

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 73 -

10–12 minutes

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 73

Chapter 73 United Pack

(Caspian)

I looked at my mate, my Luna, shocked. I was rarely shocked, but she had done it. I knew deep down that most of them wouldn't have come if it weren't for her by my side.

Her wide green eyes met mine and she shook her head slightly, "I don't believe it, I thought maybe a few." She chewed on her full bottom lip a little v appearing between her brows.

I looked back at Holden, Griffen, and Cali.

"When?" I asked, "Why wasn't I notified?"

I should have been here earlier, but I knew I wouldn't have cut my time short with Emmett and Willa. I was glad that I didn't know earlier but the angry Alpha Prince thing was still hard to shake sometimes.

"It happened so fast, and we knew you were already on the way back," Griffen answered confidently under my hard stare.

"What's the plan?" Holden asked Willa and me.

"Cali, Nora, and I already made note of everywhere vacant and liveable that people could move into." Willa said before I could open my mouth, "We ask them their preferences and catalog them all this tonight." Her voice didn't waver.

"How many places do we have vacant in the packhouse?" Cali asked Willa, twirling a curl on her finger.

"With guest rooms and vacant apartments, we could maybe house a third tonight." Willa replied, turning to me, "Is there a hotel or anything near? Just so we can get this sorted tonight and tomorrow before moving them into new residences."

“There are a few that would be perfect,” I looked towards Holden, “Call them and see if they have enough vacancy at this last minute, I would prefer to not have them too split up if possible.”

Holden nodded pulling out his phone to make the calls.

“I don’t want to make anything official yet,” Willa looked up at me, “I know that this is a huge move, and some people might have done it impulsively or because they felt pressured. I want to make sure they really want to be here and actually enjoy it before they officially switch to Crescent Moon.”

“I agree,” I squeezed her hand and I was rewarded with her brilliant smile.

She was coming into the role I knew she was born for. She was a natural leader, and seeing her in action made me fall in love with her even more than I already was.

I silently thanked the Moon Goddess for this blessing that was Willa.

“Let’s make the announcement,” I smiled down at my Luna.

“Cali and Griffen, I want you guys in charge of making sense of who these people are, Willa can help identify them later, but now we need to address the potential new pack members as a whole.”

Griffen nodded and looked around checking his pockets for something, Cali handed him a pen without looking at him and Griffen looked almost appreciative.

The crowd parted for us but only barely quieted. The chatter was replaced with hushed whispers.

I wished I had a stage, a microphone, something.

This place had decent acoustics but we also built it so that it wouldn’t be too noisy because the apartments above were open to the common areas.

My mom came up to me, followed by two omegas with, of course, a microphone.

“Always one step ahead,” I gave her a quick hug.

She smiled up at me, “You’ll have to fill me in on everything tomorrow. I want to get back to my grandson,” My mom patted my arm, “I’m proud of you, we’re proud of you.”

“Thanks, Mom.” Emotion clogged my throat.

I changed as an Alpha because of Willa. She made me stronger, better. She made me better for Crescent Moon, the Alpha that I never thought I could be, one I knew I never would have been without her.

I looked around at the new faces, the future of my pack, our pack.

We would build a new era together. None of this would be possible if it weren't for her. This was Nolan running his pack into the ground, yes. But more than that it was Willa showing how competent of a leader she was compared to him.

She went back to a place that almost broke her and used nothing but strength and wits and the power of truth to end up still leading half the pack that she was once destined to take over. I know she didn't choose any of the things that happened to her, couldn't change them, but I was so indescribably proud of how she handled them, even if she wasn't.

She pushed past the events for Emmett until she found the strength to do it for herself.

Now, she was standing next to me, in front of our pack, one she was responsible for growing and now leading.

“Speech,” Holden yelled.

The Monarch can take most of them. They had an event cancellation, so they're happy to recoup some losses – Holden linked me

Talk to Cali and see where everyone is going after this. Have cars ready.

“Want to start?” I looked at Willa, and she shrugged but nodded.

I handed her the microphone making sure it was set up first. Of course, it was. My mom was a step ahead of my dad and me always.

“Hi, everyone,” The room quieted instantly at Willa's soft yet steady voice, “We are honored to have you here. Words can't describe it.” Her voice wavered, and I placed my hand on her lower back to help relax her. She took a deep breath leaning back into my touch.

