

Mated To The Lycan King By Jennifer Baker Chapter 61

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I rushed to where the sound of the explosion happened, people were scattering everywhere. They were running around in a complete panic. I had yet to hear from Ryder but I overheard one of his warriors complain how they could no longer link Brennon for guidance. Ryder must have done what we discussed or was in the process of ending him. I smiled at myself, everything was coming together the way I had planned. I searched around, as I made my way to the Northern Terrace, for Candace. I should never have laid my hands on her, but what's done is done. I could only apologize and hope that she would forgive me in the end. She should never have flipped her sit on me though. She may have been my mate, but I am still the king. She would surely see where she was wrong, eventually. I sighed, annoyed that I couldn't even pick her scent anymore.

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 wha 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. 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. I 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.

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Avalynn POV

I walked into the makeshift hospital. It looked like it was in the process of being expanded into a new hospital. The smell of blood was thick in the air. I looked around at the waiting area at everyone waiting to be seen. The medical staff were busy attending to any serious injuries that occurred during the battle. When people noticed I walked in the room, it got quiet and heads bowed. I raised my hand and a small smile came to my mouth before I spoke to the crowd of people.

“Please, do not stop on my account. Continue doing whatever it is that you are all doing. But let me say thank you to everyone for all of the hard work and bravery that I witnessed today out there. It has not gone unnoticed.” I bowed to them all instead of them to me to show my respect towards them.

A nurse walked over to me with a few charts in her hand. She made a quick curtsy and introduced herself “Queen Avalynn, it is so wonderful to be in your presence, in unfortunate circumstances, of course. I am nurse Mary. Would you please follow me?”

I nodded "It is an unfortunate circumstance but very nice to meet you, nurse Mary. Please, lead the way."

I followed behind her as she walked quickly through the hallways of the small hospital with purpose. She took me to a conference room and motioned for me to sit at the head of the table. I sat down and she offered me some tea and food. My stomach growled as I happily accepted the offer of food.

"The doctors who have been working continuously on the King will be here in just a moment with any updates. I think there may be talk of surgery. I am not sure though, so don't hold me to it. Thank you, Queen Avalynn, for everything. I must go now, but if you need anything at all, please hit this button." She handed me a remote control with different buttons on it.

"Thank you, nurse Mary, for everything you are doing for our injured people." She smiled and left the room.

I ate my sandwich and sipped my tea. I moved the swivel chair back and forth in short quarter spins as I looked around the room. The table was a warm and well polished wood that was slick to the touch, the chairs were all the same, except the one I was sitting in. Mine was leather and very comfortable, while the others were navy blue cushioned cloth chairs. The walls were a soft gray color with different medical photos on the walls. You know, your typical doctor's office hanging art.

I waited for twenty minutes in anticipation for an update. I knew that his condition was serious, as my body was aching from all of the pain he was in earlier. Now it has eased off a bit. I assume it is because they have him on some pain medication. A soft knock sounded from the door and I stood as they all entered the room, one by one. Three men and two women filled the room and stood behind the chairs.

"Hello, everyone." I said to them all. They bowed their heads and greeted me in unison "Hello, Queen Avalynn."

I sat and motioned for them to do the same and they all followed behind. I glanced at them all when I noticed only one had paperwork in his hand and he was the one to start talking. He introduced himself and listed the names of all of the others in the room. His name was Derrick Morrison and he was the Chief of Surgery here.

He opened the file and passed some x-rays off to one of the women and she stood, placing them on the machine and flipped the switch with a light coming on. It was an image of his severely broken bones. So many images and the healing process had already begun. They would have to rebreak any bones that

had begun to heal improperly. So much pain he would have to go through. I stood and walked over in front of the light, looking at the various images on the screen.

Photos of his arms, chest, neck and face were horrific looking. I felt my Lycan push forward to look at them with me.

"This, this is bad. Isn't it?" she asked in my mind.

"Yes, very bad. He is lucky to be alive. If he wasn't a lycan. / fear he would be dead." / told her.

"I am going to torture him, I am going to have bu beg for mercy. Push him to the brink of death and allow himself to heal. There will be no mercy given to him. She promised and agreed with her.

"Queen Avalynn?" I looked up and realized all eyes were on me as the chief was looking at me, as if i was to answer some kind question

"I do apologize, I just. I am not all here mentally I am just worried about him and my mind is going a million miles an hour." My voice cracked as I confessed to them

Chief Morrison smiled at me and nodded his head, understanding me "Would you like to see him before we take him back?"

