

Alpha's Regret-My Luna Has A Son Chapter 113

Alpha's Regret-My Luna Has A Son Chapter 113 Everly POV

We helped Macey settle in, and Valen was pissed off with Tatum and even rang him. Though he assured me that it wasn't that she couldn't have kids, that it was because she didn't tell him from the start and to give him space. I tried to tell Macey this, but she wouldn't listen and said she was done and that it was for the best.

1 Macey had gone to get Taylor from Zoe's the following morning, and she would be staying on the floor below. I knew everything would work out in the end. Macey was stubborn, and once you hurt her, she walked. She always said she didn't have time for drama, and she was right. None of us did, yet we always found ourselves stuck in it.

"I will go grab Valarian from your father," I tell Valen as I scoop up my handbag from off the floor by the hallstand. I rummaged for my keys before spotting the ring box. With everything going on, I forgot to give it to him. I grabbed it, and his arms wrapped around me from behind, and he kissed my shoulder.

I went to open it, but now I knew why Dion was so insistent on this ring. Because it actually matched and had similar marked patterns etched around the outside. Valen's hand clamps over my mine, closing the box before I can open it. "Put it in the safe. Save it for when I marry you," he purrs.

"You don't want to see?" I ask him, and he confirms my thoughts. "Nope. I trust Dion helped you pick it out, so I know it will match," he chuckles. I sighed, closing it though, I wanted to show him the engraving it had inside. I guess it could wait. "Go get Valarian," he says, turning me around to face him.

I hand him the box, and he pockets it. "Then you can put this away then," I tell him, and he nods. Three weeks later Weeks passed, and Nixon was really pushing my father to go to the

media to back him up, but after his claims, the city was divided. Valen's pack scientists had been trying to replicate the vaccine and had so far been unsuccessful.

Despite Nixon saying he was doing it to help the city BLN0JFKS the forsaken. He refused access to this so-called facility, even when Valen mentioned it at the Alpha conference meeting Nixon claimed he didn't want the pack becoming involved and the vaccine slipping into the wrong hands.

In other words, he didn't want the vaccine replicated, knowing he had nothing to use over my father. And with the debt hanging over my head, he used it to get his way in the council. Nixon also still fought me with the Rogue laws being changed. Ballets went out, and the city was given a voice, yet most were too scared to go against Nixon.

1 We were still fighting for the change, but now he claimed that my father handed the pack over after threats from Valen. And until the debt was paid, Nixon still had partial ownership therefore, my vote didn't count. And if I marry Valen before it is paid, then we are one pack and his wouldn't matter either. Leaving the Slasher pack in a precarious position if he goes against Nixon, seeing as they have business dealings together. Nixon had the cites people wrapped around his demented finger.

He also claimed that letting the restrictions against the Rogues become expunged would endanger the city, since they were only one step from becoming forsaken. His logic made no sense, yet the media ate it up. And when the votes went out, our packs weren't allowed to vote on it.

The Slasher Pack Alpha had confided in Valen that he was also worried about Nixon, and how the constant media attention was dividing the city. He believed too, that Nixon was doing something that would sway the city to get rid of the Rogues completely. We just had to figure out what.

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And just to add extra protection to himself, he had reporters with him constantly, so no one could get to him, and his every move was watched. He looked like the city's hero and caused hysteria within the packs, including ours, who had been questioning everything. The Rogues were being painted as villains.

Nixon claimed that the missing rogues were choosing to turn forsaken. And that it would only be a matter of time before the rest follow to take down the city. So we were at a

standstill. 1 I had just dropped Valarian to school and was headed to the Hotel when I was pulled over by one of Nixon's officers.

The police sirens went off behind me, and I pulled over. This was becoming a daily thing. And before the officer even reached my car, I wound down my window and held my license and registration. "What is it today, Cleo? Bald tires? No, you claimed that yesterday.

