

And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 131: Birthday Surprises

Cassie.

Days passed and when Saturday finally came, I was prepared to have the night of my life, considering I had been unable to see Melissa for the last few days. Cooped up in the house was absolutely aggravating. I finished my final exams Thursday, a day ahead of schedule thanks to James and I was ready to be done with that part of my life and look forward to finding a way to leave this God awful pack and make a new life with Melissa on the West Coast.

Standing in front of my mirror, I tried on multiple different outfits, trying to figure a way to make myself look absolutely irresistible tonight, and ended up settling for a short black miniskirt and a black crop top that shimmered every time I moved.

It was gorgeous, and I felt absolutely gorgeous in it. I fluffed my purple, pink hair behind my back, smiling at the overall effect the entire outfit and my makeup had on me.

“Damn girl, you look absolutely delicious,” Melissa chuckled. from my door, causing me to look over my shoulder at her. I knew she had been on her way, but I hadn’t realized that she had already arrived.

“Thank you. It took me a few days to decide what I was going to actually wear, but I think I’m pretty pleased with the overall outfit.”

Turning from the mirror, I walked over towards her and wrapped my arms around her. She looked super cute in her dark skinny jeans and yellow tank top. She wasn’t a girly girl per se, like I could typically be, but she did do a very good job at making herself look absolutely ravishing.

The last few days I had thought more and more about the future I was going to have, and regardless of what my parents had thought and what other people thought I was going to end up doing, I had made the choice I would make my future what I wanted it to be.

Which included me telling Melissa tonight I wanted to be more than just friends with her. I wasn’t sure how she was going to react to that, but I had hoped everything would go the way I had dreamt it.

“It’s already starting to get dark, and I saw your dad’s out there going ahead and lighting the bonfire. If you’re done, why don’t we go ahead and head down?”

I couldn’t agree with her more. I was ready for the clock to strike 8:00 PM, which was the hour we were born the moment my mother had given birth during the battle. It would be the moment I would be able to finally find out if Melissa could be my mate, and even if she wasn’t... Well, I still wanted to be with her.

I never really gave thought to mates, and I didn’t particularly take advantage of it like my brother did. But the idea of being able to have someone to spend my life with, to love and care for me, no matter what kind of person I was, was enticing.

Even if it was someone who I wanted mated to.

Looping my arm into hers, we quickly made our way from my bedroom, heading down the stairs to mingle with the rest of the guests still arriving as time ticked by. There had to have been at least fifty people meandering a round my house.

My mother was in the kitchen with her friends as my dad’s wandered around the house, coming in and out, lighting the grill, preparing the bonfire, the same as they did every single year. The only difference being this year Lux and I were finally adults.

No more being forced to do things we didn’t want to do.

No more curfews, and having to stay in the pack. I was going to be free, and I was excited about it. My entire life had been caged, and now I would be an adult. I could do what I wanted.

The moment Melissa and I made our way outside, music and chaos consumed me. Everybody was dancing, laughing, having a good time, and for some reason, the turnout this year was larger than it ever had been.

My eyes quickly found my brother Pollocks, and as he stared

at me, his gaze narrowed and he frowned. He obviously wasn’t pleased with my outfit, but considering the attitude he had towards me since the day his truck tires got slashed, I could honestly give two fucks.

It wasn’t even me that had done it, but yet he and even my parents thought it was.

Go figure. I’m the rebellious teenager, the one who doesn’t ever listen and beats to her own tunes, so of course, I’m the one who did it. Fucking stereotyping assholes, if you ask me.

“So what do you wanna do first? Shall we get a drink?”

Taking a moment to think about Melissa’s offer, a grin slid across my face. “Sure. But if we’re going to get a drink, we’re going to get a real drink.”

Her eyes widened in surprise as she giggled and looked around to see if anybody had heard. “Aren’t your parents going to notice?”

Shrugging my shoulders, I tipped my head to the side and gestured for her to follow me. “Who cares if they notice I’m eighteen now? Well, at least I will be in two hours, so I can make my own choices. Plus, a friend owed me a favor and this happened to be it.”

Melissa was still seventeen and would be for another month, but that was okay. Her birthday being at the start of summer just meant when she did turn eighteen and we had our apartment on the West Coast, we would be able to have a lot more fun than we currently were having.

As we walked around the bonfire, heading for my secret spot that sat off to the side, I stepped around the bushes, revealing a dark navy blue cooler with a white top, I quickly popped open. Inside of it was a bag of ice, a couple cans of soda, and a very large bottle of whiskey.

It didn’t take me but a second to make Melissa and I a drink, and as we chug down our first glass, we quickly prepared for a second. “Shall we go find trouble?” I asked her with a mischievous smile, she nodded.

“Shit, trouble is your middle name.”

Wandering around, the last person I expected to see at my party was Lucas Vega, but there he stood on the other side of the bonfire, watching me. The flickering light of the fire cast shadows across his face as the moon rose high in the sky.

I didn’t think he was going to come, and I hadn’t seen him since that day after school. But it was obvious Melissa had seen I had noticed him, and as she nudged me, I glanced over towards her. She smiled and gestured with her head for me to go speak to him. “What are you waiting for?”

“Dude, absolutely not. Lucas Vega is completely off limits. Not to mention Lux would fucking kill us both if anything happened. He isn’t even my type.”

“Not your type?” she laughed hysterically. “Oh, come on. I have known you for years. He is SOOOO your type, Cassie.”

“Well... still, I can’t. It’s just asking for drama.”

Rolling her eyes, she smiled at me. "Cassie, you deserve to be happy. You can't keep putting off everything because of what Lux may say. He isn't going to have anything to do with your life once we leave, so don't miss out on opportunities like this. Lucas Vega may be a bad boy, but he's completely fucking hot."

Something about the way she spoke about Lucas made my heart ache. She was right. I did need to make a move, but the move I currently wanted to make was not on him, it was on her.

"Melissa, actually, I was wondering if I could talk to you about something."

