



## Chapter 0491

I walk next to her and wrap her up in my arms, she buries her face in my stomach and holds me tight around the waist. She's not crying though. I'm not sure if that's because she is focusing on staying calm for him, since they can feel each other through the bond, or if she's coming to terms with the worst possible outcome. I don't say anything, if she needs to talk to me she will.

This time it was hours before a healer came back into the room. Someone brought in a small cot for the Luna to lay on and rest, and she insisted that I sit with her. She has kept contact with me since I hugged her, she seems to be as reluctant to let me go as the Alpha was. When the healer enters we both sit up straight, listening intently.

"The Alpha is out of surgery now. When they are done dressing his wounds they will bring him back in here for you to sit with him. It would be best if you stayed while he heals. It will make it progress more quickly. The young Alphas and a few others have been asking to see you for an update. What would you like me to tell them?"

"Cameron and Dakota can come back, they need to see their dad. You can tell the rest he's out of surgery and I will update them all soon."

"I can go talk to them Luna, I need to update my team and

make sure we have security set..."

"No, you need to be here when he comes back, you promised you would be here. He needs to see you as much, maybe more, than the boys."

I just nod. I don't agree with her, but I don't want to argue with her either when she's like this. The last time I was in a room with the four of them, I was called a traitor and accused of all kinds of things. I really don't want a repeat.

I stay by the Luna as they wheel in the Alpha, fast asleep on his bed. At least he has color to him now and with the drape of the blankets, you would never know what he just went through looking at him. He just looks peacefully asleep. Luna Ava doesn't move from her chair right away, she just sits and stares. I really wish I knew what was going on in her mind.

The twins walk in soon after and I can hear Kaley's high pitched squeals from the hallway.

"A Luna needs to be with her Alphas at a time like this... get your hands off me and let me through...I will have you know ..."

Dakota slams the door shut and takes a deep breath. When he turns around he avoids eye contact with me and stands next to Cam on the other side of the bed. They both look sad and lost, like the little boys I used to know.

"What did they say mom?" Cam finally asks after a long

silence.

"Nothing yet, we were waiting on you. He's here and alive and that's the most I know." She finally stands and walks to them wrapping them each in an arm. They both tuck their heads into a side of her neck and I wish I could take a picture of the moment, even though it is not an ideal situation, this moment is special and precious. These massive guys lean into their mother, who's at least a foot shorter than them, for comfort.

The lead healer walks in and looks around the room at all of us. I lower my head and make myself as small as possible back by the cot Luna and I were just sitting in.

"You can speak, everyone here is family." My head shoots up at the Luna's words. But I don't get to question them when the healer starts to speak.

"There was a significant amount of damage from the wood. The Alpha's entire oblique muscle on his left side will more than likely have permanent damage. Splinters also pierced his kidney, part of his liver, the lower lobe of his lung and his intestines. He has a lot of healing to do and after, I don't recommend he remains in the Alpha position, you boys should prepare yourselves." She gives the twins a serious look. This is not a suggestion. "For now he is stable and we are monitoring him hourly. He has not opened his eyes yet, but I believe he will when he's ready. Let us know if anything happens or changes." She looks each of us in the eyes, then

turns and leaves, taking the buffer of her neutral presence with her.

I stayed against the wall next to the cot, wishing it was on the wall closest to the door, not the furthest. I just want to leave. My chest still hurts and I know it's not from the fight with the Alpha or being thrown by him, it's from seeing them.

I don't know why the Luna wants me here. This just isn't my place. I take a deep slow breath and steel myself to just move towards the door, it won't go unnoticed and it will be super awkward. I turn and start walking.

"Skylar Makain, stop right there. You will stay in this room until the Alpha wakes up. He needs you."

"Why?" I ask, still facing the door. My voice is more confident than I expected. "I have a team to organize and patrols to work out. I need to coordinate with Delta Kyle and I am going to be bombarded with questions from people in the waiting room. Please let me do my job."

"Your job is here right now, and you can organize everything from this room, don't run away from us." She doesn't sound angry or sad, she sounds hollow, all business.


Now I am angry. It licks up my insides like a flame and I see red. My wolf is letting her anger seep into mine as well. She has felt just as betrayed as I have. Wolves are pack animals, they need their pack and she was just as betrayed by them as I was. This woman has been like my mother for a

very long time, but when push came to shove, it was not me she chose to protect.

"You have made it very clear where I fall in your list of priorities, Luna. I have not run yet and I don't intend to, this is my pack just as much as it is yours. Why would I want to stay in the company of people who openly despise me, think that I'm a traitor and would sacrifice my pack? I did my duty, My Alpha is safe and protected, I am not needed here. I will send Gamma Brett to stay with you. I think you need to be with someone at all times until the Alpha wakes up. And as we are all aware, no one from the pack is allowed to mindlink with me. So I cannot coordinate with anyone while I am here."

I turn to leave again, feeling very much like the teenager I never really got to be. But, proud for sticking up for myself for once. I love them all, but it's not enough right now, they need to love me the same amount in return. <sup>3</sup>

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## Chapter 0492

Firm hands grab my shoulders and I stiffen. He doesn't try to move me, just keeps me from opening the door. I take a breath in and that's when I noticed it, I can smell Cam's thick citrus smell, but faintly blending with that is her. The smell might be a day or so old, but it's there on his skin. He's been with her, they probably both have. It takes everything for me not to let the tears behind my eyes fall. I took another deep breath willing them back and it was a terrible idea.

