

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 76

Chapter 76

Amelie

"I love you. Enjoy the run, don't overdo it, and wear out the new pups." I give Gideon a wink. He seems off, a little distant, not cold or dismissive, but like something is on his mind lately, and he doesn't want to share.

He smiles back. "I have to see what they are made of, don't I." It all feels forced, and he rushes away to shift. I'll have to get him to spill it later. For now, I needed to focus on finishing up prep for our pack celebration.

Tonight we are doing a big outdoor party in what is usually the training field. We don't have much today since the Packhouse staff has taken care of everything. I'll have to give Becky a bonus. She's doing an excellent job of managing the staff. I'm so glad she was mated to Benjamin.

It's extra special because the non-affiliated wolves all decided to join our pack. This is their first-pack event. Bailey is slowly transitioning into her role as a Delta-Female, and I couldn't be prouder of her. She is not letting the horrors she faced stop her from being happy. Matt adores her, and the mate bond is helping her heal. Two of the males wolve also found their mates here as well. Faris, who drew the picture of the tattoo, found his mate at the hospital; she was a nurse. Now he's studying to become one as well. It was a blessing I got to witness it all firsthand as well.

We are watching the children run around and play we I turn to Shay and Jordan, "I've never heard how you both meet your mates?"

They both smile and look at each other. Shay answers, "We met them at the same time during our Druit Guard interviews, actually."

"Oh wow. I didn't know you both had applied to the Druit Guard before meeting our mates. Why did you both want to join?" I knew a lot about them both, but I didn't realize this.

"Well, as you know, I am an Alpha's daughter. What most don't know is I am adopted. My mother found me on the edge of our territory when I was two years old, just wandering around by myself." Her expression changes. She looks a bit sad.

She continues. "They could never find my birth parents, so my mother, the Luna of the Clear Lake Pack near Houston, TX, took me in as hers. She had always wanted a daughter and said the goddess blessed her with me. I was raised as an Alpha's daughter; our pack is small but loving. When my older brother took over, I found myself wanting to find my purpose as well. I trained our warriors, but I wanted more. I talked to

my family about it, and they suggested I join the Druid Guard for a few years. My father always felt I held a bigger destiny and didn't want to hold me back. I applied and came here for my interview with Alpha Gideon. When I walked into the room, Tyson was with him, and I stopped in my tracks. He jumped the table losing his cowboy hat in the process. He took me in his arms and gave me the most passionate kiss I had ever been given in my life. That was six years ago, and I still never had my interview." We all laughed; I could see Tyson doing that.

Shay has the biggest smile on her face. "You know it's funny this city girl from Texas came all the way north to find her a cowboy!" We erupt in laughter again. "My family was more than excited to find out I was mated to such a powerful Beta and pack. Easten is the greatest blessing I could ever ask for, and he will be a strong Beta one day. My father was right; I had a greater destiny to be the Beta-Female of the Druid Guard is an honor. I'm so thankful my family encouraged me to find my purpose."

"I'm so thankful they did too. I don't know what I would do without you here." I hug Shay. We have become friends and a team in the short time of my being here. I can honestly say I trust her.

I turn to Jordan, "So what brought you to Druid Guard?" I regret my question as soon as I ask. I see the pain in Jordan's eyes. I know it has to do with her father. "I'm sorry, you don't have to tell me if you don't want to relive it."

"No, it's OK. Knowing what I know now. I'm thankful for the sacrifice my father made for me; otherwise, Ryan wouldn't be here because I would probably have been killed along with him." Her eyes are glassy, and she tries to blink them away.

"We are here for you. If it helps to talk about it, we will lessen." I take her hand and clasp it in both of mine.

Jordan takes a deep breath. "Six years ago, when Alpha Lars Sibley took over as Alpha, he forced my father to step down as Beta and appointed Gavin Bryant as his Beta. I was an only child. My mother died in a car accident when I was four, and my father would not take a chosen mate. Alpha Lars refused to acknowledge me as his Beta because I was female and my father was older, so I guess it was bound to happen. My father blindsided me one day. He had filled out the application for me for the Druid Guard and set up my interview." A single tear rolled down her cheek. She wiped it away and straightened her back, and continued. "We argued over it, but I gave in when he broke down crying that it was the only place he knew I would be safe."

I watch as her eyes wander over to Ryan playing with Rose. A small smile comes across her lips but doesn't reflect in her eyes. "I'm just glad he got to hold his grandson before he was murdered. Knowing what I know now, I would have forced him to come with me. The day I met Marcus saved my life. I was ready to tell Alpha Gideon that I didn't want to join the Druid Guard and walk away, go back to the Death Valley Pack.

