The Female Alpha's Sanctuary by Sanctuary Chapter 51

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Chapter 51

Hestia Anne Dixon.

My younger sister.

The Luna of my old pack and the woman my mate chose over me.

She was pregnant.

I turned to the male sitting beside her in the Alpha's seat. Guilt and regret crossing his striking features when he refused to meet me in the eye.

"If the reason you called me here is because of this nonsense"

I gestured between my sister and mate,

"Then it would appear I wasted my time. With all due respect, Beta Dixon, I am an Alpha. I have many and much more important things to do than discuss petty mate bonds. If It wasn't obvious enough, I'll make myself clear-"

I stood up, not caring for the gazes burning into my skin. Not even his gaze that pleaded with me to spare him a glance.

"Whether or not she has this pup has nothing to do with me. Luna Walker's mate has nothing to do with me. In fact, none of you have anything to do with me outside of pack business. If you're worried about my interference- don't. I won't say nor do anything. To put it simply, I don't want him. I didn't want him for the past four years since he rejected me and you all left me to diee Rest assured that seeing him again won't change anything. Now if you'll excuse me, I have much more important things to attend to." I held my head high, walking off with my Beta trailing behind me.

I saw Landon flinch with hurt from what I said. If it stung so much, he'd have to get used to it. I wasn't going to sugarcoat my words if they were just going to waste my time. Just as I reached the door, it abruptly pulled open and I came face to face with the most beautiful man I've ever seen in my life. Dark, crystal grey eyes bore into me and I found myself go still.

Alpha Raizel Locksworth.

The Bloodlust Alpha.

I've never seen Alpha Locksworth before; not even in photos but there was no mistaking it. His presence was telling enough.

All the blood circulating inside me getting impossibly hotter as he held my gaze. His mere presence was like a shockwave coursing through my veins. I felt my body go stiff. Every atom inside me was reacting to this man. He, who was said to have been crueler than rogues and demons alike, had me feeling lightheaded. He who had no regard for anything or anyone other than himself and his pack, had me feeling strange.

Alpha Locksworth stood intimidatingly tall. His lean, sturdy figure cladded in a white dress shirt with the first two buttons undone hugging his body in a way to showcase his well defined chest. Black dress pants that highlighted his long legs fit around him perfectly. Fit, proportionate torso with broad shoulders connecting to his thick arms at his sides. His sleeves were rolled up to his elbows, exposing his forearms riddled with taut muscles. I wondered for a brief moment if he had tattoos underneath that shirt.

Then there was his scent

The thick, enticing scent of musk with a mix of rosewood entranced me. He was

overflowing with

dominance. Pure instinct of authority and domination hidden in the depths of his hooded eyes. The hooded eyes that stared right back at me.

The concept of time was lost.

My body, on its own accord, starts feeling flushed with heat at the thought of him half naked. The pit of my stomach is doing flips when I trail my eyes around his features. Soaking him in completely. His chiseled face gifted with a strong jawline, high cheekbones, clean sha ven face, sharp prominent nose, lips plump and alluringly seductive with luscious raven like hair attempted to be slicked back only to have strands fall over his eyes.

I could almost feel my fingers twisting around his locks.

He looked flawless.

Like the Goddess above had specifically taken her time to hand-sculpt him to utter perfection. Right to the very tips of his toes, he had unparalleled beauty. Something so beautiful could be so terrifying. His facade may have the beauty of a G od, but I knew there was more to him than that. My wolf perked up, walking out from the corner of her spot and stared at him blankly. Then she tilts her head to the side and ever so slowly, her tail starts swishing back and forth in excitement. She remained quiet but usually attentive at the sudden appearance of Raizel Locksworth.

What the actual hell?

His consuming steely gaze kept me captive from straying away from him. He kept his eyes on me as mine was on him. I could distinctly feel Noah's prying eyes and increasing confusion between the two of us.

"Mate."

The voice broke me out of the trance completely. I whipped my head around to see Hestia standing up, her eyes trained on Alpha Locksworth with fierce hunger buried within her blue eyes. I couldn't stop the surprise on my face.

Alpha Locksworth was her mate?

(Now before some of you decide to call it quits cause she's his 'mate' I suggest you read a bit more LOOLOLOLOL)

A wave of unjust disappointment washed over me. The beginnings of a frown was unconsciously tugging at my lips. My wolf remained quiet, no reaction whatsoever but kept her attention on Locksworth even after what Hestia had just announced.

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Chapter 52

"Alpha Locksworth, we thank you for coming here to talk about the situation with my daughter, Hestia. Alpha Crestfield, if you will, Alpha Walker still has yet to say his part." Benicio sounded relieved. I turned my attention back to Locksworth who was still looking at me. I was starting to feel self conscious from his gaze. Realizing now, just how weird it must've been to be staring at each other for almost a minute, I snapped myself out of my Raizel induced fascination. Clearing my throat, I looked back Benicio with narrowed eyes. Whatever the hell was going on, they could do without me. I already seemed to have expected too much of them. The most I could do now was

wander around and see if I can catch anything here. That is, if I don't get caught. I kept my eyes locked on the Beta who seemed very shifty from Locksworth's presence. I couldn't blame him.

The Alpha's presence behind me was so overwhelming I almost didn't notice the man who stood behind him. Presumably, his Beta. A tall guy, slightly shorter than Locksworth with sandy blonde hair and brown eyes stood calmly by his side. I couldn't detect any fleeting emotion from him but I could see the amusement in those eyes.

