

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 81

Chapter 81

Gideon

"We saweeey daddy! We didn't see it! We didn't see it!" Daisy drops the phone. I can hear her run away.

Faintly I hear, "Hey, it's going to be OK. Shhhhhh. Your mommy is the strongest person I know. You know how I know?"

"How?" she manages to get out through sniffles and sobs.

"Because she's my older sister. Come on, let's finish talking to your dad." I can't see anything; I hear all that's going on. The phone is picked up, and I see the owner of the phone, James.

He has the girls on his lap, and they are clinging to him. "Hey, James. Thanks for taking care of all the kids."

"It's no problem. I was always the one being watched, being the youngest and all. I guess it's my turn now. How is she?"

I run my hand down my face and let out a breath. "She is stable but not awake yet. The doctor said it was a normal reaction to the silver. I guess it acts like an allergic reaction. The more you are exposed, the higher the chances your reaction will be severe. There is nothing wrong with the boys, so they think Inari gave her all to protect them, and once the adrenaline wore off, she passed out. Now we wait for her to wake up."

The girls are crying again. "Daddy, bring mommy home." Rose buries her face in James' chest.

"I will as soon as mommy wakes up from her nap, OK." I wish I could hold them and comfort them.

"We didn't see it, daddy. We didn't see it." Daisy keeps repeating it over and over. We haven't told anyone else, not even the family, about the twins being blessed with sight. It's making it difficult not to tell James right now.

"Daisy. This is not your or Rose's fault. A bad man tried to hurt mommy. It's his fault."

"Did you get him?" James leans closer to the phone, waiting for me to answer.

“No. When I got to Amelie, she was a half-mile away from the crash, and I took her to the pack hospital straight from there. My men made it to the crash site just as two SUVs sped away. The crashed SUV was empty. What they don’t know is I now know where to look.”

“You figured out where they are hiding the kidnapped wolves?”

“Between the intel you guys gave me and what we got from the banquet, we know where to look and how they are hiding their tracks. Alpha Flynn was right. They got sloppy. We only needed a key to decode it all, and we have it now.” The girls have stopped crying and are starting to get restless.

There’s a knock on the door. “Alpha, can we come in?”

“James, I’ll talk to you later.”

“OK, I should get the kids to take a nap.”

“Good Luck.” I hung up the phone and opened the hospital door.

“Hello Betas and Gammas. Are we ready for our debrief?” I cross my arms over my chest, stepping to the side to let them all in.

Tyson takes a seat on the small sofa in the room. “Are you sure you want to do this here? I mean, the Luna is still unconscious.”

“I’m not leaving her side till we are back home. I can’t trust anyone.” I take my seat next to the bed. There’s a light beeping from the monitors right behind me.

“Did the doctors say when she should wake up?” Shay settles in next to Tyson.

“They don’t know, but they don’t think it will be long she’s recovering. Let’s get on with this.”

“Our team has confirmed that there is a holding facility in Lily, South Dakota. The property is under the Kentwood Beta’s mate’s maiden name. We have now been able to locate 22 other similar properties that need to be checked.” Marcus pulls out his laptop and turns it around to show a map with the locations noted.

“All small human towns far from other wolves. I know the 10 Packs involved also have facilities on pack land as well. We need intel on all 33 facilities. Get the teams ready. It’s not going to be easy.” I sit back in my chair and pinch the bridge of my nose. How guarded are these detention centers? We need intel, not dead bodies. “How’s the testing of the scent masking spray?”

"We still have some work to do on it, but this will be a good time to try it out. It's basically deer pheromones mixed with pine. It masks at a distance, but if the other wolf gets close, they could be detected." Jordan pulls soothing up on Marcus' laptop. "This was our last test results."

"The numbers look good. Get it out to the teams. This is a recon mission first. You all should head back and get things started." I take Amelie's still hand in mine.

"Yes, Alpha." Tyson stands. "I'll get everyone to prepare for the mission."

I nod in affirmation, and everyone leaves. Once the door is closed and it's just Amelie and me again. I reach up and brush the hair out of her face. "Hey, my storm. I'm so proud of you. This will all be over soon, I promise." I lean over and give her a soft kiss as if she was sleeping beauty. The beeping on the heart monitor speeds up.