When I walked into that interview room and felt the mate pull, there was no going back.” A laugh and a tear escape from Jordan at the same time.

Finally, her smile reaches her eyes. “Marcus picked me up and threw me over his shoulder and carried me out of the interview room like a caveman. I was in complete shock, but I didn’t even fight him. Once outside, he set me down and cupped my face in his hands, and just stared at me for what felt like hours, but it was only minutes. The first words out of his mouth were ‘you’re real.’ Then we kissed for the first time. I have never felt more at peace than I do when I’m with him. Marcus gave me a home again.”

I’m launching myself at Jordan, pulling her into the best hug I can give with my belly getting in the way. I’m sobbing, hormones going into overdrive when all of a sudden I feel it! The pack-bond alert. It’s something only the Alpha and Luna have. It’s one of the pups newly shifted.

I try to bond-link Gideon, “What’s going on?”

“One of the new pups got injured. I’ll tell you more later.” He cut off the link.

I turn to my team, “A pup got hurt on the run.”

“Oh no! Who was it? Are they OK?” Shay asks.

“I don’t know the details, but Gideon is handling it, so it should be fine. We better finish everything up. They will be back soon.” I try not to worry but knowing a child was hurt weighs heavy on my heart.

From the treeline, I see a man carrying a young boy and a woman following right behind. I look closer, and I see it’s Mary and her son William, the man holding him must be her mate. I haven’t met him yet. Mary was one of the few I would let watch the twins. I get Shay and Jordan’s attention, and they sprint over. I’m not moving fast these days, so I stay near the pups.

“How is he?” I mind-link Shay.

“He’s got a broken arm. Brendon said he got caught in a hunter’s trap.” She links me back, and I’m floored. How did a hunter’s trap get out there?

“Escote them to the hospital and let me know how they are doing.” I drop my head and pinch my brow. What is going on? We can’t even celebrate in peace.

I can’t take it. I need to know how this happened. How dare someone harms one of my pack! “Gideon, what is going on? How did a hunter’s trap get into our territory?” I’m screaming through the mate-link; Inari is growling. If I could shift, I would have to fight Inari for control not to. It’s not recommended to shift while pregnant. While shifting, your whole body changes, and it can induce labor or miscarriage. Nothing happens

sometimes; it doesn't matter as Inari is sealed, but I know she wants out more than ever.

I know Gideon can feel all that I'm going through, "Am, I'm heading back. I will tell you everything after you calm down. You are going to make the new pack members cry. Inari, pull it in!"

I close my eyes and breath deep in and out, "Inari, we can do this. I know you want to shift, but we couldn't. Anyways we are pregnant. We need to get our aura under control."

"Ulv is angry. I can feel it. This is not a simple hunter's trap in the woods. I know it. He's in a rage; he wants blood." Inari snarls, and I can feel her uneasiness, then I feel his too. She's right. It's not just Ulv in a rage, Gideon too.

"I'm heading to our wing. You are angry, and I'm feeding off it and cannot calm down. Meet me there. We can join the party after." I bond-link Gideon. This is pointless. If we are both this upset, we will have the whole pack on its knees instead of celebrating.

"I'll meet you there." He cut the link.

I mind-link my team, "Watch the twins Gideon and I need to have a private talk."

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Gideon

I hustle back to our room. I didn't bother grabbing any clothes from the trees; I was too pissed and might shift any second again. I didn't care who saw me naked. I'm the Alpha. What are they going to say? I kick open the bedroom door and find Amelie sitting on the bed, rubbing her baby belly as she jumps up when I enter.

"What the hell, Gideon!" She walks over and slaps my arm, and it stings. Not this again.

"The boy will be fine. I already checked with the doctor through mind-link." She slaps me again in the same spot.

"What is going on? How did that trap get on our territory?" She's unconsciously pushing out her aura. She is the Luna Mother, and no one messes with mama wolf. It was sexy, but I needed to focus.

"Tate." Her eyes gape open, and her mouth drops. Then she slaps my arm again, in the same spot. Damn, that hurts.

“How do you know it was him?” She steps back and sits back on the bed. Her anger has been overtaken by guilt.

“He left a note, and I could smell him on it.” I’m still seething, but I sit down next to her and pull her into my lap, rubbing her back.

“What...What did it say?” her voice is barely above a whisper.

