

Alpha Maximus The last lycan Chapter 21

Chapter 21

Hoping to arrive by nightfall in Ashwood, we decide to stop and stretch our legs, and let our wolf and lycan out for a run. Excitement builds, because it's Chaos' first time running with Storm. We strip our clothes, and shift, and chase each other, roll, nip and play.

We shift back into our human forms, and naked, lie next to each other in a beautiful field. I roll onto my side and stare into Hope's beautiful eyes. My fingers run down her stomach and down her arms. Leaning down, I kiss her passionately. Grabbing her bum, I lift her onto my lap; my erection pressed against her wet core.

As we kiss, she becomes more aroused and she grinds herself against my member. My hands make their way to her waist before cupping her breasts.

Hope repositions herself, and I slide my member into her slowly. She moans in ecstasy as it enters.

We thrust our hips in unison, and moan in pleasure; her eyes fixed on my neck. She can't hold back any longer, and her teeth protrude.

She is close to climaxing, my fangs protrude, and I mark her as she orgasms. She marks me as I release my seed into her. She lies on my chest, panting, and gazes into my eyes with love and desire. We share a fiery kiss. We stay in each other's arms all night, not even making it Ashwood. We make love and let our wolves out to run and play several times.

The following morning, we continue to Ashwood and enter the territory by midday. Alpha Greg and Alpha Dan greet us when we arrive. Alex runs out, almost knocking me over, and we hug and pat each other on the back.

'Alex, I want you to meet Hope, my mate and your Luna,' I say, smiling. Alex bows his head.

I'm thrilled to meet you. I must introduce you to Bella, my mate,' he smiles.

We follow them into the pack house, where all the Blood Moon pack members are gathered around, happy I'm alive and well, and thrilled to see their new Luna by my side. Everyone is excited and tries to have a moment with Hope. I'm happy to see them welcoming her with open arms.

Bella is sitting on the couch, and looks like she will burst any moment. I take Hope's hand and walk over to Bella.

'Bella, this is our new Luna, Hope. Hope, this is Bella, Alex's mate,' I say. Hope sits down next to Bella and they form a friendship right away. I approach Alpha Greg and Alpha Dan.

Alpha Dan, I want to thank you for looking after the loyal members of my pack. I hope one day, I can return the favour. Alpha Greg, I'm glad you chose to fight with me, instead of against me. I hope we will be great allies,' I smile. They nod, happy with my words.

"Tomorrow, we will fight and reclaim your territory. I suggest we all get some rest before the battle tomorrow,' Alpha Dan suggests. We nod in agreement. I walk over to Hope and take her hand.

'Come. We're exhausted, and we must rest, so we can reclaim our home tomorrow,' I say, fatigued.

Hope smiles, stands, we go to our room, and strip off and shower together, before falling asleep. We sleep all night.

We join the other alphas and Bella and Alex for breakfast.

'We'll leave at noon, and we should arrive in Blood Moon territory by nightfall,' I say.

'I want to come as well,' Bella says.

'You're overdue. You can't come home during a battle. You could be hurt or killed,' Alex says.

'I'm sorry, but I'm siding with Alex. You'll be in safe hands here. When it's safe to return home, we will arrange transport

back home safely.' Bella moans, annoyed. Hope gives her a sympathetic look.

'You will be back with Alex before you know it,' Hope says, giving her a reassuring smile.

"Thanks, Luna,' she replies, with a smile.

We all shift, and run through the fields towards Blood Moon territory. It's dark when we arrive, and there are hundreds of pack warriors scattered everywhere.

"You fight your way through the warriors. I'm going to sneak around and find the alphas,' I say.

Alpha Dan and Alpha Greg both run off, and shift into their wolves.

The three packs collide with our opposition, and there are yelps and whimpers, as Hope and I sneak around through the long grass. A twig snaps behind us, and five wolves growl and snarl at us. We lunge at them, snapping, and biting until they're all dead

'I can't see any of the alphas. I don't understand,' I say, confused.

'Should we check inside the pack house?' She asks.

'It's the only place they could be. You would think they would be out here fighting, with their pack,' I point out.

"They might be cowards like Alpha Tate,' Hope says.

'True,' I agree.