He and Noah would get along quite well.

I felt heat crawl up from my back. Heat from the smoldering gaze of the Alpha behind me chaining me to the ground I stood on. His attention initiated foreign sensations from puffing out inside me. My wolf purred, laying on her back with her paws outstretched.

She was seriously confusing me. "I have no business here. If it isn't pack related, I'm not interested."

I reply sharply, not bothering to hide the venom lacing my words. I turn to leave, shooting them one last glare and strode my way to the door.

"I'll have to second that. I didn't come here to entertain your daughter's delusion from three weeks ago, Dixon."

I freeze. The deep, raspy rumble from his chest lured out ripples of shudders from me. Locksworth. directed his attention to Benicio. His eyes hardened, narrowing into slits as he released more of his dominance into the air. Most of the occupants in the room tensed.

My wolf barked, hungrily watching the ascending signs of a fight. She ruffled her fur out, eyes switching back and forth between the Alpha and our blood related father. I could feel her excitement trying to overrun my emotions into a high.

Benicio glared angrily at Locksworth. His wolf peeked out, eyes slowly inking red. The shaking fists at his side let everyone know of his arising temperament.

"Are you denying my daughter? Your mate?"

Alpha Locksworth rose a brow, amusement dancing in place with a hint of anger under those smoldering dark eyes. Though his expression was unchanging, the way his body stiffened said otherwise. He didn't like the tone Benicio was giving him but he was quick to restrain the growl I knew was bubbling in the pit of his chest. His muscles were tight, itching to reach out and put the Beta threatening him in place.

"Frankly, yes. I'll say this only once: she isn't my mate, but she is a liar."

His eyes drift to Hestia whose face is red. She looked embarrassed under his gaze, uncomfortably fidgeting in her stance. With her eyes glued the floor, she slowly took her seat as Landon threw her a nasty look. I could feel her wolf whine at the pressure being pointed at her.

"If you strongly believe that, then I'm sure you won't mind if we go to the Moon Goddess' Sacred

Pool."

"Beta Benicio!"

Landon finally speaks, appalled at the challenge directed toward Locksworth. Benicio, ignoring Landon's interjection, continues to challenge him silently. I can see the start of a smirk on his face, but Alpha Locksworth was quick to dismiss it with his own. A slow, dark, cynical smirk knowing no bounds of mercy inched across his attractive face. "Of course. But you must be prepared to pay the consequences in full once I prove you

wrong, Beta." His eyes darkened.

"I expect full reimbursement for all this trouble you and your daughter has been causing me. Benicio looked taken aback, eyes darting to Hestia who refused to meet his gaze. He was positive that Hestia was telling the truth, but then why would the Alpha be so willing to prove his point if what she said was true. With a solemn face, he nods. Benicio was betting everything he had on the mere promise of Hestia's words. A promise that was so obviously untrue but he chooses to be blind to.

I sigh.

I was just wasting my time here.

I continue to stride out the door with Noah on my tail. My hand reached out to grab hold of the kn ob once more when-

"Alpha Crestfield."

I flinch, reveling away from the door and focused my gaze on Locksworth who stared heatedly at me. His brooding dark gaze bore into me, piercing through every layer of my defenses. I felt vulnerable. My body lit up with caution as he addressed me. "I'd like to ask you to accompany us."

My gaze swept through the crowd of confused faces before settling back to his awaiting one.

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Chapter 53

"For reassurance as a liable witness."

He explained. Yet somehow, a small tinge of doubt ruptured inside me. Something that told me he wanted me to come along for an entirely different reason. The Moon Goddess' Pool was a sacred shrine. The Pool indicated the mate ties between the two users. A drop of blood from both parties was required to ink into the water in order to classify the bond as real. If the water turned blue, then they were mates. If the water turned red, they were not.

The Moon Goddess placed the Pool there to ensure wolves, they weren't misplacing their feelings of attraction. Of course, it was hard to mistake the pull of mates to mere infatuation but it was useful for those who had human mates.

"You wouldn't mind, would you?"

His voice was tight. Almost like he was hanging by the string of my answer. I looked over to Noah who held my gaze, his eyes darting between Locksworth and I, in evident confusion. My wolf tugged at the barriers, willing me to go. She was wagging her tail, her tongue sticking out as she looked after Locksworth in pure awe. This reaction from her was so strange. She never treated anyone like this. not even Landon. Pursing my lips together, I shook my head. My curiosity was getting the best of me. "No, I suppose I could go."

And so we did.

The drive to to the Goddess' Pool was a short one. It was close to Nightwake territory in

the neutral region just a few miles South. For a good twenty minutes, all I could think about was the intriguing exchange between Locksworth and I. There was no denying he was an attractive man, but would his physical features really have such a strong pull on me?

It didn't make any sense.

My wolf didn't make any sense.

"We're here, Alpha."

Staring out the tinted windows, I took in the large mountain with the mouth of the cave in view. Surrounded by trees that stretched miles from us, I felt a faint smile on my face. This was the first time I've ever been here. It was a lot simpler than I expected. Sliding the van door open, I stepped out.

"The entrance is that way."

Benicio said, looking directly at Locksworth. The wolf in him was thirsting for a fight. The denial of Hestia meant the denial of his bloodline. The ultimate disrespect for a wolf, especially for a Beta or any high ranking title. It's almost funny how it didn't matter when it happened to me.