“It said ‘She will fall into my trap next’ an empty threat if you ask me. It’s not your fault. William will make a full recovery.” I move her hair to the side and kiss her shoulder, and up her neck. I breathe in her intoxicating honeysuckle scent, and I am instantly drunk on it.

“Gideon, stop. We need to figure this out.” I nibble on her neck, and a moan leaves her lips. I need to feel her.

I need to know she’s mine. Every inch of her skin, every strand of hair, everything about her was mine. She was my goddess to worship and no one else’s. I kiss and nibble my way up and down her neck while my hands wander and paw at her thighs and breast. I find the zipper on the side of her sundress and release her bosom. They have gotten even bigger with pregnancy. What can I say? I’m a boob guy. She’s sitting sideways on my lap, and I bury my face in her chest, being gentle but releasing my need at the same time.

I push up the dress to her waist and move her underwear to the side to slide my fingers in with my other hand. Her body always invites me with its warm wetness. I’m at full mast, but I want to see her climax first. I pump in two fingers as I work her breast with my mouth and other hand.

“Gideon.” She moans in my ear as she grips my shoulders, her nails dig in, but it only spurs me on. Her breath is ragged, and her moans are coming one after the other. I feel her tighten slightly on my fingers. I keep pumping my fingers in and out, letting her ride it out. I steal her last moan when I kiss her lips. I rip her underwear and move her dress out of the way.

I sit her on my lap with her back to my chest. She straddles me, and I slid myself into her dripping core. As soon as I’m inside her, a deep growl leaves my chest. Yes, she was my goddess, and I am the only one who can have her. I’m the only one who can please her.

I bounce her on my lap, slow and deep, rubbing her clit every time she takes me entirely. I guide her hips with my other hand. Her hair is over her right shoulder, exposing all her marks to me. They are my marks. They are proof that Selene blessed us to be together. No one would take her from me. I kiss her Luna mark causing Amelie to climax. I don’t stop. I let her ride it out. I start to suck on her mate mark, and she quickens our pace, and a scream of pure pleasure leaves her lips. I can’t hold back. I

release with her. It was quicker than we usually do, but I just needed to feel her. I just needed her.

I felt my mind clear, and all my emotions and hers faded to the background. I don't let her go yet; I bury my head in the back of her neck and just hold her. My arms wrapped tightly around her. It's just a moment of peace. Just the two of us together, the only sounds are our breathing and hearts.

"Gideon, I'm not going anywhere." Amelie rubs my arms with her hand.

I kiss the back of her neck, "I know, and I want to keep it that way." She shifts herself off my lap and sits next to me. I fight the impulse to pull her back into me. She's a bit disheveled from our romp but has never looked more beautiful to me. Pregnancy really did suit her.

I'm pulled out of my next wave of lust by Amelie's question. "What do you think he means by his trap?" I take her hand in mine.

"I don't know, but whatever it is, I won't let it happen." I bring her hands to my lips and kiss them.

She looks down at the floor and lets out an excused breath. "One day, I hope this is over."

I wrap an arm around her shoulders. "It will be soon. Once we find out where they are hiding the kidnapped wolves, this will all be over."

"Do you think you can get them to reveal it at the banquet?" She looks up at me with a twinkle of hope in her eye.

"Yes, I do. I think we have rattled them a bit. All their spies are slowly disappearing from other packs, and they're in legal trouble with the human world. They will soon lose their hold on the Councils as well. That's what the banquet plan is for to get the Councils back and get the locations of the kidnapped wolves." I stand up and start walking to the bathroom. I need to clean up and get dressed so we can join the party.

"I think it's time we join the party." I offer my hand, and she takes it.

Amelie stands and adjusts her dress and follows me into the bathroom to freshen up as well. "I hope it works."

"It will. We are leaving in the morning for our flight to Vermont. Is everything ready for the girls?" I step into the shower to do a quick rinse off. I didn't want to leave them, but I needed to be at the banquet and ball. I didn't feel safe bringing them with me, and I didn't want to leave them here if we got attacked again, so Rose and Daisy are going to

the Ashwood Pack along with Ryan and Easten for a summer camp with James and Riley. I didn't know who I was more worried about, the pups or the Alpha heirs.

"Yeah, everything is packed and ready. I just need to get my finished accessories from my workshop before we leave." I turn off the shower, and Amelie is leaning on the counter. "What time are we leaving again?"

"Ten AM. Why?" I towel myself off.

"I think I need to finish something I've been working on." She gives me a half-smile, but there's mischief in her eyes.

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Chapter 78

Amelie

"Luna Amelie, please hold still. I'm almost done." Sam has had me in this chair for the last hour.

