

Farewell

Chapter 6 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

Seeing the pack coming to bid me farewell I can't help the tears streaming down my face as I walk towards them. Seeing the young pups from the nursery standing in a group I head towards them first dropping down onto my knees so I'm at their height.

"Y..you're having to leave u..us?" A young girl named Delilah sniffles at me.

"Oh love, I am. But you know what?" I whispered.

"What?" She asks.

Reaching up I put one of my hands over her heart, "I may be leaving today but I'll never leave here. You pups make this world a brighter place and I thank the Goddess every day that I was lucky enough to spend time with you all" I say as they all rush forwards into my arms.

"Group hug!" I hear a young boy named Joe exclaim happily making me giggle.

"We love you Luna Nova" another named Freddie whispered in my ear setting off a chain of them all saying they love me.

"Aw you darlings, and I love you all. I'm sure you'll see me again, after all my brother is the big scary wolf behind me and he's not going anywhere" I laugh.

"He's not big or scary, he's fluffy!" Delilah exclaims running over to Luca to hug his legs. Seeing my brother narrow his eyes at me he playfully throws his arms up in the air, "I told you that would happen when you made me give them all a ride on Reeds back!" Causing their parents to chuckle in amusement.

Stepping forward I walk through the pack members squeezing hands reassuringly and uttering my thanks at their appearance here. Reaching the front I walk up the steps to look down at everyone before taking a deep breath to steady myself, sensing my emotions Luca walks up beside me and places a large hand on my shoulder lending me his strength.

"I just went to say thank you so much for allowing me to be your Luna for the past 3 years, I have truly loved every minute spent with you all and I am so proud of where we have gotten to.

Without your hard work, dedication and most of all trust in me as your Luna we couldn't of gotten to where we are today. I'm proud to know I'm leaving a pack as gracious and strong as you and I trust you will provide your new Luna with the same support you gave me. Thank you all for coming and wishing me farewell, it truly means the absolute world to me" I say as I pour my heart into my short speech.

Hearing a chant go up "LONG LIVE THE TRUE LUNA, LONG LIVE THE TRUE LUNA" i sob and turn into my brothers chest needing comfort as I hear the love my pack has for me.

"That was just perfect Nova, they are all sad for you to be going but I am certain they will follow your wishes and support our next Luna, she has some hard enough footsteps to follow as it is" I hear Luca mutter in my ear.

Sniffing I step back and wipe my tears away before rounding my shoulders in steely resolve.

Hearing the pack house door bang open rattling off of it hinges I step back in surprise as everyone quietens down. Luca steps aside and stands beside me grasping my shoulder once again as Axton marches over fury etched across his faces his eyes darkened with those of his wolfs.

"HOW DARE YOU TURN THE PACK AGAINST THEIR NEW LUNA" he roars at me.

"What!?" I gasped in disbelief.

Seeing his fated mate step out of the house with tears streaming down her face as her bottom lip wobbled I look at Luca in confusion.

"True Luna? The true Luna is my FATED mate here, Luna Rose! How dare you try and turn the pack against her before she has even had the chance to greet them herself!?" He spits at me in anger.

Suddenly a wave of red hot fury flashes across me as I take a step towards him. "How dare I?! HOW DARE you!?! I have done nothing but support this pack and you, you would not be who you are today without me! And as for turning your pack against your new Luna I have done no such thing" I spat back at him.

Seeing him bristle in anger as he lets his aura out I refuse to lower my gaze or pretend to show my neck in submission. "You know full well that does not work on me Axton, release the pack immediately for they have done no wrong here." I say clearly with authority.

Snarling in anger he steps forward so he is looking down at me, his chest pushed out in a sign of dominance. "What filth have you been spreading for them to be chanting that?" He growls at me.

"Alpha if I may?" A warrior steps forward shakily raising his gaze to Axtons, seeing Axton nod for him to speak he continues, "Luna Nova here was just expressing how she wishes for us to show our new Luna Rose the same support we showed her when she became our Luna three years ago." Gulping he continues, "we were simply showing our gratitude at her dedication to

her for her time here as Luna, we will all miss her, the pups are heartbroken she will be leaving us. I swear that is the truth and you can Alpha command me if you wish to verify that." He adds on bravely at the end. Hearing a loud ripple of agreement behind me at what he said I see Axton look down at me in surprise.

Scoffing I walk back to Lucas side before looking at him, "when have I ever acted in the manner you assumed I had just then?"

Seeing him look away in embarrassment I wait for him to speak. After a minute he swings his head back to me taking a deep breath, "I apologise for my rash reaction then, it was wrong of me and I won't be doing it again. Please accept mine and Roses apology." He says reaching his hand out behind him to clasp that of his new Lunas. Feeling tears threaten to fall I blink a couple of times before smiling graciously, "it's a pleasure to meet you Rose, I hope you enjoy the pleasure of being Luna to this wonderful pack."

