

The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 17

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 03

Sienna

“Tell me again why this has to happen?” my dad questioned, not even trying to hide the concern in his voice.

“We’ve been over this, Peter.” My mom sighed. “The Alpha can’t be Sienna’s mate if we keep her locked up here. She needs room to breathe.”

“We don’t know he’s my mate,” I corrected her.

My mother’s choice of words was painfully ironic considering I’d be far more stifled and confined at Aiden’s house than here.

My father pulled me into a bear hug. “I know you have to figure out if he’s your mate or not, but it doesn’t mean I’m not going to be worried sick about my baby girl. I wish you’d stay.”

The more I’d thought about it, the more I knew that this was something I had to do whether I wanted to or not. I’d never know if Aiden and I had a real chance at a relationship if I didn’t at least give this a shot, though I had my doubts about his intentions. the door.

Outside, Josh was waiting for me. He had an almost suspicious grin on his face. He picked up both of my suitcases and put them in the trunk while I sat in the passenger seat.

Josh hopped in the car and revved up the engine like a frat boy about to go for a joyride. Although I very much doubted this would be an enjoyable ride.

We drove in an awkward silence for a while before Josh finally turned his head to look at me.

“It’s nice to officially meet you, Sienna Mercer,” he said with that odd grin. “I’m Josh Daniels, the Beta of the East Coast Pack.”

“Yes, I know,” I said, still trying to read him. “It must feel good to be chosen for that position

“It must feel good to be in your position too,” Josh said with an accusatory tone. “So while we’re here, why don’t you tell me how you

did it?”

“Excuse me? I knew there was something off about that phony smile.

“Don’t be modest.” His voice was soaked As of sarcasm now. “You need to tell me your technique. How did you trick the Alpha into marking you?”

I wasn’t going to sit here and take this bullshit. “Trick him? I didn’t even have a choice in any of this. What gives you the right to question my motives?”

“I’m the Beta. It’s kind of my job, and if you’re taking advantage of him when he’s in a vulnerable state, I’ll be the first to know about

it.”

“If you’re so curious about me, then why don’t you just ask your *best* friend why he marked me?” I shot back.

“Well, I would, but Aiden is refusing to answer any of my questions about you.” His scowl deepened. “He’s been so secretive about why he marked you. Everybody’s mystified.”

He glanced at me. “I volunteered to pick you up in hopes that you would clue me in on this little relationship you two have started.’

“If Aiden didn’t tell you anything, then why the hell would I? Maybe you’re just trying to get information to use against him.”

Josh massaged his temple in frustration. “ really should have just let Jocelyn handle this. She’s used to dealing with delusional people.”

“That makes sense considering her dating record,” I retorted.

Josh narrowed his eyes at me. “I’m going to be blunt with you. I don’t think you’re either strong enough or mature enough to handle a dominance as powerful as his, and it doesn’t matter that you think you’re some badass she-wolf or whatever.’

“You’re underestimating me,” I said, challenging him.

“Time will tell. Now get out of my car,” Josh said smugly.

During our argument, I had failed to realize that we had already made it to Aiden’s house.

I got out of Josh’s car, slamming his door behind me. I grabbed my suitcases and made my way across the bridge to my holiday Haze

from hell.

One thing was for sure though. I wouldn't let Josh or anyone else underestimate me.

When Aiden opened the door, my eyes were immediately drawn to his shirtless, glistening chest. His muscles bulged with every minor movement.

My Haze started to spark up.

Fuck, is this really happening already?

He tried to grab me and pull me in, but I managed to duck underneath his massive frame and enter into the house. He thought he was clever, but he wasn't going to get me that easily

"You can bring my luggage to the guest room," I said coyly as I walked through the foyer, making sure I was several steps ahead of him. "Are you going to give me the tour, or do I have to do everything myself?"

"Oh, you've been doing it yourself for far too long. It's time you let someone else help you," he said, grinning with that annoying, sexy smile.

I just rolled my eyes. "I told you—*no sex*. That was part of our agreement."

"We agreed we won't have sex" he said

11:27

"We agreed we won't have sex," he said, starting to scowl. "It doesn't mean we can't indulge ourselves in other *activities*."

Despite my attempts to suppress it, my Haze continued to grow. I was trying my best, but it was close to impossible with his scent all over the place, and with him shirtless and sweaty, only steps away.

I might as well have just presented my Hazed ass on a silver platter.

It didn't mean I wasn't going to fight back, though. "Aiden, I'm serious," I said. "I'm not going to sleep with you. We're not mates, and we're not lovers either. I need my own room, and that's non-negotiable."

We locked eyes in a battle of wills, both asserting our dominance. I refused to back down, especially after what Josh had said. To my surprise, Aiden, growling slightly under his breath, picked up my suitcases and led me into the nearest room, throwing them inside.

I couldn't believe my eyes. Had I actually just made Aiden compromise about something? I made the Alpha of the East Coast Pack *compromise!*

Maybe I had a shot at surviving this after all. It turned out my excitement was my ultimate betrayal. However, the Haze hit me full-force in the middle of my giddiness.

Aiden's senses flared up immediately, and he, too, was Hazed. *Fuck, here we go.*

We met each other in the middle of the room, and his arms were wrapped around me in mere seconds while my hands were grabbing at his disheveled raven locks. He pushed me on the bed and fell on top of me.

He pulled down my dress straps, exposing my bra, and began sucking on my mark, driving me wild. His mouth moved down to my breasts, and I gasped as I felt his tongue and teeth wandering around my nipples.

I arched my back, trying to bring his mouth back to my neck, but instead, he continued to go lower, and I found myself wrapping my legs around his shoulders. I felt his tongue trying to break through the thin layer of my underwear, and it made me moan.

Irritation ripped through me. I wanted skin-to-skin contact.

I wanted him to take my clothes off. I wanted both of us to be naked with our sweaty skin touching. It was a form of torture to have him so close, yet not close enough.

I needed him inside me, and I needed it now.

I couldn't wait until we found out if we were mates. I had to have him right here, right now, or I would go insane.

Shit, get it under control, Sienna! I'd finally gained the upper hand and made him compromise. I couldn't just throw that away now.

"Stop!" I yelled. "Get off me! Please. Give me space to think."

Aiden looked exasperated. "Sienna, you can't keep doing this. It's a natural craving to want your sexual desires fulfilled."

"Get out," I commanded as tears welled up in my eyes.

"This is my house," Aiden growled. "You're just a guest here."

"Am I your guest?" I asked, choked up. "Or am I just a prisoner to your fucking Alpha will???"

Before he could respond, I ran to the bathroom and locked the door.

I stripped off my clothes and sat in the shower, letting the water run over my face, hiding my tears. I knew I was cursed to always feel this way because of the past.

And maybe I deserved this curse. Alpha or not, no one could take these demons from me.

To make things worse, now I had to be around Aiden every day. I couldn't go through this again daily. Only a few minutes had passed since I'd arrived. If we couldn't survive less than an hour together, how could we survive the upcoming weeks?

In ten minutes we'd managed to fight, to inflame our Haze, and to have an anger-filled dry-hump session that I ran away from in an erratic fit.

This wasn't healthy

As I stood up from the shower floor, I noticed

In ten minutes we'd managed to fight, to inflame our Haze, and to have an anger-filled dry-hump session that I ran away from in an erratic fit.

This wasn't healthy.

As I stood up from the shower floor, I noticed a thin line of blood circling the drain. I felt a pang of hope in my chest.

My period.

I hopped out of the shower and quickly checked my calendar. It was that time of the month. My period meant no sex, and no sex meant keeping my virginity and my sanity intact for another week without having to face Aiden's temptations.

Never, in my entire life, had I felt such gratitude to Mama Nature.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 04

Sienna

The expression on Aiden's face as he sniffed me when I walked out of my bedroom in the evening was hilarious. His nose was wrinkled in dissatisfaction, and he growled, "Fuck," before returning to his own room and slamming the door.

Blood was an obvious non-issue for werewolves, but for some reason, period blood made the male ones run for the hills with their tails between their legs. And for that, I was thankful.

At least I could avoid any more sexual encounters for a bit while I figured out a new plan, not to mention the added bonus of messing with Aiden.

As I appreciated my small victory, my phone started buzzing

Michelle hey girl, are you coming tomorrow?

Sienna Coming to what?

Michelle sienna...

Michelle really?

Sienna I'm sorry, I really have no idea

Michelle we're going shopping for mia's mating ceremony dress

Michelle you've known about this for ages

Sienna Oh my god, I completely forgot

Sienna Things have been so hectic

Sienna Since, you know...

Michelle i've noticed...