“We have rooms prepared for the evening, we want to make sure all of you get a place that you will be happy in. It might take a few days to get everyone settled here, so bear with us.” She smiled at the crowd.

“You are under no obligation to stay here if you don't like it; think of it as a trial run.” A few people laughed, and it widened her smile, making her relax a bit, “If you choose to go back to Blue Ridge or move on, that is completely fine. We understand that this is a different pack layout than you are used to, and you are not obligated to join Crescent Moon.”

She handed the microphone to me, sensing I had a few things to add, “You are more than welcome here,” My voice boomed over the microphone, “We want you to be comfortable if you choose to be here. My Beta Griffen and Gamma Cali will be assisting with your relocation. Make sure you see them before you leave. Holden, my Gamma, will give you a room here or in a hotel nearby until we can give you a more permanent location.”

I looked at Willa and handed her the reins back, “I know you must be exhausted, if you need anything let us know. We will handle your moving costs to make this as easy as possible for you, even if you don’t end up staying here.”

Everyone looked expectantly at us. This would be a long night trying to get this all sorted.

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A long night didn’t even begin to cover it. I had Holden send up bottles of champagne and food to all of their rooms, no matter if they were staying in the packhouse or the hotel.

I couldn’t comprehend how much of a change and challenge this would be for them, and if we could make it even a slight bit better, then that was enough for tonight.

You’re getting soft – Atlas teased

I wouldn’t go that far –

Willa leaned her head on my shoulder, her eyelids have been dropping as we sent the last of the people off.

Cali and Griffen were able to write down at least names, numbers, and basic preferences of everyone, but we knew that they would have actually to see the city and our original packlands before they made a decision.

Their packhouse or hotel stay would probably be longer than a night or two, but as Willa mentioned, she didn’t want anyone to have long-term regrets from a short-term decision.

“Bed?” I asked her, placing a kiss on her soft hair.

I breathed in her scent that was home now, had been home for a while, closing my eyes. She nodded, her silky hair moving under my lips.

I had never indoctrinated so many people into this pack at once, not even a fraction of it. This was beyond what any of us anticipated.

“One step at a time,” Holden said, stretching his arms behind his head, yawning louder than necessary.

“We can decide a date for those that know they want to join, and the rest can make up their minds after,” Griffen suggested.

“I like that idea,” Willa said, “Before or after the ceremony?” She asked me.

The royal ceremony was set to take place next week, I scrubbed my beard, trying to think what would make the most sense, but I was painfully tired.

“We sent those invitations to a lot of packs; we can’t change the ceremony. Maybe before so they can fully enjoy crowning their new Princess.” I loved those words on my lips and how Willa’s cheeks slightly flushed when I spoke them.

“Okay,” Her thick lashes fluttered, pinning me with her unearthly green eyes.

“It’s settled then,” Griffen said, anxious to get back to his child and mate, “If that is all-”

“Go to sleep,” I commanded, and he gave me a brief smile before turning to the elevator.

“We have a few long days ahead of us,” I wrapped my arm around Willa.

Holden and Cali fell into step next to us.

The long days ahead seemed like paradise with her by my side.

(Willa)

I woke up groggy and confused.

My eyes felt like sandpaper, and I could barely open them even though bright light filtered through the small crack in the curtains. It was well past early morning.

I reached for Caspien, but the bed next to me was cold.

What time was it?

I looked at the bedside clock rubbing my eyes against the sleep I couldn’t fight. S.hit, it was almost noon.

I couldn’t remember the last time I slept so deeply. Even though it was late at night, I got more than enough sleep, more than I was used to recently. Maybe it was because it was later than I was used to. My body clock was off.

I couldn’t shake the groggy feeling, even with the happiness of the night before, even with being worried about missing something now that Caspien was long gone.

I stretched but ended up laying back down, sleep tugged at me again, and I couldn’t fight it even if I wanted to.

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I woke up startled, not remembering falling back to bed.

My stomach churned, and I grabbed it, trying to stop the feeling.

I must be starving.

I sat up, but the room spun with me.

I grabbed my hair, hanging my head to my legs.

I couldn't remember ever feeling sick, ever feeling nauseous, really.

Except when I had Emmett.

s**t.

Shock and nausea coursed through me, and I ran into the bathroom, seeking any sort of relief.