I look down at my sleeping mate. She is my sleeping beauty. Maybe I should try again. I lean over again and give her another kiss, and her heart rate speeds up a little. I know she can feel the sparks between us. "Am, we have a lot to do, and I can't do this without you. I need you, the girls need you, and the pack needs you." I give her one last kiss, this one more demanding. The beeping gets faster, and I feel her hand twitch.

I look, and her eyes are fluttering. She's waking up. I hold her hand tight and kiss the back of it. "I'm here with you. It's just us."

"Gideon." It's soft and weak, but she said my name. It's a glorious sound.

"I'm right her Am." I watch as her eyes slowly open.

"How...how long have I been out?" I get up and get her some water.

"Here you go—only a day. The babies are fine. The doctors have already checked them." I help her sit up and take a sip.

"I want to go home. I hate being in the hospital. I've spent too much time in one the past year." She takes another sip.

"We will go home as soon as the doctor releases you." She nods and drinks more.

"Did you get Ta...him?" She looks down at her cup.

I let out a breathy sigh, "No. His accomplices got him before we could. I have good news."

Amelie looks up at me with glassy eyes, "What?"

"We found 33 facilities they are holding the kidnapped wolves in."

A single tear escapes her eye, “Finally, it will be over.”

“We will stop them once and for all and save all the kidnapped wolves in the process.”

Amelie rubs her hands over her belly, “We can live a normal life.” A small smile slowly takes over her face. A normal life. What will that be like?

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Chapter 82

Amelie

“Don’t be nervous.” Gideon places his hand on my knee to stop it from bouncing.

I look up into his beautiful green eyes, full of confidence and strength. “I’m not nervous. I just want this whole mess to be done with. I’m anxious for the end.”

He gives me a sympathetic smile, “Me too.”

“Alpha, Luna, everyone is signed in. Are you ready to begin?” Marcus readies his laptop. Gideon gives him a nod, and the wall of monitors in front of us lights up. He quickly takes his place behind us next to Jordan and our ranked pack members.

Gideon adjusts the microphone sitting on his desk in front of him. “Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for joining this virtual meeting. As many of you know, we are up against a threat from our own kind. They have been working in the shadows gaining bits of power here and there, pulling Alphas to their side. Their worst offenses are kidnapping, murder, and extortion. They have been lurking in the shadows for far too long. That ends now!”

The speakers crackle with all the noise of cheers and howls; we have all 50 satellite Druit Guard Delta Force and all 23 of the Ashwood’s extended family packs and Logan and mom on a video conference. I didn’t realize how intimidating it would be. Did we have to make a wall of monitors all staring back at us?

“What’s the plan, Gideon?” Dad’s question quiets the crowd. He is the head of the Alpha Council, after all his authority is unmatched.

“In two weeks on the next full moon, we will raid all 33 locations. Ten of these locations are on pack lands, so we will need the highest-ranking Alphas to assist. Alpha John Ashwood, Alpha Logan Bye, Alpha Flynn Koray, Alpha Darrin Atlas, Alpha Conor Amaris, Alpha Liam Nikini, Alpha Rafe Aruna, Alpha Malik Esmeray, Alpha Noah Ayla will each take a pack. Beta Frank Noland, it would be my honor if you would accompany me to the Blue Crescent Pack.” Everyone knows about Lacy. There won’t be anyone who would protest to him accompanying Gideon.

A sad smile graces Frank Noland's face, "I wouldn't miss it for the world."

"As you all know, we will need to make sure we have two ranking members in each party as the kidnapped wolves could be used against us." Out of the corner of my eye, I spy Bailey wipe a stray tear. She's recovered well physically, but the emotional scars may never heal.

"Do we know the state of the kidnap victims?" Alpha Lynton has a high number of possible kidnap victims. We have run an analysis on the missing person reports, and we think over the last ten years, the Phoenix Canyon Pack had around 150 alone. Alpha Lynton is beyond upset. It was easy to overlook as people and wolves get lost in the Arizona desert every year.

"They are in poor condition, and we should make every effort not to engage if they are used. Your ranked aura and commands will make them stand down."