Taillight? Na, it can't be that. That was the day before. You're gonna have to be crafty this time." I tell him. "And why is that?" he asks, peering in the window. He looks in the back at the empty car seat. "I'm sure you're running out of bullshit to fine me for," I tell him. This was a waste of time, and it was starting to irritate me.

I rest my head back on the headrest. Rubbing my hands over my huge swollen belly, I was only 9 weeks pregnant, but my stomach was already looking quite round. Macey was right. I would be the size of a house. He examines my truck, writing more tickets and passing them to me.

I stuff them in the glove box with the rest. Officer Cleo follows me all the way to the Hotel so I drive extra slowly, earning honks from drivers behind him. Pulling in the place was nearly halfway to being finished, and I was excited to open it again. Yet, the bigger I got, the harder it got to move around, and I was constantly hungry and horny.

Damn, was I horny? Poor Valen had his stamina tested, that's for sure. Pulling in, I spoke with the project manager while waiting for my mother. She rang yesterday asking if she could go baby shopping with me. It was such a bizarre situation for me to see her so supportive of this pregnancy, and I had to keep reminding myself things were different this time around. Yet the same fears remained.

Even with Valen's reassurance, I was constantly waiting to be turfed out and cast away like last time. I knew a lot of it had to do with pregnancy hormones, but my anxiety levels were constantly through the roof. Sleep had become troublesome not only for me but for Valen.

Yet as much as he tried to understand, I knew he didn't get the lock thing. Anxiety made me paranoid, hormones made me overly sensitive to everything, and the stress was getting to me. I was still talking to the manager when I saw my mother's car pull into the parking space beside mine.

We were going in her car. I smiled and waved when I saw her. Quickly, I finished my conversation with the project manager before wandering over to her. I climbed into her car,

placing my handbag between my feet before placing my belt on while she reached over the back to retrieve something from the backseat.

She drops a bag on my lap. "I made them something," she tells me, and I open it to find matching yellow crochet booties and beanies. I smiled and thanked her, looking at how small they were. It was hard to imagine Valarian that little again, so they looked so tiny in my hands. "We can go baby bunting first if you like," she said, and I nodded.

1 "Yes, Valen said he would meet us for lunch, though," I tell her. Every weekend since, my parents come over on Saturdays for dinner to spend time with Valarian. Valarian, at first, was wary of them. Although he had asked me if he could go to training with my father.

It was a little odd and took some convincing for Valen to allow it, but we merged pack training, so both packs now trained at the arena every Sunday together, and any rogues that wished to attend also trained with them. Valen had been taking Valarian along.

Valen thinks he is too little to train, but I was training from the moment I could walk, and I knew my father wouldn't allow him to get hurt. I attended the last one, and it was odd seeing my father training my son, so much similar to the way he taught me. For the most part, life was good, Ava was even training, and I could tell it meant a lot to mum that everyone was getting along again.

However, pulling up at the baby shop, my mother stared out the window as she stopped the car. "I should have done this with you last time," she murmured, staring up at the store decorations. I swallowed but said nothing. 1 "We failed you," she adds, and I nod, not knowing what to say.

They did, big time, I accepted and moved on from that, or so I thought. My anxiety said otherwise. For the most part, I had come to terms with everything and didn't see the point of dwelling in the past that I couldn't change. "You're here now. Let's focus on that," I tell her, but she shakes her head.

"We should have told you, protected you, and gone to Valen. Nixon would have made you keep him and used him against you and your father. We knew that was no place for a child to be raised amid war. We messed up. We thought we were protecting you, instead, we destroyed you."

"You think you destroyed me? You didn't," I tell her. "How can you say that? When your father came home and told me you were going to let us be a part of your life, I almost didn't believe

him after everything we had done. We didn't deserve a second chance," she says, staring off vacantly.

