him alone and thought they could kill him easily. It's a good thing other guards heard his shouts."

"Yes." Daphne took my hand and began leading me to my quarter. "Let's get you some rest now, you look tired."

"I am, a bit." I told her truthfully, feeling exhausted all of a sudden.

"You'll be better after some rest. I'll ask the kitchen you send you a plate to replenish your energy." She gave me a small smile. "Being a healer must be exhausting."

"It is, but the fact that my energy can save someone's life...it's all worth it."

"I guess." Daphne sighed. "Why do wolves even turn rogue? It would be so much better if we didn't have rogues around."

"The moon Goddess gave us a gift and a curse. Once we start losing contact with our pack, our feral side takes over, exposing us to the risk of becoming rogues, creatures who have lost all empathy and humanity." I told her before coming to a sudden halt. The moon Goddess gave us a gift and a curse. Once we start losing contact with our pack, our feral side takes over, exposing us to the risk of becoming rogues, creatures who have lost all empathy and humanity. The words rang in my ears over and over again. They weren't mine. These words that I had just spoken weren't my own. Then who said it? Whose voice was I hearing in my head? A male voice...someone I knew?

I rubbed a hand over my chest as I felt uneasiness, like someone was squeezing my heart. "Flora? Are you alright?" Daphne asked from beside me, her tone

worried and it helped me snap out of my trance. "Yeah...I'm alright." I reassured her. "I should get some rest."

"Let's go. I'll drop you off at your quarters." With that, Daphne began escorting me to my room, but somehow, I couldn't shake this feeling that the voice I heard in my head...I knew that person very well and they had some connection to my lost memories.



### Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 3

Alpha Malachi stood on the balcony of the southern tower of Lindersay that overlooked the shrine on one side and the vast forest that surrounded the castle on the other. He was deep in thought as he watched the shadows move inside the jungle. He knew what they were...who, they were. Rogues. And yet, in his three centuries as Alpha of Lindersay, this was the first time he had seen them act bizarrely. "An isolated attack or a warning?" Malachi mused to himself as he watched the shadows with narrowed eyes. He got the vague feeling that he was being watched, not by the woman who had come to a halt at the top of the stairs, but by someone inside the forest. But he couldn't pinpoint the direction. That was another first for him. "Come, Ezra." He spoke softly as he heard the soft footfalls turn back. "I was about to leave myself."

"It's alright." Came her soft, melodic voice. "I thought I might be disturbing you." Malachi turned to face the golden haired woman that had come to stand beside him, just as thunder cracked the night dark sky. Neither of them was startled, but they did turn to look at the sky as rain began to pour first in a slow drizzle and then heavily. Ezra smiled at the sky as yet another thunder struck. "I've come to love the rain and thunder." She whispered, knowing that Malachi would hear her. "I wish I could say the same." Malachi shook his head as he narrowed his eyes at the sky. "Something troubles you," Ezra tilted her head to the side, looking at him with intense blue eyes. "What is it?" The cold wind blew back Malachi's hair from his face. He had let it grow longer once again and now it reached past his shoulders. It was a blessing and a curse. He liked his hair longer, but it also reminded him of how soft female hands had once run their fingers through them...hands he could no longer touch.

"The rogues have become more organized, clever." He turned his eyes of pure blue to the woman beside him. "It's as if they are now following an Alpha." Ezra's eyes widened in surprise. "A rogue Alpha? That's impossible!"

"Is it really?" Malachi gave her a rueful smile. Ezra had almost forgotten how beautiful he looked when he smiled. How long has it been? When was the last time she had actually seen him

smile genuinely? She couldn't remember, but it has been centuries. "Do you think it's...?"

"It's possible, yes." Malachi looked at the sky as yet another thunder illuminated the night. "I guess there is no way to know until they come for us."

"Then it's a good thing the new recruits will be arriving tomorrow." Ezra watched the shadows move in the dark with a heavy heart. "Yes."

Malachi nodded in agreement. "Have the Lunar Maidens prepared for the welcoming ceremony?"

"Everything is as you requested...Alpha." Flora's P.O.V

I watched the couple standing on the southern tower interact with each other. From afar and probably even from close up, they would seem like two individuals just having a good conversation. But something about them had always been...different. Malachi and Ezra were much more than just acquaintances and anyone with a keen eye could tell. When I had first opened my eyes at Lindersay, without my memory, without any recollection of who I was, I had thought that Malachi was a god in wolf form. A wolf god perhaps? I had even harbored a minor crush for him like most women in Lindersay did. But as the days had passed by, I had realized that my interest in Malachi was just that, a woman appreciating a man and nothing more. Ezra had become the mother figure I had desperately needed and Emma and Daphne had become my best friends. These people were my family now and Lindersay, my home. There was so much I had to learn in the past two years and so much left for me to know, so many mysteries yet to solve. However, there were two mysteries that always inhabited my mind. First: what was the relationship between Ezra and Malachi? And second: why did I get the feeling that someone was waiting for me in the woods beyond Lindersay?