Rose neither smiles nor speaks in response, rather I receive a cold nod of her head in acknowledgment to my words her gaze looking me up and down.

Luca clears his throat from beside me, "Alpha I will just walk my sister to her ride and bid her farewell and then I will be back to fill you in on what you have missed."

"Farewell? You're leaving?!" Axton exclaims.

Nodding my head I speak, "yes I am. Alpha Jax has been gracious enough to extend a position within his pack for both myself and Alice so we will be leaving with him now our talks between the packs have seized."

"YOU CANT LEAVE" Axton roars at me once again.

"And why is that?" I ask him softly not wanting to anger him further.

"You're still MY LUNA" he growls, "not only that but we have it in writing that you would stay and help the future Luna prepare for her role within this pack, it was a clause you ensured was within the agreement."

"That agreement is now null and void" I say calmly.

"Is it fuck" he growls back at me, " you will be staying like agreed and that is final."

Feel Kia push forwards as the red mist descends I stalk towards him before I am looking up into his eyes angrily, "I will be leaving Axton and you will not stop me. YOU are the reason the agreement is null and void, YOU broke the mateship laws whilst I still tried continuing with our important meetings, YOU were too busy fucking your new Luna to think of the pain you were inflicting on me, and YOU were too busy marking her to care for the fact that it could have killed me."

Hearing a gasp of shock ripple through the crowd at my words Axtons eyes widen in surprise, "I didn't even tell them the pain you had caused me as I was still putting you first despite my pain. But after the way you have behaved towards me just now it has truly opened my eyes that the man I thought I loved is no longer here."

Seeing his eyes begin to water he reaches out with his hand to cradle my face, jerking my head away I growl "you do not have the right to stop me and you most certainly do not have the right to touch me anymore..ESPECIALLY when you still reek of sex."

"You can't leave me" he whispers.

"Oh but I can, you forgot about me when I was still putting this pack and you first, I have not once stepped out of line or done anything wrong to you. I encouraged you for fucks sake to even take that first step to your fated, or have you forgotten that in your lustful state" I continued to growl at him. "You hurt me" I whispered, "you put me in hospital all so you could fuck your new Luna to your hearts content."

Grasping my hair I fling it to one side to show him the red angry scar on my neck, seeing him step back in horror he looks at me before shakily saying "Nova I had no idea, I didn't even think about the fact you could die. I know I said I'd wait but I just couldn't."

"No" I growled, "you didn't think..Alpha. As this shows I am no longer your Luna, I don't bear you mark nor do I wish to anymore" I add on in a mocking tone narrowing my eyes at him to show my displeasure. "I would have supported you both and you know it, now you won't have my support. I wish you all the best but my future is no longer here."

Hearing a whistle in the air to my right I lift my hand quicker than you could track and catch the dainty wrist in my hand a hair widths away from my face in a vice like grip. "Tut tut tut" I whisper shaking my head at Axton, "I'd suggest getting your new Luna under control before she embarrasses herself, or worse..you" I say flinging her wrist away in disgust. Shifting my eyes to meet hers she flinches at the cold look in my eyes, "don't you ever raise your hand at me again." I snarled, "you'll be pleased to know I have arranged elder Angela to help with her training...goddess it seems she needs it." I scoff as I turn away.

"Oh and don't think I've let it escape my mind how it's been over 3 days since you've marked her, 3 whole days of not giving a damn how I was suffering from YOUR actions" I shout over my shoulder as I glide down the steps towards the waiting cars.

Hearing a loud growl I turn and seen a scrawny brown wolf leaping down at me, lunging to one side as it snaps it's jaws at me I grab it by it's throat and pin it to the floor using my hand. Feeling it struggle under my hold I look in its eyes and command "SHIFT."

Hearing a crack of bones it slowly shifts back into that of Rose, "how..?" She whispers as she bares her neck in submission.

Leaning down to whisper in her ear, "because hunny Axton wasn't the strongest of this pack..I was..by a fucking mile. Don't ever see me as weak again or the damage I will unfurl will be 100 times that of today. I have done nothing but support you despite the pain you've inflicted on me, I'd suggest not to think otherwise." Pushing her down again I turn my gaze to Axton. "I Luna Nova herby relinquish my role as Luna of the White Mountain Pack, I also relinquish my ties to the pack and now pronounce myself a rogue" I say not looking away from Axtons gaze as I feel the bond in place break and my heart ache. Seeing tears fall down his face he looks down at the ground in defeat. Hearing Alice come stand beside me and relinquish her ties we turn our backs and head to meet Alpha Jax. He grins at me before dragging me into a hug, surprised I laugh.

"That was fucking amazing" he exclaims.

Turning as I hear Luca cough behind me I give him a firm hug and whisper "I'm just a phone call away" to him.

"I'm forever proud to have you as a little sister" he says loudly ensuring everyone can hear the pride in his voice. Waving to the pack as they cheered and shouted their goodbyes to me I slide into the car and look out the window wondering what the future has in store for me.