'I can't believe how beautiful Blood Moon is. You said we would live in a pack house. This is a medieval castle! Hope yells.

'Pack house, medieval castle; same thing,' I say, shrugging my shoulders. Hope shakes her head, in disbelief.

'You are unbelievable, Maximus,' she says, smirking. I wrap my arms around her waist and pull her into me.

'And you, Hope, are unbelievably beautiful,' I reply, giving her a fiery kiss.

Max!' She giggles, pushing me away. "This isn't the time or place,' she says, blushing. I sigh.

'You're right. We must focus on finding the alphas. After I kill them, I'll focus on making you moan all night,' I say, giving her a wink and cheeky grin.

She shoves me, and smiles, and we creep towards the blue stone wall surrounding the pack house. I lift her onto my shoulders and she climbs over. I shift, and join her on the other side. We drop quietly into the bushes and scan the area. There are some warriors patrolling the area, but not many. We sneak up on them, and quietly kill them, one by one.

Looking into a few windows, there's no movement inside.

Waving my hand, Hope follows. I know a way to get into the castle, that no one but Alex and Nathan know about.

We crawl through the garden and come across a well. I move some branches aside to reveal a wooden door on the ground behind it in a corner.

Opening the door, I climb down. Hope is about to jump down, and I raise my hands and catch her just in time.

We're in an underground tunnel.

'This way takes us into the castle,' I whisper. Holding her nose, Hope quietly follows as we walk through the smelly tunnel. The odd rat runs past us, squeaking, along the dark tunnel. We stop at a ladder.

I climb up, and push a stone tile aside. I hoist myself up, and reach for Hope's hand, and pull her up, and into my chest. She looks around in awe and amazement.

"This bedroom is incredible,' she whispers. The walls and floor are stone, and there are red velvet curtains on the windows. There's a large four-poster, wooden bed with white drapes, and a golden, silky cover.

Elegant tapestries, and a stunning banner of a wolf and a lycan decorate the walls.

"This is our room,' I say, chuffed with her reaction.

'No way! This was made for royalty,' she says.

'It was,' I explain, and she looks at me confused.

'I am a prince, but I prefer to be addressed by my alpha status,' I explain.

"That explains why this isn't your typical pack house,' she says, amazed. Out the window, outside, all the packs in the distance are fighting,

'Let's keep going,' I say.

We open the bedroom door, discreetly sticking our heads out. No one is around and it's eerily quiet, walking down the hallway. We enter the great hall, where our footsteps echo.

'Looking for us?' A deep voice echoes.

Hope and I are standing back-to-back, when three alphas and a group of warriors enter the hall from different ends.

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Chapter 22

This is my home. I'll give you one chance to leave, or I'll rip your heads off!' I yell, and the alphas laugh.

You are surrounded, Alpha Maximus. I don't think you're in any position to threaten us,' he snaps.

I shift into my lycan, and Hope shifts into her wolf, and lets out a howl.

Such a pretty little wolf,' the alpha says, smirking; admiring Storm's unique silver and white fur.

'She would be good for breeding pups with,' the other says. I snarl, and race towards the alpha. They and the warriors shift into their wolves.

Snarling, I bite a leg, and fling the wolf with great force across the room, baring my fangs near someone's neck, for my next kill. Hope is fighting off the warriors who have her surrounded. She is putting up a good fight, but there are too many of them.

One of the alphas hold her down, and she is forced to shift into her human form. She kicks him, while a warrior wraps his arms around her, from behind, pinning her arms to her chest. Ten warriors and two alphas are attacking me, but I run to Hope, to free her, before feeling a sting in my back. Not again! I fall into darkness.

When I wake, I'm in a cell in my own dungeon, with chains around my wrists and ankles. It's just like the night I met Hope. I howl loudly, and frustratedly, and hear the sound of footsteps and keys.

'Will you shut the fuck up?' An alpha yells.

'Where is Hope? What have you done to her?' I yell.

'No need to worry. We're taking very good care of her, if you know what I mean,' he smirks.

'If you touch her, I swear on the Moon Goddess, it will be the last thing you ever touch!' I yell. The alpha chuckles and walks

away.

'Come back here, you coward!' I yell, only to hear it echo.

