

## Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 41

### Chapter 41

#### Gideon

Shortly after the girls leave, we all decide to do a training session with James outside. Logan and John are in their late 40's but all wolves age slowly, and being Alpha's, we are naturally more robust, so age doesn't play a factor. We had enough to run some combat drills since we also had my men and some of John's guards. Logan was always ready for a fight, and I could see he was itching to relieve some stress. We run drills and work on two on one tactic all morning.

James is lying on the ground panting from fighting off two of my men, "Can we go eat before you officially kill me?"

We all laugh, "alright, let's go. I'm sure Becky is almost finished with lunch." I help up the young Alpha. He has made some significant improvements in a short time. John puts his arm around James' shoulder. It makes me miss my father and my girls. I can't wait till Amelie and I have more pups. I want an heir. I mean, I love my girls; they saved me, but I want a son too.

We walk up the back steps, and I can smell Amelie. I go into the house as quickly as possible, and she's sitting at the table with her mom and Celeste. Matt is standing behind Amelie with the most confused look on his face. The other men are right on my heels, coming through the door.

Amelie looks up at me, "Hey, we had a change of plans! How was morning training?"

James goes over to his sister and rubs his sweaty arm on her, "Not bad, thanks for the towel." He laughs, kids and pranks.

Amelie gets up and runs to the trash can, and throws up. James is in a panic instantly, and I am furious. "Sis, are you OK? What's wrong?"

"What did you do?" I grab him. John and Logan are trying to calm me and get me to let go. Celeste and Ann are tending to Amelie, and everyone else is standing as far from the Alphas and Lunas as possible.

Amelie lifts her head from the trash can, "STOP! Gideon, Let him go. We need to talk. Let's go outside." She uses her Luna aura and pulls me with our mate bond. I drop James and snarl. I go back outside with Amelie.

"Am, are you alright? What happened?" I pull her to me.

She stands on her tiptoes and wraps her arms around my neck, "I am fine. I am more than fine. I have a surprise for you."

"Oh, a surprise, where is it?" I kiss her forehead.

"It's in my back pocket. Pull it out."

I reach in her back pocket, and I feel a glossy piece of paper. I pull it out and look at it. I have seen a picture like this before. It takes me a second, but it all registers. "Wait? What are you tell me? Are you? Are we?"

"What do you want the answer to be?" She smiles at me and giggles.

I drop to my knees and pull my face to her tummy. "Hello, my little one. I am your daddy, and I am so excited to meet you." I kiss her belly and look up at her. She leans down and kisses me.

"We have an Alpha. Inari says she can already feel it." As soon as she says that, I remember what Alpha John had told me weeks ago. That Ashwood Alpha daughter would give birth to one child and was always an Alpha heir.

"Inari is right. It's my son. He is my heir." I am still kneeling and hugging her waist. It's my son. My baby boy is in there.

Ulv is beyond excited and howling. I can feel him and Inari connecting through the bond. They are happy to become parents together.

I look up at Amelie, "Do you know how far along you are?"

She smiles and raises one eyebrow, "three and a half weeks. I got pregnant during my heat. I think I might know when too."

I stand up, "We have to tell your parents and the pack. We will need to make preparations at the Packhouse as well for a nursery and..."

"Hey! I'm only three and a half weeks. Calm down; we have time." Amelie caresses my cheek to pull me back to her.

"You are right." I take a deep breath. "Let's go back inside."

Amelie nods and takes my hand, and leads me back inside. Everyone is still standing in the kitchen.

"Everyone! We have an announcement." Amelie pauses. "We are having a baby! We are pregnant!"

The room erupts in cheering and congratulations. Becky is bouncing up and down, looking like she is going to explode. John and Logan both come over and shake my hand.

“Oh, geez, you guys stink so bad I’m going to vomit again.” Amelie pushes her father and stepfather away. Now I get why she puked after James rubbed his sweat on her. I can’t help but want to keep her even closer to me.

“Gideon, you should go shower too.” Amelie pats my sweaty shirt.

I pull her tighter to me, “come with me.” I don’t want her away from me for a second right now.

“I’m going to help Becky finish lunch, and then we are going to go back out to dress shop. Go shower. I’ll be here when you come back.” She rubs my arm reassuringly.

