

Alpha's Unhinged, Alpha's Unhinged Mate, Alpha's Unhinged Mate by Jessica Hall, Alphas, chapter, Series, Alpha's Unhinged Mate, chapter 26

Lily POV

We wait patiently for Aria to get off the phone and serve the lecture I know I am about to receive. She places her phone down on the bedside table before turning to me.

"Just Reid wanting to make sure we got here alright" She tells me. I nod before laying back down on the bed. Aria kicks off her shoes before lying beside me.

"No, lecture?" I ask.

"No, I mainly wanted to find out how you are doing with this whole stepchild thing?" She states.

I think for a few minutes and we lay in silence, Amber pulls out her phone and starts playing on it, pretending to ignore us but I know she is listening.

"Everything is fine, it is what it is. I can't change it, so why dwell on it?" I tell her.

"I know it hurts, I also know you saved yourself for your mate Lily, I know you said you didn't want one but if you didn't why did you save yourself?" She asks and I look at her.

I didn't want a mate, yet every chance I had to lose my virginity I turned it down and not just because Layla would refuse but because I didn't feel anyone was deserving of taking it, so maybe I really was waiting for my mate. I didn't say anything. I had no decent argument because deep down I knew she was right.

"So why haven't you mated yet, why don't you bear his mark?" She asked curiously.

"Because once we do there is no turning back Aria. I never wanted this, any of it. Then I found out he got another wolf pregnant which just solidifies we aren't compatible like the goddess thought," I tell her.

"So it has nothing to do with fearing actually having a mate. You convinced yourself you were undeserving of one for so many years and now you have one you still don't feel good enough. Mates are equals. Each half to a whole"

"I'm not whole Aria, you know that"

"Yes, you are, you just need to believe it and trust Damien when he tells you he accepts you. You do not know, but he didn't care if you were broken Lily, he said he would declare war if we didn't let him take you even though I could have killed him where he

stood and he didn't fear the outcome of his words, he just knew he wanted his mate. To him you're not broken, to me you're not. The only person who thinks you have a broken wolf is you"

"We have been good? Haven't we, Lily?" Says Layla, eavesdropping in my head.

"Please just give in, let him mark us" She pleads. Layla wants this more than anything.

"After the baby is born" I tell her, wanting to make sure I wasn't going to be pushed to the side afterwards. Layla nods her head.

"Just think about it Lily, I love you and so does he. Don't ruin your chances at happiness because you don't feel good enough for him" Aria says sitting up before kissing my head.

When she goes to get up, I wrap my arms around her waist, and she brushes my hair with her fingers. I let her go, and she hops up walking to the door, only to stop when she notices the walk-in door open.

"Yeesh, hate to be the laundry lady here?" She states and I chuckle.

"Alpha's" Both Aria and Amber say at the same time. Aria shakes her head, walking out.

"I know you are both sneaking out by the way, No drinking. And I am not getting involved if your mate kills you" She yells from the stairs. Getting up, I rummage through my cupboard and grab some clothes. Following Amber to her room, we both get changed.

Once we are dressed, I decide to take Amber to visit Callie. Walking downstairs Aria is waiting by the door. She gives us her keys.

"I will let you, but no drinking and be back before eight. The Alpha said he should be home by then,"

"What are you going to do?" I ask.

"Natalia is going to show me how to make those stuffed capsicin she made yesterday for lunch" She tells me. Grabbing her keys, we ran to her car before taking off.

"Where is the bottle shop?" Asks Amber.

"We are both underage" I tell her, knowing Damien's pack is way too strict to sell grog to minors.

Amber rummages through her bag and pulls out a card. "I got a fake ID" She says, a grin on her face.

“We can ditch the car at your friends for the night” She says,

“Maybe you really are the destructive influence” I tell her before driving toward the bottle shop.

Amber runs in and brings out three bottles of Vodka and a bottle of whisky.

“I can’t believe it worked”

“I know, it never works back home!” She said.

“Probably because everyone back home knows you” I chuckle before driving toward Callie’s.

“You’re not going to snitch are you, Layla” I ask her, knowing she has a direct line to Darian now.

“No, we can have some fun for once” She states and my face lights up. Maybe we weren’t so different after all.

Getting to Callie’s she comes out to see who’s strange car pulled into the driveway. When I hop out, she relaxes.

“You’re out of the hospital, Does Alpha know you’re here?”

“No, but my sister does, this is Amber, Amber this is Callie” They both say hi to each other and I could tell they were going to get along simply great. Especially when Amber pulled the bottles out. Callie’s face lit up.

