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Dinner was served to us all. I sat at Brennon's table with Ryder and Rita by my side. Brennon and his men were sitting opposite of me. I looked up and felt someone watching me. When I looked around, my eyes landed on Candace. She was sitting at a table, surrounded by friends who were chatting amongst themselves. She wasn't paying them any attention though, as she was watching me and my movements. I saw her eyes glance over me. When our eyes locked, she looked away from me for just a moment before turning her attention back to me with a smile. I gave her a small smile and a little wink.

My Lycan seemed to always stir in her presence, weirdly enough. I didn't know why. He has been quiet lately and has not really spoken to me in the last few days. I have to force him to shift into our beast form and then it is like he only does half the work that is needed. But Candace makes him feel more like his old self. It is like she is bringing him out of the dark and into the light again.

I wasn't sure how long I had been watching her but Ryder noticed and cleared his throat. I looked over to him and he gave me a half smile and glanced over in her direction. "She is pretty," he said as he took a sip of his drink.

"She is and she smells fantastic too." I took a bite out of my chicken on my plate, looking away.

"Is she your mate?" He asked me and I let out a laugh. The minute I laughed I felt anger coming from my beast.

"No." My beast growled inside at me and I frowned.

"Hmm, okay. I was going to ask what you were going to do with Avalynn if she was your mate. Guess it doesn't really matter then." He shrugged.

"If she was my mate I would still have her." I felt my beast perk up and it had me now second guessing myself. Was Candace my mate? She couldn't be, right?

"Wrong. Very wrong. She absolutely without a doubt is our mate." He told me.

"Well, why haven't we claimed her as ours? Why wasn't there a mate bond pull? How come we didn't show her she was our mate?" / questioned him.

“That is because of you and your one-track mind. She knows you are her mate. Well, maybe not for sure, but her Lycan is curious about us. She knows what we have done too. She was unsure of us. Do you blame her? Look at us and all the horrible things we have done. If she is our mate, she will be drug into everything and be caught up in everything we have done. We will reject her and tell her that she deserves a better mate than us. That we can never give her what she needs or deserves.” He huffed in my mind and I

rolled my eyes.

“Why can’t we keep her and leave her unmarked? / want Avalynn as our Queen. Candace can be my mistress.” I tried to reason with him.

“No.” Was all he said. “No?” / was confused as to why not.

“NO! We are not going to be that selfish towards her. She deserves the world and we can only give her a good lay every now and again, followed by some nice rooms. You’re unbelievable.” He scoffed as he seemed to disappear and retreat to the furthest corner of our mind.

“Look, I just don’t see the problem with it.” I called after him, but it seemed that he was already gone, again.

I just really don’t understand what is up with my wolf as of recently. It is like he is too good for our

mission to conquer the entire Northern and Southern Territories. He was up for killing our family who had treated us like dirt. He was up for killing the entire witch family that tried to go against us. Up until recently, he was down with everything we had done. It wasn’t until we lost Avalynn that he changed. Maybe he just misses her and needs her. He would get better, I was sure of it. I, however, was not going to reject Candace. She was mine and I would be hers, until my dying breath or just until I got bored with her. Whatever comes first.

“You will f*****g reject her, Dexter, tonight.” He came flying forward again,

“Fine, fine. Just go back to hiding again.” He retreated and I looked back over to Candace. She was standing up and clearing the tables off, tossing trash in the bins.

How the hell did I get matched with a lowly kitchen staff member? Doesn’t matter, I guess. I stood and made my way over to her. When I approached, I felt the pull for her. I knew it was because my beast was back and peering through my eyes, looking at her. I felt his need for her and his heartache at having to reject her

“Good evening, Candace. Care to join me on an evening stroll?” | outstretched my hand to her and hoped that she would take it on her own.

She was nervous but she smiled at me. "I would love to. It would be an honor, Your Grace."

Her hand slipped into my own as I led her away from her duties. No one said anything but all eyes were on us. I led her outside where the sun still shone above. It wouldn't be dark for another few hours. She was really truly beautiful. I really did not want to reject her

"You have to." My beast pushed. "It is not fair to her. We have ruined everything." "That is not true. We can still have it all. Does she know that she is our mate?" / asked him.

"Yes, well, she suspects you are still wearing the herbal blend that is masking our scent." He sighed, "Just reject her."

I looked over at Candace as she was leading us through the village. We were walking past a park, and I stopped walking. "Come on." I told her and took her by the hand. We walked through the park for a moment in silence. As we walked together, I saw that she kept glancing up in my direction. We walked through a garden and I stopped at a bench and sat down. patting the seat next to me. She sat and I looked past her at a rose in full bloom.

"Candace." I said her name softly as her beautiful eyes gazed up at me. She pulled her bottom lip into her mouth, biting on it. "There is something you should know."

"What is it?" She asked, never looking away from me. "Well, you are my mate?" I told her.

Her eyes widened in shock and she frowned "What? How do you know this? I thought that we were supposed to feel a pull or something."

"I have my scent hidden. Do you feel anything for me?" I questioned.

"Now that you mention it, yes. I could never put my finger on it, but yes." She seemed hopeful." know who you are, I have heard of everything that you have done. I do not care what you've done. You can change." Her hand landed on my own and I felt the pain in my heart ripping through me. An uneasy feeling in my stomach gathered as I looked at her hand, then back up to her.

"I can't change. I am who I am. I have done terrible things. If I am not victorious during this war, I will be executed. If you are my mate, you will be executed along with me or die without me. So, with that

said."

She cut me off. "No, do not do this." She begged me with tears forming in her eyes.

“Candace, I have to. It is to protect you. No one knows. No one is here. No one will ever have to know that you were mated with me.” I held both of her hands in my own. “You would be better off without me, please trust this. If everything goes the way I plan it to go, I will be back for you. I promise you that.” I tried

to reason with her.

