

## And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 96: Uncertain Futures Chapter 96: Uncertain Futures

LL

As soon as the party was over and everyone had gone, I helped my mom and Kate move everything I had received up into the nursery. Not twenty minutes working, Damian found me, and the scowl on his face spoke volumes to his mood.

“Damian, if you have come to yell at me, please don’t.”

My mother and Kate stopped in their tracks as they glanced towards where Damian stood off to the side. My eyes were concentrating on the beautiful mobile in my hand. The celestial crystal was mesmerizing, and as I looked up towards the cribs, I tried to think of where to hang it.

“Ivy, we need to talk,” Damian said, causing a sigh to escape me.

“I figured you would want to.” I turned to him. “Kate, can you hang this over the twins’ cribs please?”

Handing the mobile to Kate, I moved towards Damian and exited the nursery making my way towards his room. “Let’s talk.”

When the door to his room closed behind me, I turned to face him, and the look in his eyes was no longer of anger but extreme remorse. “Why did you interfere today, Ivy?”

“What do you mean, why? You’re my mate, Damian. I won’t let them take you from me.”

Shaking his head, he moved towards me and lowered himself onto the bed. “I don’t deserve you, though. I was willing to go with them in order to protect you.”

“Protect me? What are you talking about?”

As his eyes met mine, I watched the tears build within him he refused to let fall. “They want to kill you, Ivy. You’re a threat to them, and if they take you out, they dismantle our pack.”

I hadn’t really thought too much about what he was saying before, but honestly, it made a lot of sense. If I was in their position, I would do the same.

“That doesn’t mean that you sacrifice yourself for me, Damian. You’re needed here, and we have two beautiful children on the way that are going to need you. You don’t just try and throw that all away.”

“I wasn’t throwing it away,” he scoffed. “Plus, what good am I going to be to them? I’m broken, Ivy.”

Never had I once seen Damian in the state he was. He was literally sulking, and something deeper was bothering him. Stepping closer to him, I ran my hand over the side of

his face and smiled.

“I can see that you’re hiding something from me, and until we talk about it, things are going to remain as they are.”

“I’m fine,” he sighed, moving his face from my hand.

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“No, you’re not. Now tell me why you think you’re broken.”

“It’s not something easily explained, Ivy.” He stood to his feet. “If I tell you, you’re going to look at me differently.”

“Don’t assume things, Damian. We have been through hell and back since the moment I got here. If I was going to pass judgment like that, I would have done it already.”

Staring at him, I could tell whatever it was conflicted him, and I hated it. For him to think he couldn’t talk to me because I would think ill of him was ridiculous, but I was patient. I would wait if he wanted me to.

“Ivy, i’m losing my wolf.”

The words that came out of his mouth were not what I expected. It wasn’t possible for him to lose his wolf. He was a werewolf. It was who he was.

“How... that doesn’t make sense. You’re a werewolf, Damian.”

“I didn’t notice it before, but since the claim... I feel it. It’s like part of me is slipping away, and I don’t know what’s going to happen to me. That’s why I was fine with taking your place for judgment,” he replied as if that was logical.

“Damian, why didn’t you tell me this before?”

Throwing his hands up in the air, he gave a soft desperate laugh, “I don’t know, Ivy. It isn’t like we have ever really had the chance to talk about things like this.”

Staring at him, I tried to wrap my mind around what he was saying. He wasn’t making sense, and for him to think he was losing his wolf was crazy.

“I think you need to talk to Priscilla about this, Damian.” I breathed. “I honestly don’t know what to say. I mean... what would cause you to lose yourself? Like I said.. You’re a werewolf. That’s like telling a human they’re losing their humanity.”

“Maybe you’re right,” he replied, staring at me. “Priscilla is the right person to talk to.”

The sarcasm was heavy in his tone, and that annoyed me more than anything. “Don’t act like that. I’m only being honest, Damian. This is serious, and if you really think you are, we need to find out from someone why that would be. She’s your aunt... I mean, she should know something, right?”

Turning away from me, he made his way towards the door. “Well, I’ll go talk to her then. I’m sorry to have bothered you with this.”

“Damian,” I called after him as he walked out of the open doorway, disappearing from my sight. “Are you f\*\*\*\*\*g kidding me, man?” I muttered with aggravation.

“What was that about?” Hale asked in confusion as he glanced at me, and then back down the hallways where Damian had gone. “Don’t tell me you guys are fighting again.”

“No,” I sighed as I walked towards him. “He just has some s’it on his mind, and he thought I could help, but honestly, this is something I wouldn’t even know how to deal with.”

Pulling me close, he looked down at me with a grin. “Something big bad Ivy can’t handle? That’s shocking.”

“Hey, I never said I could solve the world’s issues, Hale. Plus, this is something that needs far more care than I can give him. I don’t even know how to fix my own problems. How the hell am I supposed to fix other peoples?”

“You’re a goddess, Ivy. You will figure it out.”

Rolling my eyes, I groaned. “I’m not a goddess. I don’t know why everyone seems to think that I am. I’m far from godly... I’m a murderer.”

Gripping my chin, he raised my eyes to his and stared intently. "Don't ever say that. You're not a murderer, Ivy. What you did was to protect your family, and is one of us had been in your position, we would have done it as well."

"You're just saying that," I sighed. "No, I'm serious. If I had been in your position, I would have killed them as well."

His words were slightly comforting, but my mind kept drifting back to what Damian had said. I was worried, and I had every right to be. The thought I could possibly lose him wasn't one I wanted to contemplate.

"I guess we can only take things one day at a time." Hale kissed me gently. Hale kissed me gently. "Exactly. So for now, don't let it bother you, okay?" "Okay." I smiled.

"I have to go down to the training field and help James. I will be back later, though. Are you going to be okay?"

Nodding my head, I pulled away from him with a forced smile. "Of course. I'm just going to finish helping my mom and Kate put some things up. I'll be fine."

"Okay then," he whispered as he turned and left me standing in Damian's bedroom doorway by myself. Watching him walk down the hall towards the stairs, I left an exhausted breath escape me.

My life had become one dramatic event after another, and the only thing I wanted was to move past what I was and become accepted as I should be. From everything I had read in

the books Priscilla had given me... I wasn't living like a Luna.

Kate's laughing face came into view as she exited the nursery with my mother. I had to find something-anything-to preoccupy my mind. "Hey, wait up."

Stopping, they looked at me with small smiles and questioning glances. "Everything okay?" My mother asked softly.

"Yeah, I'm good. Damian was just going over to safety stuff they are going to be doing."

"That's a good idea," Kate replied. "With how things went today with the council guys, I don't trust it."

Looking at her with confusion, I furrowed my brows. "What do you mean?"

"Ivy..." Kate said with slight hesitation. "The council doesn't act upon anything unless they plan to follow through. You may have deterred them for now, but it won't last."

“So you’re saying they will be back?”

The silence from Kate was the only answer I needed, and with a frown, she finally nodded. Of course, they would be back. After all, there was much here they wanted. Me being the primary thing.

Stepping towards me, my mother wrapped her arms around me and pulled me into a hug. “Hey, don’t worry about it, okay? Let your mates handle this. You only need to worry about those two precious babies growing inside you.”

As she pulled away, I looked down at my stomach and smiled. “You’re right. Goddess knows they are going to be here in a few weeks.”

“Ivy, according to the pack doctor, you’re measuring at almost full cycle. There is a chance you could have them sooner. So you need to be careful. I don’t want there to end up being complications, because you’re stressed.”