I pull in closer. “I’ll go shopping with you.” Amelie looks at me, confused.

“Gideon, I thought you were planning on overseeing your men loading my things into the moving truck? Plus, you were going to finalize the Ember Moon Festival plans with Dad and Logan. It’s OK. I want to spend time with Mom and Celeste.” She tries to step away, but I don’t want to let her go an inch away from me.

Then Alpha John interjects. “Alpha Gideon, calm your wolf. He’s being overprotective of your mate and child. Remember, she is in her family home and is safe.” A low growl comes from my chest. He’s right Ulv is pushing through the bond and becoming possessive.

“Alpha, I will gladly accompany Beta Lucas and Matt with the Luna’s to provide extra protection. Our packs Luna and heir are my top priority.” Benjamin is standing at attention.

“Gideon, I’m fine. The baby is fine. We are in my family pack territory.” Amelie reaches up and hugs my neck.

I feel Ulv back down, and I loosen my grip. “Sorry, I couldn’t control the urge to guard and protect. Benjamin, thank you. I will have you accompany your Luna as well. I’m going up to shower. I’ll be down shortly.” Amelie reaches up and kisses me on the cheek, and I feel the last bit of tension from Ulv release. I head upstairs. Ulv and I need to calm down.

“We are going to have a son.” Ulv is beside himself with joy.

I can’t help the smile that is plastered on my face, “A son. I cannot believe all that has changed in just 30 odd days. Ours lives, Amelie’s life, the lives of the twins, and the pack. It’s all moving so fast, but at the same time, it feels right.”

“We must protect our blessings, our mate and children.” I can feel Ulv push forward again.

“Ulv, she’s safe here. This is one of the safest places for her. When we get home, we will need to tighten security and push the investigation into her ex-mate harder. I will not let him touch her again.” My hands are balled in a fist, and I feel Ulv push forward again. His claws pierce my palms. I open my hand and look at the fresh blood pooling in my hands. “We need to stay calm and in control.” This was going to be harder said than done. Nothing was going to hurt my family again, not even fate itself. I would fight with everything I have to keep my mate and children safe and by my side.

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### Chapter 42

Amelie

After Gideon went up to take a shower, I turn to dad and Logan, “What was that all about?”

Logan has moved over to mom and has wrapped his arm around her waist, “I did the same thing when your mom was pregnant with your brother Riley. It’s instinct, and it’s hard to control.” Logan was not one for PDA, so it was sweet to see them like that.

Dad also cuddled up to Celeste, “It’s natural he will work through it. Just be prepared when it happens.” Seeing the love fest going on made me want Gideon. I turn my attention to the kitchen to help Becky with lunch. When I turn around, Becky and Benjamin are all cuddly too. I can’t help but start crying for no real reason but only that I want Gideon right that second.

As soon as I start crying, Gideon comes rushing into the kitchen, no shoes on, a shirt in hand, jeans on only. “What is it what happened?” He’s on guard and looks around, confused about what is going on and why I am crying.

I fight to get words out through my nonsense tears, “I missed you! Everyone was with their mate, and I was lonely.” I am sobbing. Again, it is all hormones at this point.

“You scared me. Ulv and I could feel you were upset and rushed down.” I wrap my arms around Gideon’s waist and rest my head on his chest. He puts his arms around me. I calm down quickly after that, just from his touch.

I look up at Gideon, “How am I going to handle these crazy emotions?” Tears are welling up in my eyes again.

He chuckles, “We’ll figure it out as we go, I guess.” He rubs my back, “Let’s eat lunch. You had a long morning, and you are eating for two now. The moving truck will be here

soon. I have to make sure all your stuff is loaded to go back to the Druit Guard Pack tomorrow. You have to get your dress for the Luna ceremony. Just focus on getting everything done, and it will be fine. OK?"

I take a deep breath, "Yeah, you are right. I am calm now. Thank you for coming down so quickly. You should put your shirt on." I giggle. I was so wrapped up in crying for no reason that I didn't care. My mate is walking around half-dressed.

We all eat lunch without incident. Gideon kept trying to get me to eat more, and everyone would laugh. We finish, and everyone separates to their afternoon plans. Mom, Celeste, and I drag Matt, Benjamin, and Uncle Lucas out shopping. Gideon, Becky, and the other Druit Guards go to help load the truck. Becky is there for proper adult supervision. Dad, Logan, and James retreat to dad's office for more heir training.