Alpha... Alpha...' Someone is whispering, and I'm looking around, but I can't see anyone.

'Up here!' They whisper, and I look up into the moon hole in the ceiling.

'Mother of the Moon Goddess! Is that really you, Nathan?' I ask, utterly shocked. Nathan pokes his head through the moon hole; it's too small for the rest of his body to fit through.

'I – we thought you were dead?' I stammer.

'As soon as I saw you grab Hope and run, I ran. I didn't fully escape the explosion. My back and arms were burnt. But I outran it enough to survive,' he explains, and my eyes well up.

'You have no idea how happy I am you survived. I'm sorry I didn't come back for you. I wanted to. But I couldn't,' I say, ashamed.

'It's fine, Alpha. The men followed you. You had to save our Luna. I came back here as soon as I recovered. I'm not sure who's winning. There are a lot of dead wolves in the field. I'll enter via the hidden entrance near the well. Sit tight, Alpha. I'll unchain you and get you out of there!' Nathan says, and I nod. I wait an hour before he arrives.

Come on Nathan! Where are you?' I wonder aloud.

Nathan enters; keys dangling in his fingers.

About time,' I say, and he rolls his eyes.

Do you know how hard it was to get these, without being seen?' He says.

'Soury. I'm just worried about Hope. You didn't see her, did you?' I ask. Nathan shakes his head. Free from the chains, we make our way upstairs, searching for Hope. We kill any warrior we come across.

The alphas are arguing about claiming Hope, in a room nearby. Kicking the door in, I see Hope tied to a chair, wearing one of my shirts, that reaches her knees. One of the alphas stand.

'How did you get out?' He asks, angered.

Nathan steps out from behind me, grinning.

'Nathan! Hope screams, delighted; tears of joy fall down her cheeks.

We shift and lunge at the alphas. I rip a chunk out of one of them, and he bleeds profusely from his ankle. I then fling his head backwards, breaking his neck, and let him fall to the ground.

'One down! Two to go!' I snarl. The alphas panic, knowing they're about to die. I lunge and rip into one of their necks, while Nathan rips into the other alpha's chest, and when my alpha is dead, I join Nathan and finish the kill.

Shifting back, I untie Hope, and she flings her arms around me, not caring about the blood all over me.

'Max!' She cries, into my chest. Holding her tight, I look her up and down.

'Are you hurt? Did they hurt you?' I ask, worried.

'No, I'm fine. I'm just glad you're here,' she says, smiling up at me, before flinging herself into Nathan's arms. 'I thought you were dead! I saw the explosion!' She says, crying into his chest. He rubs her back to comfort her.

'I only just made it out. I was burnt, though,' he says, letting her go and lifting his shirt. See? They'll probably leave some nasty scars,' he says, shrugging.

'No! Wait! Hope says, before he pulls his shirt back down. She gently places her hands on his back, her hair flows upward, her skin glows, and her eyes turn silver.

A few moments later, she is back to normal and Nathan is scar-free.

'No way! You healed the whole lot! It feels so much better!' Nathan shouts, excitedly. He pulls Hope in for a hug.

'Thank you, again,' he says, smiling at her. Chaos briefly tries to take over.

'Mine!' He snarls, and Nathan lets go of Hope.

'Yes, Chaos. We know she is yours. I was just thanking her!' Nathan says, chuckling.

In the fields out the front, there are dead and injured everywhere. As soon as the alphas are dead, the packs stop fighting.

Hope goes around, healing the pack members with life-threatening injuries first. Everyone watches her, in awe, and with admiration. After healing a few dozen warriors, she is struggling to stay conscious. I run to her quickly.

'Hope!' I yell, kneeling next to her and pulling her into my lap. 'Are you alright?' I ask, brushing her hair off her face.

'I'll be fine. It's just, the more I heal, the less energy I have,' she explains.

'Hope you need to rest. I'll take you back inside,' I say.

'No! There are still so many badly injured. I need to heal them,' she pleads.

'Absolutely not! You're barely conscious yourself. I won't allow you to weaken yourself any further! The rest can be seen by the doctor, and the trained she – wolves,' I say.

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I carry her into the castle, and by the time I get to our room, she is snoring. She is just too darn cute.

Pulling the silk coverings over her, to keep her warm, I kiss her gently on her forehead and go back out to help the others.