My mother was the most caring woman I knew, and regardless of the past, she was right.

Unknown POV

“Has there been any progress?” I asked, staring at the Alpha in front of me. I was an impatient man, and I had been more patient with this situation than any other I had ever faced. It has been twenty years.

“They have fortified their defenses.”

“I take it that is something that you just can’t fix, is it?” I sneered with disgust. Pathetic ass wolf was getting on my last damn nerve. He was pissed because his son died, but that was his fault. That boy was still attached to his mother’s bosom.

“I will see to it,” he growled low, causing me to laugh.

“No, you won’t. I will handle it as I always do. Now get out of my face, wolf,” I snapped as I crushed the glass I had been holding in my hand. He didn’t hesitate to get out of my sight, which was smart, considering I wanted to rip someone apart.

f\*\*\*\*g pathetic-all of them.

Standing to my feet, I quickly let the surge of power wrap around me, and within a matter of seconds, I was walking across the cobbled floor of damp and dark dungeon. There was one person in particular I had toyed with for years dying for the opportunity to fix her mistakes.

“Hello, pet.”

Her blue eyes connected with mine from where she sat on the concrete floor. Tattered in dirt and blood, I found the sight before me enjoyable. She was like this because of me, and yet when she looked at me, she still saw hope and love.

“Master... are you here to save me?”

“Perhaps, pet,” I replied smoothly as I open the cage she was in and watched her stand to her feet. “Are you ready to be a good girl for me?”

“Yes, master. Please let me show you I can be good.” “Very well. I want you to do one very important thing for me and if you do, I’ll reward

you heavily. You will once again have your life back, and revenge on the one who hurt you.” My teasing comment lit a fire in her eyes as she narrowed her gaze.

“I can kill her?” She asked with a small smile. “Oh, yes, my dear. You can help me kill them all.”

## **And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie Chapter 95**

### **Chapter 95: Baby Shower Confrontation**

Ivy.

Two weeks passed with peace, and during that time, I had accomplished getting the nursery put together with the help of the guys, my mother, and Kate. My mother and Kate stayed longer to be with us, and I was more than happy to have them here.

It meant I was able to spend more time with them both, and with the delivery date getting closer, I needed a refreshing change. Something that didn’t revolve around what was going to happen and who wanted me dead.

“Hey, do you think we need to add more of the vines to that wall?” Kate asked as she stood staring at the wall above the dresser with her hand on her chin and confusion in her stance.

“I mean, I wouldn’t oppose it. I think that would be cute.”

She glanced at me for a moment before nodding her head. “You’re right. It’s way too cute to pass up.”

Shaking my head, I continued to fold the baby clothes in the white basket while she had fun. I thought T had bought a lot of things, but after a long shopping trip with those two, these kids had everything they would ever need for the entire first year of their lives.

“Ivy!” my mother called out as she came searching through the rooms until her eyes landed on me.” Ah, there you are. The guests will start arriving soon.”

Guests... I almost forgot that my mother had thrown a last-minute baby shower for me today. She had invited the entire pack, and made it co-ed so that the guys could be present. I wasn't sure who was going to come, though.

I wasn't exactly liked much. “Okay, okay,” I smirked. “I'm coming down now.”

She didn't miss a beat when she stood in front of me, staring at me with her hands on her hips. There was no way she was going downstairs without me, and as much as I wished she would, I knew this battle wasn't one I would win.

“Go, Ivy. I'll finish up here and be down in a minute.”

Knowing there was no way to avoid the inevitable, I nodded, and left with my mother to go appear before the non-existent masses she believed were coming. However, when I walked down the stairs, I found myself in shock at how many people were here.

It almost looked like the entire pack had shown up for the celebration. It warmed my heart to be a part of it. To see how many people in this pack came to celebrate the future rulers that would one day inherit this all.

“Congratulations,” the voices called out as I walked through the sea of people towards the back door, heading outside to where a grand event was being held.

“Mom, you really outdid yourself with this. You didn't have to go through all this trouble.”

Gazing at my mother, though, I saw the wide smile on her face of pure joy. She was over the moon with the turnout, and would now talk about this day forever.

“know that I didn't, but you are my only child, and you deserve the best. And so the best is what I plan on giving you.” The comment warmed my heart, making me even more thankful that she was here.

There were still unsaid things between her and i regarding how this all came about, but I knew that

+25 Points

one day eventually, we would have that conversation. She was my mother, and she would let me know things if it were important, or when the time called upon it.

“Congratulations Luna on the arrival of your children, a woman with dark brown hair and bright green eyes said as she walked up to me, handing me a bouquet of flowers.

“Oh my goodness, these are absolutely beautiful! Thank you so much. What’s your name?” I asked, a little unsure of who the woman was. I had remembered seeing her around a few times, but I was still trying to get familiar with everybody.

“My name is Jada. I was actually going to offer you to join the mother’s circle that we have down at the park community center. I figured it would be a great way to get to know the other ladies of the pack and when the children are born, a great way for them to play with other children of the pack as well.”

The offer was more than generous and I had waited a while to have at least somebody accept me in. So for her to offer such a thing, there was no way that I could refuse. “That sounds wonderful. Please follow up with me later and make sure I get that information because I would really love to be able to join you.”

Jada smiled at me, before bowing her head in a show of respect as she continued to walk on to let another come up and speak to me. The procession went on like this for a while until every single woman had said their congratulations to me and delivered whatever gifts they had brought.

Thonestly didn’t think I needed a baby shower, considering everything was already purchased for the twins, but some gifts that were given were a lot more personal and I loved them.

One gentleman crafted a hand-painted glass mobile for the twins’ room with glass wolves dancing around a crystal moon. It was one piece that I loved the most out of everything that I had received, because the crystal moon replicated the color of my eyes.

“It looks like you’ve quite made out today,” Hale said as he and Talon came walking up next to me. They were right. I had made out, but seeing them here with me in a coed baby shower was a relief I didn’t think I would have.

“Yeah, I sure did. I don’t think we’re going to need anything for the children for quite some time. Between everything that we got, what my mother and Kate got, and nowhere at the baby shower, these children have things to last a lifetime.”

“Ain’t that the truth?” Talon chuckled before a loud commotion drew our attention towards the front of the house.

“I want you to stay here,” Hale demanded as I pulled away from him.

“Get out of my way...” I replied as I pushed past him on Talon. Making my way towards the front of the pack house to see what was going on.

It wasn't exactly the greatest of ideas to put myself in the middle of something in my condition because the babies could be here within two weeks. But if something was going on, it was my responsibility to see what it was.

Coming around to the front of the House, three black cars came into view. All of them carrying security guards from the council's chambers. My heart dropped to the pit of my stomach.

"What in the hell is going on?" I asked as my crystalline eyes showed clear and bright to anyone who was currently in my presence. They had grabbed Damien, who was pushing them off as James was held back from whatever commotion was taking place.

"Luna Ivy, the ancient one. It's a pleasure to see you," replied a dark-haired older man who stepped out from behind the shadows of his security guards.

He didn't look like the type of man that would particularly be a council member, but as he stepped closer, something inside of me snapped. There was something wrong with him, just as there had been once before with the elder Harrison, and I wasn't sure what it was.

+25 Points

But it was something I would not let anywhere near my children.

A deep growl left my throat as I bared my teeth at him. "Do not step any closer to me. I demand that you unhand my mates. For everyone's safety."