I felt a surge of power come from Locksworth as he narrowed his gaze on Benicio. Sophie, who I just noticed was with us, stood close to her mate, urging him to calm his wolf. She too, felt the pressure from Locksworth. The pressure that said he wasn't afraid to fight him if he were to be provoked once more.

Locksworth looked to his Beta and shared a moment of quiet understanding. The Beta nodded, standing in his spot and turned to the two warriors they brought with them. "Stay here, the Alpha demands privacy among all those involved."

Sophie, who held onto her mate's arm in a tight hold met my gaze. For a split second, something

flashes in her eyes but I don't let it hold my interest. I looked to Noah and nodded in dismissal.

If Locksworth wanted his privacy, I would respect it by telling my warriors to stay put. Landon did the same, bringing no one but Hestia, Sophie and Benicio. All eight of us made our way into the shrine. Noah and I trailed behind, not really having any part in this but being spectators of the whole ordeal.

The tension surrounding the two groups was thick, understandably so.

The cave glowed with barely lit torches attached to the walls. The entrance was narrow and cold. I felt a chill run through me. A few minutes in, and we reached the Goddess' Pool. Beautiful, shinning crystals grew around it, some hanging from the cave ceiling and others growing from the walls. The water was sparkling; clear and unearthly. It looked ethereal, more so with a sculpted marble figure of the Moon Goddess centered in the middle. Her hair was exquisitely long, a garland of flowers delicately carved above her head as a crown. Her thin arms were outstretched as though she was posed for an embrace. One hand held a posy of flowers, the other held a balance scale.

A small crescent moon laid on one of the weight pans. The sun on the other. A perfect balance.

It was serene.

The only sound we could hear was the water dripping from the crystal above and

dropping into the pool.

"Well, there's no need to prolong this. Hestia, go on."

My father said gruffly, motioning to the pool with his head. He looked annoyed, insistent on speeding the process up to prove Locksworth wrong. Pride was the most primal part of his being. An insult to his pride was as good as an insult to his existence. Hestia swallowed, looking at father nervously before staring after Locksworth. The longing and fear on her face matched my suspicions of her lie.

Locksworth, without even glancing her way, walked forward taking his place at the front of the pool and swiped out a metallic pocket knife from his back pocket. Sliding the blade out, he wordlessly sliced his palm open and held it above the water.

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Chapter 54

He squeezed his fist, no indication of pain on his face as his blood dripped from his hand and mixed into the water. Ever so slightly, he turned to face Hestia and silently told her with his eyes to do the same. As I watched the exchange, his eyes shifted to meet mine. I felt instant heat the moment our gazes locked. Every fiber in my body felt the caress of his gaze. The heat trailed down my face, my collarbone, my chest, my waist, every dip and curve he had the chance to see, he took. Goosebumps rose from my skin. Attempting to stop myself from the slight shaking. I crossed my arms. It felt intoxicating.

Like I was being held captive by his gaze.

For the sake of my sanity, I tore my gaze away and watched Hestia slowly make her way up. Taking hesitant steps forward, she kept turning back for reassurance. She looked beyond nervous. Her eyes darted to everyone when she finally looked at me. I stoned myself, face neutral and blank as she dropped her gaze to the floor. Landon had walked up to her. He handed her his own pocketknife to which she took almost unwillingly. The reluctance was easy to spot.

Just as Locksworth did, she sliced her palm, flinching at the sting before letting drops of her blood mix into the pool.

Everyone watched in interest. At first, the blood just mixed in until it became clear. Then as quick as it had disappeared, the water started bubbling. From the corner of my eyes, I could see Hestia watching with a tight expression on her face. Her hand flew to her slightly pertruding stomach.

As we all waited impatiently for the result, I almost let out a small gasp when the water turned a bright red.

They weren't mates.

I knew, somehow, deep down they weren't mates but knowing that she lied about it was still a shock. Why would she claim to find her mate when she didn't and she already has Landon? My eyes flew to Hestia whose face was tinged red. She kept her eyes downcast to the floor as my father stood gaping at the Pool. Landon himself looked furious, his eyebrows scrunched together as he glared at his wife. He balled his fists, his wolf surfacing as his eyes menacingly switched to black.

"Hestia! How dare you lie?"

He bellowed, his fists shaking at his sides. Hestia winced, cowering away as she trembled from Landon's raised voice. I tried to find it in myself to feel bad but I couldn't. She brought this upon herself. Whatever reason she may have, declaring an Alpha as her mate when he wasn't was not only damaging to her reputation but to Locksworth's as well. If she had told anyone outside the pack that he was her mate, a punishment would surely be in order for deception and malice.

I simply looked away and focused my gaze on Benicio. He too was shellshocked. He just stared at the red water slowly dispersing back to its original state like it was a lie he couldn't believe. When he regained his composure, he immediately sought after Locksworth. The unmistakable embarrassment strained his expression. He swallowed, instantly going over to him.

"Alpha Locksworth, I I am so terribly sorry. My daughter, she 1 cannot "
He stumbled on his words, still unable to accept that his daughter was lying. His wolf
submitted, head low and snout touching the ground in the utmost belittling position but
Locksworth didn't seem to care Which, in all honesty, I found odd. I expected him to
smugly respond or demand punishment but he didn't. He remained silent, staring at the

pool with mild interest when suddenly...

his gaze fell back onto me

"My apologies, Alpha Locksworth... I'm sincerely."

"Alpha Crestfield."