Michelle u haven't been around much lately

Sienna

I know, I know

Sienna It's just

Sienna

Aiden

Sienna and the Haze

Sienna and this whole moving in together thing

Sienna I feel like I'm going crazy

Michelle

i get it

Michelle u have a lot going on

Michelle i'm fine by the way

Sienna What?

Michelle nothing

Michelle

so are you coming or not?

Sienna I'll try

Michelle

sienna

Okay, yes I'm coming

Michelle see u there

A human hostess served us champagne as Mia tried on different dresses in an admittedly cute boutique. Erica and Michelle fussed over her train, complimenting her style choices.

I was checked out in the corner, staring down my champagne flute as if it were some magical well that held all the answers to my problems.

"Hey, Earth to Sienna," Erica called from across the room. "Are we boring you?"

"Sorry, I'm just a bit distracted," I apologized.

Michelle clicked her tongue in annoyance and started chugging her champagne as if to keep her mouth busy so she wouldn't say something she regretted.

"Come over here and help me out of this dress before I pass out," Mia croaked, breathing heavily. "This thing is tighter than my sex before my first Haze."

11:29

"You've been around the block, that's for sure." Michelle laughed. "Is there a man in this city that you haven't sunk your claws into at some point?"

“Hey, I’m settling down now, okay?” Mia responded. “At least I can still live vicariously through you girls. Especially Sienna. You must be getting ravaged every damn night by that sexy Alpha. I’m so jealous, you have no idea.”

“You’re getting mated to your best friend,” Erica said reproachfully.

“Yeah, I guess that’s nice too. Just let me fantasize a little, all right?” Mia sloshed her champagne on one of the dresses.

They had no idea how uncomfortable all this sex talk made me, but I wasn’t about to reveal that I was a virgin to a group of tipsy, sex-crazed she-wolves.

“Tell me about it,” I tried to say convincingly. “There’s hardly a moment that Aiden doesn’t have me on all fours.”

“Oh my God, tell us *everything*.” Erica practically swooned.

Damn, I hadn’t thought that through. As Mia squeezed out of her dress, I noticed a unicorn tramp stamp garishly staring at me from above her ass. Oh, thank God for Mia’s poor decisions.

“No, Mia needs to tell me everything about that tattoo, and I need to know *now*,” I yelled, trying to change the subject.

Mia raised her eyebrows suggestively. “Hey, what happens at the county fair stays at the county fair. Maybe you and Aiden can get matching ones when you go together this year.”

I’d rather die. “God, Mia, you’re too much.” I fake-laughed.

“Why don’t you tell us why you left the club with Aiden during girls’ night without even saying goodbye,” Michelle asked, causing the whole room to go silent. Everyone looked at me expectantly like this was an inevitable discussion that was going to happen.

“I… I uh, I was…”

Dammit, I couldn’t tell them about how I was almost raped. I was already dampening the almost raped. I was already dampening in mood as it was. And it would just bring up other questions that I wasn’t ready to answer. So, I guess my only option was to

“Aiden might be my mate,” I blurted out.

Erica’s and Michelle’s jaws dropped to the floor.

“Shut the fuck up,” Mia screamed. “Are you serious? Oh my God this explains everything, why you’ve been so distant and weird lately.

This is HUGE.”

“Yeah, I had no idea. That’s a totally valid reason to ditch us,” Erica gushed as Michelle shot her a dirty look.

“It’s all happening so fast,” I said, putting on my best Selene impression. “I thought I’d die

when he told me. We’re still figuring it out though.

“Looks like you might be the next one down the aisle,” teased Erica.

“No way, that’s definitely going to be Michelle,” I said, smiling, but when I looked over at her, she wasn’t smiling back.

11:30

Michelle grabbed her purse and stood up suddenly. “You’re really just living in your own world these days, aren’t you, Sienna?” She stormed out of the boutique, leaving me totally confused.

“Michelle, wait!” I called after her. “What did I say?”

Mia and Erica exchanged looks with each

other,

“Michelle is a little on edge right now. She’s been having some problems with Ross,” Erica explained.

“Shit, I had no idea,” I said. “They’ll be okay though, right?”

Mia just shrugged her shoulders. “Maybe, but you can see why she’s mad. If you’d been around more in these past few weeks, you’d have known about what she was going through

Damn, was she right? Had I been so self-absorbed with everything going on that I’d completely neglected my best friend? It pained me so much to hide the truth from my friends, but I had to do this on my own.

Hopefully they’d understand at some point but now just wasn’t the right time.

* * *

I was cooking dinner, thinking about Michelle, when Aiden came home from work, still sporting the same annoyed expression from that morning

“I thought you didn’t want to be considered a submissive woman who does nothing but cook for her man,” he commented dryly.

I shot him a glare. “Cooking is hardly a submissive trait. If you can’t make your own food, you’re the one being reliant on someone else.”

He grinned wolfishly. “Am I ruffling your fur the wrong way, Sienna?” he asked, a mischievous glint in his eyes.

Suddenly he was behind me, hands on my waist, pressed against my back. His lips were grazing my ear when he said, “Do you want to hit the big bad alpha?”

I did, but I’d restrain myself for now. “Get off me,” I growled, but instead, he kissed me. This time the kiss wasn’t as rushed as before.

His Haze was completely under his control, and he drove me crazy. I wanted him to press harder, to shove me against the island and devour me.

He teased my lips into accepting his, sucking and biting them.

When I shuddered and couldn’t keep my mouth closed anymore, his slick tongue broke through and taunted my own, making me crazed with passion. Suddenly, he stopped and pulled away with a grin on his face.

“I think that’s enough for tonight,” he said, echoing my own words, which I’d used against him multiple times.

That asshole. So this is how he wanted to play this game? *Well, game on, bitch. He’s not the only one who’s got control over his Haze.*

“Sit down. Dinner is served,” I said sharply.

“Well look at you, such a cute little homemaker. It suits y—”

Aiden let out a piercing howl as I dumped a pile of hot Spaghetti Bolognese in his lap.

“Oops, sorry, *dear*. Let me clean that up for you,” I smirked.

As I grabbed a towel and pretended to clean up the food on his lap, I made sure to provide special attention to his crotch. I felt him getting hard, and his Haze flared up almost immediately.

I massaged him carefully as his eyes closed and a look of pure pleasure appeared across his face. I abruptly stopped touching him and threw the sauce-covered towel at his face.

“You’re a little messy down there,” I jeered. “You might want to clean that up. Wouldn’t want to touch you on your period.”

Aiden shot up, growling, and stabbed his fork into the table. We glowered at each other, asserting our dominance to the highest degree until –

My mouth fell open as Aiden broke into a huge smile. He started laughing hysterically, doubling over and holding his stomach. His laugh was a low, gravelly one, and it was so infectious that I burst into laughter myself. What the hell were we doing?

When the laughter subsided, we smiled at each other, and I could see his eyes softening. The silence after the laughter was the most comfortable silence I’d ever felt with anybody, and as we gazed at each other, smiling like that, it felt like everything fell into place.

Everything finally made sense. It was a surreal moment, but I wouldn’t question it.

We ate in the same silence, neither of us daring to break it. He seemed to love my cooking by the way he devoured the entire meal and came back for seconds.

Watching Aiden eat my food with such hunger, such satisfaction, it was a different kind of pleasure.

He looked up and met my gaze, eyes intensely piercing mine, and my heart skipped a beat. He stared deeply into my eyes, as if trying to read me, to appreciate me, and I found myself doing the same to him, trying to decipher his suddenly inscrutable look.

What was he thinking? What was he feeling? Maybe someday we’d actually understand each other.

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each other.

He suddenly flashed a smile and returned to digging into his dinner.

“Bon appetit,” I whispered softly.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 05

Aiden

I'm in deep. There's no turning back now, not that there ever was for me.

Sienna had me on a leash. *Like a domesticated dog.* But did she hate me or have feelings for me?

I could never tell with her. If she ultimately chose to reject me...

Fuck!

I swiped my claws across my desk, knocking everything from stacks of signed documents to old sports trophies to the floor in a clatter.

Josh cringed especially hard as I scattered hundreds of Yule Ball invitations around the room, some of them hitting the ceiling fan and getting ripped to oblivion.

“That girl,” I snarled. “I can't get her out of my fucking head. She's completely taken over my every thought, and it's driving me insane.”

“I'm sure it's just the Haze,” said Josh warily, as he tried to recover what was left of the invitations.

The damn Haze. It felt never-ending. I teased Sienna relentlessly about her control, but the truth was I was barely holding it together. When I was in her presence, everything else felt blurred — I couldn't focus.

But for me to be feeling this way when she wasn't even around? It made me want to claw my eyes out.

“How the hell are you dealing with this?” I asked, pacing in circles. “Doesn't Jocelyn distract you from your most important tasks, burrow into your brain like a parasite, and make you want to rip something in fucking half?”