“But we will no longer be mates.” She looked sad and I couldn’t bring myself to do this to her.

Suddenly, my Lycan pushed through and took control over my body. He shoved me back and I knew this would be the most painful thing that we had ever been through together. I was weak, our human was weak. “Candace.” He got her attention.

She looked up at us and she smiled at me. “Hello.” She could tell it was my beast by how my eyes were glowing. He shook his head.

“You don’t want me?” Tears began forming in her eyes.

“I do, but we want to protect you. You need to be safe and this is the only way that I know how to keep you safe.” He told her.

“Please, don’t. Don’t do this.” She continued to beg.

“Candace, I, Dexter, Prince and Rightful heir of the Southern Territory, reject you as my mate and future princess of my people and followers.” He said with pain in his voice. Candace sat there, crying next to us as I swapped places with him. Our heart felt broken, into a tiny million pieces. “Accept the rejection, Candace.” I told her.

“No I can’t do it, please do not make me accept it.” She responded. I pushed my aura over her “Accept the rejection.” She winced and a small whimper passed out of her mouth. “I, Candace, accept your rejection.”

I leaned over and kissed her on the mouth softly before standing and walking away. I left her there to be with her thoughts and feelings. I needed time to be alone and my Lycan agreed. I will be back for her in the end, when everything is said and done. That is, if I live and make it out of here alive.

We shifted as soon as we left the park and took off towards the forest. We ran hard most of the night. We killed anything that was in our path. Animals, rogues, whatever stood in the way. We downed trees, small buildings and howled at the moon that was high above. I was just thankful our scent was masked and she would never truly know. She just knows that it hurts. She will never know the full feeling of the mate bond.

I wound up deep in the forest and decided to stop and take a break by the bank of a small creek. took a few drinks of water as I sat down. I really don’t remember falling

asleep, but when I woke up was in my human form, still by the creek. I looked around and looked up at the sky. It was dawn, I think? I shifted back into my beast and we headed back to Brenon's camp. It took us a few hours to make it back. When we walked in the door, we passed by everyone without uttering a single word. We went up to the room, slammed the door behind us and took a shower. When I finished showering, I went to lie on the bed. I was completely exhausted by yesterday's events. I still had a few hours until I would be needed for training. Ryder could handle it on his own, I trusted him enough to handle it.

I fell into a not so great sleep. My sleep was plagued with dreams of my memories of the past few weeks. Horrible things I have done to get to where I am today. From the murders to rejecting Candace. They all haunted my dreams. I woke up a few hours later in a complete cold sweat. I sat straight up in bed and looked over at the clock. It was noon. I guess I had better make my way down to eat and then go train with everyone

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I felt like my heart grew colder over the span of just a few hours, well, almost a day really. My beast was angry, but we did it to ourselves. We were the only ones to blame for our own problems. Our quest for greatness and ruling over all kingdoms and territories would be worth it in the end, right?

"It better be worth it, that is all I am saying. If not, I would rather be dead. We must, once we defeat them, get her back."

"Would she even want us back?" This question brought silence to my mind. We were both pondering the possibility that we may never get her back. Would I be okay with that? Yes, especially since I still would have Avalynn. Even though, in reality, I wanted her too.

I did reject Candace. She may even be lucky enough, like Avalynn, to have another mate. If she finds her mate before we can get back to her, she won't be ours.

"Being mated with someone else has never stopped us before. Avalynn is marked, it hasn't stopped us yet. We still plan to take her as our own too, yes?" He came back through our mind.

“Yes, absolutely. What good would all of this have been for if she wasn’t the main prize at the end?” / rolled my eyes.

“That is true, but we did not have a mate then,” he countered.

“We do not have a mate now, technically speaking. We will take them both as our mates. Can you imagine? Ahhh, just think if they marked one another and we were all connected together.” / thought of the future with them both.

“Think of the mating process, with them both! You can make them mark one another by your aura command. They would have to obey.” He said excitedly.

I thought of this too. All three of us, sharing a life together. I could really have it all in the end. I wonder if there would be any kinds of repercussions on their end though? if they both had my mark on them, would they both just be mine? Would the weakest of the two not survive? Will they be fine in the end and I am just worrying over nothing? I let out an annoyed sigh as I walked into the training grounds.

I felt like a zombie, the whole staying up and running in a rage and sleeping for just a few hours was really kicking my ass today. I was already looking forward to bed. As I walked through the hallways of the training center, I was approached by two lead scouts for us all.

“Gentlemen?” | nodded to them both.

“King Dexter, our scouts have reported that they have yet to see King Everest and his warriors come through. We thought that maybe they might be stalling?” The tall-dark-haired guy told me.

“Hmm. Interesting, maybe they are waiting and licking their wounds from the loss of the slaughter of that weak wolf pack?” I thought out loud and watched the two men exchange looks. They knew exactly what I was talking about. There were zero survivors. We eliminated them all. Wiped that entire pack off of the face of the planet. A smile crept onto my face at the thought.

A few days later..

We arrived here nearly a week ago now. Things were way too quiet for my liking. I would have thought that after Everest found the slaughtered pack he would have been hot on our heels, but he wasn’t. In fact, there has yet to be a sighting of him or any of them really. It was concerning for me because I was sure we would already be at each others throats. He pulled the packs to the safety of his kingdom. We knew this

much for sure. Honestly, the waiting made me more nervous about what the future held. Was he planning a huge invasion? Should we leave to strike first and knock his stupid

walls down that surrounded his castle? I wasn't sure of the answer, but my beast didn't like that solution.