Neither one of these seemed to be actual mysteries; just my imagination running wild at best. Malachi and Ezra were friends who had lived in Lindersay for a long time and the only thing waiting in the woods for me was death at the hands of the rogues. However, I couldn't shake this gut feeling that whatever lay beyond the palace gates was my destiny and the truth behind Malachi and Ezra's relationship was the only way to unlock my lost memories.

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 4

Flora's P.O.V

"Is everything ready?" Ezra asked as she peeked her head through the

door to the ceremonial hall. The giant overhead chandelier scattered its golden light on her hair, making it glow and I wasn't the only one who thought she looked

beautiful as several giggles went around the room. "Flower garlands are ready; the incense sticks are burning and the celebratory dinner is being prepared in the kitchen." I listed off my completed duties to her as I went to greet her at the door. "Daphne finished cleaning everything this afternoon and Rosa is taking care of arranging the rooms for the soldiers."

"She isn't back yet?" Ezra looked a little concerned. "The soldiers are supposed to arrive in half an hour."

"I'll go ch—"

"I'm back!" Rosa called out before I could finish my sentence, as she came to stand next to Ezra. "Sorry I'm a little late."

"You finished right on time. I'll send word to Alpha Malachi that the preparations are complete." Ezra gave her a smile and a pat on her head before heading off. Rosa gave me a smile and a sigh of relief and then came to join me at

the garland counter. "These look lovely!" She picked up a garland made of white and pink roses and carnations. "Did you make them?"

"I had help." I smiled as I remembered the enthusiastic faces of my tiny helpers. Those little devil-angels usually flocked around Ezra, but they seemed to want to help me today. It might be the excitement of tonight's feast that was making them jittery but I wasn't complaining. Once I showed the children how to make a garland, everyone had followed the instruction to the T. "That's great," Rosa gave me a bright smile, her big blue eyes sparkling

in delight. She was shorter than me in stature but older in age by five years. Her strawberry blonde hair was cut short to her shoulders and they cascaded around her head in loose ringlets. She was a sweet girl but we didn't interact as often for some reason.

"Well, I have to catch up on the dessert preparations," she said to me now. "See you at the ceremony?"

"Yes, sure." I gave her a welcoming smile and waved her goodbye as she headed out the door. I was about to go off on my own when a call from behind halted me. "Healer?"

I looked back at the familiar face of the soldier who had come to escort me to the wounded soldier yesterday. "Yes?" I stepped closer to the door so I could talk to him. Men weren't

allowed inside the temple unless there was a special occasion, like the

initiation ceremony tonight, but even then, only a select few men could enter. This temple was completely dedicated to the Goddess Selene and her devoted followers. "The soldier from yesterday, whom you helped treat," he said a bit hesitantly, as if I would have trouble remembering him. "Yes, of course." I told him encouragingly. "You came to get me yesterday, I remember. Is something the matter?" He nodded his head urgently, making dark brown hair fall on top of sea blue eyes. "I'm his friend. I just went to visit him and he...seemed restless."

"Restless?" I frowned. That didn't sound good. I had healed up his wound carefully, but was it possible I had overlooked any kind of internal bleeding? "Let's go check on your friend."

I told one of the other Lunar Maidens that I was heading to the infirmary before following the soldier to his friend. When I reached the ward, I found it empty of any caretakers. There was a soldier stationed a few feet away but there was no healer or nurse present, so I entered to check on the patient. Just as his friend, Joshua, had described, the soldier was tossing and turning on his bed as if he was having a nightmare. He was also sweating profoundly, to the point where his shirt was soaked through. I told Joshua to help me change him into a new shirt while I opened up a few windows to let the cool air inside.

"I think he has a fever." Joshua told me as he stepped back from his friend's bed after having changed him. "Oh?" I put a hand on his forehead to check and immediately removed it. "He's burning up." And I didn't even use it as a phrase. Joshua's friend was literally burning up. His temperature was so high that it seemed impossible even in wolf standards. Also, werewolves rarely got sick. They would get sprains and wounds all the time but never have I seen a wolf with a fever. What was going on? Was his injury not healed properly?

Telling Joshua to get some ice, I took out the salves I had for the few humans that resided in Lindersay. I had a particular salve with mint and clove oil that helped reduce fevers for humans and I wanted to apply it on the soldier to work temporarily while I healed him. So, I applied the salve on his forehead and neck and then I used my powers to help reduce the fever by placing my hand on top of his chest. Joshua came back about five minutes later and his fever still hadn't gone down while I was losing energy. I was connected to Alpha Malachi via the Alpha-Healer bond, but I tried to use as little of his powers as

possible. When it wasn't working after ten whole minutes, I gave up. "Can't you use fever medicine on him?" Joshua asked hopefully. "Wolves don't get such high fevers, so I don't have any on hand and the ones I use for humans is out." I told him sadly. "I'll need to get some from the forest outside after the ceremony."