I nodded my head and looked around the table They all smiled at me I stood with them and followed them down the hall. We entered his room and the doctor paused at the open door "His surgery is in fifteen minutes. He may not be able to talk much due to all of the meds he is on to slow his natural healing abilities and pain medication" | nodded my head at him and turned to look at Everest

I heard the door shut behind me and slowly making my way over to his bed The soft sounds of beeping on the machine next to his bed My eyes followed the cords that connected the machine down to him. My heart felt like it flew up into my throat when my eyes laid upon him. He had cuts and bruises all over him. His collar bone slumped, pulling his right shoulder down. It had clearly been broken. He had a huge open gash on his chest. It was red and obviously infected.

I pulled up a chair to sit next to his bed. I took his hand in my own and held onto it. I spoke softly to him "I am here and will not leave your side. Everything has been taken care of. We will have to figure out a way to repay Brent and Miranda. They're taking Dexter to the cells and keeping him out of it thanks to Miranda's magic. I love you." I leaned over and placed a kiss on the top of his head.

I sat there in silence and listening to him breathe. I swore he squeezed my hand just as the doctor softly knocked and came into the room.

"It is time for us to take him back." A nurse said to me and I nodded.

“Okay.” I stood and looked down at Everest for a moment before leaning over and placing a soft and gentle kiss upon the top of his head. “I will see you soon.” I whispered and watched the team wheel him out of the room.

I sat down in the chair and waited for his return, praying to the Moon Goddess that everything would be fine. I felt some mild discomfort during his time under the knife. A knock sounded on the door and I looked up as Claire walked into the room. She had a small smile on her face and I returned the smile to her. The smile, however, was not a direct reflection of my mood

“How are you holding up? Any news?” She asked as she sat down on the other chair in the room.

I shook my head at her. “No, nothing yet. They said it could be a few hours to fix the things that are wrong with him.”

“He’s going to be okay, Avalynn.” She leaned over and lightly pat my leg. “I am here for you. Josh is downstairs with Jeremy talking about his new mate.” She let out a soft sigh.

s”t, I completely forgot about her with everything going on, Guilt filled me, I should go talk to Jeremy and make sure he is holding up okay. “Oh, how is she doing?”

“She is fine. She had four ribs fractured, a broken arm, a terrible bruise along the spine of her back. Otherwise, she’s okay.” She told me.

“I need to go talk to them and make my rounds through the hospital to check on everyone.” I went to stand up and another soft knock sounded on the door.

“Come in?” in walked my brother and Jeremy right behind him. I walked over to my brother and his arms opened for me and I hugged him. I cried for the first time in a long time. He just stood there and held me and allowed me that moment of weakness to cry. I was worried for my mate, for the future of our kingdom, just everything was sitting so heavy on my shoulders.

“It’s okay. He is going to be okay.” I heard him whisper.

I stood straight after a few minutes and wiped the tears from my eyes. “Thank you Josh. I needed that hug.” He moved to stand next to Claire. I turned my attention over to Jeremy. “How is she doing?”

His brows raised and he shrugged his shoulders slightly. “Candace will be okay. Her arm started the healing process and they had to rebreak her arm so it could heal properly. Her ribs were healing fine on their own, so they didn’t have to do anything there. She is asleep right now though.” His hands went into his pockets as he leaned against the wall. “How is my cousin?”

I sighed and looked down at my feet for a moment before looking back up to him. I explained everything that the doctor had told me. He nodded his head and he looked worried about him. "I still stand by what I said Avalynn. I will make sure that you are fine and taken care of regardless." I closed my eyes and nodded my head.

"He truly wants what is best for his cousins' well being. That is sweet. It may have been a flirtatious notion before hand, but now I see he is being genuine. That's nice." I heard my Lycan's voice drift through my mind as she invaded his.

"Thank you, Jeremy. I hope and pray, for us all, that Everest will be okay and will survive this." I told him.

Josh spoke up "I have faith that our Moon Goddess will not fail us and let evil win." "No, she will not let evil win over good," Claire said, and Jeremy nodded in agreement. I sat back down and we all sat in a comfortable silence together waiting for any news.

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Hours went by with only two updates from the team of surgeons working on Everest. He seemed to be doing well even with everything going on. I went down to visit Candace and Jeremy and she was doing pretty good, just some discomfort. Everyone was with their mates as I stood to look out the window of his room. About twenty minutes later, there was a knock on the door and I turned around to see them . wheeling Everest in, in his bed.

I felt my heart jump into my throat and I smiled at the sight of him. It was such a relief and i hurried to his side and sat down next to him. I looked up at the doctor, who had a smile on his face.