She gazed at me with a waiting glance, but the moment I opened my mouth, the crowds began to sing happy birthday and my attention was taken from Melissa towards my parents, who were bringing out a very large birthday cake.

Realizing duty called, I gave her a sympathetic look and quickly walked over to where my parents were waiting so Lux and I could blow out our candles together.

The time had finally come. We were about to be eighteen and as the moment struck, I would be sent into a frenzy if my mate was near or at least that's what I was told.

I just hoped whoever it was wouldn't be disappointed when I told them my heart belonged to somebody else. That even though Melissa was my best friend, I had to have her in my life as well.

"Happy birthday, guys," My mother cooed as she stared at us with misty eyes, my father Damian wrapping his arm around her shoulder as James came up behind her and snuggled in close.

I couldn't help but admire the love my parents had, and hoped one day I would have that, too. No matter how much they pissed me off, they had a bond that couldn't be matched and I secretly longed for the day to understand what they felt about each other.

I longed for the day to have my mate look at me the way my fathers looked at my mom.

With a one...two... three... Lux and I blew out our candles and,

as we did, I felt an unfamiliar shiver run across my spine. I wasn't sure what it was, but as Lux turned to me, furrowing

his brows in confusion, my nose went up into the air and I inhaled deeply.

The smell was erotic and intoxicating. Almost like fresh rain on a summer day.

It was hard to explain what I was feeling, considering it wasn't really a scent per se that attracted me, but almost like a pull to follow this invisible rope connecting me with some body else.

My mother must have sensed what was going on, because as I looked at her, hope filled her eyes and she nodded her head as if encouraging me to follow it.

My father's each glanced between them, seemingly uncertain if they were ready for this moment and, as for Lux, he held nothing but disappointment in his gaze.

As if he did not feel what I was feeling, but I already knew he wouldn't. I had seen his mate, and she didn't belong to this pack. Even though I had hoped by this point, she would have moved here.

Unable to control the pull, I turned and walked, following this invisible tether pulling me in a direction towards my future.

Towards someone who I was meant to be with.

As I passed around by the bonfire. I came to a halt for a moment at the place where I had last seen Melissa and my heart swelled. It was her. She was my mate, and with excitement. I pressed forward quicker. My movements took me towards the treeline where she must have been waiting for me.

Step by step. I was enveloped in darkness until a small

clearing up a head caught my gaze and I spotted a figure that stood there, waiting. The only problem was when I stepped through the clearing, it was obvious it wasn't Melissa who was waiting there.

Instead, it was a familiar figure I would never forget.

One that had made me feel complicated in more ways than

one.

As Lucas Vega turned to face me, his eyes flashed gold with recognition. He was my mate, and if he knew, that meant he had known for months.

Because if memory serves me right, he turned eighteen four months ago.

And the prick never said a fucking thing.

Chapter 132: Mated to a Lycan

Mouth parted, I stood in utter disbelief, staring at Lucas Vega. His eyes flecked with gold as he stared upon my figure, moving from the shadows out into the moonlight. How is it that this man, a man I had detested because of his cocky personality, was the man I was supposed to be mated to?

So many questions ran through my mind, and as I got closer to him, flutters of nervousness flowed through my stomach. "You are my mate?"

It was a question, but it was also more of a statement. I couldn't believe the Fates had paired me with Lucas Vega, the notorious bad boy who wanted nothing more than to make my brother's life a living hell.

"Yes, I am. I waited so long for you to realize I was your mate, so I didn't have to be away from you any longer." Lucas stepped closer towards me, and as he did, I felt myself become completely uneasy.

I shouldn't have felt this way around my mate, and yet I couldn't help it.

"You turned eighteen four fucking months ago and you couldn't bother to tell me back then I was your mate? What the fuck is wrong with you?"

My explosion was the first thing to come out of my mouth after realizing he knew. I wasn't actually thinking when I had spoken, but now I had said what I did, I didn't regret it. Four

months he had known I was his mate and never once did he bother to tell me who in the hell does something like that?

"I didn't want to tell you because I wanted you to figure it out on your own. It would have been unfair of me to come to you and tell you I was your mate before you even turn eighteen. You deserved to enjoy the moment of finding me."

So he was thinking about me. I found the notion sweet, but I couldn't be clouded.

No matter how badly I wanted those gold-flecked eyes to stare down at me as his plump, thick lips kissed me, I couldn't let my emotions take control. This was Lucas Vega. The same Lucas Vega who had tried countless times to piss me off, tease me, taunt me, and do everything in his power to come between my brother and I since the school year started.

The moment he stood only a foot in front of me, shivers of pleasure spilled down my spine. His warm, fresh rain scent wrapped around me, trying to comfort me, but all the while my stubborn mind couldn't get past the fact he had lied and hid this from me for four months.

Perhaps I was being ridiculous. Hell, maybe my stubborn mind was taking control, but at the end of the day I was Cassie, the Alpha's daughter. No way in hell was going to let some bad boy come into my life and try to ruin things.

The moment he reached out and ran his hand down my arm, I was pulled from my thoughts and jumped back from his touch. The recoil caused him to growl as his eyes narrowed in my direction. "Don't do that."

"Don't do what? Move away from you?" I sneered. "If I wanted
1 to touch you, I would have allowed it."

Even with his eyes narrowed, a grin crossed the corner of his lips, turning up as he watched me. "I knew from the moment I met you that you were going to be feisty, and even when I found out you were my mate, I watched you from the shadows. I couldn't help but wonder if you were going to act like this."

That didn't sound stalkerish at all. I internally groaned. "Look, it's obvious that the moon goddess made a mistake. There's no way we can be mated."

He sneered at my comment, an utter look of disgust crossing his face. "Are you rejecting me?"

Was I rejecting him? I wasn't quite sure. Honestly, I didn't know how I felt. I had waited for this moment for so long, and though I didn't quite believe in mates, because I wanted Melissa, I found myself conflicted.

"I don't know what I'm doing," I replied softly. The honest answer I gave him was enough for him to quickly clear the space between us and wrap his arm around my waist, pulling me close to his body.