Alex and Nathan run across the field into each other's arm, like they are mates.

'Alpha Maximus! A familiar voice says, and I open my arms to hug my dear, elderly, chubby cook, and close family friend,

Beth.

'Beth!' I yell, lifting her up. I give her a friendly, loving squeeze, and put her down.

'It was terrible being forced to cook for those snotty alphas and their packs! I'm so glad you're back! Where is the Luna? I must meet her!' She says.

'Our Luna is resting in our room.' Beth runs back into the castle, all excited. I grab her arm gently.

'Beth. Don't wake her. She has been through a lot and needs rest,' I say.

'Oh, spoonfuls of sugar!' She says, stamping her foot.

'You'll meet her later. There is something you can do for me, if you like?' I smile, and she smiles.

'Anything for you, Alpha,' she says.

'I could really go for one of your apple pies right now,' I says with a grin.

She smiles and runs into the castle kitchen to start baking. I help the rest of the injured into the castle.

Returning to my room, to check on Hope, she is in a deep sleep, with a smile on her face. I take my clothes off, and snuggle up next her, just to be near her and hold her.

Without opening her eyes, she snuggles in closer to me, nuzzles her face into my chest, and snor es. I can't help but chuckle at my perfect little mate.

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Chapter 23

Alex runs into our room, frantic.

Bella Bella, she's in labour. She's on her way here with Sally and a few others,' Alex pants, and we sit up,

'Congratulations! You're going to be a dad! Hope yells, excited.

"How long until she gets here?' I ask.

'A couple of hours. I'll get the doctor ready,' Nathan says, leaving out toom. Pulling Hope into my arms, I caress her face,

Welcome home, Luna,' I say, with a smile, and Hope smiles.

"I can't believe I'm here with you. We can finally be together without being hunted,' she cries, happily.

Spinning her around, I scoop her up, and my lips smash against hers in a fiery kiss.

"I love you, Hope,' I say, sincere. Hope kisses me back.

'I love you too, Maximus,' she says, sweetly.

We get dressed, and there's a lot of excitement downstairs as everyone waits for Bella and the new baby.

The doctor is in the sitting room with everything he needs. Beth serves us all tea and apple pie while we sit around waiting

*How exciting!' She declares. "It will be so nice to have a little baby running around the house. Hopefully it isn't long before Alpha and Luna add one to the mix,' she laughs.

Everyone smiles and looks at Hope, who is a little embarrassed. She sinks into her chair a little, and I chuckle.

'All in good time, Beth. We'll have babies when we're ready,' I laugh, giving Hope a reassuring smile. Alex paces the floor back and forth, fretting.

"She should be here by now,' he says, worried.

I'm sure Bella is fine,' I say, calmly reassuring him.

Alex's phone rings.

"What do you mean? No, don't say that! I'm coming to you now!' He says, ending the call. His breathing becomes heavy and

he grips his hair in his hands.

'What's wrong? What has happened?' I ask.

"The baby hasn't come yet. She is bleeding badly,' he says, and I run to the doctor to tell him to follow us.

"Where are they?' I ask.

"They're just outside our territory,' he says.

'I'm coming with you,' Hope states, and I nod.

We shift and follow Alex through the fields and the trees until we see a car parked on the side of the road.

Bella is screaming in the back, in pain. The doctor approaches the backseat where Sally is holding her hand, reassuring her.

'She needs to push. The baby needs to come out now,' the doctor says.

We encourage Bella to push and keep pushing. After her fourth push, the baby is delivered, and the doctor wraps the crying baby up, and hands it to Alex. Hope and I approach him.

'Congratulations, Alex,' we say. He is in awe of the sweet little bundle.

'Is it a boy or a girl! Hope asks

I actually don't know,' he says, opening the blanket to check.

'It's a boy! It's a boy!' He shouts, happily.

We're so happy for him; we're all cheering and smiling. The doctor walks over to us.

'I'm so sorry, Alex...' he whispers.

'What do you mean?' Alex says, confused.

'Bella... Bella is gone. I'm sorry. She didn't survive the birth,' he says, saddened. We freeze and our faces pale.

No! No! He shouts, handing the baby to me and rushing to the car. Hope and Sally are crying.