“Uhhh—” Josh quickly pulled a vintage mural of my family tree out of my reach.

He paused for a moment to think about my question. “Actually, not really,” he said, looking a bit confused. “I mean Jocelyn is great and all, but I can’t say I’ve felt anything like what you’re describing.”

“Well, you’re lucky then,” I growled. “Because this is torture.”

11:32

My phone started buzzing in my pocket, and I pulled it out cautiously, knowing exactly who it would be.

Sienna Hey Aiden

Sienna Got your note

Sienna Hope you have a good day at work

Sienna Sounds busy

Sienna Maybe I can find a way to make your day less stressful

Sienna

I threw my phone across the room as my Haze started to ignite again, watching it shatter against the wall.

“Josh, I no longer have access to my planner,” I said without a shred of irony. “What’s on my schedule for the rest of the day???”

“Just the Pack lunch,” replied Josh. “Do you want me to cancel it?”

CC

“Hell no, that’s exactly what I need. A testosterone-filled room. No women and *especially* no Sienna.”

Sienna

I woke up to an empty house, but Aiden’s scent still lingered in the air. He left a note, held by a magnet on the fridge. It said he’d gone out for some alpha business and he would be in the Pack House all day and might not make it home for dinner.

For some reason a dumb grin spread across my face as I got dressed. When I looked in the mirror and pulled my red hair back into a ponytail, I saw my mark in a different light.

For the first time, it didn't annoy me or enrage me. I was actually kind of proud of it.

I decided to text Aiden and tell him to have a good day at work, maybe even flirt a little, but after a few messages, they stopped going through and he didn't reply. He was probably swamped with work and had to shut off his phone.

What if I surprised him at the Pack House for lunch? That seemed like a good idea, considering how he wouldn't have a spare moment otherwise, today.

I was practically beaming, and I wanted to smack my own silly smile off my face, but maybe this feeling wasn't so bad.

When I reached the gate, I saw the guard who'd been there the last time I tore through the Pack House. He took one look at me and turned white as a ghost. Without even a "hello," he opened the gate and ushered me through, trying to avoid eye contact.

"Sorry about last time," I said sheepishly, making him jump. "I might have some anger management issues.

Eyes wide, he smiled nervously, nodding like a broken bobblehead. *I might need to pay for his therapy.*

When I got inside, I caught Aiden's scent, but it was somewhat obscured by several other masculine scents. I wondered if he could

scent me or if mine was masked too? As I was sniffing the air, I nearly ran right into Jocelyn.

"Hey, Sienna," she said as she smiled. "What are you doing here?"

Damn, I kept forgetting how beautiful she was. "Hey, Jocelyn," I said, smiling tentatively in return.

I still wasn't sure if I could trust her or not. Michelle constantly told me she was shady, but Jocelyn was always kind and helpful to me. Usually I trusted Michelle's judgment, but this time I wasn't so sure.

Especially since the timing of Michelle's distrust in Jocelyn aligned with her dating Josh, who I'm pretty sure Michelle had a crush on, despite never having officially met him.

"Are you here for Aiden?" she asked slyly.

"Is he busy? I could always come back later."

"No, he's just in his Pack Lunch. *Men only*," she said, rolling her eyes. "Josh is there too."

"That sounds important," I said, starting to lose my nerve. "Maybe I shouldn't interrupt."

Jocelyn

grabbed my arm, giggling. "I think that's exactly what you should do. Hold on try this."

She leaned in and pulled my hair down from its ponytail, tussling and messing with it till it had a sexy bedhead look to it. Damn, her beautiful appearance was one thing, but she also had a scent that could kill. It was absolutely intoxicating. She pulled down the shoulder of my shirt, exposing my mark.

"Are you sure about this?" I asked.

"Sienna, Aiden is crazy about you. And if what Josh has been telling me is true, then he might be literally going insane because of you. You're probably the most dominant she-wolf I've ever met, and you look sexy as hell right now. Embrace it! Go into that lunch and show him you're a force to be reckoned with."

She gave me a mischievous smile and placed her hand above my heart.

"Trust me...and good luck."

As she walked away, I felt I really could trust her implicitly.

A fiery dominance had begun burning inside me as soon as she touched me. It was as if she'd activated some buried power deep within me.

Chin up and dominance radiating from my every pore, I burst through the heavy oak doors of the meeting room, striding toward Aiden and the other men with complete confidence.

They all raised their heads, dumbfounded, jaws dropping and eyes filling with lust, except Josh, who just scowled.

Aiden's Haze flared when he caught my scent, but there was a ravenous look of pride and possession in his eyes that had nothing to do with the Haze.

Arousing Aiden in front of his pack was one of the riskiest things I'd ever done, but I could tell it was working by the way he was sweating and digging his claws into the table

It was a bold move, but Jocelyn was the right target. Not just anyone could pull this off.

Aiden tried to fight his Haze, but for once, I didn't want him to fight it. I wanted it to completely engulf him. It wasn't exactly revenge—I wanted him too—but I was enjoying every sweet second of his discomfort.

I leaned over the table and licked my lips.

“I missed you when I woke up this morning. I started touching myself, but it just wasn't as much fun without you. Your fingers are so much more satisfying.”

That was all he needed. Before I even knew what was happening, he picked me up and slammed me down on the table, causing the rest of his pack to jolt.

He crawled over me, growling in anticipation, while I lay sprawled out across the table in clear view of everyone else.

“Get out,” he snarled at his pack without breaking eye contact with me. “Everyone get out NOW.”

The Pack hastily got up from the table and made for the exit, but Aiden was all over me before they had even left.

He grabbed my breasts through my shirt, squeezing almost painfully. I kissed him back, but unlike him, I had control over my Haze now. I managed to tease his mouth until a growl burst out of his throat, making his chest rumble.

I shuddered from the feeling of the vibration and laughed quietly. “Oh, someone's angry,” I said seductively.

“You have no idea,” he growled and kissed me again. This time I let him kiss me as possessively as he wanted while I wrapped my arms around his neck and put my legs around his waist. I grabbed a handful of his hair and pulled it as hard as I could until he bared his fangs.

“Fucking bite me,” I commanded.

“What?” he replied, bewildered. “Since when do you—”

11:34

“What?” he replied, bewildered. “Since when do you—”

“Do what I tell you. Sink your teeth into me!”

Aiden picked me up and set me gently on the edge of the table, surveying me with concern. "Sienna, what's this about?"

"What are you talking about? Don't you want me?" I responded, annoyed.

"Of course I do," he said. "But not like this."

What was I even doing? Throwing myself at the Alpha? This was such a stupid fucking idea.

Doubt began to sink in, and whatever Jocelyn had done was fading fast. All of my insecurities came rushing to the surface.

"Do you even find my scent alluring?" I spat. "What if I weren't your prospective mate? Would you even pay any attention to me?"

You're an alpha, a different pedigree. I'm just a commoner, a girl that was abandoned by her parents. I'm nobody."

I started tearing up. "I can't be with someone who's superior to me. I can't be in a relationship where I constantly feel insignificant and burdened to live up to your expectations. This just can't work."

Aiden looked stunned, but he softly placed his hand on my cheek and stared straight into my eyes.

"Sienna, I don't view you as a commoner that has to bend to my every whim." He smiled. "I view you as an equal."

Now, I was the one who looked stunned. *An equal?*

"Look, I can't explain it, but," Aiden said, furrowing his brow. "But lately, I feel connected to you, to what you want. I can sense your desires and your doubts like they're my own. And I know you don't want it here—in my office, on the conference table."

Aiden started pacing now, clearly nervous, an emotion I hadn't thought Aiden possessed.

This was weird as hell, and I sat back in complete bewilderment, not knowing what would come next in this one-man play.

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“What I'm trying to say is...” He turned to face me with a burst of confidence. “I think it's time we go on a run.”

Oh. My.God.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 06

Sienna Hey, Selene

Sienna Are you awake?

Selene Ugh, barely

Selene This better be life or death

Selene It's 2AM

Selene What's going on?

Sienna When did you first know

Selene Know what??

Sienna That you were in love with Jeremy

Selene Wait, what?

Selene Sienna...

Selene Could this really not wait till the morning?

Sienna Aiden asked me to go on a run tonight

Selene WHAT

Selene OH MY GOD

Selene Why didn't you lead with that??

Selene I'm like hyperventilating over here

Selene Hold on, let me go to the living room

Selene

Jeremy is snoring

Selene

Sienna Um, okay take deep breaths

Sienna I'm the one going on the run

Selene SO YOU'RE GOING??

Sienna Yes, and I need your advice

Sienna

Like...now

Selene Okay, what do you need to know?

Sienna Your first run with Jeremy

Sienna What was it like? What did you wear? Was it intense or intimate?