“I will order pizza, girl’s night?” We both nod, walking inside.

“I like her,” Amber murmurs.

“Yeah, she reminds me a bit of you,” I tell her, grabbing the bottle of Vodka and going to grab some glasses.

Damien’s POV

It was eleven o’clock when I got a call from Aria. We were supposed to be back by eight, but with David’s help we got information from one of the rogues we caught. One thing we had in common was our appetite for torture, shared the same thrill of watching them squirm in fear.

We found out that Kade was behind the attacks, so I was already angry before I got the call. But when Aria said Lily and Amber took off and hadn’t returned, I was livid.

“Why did you let them leave, she just got out of hospital?” I growl through the phone.

“They are young Damien, and I could tell she wanted a night off from the dramas I expected them back by eight”

Hanging up the phone, turning to David who had his hands inside the rogue stomach pulling out his intestines. The rogue screamed as his body kept trying to heal before he went unconscious.

“We need to go, I will drop you off back at the pack house”

“Lily?” David asks, and I nod. He cleans his hand on a towel.

“What about him?” David asks. We got everything we needed from him so we walked over to him. I snap his neck. His eyes looking up at me hollow as I walk toward the door.

Dropping David off, I know Lily would have gone to the only place I know she feels comfortable, and that is Callie’s. I pull up out the front and Max is sitting on the porch steps.

“They’re inside” He says nodding toward the door. Walking past him, I step inside and am instantly hit with her scent. All three of them are dancing to music playing on the radio. Lily was so intoxicated she couldn’t even sense I was in the house. Sniffing the air, my eyes snap to her leg. Blood seeping through the side of her jeans, making me growl at her carelessness. I can tell her wounds had opened up on her leg.

Callie spotted me standing in the doorway freezing, her eyes going wide before Amber and Lily looked at me before looking at each other. They both burst out laughing before Callie nudges Amber in warning. I growl and Callie turns her head in submission and so does Amber. Lily however gets an attitude.

“Great, the fun police have arrived” She giggles, stumbling into the couch. I grab her, steadying her before she smacks my hand away. Tugging her to me, I hold her against me, she smells strongly of vodka.

“Get in the car” I growl at Amber.

“You, I will deal with tomorrow” I tell Callie and her face pales.

“Don’t talk to them like that” Lily says in anger, her words are slurred and she can barely stay upright.

“You have disobeyed me for the last time, Love” I growl into her ear. She tugged herself away from me.

“No, you can’t treat people like that. We did nothing wrong” She argues back.

“Callie knows exactly why this behaviour isn’t permitted at the moment and so does f****g Amber. Now get in the f****g car Lily” I yell at her.

“No” She screams before falling back on the lounge. I can feel that Darian is just as angry with her and Layla is blocking him out. Going to the lounge I rip her up, she fights against me but in her drunken stupor just ends up tripping over her own feet. Dragging her outside, I shove her into the passenger seat. Amber quietly sits in the back.

“Max, drive Aria’s car to the pack house” I tell him before rummaging through Lily’s jean pocket and retrieving the keys and tossing them to him.

“You haven’t been drinking?” I ask.

“No, Alpha, I came home from patrol and they were like that” He tells me. I nod before pulling out of the driveway. I see Max following behind. On the drive back, both Amber and Lily pass out. Aria is waiting outside when we pull up and she doesn’t look happy. She rips the back door open and pulls Amber out, jostling her awake.

“Get in my car, I can’t believe you would disobey me” She snaps at Amber.

“I’m sorry Alpha, I think it is best we leave. Clearly I have made things worse by coming here,” She says.

“Wait till morning, Lily will want to say goodbye” I said looking toward the car where Lily was slumped in the passenger seat.

“No, we will be fine, David agrees. I will come back soon with the kids. Once you have everything sorted with Lily. I will ring her in the morning so can you please give her back her phone” I nod. David places their bags in their cars and Amber has passed out in the passenger seat of Aria’s car again. Aria shakes her head at her before walking over and opening the passenger door of mine and kissing Lily’s head.

“You are your own worst enemy Lily” She whispers brushing her hair from her face. Lily stirs but doesn’t wake. Everyone leaves. Leaving me alone with Lily. I pick her up and carry her inside before dumping her on the bed.

She squeals loudly before squinting at the lights and rolls over. I pull her clothes off when she wakes.

“Leave me alone” She says as I pull her jeans off. Blood seeping into the towel placed underneath her. Grabbing the first aid kit, I pull the dressing off before redressing it. Most of her wounds are healed, and the bruising has settled except for the gash on her leg and side.