"Are you threatening the Council, Luna?" the man asked in a very stern voice, as if he was trying to intimidate me.

"There's no need to threaten you. If I wanted you taken care of, you would have been dead the minute you stepped forward, however... that is not the case. I demand you unhand them and explain to me why you're here ruining my baby shower."

He stared at me for a moment, before laughter quickly left his lips, and he gestured with his hand for the men to allow Damian and James free.

"We are here because two weeks ago, one of our council people disappeared. Later on, they were found completely torn apart, as well as the son of a fellow alpha. Now, the alpha's son, we have no idea why he was where he was, but the elder was last seen here..."

"Yes, I'm aware that the elder was last seen here," I replied, as if it was the most obvious answer there ever had been. "But what do you mean that she's dead? She was literally just here two weeks ago. When she left, she told me she would love to accept the invitation to come to the baby shower. If you check our cameras, you can see that

she had taken off. We have security cameras at the guard shacks to monitor who comes in and out. I can assure you she left in her vehicle.”

There was a slight pause as his gaze drifted from mine to Damien’s and then back to me. “You are a lot more cooperative than your mate is. He wouldn’t allow us to obtain anything, but you’re telling me you can show proof from footage at your guard shack that Elder Harrison did indeed leave by herself in her vehicle from your property?”

“Why yes, I can. Actually, if you would like, I can have that information sent over to you this afternoon. Of course, I hope you would be considerate of the current events going on and allow us to continue my shower and then have that information sent over afterwards. There’s only about two hours left,” I replied, smiling sweetly at him.

I knew the footage was there, and it was the only footage I could give him because it was the only footage that didn’t implicate us. However, his eyes gazed up at the camera at the corner of the roof of the house and swirling ideas seemed to develop in his mind.

“I’d like the footage from that camera as well. Do you think you might manage that so it shows she got into the car in one piece?”

“As much as I would love to give you that, I can’t,” I replied with a frown. “And why can’t you? Are you guilty?” he sneered at me as his eyes narrowed.

“No,” I laughed. “While Elder Harrison was here, we had construction going on. We were having some remodeling for the new nursery, and the people who were remodeling hit an electrical line, and it fried some of the circuit.”

“I see. That sounds very convenient because of the current situation,” the gentleman said. “Do you have proof of this?”

“Of course I do. I can actually send you a copy of the invoice from the day that it was called. The situation that had happened, and when they actually came out to fix it, if you would like.”

Taking a moment, he thought over everything I said as he ran his tongue across his teeth. He quickly glanced back at another man that was with him.

“It seems the Luna and her mates are more than willing to helping us figure out what happened to the elder. Isn’t that correct, Luna?” he said before turning back to me. “Just to clear things up, could you tell me where you were that night?”

“Of course, I can. My mother and my best friend Kate actually came that very evening. They’ve been

+25 Points

ere for the last two weeks. They're from a neighboring pack down in Georgia."

No matter what the elder asked, i had an answer for everything. I was surprised Damian himself didn't speak up. Instead, he stood quietly with a stern glare across his face and his lips tightly met.

"Brilliant. I do apologize for the misunderstanding. I have no problem waiting. As soon as your shower is over, if you could please get that information to me, that would be much appreciated, and I hope that you will offer your services. Of course, in order to help us find out exactly who had done this."

Knowing he had nothing else to ask. He was quickly wrapped up in the rest of the conversation, standing unsteadily on his feet as he gestured for the men to get back into their vehicles.

"Of course, I will make sure to get everything to you this afternoon."

"Very good." Turning his attention to Damian, I watched the man glare before letting a look of amusement pass over him. "I will see you around, Damian."

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"I figured you would want to." I turned to him. "Kate, can you hang this over the twins' cribs please?"

Handing the mobile to Kate, I moved towards Damian and exited the nursery making my way towards his room. "Let's talk."

When the door to his room closed behind me, I turned to face him, and the look in his eyes was no longer of anger but extreme remorse. "Why did you interfere today, Ivy?"

“What do you mean, why? You’re my mate, Damian. I won’t let them take you from me.”

Shaking his head, he moved towards me and lowered himself onto the bed. “I don’t deserve you, though. I was willing to go with them in order to protect you.”

“Protect me? What are you talking about?”

As his eyes met mine, I watched the tears build within him he refused to let fall. “They want to kill you, Ivy. You’re a threat to them, and if they take you out, they dismantle our pack.”

I hadn’t really thought too much about what he was saying before, but honestly, it made a lot of sense. If I was in their position, I would do the same.

“That doesn’t mean that you sacrifice yourself for me, Damian. You’re needed here, and we have two beautiful children on the way that are going to need you. You don’t just try and throw that all away.”

“I wasn’t throwing it away,” he scoffed. “Plus, what good am I going to be to them? I’m broken, Ivy.”

Never had I once seen Damian in the state he was. He was literally sulking, and something deeper was bothering him. Stepping closer to him, I ran my hand over the side of

his face and smiled.

“I can see that you’re hiding something from me, and until we talk about it, things are going to remain as they are.”

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“No, you’re not. Now tell me why you think you’re broken.”

“It’s not something easily explained, Ivy.” He stood to his feet. “If I tell you, you’re going to look at me differently.”

“Don’t assume things, Damian. We have been through hell and back since the moment I got here. If I was going to pass judgment like that, I would have done it already.”

Staring at him, I could tell whatever it was conflicted him, and I hated it. For him to think he couldn’t talk to me because I would think ill of him was ridiculous, but I was patient. I would wait if he wanted me to.

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The words that came out of his mouth were not what I expected. It wasn’t possible for him to lose his wolf. He was a werewolf. It was who he was.

“How... that doesn’t make sense. You’re a werewolf, Damian.”

“I didn’t notice it before, but since the claim... I feel it. It’s like part of me is slipping away, and I don’t know what’s going to happen to me. That’s why I was fine with taking your place for judgment,” he replied as if that was logical.

“Damian, why didn’t you tell me this before?”

Throwing his hands up in the air, he gave a soft desperate laugh, “I don’t know, Ivy. It isn’t like we have ever really had the chance to talk about things like this.”

Staring at him, I tried to wrap my mind around what he was saying. He wasn’t making sense, and for him to think he was losing his wolf was crazy.

“I think you need to talk to Priscilla about this, Damian.” I breathed. “I honestly don’t know what to say. I mean... what would cause you to lose yourself? Like I said.. You’re a werewolf. That’s like telling a human they’re losing their humanity.”

“Maybe you’re right,” he replied, staring at me. “Priscilla is the right person to talk to.”

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Turning away from me, he made his way towards the door. “Well, I’ll go talk to her then. I’m sorry to have bothered you with this.”

“Damian,” I called after him as he walked out of the open doorway, disappearing from my sight. “Are you f\*\*\*\*\*g kidding me, man?” I muttered with aggravation.

“What was that about?” Hale asked in confusion as he glanced at me, and then back down the hallways where Damian had gone. “Don’t tell me you guys are fighting again.”

“No,” I sighed as I walked towards him. “He just has some s’it on his mind, and he thought I could help, but honestly, this is something I wouldn’t even know how to deal with.”

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"Hey, I never said I could solve the world's issues, Hale. Plus, this is something that needs far more care than I can give him. I don't even know how to fix my own problems. How the hell am I supposed to fix other peoples?"