We arrive at the boutique this time without a detour. I'm so distracted I cannot focus. I plop down on a high wing-back chair and let the sales clerk, my mom, and Celeste chose dresses to try on. The only actual requirement is that it has to be strapless. All my marks must be visible. Mom, Celeste, and Hope will also be wearing strapless dresses showing their divine right to rule. I'll try anything on at this point. I hear Mom and Celeste going back and forth about color themes, but it's the last thing on my mind.

I just keep thinking about Rose and Daisy. I have not even met them yet, and now I was going to bring them a brother before I really even get to know them. I was more worried they would feel like I took their dad away from them. How do you explain to a three-year-old that you are not taking their dad away but becoming their mom and giving them a brother a bigger family? How did my parents do it with me? I was so young I don't even remember. I was deep in my thoughts when I realized I was in a dressing room, and a sales clerk was trying to help me undress.

"Oh, I'm sorry! What dress should I try on first?" I snap out of my haze and look through the dress they have pulled from me. I put aside the full ball gowns and overly embellished. They felt more like a prom dress or too young. I wanted to look elegant, feminine, and mature. It's essential for me to look my age so that the pack would know I'm not a kid but an adult making decisions on their behalf. Most of the time, already being 30 was not to my advantage, but being Luna, it was. I also want to have exuded a regal undertone without coming across as cocky. I was an Ashwood, and we were pureblood werewolves; if I can't be confident about that, then when can I. I narrow it down to three dresses. One is deep green satin mermaid style. It has a sweetheart neckline with an off-the-shoulder sleeve which would work. The next was a very light, almost white, but a blue jersey crape fitted bodice with an A-line skirt. It also had a simple but elegant rhinestone belt that gave it just a bit of sparkle. The last was deep plum chiffon, and it was almost Grecian in style. It had a fitted bodice, but the chiffon gathered on the top and opened up to an A-line at the waist. It had fantastic flow and movement. I decided to try them on in that order.

I came out in the first dress, and as it was pretty and fit me like a glove, I felt it was more of a party dress. Mom and Celest agreed. It was on to dress number two, the light blue one.

I came out, and it was pretty, but the color washed me out. Mom and I both look better in deeper colors. I thought it would look better on Hope than on me. I did tell the clerk I would take it in a size up for Hope. It's just a little gift for my sister. On to dress number three, which I had high hopes for.

As soon as I put it on, I knew it was right. The deep plum complimented my pale olive skin and dark hair. I walked out, and I got a gasp from Mom and Celeste. I was right; this was the one. The skirt was actually in separate panels, so it moved even more, when I walked, and my legs were exposed. It was just sexy enough for me to tease Gideon. Mom got up and came back with the perfect pair of copper-colored strappy high-heeled sandals. I had the perfect pair of copper earrings too, I just so happen to make them a few weeks ago when I was making crowns for the twins. I head back to the dressing room, and on the way, I notice formal dresses for little girls.

That was it! I was always included in everything important growing up. I was never treated any differently. Before the Luna ceremony, I want to complete the family bond with the girls, and I want them to wear the same color as me and the crowns I made them. I need to talk to Gideon, but I want to incorporate them into the ceremony somehow, even just a little. I want them to feel and to know they are special to me. I quickly change, and mom and Celeste help me look through the little dresses. We find the perfect pair. Almost the same plum chiffon, but the skirt had tiny rhinestones dotting all over it. I knew they would feel happy. They would be wearing the same color as their new mom and extended family. I bought all four dresses, and we headed home for the last time.

It was all bittersweet. So much in the last 30 days changed but at the same time stayed the same because I was still at home with my family and pack. That would all change tomorrow.

## **Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 43**

### Chapter 43

Amelie

I stand frozen in front of my childhood home. Behind me is a caravan of SUVs and a moving truck. In front of me are the people who have raised me and stood by me, waiting to say goodbye. I have been through this before, but it feels more definite this time. Like I know, I will never call this my home again. It makes me a little sad. I'm happy I found Gideon. I am beyond excited to be pregnant but leaving the place that has Mom given me so much safety and security for so long after everything I went through is harder than I ever imagined.