"Sam, I have to pee." I point to my baby bulge. "Pregnant and all, you know?" I'm glad Celest brought her glam squad for the banquet and ball, but I'm already so exhausted, and I've only gotten my hair and makeup done.

"Almost done, Luna." With the last few flicks of her wrist, she stands back. "OK, go. I'll help you in to your dress when you are done."

I get up and go to the bathroom, and as soon as I'm out, Sam is waiting with my dress. Celest has already got hers on and is putting on her accessories. I groan, looking at the dress. I would be delighted to go in this fluffy bathrobe.

"I know you would rather nap, but we have a role to play tonight, and we need you." Celest coos as she finishes putting the back of her earring on.

"Ugh! I know, but I'm already tired!" I plop down on the bed for a second.

"Luna, you will be the center of the banquet. I mean, everyone has heard how you channeled the goddess, and she already blessed you with your sons' family marks. It's amazing! Everyone wants to meet you." Sam's enthusiasm is anything but contagious to me. I didn't want to be the center of attention, and now I've been thrown into the spotlight. It was not that I was shy or embarrassed; I just simply didn't want to deal with the hassle. I know Sam is excited for me, so I put aside my feelings and smiled at her.

"Thank you for the pep talk Sam." I begrudgingly get up off the bed to get dressed.

I decided to go with pack colors to show that I was now the Luna of the Druit Guard and, more importantly, Gideon's mate. My dress is a forest green stain chiffon strapless mermaid style. I don't know what I was thinking, going with something so fitted when I only wanted loose and flowing clothing recently. I guess I didn't want all the extra fabric and looked more prominent than I am. At least my baby bulge will be on display. I am beyond the bump or belly stage. With twins, I was bulging, and these two were active all the time.

I drop my robe and step into the dress. Thank goodness it has some stretch. Sam zips me up, and I go to get the accessories I've made for the occasion. I wanted to bring some contrast, so I made platinum and ruby jewelry. Ruby to match Ulv's eyes, it made Inari happy. The earrings have three small stones staggered between links of chain. The necklace matched tiny rubies between short lengths of chain. The wow piece was the hair stick. It is six inches in length. At the crown, I incrust rubies all the way around, then I constructed a rose and a daisy out of platinum and placed two larger rubies in the center of each flower. I carefully pick up the hair stick by the flowers and start to put it in my updo when Sam comes over to help.

"It's OK, Sam, I got it. I know right where I want it placed." I lean my body away from her reach.

"Let me help. The tip looked sharp. I don't want you to poke yourself." She reaches for the hair stick.

"Look, it's already in right where I want it. I promise it's perfect." She pulls back.

"Well, if you insist. It's beautiful. The rubies look like they are glowing." I giggle.

"It's how rubies refract light. Some say it looks like they are alive." I smile and walk over to put on my shoes. I would typically pair a dress like this with heels, but I'm not attempting them right now. I'm just thankful that I was able to find some great flat sandals covered in rhinestones. One of the straps is a little loose, but I won't be walking around that much.

"Amelie, are you and Celeste ready?" Gideon bond-links me.

"Yes, we just fished." There's a knock on the door as soon as I respond.

"Come in." Celeste is putting on her shoes as well. Father must have also linked with her.

Dad and Gideon walk in wearing tuxedos. I have to say this is the first time I actually get to see Gideon properly dressed up. Shirt buttoned all the way up, and his sleeves are not rolled up, wearing his tie and jacket. He looks so handsome and utterly uncomfortable at the same time. To be honest, the jacket looks like if he flexes wrong,

the seams will burst. The look on his face says he feels like he's being strangled. His movements look stiff, like there's a poll up his back

I hold back my giggle as best I can, but it doesn't go unnoticed. Gideon gives me a pleading look, but it does the opposite. I am helpless to my fit of laughter, and it becomes infectious to everyone. Dad and Celeste start laughing, and then even Gideon can't help himself. I pull myself together, as does everyone else.

Gideon holds out his arm for me, "Are you ready, my storm?" Giving me his sexy grin. Not fair at all.

I take his arm and exhale. It's going to be a long night. "Let's set it on fire." I give him a wink, and he gives me a chuckle back. As we walk down to the banquet hall, my tension grows.