"No, you didn't deserve a second chance." she looks at me and nods, her lip quivering. "Hating you doesn't hurt you, only me. I haven't got time to hate mum. I haven't got time to harbor the sort of energy that would take. You think you destroyed me, you did, and I'm not sure I will ever fully forgive that, but some good came of it," I tell her. "

Valarie?" She asks, and I nod. Valarie was a massive part of it. Her influence in my life was greater than any passage of time I had endured, but that wasn't all. Mum knew Valarie had taken her place in my life, and I wasn't afraid of hurting her feelings by her knowing that. "Yes, but also through everything, I found myself.

I grew up too soon, but finding my place came with finding my purpose. A purpose that was more than just being the Alpha's daughter. I found my identity, who I am, the person I was born to be, and that wasn't in the shadows of another. With that comes acceptance, mother.

I am not some little girl anymore; I am not frightened of the world because I saw it at its worst, lived and endured it, and it didn't break me. It raged an inferno inside me to prove everyone wrong. It showed me I was more than an Alpha." Mum chews her lip. They think I hate them; I don't. I hate things they have done, hate the feelings they invoked, but not them. "

I Don't know if I would feel the same if our roles were reversed," she admits. "I used to put you and dad on a pedestal, higher than life. I lived up to that. Then it fell apart. I went from future Alpha to rogue, but there was one title that meant more than that, and it was the title of being Valarian's mother." I tell her and she smiles sadly and nods.

"And I was yours, I always regretted not fighting harder for you, I should have as your mother, we wouldn't be here like this now, wouldn't feel awkward," so I wasn't the only one that felt odd, my family had become strangers to me over the years, but still I loved them.

"I gained so much more because of it though, and you're here now. So for that, I don't hate you because I found I was more than that title; more than your daughter. I just needed to climb my own pedestal and hold myself higher, and doing that made me see everything clearer than when I was the Alpha's daughter.

Now I am a mother, friend, Luna, an Alpha, and I am me.

So you don't get to claim that you solely destroyed me because I wasn't born yet. Only I can destroy what I built. Only I can destroy my value because it isn't up to you to give it to me. Yes at first you destroyed me, then I rebuilt myself but in my image and not that of others, "I tell her, reaching over to grip her hand. I squeezed it.

2 "So don't reminisce about a past that no longer exists. That was just the foundation of a better future," I tell her, and my hands go to my belly, my kids' future, mine and Valens' future. "So come on, let's shop before I need to pee again; I know that is definitely in my near future," I laugh, and so does she. We climb out of the car and head inside.

We picked out a few things but not knowing the genders, only left options that were neutral. However, going to the next store, I noticed my mother was becoming fatigued and irritable, not at me but at herself as she tried to keep up.

I was looking at cot sheets and mobiles when she made a strange noise down the aisle, glancing over my shoulder at her. She clutched a rack, and her body trembled, the stand shaking under her grip. 1 "Mum?" I wandered back over to her. I touched her arm, and her head whipped up, canines protruding, and bloodshot eyes stared back at me as she snarled.

I stagger a step back, and she steps toward me before shaking her head. 2 "What did you ask?" she said, looking at me expectantly like I had asked something of her.

"Oh, this is cute," she gushed, making me wonder if I had imagined it. She held up a onesie, holding it against my belly. "I'm kind of tired. I was thinking of heading home soon," I told her. Yet seeing it frightened me. "What? We just got here. Didn't you want to go to baby bunting?" She asked me and my eyebrows almost rose into my hairline.

We just left there! "We went there first," I told her, and she seemed confused. "We brought the bassinets?" I tell her and her brows furrowed in confusion. 1 "I must be tired," she murmured so softly I almost missed it. I needed to speak to dad and Valen.

It was like a switch had flicked within her, and so suddenly. "Come on, we will get you home," I tell her, leaving my basket. I text dad to come get her, not wanting her driving. He met us in the car park, and despite me telling her he was coming to get her, she seemed surprised to see him.

Dad placed her in the car and handed me mum's keys so I could get back to my car. "Is she always like that?" I asked worriedly. Dad sighs, "Yes, when she is due for another dose," he

says, looking in the window at her. "It shouldn't be coming on so quickly," he said, his eyes darkening to black. "Nixon hasn't stopped treatment?" I asked.