Returning Home

Chapter 7 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Jax POV:

Watching Nova put Alpha Axton and his new Luna in their place was strangely satisfying, and to see her display of strength made my wolf and I a bit too excited that we go carried away by hugging her. "She is going to be such an asset for our pack" Zeus admired to me. "Yes she is, but first and foremost let's help her settle into the pack, it's going to be a big adjustment I'm sure" I say back to him.

"How are you both doing?" I ask the ladies as we leave the territory behind.

"I'm strangely quite alright" Alice smiles at me in the mirror, "I couldn't have stayed there under Axton as Alpha and he knew that, Nova will always be my Luna." She adds on with a large smile.

"And you Miss Nova?" I ask looking at her in the passenger seat, aware of her title change.

"Just Nova now Alpha" she says with a small smile, "I could have done without the drama at the end but it's done now, although I can't lie, it was nice to remind Axton who the real strength was in the pack" she adds with a tinker of a laugh.

"I found it thoroughly entertaining" I can't help but grin at her, "now I know you both have announced yourselves as rogues so your scent is beginning to change. I have already spoken to my Beta and explained the situation over the past few days, he has the initiation trinket set up in my office ready for when we arrive if that is ok with you both."

"Thank you Alpha" they both murmur at me.

"Nova I have your pills here ready for you to take" Alice says quietly to her reaching her hand over to pass them to her friend.

"Thank you Alice" Nova murmurs as she takes a swig of water and swallows them quickly. Seeing my intrigued look she explains, "it's to help with the awakening of my wolf. Obviously I can shift but I did mention to you how when I turn 25 she will truly be awakened. Over the last few months she has grown considerably and doesn't seem to be slowing so this is to help with the shifting pains, I can shift incredibly quick and quietly however the pain is increasing each time. I've been reassured that it is what humans refer to as "growing pains" and we refer to them as "shifting pains" similar to those of our first shift which makes sense, once I turn 25 and Kia is her true self I'm confident they will stop."

"Kia?" I ask quietly.

With a large smile Nova turns to me, her cheeks flushing happily, "my wolf, I call her Ki and she allows those close to her to call her that. But Kia is her true name. It actually means mountain which I always found amusing being the Luna of the White Mountain Pack, now I believe it's down to her sheer size being a she wolf" so laughs. "It's funny, I'm so petite and well, Ki is definitely not. I'm not quite sure how we are one."

"Beautiful name" I hear Zeus purr in my mind as I can't help but smile and agree. Realising I haven't felt this comfortable around a woman in a long time has me lost in thought and before I know it we are pulling up to my pack ground gates. Seeing the guards wave in greeting I raise my hand as we roll through the entrance, pulling up at the pack house I see my Beta Laurence waiting for us. Stepping out I walk round and open the ladies doors extending a hand to both of them, "welcome to the Midnight Sky Pack house" I say with pride.

Seeing them both gazing up at the pack house in admiration they then turn to me as Alice squeals, "it's stunning!"

"Thank you" I say graciously, "this houses the Alpha, Beta family and my two Gammas, we also have guest quarters for those visiting the pack. For now we have a suite prepared for you each here, in the future if you would like a house it can be arranged." I add on almost reluctant in my admission of them potentially moving.

As we move to the front steps Laurence extends his hand to Nova first bowing his head respectfully, "it's lovely to meet you Miss Nova, welcome to the Midnight Sky pack." Turning his attention to Alice he does the same, "I have asked my mate Naomi to ready some food for us all to enjoy. If you wish I can show you to your suites to freshen up before hand?"

"That would be lovely Beta, thank you" Nova sweetly says. "But please, Nova is fine. I may have been a Luna previously but here I'm just Nova."

"Of course Nova, if you'd both please follow me I'll show you upstairs" he gestures for them to follow.

"Thank you for your help this morning Alpha, will we see you for lunch?" Nova turns to ask me.

"Of course, I'll see you both there. I hope you like your suites" I smile at them as I turn to go meet my Gammas at the training grounds.

"Best let Naomi know you'll be joining us for once" I hear my Beta link me with mischief in his tone.

"I'm hungry" I link back defensively.

"Sure it has nothing to do with this gorgeous woman I'm currently showing to the Luna suite?" He laughs.

"The least we can do is offer her comfort and support, that suite is most similar to what she had previously" I once again defend my decisions although I'm unsure as to why.

"See you at lunch Boss" he links back cheekily.

Shaking my head laughing him off I quickly head down to the training grounds where I can see my warriors sparring hard. Gesturing Gamma Theo over I wait for him to reach me. "How's it been going since I've been gone?" I ask authoritatively.

"Good Alpha, the warriors have been training hard. I've had them continue both in Wolf forms and human. We have had two new shifts since your departure and I'm happy to report they have settled into training well. I did let them know you would issue a pack run when convenient to welcome their wolves, they were understanding as to wait for you."

