



Chapter 0493

I go back to sitting on the cot and lean my back up against the wall, pull my knees up to my chest and just stare at the Alpha. The three of them want me here, fine, but I don't have to play nice and friendly. I want to link Sam and Oliver, but the twins don't know that I can yet and I don't want to slip them information they shouldn't or wouldn't know. They do deserve an update from me though.

I rub my hands over my face. I have to play this right and to do that I need to know what kind of hold Kaley and Kevin really have on them, but I don't know if these three will be able to tell me anything anyway.

I decide to let Oliver and Sam know what's going on, but make sure they know they can't interfere unless they get directions from the twins, Luna or their dads. Naturally they were both pissed.

"My team is organizing." I decided to start a conversation. Luna Ava has pulled up a chair next to the Alpha and is holding his hand and stroking his cheek. The way she looks at him is so amazing. I know it isn't just the mate bond pulling her towards him. They are so in love it makes me jealous. I can't wait for someone to look at me like that. "What is the status of the Gamma and Lenny? My warriors are in place and haven't seen them yet." I don't take my eyes off the Alpha.

“Gamma Brett just got here with her. There was a complication at the packhouse.” Cam says.

“What did Kaley want? Access to your rooms at the packhouse or access to the hospital?” I say in a bored tone. Nothing she does surprises me anymore.

“Here.” Dakota huffs out and scratches the back of his neck.

“Look, I don’t care what choices you have made, I have no control over you or have any right to make requests of you, but if she is here, then I will not be, period.”

“Skylar...” Cam pleads, but before he can continue Gamma Brett and Oliver walk in the door.

“What are you doing here?” Again, not holding anything back, I stare past the Gamma and at my trouble making friend.

“Dad said everyone close to the Alphas needed a protection detail, I am here for you.” He gives me that half smirk and a wink that tells me I am not going to win this argument, but he really wants me to try. Then he saunters over and sits right next to me, close enough for every inch of my left side to touch his right. “I also caught Lil on the way in and she said to give you this.”

He hands me a backpack and now I know I’m in for trouble. I can guarantee she told him about our conversation and they are conspiring together. He just smiles wider as I take

it. I open it slowly, I'm almost afraid of what I will find. Lil has been known to pack some prank stuff on missions, especially if it's long and drawn out like this one. 1

"Gamma Brett, we are going to need a bigger room if all of us are going to be here with the Alpha, do you know if the hospital has a space that can house us all?" The Luna asks.

"Not off the top of my head, I'll go ask." He thumbs over his shoulder and starts to head towards the door.

"I'll come with you, I need to stretch my legs." She jumps up from her chair. "Boys, let me know if anything, and I mean anything changes while I am gone."

The twins nod.

I pull out my laptop and set it next to me. Ignoring the surge of testosterone in the room. That at least I was expecting. Then a change of clothes and basic toiletries. That had to be Jena. The next is a little velvet bag. I look at Oliver with an eyebrow raised. He just stares back. He knows what this is, but won't give anything away. I pull the drawstring open and peer inside. It's the twins bracelets, one with a blue thread and one with a green thread woven into it.

"You sure you can tell them apart, Bitty?"

"That's a stupid question, Gamma."

"It's now or never then. You may not get another uninterrupted time with both of them."

"You set me up?"

***"Who else? Besides, I don't know if they will fight you in here. No one is watching, they don't have to put on a show."**

I look at him curiously, and then just nod. I take both bracelets out and take a deep breath then stand. As I look over at the twins they are watching Oliver and I curiously and I try to think about what we might look like from the outside. I guess I can see what Jena and Lil were saying about it not being a surprise if we are mates. We are really close, but I also thought I was close to the twins and Sam too, so who knows what rumors are flying around anymore.

I walk over to them and pull Luna Ava's chair so I am sitting in front of both of them. Oliver is right behind me, I know to pull me out of the way if they start to thrash like Mateo did.

They say nothing, but look a mix between terrified and confused. Blue and green eyes scrutinizing every movement I make. I hold up the bracelets. "I made these for you, I made them for all you guys," I point at Oliver, who shows his. "I'm not going to lie to you, because I think that has been done enough. They do have magic attached to them, but it is for your protection. I hope that you take them willingly, but I will force you if I have to."