Selene Well, it was magical

Selene And what you wear couldn't matter less

Selene Since you'll be shedding your clothes

Selene It's both intimate and intense

Selene It's really a spiritual experience more than anything

Selene Letting the wolf take over and giving in to your most primal instincts

Sienna What if our wolf forms don't connect though?

Sienna This could ruin everything if we aren't ready

Selene I can't give you an answer to that

Selene But if you already said yes, I think you have your answer

Selene

Sienn UNLIMITED

Thanks, sis

Sienna Gotta go

Sienna Aiden just walked in

Sienna

I looked up at the man who I was about to go on a run with—the most intimate experience two werewolves could share—and suddenly I felt a wave of nervous anticipation.

Rumor had it that a run was what had ended Aiden and Jocelyn's relationship. They didn't connect at all in wolf form.

What if that happened to us too?

"Ready?" Aiden asked.

That was a goddamn loaded question. When Aiden had first asked me to go on the run, my wolf took over and I blurted out "yes" before I could even process the weight of that commitment.

His expression was so sincerely pleased by the swiftness of my answer that I didn't have the heart to back out of it.

Now my head was screaming for me to run as far away as possible in the other direction while my wolf howled over it, drowning out my trepidation and telling me to get off my ass and go with him.

I nodded and got up as he took my hand and led me outside to the edge of the woods. We took the first step together, crossing the

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his flawless abs. He leaned back against a tree and grinned as I clutched my own shirt tighter.

“Turn around,” I said, blushing. “I don’t want you to see.”

“Why?” He laughed. “I’ll see you naked one way or another. It’s only natural.”

He was right. It was another unspoken code among wolves. Nudity before and after shifting was unavoidable, so werewolves didn’t make a big deal out of it. It was the same as losing your virginity when the first Haze hit. But the rules became different for me after Emily

“We’ve already established that I’m not like all the other she-wolves you know,” I shot back as I fumbled with the zipper of my jeans.

“Believe me, I know,” Aiden said, suddenly looking at me with calming eyes. That look was pure Alpha, not in an intimidating way, but in a reassuring way.

Being an Alpha wasn’t all about control. Sometimes it was about keeping the Pack clear-headed. “Don’t worry, you look beautiful.”

I turned around, but I slowly slid my pants down to my ankles and pulled off my top. Standing in just my underwear, I took a deep breath. I removed my bra and panties and swung around to face Aiden.

He was already naked, letting it all hang out without an ounce of embarrassment. He was the Alpha after all. Still, as we stood completely naked, taking in each other’s bodies, it didn’t feel the way I thought it would

It wasn’t an aura of lust between us, but one of connectedness. We were one and the same.

Selene was right about this being a spiritual experience, and I was beginning to understand

“You first,” he coaxed.

I stepped forward and stood directly under the cascading moonlight

Letting my wolf consume me, I shifted, gracefully landing on all fours. I glanced at my reflection in the pond to see my reddish-brown pelt alight like a burning fire. I’d never seen it shine this way.

Aiden shifted next, and his wolf form was just as huge as I’d remembered it.

His silky jet-black fur and piercing hazel eyes were gorgeous under the night sky. Our gazes lingered on each other in recognition, and any doubts that I had about our wolves not connecting disappeared in an instant.

He turned regally and nodded to the woods, and that was my cue. I dug my paws into the

earth and darted into the brush. Now I just had to make sure he didn't catch me.

It was a game of intimacy, but it was also a challenge. I had to show him how dominant I was to prove that I could hold my own against the Alpha.

The trees blurred around me as I raced through the woods, and the wind in my fur felt exhilarating. If Aiden was going to catch me, I wasn't going to make it easy for him. I knew the first thing I had to do was mask my scent.

I dove into a muddy puddle and rolled around before swiftly getting up and changing my direction. My best bet was to confuse him and cover my tracks as best as possible.

As I darted back and forth, a sharp howl penetrated the night's silence. Aiden wanted me to know he was closing in. He was toying with me, but he also gave me an advantage. I knew his location now.

I dove into the river and paddled to the other side. Hopefully he was in the mood to get wet. I shook my fur dry once I was on the other bank and continued deeper into the woods.

Hours had passed since we'd begun our chase. I could only imagine the frustration he was feeling. Some might say that you should let your partner feel like he was in the lead, but fuck that, this was a game of dominance.

I found a rocky hill where I'd be sure to leave no tracks. I climbed to the top and tried to get a lock on my bearings. With all the zigzagging, even I had gotten a bit lost.

My ears shot up as, without warning, a heavy thumping started echoing from the east, and it was rapidly approaching me. Aiden lunged out of the brush, claws drawn, drool flying out of his unclenched jaws.

I had only a moment. I threw my body to the side as his teeth nipped my heels. He looked wild and untamed, dirt and debris covering his previously silky coat. I wondered how much of a mess I looked.

We began doing a sort of dance, circling each other, waiting to see who would make the first move. We snarled playfully at one another.

Finally, we're at the end.

A twig snapped, and I let myself get distracted for just a millisecond. It was all Aiden needed. He charged at me, hitting me square in the ribs.

We both tumbled down the hill, smashing through rocks and bramble, landing in a heap at the bottom.

He recovered first and immediately pinned me. I yelped and thrashed, trying to escape, but he had me right where he wanted me. His tail wagged in excitement as he bared his fangs.

He let out a triumphant howl and sank his teeth into my shoulder, right where my mark would've been in human form.

This was the final act of a run between potential mates. I'd now been marked in both human and wolf form.

I was wholly and completely his now. A lover and a potential mate. No other man would dare approach me during the Haze.

We shifted back to human form, Aiden still on top of me, fangs dug into my mark. We stared at each other without moving, without speaking, without doing anything, really.

It was the most intimate and intense moment of my entire life—just like Selene had said—and I never would've thought in a million years that I'd be sharing it with Aiden Norwood.

He helped me to my feet and led me to the water. I wasn't even aware of my nakedness anymore, just my connection to Aiden.

We waded waist deep into the lake, and he tenderly washed the blood away from my mark. It stung, but a mark wasn't so much a physical pain as it was a mental connection. What I felt in that moment, Aiden felt too.

And what I was feeling was my heart being

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And what I was feeling was my heart being filled with a longing for someone like it ne had before.

I'd fallen for the Alpha.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 07

Sienna

Three days had passed since the run, and the period afterwards was like coming down from a high, which meant my emotions were all over the place.

At times I'd experience a flash of euphoria, remembering the thrill of the chase, while other times I'd hit an emotional low, thinking I'd never feel that way again.

Aiden felt it too. He'd grown more distant over the past few days, burying himself in work. Selene conveniently left out that the best experience of my life would be followed by a crippling sense of unease.

I needed to do something to pull us both out of the funk, so I decided to bake Aiden his favorite dessert, apple pie.

Jocelyn told me the Alpha had a massive sweet tooth, and I'd yet to use that weapon in my arsenal against him. This time, though, I'd use food for good.

I found myself humming and moving my hips as I sauntered around the kitchen, spilling flour everywhere. I wasn't expecting a chorus

flour everywhere. I wasn't expecting a chorus of woodland creatures to pop through the window and start wrapping me in silk or anything, but this feeling? It felt fucking great.

The oven timer dinged, signaling the apple pie was ready. It smelled like heaven. If I could've chosen a permanent scent for myself, it'd be this one.

I excitedly texted Aiden to see when he'd be home. I didn't know how long I could wait to see the look on his face.

Sienna

Hey, are you on your way home?

Sienna I have a surprise

Sienna

Aiden Still stuck at work

Aiden We got our own surprise today

Aiden A last minute VIP guest for the Yule Ball

Aiden Gonna be working late

Sienna Again?

Sienna That's the third time this week

Aiden I know

Aiden It's not ideal

Aiden That's just the way it is right now

Aiden The Yule Ball is in two weeks

Aiden

Aiden It's mayhem here

Sienna Will you at least be back before I'm asleep?

Aiden Don't know

Aiden I wouldn't wait up

Sienna Oh okay

Sienna Talk to you later, I guess

All the enthusiasm I had worked up instar drained from my body. I was suddenly mad. Mad at myself, for putting so much effort into baking, like some submissive housewife. Did

I have nothing better to do than bake for a man? To wait for his validation?

But I was just as mad at how upset his texts made me. That his absence was affecting me so much.

I used to pray for this kind of distance between us. Hell, at times I'd wished we were on opposite sides of the Earth. But now I couldn't handle him being gone for a day.

And I didn't like it.

As the heat from the apple pie faded, so did its scent. Aiden's unmistakable odor—a mix of woody and manly—filled the room again. It was apparently strong enough to do that, even when he wasn't home.