I should be used to these formal events, but I'm not. Unlike other Alpha families who drag their children to any event to try and mate them off, our family doesn't. I guess after what happened with Aunt Marilyn, dad and grandpa didn't want to risk it. Then add on Celeste being poisoned and losing all those pups because they hide the three of us away as much as possible. I didn't even know dad and Logan mentored Gideon all those years. I don't feel like I was sheltered, more like hidden away obliviously. When we did attend formal events, we always stayed close to dad and Celeste and didn't interact with anyone. Now that I think about it, we must have looked like snobs to other families. I guess it makes sense the responses I get now that I'm interacting with other Alpha families as a Luna. They are formal, not friendly I can't wait for the actual Aruna Banquet tomorrow night at Amaris Packhouse. This Hotel is lovely, but I'm not looking forward to what we are about to walk into; we are only feet away from the door now.

Gideon stops and looks down at me, "Are you ready?"

"Do I have a choice?" I rub my belly. The boys must feel my anxiety. They haven't stopped moving the whole way down.

"Hey, look at me?" I look up at my handsome mate and gaze deep into his bright green eyes. "I'm right here. We are going to get through this and end this, I promise." He kisses the top of my head, but it doesn't stop this dreadful feeling I have.

Dad and Celeste are announced, and they enter. We wait about two minutes, and we are announced and enter as well. As soon as I step into the banquet hall, I feel all eyes are on me. Yep, here's the freak which the goddess spoke through and already had the family marks of her unborn twin Alphas. She's also the one who completed the rejection ritual and found a second mate. I despise being thrown in the spotlight, but the goddess just keeps putting me on center stage. I feel like a sideshow attraction more than a Luna. This is my role tonight. I would be the main topic of conversation. Dad and Gideon wanted to use my presence to force the conversation and get the New Moon Alliance members to talk or try and recruit our planted spies.

The wolves here that are family or from the Durit Guard don't bother to turn my way because they are also watching. That small fact makes me feel a bit better, but my unease will not subside that quickly. As we walk to our table, I trip over my dress as the loose sandal strap has caught on it.

Gideon quickly catches me. "You OK there?"

"Yeah, this damn sandal got caught. Let's get to the table. I'll try to fix it." In the middle of the hall, Gideon bends down and untangles my dress hem and sandal. He stands back up, and I know I am beat red. Sometimes he makes me feel like I am the only person in the world that matters. "Thank you."

He kisses the top of my head, and we continue making our way to our table. We make small talk with the others at our table. I can tell from time to time Gideon is checking in with his team. Dinner is served, and it is lovely, but I can't finish it. I am still on edge and only have a few bites here and there. Once dinner ends, the quartet starts up a waltz signaling the floor is now open for dancing.

Gideon stands and holds out his hand to me. "Shall we?"

As much as I don't want to move because I'm just uncomfortable, I want to be as close to Gideon as I can. I feel safer. I took his hand, and he led me to the dance floor. No words are shared between us, just closing any distance between us. As we are dancing, my sandal strap trips me again. Gideon catches me again.

"This sandel!" I sigh. "I'll go up to the room and change shoes."

"I'll take you." Gideon takes care of my sandal again.

"No, you need to stay here. I can go." I know we were so close to finishing this up and getting the information we needed.

"I'll send to guards with you. It's not safe to walk around alone." Gideon mind-links two members of our pack. We walk over to the door, and I see Celeste emerge from the crowd.

"What's wrong, dear?" She takes my hand.

"It's nothing serious my sandal strap keeps coming loose and catching the hem of my dress and tripping me. I'm going to go change my shoes." I squeeze her hand, and she gives a relieved smile.

"I'll go with you." She gives Gideon a wink.

“Thank you, Luna, that would make me feel much better.” Gideon gives her a reassuring nod as two she-wolves walk toward us. “This is Alyssa and Margo. Please escort the two Lunas to their room to change shoes.”

“Yes, Alpha Gideon.” They both give a slight bow.

Celeste takes my arm as we walk down the hall to the elevator bank. We are giggling and chatting away as we are standing there waiting for one of the doors to open, we hear the ding of the elevator car behind us, and the doors open. I turn around to get on when I’m stopped in my tracks by a face I didn’t expect to see here of all places.

Two other wolves jump out of the elevator and inject something into my two guards. I’m frozen in place. Pure panic has taken over me, and I can’t even breathe or think. Celeste is grabbed from my side before she can even react, and she fights her attacker but is quickly subdued and injected as well.

A silver bracelet was secured on my wrist, and before I could fully grasp what was happening, I was being dragged away. My abductor turns and gives me a lopsided evil grin.

“I said you would fall into my trap.”

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Gideon

“Report!” I mind-link to my team buzzing around the banquet hall.

