Fated to my Enemy by Diane Doherty Chapter 81-90

Chapter Eighty-One

Ryley

Great, I thought as I heard the excessive beeping that meant I was lying in a hospital bed, h**ked up to a heart monitor. My head throbbed to its own beat as I pushed myself to remember what had happened. I remember Aspen being hurt and cutting my arm but that's all. I hissed as I tried to move my arm. That wasn't a dream.

"Baby, trying not to move your arm, it's still healing," I heard Blake say, his hand squeezing mine.

'Are the boys okay?" I whispered, turning my head in the direction of his voice. I didn't want to open my eyes. And the way my voice grumbled from my throat, I didn't want to speak either but I needed to make sure they were both okay.

The bed dipped before Blake's warm hands caressed my cheeks. I leaned into his touch, enjoying this warmth.

"I sent them both home to rest." He mumbled against my forehead. Hot tears hit my cheeks and I knew they weren't mine.

"Ryley, what you did for Aspen, I can never repay." His voice cracked and all I wanted to do was hold him. I don't fully understand what happened or why I'm lying in a bed in the hospital, but I knew I did whatever I could to save Aspen. I forced my eyes open, blinking away to adjust to the brightness of the room. I lifted my good arm to Blake's cheek, brushing away a fallen tear. His eyes opened, blinking away the tears before he looked down at me.

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Chapter Eighty-One

281 Wauchwrs

"F**k, I'm so glad you're awake," he breathed out before he wrapped his arms around my neck, squeezing me to his chest.

"I almost lost you," he murmured. Lost me? I would have healed, I should have healed. I tried to reach out to Lily but I could only hear her soft snores. "As long as the boys are okay, that's all that matters." I stammered, my voice raspy as I tried to force the words out. He pulled back, retaking hold of my cheeks.

"Don't say that, baby. I need the boys just as much as I need you." I smiled against his lips as he pressed his to mine.

"I'll get you some water and the doctor," he said before kissing my forehead. I

nodded before he stood up, leaving the room.

When he was gone, it gave me time to think about what had happened. I looked down at my arm which was wrapped in a thick bandage. I still don't understand why I wouldn't have just healed. That has never happened before. And my wolf is still sleeping or I would ask her.

I sighed, trying to get comfortable. My body ached and protested every move I tried to make. The last time I remember being this sore was after giving birth to Channing. I didn't have Lily to help take some of the pain or to heal me. I smiled when Blake walked in holding a bottle of water. Lily may be sleeping but at least I have Blake here. The doctor followed him in and closed the door behind him.

Blake sat beside me before helping me take a drink of water while the doctor looked over the machines and then my chart.

"Thank you," I whispered when he took the bottle from my lips. The cool liquid soothed my dry throat.

Chapter Tippay Ora

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I leaned my head back against the pillow and closed my eyes before yawning. "Luna, how are you feeling?" The doctor asked and my eyes shot open.

"What?" I stammered, looking at Blake and then the doctor.

"You are a Luna wolf?" He questioned and I slowly nodded my head.

"Yes." I breathed out.

"Ryley, why didn't you tell me?" Blake asked and I sighed.

"I didn't want anyone to know. I know Luna wolves are rare. I was protecting Lily. But I couldn't let Aspen die." Blake wrapped an arm around my shoulders, pulling me into his side.

"I'll be forever grateful for what you did for Aspen. And no matter what happens, I'll protect you with my life." He said and it had tears pooling in my eyes. Having this information reach the council could be devastating and now there was no turning back.

"Well, Luna, have you ever experienced a heat before?" The doctor asked, sitting down in a chair beside the bed. I looked at Blake.

"I'm sorry, Ryley, I just blurted it out in the OR," he shrugged.

"It explains why you did heal. A female wolf after a heat will be dormant for a few days to recover." He said.

"That's why she's sleeping?" I breathed out.

"Most couples would still be held up in their room so the female wouldn't be in immediate danger." He explained.

"That's why I didn't heal after cutting my arm?" I exclaimed and he 55.68%

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nodded.

"You also nicked an artery

"But why would I go into heat?" I questioned. My head was pounding again as I tried to put the puzzles together.

"I don't have an answer for you, yet. Luna wolves are rare and not a lot is known about them." The doctor answered.

"Okay," I whispered,

"Maybe Lily can answer more when she wakes up," Blake said, reassuringly. "Can I go home?" I asked. I noticed Blake and the doctor sharing secret conversation until the doctor let out a sigh.

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"Only if you rest. Your wolf won't be active for another couple of days and you have lost a significant amount of blood this week." He ordered.

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"I know this relationship is new and exciting, Alpha but she needs to rest." He scolded Blake and I chuckled remembering the punishment I was supposed to receive when we got home.

"If Blake promises, can I go home?" I pleaded. The doctor pushed his lips in a line, looking from me to Blake before agreeing,

"The alpha can take you home and I'll see you tomorrow to check on you."

Chapter Eighty-Two

Alpha Dorian

"So let me get this straight, instead of telling her, you f**ked her?" Jared scolded me. I was supposed to be telling Lisa everything but I couldn't. I didn't want to hurt her. I love Evelyn but Lisa has been by my side through all of this. "Evie would have been if she didn't fall off the cliff." Fang scoffed.

"Yeah," I breathed out, answering my beta. We were sitting in my office the next morning. I knew I needed to tell her about Evelyn and my son. But I didn't know how to start that conversation.

"You aren't sure what you want?" Jared crossed his arms over his chest, leaning back in his seat.

"I know what I want, I just don't want to hurt the one person who has been there through all of this. She gave me a son. She took on being my Luna when she didn't have to. And now all I can think about is the life I could have had with Evie." I sighed, guilt twisting my stomach painfully.

For the first few years after I believed her dead, I would dream about her walking into the pack. Dreamt about her throwing her arms around my neck and her lips on mine. It was a dream that had long ago faded until now.