The scent of him alone was enough to send a visceral pang of *missing him* through me. Ever since the run, when we'd gotten close as wolves, my inner wolf had this constant urge to be near his. It was like he radiated something that connected us, and I wanted to be tethered to that connection at all times.

Tears flooded my eyes. I placed my hand my mark as my body shook.

I knew I was being dramatic. I felt like a foolish teenage girl. But I didn't care. I just wanted him here with me, holding me, kissing me, telling me everything would work out between us.

But instead I was here alone.

Aiden

I dropped my phone back onto the table. "Dammit," I muttered under my breath.

I hated doing this to Sienna. I'd barely even seen her in the past three days because it felt like I was living at the Pack House. Everything was in full disarray since the surprise announcement that the Alpha of the Millennium would be attending our Yule Ball.

And when everything was in disarray, yours truly was working overtime.

On the one hand it was an honor to have a guest of that caliber attend our humble celebration. The Alpha of the Millennium was the emperor of, well, fucking everything. He was the beacon of power that everyone revered, and gracing us with his presence was an honor we might not get again.

But on the other hand, it was suspicious. Why would the Alpha of the Millennium decide to come to our Yule Ball, and on such short notice no less? Was he just interested in the annual celebration, in visiting our Pack, or was there something more to his motive?

I couldn't tell. But I was planning to keep my senses heightened until the Ball ended to make sure I was prepared for anything.

I had already ordered security to be increased tenfold, both at the Ball and the days leading up to it. Being the most powerful man in the world—and that was what the Alpha of the Millennium was—meant you built up an impressive roster of enemies. And with the recent perimeter breach, it was clear that there were flaws in our system.

I was certainly not going to be taking any chances.

When I ordered the increased security, some Pack members looked at me like I was paranoid. But I was willing to fight for the U defensive team I knew we needed. Even if everything went according to plan, I'd rather be safe than sorry.

I had full confidence in my Pack, in their ability to follow orders and achieve results, but lately I'd been wondering if they had the same confidence in me.

I saw the way their eyes connected with each other when I gave orders, and I heard the whispers that would float around me on occasion.

Paranoid.

Not as strong

Lonely

It wasn't that they were disobeying me or disrespecting me. That would've been unacceptable. They would've been punished and replaced immediately. I was Alpha, and I was in charge.

It was more like... they were worried about me. They wanted the best for their Alpha, and they didn't know how to help me get it.

It always came back to finding a mate. That was clear. The looks, the whispers, none of it would happen if I'd get mated already.

But then again, maybe they were right to worry about me. I couldn't let my mind drift from Sienna for a goddamn minute. I should be focused on the Pack, on the Yule Ball and the Alpha of the Millennium's appearance, but instead I was worried about a few texts?

My inner wolf growled. *Enough.* I was Alpha.

The Alpha did not second-guess himself.

I turned to look across the boardroom table, where Josh was reading through some documents. We had agreed to go through legal and get the signatures done, but Jeremy was running late.

“Josh, forget the paperwork. Call a Pack meeting. We have some things to discuss.” Josh looked at me then nodded.

He walked to the room’s phone and pressed a button then barked into it: “Council to the boardroom. Council to the boardroom. Alpha’s orders.”

Alpha’s orders. That was goddamn right.

Sienna

I’d thrown myself under the bed covers several times already, but that activity did little to comfort me. It made me feel only more isolated

I needed someone to talk to. Someone who would understand this separation anxiety. Normally, that someone would be Michelle, but we hadn’t talked since shopping for Mia’s mating ceremony dress.

I fiddled with my phone for several minutes, trying to work up the courage to text Michelle. My inner wolf was doing somersaults in my head.

Just do it, you bitch.

Sienna

Hey

Sienna How are you?

I paused. Staring at the screen. A minute passed, then two. I knew I couldn’t pretend like nothing had happened, like we hadn’t had our biggest fight. I was certain that if I didn’t apologize now, she wouldn’t respo1

And then how would I get my friend back?

Sienna Mich I know we aren’t on the best terms right now

Sienna But I miss you

Sienna I should've been there for you

Sienna I'm sorry

Sienna Really really sorry

I took a deep breath. Waiting. Still nothing. So I plowed ahead, deciding to just leave everything out there. I had nothing left to lose.

Sienna I know I have no right to ask this you

Sienna But there's so much going on between me and Aiden

Sienna And I just...I really need a friend right now

I dropped my phone on the bed, pulling the blanket over my eyes. I'd laid out everything in the open, but part of me thought she wasn't going to respond, anyway. I hadn't been there for her when she really, truly needed me.

I'd been too self-absorbed to even realize she had.

So I wasn't allowed to feel surprised, or sorry for myself, when she wasn't there for me either. Just as I was repeating that over to myself, I felt my phone vibrate. My heart leapt out of my chest. I grabbed the phone and turned it over, seeing the lit-up screen.

Michelle im sorry sienna

Michelle i just need some space rn

My stomach dropped like I was on a rollercoaster. All the hope that had welled up inside me just... popped. Like a balloon.

I knew I couldn't blame her. I wouldn't let myself do that. But still, realizing that I'd been the one who pushed her away... it made me feel even more isolated.

It was like everyone around me needed space.

Away from me.

I glanced in the corner where all my unused art supplies and half-finished paintings were collecting dust. At least my art supplies were there for me. I got out of bed, stretched a new canvas, and placed it on an easel.

If all these emotions were going to be swirling around inside me, I might as well put them to good use. It had been awhile since I'd started a new piece.

I had no idea what would come about, but at least painting would provide a temporary distraction from how shitty I was feeling.

I started with black, which was fitting for how I was feeling. Long, wavy brush strokes.

Next, a creamy white. Soft and delicate.

Purple, I needed purple. Two circles. Piercing pupils.

Lastly, a thin, willowy frame washed out by the moonlight

I took a step back. I'd painted a woman. A beautiful, but sad woman. She looked strangely familiar. Why was she so haunting? I gasped as I made the connection.

It was the mysterious woman from the woods.

I'd nearly forgotten about her, so why was she staring back at me from my canvas now? Part of me wondered if she was even real. Maybe my mind was so desperate for interconnection

that it was fabricating hallucinations that looked real enough for the rest of me to buy it.

But I knew better than that. She was real.

I could feel her, not physically but her energy. There was something unique about her. Something I'd never sensed before.

Aiden

I jumped up on the boardroom table that currently seated my Pack members.

I paced back

and forth looking each and every one of them in the eye, asserting my dominance.

"Everyone, listen up," I commanded. "Things are going to change around here, starting now. The One True Alpha is coming, and I need this Pack to be a united front. So strong that no threat can break through. Understand?"

I looked around, seeing the solemn faces nodding back at me. "This Pack will always have my full attention, never doubt that. But if you don't trust my decisions, then we're all in trouble. If any

of you don't feel my leadership is worthy of your obedience," I said, pointing to the door, "there's your exit."

I took a breath as I looked from face to face. Nobody moved a muscle. So I continued. "If we're divided, we're weak. And if we're weak, then something like the perimeter breach will happen again. That's not a possibility. Do you understand? This is the fucking Alpha of the Millennium. If we can't protect him, then we're no damn Pack at all," I barked.

I stepped over to Josh's seat and lowered myself down, so I was crouching. Looked him right in the eye. "Josh, my Beta. I need to know that you are fully committed to your Alpha. That you will follow my orders, no questions asked."

He looked around the room, trying to keep his expression neutral.

"What are you looking at them for? I'm right here," I said, snarling.

"Yes, my Alpha," he said, eyes finally locking

on mine. "I have full confidence in you as Pack leader. I will follow you."

"Without question."

"Without question," he echoed.

"And the rest of you?" I asked, standing back up and looking around the table.

"Yes, my Alpha!" they shouted.

"Which Pack is the strongest from coast to coast?" I yelled, stomping on the table.

"East Coast Pack," they echoed, stomping back.

"Fucking louder!"

"EAST COAST PACK!"

The Pack howled like the warriors they were, and I felt a surge of pride that I hadn't felt in months. This was our house, and we'd protect

it with our lives.

My phone began buzzing, and I whipped

it out, adrenaline still pumping through my

Sienna A real Alpha wouldn't leave his woman alone

Goddamn it. I was all riled up, surrounded by pure wolf-fueled energy, ready to go into battle. And here she was, questioning my Alphaness. Questioning my masculinity.

I wouldn't have it.

"Josh, as Beta, you'll run point on security for the Yule Ball. Are you up to it?"

"Absolutely. Absolutely, Alpha," he stuttered. Clearly he wasn't expecting a promotion at the moment, and he was questioning I'd just pushed him through.

"You took initiative during the breach, and the lockdown was your idea. You deserve it," I said with a nod. Had to keep the soldiers proud, I figured.