So we trained. We trained hard every single damn day. Work for Brennon and his people was canceled until further notice. We trained for hours on end. We perfected every move and counter move we could think of. Rita joined and worked on her magic. She wasn't great at it and struggled most of the time. She was, however, great with potions and herbal blends. Using magic drained her significantly and took a lot out of her. Just a few spells and she would sleep for hours on end. Apparently, this happens when a witch gets pregnant.

She did everything she could for Ryder and myself. I was thankful for her help. She made me a potion to drink that ran through my system and even hid the scent of my blood. Damn thing tasted awful going down and I gagged the entire time, but it lasted for two whole days. To me, it would be worth it in the end. Especially if I was to get injured, no one would be able to tell. Well, unless you could see the blood spewing from my body. If it got that bad, I would need to step away for a few minutes, just long enough for my body to heal.

I sniffed the air and smiled, dinner was cooking. My stomach growled at the pleasant aromas lingering in the air. I made my way to the kitchen to grab some water when I opened the door, I ran right into Candace. She dropped the tray she was carrying, glass shattering all over the place

"Damn it." She cursed and looked up at me and then glared at me. "You should make sure to tap the door before waltzing in the kitchen that way so this doesn't happen." She said through gritted teeth,

"Excuse me?" My mouth was hanging open and I couldn't believe the way she was speaking to me.

"I did not stutter." She knelt down and picked up the shards of glass off the ground.

"Don't forget who you're talking to." I warned her.

"I know exactly who I am talking to. A complete asshole of a Lycan who is too much of a scared little.."

I smacked her across the face before she had time to finish her sentence. The blow knocked her completely to the floor. "Watch your tone. You may be angry with me, but I rejected you for your own good!" I yelled at her.

Her hand went to her face and I could see the tears threatening to spill over, but she held them back. "You, Dexter, are a coward." She stood and looked me straight into my eyes "If you lay another hand on me again, I will cut it off with my sharpest knife and serve it to your men for dinner!"

My beast let out a threatening growl and she winced. "You are pushing the limits, Candace." I warned her.

"You pushed the limits when you rejected me. Deal with it." She stood with the glass in her hands and walked away from me.

I have never in all of my life been spoken to this way. I shouldn't have hit her, but how dare she talk to her king that way! How dare she lay a hand on her king!

"I fear we may have woken a sleeping beast. Her Lycan is angry with us, but she needs to learn her place." My beast's thoughts drifted through my mind.

"She will eventually get over it. I will force my mark on her in the end. I won't make that mistake like did with Avalynn." I felt my Lycan nod in agreement.

I needed to go find Ryder and Rita and see how that potion was coming along. I poked my head into the dining hall and noticed that they weren't there. I turned and walked towards where Brennon was so kind to give her, her own lab, or workspace to make her concoctions. I wanted to go ahead and get it in my system before we began fighting with Everest and his men. That way I would be prepared.

As I was walking in the direction of her office, I heard shouting coming from outside. I couldn't really make out what they were shouting about, but just chalked it up to youngsters fighting and horsing around. I stopped and looked out the window and the sun was in the beginning phase of leaving us. I looked around and saw people running everywhere, almost in a panic.

Just then Ryder came running out and around the corner and looked at me. "They are here and have smashed in the Northern Wall."

"pook!" I shouted.

My eyes glazed over as I mass linked my men "Get to your stations on the Northern Wall. They are here, let's go!"

I looked over to Ryder and Rita, "Is he good? Has he taken his special drink?" She nodded her head. "Yes, he is good to go."

"Good, Ryder, do your thing. I want Brennon dead first. Take the men you trust with the mission with you to take Brennon and his small group out. Do what you must to end him. Then his men will belong to

me."

He nodded his head to me and they both took off in search of Brennon and his men. I felt so unprepared for this, even with all of the hard work and training we had done together. “f**k!” I said again as I rushed to the opposite side of the main house.

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I stood there watching Rita. I hate that I brought her into this, but she had a score to settle with the King herself. Who was I to stop her? I had my own to settle with him. She was sitting in our normal spot eating dinner already and I found myself smiling. I guess being casted out was a good thing after all. I was in too deep and Dexter was just way too imbalanced to reason with. I might as well see things through. If things get too deep and I notice we are going to lose the battle, we leave immediately.

Rita and I hatched a plan together to stay together. No matter what. Yes, her magic abilities were not the strongest, but she could still do a few simple things. Enough to keep us protected at the very least. A spell she was working on would make us seem invisible to anyone around us. I would have to carry her in my arms to get us away as far as possible and as fast as I could. She made me a copy cat pill that gave me the strength of two lycans. It took a little to get into my system and I contemplated taking the next pill now. I could not explain it but something was telling me to do so.

I sighed to myself and looked around the room. Candace was a mess and seemed all over the place. She was walking out the door in a furious rage. The word is that Dexter rejected her. I was honestly surprised that he did such a thing. I guess he really had his mind set on Avalynn after all.

“/”t. / wish we had never hooked up with him. We were just so angry and upset. We were never ready to take over the pack. We should have just gone with Rita and took off somewhere down south.” My wolf was annoyed. We acted on our rage and now look where we are. Up shits creek and without a damn paddle.

I nodded my head absentmindedly to what he said. Just then Rita turned to look at me and she smiled. I smiled back at her and nodded my head over to where the food was located. I walked over and made two plates of food. My stomach growled at the sight of all the delicious and mouthwatering food on my two plates. I walked over and sat down next to Rita and laughed softly as she eyed my food.

“You eat a lot.” She nodded over to my two rounded full plates that sat in front of me.

“You think I eat a lot? Look at some of these Lycan dishes. Some of them have, like, three or four. Depending on how big or young he or she is. If they are super active, they will have all the food.”