Locksworth interrupted, completely disregarding my father. I looked at him with my arms still folded across my chest. Ignoring the slight butterflies I felt, I waited for him to continue. At this point everyone had stopped talking and watched us in confusion. Locksworth stared, drilling his penetrating gaze into my eyes and lifted his hand. Extending his palm toward me, his gaze softened by a fraction.

"The test. I'd like to try it with you."

My arms fell loosely to my sides as I stared at him.

Was he serious?

"That won't be necessary,"

I say, surprised to find my voice. Landon, Hestia, Benicio- everyone watched in stunned silence. They were rooted to their spots as I was, momentarily forgetting Hestia's deceit. We were all too focused on Locksworth's startling request. A request that shamelessly tugged at my heartstrings. "I'm certain we aren't mates, Alpha Locksworth."

It wasn't a lie.

I already had one, as much as I wish I didn't, standing right across from me. Landon looked dumbfounded, green eyes wide open and mouth gaping as he looked between Locksworth and I. Then slowly, once realization of what Locksworth's request implied, his expression morphed into anger.

Anger to which, I ignored.

Locksworth's expression didn't change. Not even with the growing hostility standing behind him. Waves of Landon's anger coursed through the very thin line of a bond we had. His wolf snarling in his mind at Locksworth indirectly making a claim on me. His possessiveness was spiraling out of control. His wolf demanded to show everyone I was his, and Landon did nothing to try and hold him back. I knew that a few seconds from now, we'd have a shifted Alpha attempting to murder another Alpha.

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Chapter 55

No one knew of his inner fury. He glared daggers at Locksworth, his fists whitening at the knuckles. His lips tugged up to showcase his canines threateningly. Hestia, who was now out of the initial shock, noticed Landon's jealous fit but said nothing. She merely stood by his side, watching with calculating eyes.

Intrigue hit me in the face. I wondered why she wasn't blowing a fuse. Seeing her husband act like this would've angered her no doubt, but at the same time Landon couldn't help it because of the mate bond. If I knew Hestia as well as I thought I did, she would've disregarded the mate bond excuse and still find her anger pointing at him. But none of that ensued. Strange enough, she was calm and collected. Not like the emotional mess I expected her to be.

My focus returned to Locksworth. The fierce look of determination in his stormy eyes set deep in his features. His hand was still outstretched to me; waiting.

His large hand meaning to hold mine.

Waves of satisfaction rumbled from my wolf at the thought. She purred, nudging her head against mine in encouragement. She wanted to feel it as much as I did. To feel his large hand covering mine, his long fingers intertwined with mine, his heat mixing with mine.

She wanted everything.

Quickly, I shut out my bond with Noah. I was getting careless with the kind of emotions reaching him. He most likely caught a sense of what I was thinking. Embarrassingly enough, I knew he would've made this a big deal if he had known the effect Locksworth had on me. The effects that even I was confused of. Their origin was so unclear and confusing I knew that words probably wouldn't be enough to express them. It was like I was dying of thirst and he was a tall glass of iced water just waiting to be chu gged down.

For the first time since meeting Locksworth, my wolf fell silent right after and retreated into the back of my mind. She left me to figure this out myself. Just watching as she laid on her stomach with her head resting on her paws.

Wow

"Do you already have a mate?"

Locksworth asked, a slight edge to his voice. His clouded eyes darkened, cold but intense with scorching heat burning through me. I almost felt pressured under his scrutinizing gaze. A gaze that dared me to answer.

The instinct that urged me to comfort him hit me. My fingers twitched to touch him. To soothe him of his tension. No words of threat were made, yet his gaze alone made me feel intimidated. This was who he is. The intimidatingly dangerous Alpha that everyone swerved away from.

He was the Bloodlust Alpha.

Raizel Locksworth.

I began to fully understand the weight of his title and importance as the ranking number one. Meeting him now, I understood just how he was able to control everyone around him like a pawn. His aura alone was enough to make the strongest of Alphas to submit.

He was made up of overwhelming power

Power he knew how to use fully

My lips parted, but no words came out.

For a second, I was far too taken with the depth of his cold eyes to properly respond. But I was quick to catch myself. Shaking myself out of my daze, I pressed my lips in a thin line. Landon, from the corner of my eyes, stiffened at the question.

If I answered yes, his wolf would be satisfied but then his reputation would be tarnished. No one picks another over their true mate, but he did. It would surely cause problems for him. On the other hand, if I said no, his wolf would feel rejected but his reputation would be saved.

Sadly for him, I didn't take his feelings into consideration.

"No. I don't."

The air went thick. Landon's shoulders slumped, a look of pain over his expression. He turned away, hands tight and clenched. I didn't miss the way my father glanced over to me in shock. My mother just kept her gaze at Hestia who had her head down.

Did they truly believe I'd still acknowledge him as my mate?

After everything that happened?

I couldn't care less about his reputation.

He didn't deserve the title of my mate and I wasn't going to give it to him. As far as I was concerned, he was just some Alpha of a pack I had to be wary about. Not having an alliance with Nightwake meant we were more on enemies than acquaintances.

The answer seemed to please Locksworth. His initial tense form, relaxing as he once again held his hand up higher.

"Please."

It came out as a breathy whisper fanning over my skin. I inhaled sharply, unable to resist the small shivers raking up my spine. A pleasurable moan from my chest almost slipping if I hadn't caught myself. From the looks of everyone behind him, no one had heard what he said. Locksworth swallowed with the tip of his tongue darting out between his lips to wet them. His gaze dropped to mine as mine did to his. My heart pounded against my chest in anticipation.

Anticipation for what?