“Alpha, I heard Alpha Kentwood talking about taking another Alpha to his ranch in Lily, South Dakota.” It’s the first real lead. What’s even more interesting is the Kentwood Pack is located in Missouri, and Lily, South Dakota, is a one-stoplight town of farmers and ranchers.

“Did anyone get anything else?” I pick up a glass of champagne to hide the fact I’m getting an intel report.

“I heard an Alpha talking about.”

“Mates in trouble!” Ulv screams in my head, interrupting the intel report. I run for the door, and John is hot on my heels.

“Something happened to Celeste.” I nod. No other explanation is needed. We both feel it.

“Tyson, Marcus, Benjamin Amelie is in trouble. Follow me! Shay, Jordan, and Becky stay here and get the intel, and watch our special guest.” they are all quickly behind me. I follow Amelie’s scent. I follow it to the elevator bank and find Alyssa and Margo unconscious, Celeste’s groggy.

John picks up his mate in arms and holds her close. “What happened?”

Celeste is fighting consciousness and gets out one word, “Tate.” It’s barely audible, but it sends Ulv and me in overdrive.

Tyson grabs my arm. “Alpha, we will find her. I’m our best tracker. You have to trust me.” I’m fighting shifting. Ulv wants to control, but I know it would be a blood bath if he takes over.

I nod, “We need to follow her sent. It’s still strong. Benjamin get Alyssa and Margo to the hospital. Alpha John, don’t worry, I will find her, and when I do, I’ll kill him once and for all.” I’m growling out my words from gritted teeth, still trying to hold Ulv back and track Amelie.

I close my eyes and take a big whiff of the air. “This way.” The direction Amelie’s scent is leading us is to the parking garage. We are on the second floor of the parking garage. I hear tires screeching on the floor below us, and I know it’s him getting away with my mate. I know we are in a city, and I shouldn’t shift, but I don’t care. I let Ulv take control, ripping the tux to shreds in the process. Tyson and Marcus are right behind me. They know how desperate the situation is, and the only priority is getting Amelie back safe.

I rush down to the first floor, but I can’t find her scent. I know he put her in a car, but I thought I would still be able to smell her.

“Alpha over here.” I rush over to Tyson. After he mind-links me, he’s looking at tire tracks. “They are fresh. You can still smell the burnt rubber. The width of the tire, I would say they are in an SUV.”

I look out the exit of the parking garage. I know she’s out there not too far; I need to find her. I head for the exit. “Alpha, wait, we don’t know anything yet.” Marcus mind-links me.

“You two stay here and investigate. Link me when you have something. Get the team out in every direction. Right now, I’m going to let Ulv take over and follow my instances.” I turn and take off out of the exit and into the empty street. It’s late, so I’m able to hide in the shadows and maneuver a bit. I know it’s risky running around in wolf form, but this is the fastest way to find her.

“Ulv, you have anything?”

“Nothing concrete, just a feeling.”

“I’m sure he put silver on her as soon as he could get his grubby hands on her.”

“I can’t reach Inari, so I am sure that’s the case. I also feel she is still alive.”

“I swear we will kill him.”

“I want to torture him first. He doesn’t get a painless death.”

“I couldn’t agree more.” I reach the edge of town. I haven’t strayed from my course once east is the direction Ulv feels they went.

I stop and hide in the shadows. I’m getting a reasonable distance, and mind-linking will take more effort the farther out I go. “Tyson, Marcus, anything?”

Tyson links back. “We checked the hotel cameras, and Tate did drag her into an SUV.”

Marcus adds in, “we also kinda hacked the city cameras and found the SUV headed east out of town. Probably to avoid Amaris’s territory north of town.”

Ulv growls with anticipation, “Thanks both of you, our hunt will continue. Send the squad my way.” I cut the link and bound into the darkness. Staying close to the road but not on it. I’ll run all night and into tomorrow if it means I can find Amelie. How could I let this happen? Was I too careless? I sent her to the room with two guards and her stepmother. I thought she would be safe. I got too cocky. I didn’t heed Tate’s message as a genuine threat but a challenge. I was so stupid.

Out of nowhere, I was hit from the right flank and knocked off my feet. I didn’t even see it or smell it coming. Out of nowhere, two larger wolves are circling me. They are large, but I’m bigger. They sent warriors out to slow me down. Or what? Try and kill me? Now they are the ones who are cocky. I’m the Alpha of the Druit Gaurd. No one can best me.

They are circling. I quickly get to my feet. These two are wasting my time. Crouch down and growl deep and loud. They both flinch, got you. Fear. That’s right, and fear will make you make mistakes in a fight. You will take chances you know you shouldn’t. I needed them to feel it deep in their souls. I wanted them in conflict with their wolves.