"But what if it's too late after the ceremony?" Joshua urged, looking at his friend with longing in his eyes as he took his limp hand in both of his. "I'm scared for him." He loved him; I came to the sudden realization. The way he was looking

at the injured soldier and the way he was getting worried about him told me that they were more than friends. Joshua loved him, but I couldn't tell yet if the feeling was mutual. I felt sorry for the soldier. He wasn't the only one suffering, Joshua was too and I didn't know how to help them. The herbs needed to treat him were found in a dangerous part of the jungle where rogues often frequented. Usually, at least ten highly trained soldiers escorted us to collect herbs from that area and they would use smoke bombs beforehand to ward off the rogue. But this soldier needed the herbs now and I couldn't get any of those soldiers to come with me since everyone was busy preparing for the feast.

"I'll come with you." Joshua said suddenly, snapping my attention to him. "Pardon?"

"I'll escort you to the forest and get us back safely." He looked at me with determination. "I'm training to be a special soldier. I'll protect you."

"Joshua, it's very dangerous to go-" I tried to reason with him but he cut me off. "Please! He needs help."

I looked at the face of the fallen soldier and saw that Joshua was indeed right. His sweating was only getting worse, his shirt was once again soaked through and he was trembling like a leaf. He needed medication and he needed it fast. I couldn't risk his health any longer. "Alright." I sighed. "Let's go." The only thing I could hope for now was that we didn't run into any kind of danger.

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 5

Flora's P.O.V

Getting past security was surprisingly easy. I don't know if it's because they were excited for the feast or something else was the matter, but security was low and even though

the entire palace was buzzing with activity, we seemed to go unnoticed. Joshua looked thankful as we made it past the gates without any complaints. Although we were stopped by the guards, I explained to them that I needed herbs for the injured soldier and we were immediately allowed through, but with an extra guard. I felt relieved that now I had two escorts instead of one and both had guns to defend us in case any rogues were lingering in the woods. It was a ten minute walk to the destination where most herbs were found. It's not that herbs didn't grow near the castle, but with constant picking, the herbs had stopped growing as much near the castle and now, we had to walk further into the woods to get the necessary herbs. The soil needed to be allowed to heal and once it did, fresh herbs would grow from it. Samuel, the new guard, chatted away with Joshua about Ricky, the soldier who was in the infirmary right now. I didn't mean to pry but I did learn a lot about the soldier's quarters and how they lived as I walked a step ahead of the men. Apparently, the single men lived in pairs and Ricky and Joshua had been roommates for four years now and that's how they developed a relationship. After a few moments, I stopped listening because the conversation seemed private and I didn't want to pry. A smile formed on my lips as I thought how Daphne would react to me shying away from gossip. She loved to gossip and was often the go-to person for all sorts of information. The cool breeze ruffled through my white dress, making my long hair fly back from my face. When I had first arrived at Lindersay, my hair had been to my mid-back. Now, it was past my hips in dark blonde waves. Sometimes at night, I would dream of having red hair, but I couldn't really fathom how it could be possible. Was it dyed? Why would I have chose to dye it red? You look gorgeous. The colour suits you. It was the same male voice I often heard in my dreams, calling my name. And even in my dreams, it made me blush...made my heart flutter. "I found the herbs." I let the soldiers know as I bent to pick them up. They looked like any normal wild herb plant but what distinguished them from the rest was their unique scent, so I made sure I got the right one. The basket I had brought with me was almost full when everything went downhill. Suddenly, several warning howls went up in the air, and they seemed to

be coming from the direction of the palace. "What's going on?" I asked urgently, a shiver running down my spine. I didn't like the feeling the howls gave me. Something seemed very, very wrong about them. "We don't know, Lady Healer, but it's better to stay here now." Samuel told me, taking up a guarding position beside me. "The howls are coming from the castle."

"I think we need to go back!" It was Joshua who looked panicked. "Ricky is still there and I...You stay! I'll go back!"

"Joshua!" Samuel warned. "We need to stay to protect our Healer."

"Yes, but-" Joshua never got to finish that sentence. Blood splashed all over us as he fell to the ground, his arms trembling wildly as more blood spilled on the ground. I didn't even get time to process the horror when Samuel started firing at the intruder. "Get behind me, Lady!" He shouted over the noise of the gun. Rising to my feet on shaky legs, with my heart threatening to burst out of my chest, I hid myself behind Samuel, my back to a forest giant as he stopped firing to understand what had attacked Joshua. But what greeted us was even more horror. Almost all bullets had made contact with Joshua's lifeless body as it fell to the ground with a dull thud. His head rolled at an odd angle and we noticed that a chunk of his flesh was gone from his neck. I couldn't move my eyes from the body. He was just talking to me! He was just standing there! How could he be dead? There was so much blood!