They both just continue to stare at me. I will not beg and plead. They have about thirty seconds before I move and I

know Oliver will back me up. They were warned and should know better than to test me.

"Skylar, please don't do this, you don't know what you're asking." Cam starts.

I hold up my hand. "Easy way or hard way, that's all I need to know."

"Sky, we can't. If you are trying to use magic, then you know we can't, you know what's happening." Kota tries.

"Three, two, one." I count down then I toss the bracelets up and spring forward, slide between their chairs and pin a wrist each to the arm of the chair, Oliver slides Kota's on first and then struggles with Cam's who's moving his fingers wildly at my touch. I start the incantation the second Cam's bracelet crosses his fingers. They are both struggling and grunting. Oliver is putting all of his weight into Kota's chair, holding him down and sliding us completely into the corner and smashing me between the thin sharp plastic.

I cry out but don't stop the incantation. Oliver looks at me worried, I just shake my head, we can't worry about me right now, I will heal, they need the focus right now. I can't let go of their arms, but I have enough magic flowing now to keep Cam in his seat although he is doing a good job fighting me.

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"Repeat it, please! Talk to Oliver if you can't talk directly to me, but say the words, PLEASE!" I gowl out between clenched teeth. I have started to sweat and feel really nauseous. 1

Dakota gets the words out and we all start to vibrate. I have chills running through my whole body. Every time Cam opens his mouth he seems to choke on his words.

I cried out this time. "Cameron, please!" Another sob wracks through my body. "Do this, for me, please." I dig my nails in his arm, holding on for dear life.

He finally whispers the words and the searing pain is worse than when Kaley put silver in my whip wounds. Just like then, I throw up everything in my stomach, which isn't much, thanks to skipping lunch during the drama with the Alpha, but my stomach doesn't get the memo and I continue to dry heave. My hands are molded to the twins arms, I couldn't let go if someone tried to rip my hands off. 1

Both twins heave forward, dragging me with them. All of us hit the floor on our knees, then a black mist starts to pull from their mouths, like a demon leaving their bodies. It swirls up and away from us. I don't know how long this goes on for but I can feel my energy being forcefully drained out of me, through my hands and into their arms.

Then all noise stops. It's like being in a decompression chamber, heavy and disconcerting, while also being comfortable. I have a kind of out of body experience as I feel my sweaty fingers peel off the twins and my body starts to slump forward. I know it's happening, but have no control over my body to stop the movement that's happening. Then everything goes black.

—

I hear that incessant beeping, why am I always waking up to beeping?

"Ugh, what the f*ck?" I mumble and my tongue feels like sandpaper. "I need water."

I smell honey, which is expected, but then citrus and cinnamon too. I take another deep inhale and instantly feel my body relax and my mind clear. I blink my eyes open, but I'm sluggish, my body doesn't want to move. I'm sitting on the cot, my back against a pillow and my head is on a shoulder. Cam is on my right, leaning in to me. Oliver on my left, as my pillow and Kota is on the floor, his head tilted back on a pillow in front of my knees. I smile at the *deja vu*.

I look ahead and see Alpha Lucas is still asleep where we left him yesterday. I scan across the room, my warrior senses telling me I'm being watched, which is probably what woke me up and see Luna Ava looking at us intently. Gamma Brett standing close to her, arms crossed, leaning

on the wall. I can't read his face at all. 1

A glass of water appears in front of my face, blocking my view for a second and breaking the staring contest we were having.

"Drink, Bitty and then you can tell all of us what the hell that was, because that was the scariest f*cking thing I have ever seen. That was worse than finding you in the locker room, half dead."

I feel Cam stiffen next to me. Did he not know that? Or does he just not like that Oliver got to me? I don't remember a thing about who was there that night. Kota takes a deep breath in and sits up stiffly, rolling his head on his shoulders.

Oliver places the cup at my lips and I take a long pull of water and close my eyes to savor the cool sensation on my tongue. It feels like I haven't had a drink in a week. I take another, partly to stall. When I open my eyes again, there are five sets looking back at me.