"That's great! Who shifted?" I enquire.

"My cousin Annabelle and a young man called Mathew. Annabelle is light grey Wolf with a front right black paw and Mathew is a brilliant fiery red wolf, he's quite amazing to look at in the sun to be honest" he admires.

"Well I'll announce a pack run after dinner this evening, it would also be nice to welcome Nova and Alice to our pack with a run." I muse.

"Ah yes I've heard we have two new pack members, how are they both?" He asks whilst keeping an eye on some members training in-front of us.

"Good, Laurence is showing them to their suites and we will be having lunch shortly. I'd like for you and Florence to join us please" I add on.

"We will be there, Alpha if you may excuse me i must carry on with the training session" he happily says bowing his head before turning and jogging over to the wolves nearest. Hearing him praise them both before suggesting a couple of small adjustments I smile happily seeing my pack running smoothly.

"Let's head back and do some paperwork before lunch" I sigh to Zeus.

"Rest time for me" he growls back at me playfully making me roll my eyes.

Lost Family

Chapter 8 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

As we follow Beta Laurence through the pack house he shows us some of the communal areas on the way. The house is very different to the one back at the White Mountain Pack, it's open and light in colour throughout. Similar as to how I had decorated the guest rooms at my previous pack, it welcomes the natural sunlight through large floor to ceiling windows on both the east and west side ensuring both the sunrise and sunset would be visible. Seeing the lounge rooms and game rooms I nod in approval, "your pack members must be very happy here" I comment to the Beta.

"Yes they are, we rarely have to deal with disputes and I strongly believe that's down to the changes Jax has made throughout his time as Alpha. Despite the pack house only housing those in a higher position everyone is welcome to come in throughout the day. We also have a large dining hall through those double doors where the entire pack is welcome to dine if they wish. The pup nursery is in a building joined to this at the back as well so they have food prepared by the chefs and are near the safe bunkers and pack hospital if there is ever an emergency." He reels off proudly.

"That is brilliant" I admire.

"If you could both follow me this way, I'll show you up to the suites." He says gesturing to the large staircase. As we walk I look at all the pictures hanging on the walls, everyone looks happy and content, "this is where we are meant to be" Kia purrs with content. "This corridor on your right is where the Alpha, Beta and Gamma offices are as well as the Omega office where our head Omega Brea prepares for events, staff rotas and meal plans etc."

As we walk up another flight of stairs I look down to the sprawling hallway below and can't help but think how amazing it must be to hold events here. As we reach a set of double doors at the end of the corridor he opens them slowly with a key card, "this here is your suite Nova, I hope you like it" he softly says with a nervous twinge to his voice. Walking in I gasp in shock, it's decorated with a lovely sage green and cream effect throughout with soft highlights on furnishings. Walking over to the balcony situated at the far end of the lounge area I look out across the gorgeous park grounds and tilt my head up letting the sun's warmth bask my face. Turning with a wide smile I can't help but express my thanks, "this is absolutely gorgeous Beta, are you sure it is okay for me to reside here for now?" I ask slightly shocked.

"Most definitely" he affirms with a firm nod, "we will leave you to get settled, food will be ready in 45 minutes downstairs, the first door on your right."

As he closes the door behind him I sink down into the sofa letting the last few days' events run through my mind. Feeling Kia's contentment I ask gently "You think this is where we are supposed to be Ki?".

"Yes Nova, I've never felt more secure than I do here. It just feels ..right" she purrs back happily.

Letting myself relax for a few more moments I then stretch as I stand up, heading towards the bathroom I gasp in amazement once again. "Oh my goddess" I breathe out loud. The walls are covered in a light white marble with a large mirror covering the entire wall behind the sink. A large bath with a relaxing jacuzzi sits in the corner and a large shower opposite. Through a small door there is a toilet with another sink unit next to it. "Wow" Kia exclaims happily.

Quickly showering I blow dry my hair and put a quick flick of mascara on my lashes and a coat of lip gloss. Dressing in a flowing summer dress that ends just before my knees I admire myself in the mirror, "yummy" Kia teases me in my head, "I'm sure a certain Alpha is going to agree."

"What! Kia no" I laugh it off although I find myself blushing slightly from her words. Leaving the room making sure I grab my key card I head downstairs running into Alice on the way.

"My room is amazing" she says under her breath, "I've never lived in such luxury, that shower...dreamy" she exclaims floating her hands in the air. I giggle in agreement as we knock slightly on the door and walk in quietly. Seeing Beta Laurence here already alongside a stunning woman with red hair and green eyes I smile in greeting as she goes to stand up. "No need to stand" I wave her off, "hello I'm Nova and this is my friend Alice, it's wonderful to meet you" I say softly smiling at her.

Seeing her face break into a large smile, she reaches her hand over to clasp mine, "the pleasure is all mine, I'm Naomi, Laurence's mate. How did you find the suites I chose?" She asks warmly to Alice and I.