Lily tries pushing me away wanting to sleep but I growl at her in warning.

“Don’t growl at me” She whines, throwing her arm over her face to block the light.

“I am going to do more than growl at you in a minute,” I tell her, making her eyes snap open and go to mine.

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Chapter 27

Lily POV

“I am going to do more than growl at you in a minute”

My eyes snap open going to his, and I can see the glint in his eye. He redresses my wound and I have become startling sober all of a sudden. Layla pushed beneath my skin and her anger burned into me. Making my hair stand on end.

“What does he mean?” I ask her and she growls in my head angrily.

“He is going to mark us, Darian is fuming and so is he” She spits out. My blood runs cold at her words and adrenaline pumps through my veins. Rolling onto my back, he sits back before pulling the towel out from under me. His demeanour is calmly cold as he dumps the towel on the bed and rolls up the gauze and soiled bandages in the towel before dumping it on the floor beside him.

His warm hands run up my thighs and I shiver from the tingles spreading up my legs from his touch, his hands moving up hips before he grips them. And I know she is right. His fingers dug painfully into my skin. When I see him move closer, his eyes turn to pitch black orbs, the eyes of his beast and he looks more like a predator about to devour its prey.

My reaction time was a little sluggish but effective as I brought my foot up kicking him in the face. His head snapping back as the force throws him off the bed. His hands clutching his face and he shakes his head before a menacing growl rumbles through his chest.

Rolling off the bed, I run for the door. Damien’s hand snaking out just as I grip the door handle, his hand wrapping around my ankle and I am ripped onto the floor, the impact knocking the air from lungs with an oomph as I grunt at the sudden impact.

Damien rips me toward him before pressing his weight onto me, and effectively trapping me before pushing between my legs and holding my wrists above my head, pressing them into the soft carpet. His tight grip cutting off the circulation in my hands as I struggle to get them free.

His face moving closer before I felt his breath against my lips. “Struggle all you want, I warned you not to provoke me” He says, his lips so close I could feel them moving against my own. Panic seizing me so I do the only thing I hope will work, distraction.

Closing the distance I kiss him, he doesn’t react at first and I feel him smile against my lips before he kisses me back hungrily, his tongue plunging into my mouth warm and forceful as he tasted every inch of my mouth, making me moan into his as he pressed

himself into me. Getting lost in the feel of his body pressed against mine, yet his grip never waivers. Damien suddenly smiles against my lips before pulling back and looking down at me, his eyes still the black of his beast and I know it didn't work.

"Nice try" He says before dropping his face into the crook of my neck, his canines extending and puncturing my skin. His teeth sink into my flesh deeply and I scream at the sudden pain before I feel lightheaded, drowsiness washing over me then I feel my surroundings getting duller as darkness pulls me under into the depths of unconsciousness.

Damien's Pov

Lily lay unconscious on the floor, my mark etched into her skin. Running my tongue over it I seal it and she shivers in her sleep. Darian feels content as the mate bond settles over us and I feel the buzz as our souls entwine and I feel her emotions rush into me forging a teether between us. She was completely out cold and the only thing I could feel on her end was exhaustion.

Marking takes a toll on any she-wolf but an Alpha's mark is stronger, knocking them out until they start to heal. Lily's scar on her face heals instantly as my strength bleeds into her through the bond and her wolf starts healing her now having the strength to do so.

"She won't be able to hide from us any more" Darian says proudly admiring our mark through my eyes that is red and angry on her pale skin.

"You say that now, but she will wake up and she is going to be furious"

"She will forgive us, Layla wanted this. She just wanted Lily to before we marked her"

"Well too late now, she is officially ours" I tell him, scooping Lily's slumped body into my arms and placing her on the bed. Stripping my clothes off, I hop in the shower before climbing in bed beside her. Just as my head hits the pillow, my phone rings loudly. Grabbing it off the nightstand, I unlock it and read the message David sent.

David : All good on my end and ready to go. Did you mark her?

Me: Marked and see you tomorrow with reinforcements. I reply a few seconds later, my phone dings again with his reply.

David: Good! Hate to be you in the morning, good luck with that.

I chuckle before turning my phone on silent. David and I had spoken earlier in the day, and he insisted with Kade being on the loose that I needed to mark her whether or not she wanted me to. Darian also agreed, but I feared her wrath in the morning.

"We should probably bail first thing in the morning before she wakes," Darian said.

"Why are you scared of her" I chuckle at my wolf now wimping out.