"I don't know what that was. Nothing like that happened with the rest of them." I wave my heavy hand, gesturing towards Oliver.

"How many times have you done that?" Gamma Brett asks. "Used magic, I mean."

"A lot." Yep, super intelligent right now.

"Did you know that was going to happen?" He points up and

my jaw drops. There in the center of the ceiling is a huge black burn mark about eight feet in diameter.

"Uh, no!" I scoff. "Again, nothing like this happened with anyone else. I thought it might have been more intense because it was the two of them together. That's all." I go to sit up, but I can't move my body. "What's wrong with me?" I ask. "I feel like I got hit by a bus and then backed over a couple of times."

"Whatever you did took a lot of energy. Your lips went blue again. I'm really over that look on you, by the way. Then you collapsed and they couldn't get up for a while, but didn't pass out." He points to the twins. "Before you ask, you've been out for about twelve hours."

"What do you think that is?" I ask him like no one else is in the room. He has been helping me with my magic and seems to understand it better than I do.

"My real theory?" I nod. "I think it's whatever has been possessing these douchebags. I think your spell was stronger than the one placed on them, but there wasn't room for both and you literally ripped it out of them and it is currently hanging over our heads like a big black cloud stuck to the ceiling."

I look back up at the mark. I don't feel any magic radiating off of it, but that doesn't mean it's not there. Just another thing to ask Elena about. 2

I don't feel any magic in the room at all. I would think that I should be able to feel the presence on Alpha Lucas now that I can focus on him.

"You wanna explain this too, Smalls?" Kota holds up his wrist. "Or am I not allowed to call you that anymore?"

"Let's work back to the nicknames. The indecisiveness you both have about being friends with me has given me emotional whiplash. The tattoos seem to be an addition to the spell, but only for you five. I got a matching one, too." I hold up my wrist showing the cuff I now have with a crescent moon layer as the outer edges, quarter moon bands just inside that, then half moon bands with a full moon band in the center. As I look at mine, the moons get progressively bigger, like the full moons are closer to me. "None of the warriors got a tattoo to go with their protection bracelet."

"How many times have you done this spell?" "

A lot, actually, and what happened last night was insane. I need to see the Alpha, somebody help me up."

"Hold up, you saved everyone else before us?" 1

"You don't want to pick that fight, Dakota." Oliver says standing next to me, giving me his hand.


"The hell I don't! Why would you come for us last?" Is he serious right now? 2

“Let me check your dad first and I will tell you why you two are the low men on my totem pole.” I take Oliver’s hand and stumble a bit. Cameron catches my other arm. I am really messed up. These healing abilities of mine really need to come into play right now.

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"That's it."

"What?!"

"I think I know why I feel like sh*t at least. I think my healing powers were siphoned off to get rid of whatever that sh*t is." I point at the ceiling. "I'm probably healing normally now."

Luna Ava looks over at the twins. "Boys, I need to talk to Skylar now, alone." She holds up a hand before they can protest. "Brett, Oliver, you too. Go now please, but stay close. Do not wander. Skylar is right and we're all safest here right now." Oliver and Cam don't let go right away.

"I'll be okay, just stay close so I can sense you." I don't look at either of them. I was talking to Oliver, but that would probably start another argument. I shift so I am standing on my own two feet. I just feel weak, everything is achy and I want to sleep, but I need to hear what she has to say. She's gotta give me something, fill in some gaps, right?

Reluctantly, the twins let their Gammas push them out the door. "Luna, we will be right here, I want to know if something, anything happens." Gamma Brett pins her with a stare.

"Of course." She waits until the door is closed. Then walks

over and wraps me in a hug. "I am so sorry sweet girl. None of this was supposed to happen." I don't return it, but I don't pull away either. I need answers. Now. "I think Lucas should tell you."

"Huh?" She walks me next to him and his eyes are open. "When the hell did that happen?" I ask, shocked.

"While you were all sleeping. There is a lot to tell you and not a lot of time. Your Gamma is not going to leave you alone for long, especially while you are still vulnerable. I'm surprised Brett was able to get him to walk out the door."

"What do you mean 'my Gamma?'"