"Mine is absolutely stunning thank you Naomi" I hear Alice thank her beside me, "they're beautiful Naomi, I can't express our thanks enough" I add on squeezing her hand.

"Oh nonsense" she says smiling softly, "I'm glad you like them."

With that the door swings open and Alpha Jax's familiar scent of pine trees and berries fills the room. Looking up at him I smile at him in greeting seeing his eyes soften when they meet mine, "good afternoon everyone" he says. "Florence link your brother and let him know we are all here" he says as a young toned she-wolf walks through the door. Looking around the room smiling her bright grey eyes meet mine freezing, "Nova?!" She whispers in disbelief.

Standing up slowly I gasp, "Flo?!"

Pausing we stare at each other for a few more seconds before we both squeal and run towards one another wrapping each other in a tight embrace. Feeling Flo start sobbing in my arms I step back and wipe her tears away, "I t..thought I'd never see you again" she gasps, "oh my goddess Theo is going to be so excited we never did get to say bye."

"He's here?" I exclaim.

"We are Alphas Jax's Gammas" she proudly says smiling at me.

Clasping her hands in mine I rest my forehead against hers, "oh you've grown to be so gorgeous Flo. I'm so proud of you both and I am so happy I've gotten to see you again."

Seeing her eyes begin to tear up again I wipe them away before turning to face the room, seeing everyone's shocked and confused expressions I explain vaguely, "I've known Flo and Theo since they were 12." Turning to Jax I smile up at him, "I'm so glad their your Gammas, I always knew they were something special."

"Nova rescued us you know" Flo piped up from behind me.

"It was nothing" I spin to face her trying to wave her words off feeling my cheeks start to blush.

"It doesn't sound like nothing" I hear Alpha Jax's husky voice murmur from behind me.

"Alpha can you remember me mentioning how Theo and I were saved from being drowned by rogues when we had been kidnapped and taken across unknown territories?" Seeing him nod she continues, "Well Nova is the the wolf who saved us, she fought off 7 rogues by herself and then pulled us both from the river carrying us back to her home. She was only 17 at the time but she took us both in and helped us gain our confidence back. The whole reason Theo and I are warriors now is because of Nova!" She exclaims wrapping an arm around me. "Nova ensured we

went back to school once she found out our pack has been destroyed and she became our big sister.” Turning to me her smile falters, “then one day you just disappeared leaving us money to go to the elite warrior training centre and support us for the foreseeable future and a letter explaining how much we meant to you and that one day you hoped to explain.” She trailed off quietly.

"I had to lovely, the council heard of an immediate threat to me and extracted me from that pack that night. If I'd told you I would have put you both in danger, I did what I thought was best and I've doubted it most days since. But..now I think I did do the right thing" I smile with relief.

Hearing footsteps running down the hall I hear a deep voice enquire "who's made cookies?" Before a tall muscular man steps in the room, his blonde hair making his grey eyes pop even more. Seeing his eyes focus behind me I look to see Alice staring at him as she stood up for her chair, "Mate" he growls rushing forward and embracing her burying his nose in the nape of her neck scenting her. "Mate" I hear Alice laugh as he swings her round.

Grinning at Flo I can't help but think how happy I am for Alice, she deserves to be treated like an angel she's so kind and compassionate towards others. "Congratulations" i murmur to them as they turn to face the room. Hearing my voice Theo's head snaps up from gazing at his new mate to look at me, "NOVA?!" He shouts excitedly as he rushes forward to wrap me in a hug. "Our sister is home" he laughs gleefully. Setting me down on the floor he drops a kiss on my forehead, "I'm so glad to see you again Nova" he whispers against me.

Stepping back I look him up and down, "and where has the scraggly teenager I left behind gone?" I laugh. "You're pure muscle now, Alice you lucky woman" I giggle wriggling my eyebrows at her.

"We did what you left us money for Nova, we went to elite warrior training and there we got scouted by Alpha Jax. When Flo found her mate who was a warrior here Alpha immediately offered us residence, being twins he said we were a package deal. Then after a year of living here he offered us both the position of Gamma" he reports with pride.

Resting a hand on his shoulder I smile at him, "I'm so happy for you Theo, I am sure you are an amazing Gamma. Congratulations to you and Alice, you truly have an amazing she Wolf here" I wink at her whilst saying it.

As she walks forward to clasp his hand she laughs, "well now you won't be losing Nova anytime soon, it seems we've become a bit of a package deal as well as of late."

Alpha Jax comes to stand beside me and offers his congratulations to the newly found mates as his scent envelops me. "Shall we eat?" He asks his eyes glinting happily looking around. Seeing everyone nod and agree he pulls a chair out next to his and gestures for me to sit. "Thank you Alpha" I graciously thank him as he pushes me in before sitting down himself. "Enjoy!" He toasts.

Chapter 9 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

"That was delicious thank you so much for organising it Naomi" I thank her as our plates are cleared away.