Gideon walks up and puts his arm around me. "We need to get going. It's not a goodbye. It's your family; you will see them soon." He can feel emotions swirling and twisting. Just his touch and his understanding put me at ease.

"It just feels so final." I sigh and lean into him.

He rubs my shoulder, "Well, I guess it is. You are not only my mate but also a Luna and a mother. Your responsibilities are taking you to a new place. To a new home."

"I know it's just such a strange feeling. I've never felt like this would not be my home even when I was part of the Timer Wolf Pack." I knew Gideon was trying to understand, but it was honestly something only other Lunas would understand. They would appreciate but also encourage me as well. I take a deep breath and step toward my waiting family. It was time to go and officially start my next journey.

"You are going to be fine, kiddo." Dad pats my head and pulls me into a hug.

I hug him back, "I know it just all moved so fast I'm not sure if it's real."

Celeste pulls me away from dad to hug me, "It's real, and you are in your rightful place. You are an Ashwood. You were always a Luna."

I hug her back, "Thank you for always believing in me."

Mom pulls me away next, "You will always be my baby no matter how old you get. You will be an excellent Luna and an amazing mother."

I take in mom's scent, Jasmine and pink peppercorn. "Thanks, Mom. I had the perfect teachers all my life."

Alpha Logan joins in on the hug with Mom and me, "My girl, you are going to be better than anyone could ever dream. You always exceed expectations."

"Well, you taught me never to give up." He laughs and lifts us both up. We giggle, and he puts us down.

James is at the end. He's taller and bigger than me now, but he reminds me of the little soft-hearted kid that would follow me around. I pull him in for a hug, and I can feel James holding back tears. He buries his face in my shoulder. I hear him softly say, "you left then came back, almost died, now you are leaving again. I wish you could stay forever. I am going to miss you so much. Sometimes it feels like you are the only one who gets me."

I pull him in closer, "It's not like before. You can call me any time also you will have to do more training with Gideon so I will see you often. Also, you are going to be an uncle now. I am going to need you to look after my little ones now. This is just a see you later



not a goodbye. I love you, little brother.” I kiss him on the cheek and step back so Gideon can say his farewells.

I see James lean in and whisper in Gideon’s ear. I can’t hear it, but I see Gideon smile, and James has a stern look on his face. I can only imagine what nonsense my brother is saying. Gideon turns and helps me into the waiting SUV. I roll down the window and wave as we start heading down the long driveway and to the highway.

That’s it, and we are on our way to our new home, a whole new life. We are heading west to the state line and deeper into the hills and mountains. Gideon is driving as he insisted that he is the only one allowed to drive me long distances. Of course, no one was going to challenge him. As we drove along, I couldn’t help rubbing my belly and humming softly. I didn’t even realize I was doing it at first, but I just kept doing it when I did. I kept thinking about Rose and Daisy. I have talked to them on facetime, but this was the first time I was seeing them in person. Would they like me?

“The girls are going to love you. I’m more nervous, I will lose you to them as soon as we get there.” Gideon smiles. He’s trying to calm my anxiousness.

“I am just scared I’m not going to be a good mother. Now we have a third on the way. I just don’t want to make any mistakes.” This was all new, and I didn’t have my safety net.

“I see how you are with your siblings. I know you will be a great mom. They are so much younger than you that you are more like a second mother than a sibling. I think you are not giving yourself enough credit.” He wasn’t entirely wrong, but I didn’t have to balance being a big sister and a Luna.

“What about my Luna duties. I’ve never been in charge of people before. What if someone gets hurt because of me.” I was starting to feel sick.

Gideon takes a deep breath and releases it, “What are you talking about! I have seen you lead teams of people—the cooks and gardeners at the Ashwood pack. I don’t think you realize it, but all 4 of your parents have been grooming you to be a Luna since you were little. Think about it. What haven’t you helped your stepmother and mother with?”

I stare at Gideon with my mouth partly open, “OH WOW. You are right! How did I not see that! Now that I think about it, I have been my whole life! Actually, I used to help my grandmother too. I am just blind?”