"I saw firsthand how happy Evelyn made you and it may not have been the same with Lisa but you picked a good woman. She is well respected and liked in this pack. And we have seen some of the crazy Lunas out there." He chuckled at his last comment. It was true. Most 0.00%

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Chapter Eighty-Two

288 Vouchers

see me as winning the mate lottery with Lisa. She is beautiful, kind, hardworking, but she isn't Evelyn. She isn't my fated mate.

There was a knock on my office door before Wes came in with Alpha Blake's ga*ma, Connor. There haven't been any attacks and Alpha Blake was supposed to be coming here today. How the hell was I going to act civil with an alpha who is f**king my mate?

"Alpha Dorian, I just wanted to inform you that Beta Luca will be replacing the alpha today. There was a situation involving the Luna and the alpha doesn't want to leave her." Ga*ma Connor informed me. Did she just refer to Evelyn as Luna?

"Oh my, I hope she is doing okay. I wasn't aware Alpha Blake had taken a mate." Lisa exclaimed, stepping into my office.

"She is doing better, thank you Luna Lisa. Alpha Blake is being protective of his new Luna." The ga*ma told my Luna. New Luna? She wasn't marked a few days ago, did she really mark him?

My mind was racing as I stood up from my chair behind my desk. I walked out of my office without a word to anyone. I needed space to clear my mind. And there was only one person who I could call to get the answers I needed. As soon as I walked into the back garden, I pulled out my phone.

"Alpha Dorian," he answered after a few rings. His voice was thick with sleep. "How is she?" I blurted out.

"Babe, is everything okay?" I heard Evelyn ask, and my blood boiled as I balled up my fist.

"I'll be right back," I heard him say to her before the phone went silent. I pulled it away from my ear to make sure he didn't hang up. 27.65%

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"Alpha Dorian, did something happen?"

"Other than you sleeping with my mate," I growled.

"If that's why you called, I have nothing to say to you," he said.

"I called because your ga*ma informed me that something happened to her." I exasperated.

"All I'm telling you is that she is fine. If there is anything else she wants you to

know, then she will tell you.'

"She is my mate and the mother of my son, I deserve answers, Blake. Something happened to where you don't want to leave her and I want to know why?" I yelled into the phone. I was growing increasingly frustrated.

"All I can say is that she is okay and resting. I can let her know that you called. But don't make demands of me, Dorian. I'm doing this to keep the peace. And remember, I won't hesitate to kill you." He growled before ending the call.

"F*ck," I yelled into the empty garden.

"Dorian?" I whipped around to see Lisa.

"She's alive?" She mumbled, tears filling her eyes as she stared at me.

"And she gave you a son?" She cried, unable to hold back her emotions.

"Lisa, I wanted to tell you. I was going to tell you, to explain everything." I exclaimed, rushing to her, I grabbed a hold of her arms. "How long have you known?" She whispered.

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Chapter Eighty Two

280 Nouchers

"A few days. I found her alive when I went to Alpha Blake's pack. I didn't know she was alive or that she had my son," I blurted, trying to salvage this. "She's your fated mate?" Lisa questioned.

"Yes and before you ask, Fang told me she was. But I thought she was dead, Lisa. I never would have put you through any of this if I had known she was alive." I told her.

"I love you, Dorian. And I know an alpha needs his mate but that doesn't change the life we have had together. It doesn't change that we have a son together." She said, wiping her tears. She pulled away from me, walking out of the garden.

"Lisa," I called after her.

"I need some time, Dorian. I gave up so much for you. And it hurts that even after almost twenty years together, you are still able to throw me away for her." With that, she left me standing in the garden.

"F*ck," I screamed before I shifted and took off into the forest. I needed to run.

Chapter Eighty-Three

Alpha Blake

"Dad, what was that about?" Aspen asked me. He was standing in the kitchen as I hung up on Alpha Dorian.

"He wanted to know about mom?" Channing said, coming down the hallway. "My ga*ma let it slip that I was sending my beta because I was taking care of our Luna," I told them. I knew it was going to happen. Even though Ryley isn't my Luna yet, she is still a Luna.

"What did you tell him?" Channing growled.

"I told him, she was fine. Nothing more. And I would never put her in danger, Channing, I have already commanded everyone who has seen her heal Aspen to secrecy. No one will know she is a Luna wolf unless she tells them." I reassured him.

"I understand that, I just don't want that f**ker in her life." He scoffed.

"I don't either but that isn't up to us," I told him.

"Dad, just tell her not to see him. Problem solved." Aspen said.

"That's not how relationships work. I don't want him in her life and I can tell her my concerns but I can't demand her not to see him. I'm not going to push her away because I can't handle this situation. And both of you need to remember that she loved him. Channing you came from both of them. He's her fated mate. And as much as the idea of her even speaking to him, kills me inside, I can't order her not to." I explained. I 0.00%

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Chapter Eighty-Three

288 (Vouchers

looked at the clock and saw it was time for them to head to training. I did try to talk Aspen into resting but he assured me he felt great.

"Get to training and we will all talk about this later," I told them before heading back into my room to see Ryley.

"Is everything okay?" Ryley asked as I stripped off my sweatpants before climbing in beside her. I pulled her against me, her head on my chest.

"It was Dorian. Connor, my ga*ma who is at his pack explained I would be sending my beta in my absence and he called to question why. "I answered.

"Oh," she sighed, tracing her fingertips along my abs.

"Does he know about Aspen?" She mumbled.

"No. I told him you were okay and if you wanted him to know more, you'd tell him." I answered, running my fingers through her hair.

"I'm sorry, Blake, I never wanted you to become involved in all of this. And he has no right to call you demanding to know about me or Channing." I

squeezed her close. She needed rest, not to worry about her ex. I'll handle him.

"Ex's come with the territory, Ryley. And I'll always protect you. You don't have to do this alone." I kissed the top of her head before she shifted to look at me.

"Thank you," she smiled before I kissed her lips.

"Now, you need to rest." I gave her a pointed look.

"Blake, I'm fine," she told me before she yawned and I chuckled.

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D**hers

"You may be fine but you still need rest and I have the day off to spend here with you."