Alex leans into Bella and aies into her chest. Hope approaches the car and her face changes from sadness to determination.

She leans over Bella, placing her hands over her stomach, and we all watch her hair flow upward, her skin glow, and her eyes turn silver.

Minutes pass and nothing happens.

'Hope... Hope! She's gone,' I whisper, trying to pull her away.

Tears stream down her face, as she tries to heal Bella, before bursting into tears on the ground, after a few minutes of nothing.

'I'm so sorry,' she cries to him. I hand the baby to Sally and wrap Hope in my arms as she cries into my chest. Alex sits on the ground, crying into his hands.

'Why is everyone crying?' Bella asks, a few minutes later, and we all gasp, and run to her, and give her a big emotional hug each, and cry even harder.

'We thought you were dead', and 'Hope did it, she saved you!' We shout.

'Where's my baby?' Bella asks, and Sally walks over and gently places him in her arms.

'It's a little boy,' Alex says.

'A little boy; he is so beautiful,' she gushes over him.

'Let's get you all back to the house so you and the baby can rest,' I suggest.

We get Bella and the baby to the house safely.

'Wow! You live in a castle,' Sally says, amazed.

'Yes. This is the pack house,' I reply.

'Wow! So cool!' she says, and Nathan opens the door to let us in, and locks eyes with Sally.

– 'Mate!' He declares. We freeze and watch Nathan eyeing Sally.

'Umm... what?' She asks, and Nathan runs, lifts her up over his shoulder, and runs into the house. Sally is giggling her head off.

'Umm... Hello... What's going on? Who is this cute guy? Why is he running upstairs with me?' She yells, as we watch them both disappear upstairs.

We all burst out laughing, and Beth runs up to Bella and the baby.

'Oh, he is gorgeous!' She says.

'Do you know what his name will be?' Hope asks.

"We're going to name him Billy, after Alex's dad,' she answers, happily.

"How about you, Billy and Alex rest in your room for a while? I'm sure you need it, after what you just went through,' I suggest, and Alex nods and leads Bella, and the baby upstairs.

'Want to let our wolves out for a run?" I ask Hope.

'Yes! She says, running outside. I chase her through the fields. Storm and Chaos play fight; Storm keeps winning, because Chaos always gives in.

We shift into our human selves and lie in the field of long grass; Hope straddles me, with a mischievous look on her face.

Sitting up, I cover her body with sweet kisses, and she giggles, and cups my face in her hands.

'Maximus, you are the best thing that has ever happened to me. I never want to leave your side,' she says.

Her eyes well up and she bursts into tears. I pull her into my chest.

"Hope, I will never leave your side. You have captured my heart and tamed my lycan; something I never thought possible. I never want to go a day without you by my side either. To do so would be like a dagger to my heart,' I say, patting her back. She wipes her tears and looks into my eyes.

"I love you, Maximus,' she whispers.

'I love you, too,' I reply, leaning in to kiss her.

'Let's go home, have dinner and check on the pack,' I say.

'Last one home's a rotten egg! Hope yells, as she shifts and runs.

Smirking, I shift into my lycan. If she thinks she can outrun me she has another thing coming! I chase her all the way home.

She is about to beat me to the front door, but I leap with all my strength, and pounce on her, and we tumble inside, through

the doorway, play fighting.

Everyone gathers to see what the commotion is, and find Storm holding me down, nipping, and snarling, like she has defeated me. I go along with it, and pretend she has overpowered me. Alex can't contain himself, and bursts out laughing. The rest of the household laughs too.

It feels good to see my pack happy and relaxed. I'm so used to everyone walking on eggshells or being wary around me. I pray to the Moon Goddess it stays this way forever.

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Chapter 24

Hope

"Hope, could you hold Billy for me?' Bella asks.

'Of course!' I say, excited. He is such a sweet little baby.

Sally and Nathan walk downstairs holding hands, and join us for breakfast. Sally's cheeks are flushed and she is all giddy.

"Good morning,' I say, with a grin. She grins back

'Good morning, Hope. I mean Luna,' she smiles. We both giggle.

'Did you sleep well?' I ask, trying not to laugh, and watch her bite her bottom lip, and look at Nathan next to her, giggling.