"Not Lily, but Layla is a force to be reckoned with"

"We will be fine, what's the worst she can do?" I tell him, though I feel his unease through the bond. Deciding to set my alarm just in case. Maybe it is better she wakes up and I am not here. She might calm down before I have to deal with her.

Laying on my side I pull Lily against me, feeling the tingles of the bond rush over me as her skin comes in contact with mine. Relishing the contact because I know when she wakes up she won't be letting me near her for a while.

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Chapter 28

Lily POV

Waking up the next morning I was instantly in a terrible mood, made only worse when I realised the person who put me in the mood wasn't even in the bed, instead he snuck out like I was some one night stand he was trying to escape. Sitting upright, the night's events coming back to me like a nightmare I woke up in. I touched the tender skin of my neck, hissing when my fingers came in contact with the mark on my neck.

"I am going to f*****g kill that mutt" I scream, frustrated before storming into the closet and grabbing a pair of jeans and a shirt before pulling them on. Grabbing my sneakers and socks, I sit on the bed and put them on before heading to the kitchen. Layla was abnormally quiet this morning as I made my way into the kitchen.

Natalia was busy making breakfast. "Good Morning Lily" Natalia said as I walked through the door. Turning around, she smiled before her smile faltered.

"Are you okay dear, wake up on the wrong side of the bed?" She asks.

"Have you seen the Alpha?" I ask in return.

"The Alpha, Oh, he ran from the house in a rush this morning about twenty minutes ago, seemed quite flustered," She stated, before turning back to wrapping something in bacon.

"What did he do dear, talking always helps?" I shook my head. I didn't want to talk, I wanted to wrap my hands around his throat and squeeze the life out of him. Not wanting to be rude, Natalia didn't deserve my anger, I answered.

"He did this," I said, pointing at the wound on my neck. Natalia looked up, a silly smirk on her face.

"That's it? You look like you want to go on a rampage" I sighed, frustrated.

"That's how things go when you find your mate Lily,"

"Yeah but I don't want to be his Luna, I am not even sure I want to be with him after the entire Tabitha incident" I tell her.

"Lily, dear, the Alpha would never let you leave, even if he hadn't marked you last night he would have, eventually. Besides, there are worse things than being mated to an Alpha. You may say you don't want to be with him but from what I have witnessed. It is quite the opposite, you just don't want to admit he is right for you"

With that, I turned to go to the door when I realised something. Turning back around, I asked Natalia. "Where did my sister go?"

"Oh, everyone left last night, Aria didn't want to make things harder on Damien with you and that other girl running off. She said she would return soon though" I nod before heading for the front door to go hunt Damien down. Just as I opened the door, I nearly walked into my father who was just about to knock.

"Dad? Did Aria come too?" I said hugging him.

"No, I am here to help Damien with the rogue issues, Reid sent me with some reinforcements".

"Reinforcements? How bad is this rogue problem?"

My father paled slightly like he just realised he said too much. "Everything is fine Lily. Reid just wants to make the alliances stronger" My father stated, but I could tell he was lying.

"What are you hiding, Dad?" He tugged at his shirt collar nervously.

"I better get over and see the Alpha. Nice mark by the way really makes your eyes pop" My father said smirking, making me slap his arm while he laughed.

"Well jokes on you dad, you can give me a lift, I am also looking for the Alpha, the b*****d marked me and done runner before I got up"

My father chuckled. "Smart man" He stated. "But I just remembered I have to go see the Beta first"

"And I will go with you" I tell him.

"Lily, no I can't"

"What are you and Damien hiding?"

"You need to speak to Damien, Lily. I can't, not yet at least"

"Then take me to him and I will ask myself" My father shook his head, and suddenly Tabitha came walking up the driveway making both of us turn to her. My father, seeing that as his chance to escape, darted to his car. I flipped him the bird as he honked the horn with a triumphant grin on his face.

"Did I interrupt something?" Tabitha asked.

"No, you're fine, my dad was just being an a*s. What's up?"

"I was wondering actually if you would mind if I started working here again, Natalia is struggling with the workload and I need work, and no one will hire me because" She looked down at her enormous belly.

"Argh, come inside we can speak in there" I tell her once again having to put my rampage on hold.

Tabitha smiles, then I see her eyes go to my neck. "Geez, he got you a good one" She stated making me cover it with my hand.

"Don't be embarrassed, I am counting down the days till my mate can mark me" She says following me inside.

Once inside, we head to the kitchen and I start making some tea.

"Tabitha? You're back?" Natalia said, not hiding her surprise.