"Don't reject me. Give me a chance to show you I can be good to you, that I can give you a life that you want." As much as I wanted to believe him, there was a darkness that surrounded him which made me wary.

A darkness that called my name, wanting me to give in.

I wasn't the kind of girl who could easily love. With all of the power that radiated inside me, I was constantly cautious.

Worried someone would try to take advantage of me, worried someone would try to use me to hurt the ones I loved.

Melissa was the only one outside of my family I trusted.

The only one I could ever let in.

She was everything to me, and nothing would change that.

Past had proved I couldn't trust men. One time, I tried to let a man in and that failed. Even the one-night stands I had to try and relieve the built up tension in my body proved to be nothing but a waste of time from men who thought they could get in good with my family. Fucking assholes, all of them.

"Lucas-" The moment I said his name, I hadn't been thinking. For forever I'd always called him by his last name, and as I said his first name, his lips descended upon mine and took my breath away in the most passionate and heated kiss I'd ever had. His tongue fought for dominance over mine, flicking and tasting me, a deep rumble erupted from his chest.

Every ounce of my body screamed for the desire to have more, but I couldn't. I was so conflicted about how I felt, I wanted to cry. I was honestly overthinking it more than I probably should have.

So, after he parted his lips from mine, I quickly placed my hand against his chest and stepped back, trying to catch my breath. Glancing at him, wide eyed in shock, I turned and ran.

I wasn't sure why I was running, hell wasn't sure what I was doing at all. But the moment I cleared the woods and my eyes landed on Lux, I knew bad things were about to happen. "Lux,

please. It's not what you think."

My brother narrowed his gaze at me with a disgusted look in his eyes. "Not what I think. What the fuck are you doing with him?"

"I'm her mate. I have a right to be with her." Lucas's voice caused shivers once more to cross over my skin, and as I looked over my shoulder at him, I watched him step from the shadows with his arms crossed over his chest in a defensive manner.

"He's your mate?! Are you fucking kidding me? This piece of shit is the man you're meant to be with?" Pollux was being completely unreasonable and I was slightly offended he would even talk about Lucas like that.

"Lux, you-you're being unreasonable," I stammered. "Can we not do this tonight? Let's just take tonight to finish enjoying the party and then tomorrow we can talk about this."

I saw the look in my brother's eye I had only seen a handful of times before. He was angry, far past angry, and with the power flowing through him, he was slowly spiraling out of control. I wasn't so sure why he hated Lucas so much, but it was obvious whatever was going to happen was not going to be good.

"I should have fucking killed you a long time ago," he growled as he glared at Lucas. "You will never have her. I told you before to stay away and you just couldn't fucking do it, could you?"

What the hell did he mean, he told him before? Does this mean my own brother knew that Lucas was my mate, and he

never told me?

"Did you know?" I asked him in shock as I slapped my hand across his chest, watching his eyes dart to me, his teeth bared and a slow shift coming over him. "Did you know that he was my mate and you didn't say anything?"

"Of course I fucking knew. He came snooping around the day he turned eighteen looking for you. I didn't approve of him from the beginning, and if you thought for a second I would ever approve of a man like him being with my sister, then you're sadly mistaken."

"Pollux, that isn't for you to decide!" I screamed in frustration.

"It is my right as your brother, and the future Alpha of this pack, Cassie. When are you going to learn that what you want doesn't fucking matter!"

"Go fuck yourself, Pollux. You're just jealous I actually have a mate!" I snapped back, and as I did, he raised his hand to slap me but stopped when a deep, evil growl resonated from Lucas. Lucas was daring him to do it, and Pollux better reconsider.

"*Your fucking mutt thinks he's going to do something...*" Pollux laughed in an egotistical way as he glanced around the area. I *couldn't understand why he was acting like this*, and with embarrassment and ever raging hormones, I felt the tears fill *my eyes*. I refused to let them fall.

"*Are you crying?*" Pollux gasped with laughter. "You have no one to blame but yourself."

Narrowing my gaze at him, I let a surge of power flow through

1288 (Vouchers,

1. me. "Shut your fucking mouth."

Pollux seemed concerned for a moment, and then the concern washed away. "What are you going to do, Cassie? Are you going to fucking hurt me like you did before? Maybe it will be one of your other siblings this time instead... you're fucking pathetic, Cassie. Always with the enemy."

“He isn’t Marcus, Lux. Don’t compare them,” I whispered, watching as my brother’s eyes softened for a moment before turning hard once more. “You always preach about how mates are so important, and yet you’re acting like this? I don’t get it.”

He had been cruel to me more than once, but I just didn’t understand why he would be cruel to me about something like this.

The chaos happening between the three of us had started to draw the attention of others, and as they looked on, I realized if I didn’t get control of this, something bad was going to happen. “Lux, you have to stop.”

“Don’t tell me what to do. I will not listen to a girl who whores herself out to the enemy.” His words were triggering Lucas, and I could feel the tension between the three of us growing slowly out of control.

“Look, stop. We need to take the night to think this over and tomorrow we can... we can do something about it then... just for tonight, Lux... Please.” Panicking, I watched my brother step forward, ignoring my words, and as I looked towards Lucas, he too was standing prepared for whatever my brother had to throw at him.

I didn’t understand why Lucas could remain so quiet through

this whole conversation, but it was as if he was trying to allow me to handle this without him interjecting, which I respected and was slightly shocked by. “Don’t do this, Lux. It’s only going to end badly for the both of us.”

“Don’t you dare tell me what I should and shouldn’t do in my own pack. You’re fucking nothing but a goddamn pain in my ass,” Lux growled as he clenched his fist at his side, stepping forward.

“I said enough, Lux.” | screamed at him as I used my hands to push him back. However, I should have known it would be useless, because in one swoop, he shoved me, tossing me aside to the ground.

A roar unlike anything I had ever heard escaped Lucas’ lips, and as I turned to look at him, I watched as the shift came over causing me to realize he too was half-breed.