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"I have to go down to the training field and help James. I will be back later, though. Are you going to be okay?"

Nodding my head, I pulled away from him with a forced smile. "Of course. I'm just going to finish helping my mom and Kate put some things up. I'll be fine."

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“No, you won’t. I will handle it as I always do. Now get out of my face, wolf,” I snapped as I crushed the glass I had been holding in my hand. He didn’t hesitate to get out of my sight, which was smart, considering I wanted to rip someone apart.

f\*\*\*\*\*g pathetic-all of them.

Standing to my feet, I quickly let the surge of power wrap around me, and within a matter of seconds, I was walking across the cobbled floor of damp and dark dungeon. There was one person in particular I had toyed with for years dying for the opportunity to fix her mistakes.

“Hello, pet.”

Her blue eyes connected with mine from where she sat on the concrete floor. Tattered in dirt and blood, I found the sight before me enjoyable. She was like this because of me, and yet when she looked at me, she still saw hope and love.

“Master... are you here to save me?”

“Perhaps, pet,” I replied smoothly as I open the cage she was in and watched her stand to her feet. “Are you ready to be a good girl for me?”

“Yes, master. Please let me show you I can be good.” “Very well. I want you to do one very important thing for me and if you do, I’ll reward

you heavily. You will once again have your life back, and revenge on the one who hurt you.” My teasing comment lit a fire in her eyes as she narrowed her gaze.

“I can kill her?” She asked with a small smile. “Oh, yes, my dear. You can help me kill them all.”

## **Chapter 97: Hidden Agenda**

### **Damian.**

Days seemed to pass since Alokaye, the elder, visited my pack. Things were becoming strange around the surrounding communities, and I couldn’t help but wonder if war was upon the horizon.

Ivy had stirred the metaphorical black pot, and with the help of my brothers and her mother, they could keep her fed to prevent her going all out psycho.

The day I told her about my secret, I had expected her to return with more concern than she had, but it was a lot to ask of. I suppose, considering she wasn’t as close to me as she was with the others.

Watching her now. I saw how happy and carefree she was with my brothers and some of the other pack members. I had been hesitant about the baby shower when her mother suggested it, but it turned out to be beneficial.

Maybe there was hope for the future of our pack. Maybe she was the Luna of the future — the Queen of Queens. “Damian, are you okay?” Kate called from the doorway of my office. Turning from the window, I set my gaze on her and forced a smile to my lips. “Yeah.”

When I had first met Kate, I wasn’t sure if she was going to be someone positive wanted around my mate, but in the end, if it hadn’t been for her, Ivy would have died.

The future of our people would have been lost to whatever force was currently lurking within the shadows of my forest. “Did you need something?”

“Actually, yes,” she said softly as she stepped into my office, closing the door behind her.

Walking around my desk, I took my place in my seat and waited for her to continue. I had a lot on my plate at the moment, and with my upcoming trip, I had little time for idle chit-chat.

“I wanted to ask you why you have been spending so much time away from the pack lately. Ivy says nothing about it, but I can tell that it bothers her. Actually, whatever you **talked to** her about the other day has completely changed her.”

**Kate was a** very perceptive woman, but the last thing I wanted to do was tell her what **had** really been up to. “It’s complicated, Kate.”

“No, that’s just a typical Damian personality. I was there when we almost lost her, **Damian**. I saw what losing her did to you, whether you want to admit it. You love her **as** much as your brothers, if not more, and your actions are driving an invisible wedge between **you** and the rest of them. Now why?”

Letting a heavy breath escape me, I picked up my glass and took a long sip **as I stared** silently out the window of my office where she was playing with a group of children.

“If I tell you what’s going on, you can’t tell her or my brother’s, Kate.” “It’s that bad?” she said softly as my eyes met hers once more. “Depends on who’s listening, I suppose.”

Taking a moment, I watched her fidget in her seat before quickly nodding her head. “Okay, tell me. I won’t tell them, but,” she said with a frown. “Only unless they need to know in an emergency.”

“Kate, that isn’t—”

“No, Damian,” she snapped, cutting me off. “If someone is in danger because of this secret, then I have to tell them. I may not be part of your pack, but Ivy is my best friend, and Tam fiercely loyal to her. So keeping this is betraying her.”

Never once had I realized how loyal Kate really was to Ivy until this moment. I didn’t understand the two women’s connection, but I couldn’t ask Kate to betray her friendship. “If those are your conditions, then so be it.

“When I was younger, my parents were killed, and in the process, I changed. In order to kill what was behind my parents’ deaths, I end up losing the Lycan within me. The ancestral trait that was passed down from my father...”

She listened to me intently, nodding her head as I explained what I remembered about the day my parents died. Of course, there were so many holes in everything, and the only information I knew for certain was what Allison had told me long ago.

“So you became like Hale and Talon in order to save them all.”

“Essentially, but it ended up killing the creature inside me. I never thought too much about it because when I was of age, I got my wolf, and that was enough for me. However, when the circle with Ivy was completed, I started to feel... off,” I replied with a sigh.

“What do you mean, you feel off?” she asked, staring at me with a confused expression.

“I’m losing my wolf.”

Silence fell between us for a moment before a soft laugh escaped her, and she shook her head. “That’s not possible, Damian. You’re a werewolf. You can’t just lose who you are.”

“I thought the same thing, but every day it’s becoming harder and harder for me to shift. Every day, it’s becoming harder for me to connect with the side of myself. I have been searching for the last two months for answers, but everything turns up empty.”

“You need to see Priscilla...” she said, leaning forward in her seat,

“Kate... I have, months ago. She has known for a while now too, but has been sworn to **secrecy.**”

“Well, then, you need to tell Ivy, Damian. You can’t let this go quiet,” she replied with a little more anger in her tone than I would have liked.

“Kate, I did tell her. She said the same as you and didn’t seem to want to think too much about it. She also **told me to speak** to Priscilla because there was nothing she **could** do. I had thought for a moment maybe she could.”

Sagging my shoulders, I shook my head, not finishing my train of thought. I didn’t really know what I thought she might be able to do, but it was clear that my situation wasn’t as important as Talons.

She was willing to die for him, but for me... she pushed it off on someone else.

“Damian, you need to speak to her properly. Losing you will destroy her and the circle.”

Running my hand through my hair, I sighed. “Why do you think I have been trying to fix it? Honestly, sometimes I wonder if me not being able to solve it is a sign. Maybe it’s because I was never meant to be with her.”

“That’s ridiculous, Damian,” Kate snapped, as she stood to her feet. “You need to tell her the truth, and not just part of the truth... the entire f\*\*\*\*\*g thing.”

“Why?!” I snapped. “Look at her, Kate. Look at her outside right now with the others and her mom. She doesn’t seem to care about what I’m doing at all. They are who make her happy... not me.”

“Bullshit,” she replied, crossing her arms. “You have no idea what’s going through her mind. Half the time you’re always too busy to take part in anything. You’re always pushing everyone away. Maybe they just don’t want to bother you.”

“Enough, Kate,” I groaned, shaking my head as I calmly let my eyes gaze back to her beautiful figure standing outside. Her arm was wrapped around James’ arm as she leaned her head against his shoulder. “I can never be what they are for her.”

“What about the pack?” Glancing at her, I frowned, “what about them?” “Who’s going to be their leader, Damian? No one runs this pack like you do.” Chuckling, I let my gaze leave Kate once more as I turned back to Ivy. “Hale.” “Hale? Are you being serious right now?”