"No, he wouldn't risk it, but the vaccine is not lasting as long now, wearing off faster like she is becoming immune to it," 1 "I will speak to Valen and see what the scientists come up with. If needed, go to the media, and declare the vaccine not working. Maybe we double the dosage?" I asked.

"Nixon would kill me," Dad says. 1 "Not with everyone watching. He won't. He will have no choice but to agree or admit his vaccine doesn't work and let other pack scientists in to help. If he does that, he will lose his sponsors from the other cities. Big pharma won't back him if he can't prove it doesn't work," I tell him, and dad nods.

1 "It will buy us time to find a cure," I tell him. Dad nods before turning to me, "Have you sold that land yet? Nixon said the other day he was going to file against the pack soon if it isn't paid," he says guiltily.

I shook my head, and Valen said he would sell some of into Valerian's trust, though I would have to put it back. Valen could pay it, but a lot of his money was also the pack's money, not just his to blow how he liked. Our pack was questioning his authority with all the media attention, as it was. We didn't need tension to rise more. I

t could make everything fall apart if he did. "I'll speak with Valen and try to call a pack meeting. We need to get this taken care of before it becomes too late," I tell him, and he nods, giving me a quick hug before climbing in the car to take care of my mother.

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Another four weeks later.

Everly POV

Mum was getting blood tests, and the vaccine needed to be administered every few days now. I have just hit the 2nd trimester, and the Hotel was only a few weeks from finished. Valen sold most of his shares to pay half the debt owed to Nixon. Still, Nixon pressed for more, and we had enough.

Valen's scientists had managed to replicate the vaccine a week ago, and now they were working on finding a cure. Yet as we suspected, my mother was becoming immune to the vaccine, and with it came early-onset dementia. She was losing her grip on reality. Dad was beside himself, and Ava was devastated.

Macey and Zoe were doing everything at the moment, from the school run to

managing the renovations, now that the structure was fully fixed. Kalen ran the Homeless shelter while Dad worked for my pack and Valen his.

Life was hectic, and Ava and I were tasked with watching over mum, which meant taking her to these appointments. We also carried tranquilizers everywhere we went with her, just in case. But she could seemingly pull herself out of it before anything wrong happened.

Valen hated that I offered to help watch over her, said I was putting myself at risk, and he was right, but she was my mother. The woman taught me to walk, speak, and use a d**n spoon, and I knew if our roles were reversed and it was his father, he would be by his side too. 3)

Mum thanks the nurse that took her blood before the doctor administered the next dose, stabbing it into her arm, and she shivers. Her hair was beginning to grey, and she was aging quickly. All this

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because of Nixon. We had filed against Nixon to have his pack dismantled. My father went to the media two nights ago and outed everything, including the debt and how Nixon was the one who injected my mother. 1

We were waiting for the repercussions, everyone on edge since Dad went lives across the city. Nixon was officially under investigation, and the werewolf council was now involved.

Unfortunately, that meant my father was also under investigation C;){x6:. forced to remain in his pack territory, the same as Nixon. It was also another reason why I had to help Ava with mum.

Dad couldn't leave pack borders, and until I married Valen, he had to stay on the opposite side of town, and the vaccine, now that Nixon wouldn't administer it, could only be given on Valen's territory. The investigation was a slow process that would buy us time,

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maybe not much with tensions on the rise.

Riots had started in the streets already, the city wanting answers. Nixon's pack had gone quiet. They don't leave their borders, and only trucks with supplies have entered since he found himself in hot water.

Mum was in a cheery mood as we left, almost childlike and giddy as she climbed in the car. Ava sat next to her. She was deteriorating fast, and the scientists that are working on the cure were working around the clock. More rogues had gone missing, more turning up along the borders as forsaken, which only amped up Nixon's claims that they were deliberately turning forsaken to overrun the city.