"I need the work and I know you need the help" Natalia nodded in understanding. "Yes, the hours are starting to get to me" She says looking toward me.

"Fine, I will speak to Damien, but what are you going to do after the baby comes?" I ask, looking at her round stomach.

"Well, I could always bring her" Tabitha said hopeful "or I can get my mate to watch her if he is out in time"

"Oh, s**t I completely forgot as soon as I see him, I will ask him" I tell her, and she nods her head. Hearing a knock on the door, I get up. Today this place seemed to be like a drop-in centre. Going to the door, I open it and it is my father.

"Why didn't you just come in, and I thought you had to see the Alpha?" I ask him.

"Apparently he is out on patrol with some warriors," He says, shrugging and stepping inside.

Suddenly I hear Natalia yelp, making my father and I look toward the kitchen.

Tabitha's panicked scream made both of us run toward them.

"What, what is it?" I ask, running into the kitchen.

“Her water just broke” Natalia said, running from the room and returning with towels. “But you’re not due yet” I tell her before suddenly Tabitha doubles over and screams in pain.

“Someone call the Alpha” Natalia screams. My father who is as pale as a ghost nods, pulling his phone from his pocket and dialling the number with shaking hands.

“Lily, come help,” Natalia says. Help?

Help with what? I am not the one pushing a bowling ball out of my coochie.

Natalia waves me forward with her hand, all while Tabitha moans and groans in pain. I help Natalia lay her down on some towels. When suddenly the power goes out.

My father looks at his phone, frustrated. “Someone will have to go get him, I just lost service”

“What do you mean you lost service, it is a mobile not a house phone?”

“Exactly what I said Lily, I lost service”

“It’s alright, a midwife lives across the road I will go get her, you wait with Tabitha I will call an ambulance from over there and I will try to mind link the Alpha as long as he hasn’t blocked the mind link” She says getting up and running to the front door. The mind link? Why didn’t I think of that, I am now pack linked.

I try to reach out to Damien, but it is like hitting a wall. Confused, I called to Layla.

“Layla? What’s wrong?” I ask as she slowly comes forward. “I don’t know I don’t feel so good, I think something is wrong with Damien” She states.

“Can you contact Darian?” She shakes her head and I suddenly can no longer reach her. Leaving nothing but deafening silence in my head.

A few minutes passed, and Natalia wasn’t back. Tabitha was still screaming and gripping my hands so hard they were turning purple.

“Where is she?” I ask, and my father looks toward the door.

“I will go see if I can see her” He says, and I nod but before he even has a chance a loud horn starts blaring from outside and I hear the sound of roller shutters. Looking to the windows, Roller shutters start blocking the windows.

“Dad, what’s going on?” I scream to him. He doesn’t answer, Tabitha does instead.

“We must be under attack” She says panting.

“This didn’t happen last time” I tell her.

“Yeah, that horn only goes off if we are being overrun” She says before screaming through another contraction. My dad comes running back in.

“I can’t get out,” He says, panting like he just ran to every door in the entire house.

“What do we do?” he asks, looking toward Tabitha in panic.

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Chapter 29

Damien’s POV

I had every intention of leaving this morning, but when I was called through the mind

link to say my warriors had a visual on Kade; I bolted from the house, heading to my men. Shifting and running through the forest heading towards my men who were meant to be on the east side of the territory. Arriving at the location where they were meant to be keeping eyes on him. Only no one was here. The entire forest was eerily quiet, not even any noises from birds or insects. My instincts telling me something was seriously wrong.

That's when I felt it. At first it was like I thought someone had punched me until I saw the blood oozing from my back leg. The bang from the gun echoing around me and before I could react, I felt another hitting me in my side. Darian forced us to shift back as I lay naked on the soil. Panting from the bullet lodged in my abdomen.

I suddenly felt a dart hit me in the neck and I knew instantly it was wolfsbane if I had any chance of healing. It was out the window now, with wolfsbane in my system. I felt delirious as my head hit the forest floor. Feet in the distance coming closer.

"He is out, now find her and I want her alive" Says a sadistic voice. My stomach dropping at his words. He meant my mate. He was here to take Lily from me, and I was powerless to stop him as I slipped into darkness. His words repeated in my head as I succumbed.

Lily POV

We watched Tabitha in panic praying someone would get here, but when she started screaming her face turned to panic. I knew they were going to be too late.

"No,NO. NO" She screamed.

"What? Tell me what to do"

"She is coming, I can feel her coming. I need to push" She says struggling to strip her pants off.