Then without registering what I was doing, I instinctively slipped my hand in his. The perfect fit. Tingles, sparks, everything electrifying ran through me the moment his skin touched mine. I felt my breath hitch at the overload of emotions hitting me all at once. The warmth slowly spread through my body from his hand. It felt so... right. So right, that it was concerning.

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Chapter 56

1 almost swiped my hand back in surprise, but Locksworth's grip held me tight in place. He ran his thumb over my knuckles gently, gaze falling to our joined hands in what seemed like wonder. Wonder with a mix of awe. After a few seconds, he froze and almost immediately began to tug me toward the direction of the Pool. He was rushing, seemingly afraid like I was going to disappear in thin air if I didn't do it right this instant.

His steps were short but long and I found myself almost stumbling behind him to match his pace.

Noah slammed against our bond, practically screaming at me to to let him in. He was sensing danger. I knew he was going to ask me what the hell I was doing but honestly, I don't really know.

My mind told me to pull away but my body, soul, instincts told me to get closer. To have him closer.

Fu ck, these hormones need to stop.

Once we reached the start of the pool, he let go of my hand. I instantly missed his warmth against mine but I would never admit it to him. I watched Locksworth lift the same hand he drew blood from and noticed it had already begun to start healing. He reopened the wound by squeezing his fist tight.

Red drops of liquid spilled over his hand from the gaping wound. He looked unbothered, barely feeling the pain of sliced skin affect him. Dripping his bloo dy hand over the water, he watched as a few drops of his blood merged into the clearness of it.

The dark red sowing into the pool slowly disappeared into nothingness. He looked at me expectantly. Eyes holding nothing but urgency with a mix of caution. With one last sigh, I gave him a hard look trying to brush aside my clear attraction to him. I was acting totally irrational. It was pointless to try. I knew it was. But I felt the need to do it. Frustration pent up inside me at the realization.

"It's not going to work."

I tell him.

But really, I tell myself.

Locksworth says nothing as he steps aside, giving me room to stand over the pool. He acts as if he didn't hear me. Trying to recollect my disarray of thoughts and pounding heart, I briskly walk past him. I brush passed him.

I stop myself from making a noise of surprise and continue on my way like it didn't faze me. Looking at the sculpted statue of the Moon Goddess, I breathed out and slice my palm with one of my extended claws. The small line I drew down skin turning red from the blood spilling forth.

Noah looks at me weird, eyebrows pressing together as to say "what the actual f u ck" and I shoot him a glare.

"I don't have a knife."

I grumbled out in our bond before shutting it off again.

It's not like I wake up this morning thinking, 'oh hey, I should probably bring a knife because my sister lied about being Raizel's mate and pi ss ed my dad off because he thinks Raizel is denying her so he challenges him to go to the Moon Goddess' Sacred Pool to find out it turns out to be a lie and suddenly Raizel will ask me to try it with him'. I raised my hand over the pool, watching as my blood inked into the clear water until it dissolved. 1

knew what the answer was, but a small part of me had that intangible hope that maybe... just maybe...

But I was right.

The clear water turned red, deflating any minuscule hope inside me. I covered up the disappointment, turning to look at Locksworth whose eyes were heatedly pointed at the red liquid. He stared at the pool as if it had done him such wrongs. Like his life was

thoroughly destroyed by the water in front of him.

"Like I said,"

I whispered silently,

"Not mates."

This time, I could do so little to hide my tone of dejection. I was sure if Noah didn't catch it, Landon certainly did. I felt his eyes cut cold to me, burning through my skin. When his persistent glaring finally left, I noticed him smirk in triumph toward Locksworth who still didn't give him the time of day.

"I should've known it was impossible..."

Locksworth muttered lowly to himself. I felt a similar tinge of disappointment in his aura before he composed himself. His expression went stiff as he looked away from the pool. Now we were all surrounded by this uncomfortable silence. A silence I didn't want to be part of. I was already regretting accepting his request as a witness. It feels more and more like I'm digging myself into trouble. And trouble was exactly what Locksworth was. Clearing my throat, everyone's attention flew to me. I looked to Locksworth who stared back with a troubled expression on his face. He looked... puzzled.

"I've seen the results concerning Luna Walker. If you need me to clarify it with the Chancellor as a witness, don't hesitate to contact me."

Nodding toward him, I swallowed. My gaze sweeping down his entirety one last time as I muster all the remaining strength in my body to face him. The confidence I had earlier in Landon's office gone and wiped clean from my body.

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Chapter 57

"Alpha Locksworth."

He stared, slowly nodding back with darkened eyes. His muscles tense with an ache to do something. His fingers twitched ever so slightly but he balled his hands. "Alpha Crestfield."

He acknowledged. I looked toward his Beta in silent goodbye. With Noah by my side, I cast Landon, my father, Hestia and my mother a look before turning to leave. Walking closer and closer to the exit of the cave, my body felt heavier and heavier the more distance put between us. I resist the urge to meet the piercing gaze willing me to look at his grey, steely eyes because I know, if I met them, even for a split second I'd be entranced.

So entranced I doubt I could ever get out of it.

Landon's POV

I couldn't help the smug look on my face as the water turned red. Pride and joy surged through me, knowing that Selene was no one else's but mine. My wolf puffed his chest out, growling out his approval at the turn of events. Our souls were intertwined with the red string of fate, woven by the Moon Goddess herself that no one could ever interfere with.

Not even Raizel Locksworth.

Bloodlust Alpha be dam ned.