Gideon laughs, “No. Sometimes when you are too close, you can’t see the whole picture. The person standing farther away can see the full view. It was all just a normal thing for you. Only when you were confronted with the title did you start to panic.”

“I don’t know if I like this whole. I’m a super observant thing you have going on.” I look at him, squinting my eyes. We both laugh and spend the rest of our trip talking and listening to music.



Before we know it, we are pulling up to the Druit Guard Packhouse. It's very different from other Packhouses. Most Packhouses look like lodges or even a small grouping of houses. This was huge. It looked and felt like a military base. It was an icy feeling. I knew this would have to be my first task. It needs to feel warm and inviting. No matter how big it was, it needed to feel like home. Gideon and his men had spoken of the Packhouse wings, but honestly, it looked more like barracks. The training area was huge, and it had a complete obstacle course. As we drive past, all the pack members stop what they are doing and bow their heads as we pass. We drove up to the largest house on the compound. I could see that Gideon had a small greenhouse and a workshop constructed for me off to the left of the house. The house was more the oversized lodge look you would traditionally see of a packhouse. This one had a unique U shape to it. As we pull up, I see two couples stand and four kids standing at the peak of the driveway. I can tell right away that the two little girls are Rose and Daisy. They are so cute; they have Gideon's hair and just the lightest kiss of freckles.

The SUV stops. Gideon gets out and comes around to help me down. As soon as I step down, the twins come running over, yelling, "Daddy, Daddy!" They are jumping up and down with their little arms reaching up. Gideon scoops them up, and they wrap their arms around his neck. They look even smaller in his arms than they are.

Gideon turns to me, "Girls, this is Amelie. She's going to be living us from now on."

They both start squirming, and Gideon puts them down. They rush to me and immediately latching onto my legs.

"Amawee, are you going to be the wuna? Daisy asks.

"Yes, I am."

They look at each other and nod. Rose says in a soft voice, "Are you going to be our mommy."

"Do you want me to be?" They look at each other, and then they look at Gideon.

"Yes!" they say in unison. I giggle, and I bend down to hug them. I didn't understand how this was so easy. I was so scared, but it was like they already knew and were waiting for me.

They wrap their little arms around my neck as I bend down to hug them. Rose whispers in my ear, "we are going to be a happy famawee now." It was so cute, and I knew they needed me, and maybe a part of me needed them too. I go to pick them up, but Gideon stops me.

"One at a time. It's not safe in your condition. Better yet, I'll carry both of them." He reaches down and picks up the girls.

They both protest, “No, daddy, we want Amawee to carry us.”

“Girls do as daddy says. You are too heavy for Amelie to carry.” He kisses their cheeks.

Daisy is not having it. She pushes Gideon’s face away, “No, daddy! I want Amawee.”

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### Chapter 44

Amelie

Daisy is not having it. She pushes Gideon’s face away, “No, daddy! I want Amawee.”

It was cute, but I could see a little hurt in Gideon’s eyes, “Daisy, how would you like to hold my hand and walk. We need to go inside to see everyone. Can you hold my hand?” I learned a long time ago Alpha children were different from other children. Male or female, they still carried Alpha blood and tended to be fiercer when they wanted something. The flip side is that they tend to be more intelligent, and you can be reasoned with.

Daisy reaches for me, “I hold Amawee’s hand.” Gideon sets her down, and she takes my hand, and we all walk together to the front of the house where everyone is waiting.

“Amelie, this is my Beta Tyson. His mate Shay and their son Easton.” They all bow their heads. Tyson is tall and thinner build than what I was expecting. He has light brown hair, pale skin, and blue eyes with scruffy beard. He looks like he walked out of a modern-day western cowboy hat, pearl snap shirt, wranglers with a large belt buckle, and cowboy boots. Shay couldn’t be more opposite. She was shorter than me dark mocha skin that looked so smooth it almost glowed. Her jet-black hair bounced and cascaded down to her shoulders in tight spiral curls. Her outfit was so trendy and cute I almost missed it when she smiled at me. She was stunning.

Tyson is the first to address me, “Welcome, Luna. It already looks like you have found your place here.” He smiles and looks down at Daisy holding my hand. I reach out with the other to shake their hand.

“Hello Beta Tyson, Shay, and Easton. I hope we can work together to continue to grow the Druit Guard.” They both shake my hand.