"Okay," she grumbled, resting her head on my chest again.

It didn't take her long before her breathing evened out and I knew she was asleep. I think she only stayed awake to ask about my conversation with her ex. And he's lucky I'm being patient. In my younger days, I would have ripped him apart for even looking at her.

"We still can," Gunner growled.

"He's Channing's father. He may not want to know him now but one day he might." I sighed.

"I'm saying he's our Blake. Alphas don't claim pups that aren't their blood but I claim him as ours. Both of them are ours." He said. I was unable to question him further as my phone rang. I grabbed it off the nightstand and answered without looking at the screen. I didn't want it to wake her.

"Alpha Blake," I answered.

"How's our Luna?" Luca asked, chipper.

"Will you shut up," I groaned, trying to untangle myself from Ryley so I wouldn't wake her.

"Hold on," I told him. I placed the phone down and got off the bed. I pulled on my sweatpants before covering her with the blanket: When I was done, I picked up my phone and left the room, closing the door quietly behind me. "Luca?" I said into the receiver.

"Boss," he chuckled.

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Chapter Eighty Three

298 Vouchers

"Where are you?" I asked, rolling my eyes.

"Driving to meet Connor. Apparently, the alpha was unhappy about you sk**ping out today," he commented.

"He was more upset when he heard me in bed with Ryley," I groaned and he laughed.

"F**ken, awesome," he exclaimed.

"What did you tell Connor?" I sighed.

"I told him that you weren't coming because something happened with the Luna." He answered.

"Why would you say Luna? No one is to know she is a Luna wolf." K growled. "I didn't say Luna wolf, I called her Luna. As in your Luna."

"Are you trying to start a war?" I questioned.

"There wouldn't be a war, Blake. And I'm sure the look on his face would have been hilarious to see." He chuckled.

"As funny as you think this is, I don't want him to know what is happening in our lives. So, can you please keep your mouth shut," I ordered.

"Mum's the word. But you still didn't answer my question."

"Ryley is resting. And I mean it Luca, not a word." I reminded him.

"I got it. And Blake you are quite grumpy for a man getting laid," he chuckled. 75.52%

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Chapter Eighty Three

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"Call me when you have news," I told him before ending the call. I pinched the bridge of my nose as I took a few deep breaths. As much as I enjoy pushing that alpha's buttons if she was my fated mate, I wouldn't be able to let her go.

Chapter Eighty-Four

Ryley

I awoke to an empty bed, and I wondered where Blake went. He told me he h ad the day off to spend with me. But maybe he got bored of laying in bed. I'm sure he would have woken me if anything would have happened. I still haven't seen the boys, they were sleeping when I came home and I didn't want to wa ke them. Yesterday, was a very emotional day and I knew they needed their rest.

Stretching, I sat up, looking around the room. This would be the perfect time to be able to mind link, I thought with a sigh.

I noticed my

phone on the nightstand as I sat on the edge of the bed. I had missed calls from Isaac but I was more interested in the message

from Blake.

Blake: Went to spar with the boys. Didn't want to wake you. We'll be home soon. Love, Blake.

I smiled as

I read his message. He was so sweet and thoughtful, it warmed my heart kno wing I picked such a wonderful man.

I reached out to Lily, as I walked into the bathroom to shower. She was still sle eping away. She better wake up soon, I had so many nagging questions to as k her. And she also could have warned me about the heat. I still would have saved Aspen, I just would have been more careful where I would have cut my arm.

I turned on the shower before pulling off Blake's shirt
I was wearing. I loved wearing his clothes and smelling like him. His scent cal
med me in a way I never expected. When I was naked, I peeled back the ban
dage, exposing my stitched—up skin. It was red but it looked to be

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Chapter Eighty #cut

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healing.

I hissed as I entered the shower

and the hot water ran over the wound. This would be healed, if Lily would just wake up. But instead, I'm dealing with healing, human style, and it sucks.

My limbs felt heavy as I finished my shower. I was ready to lay back down but I knew I needed to eat something. I needed food and rest. Before leaving the bathroom, I placed a new bandage on my arm before getting dressed. I pulled on a pair of sweatpants before grabbing

one of Blake's sweatshirts. I took in a deep breath of his scent as I made my way to the kitchen.

I was just in the middle of

eating a peanut butter and honey sandwich when there was a knock on the do or. Who would be knocking? I cautioningly walked towards the door. I didn't have Lily right now, and I was still weak.

"Yes," I called out.

"I'm sorry to disturb you, Luna, but you have a visitor," a man said through the door. I opened the door to find a warrior.

"It's just Ryley and a visitor? I wasn't expecting anyone," I told him.

"Would you like me to ask her to leave?" He asked.

"No, I'll be down in a moment. Where am I to meet her?" I questioned as I put on a pair of shoes that were at the door.

"She is waiting outside, she refused to come inside," He informed me as I stepped out of our apartment, closing the door behind me.

"Thank you," I

said as I made my way to the front. I was panting as I made it down all the stairs and to the

front door. The warrior opening the front door startled me. I didn't know he had followed me.

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Chapter Eighty–four

288 Worhers

I walked outside and a beautiful woman was leaning against a black SUV. She had golden brown hair, pulled back into a messy bun. Her eyes looked, red and puffy, like she had been crying. But I didn't recognize her.

"Can I help you?" I asked as I approached her.

"So, you're Evelyn," she scoffed.

"Luna," the warrior growled and I raised my hand.

"You may call me Ryley. I haven't gone by Evelyn in a long time." I told her.

"I thought after I saw you, I would feel better." She sighed.

"Feel better about what?"

"I wanted you to be ugly, to be a self—centered bitch, something to prove to my mate that I'm better than you. But lo ok at you, even in sweats, you are perfect." She exclaimed.

"You're Lisa," I gasped, putting the pieces together.

"I'm Lisa, and you're my mate's fated." She confirmed. I wanted to hate her. I spent years hating this woman whom I thought my mate chose over me. But I ooking at her, all I saw was a broken woman.