"I won't let you down," he replied.

"You won't," I said back. And with a final nod to the rest of the Pack, I walked out of the boardroom with my head held high. About to enter a whole other type of battle.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 08

Sienna

As soon as I sent the last text, I burrowed myself deeper under his covers. I hadn't intended on ending up here, in his bed, but after I finished the painting... I just started wandering.

It felt like I couldn't take it anymore, the urge inside me to find him, to keep him next to me. So I sent the goddamn text. And now I was in his room, in his bed, because that was the closest I could get to him right now.

What is happening to me?

I was sending passive-aggressive texts. I was fantasizing about cuddling. I'd become the kind of girl I swore I'd never be—the kind that depends on a guy. The truth of that realization made the tears start falling. *Great. I'm even more of a cliché now.*

I was flipping the pillow over, trying to give myself a fresh start and calm down a little, when the bedroom door flew open. I hadn't heard a car pull into the driveway. I hadn't heard the front door open or close. But it didn't matter. Aiden was here.

He growled, and the sound sent shivers down my spine. His hazel eyes were on me, I could

feel them, but my own eyes were closed. It wasn't that I was scared of facing him after what I'd sent. I was dominant. I could always handle myself.

No, it was the embarrassment that I didn't want to acknowledge. The shame that filled the room and left the air feeling thick, making it hard to breathe.

Because now it wasn't just me who knew how much the Alpha affected me. No, now the Alpha knew too.

And then he was on me.

"Look at me," he growled again, and I could feel the heat in his hands radiating through my shoulders as he pulled me up. I was sitting now, looking right at him, and he hadn't let my shoulders out of his grasp. "You're crying."

I immediately wiped the tears away from my eyes, or tried to, at least. I knew if I tried to say something back my voice would betray me and he'd hear the shame loud and clear. So

I just focused on his face. His beautiful face, the one that was almost too much to look at.

But now, with his hands on my shoulders, he made sure my gaze stayed on him.

I tried to look down, but he put his thumb under my chin and lifted my face back up. "Talk to me," he ordered.

"I shouldn't have—"

"You shouldn't have questioned my masculinity." He growled at me, so low, so heartfelt, that the weight of what I'd done lingered between us. I had questioned the Alpha.

"But more importantly," he continued, "you shouldn't have been here by yourself. Crying. Being sad. No more of that."

And in an instant, he jumped over me and pulled me to him so we were lying on our sides pressed up against each other. His arms pulled me close to him, and I could feel him smelling my hair.

"I'm here. And I'll be here." His voice was right in my ear, and it made me feel like my entire body was wrapped in velvet. All warm and smooth.

I wiggled around so we were facing each other, lacing my arms around his back. Our mouths were centimeters away. Our eyes were wide open, locked on each other.

"I hate this," I said softly.

"You... hate this?" he asked incredulously.

I rolled my eyes. "Not... this. Not you. But yes, this. And yes, you. I'm not this girl! I've never been this girl. And now I'm crying, and I'm missing you, and I don't like that feeling. Of needing you."

"Needing me isn't the worst thing in the world."

"Sure feels like it."

"Well, I could be offended," he said, sliding his finger down my nose. The contact made my body quiver. "But as a real man, I'll just say... that I won't ever leave my woman alone. Not again. I promise."

Something about hearing my words come

from his mouth, about the closeness of how we were, all entangled in his sheets, made the sadness of before disappear.

It was like everything inside me was telling me to let him in, to trust him, to rely on him.

It was still scary, but it felt manageable now. Like I could overcome the fear so long as he was wrapped around me. I looked at him again, feeling safe and sturdy with a man who'd been a stranger a few short weeks ago.

Warmth. Dim light. Wrapped up in... something

"Mmmm." I let the sound out before I could stop it, before my eyes could even open. It was all too... too delicious. Like a warm apple pie.

My eyes flashed open. *Warm apple pie.*

Everything came back to me. The tears, the text, the growl. And the man next to me, still tangled around me, fast asleep.

Sun was shining in through the space in the

III

window that the curtain didn't cover. "Hey," I said, nudging Aiden's bicep. He looked so peaceful, so calm, that I didn't want to wake him. This might've been the first time he'd been more vulnerable than me.

But I knew that he'd left work early to be with me yesterday and that he had to take care of business.

He was the Alpha, after all. "Aiden." I nudged him again, and this time he stirred.

His eyes opened slowly, and he let out a big exhale, stretching his arms into the air. "Good morning," he said, and then he pulled me back to him.

"I can't... breathe..." I said, laughing and squirming against him. I could feel him get excited as I moved my hips, trying to break free, but he just held me tighter. "Aiden!" I let out, and he released me.

I turned so I was facing him, so I could feel his breath on my cheek. "You have to go to work," I said softly, trying to hide my emotions.

I'd been needy enough last night. I didn't want him to think I'd be like that all the time.

And I didn't want to think that of myself, either.

"No I don't," he said, jumping onto me. He was straddling me now, pinning my hands above my head.

"You don't?" I tried to fight his hands off me, tried to free myself from his grasp, but it was like he was the Hulk. *Or an Alpha*, I thought, laughing. Of course he was stronger than me, even if I was dominant were.

"I took the day off. I told you, not leaving my woman alone." He lowered himself to my neck and started kissing, running his lips over my mark.

I instantly felt the Haze start to hit me. Slowly at first, but it kept building, nagging me to acknowledge it.

"You'll have to leave at some point," I got out as a way to distract myself, to distract him. I was still on my period, and I was still not going to have sex with him.

Repeat that, I ordered myself.

I am still on my period. I am still not going to have sex with him.

But then he grabbed the back of my head and hoisted me up so we were sitting chest to chest. He trailed his fingers down my neck, still wet with his kisses, and across my collarbone. He moved them down my arms, all the way to my fingertips, and the softness of his touch made me want to explode.

"Aiden..." I trailed off, my eyes closing. And then he was by my ear, nibbling on my earlobe.

“Yes?” he growled. But *no*. I had to think of distraction. So I said the first thing that came to my mind.

“I made apple pie.”

Apple pie for breakfast. Across from a shirtless Alpha. *I could get used to this, I thought.*

“This... this is amazing,” he said, stabbing his fork into another slice, his third slice—I had been counting—but I didn’t mind that he was eating most of the pie. I was hungry for something else.

Stop it, Sienna.

I watched him chew mouthful after mouthful, barely stopping to breathe. I liked cooking for him. I liked seeing him enjoy things that I made. It felt intimate. Like he was enjoying me.

“Seriously, how’d you know this was my favorite?” he asked, already pulling another slice onto his plate.

“Jocelyn told me.”

“You two gossiping about me?” he asked G chewing, a smile on his face.

“You wish.” That was bold, even for me, and Aiden let the fork drop onto his plate before leaping across the table and tackling me to the ground. I was laughing so hard I couldn’t catch my breath

“I wish, do I?”

Again, my hands were pinned behind me, but this time he had a free hand to tickle me. His fingers dusted over my ribcage, and I thought I was going to pass out.

“STOP!” I tried to scream, but it sounded more like a laugh. “Or else...”

“Or else what?” he growled, and I felt the Haze resurfacing

He was between my legs, and I started moving my hips against him without thinking about it. He noticed, his tickling fingers slowing down, touching me in a different way. He brushed the strap of my tank top off my shoulder and kissed the spot where it had been.

This is my chance. With one swift move, I freed both my hands from his unsuspecting grasp and flipped us over so I was the one straddling him. His eyebrows shot up, surprised at my strength or my initiative or something else.

“Or else *that*,” I said, lowering myself to kiss him. I kissed him gently, briefly, and then moved lower than his mouth.

His hands were on my back, pushing me closer to him, and the Haze was cheering them on.

No, I thought, so I snatched his hands in mine and pulled them off, this time pinning *his* hands above him. Something about feeling

in control was making me even hotter. And I could feel it having the same effect on him.

“You know,” he started, his voice thick with desire, “if you’re really my woman, and I’m really your man, then you have to mark me

too.”

The next second I was on his neck, my primal instinct making sure everyone would know he was mine. When I finished, I looked down at my work. That was the first time I’d marked anyone, and it had been an Alpha. I felt wild with pride and with lust.

So I lowered myself farther down, letting my hands trail over his muscular chest, over his tight abs. I started kissing a pathway down.

“Sienna,” he said, somewhere between a moan and a warning. I was at the waistband of his sweatpants when I looked up at him.

“I want to do this. For you.”

The look he gave me after I said that was enough to make a wet log spark a fire.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 09

Sienna

Part of me couldn’t believe what was about to happen. What I was about to do. This was the first time I’d been so close to touching a man, and I felt ready.