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 74 -

12–15 minutes

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 74

Chapter 74 – Endings

*This chapter jumps a lot, I'm finishing up some closure bits and then the next chapter we have the ceremony and the end.. cue sad/happy tears**

(Willa)

The next few days were spent in a blur of activity. There were last-minute things to do for the royal ceremony on top of keeping track of all these new pack members. I couldn't keep it all sorted.

I liked figuring out the logistics part, but trying to remember who wanted what and where they were staying was not my wheelhouse. Thankfully, I had Cali for that. Her memory was unparalleled, and I loved seeing her actively taking up the Beta role. The Moon Goddess knew what she was doing, adding her to Crescent Moon.

We scheduled the pack induction ceremony two days before the royal ceremony. I was glad my biggest stress now was dealing with back-to-back ceremonies instead of trying to find a hidden assassin that went after my son.

I finally had an appointment with the doctor. I wanted to give it a few days just to make sure. That intense sickness never came back, but my tiredness was heavy.

I didn't know how to feel about it, we weren't trying, but we definitely weren't not trying. We never talked about more kids, but seeing the way he was with Emmett, I knew that he would continue to be an amazing father to any other kids we had.

But I didn't know for sure that I was pregnant, but I wasn't worried about it. It wasn't the same need I had with Nolan, where I was excited that it would fix everything. There wasn't anything that Caspien and I needed to fix, so any other addition to our family would be because we chose this path, well, this one chose us, really.

It didn't matter at the moment, I would deal with all of the emotions when I had confirmation. If I had confirmation. We would handle that together.

I was looking over a potential renovation plan for the pack cottages and some random apartments outside the packhouse on our couch when Caspien walked up to me.

“Your apartment is cleared out completely. Did you want to go back for one last look?” Caspien's words caught me off, guard.

My apartment that was the last thing on my mind; it felt like a lifetime ago, not mere weeks.

“Yeah, I do.” My throat felt tight.

Caspien came to sit next to me on the couch, taking a hand in both of his, “What are you thinking?” He asked.

“Weird,” I shrugged, “I am over the moon, happy, ecstatic, all those things about the life I have with you. I just don't think I've had time to process everything. We've jumped from one thing to the next and I now have to go back and re-look at everything. I just it just hit me by surprise,” I shrugged.

“It was a great apartment,” Caspien said, “I can't lie,” I gave him a look, “Not to you, at least,” He amended, smiling, “I am happy that you both are here making a home with me, I can't say that I understand it from my experiences, but I can sympathize.”

He took a deep breath but his eyes never left mine, “I know you, and I understand that this might not have been the most opportune time for you to find me, but I hope that you can still feel independent and grow and change alongside me. You know you have the freedom to do whatever you want, even if it's stepping away from what you're doing now, not me, of course, but Luna duties.” His smile was playful, rare.

“I do, I know that.” I placed my other hand on top of his. I knew that we were independent as people as well despite what we created together, “I don’t want to step away from any of it. This is my wildest dreams realized.”

“Want to go for some closure then?” He asked. I nodded, wanting to put that space and the strange feelings swirling through me behind me, “I’ll go get Emmett.” He kissed the back of my hand and helped me stand.

I really didn’t want him to think that I was sacrificing anything being with him, because I wasn’t. Timing wasn’t everything, it would never be exactly right, and I grew and changed so much since I met him, I wouldn’t go back and change it for the world.

The apartment was as I remembered when I first walked into it before summer began. Completely empty, with exposed brick walls, and beams that were less a design choice and more leaning into the apartment’s age and roots.

It felt a bit weird to see it without the mismatched furniture we collected, and I wondered what had happened to it all, but I realized that it didn’t matter.

I walked into the space, holding both Caspiens and Emmett’s hands.

“The place feels different,” Emmett said, dropping my hand to go back to his room, “It’s still blue!” He shouted.

I remembered how my dad painted that when I was away during one of my first days here, trying to figure out classes and working and taking care of my son. It was stressful then but looking back on it from where I was made the memories beautiful.

My parents were back in my life on a daily basis, and even though they were with Caspien’s parents helping people get settled near their old packhouse at the moment, they were still here, they didn’t have to leave, not anymore.

“Do you think I’ll get the security deposit back?” I asked Caspien leaning into him. He technically did own the building.

He thought about it for a moment, “I think we can swing it,” He wrapped an arm around me.

We walked through the space that now felt so small. It held memories I would never forget. The first time I got ready for a date with Caspien was here, and the first time Emmett and I stayed alone was here.