"I don't know what Dorian told you, but I'm not here to claim him. I was trying to stay dead until he came here to speak with Blake." I explained.

"And you think that matters? He's an alpha and you are his fated." She scoffe d, before letting out a breath.

"I understand, but I don't want him. He killed my family and chased me

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Chapter Eighty–Four

over a cliff. He stole everything from me." I exasperated.

"Is that what he told you?" She asked me and I nodded.

"Then he was lying." She said before she looked behind me and gasped. I turned to see Blake walking with the boys.

"He looks just like Dorian," Lisa muttered.

"Mom, what's going on?" Channing called out.

248 Mothers

"I never should have come here," Lisa blurted, I turned back to her.

"Lisa, wait, let me explain." I rushed after her as she moved to the driver's side

"I gave up everything for him and he still only wants you." She whispered befo re slamming the door closed. She took off, leaving me more confused than ever.

"Baby, what was that about?" Blake asked, now beside me. He wrapped an arm around my waist, pulling me against his side.

"That was Dorian's Luna."

Chapter Eighty-Five

Alpha Blake

"Let's get you up to bed, you still need to rest," I told her, kissing her temple. S he gave me a nod.

"Mom, what did she want?" Channing demanded as he clenched his fists.

"We can discuss this after we get upstairs," I said.

"Dad's right, Channing. And Ryley needs to rest," Aspen told him. I helped her into the house and up the stairs as the boys followed behind us. I could fe el her turmoil. Whatever his Luna told her was affecting her. And now, I want to know why I wasn't informed of the Luna's

arrival.

Once we were inside our apartment, Ryley took a seat on the couch, closing h er eyes. I could tell she was still exhausted and her wolf must still not be awake.

"Mom, can I get you anything?" Channing asked her, grabbing her shoulder. She reached up and grabbed his hand.

"A water, please," she yawned, and I sat down beside her. After Channing ret urned with a bottle of water and we were all seated, that's when Channing ask ed her again.

"Mom, what did she want?" She opened her eyes to look at him.

"Did she threaten you?" I demanded, pulling her attention from her son. She looked at me, placing a hand on my thigh.

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Chapter Eighty Five

1280 Wauchers

"No, it wasn't like that." She shook her head.

"Then what? Was she trying to set up some kind of playdate? Wanting to bring the family together or some kind of bullshit?" Channing exclaimed, and I growled at his tone. He should know better than to speak to his mother that way.

"Channing, I can't change who your father is or that you have a half- brother. I know you don't want to see your father, which I understand, an d respect your choice. But his other son isn't to blame for any of this. Just like his mate isn't." She sighed.

"How can you say that? He was seeing that bitch while he was with you, and it's not her fault," he yelled.

"Hey, I know you are upset but she had no responsibility regarding your father and my relationship. He made that choice. And I'm sorry my choice kept you f

rom him. The last thing I wanted to do was hurt you." She reached out to him and he moved away.

"So, are you going back to him?" He growled.

"Channing, what is your problem? Our parents are together," Aspen exclaime d.

"Alpha's need their fated mate. It makes them stronger." Channing pointed out . He wasn't wrong but I didn't want to think about her going back to him.

"Sweetie, Aspen is right, I'm with Blake. I'm not going back to Dorian. The only good thing that came from our relationship was you. He has his Luna and a family and I have you. But I don't want you to hate him. Hate will kill you slowly from the inside. I know you feel this need to defend me, but I'm okay. I have you, A

spen, and Blake. I'm happy. And

I hope you are too." She told him, before standing up and moving to sit

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Chapter Eighty Five

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beside him.

"I love you more than anything," she mumbled, kissing his check. He nodded.

"I'm going for a run," he said, standing from his seat. He bent down to

kiss his mother on the cheek.

"I'll go with you," Aspen said before he went to hug Ryley and kiss on the cheek.

"Thank you," he mumbled and she grabbed his cheeks.

"There is no need to thank me, I love you and I will always protect you." She told him, kissing his cheek. My heart swelled with emotion a s I watched her, lovingly stare at my son. The boy that isn't her blood but she would do anything for. Ryley's love has no limits and I'm thankful, Aspen and I get to be loved by such a wonderful woman.

"Fine, you can come but just don't talk. I don't need your words of wisdom right now," Channing told him as they left the apartment, closing the door behind them. I was watching Ryley intently as she watched the boys I eave.

"Are you okay?" She asked me, turning her attention to me.

"I should be asking you that question," I told her.

"I'll tell you, but first, can we talk in bed? I'm exhausted," she sighed.

"Still no Lily?" I asked, standing up from my seat, I helped her to stand.

"Not yet, and I swear I'm going to scold her for taking so long." She scoffed an d I chuckled.

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Chapter Eighty five

288 Nouchers

"To be

fair, she didn't know any of this was going to happen," I defended her wolf.

"To be fair, I shouldn't have gone into heat in the first place," she retorted, taking a seat on the edge of the bed.

"I'm not complaining," I purred, leaning over capturing her lips. She didn't hesit ant to kiss me back.

"Now, what happened that you didn't want to tell the boys?' I

questioned, resting my forehead against hers. She let out a breath, and I coul d feel her hesitation.

"Lisa said that Dorian lied to me." My heart twisted, painfully, as I tried to understand what she was saying.

"She told me he didn't steal everything from me." She finished, looking up at me.

"I don't understand, why did she even come here in the first place?" And she s hrugged.

"I don't know. But I have a feeling I don't know the entire story," she sighed an d I sat down beside her.

"Would that make a difference in your decision about being with me?" She turned to face me before taking hold of my cheeks.

"What? Of course not. That ship sunk a long time ago. But it does make me wonder. Maybe, I believed things to be all wrong. And now, everything is r eplaying

in my mind. But this doesn't have anything to do with us. I like us," she smiled and I kissed her again.

"I like us, too."

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Chapter Eighty-Sink

Chapter Eighty-Six

Ryley

The next morning, I was sitting in my office. I was told by Blake's lawyers that I wasn't allowed to work until the matter with Isaac's firm was resolved. And then I could be officially hired by Blake's pack. It was weird having nothing to do but think.