It felt *right*

“I want to do this. For you,” I said, and his gaze bore into me. Right into me. My Haze was hungry, and if I couldn’t fulfill it all, this would do just fine. So I lowered my lips to

his hips and continued leaving soft kisses along the border of his sweatpants. And then my fingers slowly pulled the waistband down until I could see all of him.

And when I could, my breath hitched in my throat. He was big and thick, exactly what you'd expect an Alpha to look like. I had watched porn before, sure, so I knew what was normal for pornstars to have. But seeing it up close, with a man who I knew—a man who I *liked*—it was different. So different.

I ran my fingers along him first, watching him get harder and harder.

“Shit, Sienna,” Aiden muttered. “Have you ever...???”

“No,” I said softly, breathing warm air onto him. And then I stuck my tongue out, tasting him. I heard Aiden let out a gasp and took that as motivation to take the top of him into my mouth. I sucked gently for a few moments, and then I took more of him. As much as I could.

I was moving up and down to a rhythm. I hadn't done this before, per se, but I was a nineteen-year-old girl. I wasn't deaf to hearing blowjob tales from my friends, and of those, there were many. So I was fairly certain I knew exactly what to do, and by the way he was responding, I wasn't half bad.

He was getting louder. I liked being responsible for that. It felt good to drive him crazy.

After a few more minutes of that, I felt his hands reach down to the back of my neck. He was trying to lift me off him. I knew why.

He didn't want me to swallow what would come next. But I wanted to. No, I needed to. I wanted to taste all of him, to get to know every morsel of what he was.

So I slapped his hands away and moved my

So I slapped his hands away and moved my head up and down even faster, using my tongue to swirl around him. It took only a few seconds, but then he was coming, and a thick and salty substance, not bad-tasting, filled my mouth.

I swallowed it and looked up at him, at the man who'd been the first to enter my mouth like that

He was catching his breath, but his eyes were dancing. He pulled me up to him and tucked a lock of hair behind my ear.

“You're spectacular,” he said, the word somehow containing more flattery than every compliment I'd ever gotten combined.

Josh alpha hurry up

Josh

were all here already

Aiden I'm coming

Josh alphas dont get to be fashionably late

Josh lol

Aiden

Sienna had just blown my mind. There was no other way to phrase it. Sure, I'd known the girl was hot as hell. That was never the question.

But knowing how inexperienced she was, how innocent she appeared to be, I wasn't expecting *that*. Not even the girls who'd been around the block a thousand times had given me something like that.

She was in the guest room getting ready now. I could hear her moving around in there, and my imagination was thinking about her getting dressed. The way her body looked completely uncovered, the way she looked as she was pulling a pair of panties up...

Stop, I ordered myself. It was like I couldn't control myself at all when we were in the same house. *Must be the Haze*.

I pulled a sweater on and then headed into the hallway, knocking once on the door Sienna was behind. "Sienna? Ready?"

Not even a second later the door was opening, and there she was. In a sleek black blouse and jeans, her red hair tumbling down over her shoulders. Her curves... the way the fabric clung to her in all the right ways... it was too much. I growled, pulling her to me.

"Let's not go. Let's stay here and..." I trailed off, my suggestion lingering between our heavy breathing

"Okay, Mr. Alpha." She rolled her eyes. "Like you could miss the fair."

She was right. I couldn't.

"If it were up to me, we'd stay here all day. Fuck the photo op." I said, kissing her.

“Fuck the photo op,” she said back, looking me in the eyes. But we couldn’t. Because I was Alpha and the fair was the pre-Yule Ball event that got the whole community together. And what was a community without its leader?

Sienna

The second we neared the fair, I felt my nerves dancing through my bloodstream. I had never been this nervous a person, never in my entire freaking life. But I was holding the

Alpha’s hand, living in his house. So I wasn’t just a regular teenage girl anymore.

I was the girl next to Aiden Norwood. The girl who’d be scrutinized and fussed with, who’d be the subject of gossip, until everyone stopped caring

And I’d bet it would take awhile for everyone to stop caring

We’d just reached the gardens outside the fair, and I was taken aback by how polished they looked. Someone had laced lights through the trees, giving the dusk sky a beautiful glow.

T

Even from here I could see how packed it was. While the Yule Ball was the main event of the holiday season every year, the fair was the family-friendly version that brought everyone in town out to drink hot cocoa and play carnival games. Something about being here made me feel like a kid every time.

Then I felt my hand being squeezed, and my mind turned back to the man beside me. The man who sent chills down my spine over and over again. And I suddenly didn’t feel like a kid at all.

“You ready?” he asked, peering down at me.

I gave him a nod. I was ready—Sienna Mercer, reporting for ceremonial role duty. And then he was whisking me through the gardens, through the people of all ages laughing and milling about, and leading me straight for the table under the canopy tent.

The table that housed all the Pack elite, including Josh and Jocelyn.

I spotted them sharing a chair—well, Jocelyn treating Josh’s lap as a chair, more specifically

—and they waved us over.

“Finally. I wonder what took ’em so long.” Josh winked to Jocelyn, and I felt my cheeks burn.

"Watch yourself," Aiden ordered him, putting a protective arm around my shoulders. I inched closer to him, liking the warmth.

"Monica from the *Pack News* was looking for you. She wants a quote," Josh said to Aiden, and Aiden just nodded. He grabbed a couple cups of hot cocoa from the bar behind the table and handed me one before guiding me back to the center of the fair.

"Hope you don't mind I'm yanking you with me to do business," he growled into my ear.

Something about the way he said it made it feel sexy, even though it was a pretty mundane topic. I looked at him, at the way his hair fell just so, at the scruff on his cheeks.

There was something so effortlessly sexy about him all the time. And then he kissed me, in the middle of the fair, surrounded by families. And all I could think was, *let them see*.

A camera flash pulled me out of the kiss. "Hey, Alpha, over here!"

I turned to find the source of the flash-shout combo and saw a short woman, her curly dark hair looking like a volcano erupting in all directions from her scalp. Even though she was standing still, I could've sworn she was moving at a mile a minute.

"Monica," Aiden greeted her, extending his hand for a shake. She shook it with gusto, and I thought I saw a blush creep up her cheeks.

"Tell me, tell me," she said, looking between him and me. "Is this *serious*?"

"I thought you wanted a quote about the fair?"

She waved that sentiment away. "Fairs sell cocoa. Sex sells papers." She let out a wink and a cackle at her own joke, and Aiden raised his eyebrow at me before turning back to her. He shrugged his jacket off and, pulling the collar of his sweater away from his neck, exposed the mark that I'd given him the previous night

Monica gasped, and I just barely stopped myself from doing the same. And then the heat rose to my cheeks, filling me with a distinct kind of pride, one that made it clear I was wanted. By the Alpha.

"So it's a done deal?" Monica pressed. I straightened my shoulders. I wasn't giving anything away. This was his world, his platform. He could say what he wanted.

"Nothing's ever done in this world," Aiden said.

"So there may be room for another lady?"

At that question, Aiden pulled me close to him, wrapping his arms around my chest from behind. "Right now, this is all the lady I need."

Monica snarled—yes, *snaled*—and before she could get another question out, Aiden took my hand and guided me away.

"I'll find you later for that quote!" he called over his shoulder to her.

And then we were by the edge of the fair, close to the trees.

"Sorry about that," he said, his eyes searching mine. "You did great."

"I did? I didn't say a word."

"Exactly. Handled yourself like a pro. How about I make it up to you?"

"And how do you plan on doing that?"

He scanned the fair for an answer, and then he turned me around so I was looking at the same thing he was. The Ferris wheel.

"The Ferris wheel is actually my favorite," I said. It was true. Every year it was what I looked forward to most. Something about being above the world, high enough to feel like you were above every danger, every threat, was invigorating. "You can make fun of me for that if you want."

"Make fun of you for loving the Ferris wheel?"

CCT

"I didn't say *I loved* it. I just like it the best." He shook his head and smiled at me, like he couldn't believe I was a fully functional human.

"Let's go," he said, pulling me toward it.

Before I could say anything, I saw something out of the corner of my eye. Back in the trees.

A face. The same face I'd seen before in the forest.

The woman with the mysterious purple eyes, the other-worldly beauty. The kind of face you couldn't just forget. But then, she was gone.

"Did you see that?" I asked, suddenly out of breath.

Aiden just looked around quizzically. "See

what?"

"The lady!"

"What lady?"

"She was right there!"

"Sienna, are you all right?"

I looked back at the trees, where the purple-eyed lady had been moments before and wondered what it meant—her always appearing to me, just out of reach. It wasn't my mind playing tricks on me. Of that much I was sure.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 10

Sienna

We were nearing the Ferris wheel, and I was trying to shake the image of the purple-eyed woman from my head. Aiden clearly hadn't seen her, and if I brought her up again, I was sure he would sign me into a psych ward or something

"Come on," I said, pulling Aiden up to the teenager manning the Ferris wheel ticketing booth.