Gideon turns to me and takes my hand. No one can see since we are behind his desk, but the reassurance is nice. It's my turn, I guess. "We will also need the help of your Lunas and ranked females. My team will run point here and will need the extra eyes to watch for trouble." My heart feels like it's going to beat out of my chest.

Gideon squeezes my hand letting me know I did great. "I have teams heading to the rendezvous points. They will have a few extras to help aid in the midnight raid. One will be our new masking spray. We have tailored it to the region you will be in. You will also find cameras on harnesses. The harness is designed to adjust when you shift. Once the cameras are turned on, they start live streaming to a secure site. This will allow our ranked females to keep up on the action and deploy a backup team if necessary."

"What about our own warriors?" Logan, always ready for a fight and to give his warriors a chance too.

"After the meeting, you will receive a file, and in it, you will find the details. Don't worry, Alpha Logan, your warriors, will get the chance to get their hands dirty." I try to hide the smirk taking over my face, but Logan sees it and gives the camera a wink and a toothy grin. He's gruff but has his way of showing he cares.

"If no one has any more questions, we will end this meeting and set up a time to go over details in a few days." Gideon gives a slight head bow as a sign of respect of all the Alphas time. With that, the meeting ended. The screens went black, and our ranked members made their way to the door.

Dad stays on the line a little longer. "Hey, kiddo, how are you feeling?"

"I'm hanging in there. Your grandsons don't like to let me sleep much." I giggle, rubbing my growing belly.

“Well, soon enough, you will be able to rest. Then it’s your mate’s turn to take care of the babies, right Gideon?” Dad smiles at him.

“I can’t wait. Sleepless days and night all over again.” Gideon puts his arm around my shoulder.

“Dad, where’s James? I want to wish him happy birthday early since it’s tomorrow.” My brother turns 18 tomorrow, and I’m going to miss his party.

“I’ll tell him to call you. He’s helping Celeste with party planning.” He shakes his head. Dad always avoids getting roped into party prep.

“Please do. I am so excited for him. I wonder if he will find his mate tomorrow!”

“I doubt it. I have a feeling it’s going to be a few years.”

“Well, whoever she is, I hope she’s a good Luna.”

“I’m sure she will be. The goddess will make sure of it.” Dad pauses and lets out a sigh. “I have to go save your brother from party prep. Love you, kiddo. Talk to you soon.”

“By Dad. Love you too.” The screen dad was on goes black.

“Well, that was nice.” I start to stand up, but I am struggling. Gideon takes my arm and helps me out of my chair. I’m ready not to be pregnant anymore. I can’t even get out of a chair on my own. “Thank you”

“You’re so cute when you are stubborn.” He kissed the top of my head.

“If I had the energy, I would be mad at you.” Gideon doubles over in laughter.

He wipes a tear from his eye from laughing so hard. I cross my arms over my chest and just glare at him. “Are you done?”

He shoots me a mega-wat smile. I can’t stay mad at him. He’s too damn handsome. “Come on, let’s go get the girls from pre-school and have a family dinner tonight. I’ll even be your sue chief.”

How can a girl say no to that? “Well played, Alpha. Well, played.” I take his arm, and we make our way to the pre-school. We decided to keep the pre-school class in the packhouse for better protection. The pups are so young the parents felt better knowing they were near the Alpha. One day as the pack grows, we will move it. For now, it works.

When we get to the pre-school class, all the kids gather around Gideon and bombard him with a million questions one after the other. He doesn’t even have time to answer.

“Alpha, why does my sister still poop in diapers?” “Alpha, why are we werewolves?” “Alpha, why can’t my mom eat cheese without getting sick?” He usually’s fantastic with kids, but this many and their questions have him flustered. Now it’s my turn to laugh.

“Girls, are you ready to go? Mommy is making dinner tonight.” He knew they would save him.

I calm my laughter. “Well played, Alpha. Well played.”

We make our way back to our wing of the packhouse, and the girls are chatting away, telling us about school and what they learned. Then they stop dead in their tracks. They look at each other for about a minute, and then Rose looks up at me. “Grandma is coming.”

“Did you see grandma coming to visit?” They nod their heads.

“OK, when is she coming?”

“Today.” Daisy takes her sister’s hand.