Our sleepovers with Cali and Loreli, tired pizza nights, studying past the time I should have been in bed. I would have those memories forever.

“We can keep it if you want,” Caspien came behind me while I was leaning in the door frame, “To come back to, stay over sometimes.”

“No,” I said resolutely, it wouldn’t be the same; we moved on, “I want others to make memories here.”

“I’ll give you some time alone; I’ll be in the car when you’re ready.” Caspien squeezed my hand and left.

I met Emmett in the front room and grabbed his hand, “Are you sad to leave?” I asked him.

Emmett shrugged but shook his head, “Let’s go home, Mama.” He tugged me out.

And so we did. We went home.

The next morning, Caspien had my tacky mug collection out on full display on the kitchen counter, his little matching white mugs were nowhere to be seen.

“Congratulations, Luna.” The doctor looked at me, “You’re pregnant.”

I heard those words before, almost the exact same ones.

I was shocked, terrified, but mostly happy. We weren’t expecting this, but I would have a child with the love of my life. Emmett was going to be a big brother.

“Are you sure?” I asked him.

“I am,” The doctor smiled, “Now, let’s talk about upcoming appointments.”

I sat between Caspien and Cali at the diner we once worked at. Cali forgot to pick up her last paycheck and even though she had a salary with Crescent Moon and I’m sure Holden had more generational wealth than he could account for. She had to get her last few dollars.

“I earned them with my literal sweat and occasional tears.” She told me.

I couldn’t argue with that, so we went back. I felt a bit guilty leaving the job on such short notice, but they replaced us within a few days, so I couldn’t feel that bad.

“Coffee?” The waitress seemed nervous, shifting on her feet.

I wasn't sure if it was because of Caspien's presence or if she was new. I wondered if I ever looked that nervous here, but I already knew the answer to that. I was completely out of my wheelhouse here, and I felt like I was drowning for more shifts than I cared to admit.

"Three cups," Caspien said, "Please," He added.

"Cream or sugar?" She asked.

"You're going to want the cream." I looked at Caspien, and he gave me my smile. The smile that took too long for him to feel comfortable with but now was something that seemed to fit him.

"Cream then." Caspien nodded to the waitress.

"I still can't believe it," Cali stretched out her arms around the place, "This was both my salvation and d.amnation in one place and I didn't have to go back since."

I was sitting between my dair fairy godmother and the man I ran from when I first saw him here. It might have been poetic if I was into that sort of thing.

"You wanted to be whisked away?" Caspien asked, and Cali gave him a glare that promised a fiery painful d.eath.

"I wouldn't call it that," Cali grabbed the mug of coffee set before her, "If anything, I was doing more of the whisking," She raised a dark red brow over her mug.

"What does that even mean?" I asked, and she shrugged giving me her signature wry smile.

"You know."

"I quite literally don't."

"I hate to admit it," Caspien cut in, "But you do make a great asset, Holden is lucky, Crescent Moon is lucky." Caspien said not looking her way.

I had never seen Cali so shocked before. She looked like she might drop her mug. Her mouth opened and closed again.

"We'll take the check," Caspien said, taking a long sip of his coffee, but I could see him try not to wince at the bitterness.

He left a \$50 on the counter, Cali clutched her check that wasn't even half of that, and I followed them out, stealing a backward glance at the place that held so much for me.

A place that I sometimes dreaded coming to, a place I counted down the minutes until I could leave. I never thought I would feel so nostalgic about a diner but I did.

“Close your eyes.” Caspien said sounding impatient.

“Have you even seen it?” I countered.

“Yes, well, a bit.” He shrugged, “Come on.”

I did what he said just because he sounded so excited about it. Even though we chose this together, and ultimately let the designers handle it.

“You too, Emmett. I see you peeking.” Caspien chided.

“Now what?” I covered my eyes.

“Trust me?” He asked.

“You’re not giving me an option.” I smiled, “But completely.”

He wrapped an arm around me, and Emmett laughed in my ear from where Caspien picked him up. I was nervous, not for the reveal, but because I thought I would bump into something. Caspien’s scope of movement was way different than mine.

“Two more steps.” I walked forward, “Okay, now.”

I dropped my hands, looking at him first. His eyes seemed to light up. He looked years younger as he smiled down at me.

“Do you like it?” He asked, shifting Emmett to his other arm.