"I've seen the results concerning Luna Walker. If you need me to clarify it with the

Chancellor as a

witness, don't hesitate to contact me."

Selene said nodding toward him. Her eyes lingered on him far longer than I liked. A burst of jealousy fizzing in the depth of my chest.

"Alpha Locksworth."

She whispered. He looked at her. His eyes soaked in her entirety, slowly nodding as if he just remembered to respond in that moment.

"Alpha Crestfield."

Her eyes suddenly tore from him to seek out the man standing behind him to say goodbye- the Beta, Weston Creed. With one last look at Locksworth, her gaze suddenly fell upon me. But as quickly as she looked, she shifted her gaze to everyone else. She didn't spare a second longer for anyone before leaving.

My wolf whimpered, pawing at the barrier as he watched his mate walk away. Since seeing her again, he was more insistent on making me do something to win her back. To make her mine. For the past four years I didn't see her, I was living a tolerable life. Surely, when I felt the bond snap, 1 was shocked. Shocked, hurt, heartbroken but at the same time, relieved.

Relieved that I no longer had to worry about the lingering feelings I had for Selene when I was with her sister. I thought that with Selene gone, I had nothing to feel guilty about. That I didn't give half my heart to Hestia but the other half for Selene. After all, how can someone have half my heart if she's dead? I thought it was okay to think that way, all until Hestia got pregnant. When she got pregnant and found her 'mate' thus distancing herself, it opened my eyes.

It made me realize that Selene was irreplaceable.

That unlike Hestia, she was solely crafted for me.

It was then when I realized the weight of what a mate was.

your

Your mate wasn't just a destined partner. Your mate was something more. Your mate was half life, your soul, your every living cell to make you who you are. A mate would never abandon you and choose someone else. A mate could never fall out of love. A mate was someone who could never love another the way they loved you.

A mate that I never was for Selene.

A mate I never gave her a chance to be.

I know it's f uc ked up, I know it's morally wrong, I know I have no right- believe me, I know.

But after everything, I also know now that it was all a mistake.

It was a mistake to choose Hestia.

It was a mistake to reject her.

A sudden weight pressed down on my chest. I felt the heavy chains of guilt, remorse and regret weighing me down as I stood. F uc king great. This is all just f uck ing great, really.

A flare of anger brewed inside me as I turned to the female carrying my pup. She stood behind her mother, hands shakily clutching onto her sleeves as she watched me with wide, fearful eyes. The spark of anger quickly turned to waves of fury.

We are all talking when we get back.

I mind linked Hestia, her mother and Beta Benicio.

Their eyes snapped over to me. I caught a flash of worry in both of their eyes for their daughter. They knew the anger I felt right now would not cease until I had a word with her. Beta Benicio gave me a curt nod, but I could feel his tension. His eyes spoke words as he cast his daughter a look of pity before turning away.

Now I had one more problem at hand.

I looked over to Locksworth who was still watching after the entrance of the cave from where Selene left. I flexed my jaw. I did not like the way he was looking after her like a man in love. His ridiculous request of trying the pool together had already put me in boiling water with my wolf. Clearing my throat, his gaze cut over to me. Immediately, the lightness in his eyes were replaced with an icy glare, focusing down on the woman who shield herself away from his gaze.

The Female Alpha's Sanctuary by Sanctuary Chapter 58

Posted by Admin1, 348 Views, Released on May 27, 2023

Chapter 58

"Alpha Locksworth, I sincerely apologize for Hestia's false accusation of you. I will personally handle the matter myself. Once again, I truly do apologize. She stepped out of line."

I narrowed my gaze down at her before looking back to Locksworth,

" and I promise you, it will never happen again."

Locksworth's hard gaze tightened with cynical amusement. He chuckled, shaking his head before narrowing his eyes. Beta Creed immediately stepped back, watching his Alpha exert the most amount of power I've ever seen come from a lone wolf. Taking a step forward, Locksworth shoved both hands in his dress pants pockets and stood over me. His dark eyes never wavering as streams of his aggression depleted out of him and onto me. The urge to submit growing steadily but I forced my body to strengthen myself. The Alpha in me was stubborn to keep my ground strong.

"I don't need your promises Walker."

I flinched at his disrespect, forcing down the wolf inside me from lashing out. I know better than anyone that I can't take him. He would, without a doubt, beat me in power play. He was stronger, both in physical and men tal states. He exudes in power whereas I try to grow it. Alpha Locksworth was not a force to be reckoned with. He could easily end someone's life with the snap of his fingers.

"Just make sure I never have to see that woman again. That episode of hers in front of the Chancellor cost me, Walker. You're lucky one good thing came out of this." His eyes softened for the briefest moments before the darkness in them returned at full force.

"It would do you well to heed my advice. In fact, include her father. Because believe me, the next time I see either one of their faces, I won't be so civil.

He threw one last glare at Hestia and Beta Benicio before turning on his heel and striding out the cave. Beta Creed followed behind him but I saw the small smirk on his face before turning. Fuming in my spot, I felt my fur bristle out and shake. The man was mocking me. He knew dam n well I was holding myself back in order not to start a fight. Beta Benicio instantly came to my side, muttering apologies over and over but I wasn't hearing it.

"When we get back, I want every one of you in my office." I grit out.

"No exceptions."

They silently filtered out of the cave with me being the last person to leave. I watched them all go into our van, noting that Locksworth was already gone by the time we got here. Needless to say that the ride back home was pure hell for the amount of anger rolling off of me. Any wrong movements and the small restraint I had over my wolf would snap and involve the one who put me in the bad. mood.