“OK, well, we better make enough for her for dinner tonight. Which grandma is coming, Grandma Celeste or Grandma Anne?” We continue walking.

“Not mommy’s mommies. This grandma is daddy’s grandma.” What did Daisy just say?

“It’s daddy’s grandma?” They nod. Gideon and I look at each other, both clueless about who it could be.

I bond-link him, “I didn’t think you have any living relatives.”

“I don’t, as far as I know.”

“Who is it then?” He shrugs in response. He’s perplexed.

He bends down and picks up both girls, one in each arm. “you said she is daddy’s grandma. So she’s really old?”

“Yeah, she’s old but looks the same as mommy’s mommies.” Rose lays her head on Gideon’s shoulder. This was the hard part about toddlers who had sight. We must decipher what they saw. We are completely stumped.

We continue to our wing and make our way to the kitchen. When we enter the kitchen, we find a hooded person sitting at one of the counter seats. Gideon puts the girls down so quickly they stumble a bit.

He jumps in front of us, “Who are you, and what do you want?”

Before the hooded figure can answer, the twins worm their way around his legs and run to the mystery person. I try and grab them, but they are too quick.

“Girls, get back here!” They don’t listen.

“Grandma! You came!” Daisy is tugging on the person’s cloak.

The hooded figure turns, and I can tell they are female. She pats the heads of the twins and fully turns to face us. Her hood is still coving most of her face, but I see long strands of white hair coming from under the cloak. She then starts to take off her hood, and I’m dumbfounded! Those eyes! I look at them every day in Gideon and the twins, those deep green eyes that seem to hide a forest within them. There is no mistaking those eyes.

“Hello, my boy. Come hug your grandmother.”

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Chapter 83

Gideon

“Hello, my boy. Come hug your grandmother.” She’s so familiar to me for some reason. I have this sense of comfort, almost motherly. She’s beautiful but more in a celestial or angelic way. Her hair is white but has an iridescent quality to it. She feels ancient but barely looks 40. Her eyes are the same as mine, deep green, and I look at them every day in the mirror and in the girls. I feel a push from behind.

I look back, and Amelie pushes me forward and waves her hand for me to go to this woman. I shake my head ‘no,’ and she pushes me again. I feel drawn to her, but I’m hesitant to give in to that urge.

“Daddy, come give grandma a hug!” Daisy grabs one of my hands and Rose the other, and they pull me toward the mysterious woman. I could resist them easily, but I don’t. I’m standing in front of her. She has her arms outstretched, and she pulls me into a hug. It’s the most soothing feeling I’ve felt since before my mother passed away as a pup. I feel tears fill my eyes, and I pull her closer.

“There, there, my boy. I have missed you. Now let me get a proper look at you.” She pulls back to look at me. The look on her face is pure joy and complete recognition. She cups my cheek, and I feel like I’m five years old all of a sudden.

“Who are you? Who are you to me?” I need to know now more than ever. Why was I feeling this way?

“Sit, we should talk. I’ll make tea.” She takes off her cloak and lays on the back of the chair. Now in regular clothes I know I have seen her before but where?

I sit at the kitchen table, and Amelie sits next to me; the girls play on the floor with toys Amelie keeps in the kitchen for them. This mystery woman seems to know her way around our kitchen. “Oh, I guess you have an electric kettle now.” She starts the water for the tea and comes to sit down with us.

“While we wait for the tea, let me start. My name is Ithildin Alois.” Alois is our family name. How could it be the same? “I am the Druit Guards first Luna and mate to your four times great-grandfather. In other words, I’m your grandmother.”

“How?” is all I could get out.

“As you can tell, I am not a wolf but a Vanir from Alfheim. In English, I am an Elf from Scandinavia. I’ve kept an eye on you for your whole life. The last time we met, I looked like this.” She waved her hand in front of her face, and she changed completely. “I have often checked on you in this way. It’s called a glimmer.”

“The violets! I got the violets from you on the way to the Ashwood Pack! That was you! Did you know Amelie and I were mates?” She waves her hand in front of her face again, and it’s normal again.

“I did know. I am the messenger sent by the goddess.” I think my mouth is wide open, and my jaw is on the floor.

“Ouch! Sorry, hard kick that time.” Amelie rubs her side.