I felt bile rise to my throat as my stomach churned, but I couldn't even throw up. My body was paralyzed on the spot in fear. I couldn't even feel my hands and feet, everything just felt numb. "Ricky...?" That whispered word was shrouded in horror and it snapped my attention to Samuel. Ricky? What was he talking about? Ricky was in the infirmary. He- The sound of a low growl made me look ahead...at a dark brown wolf who now stood a little behind Joshua's lifeless form. Its jaw was covered in blood and it dripped down to the ground in slow motion. And then I noticed its eyes. Red. Rogue!

Alarm bells went off in my head but it was already too late. The wolf jumped at us then and Samuel pushed me back with all his strength as he pointed his gun at Ricky. The next few things happened in a blink of

an eye and I hardly got time to process any of it. My back hit the tree with enough force to make my bones rattle and as I slid to the ground, even more blood splattered over me, staining my dress a dark, dark red. I looked up just in time to see Samuel's neck being ripped out by Ricky in his wolf form as he fell to the ground trembling. And then I was the only one left. Sharp, bloody fangs snapped in anticipation as I backed myself into the tree even farther. The brown wolf's eyes glowed a bright red as blood and saliva dripped off its muzzle. This wasn't Ricky anymore, this was a rogue. A wolf who had lost all humanity. This was it. I was going to die here, at the fangs of this rogue that would give me a slow, painful death. I could see the thirst in its eyes as madness swirled in the blood red of its iris. Death stared back at me hungrily and I had nowhere to run. And then there was no more time. With its jaws wide, the wolf jumped and I closed my eyes shut tightly, preparing myself for the pain...but it never came. Instead, I hear the low moaning noise of a wolf in pain. Snapping my eyes open in hope and fear, I stared right into wolf-gold eyes as a gasp escaped my lips. Ricky, who had just sprung to attack me, was now on the ground, whining in pain as another bigger wolf held it down with its teeth sunk into its neck. The new wolf had bright red fur and was almost double the size of Ricky, who had taken down two soldiers...and yet, I didn't feel any fear. It's eyes were gold with a ring of red around the iris, which was strange since all rogues had full red eyes. Then what made this wolf different? And why did I suddenly feel like I was being pulled towards it like a magnet. The red wolf let go of the brown and he took the chance to escape, but that news just registered as an afterthought as my entire focus was now on the red. There was something about him that felt different yet familiar. My heart leapt in my chest, but it wasn't from fear, but neither could I name this emotion I felt as I stared at the red. Who was this wolf? Why wasn't it attacking me like the rest of the rogues? Why did it have only a ring of red around its iris instead of full red eyes? And most important of all, why did I feel like I knew it?

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 6  
Flora's P.O.V

Everything around me seemed to disappear, as if we were the only two



people in the world. My heart was beating wildly inside my chest, but I didn't understand why. I felt a pain in my chest, a strange kind of longing. The red took a step forward and I instinctively flinched back, making it halt with its paw mid-step. My eyes once again connected with the red rimmed gold of its iris and I saw confusion swirl in them. The wolf wasn't just a rogue, but a powerful one. I could feel its strength by the way he held his body, even in wolf form. And the shove of power I got from him was very similar to Malachi's...the power of an Alpha. But how could that be? How could an Alpha become a rogue? Suddenly, I saw flashes of images dance in front of my eyes. A red wolf chasing me across the forest. I was running away from it, as fast as I could. The sun was setting in the horizon but there was no sense of danger or fear. Instead I heard laughter in my mind...anticipation in my blood. A second later, I saw a blur move past me and it caused me to halt abruptly, also causing me to stumble over my legs and soon enough, I was on the ground, skidding forward at incredible speed towards the sturdy trunk of a forest giant. Something heavy fell on top of me, halting my skid and stopping me just inches away from the trunk of the tree I was about to collide into. I closed my eyes as adrenaline rushed through my body and my heart thundered against my chest. My breath came out in pants and I felt the weight of the wolf lift off my chest. He didn't move far away. He was still on top of me and when I opened my eyes, I saw the rich red fur of his wolf, the golden hue of his eyes. He was straddling me in wolf form and I suddenly realized that I was unharmed because of him. A sudden shattering pain pierced my head and I felt like my head was about to split into two. Clutching my head with a strangled scream, I fell to the ground and watched as the red wolf came running towards me. If this was death then I would gladly accept it, because this pain was unlike anything I had ever felt in my life. But the wolf didn't harm me. It sniffed at my hand and nudged me gently as a whining noise came from his throat. Surprisingly, it appeared worried about me. "Flora! Samuel!" The wolf's head snapped towards the direction of the calls and I instantly forgot about my headache as a low growl came from its

throat. "NO!" I begged the wolf, making its eyes meet mine. Another shiver went down my spine, both from fear and an unnamed emotion and I pleaded with my eyes for him not to attack. But I didn't want him to get hurt either, because rogue or not, he had saved my life. "Go..." I pleaded; my voice a breathless whisper. "Please, go before they find you." The wolf seemed to debate the option and when the voices neared, it bent its head and opened its jaws. I closed my eyes instantly, thinking that he had ultimately changed his mind and was now going for the kill. But instead of a bit, I felt something wet fall into my palm. I opened my eyes the next instant but the red wolf was gone, leaving me alone in the forest with two dead bodies. "Oh my God!" The horror I had witnessed a few moments ago returned with teeth-gritting force. How could I have forgotten them? These soldiers belonged to my pack! They died trying to save my life!