“Yeah, I saw that.” She smiled and took a chicken strip off of my plate, popping half of it into her mouth.

“Hey! That was mine.” I let out a playful growl, causing her to laugh.

After dinner, we walked our way up to our room. She recommended me to go ahead and get the stuff she made for me and take it. We walked into our room and looked around the room. We walked out to the balcony of our room and looked down below us. People were walking around and chatting. The sun was in the beginning stages of setting. It was making a beautiful picture against the contrast of the tall trees. Rita laid her head against my shoulder and happily sighed.

“You should really go ahead and take that blend I made for you. I did switch up that other witch’s recipe. I hope that it is better for you.” She spoke softly.

“I just hate the way it makes me feel. I don’t feel in control,” I said honestly.

“I understand, it is because you are a wolf with the power of two lycans. It takes over who you are. You are an angry person with everyone but me. It can bring out the worst. I am sorry if it affects you in this way. I don’t have the time to change it.” She lifted her head and walked back inside for a moment.

When she came back outside, she handed me some water and the herbal blend in pill form. I took it and was thankful I didn’t have to taste it this time. It was pretty nasty and made me gag. It was one of the

nastiest things I have ever had in my mouth. It was definitely easier to swallow this way.

“Thank you Ri.” I took it and downed it with the water she brought to me.

We stood there for a few moments as I watched the sun starting to set. Beautiful hues of pinks and purples began to paint the sky above. I was just about to tell Rita how thankful I was for her and what she meant to me when an explosion sounded at the northern side of the boarder wall.

“What the hell?” Rita asked.

I looked down as panic shot through the crowd below, women and children running and screaming for help. Warriors who were walking below shifted and made their way to where smoke was rising in the air. I looked over to Rita and kissed her softly.

“We need to find Brennon and take out his men.” She nodded her head.

Come to find out Brennon beat Rita when she was younger, nearly killing her, after her family was murdered by him and the dead King. She never elaborated why they were murdered, but I did not care. I was going to at least avenge her and her suffering tonight with Brennon. The other, well, I handled that with her help and that dead witch's help.

I shifted as we walked through the hallway. I could feel the magic already beginning to work. Luckily enough, it was quicker this time around. It must be one of the slight adjustments she made to the formula. My body began shifting its shape as we walked, moving to a large lycan. I sniffed the air and moved to where his scent was strongest.

We found him in the room and when our eyes locked, he nodded to his men. "It is time? I heard the explosion." I gave him a nod and he sighed. "Men go to your stations. Prepare for battle."

We watched as they left and I let out a deadly growl when he took a step closer to us. He looked taken back from the sudden change in my friendliness. He was very vulnerable in his human form and I could get him easily now. I took a step towards him and he took three back.

"Ryder, what are you doing?" He asked in a serious tone.

Rita spoke to him then "He is rectifying our little situation. Do you remember, about six years ago, the family you ripped apart?"

Brennon frowned and before he could speak Rita spoke over him, "Of course you don't. Why would you? My family didn't mean anything to you. But you sure seemed to love beating an innocent child to near death. You hindered my ability to grow my magical powers as a witch. You burned my home with all of the books that I needed for me to learn. I have taught myself some magic, along with stealing books here and there. But I have dreamed of the day that my family's murderers and the man that nearly killed me finally dies for so many years now. Ryder, now." She spoke with venom laced with every word she spoke. She was angry and I could smell the fear coming from Brennon.

I stepped towards him and when he started to shift, knowing that if he didn't he would never stand a chance against me, I attacked him. I locked my jaws at his throat and clamped down. My canines dug in and broke his skin as blood trickled down into my fur. I felt him struggle against me as he howled out of pain, trying to free himself. I took my claws and dug them deep into his chest. I scrapped bone, ripping the skin away from his body.

"End it Ryder and let's go." Rita hissed at me.

I could hear a full-blown war happening now outside as warriors were shouting where to cover and what to look out for. Another explosion sounded and this time it shook the walls. Pictures fell to the floor, the glass covering shattering as it landed. I looked at Rita and did as she asked me to do.

locked my jaw as I knew I had a good chunk of his throat in my mouth and twisted with a crack and rip. I slung the meat of his neck out and behind me as he fell to the ground below me. I broke his neck in the process and now he is lying beneath me, dead. I stepped back away from him as Rita walked over to his body and kicked him with all of the force she could muster. I don't know why, but it made me smile

inside. He deserved that and I hoped that he could feel it even in death.

"We need to leave, now." She told me as she placed her hand on me and chanted a spell. It felt like a nice warm feeling was placed over me. Like a thick fuzzy blanket and I looked down at her. "It is done, we are invisible to almost everyone." She told me.

I took that as my cue, picking her up in my arms. She was so lightweight, almost like a feather, it was easy. I dashed out the door and headed south to where there was no one. I clicked the button to open the gate and when it opened another force of warriors were there along with a woman who I had seen before. The warriors looked around confused but the woman's head tilted as she looked at us.

"s**t! It's Miranda! I thought she was dead!" I said. "The witch?" Rita's voice cracked.

Just like that, she uncloaked us with a twist of her wrist. She had to know we were there, the gate just didn't open itself. I needed to warn Dexter and we needed to get out of here.

I backed up and took off, running back in the direction we came from with Rita still in my arms. I heard multiple people running after us before they pounced onto my back. Teeth and claws sunk into me and I let out a deadly growl. They made me drop Rita and she cried out in pain as her head connected with a rock. I was restrained by four lycans moments later. I watched as one picked up Rita and carried her off, blood covering her face. I struggled to get away but was given a heavy dose of wolfsbane and soon everything was dark.