Natural werewolves were not able to partially shift. They

either shifted into a wolf or they were human, but here before me, Lucas stood with fangs protruding over his lips, his eyes completely golden with black swirling masses, and his hands had razor-sharp claws.

Oh, my god. Lucas was a fucking Lycan.

Chapter 133: Saying Goodbye

They say when you lose something you love the most, your world stops spinning and nothing makes sense anymore. I never thought much about what my life would be like without the people closest to me. But the moment my life was faced with hard choices and bad decisions, I realized there was no

turning back.

“How dare you touch what’s mine?” The roared comment that came from Lucas echoed throughout the area. Panic consumed those around us as they watched the scene before them unfold. People went running, screaming for help, and I knew somewhere close by, my parents were trying desperately to find out what was causing the chaos.

The chaos centered around me.

“Stop!” I screamed as the two guys went at it with each other. Claws flying through the air, slashes being made upon skin, howls of pain, roars of anger. It was all too much for me, and as I jumped to my feet, I tried desperately to find a way I could stop at all.

There was one way, but using my magic was forbidden by my parents and the pack. I wasn’t allowed to do that, but as I tried to see another way around it, I couldn’t.

I didn’t shift into my Lycan form for a reason because I was more uncontrollable than my brother. But I so desperately didn’t want either Lux or Lucas to get hurt.

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With panic setting into my racing heart, anger bubbled inside. me, mixed with confusion, hatred and love. I didn’t know what I was doing, but before I knew it, I allowed myself to change.

The only problem was it wasn’t the change I was expecting. The change that ended up consuming me was of power and darkness. A rage boiling inside of me that finally exploded with a screaming yell for them to stop.

The power bursted from my hands, my body and my soul was unlike anything I had ever felt before. There were those who had made it away in time from where we had been consumed in chaos, but those that did not were thrown back hundreds of feet, landing on the ground, pleading for the chaos to stop.

“Cassie, no!” My mother screamed as my parents tried to get to me in time. Both Lucas and Lux both turned to me in shock as the power radiated off my body in green waves.

All I wanted tonight was to enjoy the time with my family I had before I left for college. To enjoy my birthday and possibly meet my mate even though Lucas was not the mate I was hoping for.

Yet that didn't happen. Instead, hell broke loose all because I was paired with a man my brother hated.

As both of them turned to me, they slowly transformed back into their normal forms, their clothes completely shredded, their half-naked bodies bared before me.

"Cassie, you have to stop," Lux pleaded with me as he held his hands up as a sign of defense. "You can't do this. Look, we're not fighting anymore. Please, you have to calm down."

It didn't matter if I wanted to stop or not, at the moment I was unable to, it was as if I had taken a back seat in my mind, and the forefront of power which controlled me currently was driving this ride.

"Why is it that every time I find something in my life that could possibly make me happy, you try to stop it?" | bellowed at him. "I'm your sister. Why can't you be happy for me?"

"I am happy for you, Cassie, please, you have to stop. You're scaring people, and if you're not careful, you will not be able to redeem yourself for whatever you do when you completely lose it."

He was trying to reason with me, that was obvious, but he was doing so in a very poor manner. I didn't understand why he couldn't just let me be happy, let me figure my own shit out. He always thought he had to control me, tell me what I needed to do.

He was my brother, not my keeper, and he didn't seem to want to understand that.

"Cassie," Melissa's soft words caught me off my guard for a moment, and glancing at her, a part of me calmed at her presence. However, that was quickly ruined when Pollux took note of Melissa, stepping closer and decided to open his mouth.

"Look, Cassie, even Melissa is scared of you."

Narrowing my eyes, a low growl echoed from my throat. "Don't you dare say her name."

"...Or what? If you keep this up, there is no redemption for

you, Cassie. Someone is going to get hurt all because you don't know how to keep your shit together."

“You’re such a fucking liar. You are not happy for me. You never have been and you never will be. You have been nothing but jealous of me since the day we came into our powers and you blame me for every moment of your life, not being exactly how you want it.”

The words I spoke were me, but then again, they weren’t. It was as if my subconscious was tired of the bullshit and finally spoke of everything that had rolled through my mind over the years.

It seemed to hit my brother hard with what I said, but he tried to distract me. Something I wasn’t prepared for.

I hadn’t been paying attention to Lucas, who had calmly been circling behind me. I wasn’t sure what he was trying to do, but the moment his arms wrapped around my waist, my brother tried to tackle me down.

The problem was they didn’t realize how much power I was on the verge of using until it was too late and flew from me in a frenzy, seeking to hit any target in its path.

I hadn’t meant for anybody to get hurt.

I had it meant for things to go sideways and had they just let me be to calm down on my own, perhaps things would have been fine.

My mother’s scream echoed around me. I looked up from the

ground over towards the fire. I spotted Melissa laying there unmoving, and my heart absolutely broke.

As if a combustion inside me had finally let go, I screamed in frustration and pain. My eyes wide with fear as tears rolled down my cheeks. The power within me exploding, tossing Lucas and Lux from my body as I quickly climbed to my hands and knees and scrambled over to where Melissa layed.

“No. Please No.” I never meant for anybody to get hurt and yet the one person I had loved and trusted my entire life was now gone. She lay there, her eyes wide open, her hair sprawled around her.

There was nothing I could do now, but I wanted to. Goddess, I wanted to.

Pulling her body up onto my lap, I kissed the top of her head, my hand running over her cheek as tears fell down my face landing onto her own. “It’s going to be okay, Melissa. Don’t let go. I can bring you back. I’ll find some way to bring you back.”

I had never lost control like this. I had never allowed myself to lose control like this and the one time I did, in order to try to stop two men I cared about from killing each other, the one person I cared more about than anything in this world was taken from me.

“Cassie, sweetie... What did you do?” My mother’s voice brought me to the forefront of what had actually happened and as I let my eyes slide up to hers, I couldn’t hold back the sob that escaped me.

“I didn’t mean to... I just wanted them to stop fighting, Mama, I didn’t mean to.”