I may have told Blake everything but I was still thinking about everything Lisa had told me. If Dorian wasn't a part of the plan to overthrow my pack then why didn't he warn me? And why lie to me when he was here? And attack me in my kitchen?

My mind was racing and my wolf still wasn't awake. And I had nothing to focus my mind on. So I did the one thing I shouldn't do in a situation like this, I grab bed my keys and left my office. I needed answers and I wasn't going to get the em here.

The boys were at training and Blake was getting caught up with the work he m issed yesterday so I knew my absence wouldn't be noticed. This was probably the dumbest thing I've ever done and I don't have Lily to protect me, but this is something that I need to do, alone.

I have a feeling Lisa

will be more willing to speak openly to me if it is just the two of us. And I've loo ked her up, she has done some wonderful things for my former pack. She is a good Luna and person. And other women may think I'm nuts for wanting to ge t to know my ex's mate but none of this is her fault. Even if she was seeing Do rian when he was seeing me, she wasn't a part of our relationship and had no obligation to me and my feelings.

I climbed into my SUV before pulling up maps on my phone. I put in

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Chapter Eighty!

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the address before placing it in a cup holder. When I was ready, I started my v ehicle and made my way out of the Orion pack.

I turned up the radio as I drove along the

highway to a place I never thought I would visit again. And I could be driving t o my death. Dorian could lock me up and throw away the key, but I'm praying Lisa wasn't lying. If she was, why would she show up to Blake's pack to see me?

None of this made sense and I've spent too much of my life wondering what c ould have happened. Or what was the actual truth. I needed answers, and if g oing to the place and seeing the person who almost killed me, gives me the a nswers I'm searching for, then it's worth it. It has to be. I've lived too much of my life in fear and I was done hiding. I see the kind of life I can have with Blake and that's what I want.

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tired of lying to myself and saying I was happy with my life before Blake. I was content with my life. Channing was

growing up and he had everything he needed, but I was lonely. I didn't realize how much I craved a mate and pack until I was a part of one again. And I know Lily would be saying she told me so if she was awake, but I was scared. I was scared to open myself up again just to be hurt. The first time should hav e killed me. The fall over the cliff. Me jumping off of the bridge. But still, I'm here, fighting for a life I've been craving.

My stomach twisted painfully as I pulled up to the pack gate. I rolled down my window as a warrior approached.

"Miss, how can I help you?" He asked me.

"I'm here to see Luna Lisa," I informed him.

"And who are you?" He demanded.

"Ryley Halliwell. She and I spoke yesterday." I told him.

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Chapter Eighty

"Let me confirm with the Luna." I nodded. It was strange to see how the small er packs guard their gates compared to Blake's pack which is run more like a

city. This would take too much manpower to do in Blake's pack. There are mostly just cameras up, taking pictures of plates and warriors running them. U nless it's someone important. If an alpha was to show up, he needs to check in or it could be seen as an act of war.

"Miss, the Luna has confirmed your visit. Please follow the road to the pack house." He instructed. I thanked him before the gates opened and I drove into the Aurora Mountain Pack, now known as the Evergreen Pack.

Everything looked the same as I drove to the pack house. It was like stepping back in time as the pack house came into view. This used to be my home and now it was his. He and his new family. We were meant to be together, soul ma tes and now we were nothing to each other.

Luna Lisa was waiting for me as I pulled up and parked my SUV. As I climbed out, she approached me.

"I didn't expect to see you again," she said.

"I didn't expect to ever be here again, but I need answers and I think we shoul d talk. I'm not here to hurt you or to take anything from you. I just want to kno w what happened eighteen years ago." I told her.

"What would you like to know?" She asked.

"Can we take a walk? I don't want to go in the pack house and there's a place I would like to see again." I asked her and she nodded.

"Lead the way and we can talk as we walk." She said. I started to walk to the e ast of the pack house and Lisa kept pace with me. I wasn't sure why but I had a feeling I was going to get more answers than I

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expected.

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Posted by Admin-U, ? Views, Released on August 29, 2023

Chapter Eighty-Seven

Alpha Dorian

"Who's the hottie walking with mom?" Chadwick asked as he stared out my off ice window. Jared, Wes, and I were in my office discussing what we should do about the lack of attacks since Alpha Blake's warriors showed up. Chadwick was supposed to be learning. He may not be an alpha wolf but he is still the heir to the pack.

"I'm sure it's one of her

friends," I told him, turning my attention back to the maps. It doesn't make sen se why there hasn't been an attack.

I was

thinking we should send his men off the pack lands but have them stay close if there was an attack.

"Uhm, Dorian?" Wes stammered.

"Can you guys ogle the woman on your own time, this is important." I scolded, turning in my chair.

"She isn't someone you want us to ogle," he said and I stood up, storming over to the window to

see what the hell they were looking at. I was already spread thin and then ther e was this mess with my mate.

She had gone to Blake's pack to see her and now she won't even look at me. So my life felt like it was falling apart and nothing I did seemed to make a difference. I tried to speak with her, to explain everything but I don't think she hear d

anything I was saying. She's hurt and I'm the one who hurt her. But I also can't get Evelyn out of my mind. *My* life was a double–edged sword.

"What the hell?" I gasped, not expecting to see my Luna and my mate

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Chapter Eighty Seven

walking out of the eastern tree line together. They were walking towards the pack house.

228 Vouchers

"Dad, do you know who's with mom? I've never seen her before and I would have remembered her." Chadwick said and I gro wled. Jared and Wes snickered behind me.

I watched as they both stopped beside an SUV before they embraced each ot her in a hug. Did I miss something? And why the hell would Lisa speak with her but not me? I know I fucked up, but I thought sh e viewed Evelyn as competition, not a friend.

"You three get some fucken work done, I need to speak with

I scoffed before storming from my office. What the hell y Luna,"

either one

of them thinking?