“They feel it. They are strong. Them and the little ones over there are why I am here in this capacity today.” Ithildin stands and continues to make tea for us.

“What do you mean?” I take Amelie’s hand.

“Selene has taken great care in twisting fate just enough to get you two and your wolves together. You two are more than fated mates. You two are the parents of the worlds Truth Seers and Guardians.” She brings the mugs of piping hot water over. “Here, this is my special blend.” With a flick of her wrist, three tea bags appear and plop into our mugs. I think my eyes are bludging out of my head.

Amelie keeps her composer better than me. “I have so many questions with just that statement alone. I understand you are the messenger sent by the goddess and an elf, thousands of years old, but why hide away for so long?”

“For the same reason, your family doesn’t boast about being the only pureblood werewolves.”

"I guess that makes sense people will want you for your magic. Wait, does Gideon or the twins have magic?" Amelie leans forward.

"Gideon did, but since he didn't awaken it before coming of age, it went dormant. The girls have it, and it's strong. Those boys in your belly will be even stronger since they are born from the first werewolf spirits and have elf royalty blood." She casually sips her tea.

"WHAT!?" I shout, causing everyone to jump. The block tower the girls were building topples over and earning me a scowl from the twins.

"Oh, I guess you don't know. So much to explain. So, your wolf sprites Ulv and Inari are the reincarnations of the first mated wolves. It took the goddess thousands of years to get them back together for this." Ithildin takes each of our hands in hers and closes her eyes. I feel Ulv push forward, and something snaps into place. A rush of memories flash in front of my eyes, but I don't recognize any of them, but somehow they are mine. I pull my hand away.

"What was that? Am, did you feel it too?" She looks at me, and she's pale as a sheet. I guess she saw it too.

"I just pushed your wolves to unlock their memories." She smiles like it's no big deal, but I can feel Ulv stir, and somehow, he's stronger than ever.

"Ulv, you OK, buddy."

"The goddess has given us a great duty. We must fulfill it." I see his head is not on the current topic. My head, on the other hand, is a mess. I need to ask more questions.

"Ithildin, umm." I'm cut off

"Grandma."

"What?"

"Call me Grandma."

"OK...Grandma. I am confused if Amelie is my distend mate, what about Mandy. I know she was also my mate." I feel odd bringing this up, but I know I felt the mate bond with her, and we had the twins together. She was a part of my life, and I did love her.

"Mandy, poor girl. Yes, the goddess intervened in her fate. The fates had her dying so young, and Selene couldn't bear letting her die how it was planned without ever experiencing love. She needed a wolf who was half-human to complete her four 'blessed bloods' to create Truth Seers. She couldn't stop her death, but she could make her life better, so she did." Ithildin has a sad half-smile on her face.

I let it sink in for a second. I thank the goddess who spared Mandy a horrible death. She was a good person, and she didn't deserve to die, but the fates rule over us all. I look over at Amelie, and she's crying, "you said four 'blessed bloods'? What does that mean?" I squeeze her hand.

"For any seer to be born, they have to hold the blood of four blessed species human, werewolf, Vanir, and fae. Oh, that's right, you, my boy, are also part fae. That's part of why you can get so violent. Fae might be blessed and beautiful, but they have nasty tempers. Blood-thirsty things." She shutsters and continues drinking her tea. How is she so casual about all of this?

"So, the girls have four species of bloodlines, and the boys will have three? But Ashwood blood cancels out other bloodlines." Amelie nervously rubs her belly.

"It does, but that doesn't mean it cancels out its magic. In this case, it's amplified and fortified by the Ashwood bloodline. As I said, Selene took her time on you two." Ithildin retakes Amelie's hand. I take the other.

I have so many questions still swirling in my head I don't know where to start. I didn't even know my family's bloodlines. "I'm doing the best I can to wrap my brain around all of this, but to be honest, it's over whelming. Why are we and our children so important to the goddess? Why did Ulv and Inari get reincarnated? Why does the world need Truth Seers and Guardians? We haven't even addressed the royal elf blood or how I'm now part fae! How did you become the goddess' messenger? And why is this tea so good?"