I lunge for the smaller one first. He’s the faster of the two and the most problematic. He doesn’t expect me to go for him first. I’m on his back in seconds, and I rip into his shoulder with my teeth. Then I do a standing pounce straight down on that shoulder, feeling it stamp under my paws. He’s howling in agony, unable to continue fighting. The whole time the larger one doesn’t make a move but looks frozen. He’s terrified I can smell it.

I spite out the hunk of flesh and start to circle the larger wolf. Blood mixed with saliva dripping from my jaws. I’m snarling and circling, letting the horror and panic set in. It must have been too much for him to handle. He jumps at me with blind abonnement.

Fear makes people stupid. I dodge easily and catch him by his back leg in my jaws. I pin his other back leg down before he can kick me, and I let his leg feel the full force of my jaws. His leg bones snap in my mouth. He howls and tries to drag himself away on his belly. I toss him over to his friend and leave them. My team will be coming behind me soon, and these two sacrificial lambs are now my prisoners.

I take off aging, following the road. I know if I was attacked, I'm on the right road. I ran as fast as I could. My legs and lungs are burning, but I can't let that stop me. I need to get to her. I can't let them hurt her. I'm running for miles when off in the distance of the horizon I hear a chase. My heart stops. I don't feel anything. A breath of relief leaves me. I can still feel her.

I kept running toward to sound I heard. I can only hope.

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 80

Chapter 80

Amelie

What is going on? This feels like a nightmare. I'm not asleep. I know that by the silver around my wrist, it burns. I can't reach Inari, but I feel her guarding the babies. We've been exposed to silver too many times now. I guess it makes me lose contact with her now. She's in pain but hanging on. I have to get us out of here but where is here?

How did I get in this SUV? My mind is clearing, and I look around. We are speeding down a dark stretch of highway. I'm in the backseat. I look at the driver in the rearview. All I see is a scar on his face, and it hits me. Tate's Kidnapped me. I feel myself slipping back into a panic attack. I have to try and pull myself out of it. I know I'm about to have a panic attack I have to stay focused. I close my eyes and focus on my breathing. I have to keep calm. This is not just my life now. It's the boys' lives as well. I have to protect my babies. I tug at the rope tied around my wrist just to feel it. The roughness of the rope helps center my mind. I can get out of this.

Maybe I can reason with him. I take a calming breath and muster up all my courage. "Ta..." I can't even say his name clearly. I center my mind again. "Why are you doing this?" I was hoping my words would come out clear and confident, but they were soft and shaky.

"Taking back what's mine." The glare Tate gave me from the rearview was unmistakable.

"You should let me go and just disappear. Gideon won't let you live."

"I'm not scared of him. He can be controlled. The trick is to find out what they care about and take it away." I decide the only way out will be to free my hands. He has them tied together and a silver cuff on one wrist. I need to keep him talking.

"He'll find me, and you know that. He's not going to stop. He has my father and stepfather on his side too. No matter who is backing you, they don't even compare." I keep working the rope. I act oblivious to what they have been doing in the shadows.

"He can search all he wants. I have places all over the country to hide you." His laugh sickens me.

"You don't even love me. We weren't even real mates. Let me go." The rope is digging into my wrist, and it starts bleeding, but I press on.

"You finally figured it out. Took you long enough. It doesn't matter anyway. I will own you again, and those bastards you are carrying will be a tool for my family to get revenge and the power we deserve finally." He's yelling and starts swerving. I got him emotional. It reminds me of what Gideon wanted me to do with Von. Maybe I can do the same thing to Tate.

"Revenge! What are you even talking about? We've never done anything to you or your family?" I get one hand almost free. My blood is soaking the rope and making it slippery. I guess this is how it feels to be caught in a trap and chew your own foot off to get free.

"It's because of you that my mother died! One day I'll kill you myself, you whore. You couldn't get pregnant for ten years and only after a few days mated to that musical head, and you're pregnant. Did you think of me when he fucked you?" He's snarling and yelling; I've never seen him like this.

"The last I heard, Karen survived and ran off with you! I'd rather be with that musical head who knows how to satisfy me than a whiny little mama's boy who can't wipe his own ass!" I'm yelling, but it's to cover up the screams that want to come out as I work off the rope around the wrist with the silver cuff on it.

"You didn't even get to know your mate. Karen is my aunt; she raised me after your father murdered my mother because of you! You're so dense I can make you think I'm your mate again. Just wait. You'll forget all about that barbarian." I stop. How did I not know this? Was I a willing kidnap victim the whole time? Was I tricked so someone could have revenge?