'Yes, I, um, slept very well,' she smirks, and Maximus chuckles.

'The whole house could hear how well you two slept,' he says, grinning at Nathan, who slaps his arm.

'Maximus!' I scowl at him. Did you really have to say that?

'What?' He asks, chuckling.

I try my best to change the subject so poor Sally can stop being embarrassed.

'What are our plans today?' I ask Maximus.

'I'll be in meetings with the remaining wolf packs to organise peace treaties. I'd like you to just settle in and find your way around the house. Seeing as it's a castle after all. Nathan can give you and Sally a tour,' he says.

'Really?' Sally asks.

'You're Nathan's mate. We expect you to move in with us,' he offers.

'Oh, I couldn't. I wouldn't want to intrude,' she says.

'We insist, don't we, Hope?' He says, looking at me. I smile and nod.

'Of course! It would mean a lot. Not only to Nathan, but to us, as well,' I say, smiling, rocking Billy in my arms. Sally squeals.

'I can't believe I'm going to live in a castle!' She says, jumping up and down. Nathan kisses her hand.

'Shall we drive you home to pack your things today?' Nathan asks her.

'Yeah. We can head there later today, and be back by the end of the week. I'll tie up loose ends at home before I leave there for good,' she smiles.

Maximus kisses me sweetly on the lips before going to his office. Sally and I follow Nathan as he gives us the grand tour of the castle, that lasts for two hours.

'This place doesn't end,' I laugh.

'It does eventually,' Nathan chuckles.

'Guys, I'm going to go to the kitchen for a drink of tea,' I say, feeling parched.

'Want me to show you the way back?' He asks.

'I'll be fine,' I say, skipping and humming, and admiring the intricate paintings and antiques along the way. I swear the kitchen was down here. Maybe I took a wrong turn?

'I think I'm lost,' I say to myself. I slowly scan the corridors, trying to figure out which passage I should walk down, before noticing a black hole in a wall. There are stone steps going down; it's too dark to see anything else.

Poking my head in, curiosity gets the better of me, and I hold the wall so I can find my way down, in the dark.

One slow step at a time, I get to the bottom and see a small light in the distance. I walk towards the light, with my hand on the wall. The light is coming from the moon.

The stone ceiling is missing a stone. I watch the moon in admiration for a moment before the wall creaks.

I turn, and pressing my hands against the wall, it opens. I step into a room where a wall of shelves on my left is full of scrolls. There's a table against the wall in the middle, a large old book, an unlit candle, and matches. The wall on the right has a red velvet curtain in the centre, with bookshelves either side, holding different bottles of coloured liquids and jars of unknown

substances.

Striking a match, I light the candle, and turn around, taking everything in. I place the candle down on the table and lightly run my fingers over the front cover of the book. 'History of Witches,' I read aloud.

I peer down at a list of names, dates of births and towns of births. I scan through the pages. The last name on the list glows. 'Anna Glint,' I read aloud.

I take a step back, shocked. Suddenly, a breeze flies through the red velvet curtain, and I step closer, and pull the curtain across. I'm in a room at the portrait of a woman who has the same white hair, and same silver and blue eyes as me. Her arms are around the neck of a light grey wolf. I feel sense of familiarity; like I've met them before. I study the picture closely; the way they're looking into each other's eyes; in love. The grey-almost-silver wolf is very large and proud. You can feel the love and admiration in his eyes.

'She looks just like me,' I say, running my fingers lightly across her cheek.

'She couldn't be my mother, could she? And he, my father?' I say, stepping back in shock

If Anna Glint is a witch from the Healers coven, and she is my mother, that would explain my healing ability. That would mean I'm half witch and half wolf. I didn't know we could be mated to other species. If my mother's name is here, my father's name might be here, as well. I unravel some of the scrolls hoping to find more information.

Walking over to a bookshelf, I move some jars aside and scan the books, and something falls from one of the books. I look down at the small shiny object. It's a necklace with a red, ruby, heart pendant.

It's so beautiful; the more I stare at it, the more I yearn to wear it. I undo the clasp on the end of the chain and fasten it behind my neck. The ruby heart sits, nestled, beautifully, on my chest. I hold it, close my eyes and feel content.