And why would Evelyn show up here of all places? My father had men everyw here.

Before I exited the pack house, I could hear shouting coming from outside. An d then the three I left in my office came rushing down the stairs.

"You are going to want to get out there," Jared exclaimed and I rushed to the door, running out to find my father—in— law confronting Evelyn with warriors and Lisa yelling at them to stand down.

"What the fuck is

going on?" I growled as I rushed to the scene, with the others behind me.

"Dorian, tell them to stand down," Lisa demanded.

"Daughter, I will not stand down. This bitch is here for the pack and your mate, and I won't watch as everything that was promised to us is taken away," her f ather growled, pointing a gun at Evelyn.

"Mom, what is going on?" Chadwick asked her. I moved infront of the gun, my chest pressed up against the barrel.

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Chapter Eighty-Seven

288 Vouchers

"You will stand down, now," I ordered and he shook his head.

"I have orders from your father. She will die, and there's nothing you can do to stop his wrath." I grabbed the gun and all hell broke out around

us. As soon as Evelyn let out a scream, Fang shifted and so did my beta and gamma. Even if I didn't still love her, if anything happened to her, I knew there would be a war.

I turned to see Lisa kneeling beside Evelyn who was lying on the ground. Chadwick was standing over them, protecting them.

"Your father will hear about this," Lisa's father growled before he shifted. He and his warriors took off

"Stop them," I yelled through the link to Jared and Wes. They took off, with so me of my warriors quickly following behind them.

Fang walked over to the others. Evelyn was sitting up now, but she had a dee p cut under her left eye. Fang's tongue darted out to lick the wound.

"Dad, what is going on? Mom, who is this?" Chadwick demanded.

"I'm fine, Dorian," Evelyn pushed Fang away and he whimpered.

"You aren't fine, Ryley. We need to get you to the hospital." Lisa told her, trying to help her to stand.

"No, I just need some ice and my phone. I need to call Blake, he doesn't know that I'm here." She confessed. She stumbled trying to walk to her vehicle. Lisa and Chadwick helped her as I returned to the pack house to shift. Once I pulled on a pair of shorts, I rushed back out to find Evelyn sitting in her SUV, and Lisa was standing on the outside of the open door.

"Evelyn, why are you here?" I questioned as I approached them. Before

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Chapter Eighty-Seven

288 Vouchers

she answered, Chadwick came up and passed her a bottle of water and an ice pack.

"I needed answers. Truthful answers," she sighed, leaning her head back.

"Ryley, I

think you may have a concussion. We should have a doctor look at you," Lisa pleaded, and Evelyn patted her arm.

"I'm okay. I've

been through worse. And I'll call Blake to pick me up. I didn't expect to cause so much trouble." She mumbled.

"Lisa, your son looks so much like you." She smiled, looking at my Luna.

"He may look like me

but he is so much like his father," Lisa said and they both chuckled.

"Chadwick, this is

Ryley. Ryley this is our son, Chadwick," Lisa introduced them.

"It's nice to meet you, thank you for the water and the ice pack," Evelyn said, s haking his hand. It was like I was standing in a dream. What the hell was happening right now?

"I'm going to give Blake a call, so I can get out of your hair," she mumbled as she reached for her phone.

"Dorian, we didn't catch them," Wes informed me through the link. I cursed, knowing I was going to have to tell Blake. We would have to team up to keep her and my son safe.

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Posted by **Admin-U**, 1311 Views, Released on August 30, 2023

Chapter Eighty–Eight

Alpha Blake

I spend the morning working, giving Ryley some time to herself. After her surp rise visit with Alpha Dorian's Luna, she hasn't been herself.

"She's had an exhausting week, Blake." Gunner defended.

"I know she has, but that doesn't mean I don't want to spend time with her. I want to be there for her, whatever she needs," I sighed.

"And she needs space," he retorted and I growled.

"You're no help," I scoffed before closing the link.

It was now midafternoon and it was almost time for me to meet the boys for our

afternoon training. It gave me time to spend with both of them. I left my office, hesitating as I walked by Ryley's

office. Since I canceled a contract, I have to wait for the lawyers to handle everything before I can officially

hire her to take over the work she was already doing. It was a lot of legal bullshit.

I knew she told me that's where she was heading this morning went I left and I didn't want to bother her. I can't imagine how she is feeling after seeing her m ate's chosen mate. I just pray she isn't thinking about going back to her mate. Fated mates are sacred to us. They are the other half of our souls. I may be s elfish since I got to have mine, and I also want Ryley. But I don't want her soul mate to have her.

And I know that makes

me an asshole but he had his chance with her and he tried to kill her. He made her feel like the only way out was death. I will never let him h ave her, she is mine.

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I quickly went upstairs to get changed before heading to the training field to m eet up with the boys. I know Channing is having a hard time with this. He neve r expected to meet his father but

now the cat is out of the bag. He knows that Ryley is alive and has given birth to their son. This is one big mess and I can see why she didn't want to get me involved, but I was already involved the moment she walked into my office an d scolded me. That was the moment I knew she was going to be mine.

The boys were just finishing up their lesson with the younger kids as I made it to the field. I was feeling anxious about seeing R yley. She wasn't on the alpha floor, so she must be in her office. I pulled out m y phone to send her a quick text. She needed space, but I needed to know she was okay.

"Dad," Aspen called out before I received anything back from her.

"Aspen. Channing, how are you feeling?" I asked him, as they both approache d me.

"I don't know. Blake, how am I supposed to be feeling?" Channing shrugged. Aspen clasped his shoulder, reassuring him.

"You have us, and your mom. You don't have to go through this alone." Aspensaid to his newfound brother.

"I know that, and I'm thankful for you both. I just don't know how to put it into w ords. And I'm more worried about my mom. I've been researching the mate bo nd and fated mates. Unless she is marked by another, the council can force h er to be with him. And I don't

know what he is capable of." Channing sighed, and my heart twisted painfully. I know the council could step in, I just thought since he was marked that there was nothing they could do.