"Who...who was your mother?" I have an idea, but I need to confirm.

"Her name was Jema Rosemary, or you knew her as Jema Green." He glares at me in the rearview, looking for my acknowledgment. I don't show any remorse but disdain for the women who tried to harm my family.

“The bitch who was poisoning Celeste and caused her countless miscarriages and almost killed James. Good riddance she got what she deserved.” I’m screaming, seething with rage. All this for someone who killed Alpha children. A murder!

“Don’t you dare talk about my mother! It’s because of you that she’s dead!”

“She tried to murder my brother!”

“Your brother should have never been born! I should have been the next Alpha!”

“HA! You couldn’t even run your own photo gallery business, and you want to run a pack! You’re a joke!” I know he’s blinded with hate and is not paying attention. I have untied my hands and got the cuff off. Inari seems to be comatose for the silver exposé, but I can feel her. I am slowly gathering the seatbelt length in my hand. If my plan works, I will still need to be seat belted in, but I will need to reach the driver’s seat in front of me.

“You will be obedient this time. Karen has perfected your dose. Lacy is a perfect mate for Nox now soon; you will be too.” I know they are related; I need to play it off.

“How do you know Nox? What have you done to Lacy!” He gives me a half-smirk, the scar tissue from the blow torch not giving way for that half of his face to move much.

“Nox is my cousin. Karen and my mother are his mother’s sisters.” He looks crazy as he steals glances from the mirror. “Lacy is happy and does what she’s told. We will need to increase your dose this time since you have Alpha blood.” I quickly pull the hairpin out of my hair when he looks away to the road. I didn’t tell Gideon that I melted down the silver blade from the boy’s fight. I made this hair stick as a backup weapon. The shaft is coated in silver. I had to make a homemade hazmat suit to make it, but I’m glad I did.

“So it was Nox’s mother who got Jema killed. You should be going after her for revenge. What did you give Lacy? Tell me, damn it!” I hold off on my attack. I need to know what he did to me for all those years.

“It’s just something Karen put together to keep her dossal and believing that Nox is her mate. It worked on you for years, but then you grew immune to its suggestion. Not to worry, Karen has a special dose just for you.” That’s it. I’ve had enough, and I was getting too far away from Gideon.

“I’ll have to take a rain check.” I jolt forward and stab the hairpin into Tate’s right clavicle. I release the gathered seat belt, and I fly backward into the seat.

Tate loses control of the SUV as he’s trying to get the hairpin out. He can’t get it out and steer at the same time we go headfirst into a tree. All I can do is cover my babies with my body the best I can and hope for the best.

I feel the impact, and my body jolts forward, the seatbelt pulling me back. The second impact throws me around in my seat. Airbags initiate, glass shatters, metal crunches than it's just still. I look up, and I see the results of my decision. The SUV is mangled, Tate is unconcise, and I'm alive.

I can't stop shaking, and I finally feel Inari fully again. The increase of my adrenalin must have given her a boost. "Inari?"

"What happened?"

"Well, long story short, Tate kidnapped us, and I stabbed him with the silver hairpin and caused him to crash."

"OK, I'm not at my full strength, so I will continue focus on healing anything to do with the babies." She's weak from the silver but we have to keep going together.

I close my eyes and wrap my arms around my belly, and I start crying uncontrollably. "I'm sorry, my babies. Please be OK. Please be OK." I close my eyes and just feel for any movement at all. I am met with a swift kick in the ribs from one of the twins. "Ouch!" I guess they are OK and not happy with being jostled around so much. It's the best kick I've ever felt. I know they will be alright.

"Amelie, we should try to get out of here before Tate's accomplices come looking for us."

"You're right." I undo the seatbelt and try opening the door. It won't budge. I hear a groin from the front seat. He's still alive! I need to get out of here now. I slide across the seat to the other door, and it won't open, but I feel it unlatch.

"Inari, I'm going to try and kick the door open. I'll need a little help."

"I'll give you what I can." I take a deep breath and kick the door with both feet, and it opens. I slowly get out, my endorphins still pumping, and start walking the direct we drove from.

I reach out to Gideon, "Gideon, where are you?"

"I'm coming! I'm running as fast as I can feel you now. I'm not far. Are you hurt? I heard a crash."

"I caused Tate to crash into a tree. I'm OK. The babies are OK. Tate's still in the SUV."

"Our men are right behind me. They will take care of Tate. I'm coming to you."

"Please hurry. I think I'm going to..."