A note on the ground has fallen out with the pendant.

Anna, my love,

They can try and keep us apart, but love will always conquer. You are my heart, and I gift it to you now and forever.

Eternally yours,

Alpha Levi of the Dark Moon Pack

This pendant symbolises his love for her. I hold it close to my heart and tears roll down my cheeks.

What happened to them? Where are they? I hear my name faintly called out.

'Hope... Hope.' Maximus is looking for me; I've been gone for hours.

I fold the note, stuff it into my sleeve on my dress, blow out the candle, and pull the stone door shut behind me.

Following the sound of Maximus' calls, I hear the concern in his voice. I run towards his voice.

'Max! Maximus... I'm here,' I yell. I'm in his arms a few moments later.

'Everyone has been looking for you. I was starting to think something happened to you,' he says, caressing my wet cheek.

'Have you been crying?' He asks.

'I was trying to find my way back to the kitchen when I got lost and—

'Thank goodness you found her!' Alex yells, running up to us.

'She was lost,' Max says, turning to smile at me. He takes my hand and leads me into familiar areas, and into the kitchen.

Beth, could you get Hope a drink, please? I'm sure she's thirsty' he says, kissing my forehead. Drinking the water, I turn to him.

'There's something I want to talk to you about,' I say, nervously.

'Actually, there's something I need to talk to you about as well. Pack business. We can discuss it in my, our office,' he says.

Following Maximus into the office, he sits in his chair, pulls me onto his lap, and nuzzles his face into my neck; making me giggle. I cup his face in my hands and kiss his lips.

'I thought we were going to discuss pack business?' I ask.

'Well, we were' he says, frisky, sitting me on his desk.

'Max!' I giggle, blushing.

We make love on his desk, and he sits me back on his lap, and I snuggle into his chest.

'What were you wanting to talk to me about?' He asks, stroking my arm with his fingers, softly.

'What do you know about the Dark Moon Pack?' I ask

He stiffens and his eyes darken.

'How did you know that was the pack problem I was going to talk to you about?' He asks, and I'm confused.

'I didn't know that was what you were going to speak to me about,' I reply. He is lost in thought and agitated.

'What's wrong? What is it?' I ask, worried.

The Dark Moon pack is just that... Dark Their alpha is truly twisted and evil. He is the reason my parents were killed!' Max says, snarling

Alpha Maximus The last lycan Chapter 25

Chapter 25

Hope

My heart sinks with dread. My father is the reason his parents are dead

"I'm so sorry," I say, crying. He grabs my chin to force me to look at him.

"It's not your fault. It's not like you had anything to do with it," he says, before kissing me on the lips.

'Hope You're shaking,' he says, concerned. He tests his forehead on mine. "You're burning up," he says, standing, lifting me up

He grabs his coat, covers me, and walks nude, upstairs to our room. I'm trembling and shaking. He lies me on our bed and goes into the bathroom to fill the bath.

He scoops me up, and lowers himself into the bath with me in his arms, so we are both in the water. My mind is racing one hundred miles an hour, before it fades into nothing.

I wake up in bed, nestled into Max, who is snuggled into me, with his arm around me. Sitting up, I rub my forehead.

How are you feeling?' He asks, sitting up.

"My head hurts. Otherwise, I'm fine," I answer.

'You passed out in the bath. I haven't left your side since. You slept all through the night,' he says.

'Was I really out for that long?' I ask

'Yep,' he says, twirling my hair around his finger.

Do you want to rest in bed today?' He asks.

'No. I'll be fine. We have pack matters we need to address,' I say, and he nods and sighs.

After dressing, and having breakfast, we go back into his office, where he puts some scrolls in front of me.

'With half the packs gone, and now ruled by us, I contacted the alphas of the remaining packs to let them know of our new territories. And to confirm I now have a mate and Luna. So far, most are willing to sign peace treaties. Except for the Dark Moon pack. We've had bad blood between us for many years. The death of my parents, for instance,' he explains.

'What happened?' I ask; part of me not wanting to know what my birth pack did to his.

'I was really young. All I remember is that their friend, a witch, had broken a law, which resulted in a witch hunt for her. Even her own coven hunted her. My parents were killed for trying to protect her and going against the law,' he explains.