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Chapter 84

Amelie

"I'm doing the best I can to wrap my brain around all of this, but to be honest, it's overwhelming. Why are we and our children so important to the goddess? Why did Ulv and Inari get reincarnated? Why does the world need Truth Seers and Guardians? We haven't even addressed the royal elf blood or how I'm now part fae! How did you become the goddess' messenger? And why is this tea so good?" Gideon's fist slams down on the table, and he's staring at the mug of tea with complete befuddlement.

"hehehe." I can't help all those questions, and he ends asking about the tea. I feel like my head is going to explode with all this information. It's like we are a big science experiment, just lab rats. As my thoughts darkened, my giggling stopped.

"Don't doubt the goddess you are precious. Our children are precious." Inari coos to me. I don't answer; I don't need to. I know she's right, but it doesn't make it feel any better.

"I do not hold all the answers to your questions, but I will answer what I can. I am not a seer like the twins. My information is more like I'm reading a book and what is written on the page is what I know." Ithildin takes a sip of tea and takes a long look at Gideon, a maternal glint in her eye.

"There will be a child born into the Ashwood family with great power. This child will bring balance to our super-natural world. We are slowly being pulled to our doom and creating our own extinction. Without this child, we will all become fables, folklore, and fairy tales for good. The magic and wonder of the world will be gone. He cannot fight alone. His most trusted Druid Guard will need to stand behind him." Ithildin stands and pours herself more hot water. It sounds noble and exciting, but it's so nondescript when you think about it.

Which one of my relatives, "You said it was an Ashwood child, so for which family?" She walks back and sits.

"I don't know." Ithildin sips her tea.

"You don't know, or you won't tell us?" Gideon scowls at his grandmother.

"I don't know but, they will one day." Ithildin points to the girls. So, we wait for a vision. I sigh and rub my temples.

"Grandma... If our children need to be this powerful, how powerful is this other Ashwood child?" I can hear the hesitation in Gideon's voice every time she calls Ithildin, grandma. I can also tell how much it pleases her.

"I don't know fully. I know the child is yet to be born and will be a descendant of the divine." This time it's Gideon letting out a sigh.

"Well, it's something. Anything else?" He crosses his arms across his chest and leans back in his chair. He's beyond annoyed now.

"I know that there is no guarantee. The fates may have spun, measured, and cut the threads of fate, but they can still be unraveled. The choices you make and the choices your children make could affect the world." Still so casual and calm. At the same time, I'm at almost panic levels.

"Gezzz, no pressure. Like parenting isn't hard enough, now just toss in the fate of the world, and it's so much easier." My head is in my hands. Gideon is just sitting there scowling, jaw clenched.

"You two will be fine. Plus, when the time is right, I will come back and teach the children how to handle their abilities. So, stop worrying and stop scowling at me. You are more handsome when you smile." She smiles and reaches for my hand.

I pull back. "Wait, you are leaving?"

"You drop bomb after bomb, and now you are going to come back later?" Gideon is still clenching his jaw.

"I have given you all I can for now, and I will return when the goddess tells me but now is not that time. I would like to, before I go, spend some time with my family, with you, my boy." The pleading in her eyes is heartbreaking. As I sit, I look over at the twins playing and rub my belly. I don't know how I would handle watching my children pass away and my grandchildren too. Watching generation after generation come and go and not able to be a full part of their lives.

Tears fill my eyes. "Please stay as long as you can." Gideon whips his head to look at me. "You two are family. I know you have questions about your family tree." I rub his arm and push my feelings through our bond. His tension lessens, but he's still guarded.

"So, explain this whole fae and elf thing." He's a bit gruff, but he's trying.

"Oh yes! Well, I'm a Grand Duchess since my elder sister inherited the throne 500 years ago. I do travel back to the old country from time to time to help my sister."

"So my aunt is the elf queen."

"Yes, she is the Vanir Drottning in the old language."

"OK, so what about this fae thing? I'm a little big for a fae."

"On your mother's side, it's all werewolf and fae. This is rather impressive considering how much fae's hate other races. They are smaller in stature, but they are the walking embodiment of magic, so they don't need to be large. They are like dynamite. I know your 3x great-grandmother. She was a fire fae. Let's just say her personality was... combustible." Ithildin gets up and stands in front of Gideon. She places her hands on either side of his head, then bends down and presses her forehead to his. She starts speaking in what I can only guess is Elvish or Old Norse.