"Good news?" I asked him.

"Absolutely, he did very well while under the knife. Everything should heal properly and he should be good to go within the week." The doctor looked down at the chart and back up to me.

I felt tears begin to sting my eyes, not because I was sad, but because I was so unbelievably happy." That's fantastic news. Will he require any therapy?" I looked back down at him and was worried about how badly bruised and beaten down he was.

He made a face as if he was trying to make a decision. "Honestly, it just depends on how well he heals and how his nerves are functioning when he wakes up. I don't think so, but I can not rule it out completely. When he is released, he will be on light duty. It is very important that he does not shift for two more weeks." He looked at me over his glasses. "Two full weeks. Not any sooner. If he does shift it could cause more damage and he could lose all function in this arm of his." He looked over at me for a moment before looking back down at the folder that had Everest's chart. He was looking over it to see if any more information needed to be said as he made an annoying clicking sound with his tongue.

I nodded my head as I listened to the clicking sound. "Got it. He won't be too happy with that, but I am sure he would be even more unhappy with the effects of shifting too soon. Thank you for everything you and your team have done. Well, you are all still currently doing to help our members." He smiled, bowed his head, and then excused himself from the room once satisfied that all the information was given to me. I looked over at Everest and listened to his breathing and smiled at myself, watching him closely. It was comforting to know that he would be just fine. In just a few short weeks and he will be back to his old self again. I couldn't wait to shift and go on a run with him, once he was able to, of course.

I laid my head down on the side of his bed, his hand still in mine. My fingers wrapped around his tightly, afraid if I let him go I would never be able to hold his hand again or he would be gone. Just slipped away and out of my grasp. I could feel his blood flowing through him. His hand was warm in my own. The soft pattering sound of his heartbeat was the calm to my forever brooding storm. I tapped into his mind to see if I could hear him and there was nothing. Just a peaceful humming of pure bliss. I soon fell fast asleep listening to his breathing and his heart beating. It was wonderful music to my ears. It was just the music needed to send me into a deep and unbothered slumber.

I awoke the next day to a puddle of apparently my own drool.

Gross, I thought. My hand was no longer clinging to his and I wiped my mouth. Cleaning it from all of the drool I left behind. I heard a soft chuckle next to me.

"Good morning, my love. I am sorry I did not wake you. You just looked so peaceful in your sleep." I heard his voice. "Although, now there is a small drool puddle on my bed. I may need a nurse to change my sheets." He laughed.

My eyes shot up to him and a huge smile was now on my face. "Oh, Everest. You're awake!" I said happily to him.

"I am. So are you!" He joked with me. He was himself, thankfully. I had been worried that he would be groggy and grumpy but he was in wonderful spirits.

I rubbed my eyes and looked over at the clock. "s**t!" I said, out loud, causing a small laugh to escape from Everest. It was nearly noon. I had slept most of the day. It seemed

as if everyone here just let me sleep and did their work around me. If Everest had any say in the matter, and I would be willing to bet that he did, he probably ordered them to work around me. It made me want to roll my eyes at that. How could they work properly if my fat head along with a lake of drool was all in the way? I guess they somehow managed it though?

“How are you just going to let me sleep like that?” I frowned but couldn’t hold it and smiled “Thank you, I was very tired.”

“Avalynn, when exactly was the last time you slept?” I watched his brow arch as he questioned me. Whoops.

I thought back and realized that I was not sure. I haven’t slept, actually fully slept, in a while. “Exactly. I let you sleep. Besides, I remember some bright light coming from your body. That had to take a lot out of you. Using all of that energy at one time. What happened? Where did it come from? Well, other than from your body.” His head tilted slightly to the side as his eyes roamed over my body as if looking for their own answers. I knew he had re-worded that so I couldn’t be sarcastic, drats!

“1, well, I have no clue, honestly, I just lost it. It consumed me and I allowed whatever that was to just take over and do what it needed to do, I guess. Does that make sense? Whatever it was seemed to work in our favor.” I was stumbling with my words trying to explain it to him.

“I guess so. What else happened?” He asked.

I sat by his side as lunch was brought into his room for both of us. We ate and talked about everything that had happened while he was out of it. I explained to him how he almost died from Dexters beating. I shuddered at the thought of losing my mate. I explained to him how he may or may not need therapy. It all depended on how well he was healing and what functions he did not need to relearn.

He took all the news I gave him pretty well.

“Wait.” He began. “Where the f**k is Dexter? Did you murder him?” He had a weird look on his face.