"It was a pleasure, our chefs are very talented. I always enjoy showing off their skills" she smirks at me.

"Well I am not complaining" Alice exclaims folding her napkin away, "and I'm glad it wasn't me cooking for a change" she adds on with a playful wink in my direction.

"Well you shouldn't be so good at cooking then should you" I giggle throwing my hands up.

"I loved it really you know I did" she says squeezing me on the shoulder as she comes to sit beside me.

"Now we've all eaten I've asked Laurence to go and collect the initiation trinket, I think it's time for you both to join our pack officially if you are happy to do so?" Alpha Jax asks with a slight nervous twinge in his voice, looking up at him im greeted by his warm gaze and confident smile making me doubt my initial interpretation.

"Of course Alpha, we would love to" I answer smiling sweetly at him.

"Jax is fine Nova please" he says his eyes crinkling at the corners slightly as he smiles.

"Oh I can't do that!" I exclaim.

"And why not?" He asks straight back quirking his eyebrows in question.

"Out of respect for you as my new Alpha I couldn't possibly" I say softly back at him.

Seeing him shrug the corner of his mouth twitches in a slight smile, "well in that case when we are around the pack you may call me Alpha, within these walls I insist on Jax."

Smiling when I realise he's got his own way I laugh and look at him through my lashes, "ok then..Jax." Seeing his eyes darken slightly hearing his name from my lips I feel a blush stain my cheeks. "Oh you little flirt" Ki purrs to me playfully.

Sitting back I turn to Alice who sneaks me a sly knowing wink before we turn our attention back to Beta Laurence as he walks back into the room holding a small wooden chest.

"I'm not meaning to flirt Kia, tell me if you feel uncomfortable I just feel safe around him" I murmur to her in my head. "Pfft I love it don't worry, I can't wait to meet his wolf" she purrs back making my eyes widen in surprise. "Really? What does that mean?" I ask her. "I'm not sure but let's just roll with it for once, after the last few days we deserve to be ourselves for a bit" she reassures me.

Looking up I see Jax's gaze upon me a question in his eyes, "sorry Kia was just talking to me" I say.

"Anything to worry about before we continue?" he asks tentatively.

"Nono, she was just wondering when we get to meet your wolves" I laugh being slightly more vague about who in particular compared to her original request.

Seeing relief cross his features before he schools them once again he laughs, "soon" he promises looking me in the eye.

"So as you're probably aware I'll have to make a small incision on your palm using a silver knife, and I will do the same on mine, we will then hold our hands so our palms are pressed together and say the welcoming words. Is that ok with you both?" He asks.

"Yes go ahead" I agree confidently, as Alice repeats the same as I.

Seeing him stand he just mutters, "I'm just going to grab a glove I won't be long." Realising it's to safely hold the silver knife I raise my hand, "if it's for you to hold the knife I can make the incisions for you?"

"Oh no I don't want you hurting yourself" he says shocked.

"Trust me Alpha, it won't" Alice laughs next to me.

Seeing him debate for a few seconds before he sits back down his eyes narrow slightly before he gestures, "ok then..go ahead, thank you."

Reaching over I clasp the knife in my bare hand ignoring the gasps around the room and reach for his left hand, "silver doesn't effect me please don't worry" I murmur as I make a small incision on his palm before repeating the same on mine, grasping his hand in mine I bite my lip to hide the small gasp threatening to escape my lips at the small shock of electricity that seems to jolt my body at his touch. Seeing his eyes narrow slightly once again before his mask is back in place I look down at our hands, "I Alpha Jax accept you, Nova Vinrock, into the Midnight Sky Pack from this day forth you are no longer a rogue" he says as he wraps his large hand around mine squeezing slightly, feeling the tether to his pack members form as my pack bond snaps into place I can't stop the large smile from spreading across my face. Looking up at him I see him

smiling looking at me softly, "welcome to the pack" he whispers holding my hand a second longer. As we let go and then turn to Alice I try to ignore the coldness that spreads through me at his lack of contact.

Looking at Alice I see her staring at the knife dubiously, "don't worry I'll be quick" I reassure her. Seeing her eyes harden in resolve she sticks her hand out to me, making a small incision in her palm as she bites her lip I then turn to Alpha Jax and cut into his small incision again as it had started to heal already. Clasp hands Alpha Jax immediately repeats the process for Alice albeit a bit quicker than with me. Seeing her gasp as the tethers are formed my heart warms with happiness.

"Welcome to Midnight Sky Pack Nova and Alice" I hear Alpha Jax's husky voice filter through the mindlink as I hear Laurence and Naomi utter the same.

Giggling I turn to Alice and embrace her in a hug, "I think this is what we were meant to do" I link her softly as she hums in agreement.

Pulling apart I gesture at Theo who was stood protectively behind her, "why don't you go and spend some time together?" I suggest.