I looked around the room. It was the same massive open front room of our apartment but somehow vastly different. It was one thing planning and choosing it, but an entirely other thing to see it come to life.

The stark sharp coolness was toned down. The space was brightened with plants, the sharpness cut through with the dark wooden beams installed on the high ceilings. I think even the floorboards were changed, lightened a bit.

It was the same space but we made it ours. Caspien said he never decorated himself, never cared enough to. I liked that we chose this space together. Brought some elements of both of us into the place that was our family home.

“This looks so good.” Emmett immediately ran to his toy area, which had new furniture instead of the mismatched bins we were using as a temporary measure.

“I love it,” I took a few more steps in.

“I even had the couches changed and added some colored throw pillows,” Caspien shrugged, “Not my idea but I went with their suggestions.”

“It’s beautiful. It’s us.” I pulled him down for a kiss intertwining my hands in his hair.

This was our home now.

“Emmett, want to check out your room?” Caspien asked, and Emmett bounded up the stairs faster than we could follow him.

His room was, of course, blue. The bed was smaller so that he had room for bookshelves and a toy area.

“I want to play,” He ran in.

I grabbed Caspien’s hand and led him towards our room.

“I didn’t have our room done. I thought we were going to wait.” He frowned.

“I was thinking about this room, the guest room across from ours.” I opened the door flipping on the light.

“What do you want to do with it?” Caspien asked, placing his palm on the low of my back.

“I thought it would be a nice space for a nursery.” I looked at him, and his eyes widened.

“You want to try?” He took a step back, a wide smile plastered on his face, “Can we?”

“We don’t have to.” I said Caspien’s eyebrows tugged together, “The baby is already on the way.”

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 75 -

12–16 minutes

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 75

75 – Induction

(Caspien)

I was so excited to hear that Willa was thinking about having children with me. I wanted more kids; I was surprised to find out that I actually wanted them instead of feeling that I had to have them to carry on the line.

I never connected with children, not that I had a chance to really be around them. But when I met Emmett, I felt my world shift. He was different than expected, and he wasn't scared of me. So trusting, kind, and I fell in love with him more every day.

I would have as many kids with Willa as she would let me, but we never talked about it. I wanted kids with her for longer than I admitted to myself. I promised myself and her that we could take it slow, at her pace, and even though she was officially my Luna, there was no need to pressure her into anything she wasn't ready for.

"You want to try?" I asked her. I felt like I was in complete shock, but the good kind.

"We don't have to," She said.

That almost shattered me. Did she not want this? Was she worried I wouldn't want it?

I opened my mouth to tell her that I wanted to if she did, that I wanted nothing more. She looked a bit nervous, or maybe it was excited.

"The baby is already on the way," She said, a shadow of a smile crossing her beautiful face. She looked at me nervously, studying my face.

I took a step back, looking at her stomach.

She's not just going to pop up like a balloon – Atlas said

We sniffed. Her scent hasn't changed yet. She must be very early along

We have another pup – Atlas pranced around like a show dog

"Really?" I asked her. She nodded, biting her lip. I couldn't help the smile that broke out on my face, "Really?"

I took a few steps towards her and pulled her up as gently as possible; her feet lifted from the floor, and I spun her around.

This was bliss that had to be complete and utter bliss. We were expanding our family in our home that finally felt like both of us. It wasn't home without Willa and Emmett, and now that they both had a choice in the design, it felt real, finite.

I brought them home, and now we would fill it with another little life.

“Are you happy?” Willa asked after I set her down; her unearthly green eyes sparkled up at me, but her brown tugged slightly.

“I’m ecstatic,” I replied honestly, “Are you?” I hoped this wouldn’t be something that would make her feel trapped or stuck, not with me, but in a situation that might not be ideal. That was the last thing that I wanted her to feel.

“I am.” She smiled widely; her entire face lit up, and I let out a breath.

“This might be one of my favorite days,” I leaned down to place a kiss on her soft lips, her hands tangled in my hair as she deepened the kiss.

I breathed in the scent that was Willa, the scent of home. Goddess, she was everything I didn’t this I deserved, but every day she made me feel like I might be worthy of her, of Emmett, of it all.

(Nolan)

There was a tugging sensation every few minutes. It was getting deeper, like a physical cut. I ripped off my shirt, but there was nothing to indicate any cuts, bruises, or something externally wrong.

Come here – I linked the doctor and poured myself a drink pacing my office.

A soft knock came on the door.