"What? No, leave them on, just cross your legs" I tell her panicking myself I can't deliver a baby. She ignores me and continues to try to pull her pants down. Giving me a glimpse of, I don't f*****g know what I am looking at but it is no longer a f*****g v****a. If this is what kids do down south, I am not having any.

"Oh god I can see its head" My dad said, and I realised he was right. It was a head tearing painfully out, blood running everywhere.

""""You need to catch it Lily" My dad says.

"You catch, you know what you're doing, right?" I look at him. He shakes his head

""""I couldn't even be in the room with your mother. I have a weak stomach"""" He says before spewing in the sink.

"What? You torture people but can't handle a woman giving birth?" I say incredulously.

"It's different and you're a girl it should come naturally" He mutters, before turning a shade of green and puking again. His retching was nearly enough for me to start. Come on, Lily, you can do this, you're good at sport. I can catch right. Like catching a football only slimy and covered in vag juice, I tell myself, giving myself a mental pep talk.

Tabitha groans loudly, pushing hard, and I push her legs into her chest. The baby's head pushing out slowly, tearing her almost from arsehole to navel. Well, not that bad that may be a slight exaggeration but she tears terribly, and I almost feel bad for her vag. There is no turning back from that I don't think. Suddenly the baby's head pops out and Tabitha starts panting heavily. But something doesn't look right, and I realise the umbilical cord is wrapped around her baby's neck multiple times.

"Wait, stop" I tell her as she starts pushing again. She immediately stops. "What? What

is wrong?" She says worried, trying to look.

"The cord is stuck around its neck" I tell her not really wanting to touch her vag but not really having a choice when every time she pushes, the baby is no longer moving any further like it is stuck. I try to get my finger under the cord to loosen it, and try to slip it over its head, but it is slippery and rubbery. Tabitha suddenly groans and pushes hard again as the baby moves but I can see the cord getting tighter and tighter. She keeps groaning.

"Stop," I tell her.

"I can't, I can't help it" She says and suddenly the baby is forced out sliding into my hands covered in blood and god knows what else. I quickly start unwrapping the cord.

"Why isn't she crying?" Tabitha says, sitting up in panic. The baby is all floppy in my hands. I rub its back, but nothing happens. My father comes over, looking down at the Baby and Tabitha is in hysterics screaming and wailing while I jam my finger in its mouth to see if its airways are clear and they are.

My father looks horrified and I place my mouth over its mouth and nose trying to remember the CPR training I had in school. I breathe a short puff into it and nothing. I do it again and nothing. I go to do it a third time when it starts screaming. I never in my life had I been so excited to hear a baby cry.

Tabitha stops screaming hysterically and reaches her hands out for her baby and I place her in her arms. Before looking at my father in relief. Tabitha cuddles her crying baby to her chest, and she starts to settle in her mother's arms. She was beautiful with chubby little cheeks and blue eyes. I sit back, relieved when suddenly Tabitha pushes again.

"What?"

"The Placenta?" She says and I tug slightly on the cord. Suddenly a rush of blood, fluid and something that looks kind of like raw brisket comes out.

My father instantly runs for the sink as he chucks up again. I roll my eyes at him. Weak, b****y weak. I think to myself.

"Want to hold her?" Tabitha asks, looking at me to see if I want to hold my mate's baby. I look at the slippery little bundle in her arms, debating whether I want to. When I hear an explosion at the front of the house.

The entire house shakes violently, and dust is blasted into the kitchen knocking half the wall out. My father, who was closest to the kitchen door being thrown into the window, getting knocked unconscious. I hear shouting and jump to my feet, feeling for Layla but come up empty. Men rushing into the room surrounding us, guns pointed at me and Tabitha. I put myself between her and them, fearing that they would shoot her.

When suddenly I hear someone chuckle before stepping through the door. A voice I never thought I would hear again, and my blood ran cold, icy cold.

"Well, that was easier than I thought, Hi Lily, miss me?"

Kade?

I growl at him, calling for Layla but I only get silence. I need to shift, but without her I can't.

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Chapter 30

Lily POV

I keep my eyes glued on the man that destroyed my life, destroyed my wolf. Refusing to even blink, my heart pounding and adrenaline making me antsy as it pulses through my veins. Little red dots appearing through the dust directly aimed at both me and Tabitha and her newborn baby. When suddenly I heard Layla's voice in my head, she sounded drugged and her words slurred, but she was furious and she wanted blood.

"Bout time you came to the party" I snapped at her, "we need to shift" I tell her but she shakes her head.