Seeing her blush as he gazes at her with adoration clear in his eyes she nods shyly, "see you later Nova, Alpha Jax" bowing her head slightly in respect to our new Alpha.

"See you soon Nova, I'd love to have dinner with you this evening?" Theo asks nervously.

Reaching over and giving him a gentle hug, "I was already planning on it, make sure to mention it Flo also I'd love to meet her mate" I say reassuringly, "have fun you two" I wink as they turn to walk away, Theo bowing his head to his Alpha as he passes.

Watching them walk away I can't wipe the smile off of my face which is noticed by Jax. "Happy?" He asks knowingly.

"Very" I assure him, "I'm so glad I've got to see Flo and Theo again, honestly they were my absolute world for 2 years. I was heartbroken when I had to leave them, but I'm so happy to see it was for the best. And to see Theo and Alice are mates, it's just brilliant" I grin up at him flashing my pearly whites.

"Do you fancy a tour of the pack grounds?" He asks me.

"That would be nice, thank you" I reply shyly.

Holding his hand out for my own he leads me through the door towards the entrance hall, only dropping it when he opens the front doors to allow me to walk past him.

"It's truly gorgeous here Jax" I murmur quietly to him as we walk down the steps, knowing no one else could hear me call him by his name alone I felt more confident in doing so.

Seeing pride in his eyes as he looks around he smiles down at me in acknowledgment, "thank you Nova. It's taken a few years but I'm proud of where we are as a pack now. My dad likes to remind me every time he visits the pack house but it's nice to hear it come from you" he smirks.

"I was thinking of a pack run this evening actually Nova if you would like? We normally have one anytime we welcome new members to the pack who can shift, we've also had two new members of the pack first shift whilst I've been gone so it would be to celebrate them also." He mentions whilst leading me through the flower gardens.

"I'd enjoy that" Kia exclaims to me, laughing I point at my head, "well Ki is very keen, I darent say no" I reply cheekily, "is there anyway I can avoid people knowing about Kia being a Guardian wolf for the time being?" I ask nervously.

"Yes that shouldn't be a problem, we could imply you have Alpha blood but not confirm it, that way I'm not outright lying to my pack members" he explains, "although I doubt people would ask, they know here that if I want them to know I will tell them."

"Come, I'll show you the lake and walk round the training grounds" he says happily pointing in the distance.

Past

Chapter 10 - The Guardian Wolf and her Alpha Mate

Nova POV:

"Thank you for showing me around Alpha" I say as we pass the training grounds, "it's truly an impressively run pack from what I've seen so far." Seeing his chest puff out I laugh up at him, "don't let that boost your Alpha ego anymore mind."

Holding his hands up in mock surrender he quirks his lips into a playful smile, "I'll try not to" he responds. "So I've been thinking Nova about what you would like to do here, have you got anything specific in mind?"

Thinking for a moment I see Ki push a thought to the front of my mind, "well I'm used to being busy and I'd much rather feel like I'm contributing in anyway I can. I don't know how you would feel about me helping with the warrior training? Ki is very keen to get involved and share her knowledge, but I can also cook, help with the pups, do any paperwork that may help if that's more suitable?"

"You know what, after seeing your earlier actions I think my warriors would only benefit from having you help train. Im sure Theo and Florence would enjoy working closely with you also and showing you what they have learnt. So why don't you do that 3 days a week and then I could also do with some help in the office so you could help me there another couple of days. I do encourage people to have a couple of days off over the weekend, I hold training sessions for those who wish to be involved. I try and organise pack events on a weekend, sometimes a BBQ, a movie night in the lounge or even a pack run. It helps boosts moral and relations within the pack. Obviously essential work continues over the weekend but it definitely improves people's work ethic having something to look forward to" he explains.

"I like that" I comment as we wander down a forest path, "I'm happy to show you my training skills if it would make you more comfortable as well?"

"I'll come by on Monday morning and we can have a spar before training begins, I'll get my Gammas to join us" he says from behind me.

"What kind of paperwork do you need my assistance with?" I enquire.

"I own some restaurant and hotel chains in nearby cities, I often need their invoices and orders put through our online system so I can keep track of finances. I also know Laurence has been drowning in paperwork ever since the Luna role has been..vacant I guess is the right word to use. I'm sure he could do with some help running the payroll. If you find all that suitable I could personally do with an assistant to help when discussing pack relations and attend any meetings." He says as he leads me through an opening.

Seeing a sparkling blue lake appear in front of me I can't stop the "wow" I whisper as it escapes my lips.

"This is my favourite part of our territory" he says quietly as he stands beside me. "It's peaceful and for a few minutes I can forget about the responsibility I carry every day. I have a house round the other side which I come to sometimes, my parents also have their house close by, it's perfect for their retirement."

Sitting down on a rock he pats the space beside him as he lounges back on his elbows stretching out with the sun making his eyes stand out. Sitting myself down I do the same, "I can see why, it's beautiful."

"Yes..beautiful" I hear him whisper, turning round I see him staring at me before he looks away a faint blush staining his cheeks.