It was obvious Kate had the same outlook on Hale being Alpha as he had on himself. He **was a smart man** and could lead well, whether or not he wanted to believe it. The problem **was, he was** scared of himself.

**He was afraid** of the Lycan within him, and because of that, it made him unpredictable.

“Ivy can control him,” I replied, as if the answer was obvious.

"Ivy... you mean the same Ivy who can't control herself most of the time? Damian, honestly don't think that you're thinking this through. You are what holds this family together, whether you think so. Those choices are not good ones, and you know it."

Part of me heard her concerns and knew she was right in a way. But with so much **chaos** consuming our lives over the past few months, I didn't want to think of what would happen if I did and no one was prepared,

"Look... don't get worked up. Nothing is happening yet," I hissed as I clasped **my hands** together on top of my desk. "I have one more place to go, and it should work."

"Should work?" Kate scoffed. "Where is this place?"

"It doesn't matter. What does matter, though, is that the woman I'm going to see can fix me." I explained, hoping that Kate would simmer down.

The anger and frustration rolled off her in waves as she paced around my office, running her hand through her hair while letting out a heavy breath of frustration.

"I can't believe you have been hiding this from all of them for months, Damian."

Coming to a stop, she turned to face me with her golden blue eyes. She was a fearsome sight to behold, and having her here right now made me feel better for Ivy. Kate would help her through anything she had to face.

"The past doesn't matter anymore, Kate. What matters is the future," I replied firmly as I stood to my feet and noted Kate and the others walking up towards the house.

"I need you to do me a favor... if, for some reason, something goes wrong, I need you to look out for Ivy. Help her get over everything."

With parted lips, Kate stared at me wide-eyed and in disbelief. "Are you f\*\*\*\*g kidding me right now? How dare you even f\*\*\*\*g suggest something will happen? You have two tiny children on the way, don't you f\*\*\*\*g dare leave all three of them."

"Kate, for once shut the fuck up and just listen to me. Can you f\*\*\*\*\*g do this or not?"

Closing her mouth, her lips thinly met. She rolled her eyes, sagging her shoulders in defeat as she slowly nodded. "Fine."

"Fine?" I asked.

"Yes, damn it. I said fine. I'll do as you say, but if you f'ghurt her. I'll find you in the afterlife and kill you again. So you better figure this set out, Damian."

Letting a grin spread across my face, I nodded my head in understanding. There was no need for words to go further. We had both made our sentiments known, and knew where **we stood**.

As Ivy's voice filled the area outside my office, I gestured for Kate to go. I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but I knew one thing. If I did go, at least Ivy had people to help her get through it.

## Chapter 98: Dinner Discussions

Ivy.

There was nothing like spending the day with my mates and the rest of the pack. After the warm invitation I had had from a few of the female wolves of the pack to join their play group, I was more than thrilled to entertain the idea.

Kate and my mother had suggested familiarizing myself with other women of the pack would help me be a better Luna.

I was so nervous about the idea of them accepting me. Differing from them, I had spent months watching them gaze at me with wary eyes.

I had thought they perceived me as a monster, but in the end, I was wrong.

There would always be women in the pack who didn't like me. I expected that. It was the same in the real world. Not everyone is going to like you, but I was pleased these women could accept me as I was.

I wanted to be a Luna they respected and wanted around.

After a fun, eventful day, I made my way with James, Hale, Talon, and my mother back up to the house to prepare for dinner. The smiles and conversations still on our faces from the fun we all had.

It would have been complete if only Damian had graced us with his presence.

"I cannot believe that you spun that little boy around like that, Hale." We made our way through the front door and I laughed. "I thought he was going to puke."

"Hell no, he was having the time of his life. Plus, his mother didn't seem to care, so why ruin mine and the boys' fun?"

He did have a point, but as I looked at him with a small smirk on my lips, I couldn't help but picture him with our children.

“Perhaps that’s true, but he was still so tiny, and I cannot believe that he didn’t cry. He just laughed and laughed and kept wanting you to do it again.”

Thad never really seen Hale in his kind of way, but seeing him like this made me excited for the future. He was going to be a good father. I had no doubt about that.

Even James and Talon were more than pleased with being able to spend time with the kids that were there. With things being quiet lately around the borders, the guys had a little more free time, and I was grateful for it.

Passing Damian’s office, I watched Kate and Damien come out with expressions of concern across their faces. Something was wrong, and that was obvious.

“Is everything okay with you two?” I asked as I tried not to show I knew something was wrong. Kate’s eyes quickly met mine as she forced her frown away.

“Oh yeah, don’t be silly. Everything’s fine. Just talking about pack stuff back home is all.” Kate lying wasn’t something she did, and because it wasn’t, she was horrible at it.

Lhen.

However, I let it slide. If she wanted to tell me, she would.

Letting my eyes slid from Kate to Damian, I raised a brow staring at him. His dark chocolate eyes gazing at me with a ferocity I had grown accustomed to seeing.

Our conversation hadn’t gone the way he had planned previously, and I felt guilty for making it seem like I didn’t care about him because I did. I just honestly didn’t know what to do.

This was something far beyond me, and with my inexperience, I wasn’t sure how to handle it. The only reason I knew how to help James was because of the mate bond healing him. It was clear the bond was hurting Damian instead,

“Everything good?” I asked him as Kate stepped around me, making her way down the hallway towards the kitchen.

“Yes. Why wouldn’t it be?” he replied without hesitation.

Shrugging my shoulders, I smiled at him. “Fair enough. I’ll go help with dinner then.”

There was no point in pressuring him for information he would not give me. Doing that would be pointless, and I wasn’t about to make pointless conversations cause arguments. At least not right now.

In the end, we would all need to be honest with each other. We promised no secrets, and yet we all seemed to keep them.

As the night carried on, we all sat down and enjoyed dinner together with light laughter and conversations about what was to come for the rest of the week.

Not to mention baby names. That was a subject I didn't even want to speak with the guys about.

Through all of it, though, Damian sat quietly watching. He was a mysterious man at times, and even though I loved him dearly, I couldn't help but feel I was missing something extremely important.

There was something I just wasn't getting. "So, Damian, what are your plans for the rest of the week?"

My calm response seemed to catch his attention, and as he looked up and met my gaze once more, he shrugged his shoulders. "I have some business to attend, but as soon as that meeting's over, I will be back and more freely able to take part with things around here."

"You mean you're actually going to take a vacation?" James scoffed as laughter quickly flowed from the brothers.

"I suppose if that's what you want to call it, then yes. Ivy is due to have the baby soon, and I want to be here to participate."

A smile grew wider on my face when I heard him. My eyes stared at him in disbelief. Little by little, every day, Damian changed into somebody I could barely recognize.

At times he was cold and distant, but even those days were far and few between. Instead, he was warming up to the idea of our happy family being able to be whole and live, in harmony.

He wasn't fighting anything anymore, and it still caught me by surprise every day.

"Well, time to clean up this stuff. I have reruns to catch up on" Talon said quickly, breaking the silence at the table.

"If you're talking about reruns of that stupid romance show, I am absolutely not watching that," Kate responded quickly, causing Talon to look at her in absolute shock.

"There is nothing wrong with that show. I don't know why you're acting like this." "What do you mean there's nothing wrong with that show?" Hale replied.

"I mean exactly what I said. Why are you guys acting like this?" Talon snapped with disgust on his face. "That show is brilliant."