When we arrived back at territory, everyone knew to go to my office. I had mind linked everyone not to disturb us and go on with their day but I knew they sensed my inner anger. They all merely bowed their heads not willing to look me in the eyes in fear of my anger being directed on them.

"Somebody explain to me exactly what the f u ck Locksworth was talking about. What about the Chancellor?"

1 stared down at Hestia and Beta Benicio. Hestia rolled her eyes, glaring down at the floor as her father stayed silent Sophie, her mother, shakily spoke up.

"Al-Alpha Landon, don't you think this is a little too harsh? Hestia-" "Little too harsh?"

Little 100 Harsh?

I scoffed bitterly with eyes wide in disbelief,

"Your daughter, your Luna, my chosen mate had publicly humiliated us. Me, the Alpha. Our pack. By claiming someone is her mate when he wasn't. By claiming Locksworth of all people! Tell me, what will the other packs think? What will our allies think? Do you believe them to be so kindhearted as to overlook a scandal like this? A scandal involving the f u ck ing Bloodlust Alpha?"

Sophie cowered back, shaking as she forced her head to submit. Beta Benicio looked ready to pounce at me for yelling at his mate. His eyes switching back and forth from black to blue. The only thing holding him back was the fact I was his Alpha.

I took a deep breath in, trying to calm myself when Beta Benicio spoke through clenched teeth. His form was rigid, almost too stiff to even breathe.

"Alpha, don't worry. We'll fix this-"

"Fix?"

I laughed, throwing my head back.

"Fix how, Beta Benicio? You know what, don't even say a word. I know for a fact it'll just be utter bulls hit. But do tell me, exactly what the hell Locksworth was talking about. Exactly what the hell did Hestia do three weeks ago when she claimed to have found her mate?"

Beta Benicio looked down to his daughter before meeting my gaze with wary. All traces of anger quickly switching to fear.

"S-She and I... we went to the Capital. Hestia was called for a meeting regarding her mate status but then "

His gaze cut to the ground,

"we saw Alpha Locksworth with the Chancellor. They were with other Alpha's; Alpha Foster, Alpha Hales and Alpha Monterey. Hestia, she she just stopped talking and immediately ran up to him. She said they were mates. I- I believed her of course, but Alpha Locksworth had no idea what she was talking about. He just kept denying it-

The Female Alpha's Sanctuary by Sanctuary Chapter 59

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Chapter 59

He swallowed nervously,

"and so she begged for him to take her. On her knees, in front of all the Alpha's including the Chancellor. Said she'd be a good mate... Said she never would've gotten with you had she known it was him."

My wolf clawed out at me, demanding me of punishing both of them right here, right now. They hid such an important detail of her "stumbling upon her mate". Hestia had not only humiliated our pack but she made it seem as though I forced her into forming a bond with me. Begging Locksworth to accept her, to boast.

I looked to Hestia who had a scowl on her face at her father's words. Though her face was full of contempt, I could feel the lingering fear underneath her skin.

"Have you no shame? You, my Luna, the Luna of the pack. You are carrying my child and the future Alpha. Does that mean anything to you? You begged on your knees for someone who isn't your mate? Do you have anything to say for yourself?

I ask her, digging my nails into my skin as she looked up. Hestia narrowed her eyes at me, her dark blues against my greens. "No."

"No?"

I laughed, stalking toward her in anger. She is a fool if she thinks I'll let this go. She stepped back, the tough facade she held cracking as she felt my energy surging forward.

"Tell me why you lied. Why you told everyone, even your father, that Locksworth was your mate."

Hestia flinched at my Alpha command. Although she held the title of Luna, she wasn't born to be one. She didn't have the power to resist my command over her. So reluctantly, she answered.

"T To get away from you. If I had him, no one would dare challenge me. No one would even think of objecting our separation if he was my mate. He'd take care of me for the rest of my life. I wanted to get away from all this responsibility." She hissed out.

"I had enough! I don't want this baby! I don't want the dam ned Luna title! It's too much work! I never asked for this, Landon! I never asked for all this extra baggage that came with being with you! Ever since you found out Selene was your mate, you acted different. You aren't as focused on me anymore. You'd always get this far away look on your face!"

She huffed out, eyes wild with frustration. They turned glassy as she stared at me with sadness.

"But don't you dare act so just. Ever since Selene came back, all you've ever been thinking about was her' Too bad she doesn't want you, huh? There'd be no way she ever would, not when you abandoned her' You rejected her for me, Landon. Own up to it."

She spat. I felt a sharp sting pierce into my chest from her words. She was right. I know she was. In anger. I balled my fists, feeling unorthodox hatred fill me as I stared at the

woman in front of me.

You ignored her calls that day of the attack like all of us. You wanted her to die. You did, don't you dare lie I only wanted her out of the picture because she threatened my future with you. You wanted her gone because you felt yourself being torn apart.

You knew perfectly well what was happening to her, but you chose to do nothing. You wanted her gone just like all of us. You wanted the easy way out."

She laughed humorlessly as she rubbed her face with vigor,

"No, you wanted her gone more than any of us. Too f ucking bad she lived. And now that she shows up back from the dead, you act like some loved up pup. Admit it, you were glad that I found my 'mate' the moment you saw her again. You were glad because you knew that meeting we had today would be your chance to start over with her.