Smiling to myself I look back across the lake, "I think id like to accept your offer of work. It would be a nice balance being involved in the training side but also doing some paperwork. Might as well put my skills to use" I laugh slightly.

After a few minutes of silence I ask the question that's been on the tip of my tongue, "Jax..if you don't mind me asking, what did happen to your Luna? If you don't want to say I completely understand."

Seeing him stiffen slightly next to me before taking a deep breath he sits up, "no it's ok. As you've probably guessed I also had to suffer through the mates betrayal" he says as his hand goes absentmindedly to touch his neck where a small scar is hidden by his top. "Similar to you and Axton really, I hadn't found a Luna by the age of 21 and the council was keen for me to take a chosen mate to help our pack. I managed to put it off till I was almost 23 but one day they arrived with a lady called Genevieve in tow. She was beautiful, blonde hair blue eyes, quick witted and I thought why not. I was giving up hope on finding a true mate and I knew with the logic the council was spouting at me it could help the pack. We never had an agreement officially in place where if we found our true mates how we would proceed but we did say we would discuss it and treat each other with respect."

Seeing him trail off lost in memories as he looks out I wait for him to continue, "one day 7 months later when I was out on pack business I felt the light stabbing pains and knew immediately she was being intimate with another. I rang her and she sobbed down the phone saying another man in the pack had forced himself on her and kissed her. I was so angry, I flew back immediately and went to console her, I asked her who and she refused to tell me. I took it that she refused due to fear so I gathered the pack and threatened whoever it was to come forward and explain themselves immediately. But no-one did. After a few days Genevieve seemed back to her normal self so I put it to the back of my mind and followed her wishes to forget about it. Then one day I saw her leaving the pack house to go to the nearest town and I followed her, I just had this gut instinct telling me I needed to do so. I saw her pull up at a hotel and get our greeting another man who was waiting not from the pack, I could tell they were friendly from the gentle manner he conversed with her in. They went inside and half an hour later I could feel the stabbing pains in my stomach, I couldn't move they were so painful so I stayed in the car waiting. When I saw them leaving I recorded it and caught them kissing good bye."

"That's awful, she lied?" I asked looking at him. As he turned his gaze to me I could see the hurt within his eyes.

"Yes she did. When she came back I confronted her alongside Laurence, she denied it of course saying the man had caught her again and she had no choice. But I showed her the video and she broke down admitting it all. It turned out she had found her true mate whilst I was away and he was a visiting warrior helping my pack train. She initially told him she wasn't interested but after being around him for a couple of days she succumbed to the bond and kissed him. She then told him she had duties to the pack and couldn't be with him so he left to stay nearby, she never rejected him or mentioned it to me. Instead she lied and made me think someone within my own pack had betrayed me. When I got angry with her she fled, I told Laurence to leave her be and that she needed some time to collect herself" taking a deep breath he grabbed a small stone and started rolling it between his hands, "2 hours later I felt the stabbing pains again and then my neck began to burn, I managed to link Laurence before passing out and he took me to the hospital. I was out for 2 weeks, she marked him and I haven't seen or heard from her since. I

always feel like I drove her away in my anger but Laurence assures me I dealt with it well. I never hurt her, raised my voice with her or anything. I was hurt yes and angry with her causing me pain but I would have understood her decision." He finishes saying.

Reaching my hand out I clasp his gently in mine feeling a slight shock go through my body once again, "I understand your pain Jax. But let me say you've clearly been here for your pack despite your own loss, I'm sure they're all very grateful and understanding."

Squeezing my hand in his large one he grimaces at the memory, "it's a horrendous pain."

"Did you ever find your true mate?" I probe.

Seeing him turn to gaze at me he shakes his head, "no, I haven't. Maybe I have no mate destined for me" he laughs bitterly.

"I doubt that" I laugh, "you're a good man Jax and a brilliant Alpha from the looks of things. I don't doubt the moon-goddess knows that."

"When is your birthday Nova?" He asks suddenly.

"20 days" I say softly.

"Does Kia miss having a mate?" He asks surprising me.

"Yes and no" she murmurs to me, "yes I miss the companionship, no because I know he wasn't the one destined for us."

"She says yes and no, she misses having companionship but we've both always known he might not be my destined mate, in fact we were both certain he wasn't. But he was good to us before meeting Rose" I admit quietly.

He squeezes my hand before standing up and pulling me up with him, feeling another shock as our hands reconnect I gasp slightly.

"Maybe my mate just hasn't been ready for me yet" he murmurs staring at where our hands join. "I'm looking forward to meeting Kia" he says as he motions for me to lead the way back.

Feeling her prance in my head happily I ask, "what is your wolf called?"

"Zeus" he says proudly.

"Zeus" I say liking the way it rolls off of my tongue, "I'm looking forward to the pack run."

Smiling at one another we walk back to the pack house in comfortable silence.