Getting myself off the ground, I tucked the wet mess into a pocket in my dress, not bothering to look at what a rogue had given me before turning to the victims. One look at Joshua and I turned to the tree and threw up. The scene was right out of my worst nightmare and I couldn't bear to look at him. If Ricky's bite didn't kill him, the bullets had and they had torn him apart to the point where the bullets had gone through. After getting my emotions in control, I turned to Samuel...saw the soft rise and fall of his back as he lay face down on the ground. "Samuel!" I knelt down beside him and put my hands over his neck wound. The gash wasn't deep but Ricky had managed to bite into the carotid artery. Whatever happens, I could not let him die! "Flora! Samuel!" This time the voices appeared even closer, but I didn't have the strength in me to call for help. So, instead I focused all my energy in closing the artery. Blood gushed freely from the wound and he had already lost a lot, but I closed my eyes and focused on closing the artery, picturing the walls heal and the blood flow stop. "Flora!" Startled, I looked up at the terrified face of Ezra as she came rushing towards me, followed by the main healer, Mercy and another soldier I didn't know. Ezra knelt beside me and took my face into her hands. "Are you alright?" This was the first time I had heard her sound this afraid. "Are you hurt? God, you're trembling! Let go! Mercy will take

over.” But I shook my head. “He saved my life.” I told them in a hoarse whisper. “I have to heal him.”

“There’s too much blood, Flora.” It was Mercy who placed a careful hand on my shoulder. “Let me help.”

“No! I’ll help!” I didn’t know why I was being so stubborn, but I felt like I couldn’t let go. I had to heal him!

They didn’t say anything as I continued to heal Samuel. The blood flow stopped after five minutes and then I saw black spots in my vision. I was almost out of energy, but it didn’t matter. I had to heal Samuel, no matter what. It was like an ache in my heart and the more I healed, the more the ache faded.

I felt myself sway as my vision blurred. “Flora!” Both Ezra and Mercy caught me from either side, but I

continued until I knew that Samuel was healed. I was almost there...just a little bit more...

Just a little...

“Flora?”

“Flora!” Flora...

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 7

“Ricky’s body was found near the patrol parameter half an hour ago.”

Malachi looked down at the woods as he spoke; the world covered in a veil of darkness. “He’s dead. It looks like the Alpha got rid of the newbie.”

“A Rogue Alpha?” Ezra looked puzzled and worried as she stood behind Malachi. It was unheard of, just as unheard of as the fact that rogues could now

turn other wolves with a bite. Rogue killing rogues however, wasn’t a new phenomenon. But how did these rogues turn it into a disease? Or was the soldier

already on the verge of becoming a rogue? There were too many questions and very little answers. “I had heard legends of them as a child.” Malachi said now as he turned to Ezra. “They were a myth no one wanted to believe in, especially the Moon Goddess. She always thought turning her back on the wolves who worshipped her would be the ultimate punishment, leading them to become rogue. It did have the desired effect but rumors began to stir that a powerful rogue was now able to form a pack and defy her punishment.”

“What happened afterwards? Did they find the Rogue Alpha?” Ezra was fascinated yet terrified to find out. It went against everything they

knew and yet, there was this tiny glimmer of a feeling inside her that she couldn't shake. A strange kind of hope born of age old resentment. "No." Malachi shook his head, making his white blonde hair float around his head. "Mother herself set out to find the truth but came back empty-handed." Neither Malachi nor Ezra needed any further explanation. It was an

obvious truth that was never to be discussed, an open secret that everyone had figured out but no one commented on. Even if there had been a Rogue Alpha, then the Goddess had gotten rid of him, herself.

"How is Flora?" Malachi asked to change the taboo subject.

"Poor girl is traumatized." Ezra sighed, rubbing a hand over her heart.

"She was shaking like a leaf while healing Samuel but she just wouldn't stop. Mercy and Daniel tried to take her away but she healed until she passed out. Fortunately, Flora is asleep and Samuel is doing better now. A few days at the infirmary and he will be back to his life with only a scar."

"She feels responsible." Malachi rubbed at the back of his neck in agitation. "Flora has a dedicated determination that sets her apart from most healers, but it can also be her downfall one day."

"But what should we do about Samuel?" Ezra asked just to make sure.

"Ricky had injured three other soldiers before he escaped the palace. They are at the infirmary too at the moment but I've told the healers to keep an eye on everyone."

"Tell them to keep an eye out and don't let them get discharged until the third day." Malachi warned. "If the calculation was correct then the chances of them turning would be within the next two days. I think the fever was their indication that they were turning, so let the healers know too."

"And what happens if they do develop a fever?"