Little Easton pulls his hand from behind his back and reaches up to give me a little bouquet of dandelions and white clover flowers. “Welcome Wuna.”

“Oh, my, are these for me! These will make a wonderful tea. Will you have some with me?” His little eyes light up, and he nods his head then hides behind his mother. He

was so cute. He closely resembled his mother but had lighter hair and smoky blue eyes, and the chubbiest cheeks.

Gideon bond-links me, "You can make tea with weeds?"

I shake my head, "to some, they are weeds to others, they are medicinal plants. Not everything is as it seems." He nods his head.

"This is my Gamma Marcus, his mate Jorden and their son Ryan." They bow their heads. Marcus is shorter than I would have thought, but he is just as bawdy as Gideon. You can tell he does a lot of training outside from his dark tan. His hair is dark brown, almost black and his eyes were so dark brown you could barely see his pupil. Jorden was in stark contrast, with light strawberry blond hair, crystal blue eyes, and pale porcelain skin.

"It's an honor to meet you again, Luna Amelie." That's right. I met him at James' Heir Ceremony.

I reach out to shake their hands as well. "It is good to see you again, Gamma Marcus. Thank you for the warm welcome."

It looks like little Ryan also has something behind his back for me. He opens his hands and gives me two rocks. "Rose said you like pretty rocks. I found these for you."

I rub the rocks with my thumb, and I can see they are very pretty, "Thank you, Ryan. This one here is rose quartz, and the other is Fairburn Agate. I'll clean them up, and you won't believe how pretty they will be."

His eyes widen, "Really! Can you show me?"

I chuckle, "Yes, no problem, I will show you soon, OK." He's a mini version of his father. He's a little older than Easton and at least two, maybe three years older than the twins.

"Let's go inside. It's been a long drive, and we have to give you the tour." Gideon places his hand on the small of my back. He is still carrying Rose, and daisy is holding on to my hand. I feel like a real family, and a grin makes its way to my lips. "The pack will unload the truck. Becky, Benjamin, and Matt will make sure the boxes go to the right place."

I walk into the main entry for the Packhouse, and I am surprised that I don't have to redecorate completely. It's a little old-fashioned, but a few touches, and I think it could brighten things up. It had great windows and views of the mountains, but the wall colors were so dark, and the stuffed animals were a little too much. I will lighting up the walls, getting rid of the dead animals, and adding some plants and would feel much more welcoming. "I can work with this," I say and nod my head.

"I had a feeling you would redo most of the Packhouse. Can it at least wait till after the Luna Ceremony?" I know Gideon has been away for a long time and has a lot on his plate, but we have guests coming from all over. A refresh would need to be done.

"I will oversee the changes. I want to make a good impression on the guest coming. I don't feel much will need to change. If you give me a good team, it can be done quickly. How about it, Shay and Jorden, you ladies what to help with a quick makeover in here?"

"Luna, I have wanted to update the Packhouse for years! I am in." Shay says.

"If you will allow me to assist you, Luna, I would gladly help." Jorden smiles.

"Perfect, I'll add Becky to our team too!" Gideon grabs my arm.

"You do not need to overexert yourself in your current condition." I give Gideon the one raised eyebrow.

I bond-link him, "I thought we were going to wait to announce that at the ceremony?"

"If you are going to start taking on projects, then my Beta and Gamma need to know." I hate it when he's right.

"Fine. Do it through mind-link. I want to tell the girls privately." I can see right away that Gideon mind-links the Beta and Gamma and their mates. Shay and Jorden both are beaming after. I feel like the three of us are going to be fast friends.

We tour the rest of the house, and we finally get to the Alpha wing last. Everyone leaves us alone to tour our branch as a family. The twins are all too excited to show me their room in full detail. Next, Gideon shows me our room. It does bother me a bit that this was once the room of him and his deceased mate, but I know it's silly to be upset about it. The room has dark navy walls all the way around, too dark. The currents are a dark gray. Furniture is all beautifully hand-carved dark stained oak. The bed is a four-poster, and the bedding is navy and dark gray. There is a balcony that overlooks the back gourds with a breath-taking view of the mountains.

I step out on the balcony. The girls jump on the bed, and Gideon leans on the doorway. "Welcome home, my storm."