"Skylar, sweetheart, we've known for a while that you are our next Luna. I don't know why you don't see it."

"The f*ck? How do you know, no one knows until the twins find their mate."

"There are a lot of reasons, it's not important right this second, just know that you are and your troubles aren't over. Now, you need to know that Kevin is dangerous, more dangerous than we ever realized." She looks down at the Alpha.

He grabs my hand. His is cold and clammy, now what you would expect for a big strong Alpha. "You have to understand that they took my family, my whole world and I had to get them back at any cost. I was young and desperate. I didn't have the strength that you do to fight

and push through my troubles, I sought the easiest way to save them." 1

He's talking in riddles. "Save who? What are you talking about?" I'm so frustrated and tired right now.

"They took my Luna, they took her when she was pregnant with the boys. My whole world was just gone. They were hidden, and no one was able to track them and I couldn't sense her, but I knew she wasn't dead. We thought it might be magic, so I found a witch who was willing to help me, for a price."

"Wait someone took you?" I couldn't help myself. She just nods. "Did they hurt you? Hurt the twins?" I mentally smack myself. Stop interrupting and stop caring, just listen.

"No, I wasn't hurt, but they threatened to, unless Lucas gave them what they wanted."

"They wanted full control of my pack and I couldn't let that happen, but I couldn't let them hurt my Luna either. This witch, Adrielle, helped me find my family, but her price was our daughter."

"WHAT!"

"Just listen, when we had a daughter, she had some premonition that we would, she wanted us to force a mate bond with her son. I thought I could outsmart her. We knew we were having two boys, and she didn't want them, so I agreed, thinking we just would not have any more kids.

Which tore us both up, but we had to do what was necessary to save our pack.”

“She said our daughter would be special, get her wolf and her abilities very early and have natural control and leadership over the pack. It was also predicted that once mated she would gain and give additional abilities to her mate. After I found out about your wolf, and saw you with my boys, I started to wonder.” Luna Ava cut in. “Then Reggie recognized something in you and odd things kept happening to you and around you...” 2

“You think getting beat within an inch of my life and left for dead, twice, was 'odd?’”

She held her hand up to stop me. “I started to wonder if it wasn't our biological daughter, but the daughter that we would gain as Cameron and Dakota's mate and Luna. Anyone with eyes can see you are special and have a special bond with all those boys, but I knew when Oliver came to you, that he's your Gamma, you are the next Luna. You are what Adrielle wants, and apparently she's not the only one.” 2

“I have it on good authority that Kevin and Kaley are working with her. How they met I don't know, but you know what they have done, you and your team have been smart enough to keep up with them. Kevin wants the power, Kaley wants the boys and they have been using more and more magic to gain that. As you found, magic comes at a cost. Right now,

I have kept all of the attention on me. Kevin has only placed spells and hexes on me, thinking he can control everyone through me. You can break this cycle."

He stares and realization hits. "NO! There is no way. After everything, you cannot ask that."

"The magic surrounding me will break, that won't stop what's coming for you and the pack needs to be ready, Kevin would see the pack fall, hoping to build up from what's left. There won't be anything left. Just promise that you will give Cameron and Dakota a chance, swear you won't reject them when the mate bond takes effect."

I shake my head, tears are starting to fall. "After everything, and the stuff with Kaley, that's a lot to ask."

"Please. You are my only chance to do right. No one else will be able to go through with it." My heart is breaking and my stomach is in my feet, I'm shaking my head. "Please, Sweet Girl, I have no right to ask you anything, but I am begging you, break this spell. Please." He's crying and Luna is next to me, an arm around my shoulder.

She takes my hand and places it on his chest. "You can do this, save us, please."

I let out a wail and just cried, but I didn't pull my hand out from under hers.

"I love you, Sweet Girl, take care of my boys."


I close my eyes and just pray to the Moon Goddess, to take him and free him. I have no idea what I'm doing, but a warmth surges through my hands and the incessant beeping just flatlines. Luna, lets out a cry and collapses on me. The door bangs open Gamma Brett grabs her, Oliver scoops me up and the twins run to their dad. ¹

"What happened?!"

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