"Sever their heads and burn the bodies." Ezra had known the answer but still she had asked. She knew the

reason for such harshness but she was still a woman with a heart, while Malachi seemed to have lost his. Rogues were unpredictable; it was a truth ingrained into their hearts

from the minute they were born. And a rogue Alpha was a threat unknown that no one wanted to take chances with. But Lindersay was supposed to be a sanctuary, a place of worship and a place for learning. Ezra's heart went out for those they had lost; she was old enough that they were like children to her. And a loss of a child would always be the most painful experience for her. That was why she couldn't understand

how the Moon Goddess could be so blind to the pain of her children. Yes, the Goddess was capable of love and caring, but as the days passed, her love seemed focused on only one person, her beloved Endymion; the man cursed with eternal sleep. Was that why she punished those that broke the mating bond? Because they had the one thing that she was denied? Or was she overthinking the Goddesses decisions and out-stepping her bounds? But the Goddesses love life was the least of their problems at the moment. A rogue Alpha was on the rise and they had to find a way to stop him before more wolves died fighting each other. "Do you think she'll remember? Now that she has seen him?" It was a question Ezra wanted to ask Flora herself, but she couldn't bring herself to in light of the recent events. "Sometimes, I keep hoping against hope that she would be the person to give us the answers we've been searching for centuries." Malachi surprised her as he spoke with such longing that she hadn't heard in decades. "But what good can a healer do who herself is a broken shell of the person she used to be?" Ezra instantly shook her head in denial. "Flora might be scarred but she is far from broken. I've seen the spark of life in her, felt her determination. You yourself just told me how dedicated her determination is. Then have faith that she can give us the answers we have been looking for. Have faith that she can heal the rogue Alpha."

Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 8

Flora's P.O.V

A necklace? The heaviness felt like a pendant but I didn't open my eyes until he whispered in my ears to open them. My hands instantly went to my throat as I felt the chain and then the pendant...

It was a heart. The pendant was attached to a silver chain and the heart was a beautiful emerald green, with a touch of blue at the centre...the exact colour of my eyes. It looked impossibly beautiful...it was a symbol...

Pendant...

Emerald green...eyes...his eyes...

Flora...

"Thank you... I'll cherish it forever." Flora...

\*

\*

"Flora?" Gasping, I sat up in bed, only to clutch my head as the world began to

spin. "Easy, easy..." Soothing voice, calming hand on my shoulders. "Mercy?" I looked at the aged wolf in her four hundreds who had come to my aid in the forest. She was the only wolf in Lindersay whose face showed signs of aging and she had a few white strands in her orange-red hair; she told me they were from centuries of healing. Now, she patted my head affectionately and handed me a glass of water. "Thank you," I told her timidly as I leaned back against the headboard after I had finished my water.

"Flora that was a huge risk you took!" You took a huge risk today and you put not just yourself but also your pack in danger. The voice came from another man, another face as I stared at Mercy with wide eyes as their faces morphed for a second before disappearing. What was going on? Who was this person? I had never heard this voice before!

I rubbed at my eyes and looked at Mercy once more, this time seeing her clearly. But Mercy had noticed my actions and she looked worried.

"Flora? Is everything alright?"

I hesitated. Why did my gut feeling say that I couldn't tell her anything? I had this

similar gut feeling about healing Samu-Samuel! "What happened to Samuel?" I asked in a low voice, scared that it might not have worked. "Samuel is doing better, thanks to you." Mercy sighed. "But next time, please inform others when you leave to the forest with such less

security. You're a healer, Flora and a strong one. Rogues would love to get a bite of you." A sudden piercing throbbing in my temples had me clutching my head

once more, a gasp of pain escaping from my lips. "Flora! Where does it hurt?" I felt Mercy's hand on my head and a second later, relief flooded me as her healing power seeped into my blood. "Mercy? Is Flo-Oh! You're awake."

I opened my eyes to Alpha Malachi entering the room. Strangely, he was wearing a white suit and pants with a blue shirt underneath that was a pale comparison to his eyes. Even though he was over four hundred years old, he normally wore jeans and casual wear. For him to dress up...oh, lord! The soldiers! The feast! "I'm sorry." I told him in a weak voice, suddenly feeling drained.

"Mercy, can you give us a minute?" Alpha Malachi smiled at Mercy to which she nodded and left the room quietly. And then it was him and