“No, I did not. He is, well was, being transported back home with King Brent and Miranda. He will face trial. But Miranda and I are going to have a little bit of fun before his trial. He deserves to suffer, in my opinion. I thought that killing him on sight would have been in light of a sentence. He will answer for all of his crimes against our Kingdom. He will answer for all crimes against Brent and Mirandas kingdom as well.”

I watched his face as he was taking in that information. He seemed bothered at first that he was not dead, but as I explained it to him, he understood where I was coming from. He, in the end, agreed with the way things were being done. This is not the human

world and we do not do things as humans would. Honestly, their justice system is screwed up. Letting people roam free that have hurt, abused, or murdered others. In our world, we take things to a personal level and have an eye for an eye kind of deal.

I stood and took our trash to the trash can as a knock came on the door. Jeremy walked in with Candace and I smiled at her. She seemed to be nervous but bowed her head, baring her neck as a sign of respect. Jeremy threw a nod in my direction and smiled as he looked at his cousin. I excused myself and left the room, leaving them both to catch up. I had phone calls to make and plans to set up upon our return home,

Alaw days later.

We were finally almost home. I had planned a big welcome home party for Everest. Everyone missed their brave Kinz dearly and I knew he would be down for a nice big get together. When we arrived, his

mother, April, rushed out to us and wrapped us both in the warmest of hugs. I stepped away, giving her access to her son. She had been worried sick and texted me continuously for updates on him. Our bags were brought inside and I helped Everest inside the door. When we walked in the room was filled with

friends and family members. He smiled brightly and looked over at me surprised.

“Welcome home King Everest!” everyone shouted together. “Thank you.” He told everyone.

“I planned a gathering of friends and family for a nice big dinner together. I hope you don’t mind. I want us to all be reunited and happy.” He leaned down and placed a soft kiss on my mouth, as I was telling him why everyone was here waiting for us. I was worried that it may have overwhelmed him. I guess not.

“It’s perfect. Thank you.” He smiled. “Avalynn! Everest!” I heard the familiar shout from Trevor.

He ran over to us, hugging me. I returned the hug and looked around the room we were in. “This place is intact. Good work!” I told him and he nodded his head.

“I think so. No one was getting through these lines here!” He said proudly, causing Everest to chuckle.

“Any reports?” Everest asked him.

“No sir, nothing to report other than boringness throughout on nontraining days.” He told Everest and smiled like he had a secret he was holding back from telling us. He never let on though and kept it a mystery as he became distracted by a group of his friends. I nodded for him to go join them.

We made our rounds and spoke to Amber and Jameson, Ted, Josh and Claire, Jeremy and Candace, and finally, Brent and Miranda at dinner. We discussed a trial date and what would be done to Dexter. We all agreed that he should no longer be allowed to roam the world freely, but should we be the ones to end his life or make him work and repay his debt?

I didn't think he should be alive, honestly. I knew Miranda agreed as I tapped into her mind. The only person who struggled with the death sentence was Brent. Rightfully so, as that was his only brother. I wasn't even sure if their mother was still alive. I never asked. I sat and tried to remember but was unsure.

"Look, Brent." I began and Miranda cleared her throat and I glanced over to her.

"Please allow me to speak to him about this. He is struggling with this. It is very difficult for him to carry out a sentence of death on his brother."

I took a deep breath and let it out in the form of a heavy sigh. "Look, I realize that this is not easy for you to do. Take all the time you need, please. I am in no rush or hurry to carry out a trial or sentence on him." I shot a glance at Miranda and she gave me a small nod of approval.

These next few weeks could set the tone between the two kingdoms if Brent refuses to allow us to carry out a proper sentence. I guess this just means that I had better begin the torturing tomorrow, after training and my morning meetings.

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I lay in bed listening to the breathing from Everest. It was so nice to finally be back home and in our own bed again. I know it was only a week, but to me, it was a week from hell. I was so very thankful for the safety of Everest and more importantly, our Kingdom.

I rolled over and sat up on the side edge of the bed. I yawned and stretched as I stood up. I walked over to the window and pulled back the curtain. The sun was beginning to rise, and the sky still clung to the darkness that lingered from the night. Where the sun was rising in the sky held hues of orange and pink. It was beautiful to witness and for the first time in forever I took in the beauty of it all,

I ended up taking a hot shower and got ready for the day. I walked to the side of the bed, where Everest was still snoozing away, leaned down and placed a soft kiss on his

forehead. He stirred under my touch, and that brought a smile to my lips. He still had a week of healing ahead of him as I handled matters from the war. We were still having to weed through the ones who were forced and had no other option, over the evil that lingered through Dexter's men.