Talon was not the kind of man you would expect to watch something like that, but in reality, even though he was dangerous at times... he was also a giant teddy bear.

"Talon sweetie, the reason why they find it shocking you enjoyed that show is because of the kind of person who you are. You don't seem like someone who would watch such things," I butted in.

"All right, all right, I get it," he huffed, rolling his eyes as he slid his chair back." Regardless, that's what I'm watching, so can we get this s't taken care of?"

As everyone stood from the table, my mother remained back with me. A smile on her face as she stretched her hand across the space between us, placing it upon mine.

"Honey, can I just say that I am extremely happy for you being here?" "You're happy for me being here?" I asked with a small smile.

"I am as much as I hate being you being away. The day that I found out that they were your mates, I knew that you just had to be here. Even when you were a little girl, you showed such potential to be so much more than you were, and I couldn't believe it. That you could be mated like that. I couldn't believe that I could, but then I met Blake."

Tears slowly filled her eyes as she forced them back.

"No, mom, please don't cry. You know I love them, and I love you, and I wish that we were closer, but I know that you have a life there. Moving here wouldn't be an option for you."

"I know, but perhaps I can convince Blake to want to move." My mother laughed, and as I heard Kate yell from the kitchen, that was not happening.

It turned out that Blake was actually Angel's uncle, and the only remaining family that he had. If Blake left, Angel would try to make it to where Kate had to move as well, and Kate, as much as she enjoyed visiting Idaho, was not excited about having to move here.

With the conversation over, my mother and I stood to help the others. Yet, I could feel Damian staring at me and, as I turned around, I saw him standing there. His eyes were fixated, and a gaze that I found almost unreadable.

Until he gestured for me to follow him. I wasn't sure what he was going to say, but I was intrigued. "Are you okay?" I said, as he pulled me into the living room. "Yeah, everything's fine. I just wanted to apologize for the conversation that we had

before. *You* were right. If I honestly think that something is wrong like this, I need to speak to someone who would know how to handle this. I shouldn't expect you to handle everything just because of who you are."

"Damian, you don't have to apologize," I whispered before he held up his hand, causing me to stop talking.

"Let me finish, please," he whispered as he took a deep breath. "I found somebody who can help me and I'm going to see them. I spoke with Kate earlier and told her my idea, and she persuaded me to let you know what I was going to do."

"Is that the business meeting that you have to have? *Were* you going to try and keep this from me?" I asked, shaking my head in disbelief.

Why would he want to hide something like this? It just made little sense.

"Yes, I know. Please don't get upset with me, Ivy. I didn't want to tell you because I didn't want you to get your hopes up. I didn't want to tell you that everything could be ok and in the end, we find out that it's not." He replied, making my heart slowly fall.

"Damian, you're not going to leave me, and you're not going to die. I love you too much for that. You are a big part of my life, and even though our relationship started out rocky, that doesn't mean that it has to be that way again."

"I know it doesn't," he said as he reached up with his hand and brushed the hair from my face behind my ear. "That's why I'm telling you, because I don't want there to be secrets."

Stepping forward. I wrapped my arms around him, pulling him close to me. His chin rested upon my head and slowly, I inhaled him deeply, relishing in the smell of his cologne. Each one of the guys had their own particular scent.

And Damian's was the most unique out of them all.

"When are you leaving?" I asked him, after a moment's silence that had passed between the two of us. If he was going to leave, I wanted to know when, I wanted to know where, who he was going with, and how long he was going to be gone.

It was just how things worked when *you* were in a relationship. You let people know this kind of stuff, so they knew where you were and that you were okay. Even if, at one point in time, I didn't actually give him that kind of satisfaction.

Chuckling, he lifted my head to look up at him, and slowly he kissed my lips. "I leave bright and early in the morning before you wake up, and I shouldn't be gone more than a day. But I will let you know when I get there, and I will let you know when I'm on my way home."

Hearing his reply. I felt a little satisfied.

Of course, he didn't exactly tell me where he was going, but I knew with him there were some things he couldn't quite explain, and he would always have a good reason for why he couldn't.

"You better not forget to tell me when you get there," I said teasingly before he leaned down and kissed me once more.

"I won't. I promise to let you know, and just to show you how serious I am about keeping my promises, I will have words with my brothers about the current situation."

"You promise?" I asked with wide eyes, slightly shocked that he was going to actually go into detail with them about what he thinks is going on.

"Yes, I promise I will actually go do that here in just a moment. In the meantime, why don't you go upstairs, take a nice long bath or hot shower, get yourself relaxed, and perhaps you can sleep in my room tonight?"

Biting my bottom lip, I glanced up at him and nodded my head. It wasn't too often I actually got to share a room with Damian simply because he worked crazy hours, and I was often gone sleeping with the others.

With him, I didn't honestly get to spend that much time.

Tonight, though, I would change that because there was no telling what tomorrow would hold.

## **99: Betrayed & Captured**

Damian.

I wasn't sure what to expect, but everything Kate had told me in my office kept swirling through my mind. The entire evening I had spent with Ivy and the others, I couldn't help but think how Kate was right.

I needed to be honest with Ivy. I couldn't keep hiding the truth.

I didn't explain everything because some things were too hard for me to explain, but I let her know what I was doing. I told her I was going, and it was to help fix whatever the hell I was going on with me.

Ivy deserved to know, just in case something bad happened. I didn't want her thinking my demise was her fault. I loved her more than I realized.

Before the sun had risen across the horizon, I had slipped from my bed where Ivy laid sleeping and prepared to leave. Walking around the room, my eyes darted to her angelic sleeping figure.

She was extraordinarily beautiful in every way possible, and even though she didn't find herself attractive with her massive protruding belly... I did.

In fact, knowing she was pregnant with our children made her that much more desirable. I couldn't get enough of her, and through the evening I showed her as I pleased her like no other.

Expressing my love for her... in case I wasn't able to again.

As I prepared myself to leave, I found it hard to go. The thought of leaving her was excruciating. Especially because I knew there was a chance I may not come back.

Letting out a heavy sigh, I leaned over, kissing the side of her head once more. My lips lingered just a moment longer than they needed to before I pulled away and made my way **towards** the bedroom door.

Was I actually doing the right thing, or was I being selfish by leaving?

I **was** constantly conflicted and had been for days since I had found the woman who **supposedly** could help me. It wasn't easy moving forward with what I was doing, but I just kept reminding myself I was doing this for the sake of the pack, for the sake of Ivy, and for **the sake of** my unborn children,

Leaving my bedroom, I quietly shut the door to avoid disturbing her and made my way down the hallway. After my conversation with Ivy last night, I did go talk to my brothers, and I told them exactly what was going on.

They were in shock and disbelief over the situation, saying it wasn't possible, but in the end they knew I wouldn't make something like this up. If I said it was true, then it was. **Talon wanted to come** with me in the end.

**To have my back, protect** me if I needed it, but that wasn't possible.

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I had sworn to the woman I would come alone.

She was an outcast in hiding. An enemy of the council that would be killed if she was found, and though I had found her, I promised I wouldn't give her up.

She didn't trust me, and she had every right not to. Could I possibly be walking into a trap? I had asked myself that many times.

However, I refused to break trust with this woman if she was the only one who could help me get answers to whatever was going on.

Climbing into my car, I didn't waste any time as I made my way down the road toward my destination. It was over an hour away and still dark outside, so making pace, I let the wheels of my black sedan push forward with force, propelling me down the road and onto the highway.