I broke in half and as I did, she broke in half with me falling to her knees, because Melissa had been like a daughter to her all

these years as well. She cried with me holding both me and Melissa. “I know you didn’t. I’m so sorry.”

“We can bring her back. I can bring her back, Mama. I can do *it*.”

My mom once had the power to bring my father, Damien, back, and if she could do it, I could do it too. There was a way for it to work. There had to be.

“Cassie, you have to let her go.” To my left Damien stood with Talon. They both stared at me tight, lipped with sad expressions on their faces as Damien shook his head.

“You can’t bring her back, sweetie. She’s gone. What your mother did for me isn’t the same thing. It took all of them to bring me back and the only way that was able to happen was because of the Lycan gene and because of the celestial blood. Melissa isn’t one of us.”

I knew what they were saying was true. She wasn’t one of us, at least not by blood. But she was mine, and I loved her. I loved her more than anything and now she was gone.

“No, that can’t be it. We had plans. We were going to go to college...” I whispered softly. “I never got the chance to tell her. Daddy, I never got to tell her the truth.”

“You didn’t, sweetheart and losing somebody you love hurts. But right now you have to let her go and come with me.” Damien’s words were not the words I wanted to hear and even as I glanced at Lux and also Lucas, I could see how remorseful they were.

Had they not tried picking this stupid fight if this would have happened?

Melissa would still be alive, and I wouldn’t be a murderer.

Seeing I wasn't going to move, my mother had my father's help pull me away from Melissa's body, and as they did, a part of me died with her.

How was I ever going to be able to go on without her?

She had been with me my entire life? She had been my rock, my anchor to this world since the day my powers came into play and now she was gone.

A swirling mass of wind and a crack of thunder in the distance brought all of us to attention and as it had happened once before, a void opened within space and through it I came face to face with someone I hadn't seen since I was a child.

Kara, my grandfather's Valkyrie.

"It seems that the party is over and things didn't turn out the way they should have."

Anger flashed through me at her comment. It wasn't needed and even though I wanted more than anything to put her in her place, I couldn't. "Go fuck yourself, Kara."

A chuckle escaped the woman as she looked at Melissa's body and then turned to look over her shoulder. I wasn't sure what to expect, but before I knew it, a large, burly figure of a man with a white beard stepped through the portal.

The white robes he wore screamed hierarchy and I realized this himself was Odin, the man my father Hale had told me about often.

He wasn't pleased by the sight before him and everyone, including my parents, seemed to quake under his gaze. All except me.

As silver eyes stared at me, he shook his head. "I should have known that this would have happened, and it is my fault that it did. A young life was lost because I thought my daughter could keep my grandchildren in check."

"Excuse me, how dare you say something like that?" My mother snapped, standing to her feet as she came to stand in front of me. "Get out of here now. You're not welcome."

"Child, you no longer may say anything. We had a deal, and I gave you till their eighteenth birthday. Now I was going to be nice enough to give him a bit of extra time to say goodbye to their family and friends, but after this? There's no way that I can allow that to happen."

The tone of his voice echoed through the air, and as it did, the surge of power and authority echoed with it. He was right, though. I should have gone a long time ago. I was dangerous and because of my inability to control myself, Melissa got killed.

Glancing at my parents, I could see they were willing to fight to keep me here and there was no way in hell I was going to allow that to happen.

I couldn't allow someone else to get hurt because of me and honestly, disappearing from this place sounded a lot better than staying put. "I'll go."

"What?" My mother gasped as she looked over her shoulder at me. "Don't say that. No, you're not. I've worked too hard for

too many years to protect you guys. You're not going. You're my children."

"Mom...-/I just killed my best friend..." I stammered, trying to make sense of what had happened. "Do you really think that I can stay here after that? Do you really think that ... I could risk somebody else getting killed because of me? Because I can't control myself?"

She was speechless at my comment, and there was nothing she could say. I was a risk to everybody around me in the state I was, and until I learned how to handle this, nobody was safe.

"Cassie, you can't go. You belong here with me." Lucas' soft words only irked my nerves even further. I knew he was my mate, but I couldn't even think about that right now.

Turning to him, I tried to hold back further tears, but instead they just continued like a river down my face. "Why would you want somebody like me? I'm a murderer. You're free to be with whoever you want."

A chuckle escaped my grandfather at this point and as looked at him, his eyes were focused on Lucas. "Interesting. How in the world did I not notice you before?"

Lucas' entire demeanor shifted, and he became fearful as he tried to step away from the entire situation. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"Oh, I think you do, little celestial Lycan." Gasps echoed around the area, and as Odin looked at each of us, an amused smile hinted within the depths of his eyes. "I suppose instead of two, I'll be taking three."

Chapter 134: Welcome to Asgard

Pollux.

Everything had happened with Cassie was like a movie playing in slow motion while I stood by unable to do anything. I had tried to tackle her, to stop her from hurting anybody, and even Lucas tried to calm her down.

Yet, her powers bounced back and Melissa, her best friend, ended up getting killed.

Never in my life did I think something like this would have happened. Of course, I hated my sister for some of the shit she did, but I never meant for this situation to get out of hand. It broke my heart seeing her shed tears for a girl I had watched her grow up with. A girl who had been her only real true friend.

I lost myself the moment I saw her step out of the woods with Lucas and because I did, it started the trickling rollercoaster of events that played out. So in a way, I was responsible for Melissa's death as well, and that was something I would never be able to forget.

How was I supposed to be the future Alpha if I couldn't even rationally control myself.

"It's time to go," Kara, Odin's Valkyrie said as she stood before me with her wings flexing behind her back and an eerie gaze in her eyes. She was a mysterious woman, one I had frequently seen over the years when she came to check in

with her family, and as I gazed at my mother, I realized this was it.

Tears streamed down her cheeks as my fathers stood at her side. She had been so adamant for years this situation was never going to happen, and between her and our fathers, they had tried so hard to help prepare us, to control the uncontrollable.