Speculation and theories hung over the entire city like a dark cloud, over whose claims to believe. Clipping my seatbelt, my phone started ringing, and I quickly answered it, seeing Zoe's name pop up on

the screen.

"Hey, what's up?" I asked.

"I need you to pick up the kids for me. We have sprung a leak. And the fire alarms, for some reason, turned on and have yet to turn off. Macey is also locked in the basement because it tripped the locks, and I am currently standing in water to my knees," she sighs.

Great, this is all we needed. This new tech system was becoming a pain in the a*s. So many sensors and I was second-guessing the whole thing

"Is Macey alright? Is it flooding down there?"

"Yeah, she is fine. Currently eating all the chocolate and drinking all the wine. At least we know the basement is waterproof," Zoe laughs. I chuckle. Bad news, but we would live.

"The damage?"

"Costly," she answers, and I groan.

"Okay, I will grab the kids." I glance at my phone screen to see I had to get them now and curse.

"I may need to drop mum home first. I only have five seats in this car, and I have mum and Ava with me," I tell her, which means I would be late when I see Tatum

outside walking directly toward us. S**t! He must have followed us out. He was on security at the clinic, and he had tried to stop me on the way in but got called away.

"Never mind, I have a solution," I tell her hanging up, just as Tatum taps on my window. I push the door open and climb out.

"I thought I missed you," he says, tugging on the tie around his neck to loosen it.

"Nope, still here. And I kinda need to ask you a favor," I tell him.

"Great! Then maybe you could do me a favor?" he asks in return. I knew what he wanted, and we had all been at Macey for weeks about it, but she refused to listen. The woman was stubborn, but this was the first time I had spoken to Tatum. Usually, all messages came through Valen, to me, to Macey. It was driving me insane!

"You first," I tell him.

"Macey has not answered a single call from me. She refuses to speak to me, and I can't even mind-link with her since she isn't a pack member."

"Well, I have a solution to your problem, too, since you are about to solve mine," I chuckle.

"I'm all ears," he says with a smile.

"Macey is stuck in the basement, but it has an intercom. Zoe is held up, and I need to get the kids from school,

including Taylor. Come with me and help pick them up. I don't really want them in the car with mum," I whisper, and he glances behind me and nods his head.

"Now that I can do. I haven't seen Tay in ages. Wait! Will Macey be okay with that?" he asks, and I shrug. It was either that or I will be 20 minutes late getting them by the time I drive mum back home.

"Well, I am out of options, so she'll get over it," I tell him.

"You sure?"

"She has no choice. Besides, you should both talk. I am sick of passing notes for you both," I tell him, opening my door.

"I'll meet you at the school," he says, and I nod. We pulled up out front, and I quickly raced in and got the kids from their classes. Valen's pack school was under heavy security at the moment. All children were being required to be signed out with the growing missing reports of

out with the growing missing reports of the rogues, Better to be safe than sorry.

Walking back out to the car, my phone rings, and I pull it from my pocket and answer it. My father was on the other end.

"I am just about to drop her home," I tell him.

"No, don't. Investigators just showed up. I was ringing to see if you could hang onto her a bit longer? She doesn't do well with strangers in the house, and I currently have seven with warrants," he tells me. F**k! Could anything else go wrong today?

I pinch the bridge of my nose in frustration. "That's fine. I will figure it out."

"Why? What happened?" he asked.

"Nothing; I have the kids, is all,"

"She won't hurt them," yet I could hear that narin hicuaian

the worry in his voice.

"It's fine. Tatum will drop the girls off, and I will ask Kalen to get Valarian. Valen doesn't want Valarian around her when it is only Ava and me since I can't shift," I tell him and Dad sighs.

"As soon as they leave, I will send someone to come get her," he replies.

"Okay," I tell him, hanging up. The kids look up at me, but I shake my head. Walking out of the school. Taylor spots

Tatum and squeals, running ahead of me.

"Hey Tay!" he says, scooping her up, and she wraps her arms around his neck before showing him her pasta necklace around hers. She takes it off before wrapping it around his neck.