me. "I'm angry, yes, but I'm also relieved." Alpha Malachi said as he sat on the chair in front of the bed. "You had a narrow escape today." I looked down at my hands on my lap. "Yes...I did." Joshua's torn and bloody form lying on the ground was a picture I wouldn't be able to get rid of easily. It'll probably haunt me for the rest of my life and I would know that I hadn't been able to save him. "We lost a few soldiers today." Alpha Malachi spoke as if reading my mind. "But the new soldiers are here and the initiation ceremony has been pushed back for tomorrow. Once the new guards take up their position, we'll be safer and we can counter any rogue attacks." "I'm sorry." I told him once more, knowing that if I had informed others, Joshua could have lived. "You saved Samuel from the brink of death." Malachi sighed. "You're not responsible for anything. I know healers have a bad habit of blaming themselves for everything, but remember that you are a healer. Your life is more valuable than any soldier here and Joshua died trying to protect you. Forget any other reason and just remember that. Can you do that for me?" Quietly, I nodded my head. "Good. Daphne is outside, waiting to take you to your room, but before that, tell me about the rogue Alpha you saw today." Surprised and horrified, I looked up into the endless blue of Malachi's eyes. "A rogue Alpha?" "We had suspicions for a while now, but today, I am sure about it." Malachi gave a rueful smile. "You felt it too, didn't you? The power emitting from the rogue wolf?" I don't know what surprised me the most; the news of the rogue Alpha or the fact that Malachi had watched me interact with the rogue Alpha. Was that why the rogue fled? Because it sensed his presence? "Yes." I answered his previous question. "I felt the power but I thought I was mistaken. They are legends, aren't they? They aren't supposed to exist..." "We live in a time when legends are coming to life and the line between illusion and reality is blurred." Malachi's words held an amount of foreboding. "So you must be careful of who you can and cannot trust." Once again I was left speechless at how Malachi's words reflected my earlier thoughts on how I felt I couldn't trust everyone with the secret of my dreams. I wanted to tell him, but I held back. Right now, the only person I felt I could trust was myself. So I'll hold on to that gut feeling

until I was ready. Malachi left me with that warning and Daphne came into the room right

after, her dark eyes filled with concern as she pulled me into her embrace. "Oh, thank the goddess, you're safe! I was so worried!"

"I'm sorry for worrying you." I told her, feeling like coming home. She helped me walk back to my room while giving me all sorts of advice and an earful for almost giving her a heart attack. My mind was so preoccupied that the only thing I could do was apologize repeatedly and agree to whatever her demands were. Finally, we reached my quarters and she came to a stop outside my

door. There was a distant sound of laughter and cheers coming from the ground floor hall and I had a guess that it came from the new members and the ones who weren't aware of today's tragedy, but my head just wasn't into it. Daphne might not know all the details of what I had seen today, but since she was somewhat aware, she didn't ask me for dinner and I was thankful for it. I didn't think I could swallow a bite after all the blood and gore. "Call me if you need help, okay?" Daphne warned, knowing that I

wouldn't easily call for help, so I gave her a smile and a reassuring nod.

Once I had shut and locked the door, I closed my eyes and leaned my back against it. My entire body felt like it was going numb. The adrenaline had saved me

when I had come face to face with danger but now...I felt my head spin with everything I discovered. A rogue Alpha?

Weren't we in enough trouble being surrounded by rogue wolves at all times? Now the rogues had an Alpha? How was that even possible? And how had I survived a rogue Alpha? How was I even alive?

Sighing, I pushed off the door and went into my bathroom to freshen up. It had been a rough day and I wanted to soak in the bath for a few minutes to feel refreshed and calm my panic stricken mind. But when I went to take my dress off, something heavy inside my pocket stopped me. I frowned as I felt the metal in my palm. That's strange...I don't remember putting anything inside my- The rogue Alpha! He gave me something!

Breath catching in my throat and with my heart threatening to burst out of my chest, I pulled out the metal and stared at the object with a mix of horror and astonishment. It was the pendant. The same pendant I had dreamt of while unconscious...

The pendant that he gave me, the man with the emerald eyes.



## Healing The Rogue Alpha Chapter 9

### Flora's P.O.V

I held the pendant in my hands two hours after I had found it and I couldn't find it in me to let it go. I had taken a long, hot shower and was now dressed in a night gown in

white as I sat on top of my soft, comfortable bed and looked at the pendant with unbroken focus, as if it could simply start talking and give me all the answers I was hoping for. The dream I had when I was unconscious...was it even a dream or was it

a memory? If it was a memory...then why didn't I remember more? Why didn't I remember the face of the person who gave me this necklace?

A heart shaped pendant symbolized love, right?

I had a lover in my past? Was it someone I truly loved? Was it someone I couldn't live without? Was it my mate?

Were the speculations really true? Daphne and Emma had told me after I had woken up that there were a lot of speculations about my past. That a lot of rumors were going around that I lost my memory because my mate died and I couldn't handle the shock. Could those rumors be actually true? Because when I looked at the necklace, all I felt was a sense of longing in my heart that I couldn't explain. But if this necklace was given to me by someone I loved...how did the rogue Alpha have it? And why did I feel like he was concerned when I had fallen over in pain? What was my connection to the rogue Alpha? Why did it react different towards me? Was it because I was a healer? But Ricky was getting ready to attack me anyway...