I was prepared to go though. Priscilla had told me it would be inevitable and honestly, I had been excited. The idea of learning from the gods, and then being an Alpha who far surpassed the training of normal wolves, it was a calling I desired regardless if it meant I would have to remain away an entire year.

for

With a heavy sigh, I walked towards my mother and wrapped my arms around her. The woman who had given birth to me and been my rock for my entire life. I would miss her when I was gone, but I knew one day I would return.

"It's okay, mom. Everything is going to be okay."

"How can you say that you're both leaving me?" she replied tearfully. "How can you say it's going to be okay?"

"Because it will be." I smiled gently as I wiped a tear from her eye. "It's only going to be a year, and if you think about it, that's the same length of time it would have taken me to go through the Alpha academy."

Taking a deep breath, my mother sighed, nodding her head. It was going to be hard for her, as it would be for any parent, but she still had four of my siblings at home to look after, and I knew that would keep her focus.

“Make sure you look after your sister,” Damian said firmly as he clasped a hand upon my shoulder. “I know you both haven’t been close for a long time, but you have to overcome this.”

“What about Melissa, what will happen?” I asked, letting my gaze fall to Melissa’s body being tended to by the pack doctors.

“Don’t worry about that. I’m taking care of it,” Hale’s words echoed through my ears and as I looked at him, I knew he would. Being an Alpha wasn’t an easy thing, and this was something I would have to learn eventually.

“I won’t let you guys down,” I told them with confidence as squared my shoulders and held my head high. “I’ll come back as the man I need to be.”

“I know you will.” Damian chuckled. “Just take care of Cassie. She... she’s going to need you more than you realize.”

Nodding my head, I finished my goodbyes, and as I turned, expecting my sister to be waiting for me, I was shocked to find she wasn’t. Instead, I watched as Odin gave her a small smile placing his hand on the top of her back as she proceeded to step through the portal without so much as looking back to say goodbye.

She was a hollow shell of herself, and with every moment she was away, I prayed the gods would be able to fix her. That by some miracle she would become who she was meant to be, because I couldn’t be expected to look after her forever.

I was honestly surprised to see Lucas was going along so willingly. He didn’t seem like the kind of person who would, and looking at how he was a Lycan as well, I could only imagine why.

Stepping forward, Kara waited for Lucas and I, and as we stepped through the portal, I knew there was no turning back, and honestly I was excited.

As a blinding white light filled my vision, I felt myself being twisted and pulled until peace flowed over my body like a warm blanket. Gasping, I looked around and found myself lost and alone but something in front of me called me forward.

With one foot in front of the other, I made my way through

the white clouds of mist encircling my body until a small, green clearing came into view and I took in the sweet smell of fresh air and bright blue skies.

“Welcome to Asgard.” Odin grinned as he held his hands up into the air, spinning slowly to show us the magical realm we were entering. I honestly wasn’t sure what I was expecting, but I can promise it definitely wasn’t this.

Tall white pillars loomed around us, holding up large white marble roofs seemingly cascading far off into the distance. As I stepped forward, I realized among this pantheon styled buildings laid mountains decorated in green forests and waterfalls. There had to be a thousand buildings all built into the mountain sides, and turning to Odin, I frowned in confusion.

That I expected something far darker or perhaps more isolate, but instead, I was in a city,

“Where is Asgard?” Lucas asked, causing me to turn and face him. He was just as confused as I was, and I was glad he asked the question instead of me.

Ex9 Hot

There was no way I was going to make myself look like an idiot.

“In time you will learn,” Odin replied in a booming voice deep and distinct it made your soul shake when he spoke and there was amusement in his tone. He headed towards the large white steps of the massive marble building in front of us. I couldn’t help but be wary of the man he was. “Follow me this way, and I will have Freya show you to your rooms. You can settle for tonight, and tomorrow you start school.”

“School?” Both Cassie and I said at the same time as we looked at each other in confusion and then looked back to Odin. We had just graduated school. The last thing we wanted to do right now was go back to school.

“Yes, school. You didn’t think you were just going to come here, pick up an axe or throw in some fighting skills and we would let you on your merry way, did you?”

“Well, yeah,” I muttered to myself as a giggle caught my attention and I took notice of a beautiful woman walking towards Odin.

She was beautiful, more beautiful than I could ever have imagined. It was clear she far surpassed my mother in age, her long golden strands were perfectly braided down her back as a crown sat upon her head.

“It’s lovely to see you all,” she said with a soft almost sing song voice. Her eyes scanned the three of us before falling onto my sister. “Castor, sweetheart. I have been waiting for this day since you were born.”

What the hell? She was only interested in my sister. What kind

of bullshit was that?

“Sorry, I don’t know who you are,” Cassie said softly, her eyes darting to me with confusion as she shrugged her shoulders.

“That’s Freya. The motherly goddess who looks over us all.” Lucas belted out as he crossed his arms over his shoulders, a content gaze on his face as he glanced over at me and smirked.

“That would be correct, I am Freya, and you must be Lucas the celestial Lycan we hadn’t been expecting... no worries, though. I will figure out who you came from in time.”

Lucas scoffed with annoyance as he rolled his eyes. “I’m no one, and there’s nothing to know.”

Freya and Odin shared a knowing glance between each other at his comment before she clapped her hands together. “Let’s get you to your rooms. That way you can get freshened up before dinner.”

Not bothering to ask any questions, I remained quiet as followed behind Cassie and Lucas. It didn’t please me to know, once again, my sister was the center of attention. I got she was unique, but for once, I had hoped the spotlight wouldn’t shine on her.

The moment we stepped into the halls, I took note of how more extravagant the inside of this building was to the outside. White walls decorated with ornate objects, and paintings of historical scenes littered the area. It was cool, but with how fast Freya was moving, I didn’t have time to take in it all.

It was brilliant to think, in a place like this, they had created something with such beauty. Who knew with everything these people had, they could create something so much closer to nature than the world I was used to growing up in.

The moment we turned down another hallway, I quickly realized this must have been the residential area. Doors of various designs lined the walls for what seemed miles and upon every door was a name.