“Come in,” I called down my drink, that was fast.

Camilla tentatively opened the door with Theo next to her wrapping his hands around her thigh, “Theo wanted to say good night.” She said, averting her eyes for some reason. She changed recently, losing some of that confidence, spark, and hardness that I liked about her.

“Goodnight,” I nodded at him.

“We’re going to read four books tonight,” Theo said, bouncing up and down.

Camilla looked at him lovingly. Her demeanor completely changed when she looked at our son, “Yes, after the bath.” She said, running her hands through his hair. Theo made a disgusted face.

“Listen to your mother,” I knelt down to his level.

“Fine,” He stomped out, and Camilla looked at his back, smiling.

I had to admit she was a much better mom since the incident. I don’t know if she was traumatized by her time in Crescent Moon’s dungeon or what they did to her. It didn’t matter. She was softer, timider. It didn’t work for me, but she and Theo were inseparable now. She even

seemed to soften to my mom. I didn't care what happened if she was going to protect and raise my heir, she could stay.

I winced as another cutting pain cut through my chest.

"Is everything okay?" She asked me, seeming concerned, "Theo don't go too far," She called after him smiling.

"Yeah, just some pain; I have the doctor on the way. Need anything else?" I asked through gritted teeth.

"Okay then." She turned away, "Did you respond to the invitation?" Camilla asked, looking at my desk where the invite to The Royal Ceremony, Willa's crowning, still laid open.

"No," A chill went through me thinking of it.

Willa, a princess, I shook my head.

"I will," Camilla said, and I looked at her.

"Not as a Luna." I rested and hurt flashed her face before she made her face hard and turned away from me.

I never would forgive her for going behind my back, getting her stripped of her title. She was useless, but my mom was happy to step back in. I didn't have time to think about what this meant for the future of the pack. At least I had Theo but would any other kids be seen as heirs with her in case something happened?

I pushed those thoughts away as another shooting pain rippled through me. The doctor came in hours later, minutes probably, but it felt longer.

"What took you so long?" I snarled at her, and she jumped.

"I-I'm sorry Alpha I was finishing up a labor. We have a new baby boy in this pack." She gave me a tentative smile. Someone else could have handled that.

My dad stood towering above her. "What are you doing here?" I breathed through clenched teeth.

"Saw the doctor running and wanted to check on you." He said.

"What is the matter? Do you want me to run some tests? I can bring you to the clinic."

I clenched at my heart again, "It's these stabbing pains, every few moments."

My dad's eyes widened, and he looked at our head doctor, who was frowning. "That's not normal." She said, taking a step towards me.

"Of course it fucking isn't. That's why I called you," I growled.

"Son, she is only trying to help." My dad said, but he looked worried.

"Tell me exactly what is going on," The doctor said, and I tried to describe it. She asked a million more questions than she needed to.

"Just tell me what is going on," I clenched the arms of my chair.

"Is there something else going on," Her voice softened, and I didn't like it, "Did Camilla do something? Reject you?" She averted her eyes.

"What?" I scoffed, "No." I snarled.

Did she reject me without telling me? She seemed annoyed with me recently, but she wouldn't leave even if her title was stripped. She wanted to stay with Theo.

"It could be a heart attack. You've been through a lot," My dad suggested. I didn't realize he was still here.

"Idiot," I mumbled.

"I have never seen that happen," The doctor said, "It's something else; it sounds like a tie-breaking." She shrugged, "I've seen this before after a death of a mate, a rejection, even though that's rare," Her voice sounded accusatory, and I would have commanded her to get out if another shooting pain flooded me. "When a pack member leaves sometimes," She shrugged, going on.

"Wait," My dad stopped her, I tried to look at him, but my face felt hot, cold sweat dripped down my face, "A lot of pack members left after," He trailed off, "Maybe they are joining Crescent Moon officially." He said.

"Why. Wait." I managed out.

"I don't know, I can figure it out if you'd like."

"Get out," I commanded them both.

The doctor stood up and looked at me sympathetically. It was the last thing I needed. My dad paused at the door, "You brought this upon yourself, son." He frowned.

"You didn't stop me," I spat.

“You are a man of your own free will, I cannot and will not force you into anything. This is the result of your choices,” He shook his head, “We can only help Theo be better, not turn into you.” He left, and that cleaved my heart.

A wave of regret and sadness helped dull the shooting pain, I felt completely helpless, hopeless, and desperate.