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We stood outside the wall and listened closely to what was around us. The herbal blend Miranda gave us and placed at hot spots around the walls helped us tremendously and obviously worked in our favor. We had a patrol go by us and we went undetected. Absolutely marvelous work she has done for us all. Our warriors took their place, waiting for Everest's command. We watched for over an hour, waiting for the right moment. A woman was walking our way when the guards at the gate stopped her and began giving her a hard time.

Aman's voice spoke to her, "Where do you think you are going? You know you can't leave and go past these walls at night."

I heard her sigh "I don't care. I am leaving this ridiculous place! Let me through! I would rather be a rogue than go along with whatever nonsense was given to us!"

I looked over and Everest's brows were raised. We have to be careful now because people may be here by force of commands given. He mind linked me to "See if you can see her on the other side of the wall without being spotted. We need to make sure she will be safe"

I nodded my head and two warriors lifted me up in the air and I saw her. She looked like she had been crying and was fuming mad. I linked her and her features along with what she was wearing to everyone in the pack.

Another male voice was heard "Did the King f**k you and then leave you?" They laughed and my eyes went wide as I was lowered.

I heard her growl and jump at one of them. There was a struggle between the three of them and we sat and listened. This is not what we needed. We didn't need anything drawing attention to us. I heard her whimper and I knew that they were going to either hurt her, kill her, or force her to stay and I did the dumbest thing ever. I hopped the wall. Everest struggled and failed to get to me as I went over the wall. The men were shocked when my Lycan jumped on them. We struggled for just a short moment and I broke their necks and took her with me to the other side. I shifted back to my human.

"You, you're Avalynn and you're King Everest!?" She said and we nodded and placed one finger over our mouths indicating to keep hushed voices.

"Yes. Who are you?" I asked her quietly. "Candace." She smiled and stuck her hand out. I took it and we shook hands.

I read her mind quickly and gasped when I found out what she had been through in the last twenty-four hours.

"You were mated to Dexter? He rejected you?" She frowned "Yes, how do you know?" "I can read minds and hear thoughts," I told her.

"Oh, cool. Yeah, he rejected me. I couldn't tell he was my mate. He plans on making us both his mates and marking us both. That is after he murders everyone else. He said it was safer for him to reject me. I just hate him now and he slapped me for calling him out on his crazy psychotic shit." She had the look of hell fire in her eyes and I was shocked. She was wearing an apron and I assumed she worked in the kitchens. I was also

shocked that the fates mated her to a technical prince. It didn't matter though. I was, however, proud that she stood up to him.

Just then, Jeremy came back from King Brent and Miranda to fill us in. He froze in his tracks as his

eyes locked onto Candace. I looked between the two. I knew that look very well. Everest gave it to me on that same night he found me on that cliff's edge. Would fates really work that fast? It was so rare to have a second chance mate. Would she be blessed like I was?

"Mate," Jeremy growled and her eyes snapped over to him. He was nearly all over her and pulled her into his arms, nearly purring in satisfaction "Mine. Mate." His lycaon held onto her.

"What?" she sniffed the air. "No, I don't smell you. I don't smell any of you." She frowned as she tried to pry him off of her. Just then, he took off the herbal blend around his neck and shoved it into my hands. It still lingered on him but I guess it was just enough of a hint of his scent that she knew he belonged to her

and she him.

She let out a possessive growl and latched onto him and rubbed her scent all over him. "Mate, mate, mate." She nuzzled her face against his neck and seemingly purred happily.

I shoved the herbal blended necklace back to Jeremy. "You need to wear this, they can not get a whiff of your scent." I warned him and he put it back over him.

"I smiled, looking at Candace, "Welcome to the family. Jeremy, are they ready?"

"Yes, all is ready. They will wait five minutes before blowing that side up after we do this gate," he reported.

"Okay, let's place the explosives in the correct spots." Everest stepped up and helped the men place several small C4 bundles along the wall. We could have just hopped over the wall but we really wanted to make an entrance and create chaos.

"Candace, did you see anyone else other than the two guards around?" Everest asked her as she closed her eyes. I assumed she was retracing her steps and trying to remember if there was anyone else around. I also dipped into her mind to see what she was remembering and knew the answer before she said it out loud.

"No, not that I remember." Everest nodded his head. "Let us take cover. Jeremy, do you have the detonator?" Everest asked him.

“Yes, I do. Lets get the ball rolling.” He took Candace by the hand and led her away from the danger area.

Everest took my hand and led me away from the wall. He linked me as we walked. “That is a good sign. He seems happy to have her.”

I only nodded my head a little bit, just enough for him to notice. Jeremy may have just been an overly flirtatious or just caring individual wanting me to not worry about what would happen if something terrible took place during the fight.

Everest held his hand up three fingers to count down the explosion. Three, two, one finger down and the explosion rocked the world around the wall. Bricks went flying through the air, smashing windows on the other side.

Then, screaming happened along with the panic and chaos surrounding the noise. We walked in with the dust and smoke around us. I looked to my left and then my right. Warriors began slowly filing around us in a semi-circle formation. Everest spoke to the men, some were from his kingdom and some were from the Southern Territory.

“Warriors, we are here for only two people and two people only. Many of you have families of your own. I am giving you this opportunity to stand down as an order from me, the King of the Northern Territory. This battle will be over quickly. Hand over Dexter and Brennon and all will end. Join us, your rightful place in our pack.” Silence stretched all across the grounds. The warriors on the other side looked amongst themselves and some stepped towards us. Growling sounds from our warriors were heard as a threat to stay away.

Everest held up his hand for the growls to stop “If you decide to step away, go to the river in the north

with your family where the wildflowers grow best. We will meet you there, no charges will be brought to you and you may live your life.” I watched as several stepped away in a hurry to go find their family to bring them to safety. This certainly helped our cause. Dexter even lost some of his men in the process. Many, I am sure, have witnessed how unstable he truly is.