"Aw, thanks," he says, pecking her cheek.

"Are we coming back home soon?" she asks, and I know she must be confused. Tatum had been part of her life for

months now, only to wake up and not see him again.

"I'm working on it. And I am hoping to see your mother this afternoon," he says before looking at me. "I only have two car seats in the car. Her old one and my sister's daughter's one."

"On it!" Ava calls out from where she was leaning on the car smoking, I give her a disapproving look and she rolls her eyes, tossing it and pulling Valarian's car seat from out of Valen's car I was driving. We spent a few minutes anchoring it before buckling the kids in.

"Change of plans. Mum is staying with me for a few more hours, so can you swing by my place before you drop the girls off? Ava texted Zoe on the way over to tell her you were dropping the kids over. She also assured me that Macey was still locked in the basement." I chuckle, knowing it had been fixed, and Zoe was just keeping her locked in there. 1

"I feel like a d**k," Tatum says.

"Yeah, well, she thinks you left because she can't have kids," I tell him.

"Well, if she would let me explain, that wasn't the reason I left," he says while shaking his head.

"Then why did you leave?" Ava asks, her tone coming off the defensive. He looked back in the windows, ensuring the kids weren't listening

"Macey said she never wanted kids. She made that clear. I thought I could change her mind. And then she told me, and I felt a little angry that she didn't tell me. But more because I had been bugging her about kids for weeks!" He groaned.

"I even went and bought baby stuff. I wondered why she got so angry and tossed it out. Then the next day, she told me, and I haven't heard from her since," he says.

"It will work out," I tell him.

"Yeah, but I feel like s**t! My sister went through IVF for years before having Sam. Had I known, I wouldn't have pushed so hard or at all. My sister hated when people mentioned anything baby-related or asked when she would have kids. I became one of those people. That's why I left." Tatum growls, shaking his head. 3

"I was angry but more embarrassed than anything. I am happy just having Taylor Even though her toy collection takes up half our house!" he chuckles.

"Well, Zoe locked her in the basement. So now she has no choice but to hear her out. "Ava says. He nods his head and turns to the driver's door.1

"And Tatum?" I call, and he stops looking at me.

"Every person she has dated walked the same day she told them. She held off only twice hoping they would stave them

twice, hoping they would stay once they knew her, but they also walked. The only reason she didn't tell you is that she was worried about losing you."

"I know that. But I wasn't going anywhere," he answers.

"But you! She didn't know that is why you left. Before you, she tried dating, and all of them walked out halfway through the first date," I tell him, and Tatum frowns. He nods his head before climbing into the car. I go back to mine and climb into the driver's seat, and Ava climbs in the back with mum.

I had Ava text Kalen on the drive home. He would be half an hour. We were just down the end of the street from home when static went over the radio. I flicked the station over to find them all the same when the traffic lights suddenly went out up head. I peered up at the sky, wondering if a storm was brewing, yet the overcast day was the same.

The sky hadn't darkened more. I glanced at Ava, whose face was scrunched up as she peered at her phone. She was playing some game on it.

"I have no cell service," she says, and I reach over and pass my phone to her, and she unlocks it.

"Neither do you," she says just as the tornado sirens blare. However, the sirens weren't used for tornado warnings. No, we never got tornadoes here, and I hadn't heard that noise since I was a kid.

My eyes widen, and I peer at Tatum's car behind me when Valen's voice and my father's booms through the mind link.

"All warriors to the borders! Everyone else, get inside and lock your door!" I swallowed, and my mother was blissfully unaware as she spoke to herself. She looked at me and smiled. 1

"What's that noise?" she asked. Neither of us answers her, and I glance at Ava.

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She stared back and looked petrified when Valen mind-linked me.

"Get home and lock the doors!"

"How many? And where?" I ask, opening the link to Marcus, Zoe, and Tatum to join.

"Get home and lock the door, Everly!" Valen snaps.