The first door we came to was Lucas’ room, his name engraved with silver upon the wooden door. I didn’t realize that this place would be so name specific, and as Freya opened the door, we were met with black and red decor, that reminded me of a sex den I had once seen on a porn movie. “Uh-nice decor,” I chuckled, watching as Lucas rolled his eyes.

“Yes, all of these rooms were decorated based on your personalities and the way you lived in the human realm.” Her words caught me off guard, and instantly I worried about what mine would look like.

“Come on, Cassie.” Lucas looked to Cassie expectedly, and as he did, Cassie crossed her arms over her chest and raised a brow in his direction.

“Uh-no.”

“No?” He furrowed his brows. “What do you mean, no? I’m your mate.”

A small snicker came from Freya as she clasped her hands in front of her and smiled. I wasn’t sure what she found funny, but maybe it was the same thing I found funny. My sister was out right refusing to go stay in Lucas’ room.

“Lucas, Cassie may be your mate, but that doesn’t mean she has to stay with you. She has her own room, and you have no claim over her, I’m afraid.” Freya’s comment didn’t seem to sit well with him and walking into his room, he quickly slammed

the door.

“I guess he didn’t like that,” I muttered as Freya held her tongue and quickly turned, continuing down the hallway.

“Your room is right here, Pollux.” As she went to grab the handle, I quickly beat her to it and smiled.

“I got it. Thanks again for this. I’ll see you guys at dinner.”

The last thing I wanted was for my sister to see the things I was into. I wasn’t sure if that was the shit in the room, but there was no way I was going to risk being mocked by her if my room looked anything like Lucas’ room.

With a shrug of her shoulders, I watched Freya and Cassie disappear further down the hallway, and as they did, a sigh of relief escaped me before I took a deep breath. With a fleeting glance at my name engraved across the door, I turned the handle and stepped into my room.

I wasn’t sure what I had expected, but blue walls and modern style decor definitely wasn’t it. I felt like I was staring at a more mature version of my bedroom back home, and with it, I found myself slightly annoyed. Lucas had gotten a sex room, or at least that’s what the glimpse reminded me of.

Instead, I was faced with blues, whites, and silver. A ship’s captain style room with a large golden anchor on the far wall. I was a wolf, not a sea captain, and even though the room was really nice, I felt slightly let down.

Part of me was hoping for something dark and dangerous, but I wasn’t going to complain. Instead, I would pay less attention to the minor details of my stay and look forward to what was to come.

Taking the time to walk around and admire everything, my eyes took in everything from the large king-size bed with a dark navy blue comforter. To the small sofa and a desk near a large floor to ceiling bookcase. It was the typical shit you would see in a room, but on a larger scale.

“Guess this is as good as it gets,” I muttered to myself as I jumped onto the bed and closed my eyes. This was the start of something better for us all, and if I had to be here for the next year, I was just gonna have to make the most of it.

Chapter 135: Meeting Trixie

Cassie.

The moment we appeared in the realm of the gods, I found myself taken aback by the sights in front of me. Rolling green hills and high mountains lined the vicinity. The white marble cathedral styled buildings and architecture were breathtaking. The one thing, though, which struck me the most, was how kind Freya was. I had never met her in person, but I had heard stories my mother had told me of the kind of woman she was.

How she was kind and caring. How she was a mother figure to all that were around her. I wasn't looking to get close to anyone, but something about her made me want to trust her. Something about her was familiar.

The moment she guided me down the hall, I found myself in a void of tunnel vision unable to take in the marvels of the area. As much as someone may have been excited to take in the new place we were going to be residing, I couldn't.

The only thing playing through my mind was Melissa was gone, and I had killed her. How was I supposed to be excited or even interested in being here when I had done one of the worst things someone could have possibly done?

Every now and again, she turned to glance at me as if checking if I was okay, and when we stopped at Lucas' room and he expected me to follow him, it honestly made me despise him even more.

The audacity of him to expect me to be okay with everything that happened, and jump at the opportunity to be his mate, was fucking ridiculous. I was glad Freya came to my rescue. She made it clear I was able to choose my own path and it gave me more confidence in the whole mate situation.

“Here we are.” Her voice pulled me out of my thoughts as we stopped before a large black wooden door with a black steel handle. From the outside, someone would have thought it was a dungeon door, and part of me expected it to be, but when she opened the door, I was surprised by the site in front of me.

The room was large, far larger than the guys had been, and on the farthest wall sat billowing black sheer curtains leading to an open door with a balcony. Glancing at Freya, she gestured for me to enter, and as I did, I took a hesitant step.

Dark oak floors were decorated with white, black, and gray fur rugs. In the center of the room, sat against the longest of the walls, was a massive black four poster bed with the same sheer curtains hanging from the railings that hung by the open balcony doorway.

It was more than I could have asked for, and turning to Freya I frowned in confusion.

“Why is my room bigger than theirs?”

She paused for a moment, opening and closing her mouth. before shrugging her shoulders. “We figured you could use more space. Plus, you have a small living room set off to the side here, and even an art station to continue your work-”

“I doubt I will be able to paint again,” I murmured, casting my

eyes from the paint station they had set up for me, towards the balcony that called my name.

Stepping through the billowing black curtains, I let the cool air of the afternoon sun greet me. From the looks of it, their time was different from ours back home, but the sun was slowly setting and as it touched the tops of the mountains, wondered if I would lose control here just like I did back home.

“Cassie, I know that you’re upset and I’m sorry you lost your friend, but you can’t let that stop you from controlling the life you have ahead of you.”

Sneering in disgust at the thought, I shook my head. “How can possibly think of a life ahead of me when I killed the person | loved?”

Turning to her, she gave me a sad smile and sighed. “I wish | could bring her back for you, but I can’t. Everything happens for a reason, and because she had a pure soul, I can promise you she will be reborn one day.”

“Reborn?” I asked, pausing at the idea. “What do you mean?”

“You don’t honestly think that when you die that’s just it?” The laughter that escaped her I didn’t find amusing. I wasn’t asking for her to laugh at me. I didn’t know how things worked. My parents only ever told me what I was supposed to know and nothing else.