Then that left us with Dexter and what to do with him. Brent has yet to say anything to his brother or go see him. As much as I hated the situation Brent was in, I knew that he would do what was best for all of our people collectively. My phone buzzed on my nightstand and I walked over to it and read who it was from. The text was from Miranda.

Miranda: "Hey. Good morning. I hope that I am not waking you up. I tried waiting as long as I could before texting you."

Me: "Morning, I am awake. Meet me in my office in ten minutes. / I have one of the workers bring up breakfast. Claire and Amber should join us in decisions later in the morning regarding Brennon's men. It seems we have a long day ahead of us."

Miranda: "Okay I will see you in a few minutes. I am grabbing some coffee, want some?" Me: "Of course. Two creams and four sugars. Thanks!"

I walked to my office and called down to the kitchen to have breakfast brought up to us. I ordered sausage and egg biscuits with cheese, bacon, egg and cheese biscuits, hash browns, different fruits, water, and orange juice. I opened the filing cabinet where I kept a detailed photo album of sorts that had information on everyone who was in the prison cells.

A knock came on the door and I knew it was Miranda before she entered. "Come in." She walked in and had two large coffees in her hands.

"Oh, thank you!" I smiled at her and took my coffee from her hands. I took a small sip and I swear I felt my soul come alive. "Breakfast will be here soon." I let her know.

"Oh, you got the list. Who are we talking to today?" Miranda was peering over the desk at my folder of photos.

I pulled out the stack of thirty people. "We will be going over these people here. Starting with the lower ranks first. They are more likely to be innocents than the higher ranking ones."

She nodded her head as I handed her half of the list of lycans. "Sounds good." She sat down and sipped her coffee. "How is Everest this morning?"

I looked up from my own cup: "He is fine. He was still asleep when I left. "How is Brent handling everything?"

I watched her facial expressions change. She did not seem happy, but honestly I did not blame her one single bit. She deserved to be a bit angry at him. "I am furious!" She nearly yelled as she spoke."

understand that Dexter is his brother and his only family left. Hell, that is what I do not understand. How can anyone show any type of sympathy to someone who murders your entire family, including attempting to murder him too? Not only that, but I am his mate and his brother even tried to off me and nearly succeeded at that task. If it wasn't for Brent. I wouldn't be here today. I am just. UGH!" She screamed the last part. "It honestly makes me not want to accept him as my mate. It makes me want to reject him, or make him reject me and go live a normal witch life. I just do not understand Avalynn. How can he be so conflicted with someone who has done so much wrong? Who has murdered so many innocents? That is the part that floors me! Look at those three brothers. They have no one but you and Everest and their Aunt and Uncle left. I know they will be okay eventually, but he destroyed everyone near and dear to them. How is it a struggle for him?"

I let her vent. It was obvious that she had this on her chest from the beginning. I understood where she was coming from Dexter took people away from me. He killed my mother, my father, my stepmother, and though it was never fully proved, I assume my father too

A knock sounded on the door and we went quiet for a moment, allowing me to tell who was at the door to enter. One of the kitchen staff walked in with plates of food. They added gravy, ham, and French toast to the order. They knew how much I loved their cooking and I smiled widely at all the extra food

We ate breakfast together and discussed plans for Dexter We came up with a plan to begin first thing tomorrow. I really wanted to get the rest of these interviews done and finished before we moved on to bigger and better things. Amber and Claire came up to the office a little while late, and we regrouped together and split interviews We, Miranda and I would not be going into the interviews alone Ted and two other warriors would be coming with us Claire and Amber would be in charge of keeping order in who needed to be where they needed to be at the correct time

We finally agreed on a line-up order and took our places. I linked Ted and a good amount of warriors to meet us in the interrogation rooms. On the way there, I bumped into Everest He insisted on coming with me, as he did not like me in a room full of possible rogue lycans and wolves alone. There really was not a big threat seeing how Miranda was with me, along with Ted and three others. But if it made him feel better, he could stand in the corner and be intimidating all he wanted

Miranda and I took our places as we waited for the warriors to fill in the room. The instant they walked in, I centered myself and dove deep into their thoughts. Little by little, at a snail's pace, it seemed we were making headway with the group. More were innocent than guilty, as they were under the impression that Everest had murdered his

own father. Brennon and Dexter played and twisted on everyone's words. They were angry until they learned the truth. Many gave themselves up during battle and submitted to our leaders.

It was a pretty easy afternoon as we breezed right through the remainder of our list. We all took a break for lunch. We ate sub sandwiches with chips and a drink. We met up with our mates and I sat next to Everest. I filled him in on how things were going. He seemed pretty pleased with how things were progressing. He also appeared to not be experiencing any discomfort, which was great.