"But he's marked. Would the council force her to share her mate with the woman he claimed?" Aspen exclaimed, and Gunner growle d.

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Chopte Fighty–Eight

280 Voorbes

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don't know, and I would have to call my father to get more information from the council. But either way, I won't let that happen, Channing." I told them.

"Dad, have you marked her?" Aspen asked me and I grumbled, running a hand throw my hair.

"No, we are taking things slow. I'm moving at a pace that she is comfortable with. And she isn't ready for marking yet." I explained.

"But you are?" Channing questioned

"Why wouldn't I be? My wolf has claimed her and you. I want both of you to be a part of this family and this pack. The only reason why I haven't is because I'm waiting on your mother." I watched as Channing' seyes became misty.

"He claimed me?" He whispered.

"It's not something an alpha wolf would ever do but things are different with yo u two."

"Thank you." I wrapped an arm around his shoulders and pulled him in for a side hug.

"You don't need to thank me, Channing."

"But I do. You're the first guy I've ever seen my mom with. And there have been plenty who have tried. Wherever we went there have also been guys who have hit on her and she's ignored them all. My mom sees something in you that she hasn't seen in anyone else, and I'm thankful you are giving her the time she needs. She doesn't know this, but there

have been hundreds of nights over the years when I would wake up to her crying in her room. She has had to be strong my entire life, making sure that I have everything I could need or want. But I just want her to be happy. She deserves that." He said, and I knew I wanted

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Chapter Eighty-Eight

288 Vouchers

to make her happy. There was nothing I wouldn't do for her.

"You're still not getting the pack," Aspen chimed in.

"I don't need a pack to kick your ass," Channing retorted and the fight was on between those two. Both were wrestling, trying to get the upper hand from one another. I just stood there laughing at the insults they were yelling at each other.

This should be how our life always is.

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Chapter Eighty-Nine

Posted by Admin-U, 1373 Views, Released on August 30, 2023

Chapter Eighty-Nine

Alpha Blake

"Alpha," Aiden said as he walked up beside me. I was still watching the boys. So far, they were both evenly matched. But I wouldn't be surprised if when Channing joins the pack, he'll be stronger. He has an alpha and Luna wolf for his parents.

"Aiden, how have you been?" I asked my friend. I haven't seen him since the night we all went out.

"I've been good. Isabella not so much. She feels guilty about what happened with Ryley. How is she?" He sighed.

"Why would Isabella feel guilty? She had nothing to do with her quitting her jo b." I questioned.

"Isabella is still on the board. She fought for Ryley to get the

promotion but she was outvoted. And now she doesn't think Ryley will want to continue being friends. I told her to reach out but she's scared." He explained. I knew Isabella's family was a part of the firm but I didn't realize she was on the board.

"I don't think Ryley holds any ill feelings towards Isabella. She hasn't mentione d anything. It's more been about her ex's mate showing up yesterday." I told hi m.

"What?" He exclaimed and I nodded.

"

wouldn't worry about things with Isabella and I can ask Ryley to give her a call when I see her," I told him.

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Chapter Eighty Nine

288 Vouchers

"It would seem she has more important things to worry about than a job." He said.

"Yeah, I already hired her but we are just waiting on the legal shit," I told him and he smirked.

"Oh, and how does she like sleeping with her boss?" He chuckled and I grumb led.

"Fuck off," I growled. He held up his arms in surrender.

"I'm just repeating what Luca told me. So heat sex?" I shushed him, not wanting the boys to hear.

"Shut up," I exclaimed.

"Oh come on. You've had it before. It's nothing new," he pointed out.

"In almost eighteen years, you ass.

"

"Right, sorry. My bad," he shrugged.

"Just keep it to yourself and stop talking to Luca." I scolded him before my phone rang in my pocket.

"I would but I think he's more excited you're getting laid than you are," he chuckled as I pulled out my phone to see Ryley's beautiful face. She was calling me.

"Give

me a second, it's Ryley," I told Aiden before turning away and answering my phone.

"Blake, please don't get mad," Ryley said.

"Ryley, don't get mad at what? Where are you?" I exclaimed and I heard her si gh.

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Chapter Eighty-Nine

288 Vouchers

"Promise you won't get mad and I'll tell you."

"Fine. I

promise," I told her, my stomach in my throat as I waited for her to tell me what was going on.

"I went to see Lisa," she whispered.

"You did what?" I roared unable to hold back my anger.

"Blake, I," she stammered.

"Don't fucken Blake me, Ryley. What the hell were you thinking? And where the fuck are you now?" I demanded.

"Blake can you please calm down, I'm hurt and I'm scared and I need you to come get me," she pleaded. My anger stopped instantly as she sounded on the verge of tears.

"Baby, where are you?"

"I'm sitting in my vehicle outside the pack house. Blake, I know you're mad an d I'll explain everything but I need you to come get me, please."

"Are you in danger?" I questioned, worried that something happened and that's why she said she was hurt.

"No, I'm not in danger, I have Lisa here with me." She answered, but that didn't make me feel any better.

"I'll call you back as soon as I'm on my way. And I'm going to have Connor the re to protect you, he's one of my men who's already there." I

told her.

"Thank you, Blake, and I'm sorry." I ended the call before I called Connor to tell him to find Ryley in front of the pack house. His job was to protect her with his life. And to report her injuries back to me

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Chapter Eighty Nine

208 Vouchers

once he got there. After I ended the call, I turned my attention back to the boy s and Aiden.

"Blake, what's wrong?" Channing asked me.

"I have to go pick up your mom. I want you boys to head home and to stay there. No going out tonight. I mean it," I ordered them. I waited until they both nodded before turning to Aiden.

"I need you to come with me," I commanded.

"What happened?" He mind-

linked me as we walked the boys back to the pack house. I needed to get my t ruck.

"I'll explain on the way," I told him.

Then I mind—linked my beta to let him know to watch the boys and make sure they don't leave the pack house. I'm not sure what Ryley started but if she's there and hurt, it can't be anything good.