I rest my hand on my tummy for a moment, "This is where you will grow up. It's our family home."

"come on, let's go have dinner. After that, we will bathe the girls and put them to bed. I want you all to myself tonight." Gideon pulls me into him and nuzzles my neck, and kisses my mark.

"Hey, the girls are right there." I giggle.

"I don't think they care much." We look over, and they have stacked the pillows up on the bed and are jumping into them. We laugh and wrangle the twins and head down to the dining room for dinner.

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### Chapter 45

Amelie

I thought it was going to be a small dinner with the Beta and Gamma families. I had no idea it was with the whole pack that stays in the compound in the main dining hall.

When we get to the doorway, Marcus is standing there and announces us. "Alpha Gideon and Luna Amelie. Attention!"

Everyone stands at attention then bows their heads. I've never experienced anything like this before. I'm so nervous I don't know where I should or shouldn't look. I walk behind Gideon with the twins holding each of my hands. Out of the corner of my eye, I catch a table of she-wolves, and I can tell they don't like me. This must be the "fan club" Matt told me about.

"Inari, we are going to need to concentrate our Luna aura in our gaze. You ready?" I was going to let them know who's boss from the start.

"Hell yes! No one messes with our mate and family!" Inari snarls.

I glare at the table of she-wolves using my Luna aura. They all drop to one knee under my gaze. I can see one is trying to fight it more than the others, but ultimately she cannot resist. I haven't gone through the Luna ceremony, but since I am a fated mate that has been marked, I already possess some of the power.

Gideon can feel I am using my aura and turns around to see what is going on. He bonds links me. "Mind tell me what's going on? Your eyes are a deep yellow, and I can feel your power right now."

"I was just letting a few she-wolves know I am no pushover." I smile back.

We get to our seats at the main table, and Gideon gives a few words. "Druit Guard! Please Welcome your new Luna Amelie Ashwood from the Ashwood Pack and the Ashwood Alpha bloodline."

Everyone starts clapping. Gideon raises his hand, signaling them to stop. "I am also pleased to announce that our pack will also soon have an heir."

The hall erupts in clapping and howling. I bond-link Gideon. “We haven’t told the twins yet! What are you doing?”

“The twins will be fine. I won’t let anyone challenge my mate. I will let it go with this as they should know their place now, but if it happens again, I will punish them.” I could feel him getting protective and Ulv pushing forward. I was fine no one did anything; it was only some nasty glares. He needed to calm down. As dad said, the protectiveness would come out at the most minor things. I grab his hand and push my love and security through the bond. I can feel him ease and relax.

“Tonight, let’s celebrate the blessing the goddess has giving our pack. Tomorrow morning training is canceled.” The hall sounds like it’s going to explode from all the cheering. Gideon looks down at me and smirks. I shake my head, and a slight smile graces my face.

This was the first time I have seen Gideon in front of his pack. I have seen him instruct a handful of men but not his entire pack. My dad didn’t even have a pack meeting like this. I do sometimes forget that Druit Guard is not an average pack. Its pack members come from all over. These wolves are all elite, and someone like Benjamin and Matt are the elite of the elite. It was crazy to think that this loving, gentle, playful man was the Alpha of an army.

I helped the girls into their seats. I sat down, and Gideon sat down as well. When he did, so did the rest of the hall. I realized then that I was going to have to get used to meals like this. It was important for a pack like this to see the Alpha and Luna, and it helped keep order. It was more stressful than formal dinners at the Ashwood pack. The front table was on a slight platform so the whole room could see us. Gideon and I sat in the middle of the table to my left sat the twins, and beyond them, Marcus and his family. To Gideon’s right sat Tyson and his family. The tables right in front of ours were for the elite Deltas. I looked around and found Becky next to Benjamin. Our eyes connected, and she gave me a slight wave. I winked back at her.

Our food was brought out. It wasn’t bad, but it wasn’t great either. I added it to my list of Luna’s work to be done. To be honest, I know I would be putting a lot on Becky because she wouldn’t just be cooking for the ranking families but also helping improve the meals of the whole pack. It was going to be a massive undertaking, but one I hope would make a significant impact on the morale of the pack.