Out of the blue, two huge lycans jumped Everest as he turned to say something to one of our men. felt my heart fall to my stomach and then shoot back up into my throat in a panic feeling. He cleared them off of him though with ease. He was way stronger than most, if not all here and slung one on to a wall, his body making a cracking sound as his bones broke. He growled and ripped the other lycan’s throat out as his body fell and went limp on the ground at our feet.

A growl was heard from above and I looked up along with everyone else to see Dexter standing there. He was angry and it made me smile. I couldn’t wait to sink my claws into him. His eyes were burning holes through me. I felt anger and rage burn through me.

Jeremy was next to me with Candace at his side and I saw him look between the two of us. He growled again out of anger.

“Candace, did they hurt you?” He said between gritted teeth. “Hurt me?” She laughed at him. “Like you did when you slapped me?” She asked.

I swear to the Goddess that Jeremy’s head spun around like a possessed demon and growled up at Dexter. Next, something was thrown in the air towards where Dexter stood.

“Cover your heads!” Jeremy screamed and we all ducked as an explosion hit the bottom of the balcony where Dexter stood. The concrete broke and exploded everywhere around us. Small and large portions fell to the ground around us. We all shifted and prepared for the worst.

“What the f**k!” Everest yelled over at Jeremy but then smiled at him.

Dust was settling and coughing was heard as Dexter emerged from the rubble growling and throwing a heavy piece of concrete at us.

It was on.

Mated To The Lycan King By Jennifer Baker Chapter 60

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I listened to the screaming and began directing people away to where they would be needed or safe. “Make sure you contain them. If they have breached our walls, make sure they do not pass through our warrior line!” I shouted at a guy. He bowed, nodded his head at me, and took off to pass down my orders with about forty other men. I watched them turn the corner and I continued my search for Candace.

I reached the terraces and walked out, pushing open the double glass doors. The balcony stuck out and overlooked the gated entrance for visitors. I should have known they would be coming in that way. The question was, when would they have done what they are doing now, attacking us. I looked out at the crowd and spotted Avalynn first. She looked fierce in her tight clothing that seemed to contour around her curves. I then saw the brute behind her, like a protective wall that could move and shield her whenever she needed. Everest. I narrowed my eyes at him and my beast let out a deadly growl.

The growl was barely able to escape my mouth when I spotted Candace. What the hell was she doing down there? Were they going to take her hostage? I noticed another Lycan who looked like Everest and realized it was his cousin, Jeremy. The one we were going to recruit. Why was he standing so close to Candace? She seemed to lean against him. I scanned over her and she wasn't being restrained. What the hell was going on? What did I miss? I let out a deathly growl and all their eyes looked up at me.

"Candace, did they hurt you?" I asked her between gritted teeth. She looked like she was about to explode or laugh. It was a thin line, maybe both. Her emotions were hard to read.

"Hurt me?" She laughed at me. Actually it was more of a sarcastic laugh before she continued "Like you did when you slapped me?" She asked in a super angry tone, in a near yell. I raised my brows at

her.

"You know I." Suddenly something was tossed in my direction, and someone yelled "Duck." It was too late for me though. Another explosion happened around me and the entire balcony collapsed under my feet. I shifted into my Lycan for protection and picked up a large concrete brick and hurled it at Everest and his stupid smug face. They all ducked and the slab barely missed their heads.

I stepped out from the rubble when the rest who were still in their human form shifted to their Lycan forms and wolf forms. I looked around and let out a loud growl linking my men "It is time. Where are you? What happened to my first line of men?"

"What? Where are you? We have an issue at the south gate! Your brother and that witch are here?! can't find Ryder!" One of my head warriors responded.

"Send whoever you can." I told him. Where was Ryder?

How is Miranda alive? I thought I killed her? How did she manage to survive? I growled out of annoyance.

I only had a few men with me, but it would have to work for now. The cousin jumped at me and I stepped back out of his reach. I took another slab of concrete and chucked it at him as hard as I could. It hit him and he flew back, landing on his back on the ground. Candace moved towards him like a magnet. I watched her for a brief moment when she leaned down and lifted the slab off of him. I heard her soft voice "Oh babe, here, let me help you." I watched Candace bend down and help him.

Babe? No damn way this is happening again. I seen red. I lunged at the nearest person. They were caught off guard. I heard my men were engaged in the battle along side of

me. I clawed at the smaller lycan's neck, slashing through his fur and skin as blood oozed out. Jeremy, Everest's cousin, was now back

standing and his growl caught my attention.

"Give up." Everest growled through the link that connected all of the royals.

"Give over what is mine." I countered and Everest and Jeremy both growled, putting themselves in front of Avalynn and Candace.

"Over my dead body." Everest stepped forward.

More men formed around me and when they looked around, I used it as my opportunity to attack. With a growl, my men pushed forward to Everest and I stood back on the pile of rubble as they all fought. They went and fought the strongest first. Howls, growls, the sound of bodies colliding and the cracking of bones was all you could hear. The scent of blood being spewed tainted the air I was breathing in. I scanned the field as my men and Everest and his warriors fought Where is Ryder?

I tried linking him. I could really use his help but it was complete silence on his end. Maybe he is just busy handling Brennon and is having to block us out.

I saw two of my Lycans approach Candace and Jeremy. They had strict orders to not hurt her but she was putting up a fight and aiding Jeremy. I shook my head and knew I would have to let her go. If she dies, she dies.

"Do what you must to subdue her. If she dies, so be it" I linked the men.