“I don’t see what’s so amusing.”

Taking a moment, she cleared her throat and sighed. "When you die, you're reborn, or at least most of you are. Melissa, like some of the others who are pure-hearted, are given this

opportunity."

Hearing this made me feel slightly better, but it didn't stop the ache in my heart from the loss of my friend. "Oh. So am I going to be when I die?"

Freya hesitated a moment, before opening and closing her mouth again before simply smiling.

"That's a conversation for another day, but don't worry, it's nothing for you to bother with right now. All I want you to do is to get situated in your new room."

Before I could reply a soft voice called out from inside my room. "Knock knock!"

Stepping towards the open door, I peered through the sheer black curtains and frowned. A girl stood there about my age with bright electric blue hair that sat in two buns on the top of her head, her eyes a hypnotically glowing green.

"Who are you?" I asked before glancing back at Freya.

"This is your assistant for your entire time here. She will tell you anything you need to know and be here to help you get situated. I have a feeling you both will get along very well." Freya replied before quickly making her way towards the door.

Running after her, I grabbed her wrist before she could leave my room, and watched as she turned to me with the kindest

eyes I had ever seen. "Cassie-"

"Tell me that I'm not making a mistake being here... Tell me you can fix me."

Freya's eyes glanced up towards the young woman in the room. "Help her get ready for dinner."

She refused to answer my question and as my grip on her slipped, I watched her disappear down the hallway, out of sight. The silence of my question was almost an answer on its own, and with every bit of hope slipping from me, I quickly realized there was a chance I would never leave this place.

"So-" the girl said cheerfully. "I hope you like the room. It took forever to get things right, but I did manage to get most of your stuff-"

Spinning to face her, I frowned in confusion. "Most of my stuff?"

“Uh-yep.” She nodded. “I couldn’t bring everything from your room, of course, but your mother helped me pack everything she thought you would want.”

“You saw my mother... And she helped you pack my stuff?”

The girl raised a brow with a smirk on her lips as she scoffed with laughter. “That’s what I said... Did you hit your head on the way here?”

Did I hit my head? Was she being serious right now?

“No. I just didn’t know some random girl was going to go through my stuff.”

“Oh, I didn’t.” She laughed. “Well, not most of it, anyway. Your mom picked it out, and I snapped my fingers and brought it here.”

This girl was overly excited about what she did, and I could

tell she was being as nice as she could be but something about her was off. From her perky personality to her hippy style clothing. I couldn’t help but wonder if she was one of those peace, love, and freedom kind of people.

“What’s your name?” I asked with a sigh as I tried to make the most of my situation.

“Trixie,” she replied confidently, her green eyes locked onto me as I slowly moved towards the bathroom. I couldn’t say I had ever heard someone with the name Trixie before, but it definitely fit her.

“Cute name.” The moment I stepped in front of the mirror, shock crossed my face. I didn’t recognize the woman looking back at me. Dried blood and cuts lined my skin as mud caked parts of my hair and small leaves nestled inside.

No wonder Freya wanted to let me get refreshed before dinner.

“Yeah, you kind of look like shit.” Trixie’s comment caused me to glare at her and as I did, she simply shrugged her shoulders. “Hey, would you rather me lie to you?”

The comment was something Melissa used to say to me all the time, and hearing Trixie say it triggered the pain in my chest to radiate again as I tried to push it down. Seeing I was obviously upset, she stepped closer to me and stared at me in the mirror.

“Hey, it’s okay. We can get you cleaned up, and looking like you in no time. Come on, let me show you the most amazing part of this entire room.”

I wasn’t sure what she considered to be amazing, but as she walked past me towards another door in the bathroom, she opened it and quickly disappeared from sight.

Furrowing my brows, I followed, and when I stepped towards the open door, my mouth dropped. It was a closet, and the damn thing was the size of my room back home.

“Holy shit.”

“I know right.” Trixie laughed, looking around. “I stocked it with your clothes from home, of course, but there was still so much room, so I went shopping and filled the rest. Everything is exactly your size, and since you didn’t have much in the way of jewelry,”

Watching Trixie skip towards a huge cabinet near a lit up vanity mirror, she pressed buttons and the cabinet opened to reveal a massive jewelry box adorned with more sparkling jewels than I had ever seen. “What in the hell..”

“I know it’s amazing, right!” Trixie laughed. “I couldn’t resist myself when it came to shopping, and your grandfather said to get whatever.”

Pulling back from admiring the jewelry, I raised a brow and shook my head. “Do me a favor, Trixie. Never call him that again. I don’t care if we share DNA. He isn’t my grandfather.”

“Oh, hostility... No worries. I’ll just use first names then.”

This girl was something else, and as I looked through the clothing in the room, I picked out what I would change into after my shower. “So what are you, anyway?”

“What do you mean?” She tried on some of the jewelry in the

cabinet. Her obliviousness to my question causing me to stop in my tracks and stare at her as if she was stupid.

“I mean-” Gesturing towards her ears and overall appearance. My question seemed to click, and she began to laugh hysterically.

“Oh! You mean like what am I... Well, I’m a Pixie.”

She had to be joking. “Trixie the Pixie?” I snorted, watching as she rolled her eyes.

“Yes, yes. I know.” Shrugging though, my comment didn’t seem to bother her. “My parents are hippies, and I kind of am, too. Regardless, they weren’t very original and with them being free spirits, they decided to keep it easy.”

“No kidding...”

With a heavy sigh, I grabbed my underwear and made my way towards the shower. I was expected to attend dinner, and if I didn’t get moving now, I was never going to be ready. Stopping at the door to the closet, I looked at Trixie, waiting for her to disperse.

“Oh-” She grinned as she stood to her feet, seeing I was patiently waiting. “I’ll go ahead and check on some things. I’ll be back in like thirty minutes?”

Nodding my head, I watched as she sheepishly backed out of the bathroom and disappeared from sight. The sound of my bedroom door closing causing me to finally let out a small laugh.

She was something else, and perhaps someone I could get along with

She’d never be Melissa, though.