We finish our meal, and I help the twins down from their chairs. Gideon stands, and the whole room stops and stands. “At ease.” They all go back to what they were doing. It’s startling how closely they all watch and react to his every move. Logan’s pack is a strict pack compared to dad’s, but it’s not this intense. The girls each retake my hands, and we follow Gideon out of the hall.

Once we are out, I release a breath I didn’t realize I was holding. “Is it always that intense?” I ask him.

“You will have to get used to it. We will need to have dinner with the pack at least four nights a week.” He stops and picks up Rose, who was tugging at his pants.

“I understand. I wasn’t prepared for it today, is all.” I take Daisy’s hand.

“OK, girls, it’s time for your bath.” Gideon quickly redirects to the girls and dad mode.

We continue to our wing and go to the twin’s room. The girls and I pick out which PJ’s they want to wear while Gideon runs the bathwater. The girls find their favorite bath toys, and we get them in the bath. As they are playing, my mind is going a million miles an hour on what I want to teach them, but what do they already know. Is it too early to try teaching them to read? What about other languages? I must have looked like I was in a far-off land because Daisy splashed me, and it brought me back. She is giggling away, so I tickle her as her punishment.

After the bath, we help them into their PJ’s and they both crawl into Rose’s bed. Gideon and I each sit on either side of the bed, and we read a story together. We get halfway through the book when Gideon bond-links me.

“They are out. Let’s go to our room.” I nod, and we quietly get up and go to our room.

It’s the oddest feeling. It feels like I just fit. It’s so natural, like we have all been doing this routine forever. We get to our door, and Gideon walks through first. I was deep in thought again, and Gideon jolted me out of it by grabbing my arm and pulling me into a passionate kiss.

“Hello, my Luna.” He has the most mischievous look on his face.

I wrap my arms around his neck, “Hello, my Alpha.” I kiss him.

He picks me up, and I wrap my legs around his waist. He carries me over to the bed. He pulls my shirt off before I can even react, and he is kissing down my neck to my chest.

“Gideon, I want to shower first. I feel so gross from such a long day. Please?”

“You always smell amazing to me.” He nuzzles his face into my boobs.

“It’s not about if I smell. I feel gross and sticky. Please?” I cup his face in my hands and look at him with a pouty face.

“Fine, but I’m showering with you.” I giggle. I knew he would anyway.

He picks me up, not letting me walk to the bathroom. I don’t protest; I know he wants to show me everything and keep me close. It’s a beautiful bathroom. The whole thing is travertine tile: his and her sinks and a giant jacuzzi tub there is a walk-in rainfall shower. I see a set of large double doors. Gideon opens it, and it’s a massive closet. It looks



almost the same size as the bedroom. I look around, and I see my clothes are already hung up and put away. Gideon must have had it done earlier.

“Thank you! This is one less thing for me to unpack. I will have to thank whoever put all this away.” I smile as I turn around and start opening cabinets and drawers.

“I will find out and let you know. For now, let’s take that shower.” A slight growl comes from him.

“Oh, I see someone is getting impatient.” I am shirtless and standing in my bra. I walk over to Gideon and press up against him, and he pulls me closer.

“If you make me wait too long, I’ll use my Alpha aura on you again.” A devilish smirk comes across his face.

“Oh no. Remember, you need to be gentle. The baby.” I kiss him.

“Come. Let’s get in.” Gideon slowly strips me down, kissing different parts of me as my clothes come off. He quickly takes his clothes off. He leads me into the shower. The soft, rain-like shower makes it feel like we are caught in a sudden downpour. Gideon picks me up again, and I wrap my legs around him as he pins me up to the wall. I maneuver and insert Gideon inside my core. He’s so gentle. I know he wants to be ruffer but is afraid of hurting the baby. It’s still early in my pregnancy, so we want to be careful.

His gentle touch and tenderness fuel my passion for him, and I climax quicker than I thought I would. “It’s OK. We have all night let it go too.” I kiss him, and I can feel him release. We finish our shower and dry off. I grab a pair of silk shorts and a tank-top. I might not be wearing them long, but at least they would be close after they came off. Gideon puts on a pair of soft shorts.

I crawl into bed, and Gideon is about to when the door creaks open. Two little heads peek in. “We want to sleep with you,” Daisy says as she holds her sister’s hand.