Brent looked at us as he cleared his throat: "I just want to apologize for how I was feeling towards Dexter. I thank you all for your patience and understanding. This has not been easy for me. Dexter needs to pay for his crimes. Everest. I give you full permission to charge Dexter to the full extent of the law."

I side glanced between Miranda and Everest. I could tell that the words shocked them both. I mean, it was just earlier that Miranda was complaining about the entire situation, and now he says this. It is funny how the mate bond is affecting their relationship even when Miranda has yet to fully commit to being his mate.

Everest nodded his head in his direction, "Very well. His trial will be moved to one week from now." He glanced between myself and Miranda. "That should give time for everyone's preparations. Anyone object to this decision?" He looked around the table and no one said a word. We all were in agreement

then.

"In that case, I suppose I should make my way to jail." I looked at Everest. He nodded his head at me and I stood. I leaned down to him and placed a kiss against his mouth.

"I think it would be best if I stayed here. I don't want to lose control over my beast."

"I think that is a wise choice. I will see you at dinner. I love you." I kissed him once again and left the room with Miranda. Ted and Jameson stood, following us out of the room. We made our way to the jail. I could feel the excitement and eagerness to get started. Everyone was ready for revenge. Me most of all.

We checked into the jail and had two warrior guards walk with us. When we got to Dexter's cell the smell coming from there was horrible. The sight was another thing. He was dirty and sitting close to his own filth. The sight of him caused a small smile to come across my mouth.

"Can we get a bucket of water to the interrogation cell and the hose? I rather not smell him." Miranda turned to one of the guards. "I will need to subdue him first though before we move him."

When a guard left Miranda closed her eyes and began chanting. I watched as Dexter's body relaxed and went still. When her eyes opened the spell was cast and all was clear. Ted, Jameson, and another guard moved him to the interrogation room. He was hosed down and drenched with the bucket of water. He was then put in silver chains. His skin burning and making a hissing sound from the instant burning. It seemed to wake him up and his eyes looked around and found mine. We looked at one another as his eyes seemed to soften.

"Grab the tools." I told Ted. Dexter's eyes went wide and I grinned. I pushed into his mind and found out how afraid he now was. Perfect. "Let us begin."

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I watched as Dexter pulled on his chains. His skin burned as he pulled. I could tell that he was attempting to shift. It took him all of ten seconds to realize that his Lycan side was being suppressed.

"Not such a great feeling. Feeling lost, helpless while your lycan has disappeared from you all together and you are now no better than a human. You can thank Miranda for that." I grinned.

I watched as he turned to look at Miranda and she grinned at him. Her hand flicked and he hollered out in pain.

"Stop, please, stop." He begged. I clicked my tongue and let out a laugh. "Really, already begging? How weak are you, Dexter?" "Avalynn, stop. All I wanted was you." He told me.

"Me? That's it? So what was everything else? You murdered the king. You slaughtered an entire pack, with the exception of three brothers. You blew up our communications tower. You enlisted the help of Rogue wolves, the help of a rogue alpha wolf from my pack, you murdered my family, my adoptive mother and I assume father. You murdered your own father and younger brother, you attempted to murder Brent and failed. You attempted to murder Miranda! You murdered her entire family, with the exception of Cassie, and you would have murdered her if you had been able to. I do not feel any sympathy for you. You deserve everything you are about to receive." I growled and shifted to Charlotte, allowing her shared control of our situation.

"Avalynn, please."

Charolette growled and took our hand/paw and slashed him across the face. Blood oozed instantly from the wound as he screamed.

Miranda walked over and tilted her head. "Should we gag him or listen to him struggle? Hmm, what to do?" She snapped a finger and cracking was heard in his right arm. I saw that it was broken. He struggled against the chains, continuing to beg us.

We never stopped. I started with his fingers next and broke every single one of them. The cracking sounds were soothing. When the pain was too much he ended up passing out on us.

I shifted back again, "Well, Miranda, I believe we should call it a day?"

She nodded her head and I turned to the warrior guards. "Please take him back to his quarters. Inject him with the serum Miranda has made."

"Yes, it will jump start his healing process but still will leave his wolf suppressed." She handed it to the guard and he bowed to us both. We both left the chamber and walked to the elevator. I swiped our access card and walked through the double doors to the elevator. We stood there in silence until the doors closed

and I sighed. "Miranda, I am afraid I am going to lose myself in this mess."