The entire time I drove, my mind kept playing over everything that had happened since the moment Ivy had walked into my life. Fate had brought her to us, and with fate we would eventually see what our future had in store.

By the time I slowly began to reach my destination, I pulled off onto a dirt road that led through a heavily wooded area. When she said seclusion, she wasn't wrong, and as I drove forward, I couldn't help but feel uneasy.

The more and more I thought about it... the more it felt like a trap.

Yet, when the road finally gave way to a clearing in the center of the forest, my eyes landed upon a small brick and wood cabin nestled beneath the trees. Smoke billowed from its chimney while candlelight flickered in the windows.

It was a very ominous sight to behold, but considering her life of seclusion, I almost expected more. Perhaps dead carcasses and vines seemingly unhinging the area.

Yet, there were none. It was old, but looked like someone had dropped here it.

Putting the car in park, I stepped onto the dirt drive and closed my car door. With every footstep I took closer to the door, I predicted my outcome. That was, until the door opened, and I was faced with an old crone of sorts whose hair had grayed but eyes looked far younger than the outside appearance.

"Vivian?" I said, clearly with slight hesitation. "You came," she smiled. "I did, and I came alone just as you told me to."

"I see that. That was wise of you. I do not take kindly to having people at my home who are not invited. I'm sure you can understand why." Holding the door open for me, she all

owed me to step into her home before closing the door behind me. Her body seemed more frail than it should be.

“I do understand,” I replied as I watched her make her way towards a chair placed by the fire. “Your gifts are highly sought after, and the council would not have any problem of relieving you of those gifts if they had the chance.”

Hesitating for a moment, her **eyes met mine as she slowly nodded in agreement. So you want to figure out why you are losing your wolf?** She gestured for me to **take my place**

**LI**

in the seat across from her.

“Yes, I can feel that something isn’t right. I don’t know what it is, but I can feel it, and I know I am dying.”

A small chuckle left her lips as she stared at me curiously. “That is both correct and incorrect.”

“Would you care to elaborate on that?”

After all, I was here for answers, not to be told riddles. If I wanted riddles, I could have stayed there with Priscilla and eventually had hoped I figured everything out.

Not drive an hour away by myself to be made to look like a fool.

“I can, but I’ll explain to you the truth, you cannot change the fate that is coming for you. I want you to realize you cannot alter your destiny. You must let it take its course.”

Taking a moment, I froze in my thoughts, hoping she was simply joking, but after a moment, I quickly realized she was not. “You say once you tell me what you know, even if I wanted to change my fate, I wouldn’t be able to.”

“Yes. That is correct,” she replied. “Your fate is sealed and what I see will come to pass, no matter the way you look at it. It is best that you try not to alter the course and let what is going to happen.”

“Very well,” I said after a moment of letting that information sink in. There was nothing like being told your future is sealed and no matter what you do, you’re not going to be able to change it, which obviously means you are going to die.

I

knew this day would come, though. I knew I would not live long enough to see my childr

en grow. And while that may be the truth, I will listen to what this woman had to say, regardless.

They say knowing your future is a privilege, but I find it to be a curse.

Knowing you're going to die, knowing the reason why, knowing the events of what is going to happen and not being able to change it is not a blessing.

It's nothing but a curse, and one you're doomed to fulfill.

"Damian, your wolf is not dying, but... you are going to die. Everyone dies eventually. The issues that you have, though, are far greater. Your Lycan is gone... stripped from you when you protected your brothers from the creature. What you remember of your past isn't

true."

"I'm sorry... what? You're saying that my memories are false?" Hearing myself ask this question out loud made me feel crazier than I already was.

All I remembered from that day was my mother's dying and unleashing a power within me that stopped the darkness. Everything else was stuff Allison had told me in bits and pieces.

"That is correct. The information you were fed for all these years was lies, Damien. They were all lies. But I cannot tell you which was true and which were lies. That is something that you will have to figure out yourself."

"I understand, and you said I'm not dying. Then what is wrong with me?" I asked, hoping for clarification.

"You're a very impatient man," she chuckled, her gaze boring into me behind calculating eyes. "I can see your mate has her hands full with you. However, she was accurate when she said that your wolf could not die because you are a werewolf..."

Furrowing my brows in confusion, I stared at her. How the hell would she know Ivy said that to me?

"Don't look so surprised. I see everything... Well, almost everything anyway. So I know what has happened and what has not. Your wolf is not dying. What happened is the power Ivy possesses was released and currently only slowly because of her certain circumstances, but you and your brothers help her sustain it."

"I see," I replied, pondering over what she was explaining. "How is it we help her sustain this? My brothers are not feeling the same way that I do. They were actually quite shocked at what I was describing."

"That is because they have their Lycan blood and soul. You do not. Yours was stripped from you. So, therefore, you do not have that power to help channel hers. Which is why, in turn, over time, it will end up killing you. The power will be too much."

"So my link to Ivy is going to be what kills me. How much time do I have? Are we talking months, days, weeks, years?" Fear crept through me slowly, like twisting vines.

I wasn't afraid to die, per se. I was afraid of Ivy finding out that she was the reason I was dying. Everything we had done to complete the circle, and everything we had gone through, was what was killing me.

If she knew the truth, she would never forgive herself.

"You misunderstand me. That could allow you to die, but that is not how you died, Damien. Your death is one that changes the world. Unfortunately, I cannot see beyond that day for you." A glimmer of amusement in her eye caught my attention and for a moment, found a sense of uneasiness wash over me.

"What do *you* mean?"

"Unfortunately. If I give you that information, then I will meet my own end. What I can tell you is that you go out beautifully and with a purpose." The moment the words left her lips, the front door flew open, and as it did, I jumped to my feet.

However, it was too late.

By the time I could even take a step forward, I was shot with tranquilizer guns, and my vision quickly went blurry as I dropped to my knees.

"What is going on here?! We had a truce, witch!" I growled in fury.

She had betrayed me, and even though I had gotten some information from her, it didn't matter.

Black figures moved about the room as one, in particular, walked towards her, handing her a scroll. "Good work, you're free."

"Thank you," she replied before the figure turned towards me with a wicked smile.

I couldn't believe she betrayed me, and as I looked into the figure's dark eyes, I immediately recognized him. It was Alokaye, the man who had tried to **take me before**.

"This will not stand," I snarled at him.

However, my display of aggression did nothing. Instead, he dropped into a crouching position next to me and smiled. "I told you I would see you again. I bet you weren't expecting this one, were you?"

## 100: Arrival of New Blood

Ivy.

After a wonderful, wonderful evening with Damian, I couldn't help but find myself in a rather pleasant mood when I woke up the next morning. I took extra care getting myself ready and couldn't help but notice how large my protruding belly had become. For the first time in a long time, I was happy. I felt absolute contentment with how my life was.

To think I had my reservations about everything before seemed silly now. After last night with Damian and me talking about everything I knew, without a doubt, things were going to be better. I had even taken it upon myself to open up a little bit about myself.

However, there was still far more to discuss, but I didn't want him worrying about any of that while he was taking care of his problems. Instead, I planned to discuss it with Hale, Talon, and James first.

Then when Damian got back, I would tell him as well.

Today I was a woman on a mission, and with not much time left in my pregnancy, needed to make haste to make sure that we *were* all on the same page. Hopefully, they would understand why I have done the things I have done

As my feet touched the ground from the stairs, I smiled happily, swaying my dress from side to side as I made my way towards the kitchen searching for food. I was ravenous, so ravenous I couldn't contain myself.