Ithildin steps back from Gideon, and he opens his eyes, and they look like they are on fire. "Well, this was a surprise. I was wrong your magic is not dormant. Your magic has enhanced your wolf form instead. Your fire fae magic has increased your stamina, healing, and strength, as well as Ulv's red eyes. Your speed, heightened hearing, and sight is all fueled by your Vanir magic. It has also deepened the color of Ulv's coat to better blend into the night. Ulv is truly the ultimate predator. I would not have known without checking for your mana flow."

Gideon is not even trying to hide his pride. He's all but prancing around. I roll my eyes, Alpha males and their pride. I get an in the ribs again. "Do you know how this magic will

manifest in the children?" These boys were already strong, and sometimes I think they are trying to kick their way out of my womb.

"Rose and Daisy have already manifested one gift as the Truth Seers. Any others will manifest later after age seven. The boys, I am not sure of yet. It will have to wait." Ithildin places her hand on my belly, and both twins kick at the same time. "Oh, my, they are strong. I'll leave you some healing tea made from herbs from Alfheim." With a flick of her wrist, a small jar of tea appeared in her hand. "Make sure to drink one cup a day. It really can heal just about anything." She sets the jar on the table.

"Mommy, I'm hungry." Rose tugs on my arm.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Rosie. Mommy was talking to grandma and forgot. I'll make dinner now, OK?"

"Can we have noodless?" How could I say no to those big green eyes and pouty faces?

"We can." Gideon helps me up. "You will join us for dinner, won't you?"

"Of course. I hear you are an exceptional cook."

"Well, dinner won't be too fancy, but it will be filling right, sous chef." I elbow Gideon in the ribs. He flinches.

"I did say I would help."

As Gideon and I got started on making dinner, I watched as Ithildin played with the girls. It looks like a Norman Rockwell painting, but under the surface, this scene is crazy. I am a pure werewolf who's pregnant with Alpha twins is making dinner with my part fae, elf, and werewolf mate while his thousands of years old royal elf grandmother plays with our twin daughters, who are human, fae, elf, and werewolf gifted seers. Yep just making fettuccine alfredo with chicken and broccoli because the Truth Seer twins won't eat broccoli if it's not drenched in sauce. Just a typical night at the Alpha Alois house.

"Amelie, you OK? You are latterly watching water boil." Gideon rubs my back.

"Yeah, I'm fine. Just a normal night like any other." Our life is stranger than fiction.

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 85

Chapter 85

Amelie

"Are coms up between packs?" This is it. The day of reckoning has finally come.

“Yes, Luna, everyone is connected.” Magen gives me a nod and waits for my call.

I close my eyes and take a deep breath. I hate being the center of anything, but now was not the time to falter. “OK. Let’s get everyone connected.” With a few keystrokes, the wall of monitors lights up. “Hello, everyone. Our warriors need our eyes, ears, and prayers. Our central team will be watching the action, but we will need your help as well. Thank you all for joining virtually this evening. Let the Goddess be on our side.” I have three monitors on the desk in front of me connected to Gideon, dad, James, Riley, and Logan. We spread out all the ranked members joining the raid, so Marcus went with my dad and James. At the same time, Tyson and Uncle Lucas went to one of the separate off-pack faculties together. Some of the Luna’s and ranked females are also joining the raid. To help with monitoring, we have our IT team and two members from each pack watching. We have backup units, transports, and medical personal ready. This is the most extensive operation in Druit Guard history.

It’s left the Packhouse eerily empty. It’s just the ranked females of my team, the Omegas, and the IT team that don’t double as warriors and, of course, all the children. I decided to help keep the kids distracted. We are having a pack sleepover in the great room of the Packhouse, a little summer camp. All the Omegas and the teenagers are camp councilors until everyone comes back, and we planned out games and activities. The last thing we want is all the kids to start to worry about where their parents are or what’s going on. Plus, we needed to focus on the task at hand. So many lives were at stake.

Rose and Daisey did have a vision, but all they could see was a large white wolf and a lot of blood. They said it did not make them sad that there was a lot of blood, and the white wolf didn’t get hurt. Our only guess is that the white wolf is part of our raid, and the blood was from the death of a member of the New Moon Alliance.