When she lunged at one of them that was about to attack Jeremy, who was dealing with two already on his back, one of my warriors caught her in midair. His claws were around her throat as she gasped for air, growling and struggling to free herself. She used her claws to dig into his skin. He slung her against a nearby wall. A crack was heard as her body connected with the wall, breaking a few bones.

That is when Jeremy was completely livid and began to completely rage out with everyone around him. I could tell his Lycan was in full control over him. He was killing men and easily, snapping their necks if they were in reach. Stepping over bodies and moving to his next victim as he made his way to Candace I intercepted him as he snapped a wolf's neck and I growled at him. We went head to head with one another, our bodies clashing together as our jaws snapped at one another's necks. I slung him off of me a few moments later. I heard the sound of a familiar voice behind me and I froze in my place. I could tell by his voice the only emotion left for me was hatred. I went to move and realized I couldn't.

I didn't freeze on purpose, but I froze because I literally couldn't move on my own. Something had come over my body and restricted all of my muscles from moving.

“Hello, little brother. Can’t move? Good. You should really thank my mate, Miranda.” My brother, Brent, said behind me with Miranda at his side. Her hand was outstretched and I knew now why I could not make a single move.

His mate? He was mated to a dumb witch? How is this even possible? Royal Lycans do not mate with witches. It is impossible. I could see her out of the corner of my eye. It was her alright and she seemed different and not in a good way. I tried to move but couldn’t, she had a hold on me and this was going to complicate things on my end. Damn her.

She twisted her wrist and said “Batokne.” It was a word that brought me down to my knees in pure pain as I screamed. She had a sadistic smile on her face as my pain was bringing her great pleasure.

Avalynn was by her side in her Lycan form and I swear she looked psychotic. She took a few steps forward when Ryder broke through the window above. Glass falling around, causing everyone to duck from the shards.

Helanded next to me with a growl. When I looked at him, his wrists had silver hand cuffs and chains were around his body. He was being held captive somewhere but broke free. I knew he was loyal. He had blood covering him and I found myself wondering whose blood it was.

“Wolfsbane!” My brother yelled back at someone, bringing me back to reality. I broke free as everyone was distracted and lunged at Everest. It was time for him to meet his maker. He wouldn’t live to see another day. I was going to make sure of that one.

He saw me coming though and darted left of me. Ryder charged my brother and the fight was back on. One of my men went after Miranda but Avalynn easily snapped his neck.

I focused on Everest and chomped down on his shoulder. He let out a growl as his paw went into my face. It connected and slashed through my cheek. Our beasts fought one another. I saw a piece of rubble when he had me down against the ground. I picked it up and slung my arm around as fast and hard as I could, connecting with the side of his face. He stumbled back and I held him down on the ground, hitting him again. I was so focused on Everest and him being close to death. The next part surprised not only me, but others around me too. Avalynn completely lost it and did something that shocked everyone here.

Chapter 1

Avalynn POV

I stood by Miranda’s side, protecting her from everything that came her way. She had the bastard right where we needed him. He was frozen, unable to move and when I

heard her say the word "Batokne" watched as Dexter was brought to his knees in pain. I couldn't help but to enjoy the pain that radiated from him. I slipped into his mind at that moment to relish the pain he was feeling. It was amazing to feel the pain he was feeling, to see how afraid he was, to know how much he was freaking out because his men were failing him. It felt like I was rallying his pain into my own strength. Just as I released his thoughts, another was coming at Miranda and me. I rolled him away and snapped his neck and watched his body fall to the ground and go limp.

My attention was diverted back above when crashing sounded and my ex-mate came through a window and landed on the ground. We all ducked as shards of glass fell from above, protecting our eyes and faces from injury. I heard King Brent yell for Wolfsbane and I looked at Ryder. He truly looked like a monster. His body was a mixture of wolf and Lycan. He was covered in silver chains and had broken silver cuffs around his wrists.

I heard a commotion and looked over as Dexter was now fighting with Everest. I looked over and saw Ryder fighting with King Brent. Alycan came charging at Miranda and I fought against him and snapped his neck. Miranda and I were surrounded by a mix of two lycans and a wolf. I fought them off as she tried to gather her concentration. But the need to help save Brent pulled at her. I understood that it was her mate and seeing him fighting and outnumbered was a major distraction. I would do the same. I feel the same. I couldn't look over at Everest and not want to help. It was clear that after everything was said and done she would choose to become one of us.

I fought off the next two when a sudden pain snapped through my entire body. My head ached and I looked over at Everest out of instinct. I knew that I shouldn't of done it because it was a distraction but what I saw was an absolute horror show. It made me sick to my stomach to watch. I felt the contents of my stomach try to push its way up as blood spued around Everest and Dexter. My heart dropped then raised into my throat. It felt like it was so hard to breathe, gasped for air. The sight of Dexter on top of Everest, concrete slabs slamming into his nearly limp body was horrid. Men were fighting all around, some were struggling against Dexters warriors. Ryder was fighting Brent and two others and winning. I searched around quickly assessing the situatuion and realized someone was not with us.

Where was Brennon though? I searched through the thoughts quickly and pinpointed exactly what happened. Ryder. Ryder murdered him in cold blood with the help of his witch, who was waiting just inside for everything to be finished. Seems to be that he was helping the witch settle a score of some kind, but not my problem. In a way, Ryder did us a favor. Brennon's blood wouldn't be on our hands and would just result in a tragic death by placing his trust in the enemy. A loud growl brought me back and out of Ryders' mind.

I couldn't explain it but I felt everyone's panic, rage, and anger just radiating suddenly inside of me. It was like a light being turned on and a soft glow at first. As the glow began to brighten, I felt warmth radiate all throughout my entire body. It felt like fire was

spreading through every inch of my body. I heard a gasp from Miranda as I felt the urge to let out a scream. My body shifted back into my human form on its own and it was like I was not in control of my actions. I let go and gave into this unusual feeling. The feeling of power, warmth, and anger.