However, Talon and Hale had stocked the freezer and fridge with various things, and my hunger was more easily satisfied.

"You seem to be in an absolutely wonderful mood this morning." Kate laughed out as she came walking into the kitchen, dripping with sweat and holding a water bottle in her hand. It was quite obvious she had been working out this morning.

"Did you literally just get done with training?"

"Sure did," she said with a grin. "You know, after you have those babies, you might want to take up training as well."

Now, I wasn't the prissy kind of girl, but I also wasn't the athletic kind of girl either. I did not take interest in anything requiring me to physically exert myself. I was a bookworm;

my go to for fun. The idea of running and getting sweaty and working out wasn't anything that piqued my interest.

"Yeah, I don't know about that one. I think I might have to take a rain check."

Kate laughed as the twins walked into the kitchen, staring between the two of us, silence filling the air before Talon furrowed his brows.

"What the hell's wrong with the two of you?"

"Nothing," I replied, shaking my head. "Kate was simply trying to express the fact that she thinks I should start working out after I have the babies."

"I was referring to you doing training. Thank you very much. Everybody needs to know how to defend themselves."

"Oh well, we don't have to worry about that, Kate. You see, Ivy doesn't need to defend herself. She simply eats them," James retorted as he popped his head into the kitchen, grabbing an apple off the counter and a bottle of water from the fridge.

I couldn't believe he had gone there with that comment. "Oh my God, that literally happened one time and you guys are never going to let that go, are you?"

Every single one of them shook their heads no. There was no way they were going to let me forget what I did. It had now become an ongoing joke, even though it was not something to joke about.

With a heavy sigh, I ignored their jokes and attempted to climb onto the counter stool. The only problem was, as I tried to lift a foot, a pain ripped through me I had never felt before, and with it, a blood-curdling scream tore from my throat.

This was not labor, no way. My heart raced, and my head felt like it was being split open with every move I tried to make. "Make it stop!"

Kate's eyes were wide, and panic had set into them all. None of them had the slightest clue what was wrong, but as I dropped to the ground, Talon caught me, and looked over at me with nothing but concern.

"What's wrong? Is that the babies?" Talon asked as the others towered over me.

"No!" I screamed in pain, trying to push away whatever was hurting me. "It's burning. My body feels like it's on fire, and my head is throbbing. Please make it stop."

Confusion marred their faces. Talon's eyes were frantic over my body, worried for a moment before he seemed to have a sign of recognition flicker within his eyes.

A sign that made my heart plummet. Deep down, I knew something was wrong. However, I ignored it. "It's Damian. Something's wrong with him. He's in trouble."

Talon nodded his head, and as he did, another fitful pain ran through me as I slowly tried to get myself up. The problem, though, was that a puddle of liquid was running down from between my knees puddling on the floor.

"Oh, s\*\*t!" Kate screamed as my mother stared on in panic. "Her water broke."

"What do you mean her water broke?!" James said in panic. "She still has two more weeks, right?"

Two weeks? Right now, the only thing I wanted was for the pain to stop radiating through my body. I was concerned about the twins, but something inside me told me they would be okay.

"I need to get upstairs," I groaned in pain.

"No, you need to get to the hospital," my mother snapped as she looked at the guys, gesturing for them to get me up.

"No!" I growled as my gaze turned towards her. "It's not safe. Get me upstairs now."

My outburst took aback my mother. Never once had I ever spoken to her like that, but right now, something inside me was telling me to be careful. Telling me I had to stay here

and not leave.

Something was wrong, and if Damian was in trouble, that meant someone had potten to him. The last thing I needed to do was put myself at risk my leaving the safety of my home. The goddess told me to listen to my instincts, and that was what I was doing.

"James, go run her a bath," kate said quickly before turning her gaze to Talon and Hale. "Can you guys carry her up there? I'll grab some towels and herbs."

"Kate, you can't be serious?" my mother gasped as everyone around me started moving and preparing to take me upstairs to have these children.

"Yes!" Kate snapped, glaring at my mother. "We aren't human if you haven't noticed. A she-wolf knows what she can handle, and if Ivy wants to have the babies here, then so be it. She knows more about what is going on than we do. So you can help or move."

Kate wasn't wrong about all of this. My mother had no clue, and nodding her head, she turned to me with a frown. "What can I do?"

Another scream of pain, and I groaned out, trying to push it away. "Get me, Priscilla."

Time seemed to fly by, and before I knew it, I was naked in the large tub in my bathroom, screaming pain once more, but now from the labor I was going through.

My children were coming, and there was no stopping them.

A wave of power seemed to creep through me, and as the pain ran through my veins, knew what was to come. Like a door that had been locked for so long, it was finally wearing thin. Finally breaking.

"Did you find, Damian?" | gasped as my eyes darted to Talon. "He needs us." "You need to worry about the labor you're in, Ivy. Damian will be fine." "No, he won't!" I growled. "Where is he?!"

Screaming again, the crown of the child's head pressed down on me. Gripping James' hand in one, and Hales in the other, I pushed with everything I had.

"That's it!" Priscilla yelled. "Keep pushing, Ivy. I can see the head."

Breathing through it, I pushed harder, and within in a moment the first of my children push free of me. "Oh, my god. It's a boy!" Kate cried out as I panted with exhaustion.

Reaching down, Priscilla held up the cord, allowing James to cut it. The child pulled from the water and wrapped within a blanket as Kale and my mother cleaned him until he cried. He was huge... bigger than I would have expected, and a smile crossed me seeing him.

"That future Alpha of our pack," Talon said proudly as tears slowly fell down his cheeks.

Kate didn't hesitate to hand the child to Talon, and before I could say anything else, I felt the contractions start again.

This was it. One more to go, and with my son now born, I felt a surge of power coursing through me making my heart race. Something was about to happen, and I wasn't sure what it was, but I had to worry about my daughter now. Taking a deep breath, I screamed through

it and pushed the small babe from my body until she was free.

My daughter... blood of my blood, laid between my legs.

Without hesitation, I pulled her up to me with the cord in view for Hale to take care of. She was much smaller than her brother, but as she cried, so did I.

I had done it. I had given birth to my children, and even though one of my mates wasn't here, the situation was perfect. "I did it." Everyone was looking at me.

"You did, sweetie," James whispered in my ear as he kissed the side of my head. "You did it, and they are beautiful."

"I can't believe it," I whispered as I kissed the top of my daughter's head.

Talon moved towards me and handed me my son so I could hold them both while Priscilla took care of cleaning me up and draining the water.

"You still have to decide their names, Luna," she hummed with a smile, and I knew she was right.

For a long time, I considered our children's names, and while the guys have been helpful in giving suggestions, none were ones I wanted to stick with. I wanted to wait until my children were born to give them their names.

I never understood how you could pick someone's name before actually laying eyes on them. What if the name you picked no longer matched them?

Staring down at my children, I was quiet as I stared between the two of them. My son was strong already and looked just like his father. Even though they didn't want to know who the father was, I could tell.

Dark hair and a strong unwillingness to cry, it almost brought tears to my eyes to know and not tell them. They didn't want to know.

As for my daughter, she was petite and gentle. Nestled into my chest, she suckled gently while her brother slept.

"Pollux and Castor," I breathed as I stared at them. Those were my children's names, and I knew they would live up to them.