'What law did she break?' I ask

'She fell in love with a werewolf. The alpha of the Dark Moon pack,' he explains.

'I don't understand. If they were in love, why shouldn't they be together?' I ask. Max gives me a startled look.

'It's forbidden for werewolves to mate or crossbreed with other species. It's an instant death sentence,' he explains.

'Why should anyone in love be punished? Why should it matter if you fall in love with a vampire, a wolf or a witch?' I ask, in defence.

'Are you hearing yourself? It's forbidden because we don't know what a hybrid is capable of. Or how dangerous they could be to other species. We are all equally

balanced. If a creature is mixed race, we no longer have that balance. A hybrid is a threat to all our species.' He says, wrapping his arms around me.

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Alpha Liam Remember what he called me? He called me a witch,' I remind him, and he is lost in thought before chuckles

"Yeah, but we know you're a werewolf, not a witch, so his comment doesn't matter,' he replies.

"Then why do I have the ability to heal?' I ask. He thinks for a moment, before answering

'I don't know. Maybe the Moon Goddess blessed you with the ability?' He answers.

'If your parents tried to save and protect the witch mate of Dark Moon's Alpha, why are you enemies?' I ask, confused.

Alpha Levi had just become Alpha. His father Cal found out about Alpha Levi's forbidden relationship with the witch. As punishment, he reclaimed his alpha status and hunted his sons' mate, and killed her,' he explains.

"That's terrible!' I say.

"That's the law,' Max states. I scowl.

'What has gotten into you? Why are you angry all of a sudden?' He asks, and I ignore his question.

'What happened to them? Where are they now? The witch and alpha?' I ask.

Alpha Cal found the witch and she was killed. She was burned alive. Levi has been held prisoner in the dungeons ever since,' he answers.

'She is dead and he is alive?' I ask, and Max nods. I fall to my knees and burst into tears. My mother is dead! Killed by my own grandfather. My father is still alive!

'Why are you crying? Why are you so upset about all of this?' He asks.

What do I say? What do I tell him? Will he still love me if I tell him I'm a hybrid? The result of forbidden love? That my grandfather killed his parents? After protecting my mother?

'I need some time to process all of this. To think this over. I need to go for a run,' I explain, walking away.

T'll come with you,' he says, gently taking my wrist, concerned.

No. I need to be alone for a while,' I say.

'I don't understand. Why do you need to be alone? Why do you need to process this? It has nothing to do with you,' he says, confused.

'It has everything to do with me!' I snap, and he lets go of my wrist, shocked at my sudden outburst, I run out of the office and outside.

Pulling off my dress, I tie it around my waist, shift into Storm, and race over the castle walls, through fields of grass and flowers. I run until I'm exhausted, with our conversation playing over and over in my mind.

Shifting back, I put my dress on, sit under a large tree, and cry for hours. I'm happy I finally know who my parents are, but heartbroken by the way they were treated.

My mother was killed for being in love, and my father has been in a dungeon for the last eighteen years! How am I alive?

How was I not killed? I was found in a forest as a new born baby. Max said it took Alpha Cal months to find my mother. I need to know how it all transpired.

The ruby heart glows, and I hold it in my hand. I'm suddenly transported inside a vortex to a dark and foggy forest. The moon is full and glowing. Someone nearby is running. Running, I follow them, and freeze when I see my mother leaning against a tree. She is gasping for air, and catching her breath. She checks her surroundings for followers. Slowly, I walk up to her.

'Mum?' I whisper, but she can't hear me; instead, she looks at the baby in her arms.

'It's going to be okay, my darling. I'll make sure you live. You won't be punished for the love your father and I have for each other. And the love we have for you,' she says, kissing a baby on its cheek

She runs off again, and I follow her to the forest, to the lake, that I often went to, to get away from Alpha Tate.

Voices yell in the distance.

'Me and your father love you so much baby girl. I have to leave you here and lead them away from you. If anyone knows we had you, they will kill you. This is the only way for you to live, my child,' she cries, giving me one last hug, before putting me on the ground.

In tears, she backs away, before running back into the forest. I look down at the baby, and caress her cheek, but my hand is transparent and ethereal. My Mum screams, and I run to her. 'Mum!' I scream.

lycan Chapter 25