You didn't even protest when we came up with the idea. You didn't mind getting with her in exchange with me getting Locksworth. You were practically jumping at the thought, regardless of who my mate was, that you could get me off your hands. You knew if I had my mate, I could go with him and you could go with her. That there wouldn't be any loose ties."

I grit down on my teeth.

Again, she was right.

I did want Selene dead.

I wanted her dead because of what she made me feel.

What the bond made me feel.

But then she came back. The initial betrayal I felt when Hestia found her mate instantly disappeared.

I was glad Hestia found her 'mate' because that meant a chance for me.

It meant I could ease my way back into Selene's life.

She would definitely give me the chance. She may be stubborn now, but I know she wants a mate. And I'm the only mate she has.

She would still want me no matter the past.

"You're right. I won't deny that. But how dare you say you didn't know what 'baggage' would come from being with me. I told you the moment we started seeing each other, I was an Alpha first. Not a lover. And what? Did you really think a pretty face and sweet words would be enough to make Locksworth accept you? Did you think he'd take you in, allow you to claim him as yours falsely and leave it at that? That he wouldn't bring you to the Scared Pool to prove to everyone the liar you are? That he'd take you in as his mate. when you aren't?"

The Female Alpha's Sanctuary by Sanctuary Chapter 60

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Chapter 60

Hestia smirked despite the shaking of her body with her tears spilling from her eyes, "Worked for you, didn't it?"

It took everything inside me not to lunge at her. The only thing holding me back was the fact that she had

my pup. The moment it's born, I would punish her accordingly. I'd banish her, let the

Dixon's decide if they wanted to follow her out or not. But i wouldn't leave my child with her. I'd take my child and raise him or her with Selene. I would make her eat her words and more.

The ultimate betrayal of the woman I once I loved.

"Get out. All of you."

Hestia glared, her voice shaking. Her wolf whimpered within her, eyes shifting fearfully between Hestia and I. Wiping her tears away, she croaked out. "Gladly."

I watched as they all quickly filed out. I could hear distinct yelling outside the moment the door locked. Beta Benicio was yelling at Hestia to which Hestia yelled back incoherently. The only words [could make out was "how could you have done this?" coming from Benicio's end.

I didn't care anymore.

I was going to get what was mine.

No matter what it took, I would get Selene back.

We were mates after all.

There was no other ending but that for us.

Selene

"So..."

I looked at Noah who sat opposite of me in the van. With my arms folded and my legs crossed, I raised a brow at him. Noah pressed his lips together, nodding awkwardly as he twiddled with his thumbs.

"You and Locksworth, huh?"

He whistled, fanning himself as he puffed out his cheeks.

"That sexual tension was just da mn. Is it possible for someone to get pregnant from that? Cause if it is, I'm probably on the way. Gotta break the news to Mailia, though. We'll be expecting our Selene and Raizel bun to come out of my oven soon. Gonna pop it right out."

I almost choked.

"W-what?"

Noah rolled his eyes, leaning against his seat with an amused expression on his face. His whole body oozed off playfulness. The kind of playfulness that made my wolf cover her ears with her paws. "You two weren't just undressing each other with your eyes, you were practically dry hu mping." My mouth hung open and closed like a gaping fish. I didn't know how to respond. What he said was completely and utterly wrong. But was it really?

Was what my annoying conscience said in the back of my mind.

"You"

I said pointing a menacing finger at him,

" are being ridiculous."

Noah hummed with a disbelieving look on his face. He bent his elbow against the car door, resting his chin on his knuckles and sighed exasperatedly.

"What's ridiculous is the amount of sexual frustration oozing off of you right now." He smirked seeing my face slowly flush,

"It's off the charts. I bet I could roast marshmallows over your face from how much heat you're giving out right now."

He rubbed his hands together for dramatic effect. "Shut.up."

I grit out, hating that my thoughts were going haywire because of the man I was always told to stray away from. The man who had somehow managed to absorb my thoughts from the moment I laid my eyes on him. I thought about those captivating grey eyes searching for something, that husky voice seducing me into falling in his darkness, his soft touch igniting every cell in my body, his scent encasing me in a blanket of pure frenzy for more. I clench my legs together as his face surfaced through my mind. That chiseled, annoyingly handsome face.

"Noah."

Noah stilled hearing his name. The air thick with the heavy strain of my next few words. "We're going to the Capital. I want you to go back to the pack and take care of everything for a few days..."

My gaze hardened as I looked out the window. The images of trees and the blue sky flashing by as we drove. The bittersweet silence hanging over us until I finished, soothing and calm.

"I'm going to be a little busy with the interrogation."

"Understood, Alpha."

He paused,

"Oh,"

1 glanced over to him from the corner of my eyes. A slow, deathly smile inches across his face.

"do have fun."

I mirrored his expression. Smiling sweetly, I tilt my head to the side.

"I most definitely will."

There was no point in making the two rogues wait. Soon. I tell myself. Soon I'll get to see those faces twist into unimaginable pain. Pain that wouldn't only be in the bounds of physical, but the me ntal and emotional pain all the like. The kind of pain they bestowed upon me four years ago. The pain that still haunts me to this day. I played with the Greyhound ring I was wearing, rolling it between my thumb and pointer finger. The green glimmered against the lighting.

Everything I worked hard for, led to this.

"Just to let you know, your toys are in the back."

I raised a brow at him. Since when did he put it in the van? Noah shrugged, folding his arms across his chest before letting out a deep chuckle,

"Call it Beta Intuition, or just Selene Intuition, but I had a feeling today was doomsday for them. Just a hunch. A very accurate hunch."