"We can't"

"What do you mean we can't shift?" I ask, keeping my eyes on Kade as he saunters into the room. The only thing separating us is the dining table in the centre of the room. I see movement out of the corner of my eye and hear my father groan.

"Darian is hurt, I don't know why, but I am too weak to shift. I have tried, I think whatever is happening to him is affecting us," She tells me.

Kade drums his fingers on the table and I see his men turn their guns on my father as he stands up, a hand on his head disorientated. His eyes snapping to mine in panic as he takes in the predicament we are in.

Kade chuckles before taking a seat at the table like this is a casual get together.

"Well, isn't this fantastic, the only person missing is Aria" He says and I feel Layla growl loudly and it bursts from my chest loud and menacing and even makes goosebumps raise on my arms.

Kade nods to his men as seven men redirect their guns to me.

"Well that is a problem, see I drugged your mate and it should have taken down your wolf when he died. So I am a little confused, I must say" He says, rubbing his chin, his beady eyes looking at me, like I am some sort of science experiment. In many ways, I actually was.

"He isn't dead, Lil" Layla says, when she feels my panic at his words.

"Let me forward," Layla says, pulling at our link.

"What?" I ask, confused why she would want to come forward when she can't shift.

"Let me forward, I am more than comfortable in your skin as I am mine" She growls again and Kade stands up nodding to his men and I feel a dart hit me in the centre of the chest. Layla lurches forward shoving me back before launching herself over the table straight for Kade but he moves just in time and she hits the ground before turning.

I feel us shifting only we aren't, I couldn't explain the sensation that rolled over me, but claws extended from my hands and I felt my canines protrude but we weren't on all fours or in wolf form.

Suddenly guns start going off everywhere. All aimed at us but Layla was quick and it was like time stood still or slowed dramatically as I literally watched the bullets dodge past, but she was quicker moving with precision and speed as she started ripping the men to pieces. The mind link opens up suddenly and I hear Damien's wrath flood me,

which only spurred Layla on. Callie's voice echoing in my head, "Hold on, we are on our way" I was too focused on what was happening to reply. Suddenly I see Kade tackle my father straight through the roller shutter and they crash through the window in the backyard. My father is trying to fight back when he is kicked off the verandah. The distraction cost us, as I felt a knife slide between my ribs. Layla and I look down at the blade hanging from our side, our breathing instantly affected, and I cough. We stumble back into the table and watch as the man advances on us, a murderous glint in his eye and a sadistic smile on his face as he heads toward us to finish us.

When suddenly a brown and white wolf launches at him completely jumping over the top of the table before sinking its teeth into the rogue's neck and shaking. Blood splattering everywhere as she nearly completely separates his head from his body, his body going limp on the ground, and I try to figure out who the she-wolf is.

I know Callie's wolf and it wasn't hers. I hear Tabitha's baby screaming and I look in her direction, only she isn't there, but her baby is laying on the towels on the floor unharmed and I know the wolf that just saved me is Tabitha.

The entire kitchen and dining room are littered with body parts from the tornado that was Layla. Tabitha shifts back and pulls the knife from my ribs. Luckily it wasn't very big and only collapsed my lung but as soon as she pulled it out in this weird form of half shifted, I felt myself healing, shocking both Layla and myself. I heard my father grunt making me snap my attention to the yard and Kade had my father by the throat pinned against the tree. We run, jumping completely over the veranda and onto the grass.

Kade smiled cruelly, his eyes flashing as I tried to run toward them to stop him.

"I will see you soon Lily" He says, before plunging his hand into my father's chest. I hear someone scream loudly, the noise echoing loudly back to me. Watching as my father's eyes go to mine, filled with shock before pain, then they go hollow as I watch the life fade from his eyes, as Kade rips his hand out of my father's chest.

My father's heart in his hand before he drops it on the ground. I keep running trying to get to him and Kade takes off disappearing, but I don't care. I just need to get to him, get to my father.

Dropping to my knees, I clutch onto him, pulling his head and shoulders onto my lap. I rub his face and clutch his hand.

"No, no, no not him, please not him" I scream at the moon goddess. Layla howled in my head, and I can hear someone sobbing and I turn looking for the person making the horrid noise before I realise the person is actually me.

Damien POV

I thought for sure I was dead until I suddenly felt something force me back and that someone was Lily and Layla. Her panic pulled me back. Even Darian thought this was it. Yet waking I felt this strange tug forcing me to my feet and suddenly my wounds started healing rapidly. Pain that filled my body was now gone.