I let out a shrieking scream as light and heat eluded my body. It was blinding and caused a pause in the fighting as everyone watched what was happening. I looked at my hands as if something, light or was it

fire, escaped from my body. My skin had turned into a golden color as power escaped me. I felt strong, powerful, and deadly. I felt the lycan inside of me smile as my power pushed out of me. It was as if she knew this secret and kept it hidden away the entire time. It seemed that this mysterious force coming

who the enemy was. The power was hitting with such force, knocking them back away from who they were fighting. It gave my people enough time to regroup and get back on top of things. I could hardly believe what was happening to me

King Brent was able to give a larger dose of wolfsbane to Ryder and subdue him. I will be dealing with him soon.

I looked around and saw Everest lying on the ground barely breathing. I felt rage inside of me. I glanced over to Miranda and gave her a nod Dexter was beginning to stand up when I launched myself at him, shifting back into my lycan I felt our bodies collide as I gave over full control to my Lycan She was a powerful force to be reckoned with, especially with all of this pent up rage Miranda joined me and together we went up against Dexter He fought against us Miranda summoned up her chant and froze him. I took his head in my hands and banged his face off of a concrete block a few times before looking at him, dropping him to the ground, and standing over him

I circled around him and growled He was frozen and felt his fear coming off and crashing into me like waves. I couldn't however smell the blood from him, odd I wanted this to be painful for him I wanted him to suffer more than anything else in this entire world would it be best if we waited for a trail or to end him right here and now? I looked over to the men designated as our medical team, attending to Everest looked down at Dexter and thought back to Trevor and how he ripped an arm away from him How he took away his parents and his pack, leaving him and his brothers orphaned. He left him with nothing, left him to die. I thought of all of the men and women whose lives have been affected and destroyed because of him and his actions. All the peoples he has murdered or helped with the murder I thought of my mates father, King Randolph who died because of this man below me I thought of Miranda and her family who he murdered. Right then and there I decided that a quick death would not serve as justice for everyones life he has hurt and caused pain to.

I decided that I wanted him to suffer. I wanted him to feel the pain that he had given for years to come. Death would be a gift and I was not about to hand those out today.

Today I came here with every intention of ending his life. However, we would be leaving with him under a frozen spell, unable to move. I would give him his trial, but every single day of that trial I would torture him. I would leave him wishing for death. I would allow time for his Lycan to heal him and I would bring him right back to the brink of death. I looked out at the field of men and women warriors from both sides. Now that they had seen the fall of their leaders, I spoke to them, in place of Everest.

“Your leaders have fallen. You are now to be transported back to the kingdom and charged with the crime of treason. I will see you all on your judgement day. Remember you can not hide your thoughts and actions from me.” I smiled and looked over at Miranda, “Would you mind placing a freezing spell over them all? I wouldn’t want any trouble from them on our long journey back.” She nodded her head and with the flick of her wrist everyone who was against us had their hands pulled behind them.

“Wolfs bane them. Give them a strong enough dose to subdue them until we reach the Kingdom in the morning. We will be traveling straight there.” I looked over to Ted and Jameson and they bowed, running off quickly. I watched one by one as the warriors began falling to the ground.

I sighed and looked over at Ryder and walked over to him. The wolfsbane only weakened him. The smell of his flesh burning from the silver was awful smelling.

“Get away from him!” I heard a woman shouting and I looked up at her. I sniffed the air and raised my brow

“Ahhh, yes. The witch who has been helping him, shielding him, making him into the monster that he is now.” I glared.

“I said to get away from him.” She said between gritted teeth. She raised her hand but Miranda countered and cast a spell or something in her direction, knocking her off of the second level.

We all stood and watched as she fell to the ground and landed on a piece of metal that pierced through her, killing her. I looked down at Ryder as tears formed in his eyes.

I stood over him with a frown and shook my head. I looked around me, seeing everyone watching me. I didn’t know if I would have any sort of repercussions, but many people were dead because of who was standing under me. In fact, if he hadn’t sought out Dexter, some of this could have been avoided.

“I, Queen Avalynn of the Northern Territory, charge you with treason, holding you responsible for the death of King Randolph. Because of these charges, I am sentencing you to death.” I looked around and my eyes landed on King Brent and he nodded his head in approval. I looked over to Miranda and she also sent a nod in my way. I turned back to Ryder and I felt nothing but rage for all of the pain he had caused me over my lifetime. I took a deep breath as memories of being tortured plagued me. I took it and

channeled it inside as I put my hands on either side of Ryders head and snapped his neck.

I took a step back and took in a long breath of air. A single tear ran down my cheek at the loss of my ex-mate, the bond now completely severed from him. He could have accomplished so much, but he wasted and threw his life away. I turned and walked off silently without a word.

I sent King Brent a link "Please, if you wouldn't mind, have your brother transported back to the Northern Kingdom dungeons immediately. He will stand trial in our Kingdom, as he will be our prisoner and be held accountable for his crimes. You may also carry out any sentence and invite any of the members of your kingdom to witness his sentencing."

"Of course. Do you know when sentencing will be, by chance?" He linked me.

"A few weeks from now. Allow some time for Everest to regain his strength to carry it out himself."

"Of course, Queen Avalynn."

"Oh and Brent, thank you for all the help from you, Miranda, and your warriors. Without you, this would have been difficult."

I saw a small smile come from him and I walked out of the yard, leaving things to Brent and Miranda. looked around as I walked along the destroyed path. I assumed that Jeremy was also in the doctors' quarters with Candace. I let out a small sigh and made my way to my mate. I could feel his pain, which let me know that he was still alive.