It’s almost midnight, and all the teams are getting in position. I watch the monitors on the desk in front of me. I know I have nothing to worry about. They are all strong, but you never know, and I’m still scared. This is my family, and they are putting their lives on the line to save ours. It’s dangerous. All I can do is pray. “Selene, please, I beg of you, let no one be harmed, and this end without loss of life. Please.” My whole body is tense, and there’s a gnawing in my stomach that’s making me nauseous. It is made worse by the fact I can’t talk with Gideon; I can only feel him through the bond he’s too far away. Although we have cameras streaming, the sound is only one way.

I look at the time in the bottom right of the screen, only five minutes left before the raid. I look up and see all the members of my team glued to their monitors as well. I’m glad Marcus is with Dad and James at the Death Valley pack. It will give Jordan some closer. Logan and Riley are at the Kentwood Pack. I know James and Riley are strong Alpha Heirs, but part of me still sees them as little kids. They would follow me around, asking me a million questions as kids do. I will always watch over them. No matter how old or big, they get I’m still their older sister.

I look up at the wall of monitors, and it looks like everyone is in place. It's seconds until midnight. I take deep breaths and try to stay calm. I don't know if I want to scream or throw up more. "It's time. There they go!" Shay jumps to her feet. "Come on, Ty baby. You got this!"

I'm holding my breath as I watch the movement on the monitors. The cameras are mounted body cam style to harness, front and back. The harnesses are made of durable nylon and elastic so the wearer can shift without losing it. But that means we are seeing what they see and not the faces of our loved ones. I wish I could give words of encouragement right now, but my mouth won't move. My jaw is clenched as I see the Blue Crescent Packhouse come into view, and the confrontation starts. I see Frank Noland take down two attackers. Then I see someone coming from behind on Gideon's back cam. "Gideon behind you!" It comes blurring out of my mouth all of a sudden. I watch as my mate is attacked from behind. I've never felt this helpless before.

My cheeks feel wet, and I realize I'm crying silent tears of fear. Gideon makes quick work of both wolves he's fighting, and the surprise attacker didn't faze him. I look over at Logan and Riley's screen, and all I see is carnage. I always forget how intimidating Riley is now. He's only a few inches shy of Gideon and just as broad. He's only 19 and hasn't filled out yet, but he's bigger and stronger than many adult male wolves. It doesn't make this any easier to watch. They were making their way to the Kentwood Packhouse as well. They are almost inside. The fighting is about to get even more intense. They will have to fight in human form in the house, but they will now be fighting the ranked members. Logan goes in first. It's pitch black in that place. I can't really see anything on the camera.

A sudden whimper dawns my attention to Dad and James' monitor. I expect to hear many noises while the fighting is happening, but I never wanted to hear a whimper and not that whimper. I know that whimper all too well. It's James, my baby brother. "Dad, get to James!" I want to reach through the screen and shove the wolf off my brother. "Dad, where are you? I know you feel James' pain." All I see is a mess of fur and blood. "Fight James!" My scream is shaky and shrill as my eyes sting with tears. "NO, please, goddess, don't take James." Suddenly the other wolf is ripped off James, and I see a sandy brown wolf snap its neck.

Jorden jumps to her feet, "Yeah! Marcus, you got him. You killed Beta Bryant!" I look at Jordan's monitor and realize it was Marcus who saved James. James was still young, and he was fighting an experienced Beta. I don't know how I will ever be able to thank Marcus enough for saving my brother. I slump down in my chair. My eyes start to dry. I wipe my cheeks with my sleeve. I take in a shaky breath and let it out.

I know he's injured, but he's alive. He will heal. I don't know how much more of this I can take. I'm a wreck, and I already feel so tired. I look back to Riley and Logan. They make quick work of the Kentwood Packhouse. It seems like dad made his way back to James. He's going to be OK. I see Marcus with them now, and it makes me feel better. I look to Gideon's monitor.

I can't believe my eyes. My hands cover my mouth. Nox is holding a silver knife to a woman's neck. She utters one word, and it confirms who I thought she was. "Daddy?" It's Lacy Noland.