"Layla" Was all Darian muttered, and I felt him force the shift and run towards the pack house. Alarms blaring loudly and I hear Darian mind link the entire pack. Telling them to get to their Luna, their angry echoes forcing me to run faster.

Running, I notice the bodies of the wolves that I originally went looking for dead just on the northern forest edge. Not having time to stop, we ran through the town keeping in the direction of the pack house.

“How are we still alive?” I growl. Nothing makes sense. I felt myself dying, felt my soul slipping into oblivion..

“I think when we marked her our life line became tethered to Layla’s somehow, I can’t explain it. I could feel her getting weaker and us getting stronger” He tried to explain, which just worried me. If Lily’s wolf is weakened, can they still shift? Can she fight her way out? But most of all, can we get to her in time?

As we get closer, I see Callie and around twenty warriors run alongside us. Heading toward the Packhouse. When it comes into view, I hear the wailing of a woman screaming hysterically from the back end of the pack house. Her cries are guttural and heartbreaking. Rounding the corner, we all skid to a stop, my paws ripping up grass as I stare at what I see.

Lily in the middle of the yard next to the mighty Banyan tree on the ground, rocking back and forth, clutching someone in her arms. I see Tabitha standing horrified on the back verandah, tears running down her face as she stares at Lily. I can vaguely hear the sounds of a baby crying but tune it out as all I can focus on at this moment is my mate.

Shifting, I walk towards her, linking the pack to search the forest. She doesn’t even look up as I approach, completely lost in her grief, and I see why when I see the man in her arms is her father. His lifeless eyes looking up at the sky, hollow and dead.

Moving behind her, I touch her shoulder and she growls loudly and I realise her and Layla are one at the moment. I feel Darian shake his head in warning and I can feel through the bond a mix of burning anger and sorrow.

“Lily” I say but she doesn’t answer. Just continues to rock back and forth, cradling her father’s head.

“Lily” I repeat and her head whips around so fast I thought she was going to attack me, her eyes blazing before recognition hits her and they suddenly lose their light.

“He’s gone, he’s gone because of me” She s**s, her hands clenched in what’s left of his shirt. I hated my father, but seeing her like this, I could tell she truly loved hers. I always thought of Lily as strong, even when she didn’t think she was, stronger than life and vibrant, compassionate. Yet looking at her now, she looked broken. Devastatingly broken. And I didn’t know how to fix her.

Crouching down beside her, I brush her hair from her face, tucking it behind her ear.

I wasn’t used to dealing with tears, not from her, and I was lost with what I should do to comfort her. Usually I caused tears, not try to stop them. Looking at Lily though, I wanted nothing more than to stop her pain, take it from her like she did me.

“Come on” I tell her, trying to get her up, but she refuses to let him go. Callie and Max both walk into the clearing and Callie comes over to her.

“Lily, we will take care of him promise, go with your mate” She says and I am suddenly grateful for her pain in the a*s being here. Callie usually frustrated me to no end. Always challenging my authority, but I could tell she loved Lily and considered her a friend. Maybe that’s why they get on so well, they are a lot alike.

Callie grips Lily’s face, forcing her to look at her. “Go with your mate, I will look after your dad okay” Lily nods her head, her blonde hair looks like it has been dipped in blood. Lily stands and Max comes over, picking the Alpha up.

Lily looks at him, and I can feel her through the bond as she forces herself to harden her resolve and pull herself together. Callie squeezes my shoulder as she walks past,

and I nod to her as she follows Max. Max's voice echoing to me loudly as he tells me Kade wasn't found. Leaving more questions as to how he got in without the Pack seeing him here.

Placing my arms over her shoulders, I tug her against me and she relaxes slightly against me as we walk into the house. Walking in, I am horrified at what I see. Body parts strewn throughout my kitchen and dining-room, smashed windows. Kitchen doors ripped off and a hole in the wall.

Lily walks in like she doesn't even see them, just stepping over and trudges blood all over my floors. I shake my head at the sudden urge to clean the house, forcing myself after her.

"I need to call my sister" Lily says, not even looking back at me as she walks out fast leaving me in the kitchen gobsmacked.

I don't understand, if Lily couldn't shift, Did David cause this mess? I said to myself, looking at the body parts scattered everywhere. When I thought my shock couldn't get any worse, Tabitha walked in, her voice hitting me first as I turned to her.

"I think her wolf did that, except that one. That was me. The rest was her though"

Suddenly my eyes darted down when I saw something wriggle in her arms. My eyes go to the baby she held, she hugs her a little tighter. I step forward when Tabitha shakes her head, and I don't understand until the scent hits me.

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