I pressed my hand to my temples to ease the throbbing. There were so many questions and yet, little to no answers. The more I thought about it, the more my headache increased, so I got off my bed and placed the pendant securely inside a drawer so no one else could find it. I went to stand in front of the huge floor to ceiling glass windows in my room and watched the crescent moon bring the night to life. It was past two in the morning and something told me, the new soldiers were still celebrating. I couldn't hear them from inside my room but I could see the bright lights from the quarters below. Since I was a healer, I was considered above the rank of soldiers and I was given a luxury room, just like all high ranking soldiers as well as the older Lunar Maidens. I had a large king sized canopy bed, my own private bath and a closet. My room itself was large but I didn't have many decorations here like the rest of the maidens. I simply had a few live plants that I took care of to keep me calm. Daphne often told me

that the room was wasted on me and if she had it then she would decorate it much better. Courtesy of her, I did have a beautiful mural of the Lindersay Castle on one wall and it awed me with her painting skills every time I saw it. Maybe I should tell her to paint another for me? I did have a lot of empty stone walls- A moment outside caught my attention and I turned my head to look out past the castle walls and into the forests beyond...and met wolf gold eyes. \*

\*

“Did you sleep well last night?” Emma asked, placing another piece of apple on my plate with the help of her chopsticks. “Not really.” I didn’t want to lie to them but how could I tell them the truth without scaring them?

How do I tell my best friends that I saw the rogue Alpha last night, right outside the castle gates where there was maximum security and yet...no one had seen him? Had it all been a hallucination? My over-tired brain playing tricks on me? Or had I actually seen the gold eyes of the red wolf that had saved me from Ricky and given me a pendant that was somehow connected to my past. I had hardly been able to sleep a wink last night because at first, I had seen the red wolf and then...just when a guard had been approaching, he had disappeared. I hadn’t been able to see him after that but I had this feeling that I had been watched from afar. I had stood for hours in front of my window for another glimpse of the wolf; my own wolf restless inside me. I had waited until my legs ached and I could no longer keep my eyes open. I don’t remember when I had fallen asleep on my bed but this morning, I had woken up to Daphne nearly breaking down my door because of worry.

Now, Emma gave me a sad smile as Daphne stuck to my side, making sure I was eating all of my breakfast, even though I told her that I had no appetite. “You’re not skipping any more meals on my watch.” Had been her strict

jurisdiction. So I had opted mostly for fruits and a sandwich and some fresh juices, nothing too heavy on the stomach. It was a good thing that Lunar

Maidens were permitted meats and other normal foods that we liked because we were wolves and no wolf could go without meats. After breakfast, we all went to our rooms to change and look pretty because the initiation ceremony was about to happen at the ceremonial hall today at noon and all Lunar Maidens had to be present. As per our

rules, all gowns were white but rather than the flowy material that we wore daily, Ezra had chosen different patterned dresses for us. Some had laces and others had ruffles and ribbons. Each dress was chosen according to the personality of the person wearing it. My gown was somewhat formfitting with lace sleeves and a jeweled brooch at the sweetheart neckline. It was absolutely beautiful and it uplifted my mood immediately. I braided my hair down my back and pinned in a few white flowers behind one ear because it was an occasion and I wanted to look pretty. When I met up with Daphne at the ceremonial hall a few minutes later, she was wearing a dress very similar to mine except her whole bodice was made of lace. She had put a floral tiara around her head as accessory and Emma was in a white kimono with silver designs. Almost everyone looked completely different and gorgeous. However, the most beautiful person in the room were still Malachi and Ezra. Malachi wore a white jacket with gold designs, white pants and black boots. His long white hair was pulled back into a braid and he looked no less handsome for it. Ezra was wearing a white gown with small crystals all over that sparkled in the light. Her only accessories were golden bracelets on each arm. They looked like the perfect couple, except...they weren't mates; hence they couldn't be a couple. And then, exactly at noon, when the sun was high in the sky, the doors to the hall were opened and the soldiers started coming in. Four maidens stood by the door to sprinkle holy water and to provide each of them with the garlands that we had made yesterday morning. Yesterday...

My mind blanked for a few moments as yesterday's events came rushing back. The blood...the sacrifices...

I intertwined my fingers together to stop myself from panicking when a voice caught my attention. "Alpha Malachi." A man spoke from the centre of all the recruits. He

was tall, almost as tall as Malachi. He had a warm, dusky skin tone and grey eyes that looked a lighter shade of blue in the candle lights. He wore a dark blue suit and pants with a grey shirt underneath and his midnight black hair was gelled back to perfection. "Andre Saltzman." Malachi gave him a warm welcome and shook his hand with a genuine smile. "I'm so glad your unit responded so quickly to our call."

"It'll be a pleasure working for you, Alpha." Andre gave a slight bow and it told me that he was the current leader of the recruits. That made him

close to a beta in ranking. Several giggles and hushed whispers sounded and I knew some of the maidens were swooning over the troop men, hoping to find their mates. But only the lucky ones found their mates here. As if hearing my thoughts, Andre Saltzman turned to face in my direction, my eyes meeting his- an instant later in a gaze that felt very personal. And then I heard a word I never thought I would hear in my life. "Mate."