"Same." She also sighed. "Even though he deserves it, I just don't know if I am built for this torture process. I want to get even, it just doesn't feel right. Maybe we should just overwatch and allow someone else to do it for us?"

"I can't do that. I declared it in front of everyone. Will they see us as weak?" I looked over at her.

"True. We can't fall out on what we have promised. How will our people take us seriously?" I watched her lean back against the elevator wall.

"I guess that comes with the territory of wearing the crown." I shrugged and looked up at the light that displayed the floor we were on.

The elevator dinged as it stopped on floor three.

"I will meet you in an hour. I need to get cleaned up. Thank you for your help." I turned to look at Miranda and she nodded her head.

"Okay, see you soon. I have someone coming later with books on royals in the south. They may be here as early as tomorrow morning. Would you be interested in going over it tomorrow sometime?" Miranda pushed herself off the wall of the elevator, stepping out of it right behind me.

I walked to my room and opened the door, stepping inside, and locking it behind me. I leaned against the door and jumped when Everest walked out of the closet. "Oh!"

"Sorry, my love, I didn't mean to startle you." He walked over to me. "It looks like you need a shower." He motioned to my blood-stained clothes.

"Yeah, it got a little messy when I slashed his face. Blood kind of went everywhere." I shrugged and walked past him to the bathroom.

I went to close the door and paused for a moment. "Everest..." "Yes?" He answered me. "Can I ask you something?" I turned around to look at him. Man, did he look great naked. "Of course, you can ask me anything." He flashed a brilliant white smile at me.

"I am struggling with this. I know that he deserves everything that is being given to him, but it doesn't give me the satisfaction I thought it would. Charlotte loved every second of it though. She always had a stronger stomach for things like that, I guess?" He had walked over to me and nodded his head.

"It is very hard to give out a sentence that you know someone deserves, but have a hard time because you are not like them. The best part, though, is if it is too much for your human form, allow your lycan full control over your entire being. Retreat back into your mind and shield your human side from such destruction. That is what I do sometimes, and what I used to do when first starting out." He smiled down at me. "But you need to shower. I will be here, waiting for you when you get out."

I nodded and took a long hot shower, washing everything away from my body. I would have to do that, for my sake and sanity.

"Give me control. I will make him suffer the way he deserves to suffer." Charlotte drifted through my mind.

"Are you sure? I feel so weak." / sighed.

"You are not weak. This is not a weakness, don't think that you are reserving your human side for our people." She argued.

"Yes, yes. I just want to be strong in all aspects of command." I felt annoyed at myself. "I will come in due time." She reassured me.

I wrapped myself in a towel and dried my hair. I hated dripping wet hair. It was the worst. I walked out of the bathroom in only a towel and looked at Everest. He was wearing a smile and I instantly felt better. He pat the bed next to him and I walked over to him. He pulled me down against him. "I have to meet back

up with Miranda" i protested.

“Nah, I sent word that you will be occupied.” He smiled at me. “Ohh? Well, what do you have planned then?”

“Loving you for the rest of the day and showing you how much I love you.” He told me and I felt heat fush up to my cheeks. He let out a little laugh.

“We you sure you can do this? I mean, are you ready?” I felt nervous and butterflies fluttered inside of me

“Oh, I am sure” He grinned and let out playful growl and flipped us so he was now on top of me. His head dipped down and pulled the lowel that was wrapped around me with his teeth. He tugged it until it pulled free and he moved it aside

He sat up more as he gazed down at me and I wiggled some under him. He moved his head back down and captured my mouth with his. His lips, when touching mine, sent sparks of electricity through my entire body. Instantly, from his touch, I felt myself already dripping for him. His tongue pressed against my lips and I opened my mouth, my own tongue greeting him. Our tongues tangled and pressed against one another in a beautiful dance of love, lust, want, and need.

My legs moved to wrap around him, pulling him closer to me. My hips lifted to meet him as i felt him hard against me. I let out a moan that he swallowed happily. His lips parted from mine, kissing my chin, down the left side of my jawline, to my ear where he nibbled softly. He paused as a hand moved along my side and up to my breast. He cupped it gently and moved the pad of his thumb over my now hard n****e. My head pressed back into the pillow on the bed and let a soft moan pass through my lips. He took his tongue down my neck and closed his mouth around where I wore his mark. I couldn't contain the sound that came out of my mouth as my nails dug into him

im smile against my skin as he worked his way down. His tongue swirled around my n****s and captured them in his mouth. His free hand slipped between my legs and pressed against my clit. My hips bucked upwards to him in want. He rubbed slowly with the right amount of pressure, driving me wild. His tongue slid down my stomach as he moved to settle down between my thighs. He buried his face between my thighs, his mouth capturing my button as his tongue teased it.