"Valen, how many?!" Isnarled. He doesn't answer and I could feel his fear through the bond.

"Hundreds," he says. 2

"The girls?" Zoe screeches through the link.

"I have them and Valarian. I'm behind Everly now," Tatum chimes in as we pull into the hotel car park. The shutters were rolling down on the lower-level windows and securing the doors. I roll my window down, waving Tatum toward the underground car park and he gives me a

underground car park, and he gives me a thumbs up.

"Zoe, get to the basement! I will get to Casey!" Marcus orders her, and she whimpers before being shoved out of the link.

"Where are they coming in?" Tatum asks

"Everywhere!" Marcus and Valen said before the mind-link turned to chaos and I nearly ran into a pillar before I forced everyone out. We pull up and start ripping the kids from the cars, and my mother shoves them toward the elevators, finally coming back to her senses. "Is that?" she asks, looking at Ava, who nods to her.

Valarian hits the elevator button, but the doors don't open. The emergency generators didn't operate them, leaving the stairs. "F**k!" The roller shutters start dropping as we rush the kids to the fire exit. The bells sound as I rip the door

open, and we usher the kids inside when snarling growls echo through the underground car park.

Tatum pivots just as a heap rush inside the parking garage. He rips his shirt off and growls and they pause observing their threat before he looks at me over his shoulder. "Get inside, Luna!" my heart raced as I stared at the forsaken stalking into the place.

Tatum!" I called out. Tatum's eyes were on the forsaken, and he was too focused on them circling him.

"Inside, Luna! Now!" he roared before shifting as they ran at him. My eyes widened, and I rushed through the door, slamming it shut and locking it. Turning around, I see the kid's frightened face peering back at me. 2

"Tatum?" Taylor says, her eyes on the door where vicious growls and banging came from

"He's okay. He will be okay," I tell Taylor while turning her and pushing her up the stairs. Ava stares at me. I nod to her, and her eyes turn glassy, but she nods once, pushing mum up the stairs. We were locked in the stairwell, all the doors locked as we climbed the levels.

"Valen, we can't get inside!" I called through the link. I got no answer, meaning he was blocking me out of whatever was happening outside. We were halfway up the stairwell when we heard the banging on the door below.

"Tatum!" Taylor squeals, rushing back down, and I just grabbed her before she got past me when I heard the door burst open below. Ava looks over the side, and the blood drains from her face, and I glance over to see Forsaken rushing up the steps.

"Run!" I screamed. Ava grabs Valarian and Mum. She was struggling to climb the stairs. She was exhausted, as she

always was after being given the vaccine.

"Get to the roof!" I screamed while grabbing Casey and Taylor.

Mum rips her hand from Ava. "I'm

slowing you down. Get the kids up!" she growls at Ava, who looks at me. I place Taylor on the ground, and Ava's hand locks around her wrist. I grab Valarian and Ava grabs Casey too.¹

"Valarian, like we practiced at training, "I tell him.

"Don't look back. Don't stop,"

"Mum." Valarian stammers with tear filled eyes, and his lip quivers.

"Don't look back. Don't stop," I repeat, and he nods. Seeing the fear on his face made me want to hug him, but he listened and took off running up the steps while Ava ripped the girls up them.

"Three more flights, mum," I tell her. She kept trying to pull my hand from

She kept trying to pull my hand from hers, but I snarled at her before commanding her.

“Move faster! Now!” I ordered. I heard them get onto the roof while vicious snarls came from below, but the command worked as she was forced to move quicker. Only they were gaining ground fast, and we were one set of steps from the roof when I heard a snarl behind me.

Mum freezes, and so do I. Turning slowly, I find two forsaken on the steps prowling and stalking up the steps toward us when my mother’s hand grips the back of my

shirt.

“You’re gonna run for me now, baby girl,” she murmurs as we both walk backward up the stairs as they stalked us. Their fur was falling out and what was left was matted, blood dripping from their muzzles as they snapped their teeth and snarled while creeping closer up the steps.