I tried to wrap my mind around how all of this happened, it all started with Willa, with my rejecting her.

I wondered what life would be like if I wouldn't done that, it would be better. I couldn't change that, though, I couldn't take it back.

That was the worst part of all.

(Willa)

I felt like we were in some drive-through pack ceremony. I was worried Caspien would be bled dry by the end of it. Most of the pack members decided to join tonight, and the ones that didn't were still in attendance. We held it in the packhouse, and most of Crescent Moon showed up, even the ones that didn't live here.

There was so much love and warmth in the air. It was charged with it. Everyone was so excited to meet the new pack members and I couldn't have been prouder of everyone in Crescent Moon and Blue Ridge for coming together like this.

Caspien looked down at me, nodding his head slightly. He looked like he was in his element, but he was softer than I had seen him at other events. He seemed more himself, the Caspien that I knew.

Cali was standing to my side and jumped. I grabbed her arm, looking at her.

“Mindlinking still scares me sometimes, and Holden shouts in my head when he's bored,” She rolled her eyes, “He literally is so annoying.”

“You love it,” I countered, smiling at one of my best friends.

“I do,” She smiled; she didn't even bother fighting it.

“Welcome, all of you,” Caspien said, his voice booming. I didn't realize it was over, I hoped I looked polite and warm despite the exhaustion that loomed over me, “We are blessed and honored to have each and every one of you, this is your home now, and we will work to make it feel that way. We appreciate your trust in us, and we do not take that lightly.” Caspien stood next to me and squeezed my hand.

“I won’t bore you with another speech. You’ve heard enough from me for a lifetime,” A few people in the crowd laughed, and Caspien softened a bit. It was weird to see him like this. The Caspien I knew was starting to seep into the Dark Prince front he put on in public, “We hope you stay for the party.”

The crowd cheered, and he handed me the microphone.

“I just want to say how nice it is to see some familiar faces again, to have people from my home pack mix with my new pack. I have to stop now, or I might cry,” People laughed, but I was being serious, “Welcome and let’s party.”

The party allegedly went long into the night. I left a bit after it started. I talked to as many people as possible, but I was fading, and Caspien realized it. So far, at least, he was being cautious but not hovering as Griffen did.

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“It was intense, people were shouting about mates everywhere, and I don’t think anyone slept,” Cali’s eyes were wide as she was explaining the rest of the party over brunch in our house the next morning.

“You definitely didn’t,” Griffen mumbled; Cali shot him a look.

“It was a d.amn good party.” Holden said, “The proper way to bring people together; some people mentioned they have never been to a pack party before Holden said.”

“The events were usually held for visiting ranked members,” I shrugged, “They would come for ceremonies, but the dinners and parties were for the other visitors.”

“That’s f*****g s.tupid,” Cali said.

“I can agree with that,” Griffen nodded at her.

“A success all around,” Holden said, “I can’t believe you have any blood left, Cas,” He shoveled a huge bite of egg into his mouth.

“I can’t believe you dipped so early,” Cali said, eyeing me over her mug.

“I, I was a bit tired,” I looked at Caspien, who nodded, “I’m pregnant,” I said, holding my breath at the reaction I knew I was going to get.

It was complete silence for a few long moments until someone, probably Cali or Holden, dropped a fork.

“What? I want one.” Holden frowned, Cali slapped him on the shoulder.

“Don’t make this about you,” Griffen said, “Congratulations, Willa, Caspien, another addition will be amazing.”

“Thank you,” Caspien said.

“Werewolf s.hlongs,” Cali shut her eyes smiling, “I am really happy for you, Willa. You deserve everything and more.” She said seriously.

“Thanks,” I swallowed. I would eventually need to learn to take a compliment.

“Come on,” Holden grabbed Cali’s arm.

“Hey, I wanted to finish my bacon,” She shouted.

Holden threw her over his shoulder and grabbed the plate of bacon, “Sorry, but I have to make a baby.” He said and took her out of the room.

“That went as well as I expected it to go,” Caspien said, pinning me with his icy stare.

I shrugged, “At least they know. Eventually, we’re going to have to tell the parents.”

“Good luck with that,” Griffen murmured over his plate.

Our parents took it worse than expected. Better maybe. Tears and more tears, a few squeals of joy, a happy dance, and more tears. I almost wished we had called them. I was bracing for them all to be worse than Griffen was with Nora.