I screamed out in pleasure as he slipped a finger inside of me, moving in and out before entering another. Between his mouth licking and sucking every bit of me and his fingers working together, I was reaching my climax. I heard a rumbling growl from him and his deeplusterious voice “c'm for me, Avalynn. Now.” It was all I needed to tip myself over the edge. I came hard as he lapped up all of my juices.

He sat up and brought me up in a seamless motion. Our mouths hungrily found one another in a sloppy but passionate kiss. His hands were on either side of my face as our tongues explored the other's mouth. I pulled back and slid off the bed, dropping down to my knees. His hard member was stiff and at full attention, throbbing in my face. I took

him in my hand as I licked him from the base of his c”k to the head, my tongue swirling around the tip. His hands went to my hair, gathering a bunch of it in both of his hands. He let out a moan as I looked up at him. He guided my head up and down his shaft, pushing it to the limit as I gagged over his c”k.

He was huge and I was barely able to hold him in my mouth, let alone take him all in my mouth. His grip tightened on my hair as he stood up, bringing me to sit up on my knees. He moved his hips and thrust into my mouth slowly. His head tilted back as he moved faster and a growl was heard, followed by his own moan. He worked his c**k in and out of my mouth as he was making me gag, my eyes watering in response. I loved feeling him push down to the back of my throat.

He let my hair go and leaned down, helping me up. His hands moved to the sides of my face as a small smile tugged at the corner of his lips. He ran a thumb over the bottom half of my mouth. My lips parted as he slowly pushed his thumb into my mouth, my tongue moving to greet his thumb. I closed my lips over his thumb and softly sucked. He let out a moan and took his thumb out. His arms moved to wrap around me, he leaned down and captured my mouth as his hands gripped my ass, lifting me up. I wrapped my legs

around him, and felt him position himself.

When i felt him rubbing the tip of his ck against me, preparing to enter, I let out a gasp. He slowly entered me and felt every inch of him fill me. He waited for a moment, letting my body adjust to his size. I moaned and when my legs tightened around him, he began to slowly pump in and out of me. I felt him move as my back was now against the wall, helping him hold me at the perfect angle as he entered me harder, his body slamming into mine.

When we moved to the bed, he lifted my legs into the air, putting them together and moving them to rest against his right shoulder. One hand helped to hold him up as another hand moved to my left breast.

He softly pinched the n****e, rolling it between his fingers. I moaned as my head tilted back. I felt myself reach my climax and I looked up at him. He pushed harder and deeper into me and I screamed out his name. I felt his seed release inside of me as he let out a moan and still inside of me. I felt his c”k throbbing in me as he moved my legs to lay on either side of him as he settled between them.

We were both panting and softly kissing one another between our pants. He showered me with soft kisses as his fingers pushed the hair out of my face. He wore a smile on his face and after he placed a kiss upon my nose, he pulled back to look at me. “I love you.”

I smiled up at him “I love you.”

I moved some and he looked down at me. "You might want to stop wiggling unless you want to go for round two."

I lightly laughed and raised my brows up and down at him "You promise?"

He tickled my sides and caused me to fall into a fit of laughter. The laughter turned into kissing, kissing moved to another round of love-making.

I would say that this evening will be one of the best weekends in a long time. When we finally came out of our room, it was almost ten at night and we were starving. We made our way into the kitchen and ran into Miranda and Brent, who were making sundaes.

Miranda gave me a knowing look with a small smile. "I will see you tomorrow morning." She told me and I nodded my head to her.

"Tomorrow morning, we will resume where we left off" I smiled at her and watched them both leave. I turned to look over at Everest, who was rummaging through the cabinets.

"I don't know how to really cook. But, with that said, I can make a mean fried sausage, egg, and cheese sandwich on buttered toast?" He shrugged.

"Well, that sounds delicious." I sat down on the bar stool by the kitchen island, watching him as he cooked for us. He served it with a side of hash browns and a large glass of orange juice. It was honestly perfect

He told me as we ate that he would be joining Miranda and I as we dealt with Dexter. It would be nice and I felt that it was a good idea to have him with us. I wondered for a moment if he wanted to take out some anger on Dexter or would be there for more moral support. Either way, whatever he was truly there for, I was happy to have him by my side. I was happy that he was here and with me now.

We sat and ate in peace, enjoying one another's company. We laughed and reconnected with one another Which only made us stronger together for tomorrow. Honestly, with him by my side, I felt more confident, ready to get the dirty work done.