Once the boys were

inside, I explained everything to Aiden as we rushed to where my truck was p arked. I was just about to call

Ryley when Connor's call came through the speakers of my truck. I was just a bout to pull away from the pack house with Aiden riding shotgun.

"Connor?" I answered.

"Blake, I'm here with Ryley. I'm pretty sure she has a concussion. And she is in no shape to drive. Luna Lisa is sitting with her and Alpha Dorian has his men standing guard. And he only wants to speak with you about what happened." He informed me and Gunner let out a loud growl. He was growing more and more frustrated.

"Tell her to get some rest and I will be there soon. And make sure no one touches her. Not even a doctor. I don't trust anyone there except you and my men." I commanded.

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Chapter Eighty-Nine

Posted by Admin-U, 2358 Views, Released on August 30, 2023

Chapter Ninety

Ryley

I felt like shit after I got off the phone with Blake. I knew this was a stupid idea but I did it anyway and now I was paying for it. It didn't take long for Blake's warriors to show up and replace Dorian's.

I was leaning my head back and willing myself not to throw up when Blake fin ally pulled up. I'm sure he broke speed records to get here as fast as he did. I turned my head before opening my eyes. I was still sitting in my SUV with Lisa sitting in my passenger side. I know my cheek looked bad but it was my head that was pounding to its own beat.

"Blake," my voice came out as a whisper as I called out to him when I saw him rush around the front of his truck. My stomach twisted painfully with guilt, which wasn't helping me hold down my vomit.

"Ryley," Blake rushed over to me, taking hold of my cheeks.

"I'm okay," I breathed out.

"You are not okay. What the hell happened," he growled. I winced as he ran hi s thumb over the cut.

"Still no Lily?" He whispered, resting his forehead against mine. I shook my head.

"Why the fuck would you come here without her?" He

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Chapter Ninety

288 Vouchers

scolded me, and he had every right to. I didn't think about Dorian's father's influence inside this pack. I was just so desperate for answers.

"Blake, I'm sorry, I just wanted answers."

"Evelyn, why don't you have your wolf?" Dorian questioned, standing behind B lake.

"I would watch your fucken tone," Blake growled, turning to face him.

"Blake, let's just go home," I pleaded as I grabbed his arm.

"Dorian, that's enough. It's been a long day." Lisa said to her mate, not standing beside him.

"Did you

let him mark you?" Dorian demanded. Blake took a step towards him, as I des perately tried to hold him back.

"Stop, Dorian. Lisa is right. It's been a long day for everyone and Ryley is in n o position to deal with this right now," Jared his beta said, standing beside him. Blake's men, including Aiden, stepped beside Blake, ready to fight.

I got out of the vehicle knowing that if I didn't do something people were going to get hurt. I moved in front of Blake

if I didn't do something people were going to get hurt. I moved in front of Blake , facing him.

"Blake, let's just go home, please," I begged grabbing his hand.

"Did he do this to you?" Blake demanded, looking down at

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Chapter Ninety

288 Vouchers

"No, of course not. And I will explain everything but I need you to take me home, please, Blake." He surprised me by wrapping his arms around my waist and pulling me against his chest. I rested my head against his chest as I wrapped my arms around his waist. I know I fucked up but I needed him to calm down. But with both of them being alphas, I knew it wouldn't be easy.

"Aiden, drive Ryley's SUV back to the pack." He nodded to Blake, before sque ezing my arm.

"Connor, get back to what you were doing for tonight but tomorrow I want you back in my pack." He commanded.

"And tomorrow we'll call and discuss everything that happened." Luna Lisa said.

"Yes, tomorrow, after everyone has had time to calm down," I turned in Blake's arm to look at Lisa. Our men may be fighting but I would like to think of Lisa as my friend.

Lisa approached us and Blake tensed behind me. I knew she would never hur t me. We had more in common than

both

men knew. I unwrapped myself from Blake before giving Lisa a hug which she returned.

"We will talk tomorrow, with or without them," I told her.

"You think if we can get a long, the men could," she chuckled.

"Hopefully, tomorrow," I said and she gave me a smile and a nod.

"Thank you, Dorian." I managed to say before Blake

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Chapter Ninety

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scooped me up into

his arms. I couldn't even protest as the motion made my stomach churn. I leaned my head against Blake's shoulder as he carried me to his truck.

I could hear Lisa and Dorian sharing words but I couldn't make it out. I know, right now, their relationship is strained. She told me all about it wh en we were talking earlier in the day. She truly loves him and I hope for her sake he will forget about me.

Blake opened the passenger side door of the vehicle before placing me down in the seat. He rested his forehead

against mine, taking in deep breaths.

"Blake, I'm sorry," I whispered and he sighed.

"Ryley, I don't know what the hell you were thinking. I'm just relieved that you weren't killed. Do you have any idea how stupid it was coming here without protection?" He exclaimed, taking hold of my cheeks so I would look at him.

"I know, and I'm sorry. I didn't expect any of this to happen. I just wanted to talk to Lisa." I told him.

"Next time, you come to me before you go rushing into another alpha's pack. You are important to me, baby, and others will use you to get to me. I may not have marked you, but if anything were

to happen to you, I wouldn't make it. I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I let anything happen to you," I watched as tears filled his eyes as he spilled his heart to me. His words swelled my heart and the guilt of what I did twisted my stomach.

"I'm so sorry, Blake. Please forgive me?" I pleaded with him

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Chapter Ninety

288 Vouchers

before I brushed my lips against his. I needed him to know that I felt the same way about him.

"I forgive you, Ryley. And we will talk about this tomorrow. But first, let's get home and have the doctor check you out. He still needs to check on your arm." He said before he pressed his lips to mine. The kiss may have been quick, but he filled it with the love he had for me.

He

quickly buckled me before closing the door. He rushed around the hood of the truck to the driver's side. The truck roared to life before Blake took off down the road leading out of the pack. I took his hand in mine while he paid attention to the road. I know I'm going to hear about all of this tomorrow but right now I want to enjoy the calmness Blake's scent gives me.

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