"Please stay Tiny, he wants you here." 1

I shrug his hands off. "If you put your hands on me again, I will remove them with the weapons you gifted me. And we have had this conversation before Cameron. We are not friends, only my friends get to use nicknames."

"And get to touch you apparently." Kota says bitterly.

I turn sharply. "So we're going to do this now? Fine. Everyone knows you haven't been allowed to touch me, talk to me or in general come near me." Kota rolls his eyes. It pisses me off. "Had s\*x with Kaley in the last two days?" I go directly for the lowest blow and look between the two of them just staring at me open mouthed.

"I don't know what you're..."

“Talking about?” I narrow my eyes. “Remember. I can smell the difference between you two. You may dress and act the same for everyone else, but you can’t hide from me, Dakota. Do you think I wouldn’t smell her all over you? Go be a hypocrite to someone else.”

They both have the decency to look ashamed at least. Even the Luna stays silent. None of them explain or defend themselves. I don’t break the silence, they can live in this awkward moment forever, I have time apparently.

“Skylar, you don’t understand, this is so complicated, so many more things are at play here that you realize.” Cam, always the placating one. <sup>3</sup>

I just laugh, I’m not touching that with a ten foot pole. I don’t know if there is some way that Kaley can listen in on their conversations, but I don’t want her knowing we suspect her and her father of this whole f\*cked up situation. We still haven’t put all the pieces together yet either. I know there is something I am missing. <sup>1</sup>

“Please stay, just until he wakes up, he wants you here for a reason.” Luna Ava is pleading with me, still tucked under Kota’s arm.

Why am I even considering this? None of them deserve my help or consideration right now. So why can’t I just storm out like my logical brain wants me to? <sup>2</sup>

I groan. “Fine. I need some things so I can work. Some of us

do spend every waking minute taking care of this pack, not just pandering to the princess' every want and need. If I am in this room, I am his protection detail, no one comes in without my say so. I still want the Gamma here for the Luna. Beta Daniel can be your go between to get you guys set up to run the pack. Mateo should begin working as your Beta as well learning the ropes since you guys are all being thrust into this sooner than expected. I want two of my warriors at the doors to this wing and at the hospital entrance. If you can't handle my demands, then I am leaving."

Cam and Kota don't even look at each other before they nod.

"Whatever you need, Skylar." Cam says, and it sounds so patronizing, but it's what I asked for.

"I think we are going to need a bigger room. I'll just step out and..."

"You stay put! You do not leave this room until Gamma Brett is with you. No offense but I don't even want you going to the bathroom alone. This is the perfect time for anyone to try and attack you and if you get hurt or worse, the shock and pain might kill the Alpha."

Her hand flies to her mouth. Clearly this is not something any of them considered based on all of their looks. I just roll my eyes.

"The most efficient way to kill an Alpha is to take out the Luna first. This is why I get paid the big bucks and



apparently get no sleep. You aren't my first Luna detail and it can get pretty bad. I would like to avoid the worst possible scenarios." I rub my eyes. "Are you going to get everyone set or should I figure that out?"

"Gamma Brett is on his way and Beta Daniel is out in the lobby waiting for orders from the boys." Luna Ava chimes in. "What else do you need?"

"I will contact my team and they can coordinate with Delta Kyle and get warriors on the doors. I also would like Lenny here in the hospital to prepare food for all of you. She's the only one I trust and having her here will make it easier to protect her. Have Beta Daniel go and get her. Everyone close to you will need to be protected from whatever the f\*ck you all got yourselves into." I am not holding back my absolute irritation any more I guess. I am also a masochist and I want to see if they put a warrior on Kaley.

\*\*\*Alright, sh\*t just continues to go down. I'm stuck at the hospital until the Alpha wakes up. Or until I can find a legitimate reason to just walk out. This is what I need...\*\*\*

I go through what I need from my team. They help me fill in any blanks and get a solid plan set. They divvy up and take on tasks like we always do on a mission. This well oiled machine just operates and I couldn't be more thankful for all of them just going with everything that has been thrown at them since we got here.

\*\*\*"You are too f\*cking nice. I would have punched them

both in the teeth."\*\*\*

\*\*\*"So, helpful Lil. Elena said to go with my gut, and I am. Let me know when everyone is set. I also have Lenny coming to the hospital to keep her safe and so she can take care of the Alpha family personally. You guys are out of luck for prepared meals for a little while. I would also like a laptop with all your best access, Nathaniel. I'm going to need to have something to do while I am stuck here or I might bust some heads. I might as well be on surveillance duty."\*\*\*

Of course they all laugh at me, I'm usually too antsy to do the sit down surveillance stuff. This is going to suck.

\*\*\*"I'll sneak you in some whiskey, Midge. That will take the edge off."\*\*\*

\*\*\*"Or make me more violent. I appreciate the thought, Wyatt."\*\*\*

\*\*\*"So does that mean the birthday barbeque is off?"\*\*\*  
Jena asks.

\*\*\*" I guess, unless I get some kind of 'get out of jail' card, I'm stuck here. And we are all on mission right now. So it's not great timing."\*\*\* 1

\*\*\*"On it!"\*\*\*

\*\*\*"Wait! Lil, what does that mean?"\*\*\*

None of them answer me. F\*ckers. 3