I dipped my hand into my purse to buy us both a ride, but the teenager just held his hand up.

"Alpha, man, you're good," he said to Aiden.

Then he nodded to me. "Her too."

Huh. It seemed traveling with the Alpha had some perks.

The teenager escorted us past the line—I turned back to gauge Aiden's reaction and he just shrugged—and then we were stepping into our own private car. I slid across the bench, and Aiden came to sit right beside me. The teenager helped us bring the bar down, making sure we were secure.

"Enjoy the Love Wheel," he said with a wink, and then he disappeared back into the crowd.

"It wasn't called the Love Wheel last year," I said to Aiden, feeling a blush spread over my cheeks before I could stop it.

“Maybe something’s different this year,” he said, and his hand laced through mine. Before I could read too much into that, we started moving. Our car rose quickly until we were right at the top of the wheel, looking down at the town beneath us.

“It’s beautiful.”

“It is.” I looked at him as he said that and had an overwhelming feeling that he wasn’t talking about the view. I looked down into my lap. I still wasn’t comfortable with all the attention.

“Who’s Emily?” At the sound of her name, my head whipped up. “I heard you say her name when you were sleeping. You kept repeating it.”

His eyes searched my face for answers, but I wasn’t ready to talk about it. I hadn’t talked about it with anyone before.

“I can’t...” I said, not wanting to lie to him.

He sighed and looked out at the view, and I thought I’d lost him. But then he started talking

Aiden

I’d heard Sienna whimpering in her sleep last night when I was holding her in my arms. I could feel her body trembling, and I couldn’t see tears in the darkness, but I wouldn’t have been surprised if there’d been some on her

cheeks.

She’d called for an Emily, over and over again, loud enough that I’d been woken up. I didn’t mind, of course. Maybe it was the Alpha in me, but I liked being needed.

I hugged her to me tighter and smoothed her hair until she stopped whimpering, and then I fell back asleep.

I was fairly certain that she’d been deep in slumber through the whole thing, but I knew that that kind of unconscious emotion didn’t just come from some arbitrary character in your imagination. There was more to what she was whimpering about than I knew, and my

curiosity got the best of me.

So when we were locked into our Ferris wheel car, looking down at the fair, all the way down, I brought it up. Something immediately shifted in her. She inched a little away from me, but I don't think she did it on purpose. I think her instinct, when someone asks her something personal and important, is to create space.

Being Alpha, I'd learned a long time ago how to put those around me at ease. Something my dad taught me when I was young was to never expect anything for free. "Give something to get something," he'd say, and that notion had stuck with me.

So in the Ferris wheel, I prepared myself to give something

"I had a brother," I began, looking out into the distance. I could feel her gaze fall on me almost immediately. "His name was Aaron."

"Was?" she choked out. I looked at her now, nodding

"He was older than me. By a few years. He'd always known I'd surpass him as an Alpha, said he could sense it the whole time we were kids. But he didn't care. He'd tackle

were kids. But he didn't care. He'd tackle me and throw me around anyway." I smiled, remembering the times we'd had together growing up. It had just been the two of us and our parents, so we'd always been close.

"What happened?" Sienna whispered.

"He met his mate," I said. "Her name was Jen. She was a human. A scientist. Beautiful and smart, she was his perfect match. I'd never seen him as happy as when he was with her."

It was true. Seeing them together, that was what gave me the inspiration to keep my hope intact—the hope that, one day, I'd meet my mate too.

"Then one day, in the lab she was working in, there was an explosion. It was at the station over from hers, a mix of chemicals that shouldn't have been together. An accident. Human error, they said. But it was too late. She was gone."

I saw Sienna's eyes fill with tears. She was waiting for me to finish, silent.

"You know what happens when we lose our mate. Aaron's heart couldn't take it. It broke into pieces, disintegrating day after day, until there was nothing left. And then he was one

there was nothing left. And then he was gone,

too.”

Sienna wrapped her hand around mine, pulling it into her lap. Then she looked at me, her eyes somehow providing me some kind of relief. Like she was soothing my soul without saying a word.

“I’m sorry,” she said after a moment. And then she took a deep breath, like she was getting ready to stick her head into a new world. One she hadn’t been to before.

Sienna

I took a deep breath, and her face filled my head. Something about the way Aiden had been so open with me, so raw, had let all of my memories free. Like he’d somehow been able to tell them that it was okay—we didn’t have to be afraid, not anymore.

The last time I’d seen Emily, it was the day after. I hadn’t known why she’d been so cold that morning, why she was hesitant about me coming over.

She’d had a big date the night before, with the guy she’d been into for awhile.

She was nervous, sure, but we were fifteen. What girl wasn’t nervous to go on a date? I’d helped her get ready, made sure her outfit was sexy enough to catch his attention.

I had even brought over Selene’s glitter lotion, the kind that, when rubbed in, left a trail of sparkles behind. I helped Emily rub it onto her neck and chest and then gave her an approving smile.

“You look good enough to eat,” I’d said, laughing. And then I sent her off.

She had texted me a few times when I was at dinner with my family, saying he was being too touchy, too aggressive, but I didn’t think anything of it. I was a dominant, so I’d always thought everyone else around me should be, too.

I mean I couldn’t imagine a submissive mate. In my mind, that was the worst possible option.

I fell asleep early, and when I woke up the next morning, my phone showed I had four missed calls from her. Again, I didn’t think

anything of it. I thought my friend had wanted to gush about how she’d had her first kiss or how sexy he was. And I hadn’t had so much

as a crush on anyone yet, so I wasn’t that upset to have missed the calls.

But then I showed up to her house, like I did every Saturday. And her mom greeted me at the door, saying Emily wasn't feeling so well. But I went into her bedroom anyways, saw her tucked under the covers, last night's makeup all over her face.

"What's wrong?" I asked, running over to her.

"Nothing." Her voice was clipped, and her eyes looked vacant. But then they flicked over to me, and she pushed the blankets off her. My eyes moved over the glitter across her chest, but I also saw the claw marks, the trail of dried blood.

"Emily!" I cried, grabbing her hands. "Are you okay? What happened?"

"He thought..." she started, and her eyes welled with tears. "He thought I looked good enough to eat."

I had let my best friend go out with a guy who wanted one thing. And when she didn't want to give it to him, he took it anyways.

"She was raped." I got out, finally looking at

Aiden. I'd described the details of my memory aloud, for the first time. "I encouraged her to go out with the guy who raped her. And I wasn't there when she called for help."

He reached out to wipe a tear that had fallen away. "It's not your fault," he said. "That piece-of-shit werewolf is the one who should be crying."

"She killed herself. Two days later." I looked right at Aiden, wanting to see how he reacted. It was something I'd kept inside for so long, and I didn't know how sharing it would make me feel

He inhaled

sharply, his eyes closing. When they opened again, they were red. Like he was experiencing the pain right along with me.

"I get it," he said, and he brought my hand to his lips. He kissed it gently, so gently that I wondered if, had my eyes been closed, I would've felt it.

"What?"

"Why you're keeping your virginity. It's sacred, and it should be respected. I'll respect it, Sienna. I'll respect you."

it, Sienna. I'll respect you."

They don't write textbooks for these kinds of conversations, but if they did, that would be the answer that every kid should memorize.

I felt ease surge through me, like all the stress I'd been nervous about feeling the first time I had the Emily conversation had vanished. And it was because of the man sitting beside me, clutching my hand.

The Alpha

The Alpha made my heart beat slow, made me feel at home in a car a hundred feet off the ground. And as the wheel started to turn, as we were lowered back down to where we belonged, I couldn't help but think that Aiden...

Aiden might just be my mate.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 11

Sienna

"Sienna, can you grab the champagne??"

I looked across the dining room at Aiden, who was bringing a platter of cheese and crackers to the table. I almost pinched myself. It felt surreal. We were throwing a dinner party, our first dinner party, as a couple. Not a mated couple, of course, but a couple for the season.

The whole mated thing... that would take a little more time to figure out.

I still hadn't had the aha moment I was looking for, the one I'd always assumed would come when I saw my mate. Selene had said that sometimes it takes longer to realize.

Like with Mia and Harry. They were best friends for years before they mated. But I needed to be sure that Aiden either was my mate or wasn't before I decided anything drastic. I was waiting for a sign.

"Sure," I called back to him, walking into the kitchen and pulling a bottle of champagne from the fridge. As I walked it back into the dining room, the doorbell rang.

"Here we go," he called out. And then he opened the door.

There were hugs and kisses, exclamations and laughter, and by the time the door shut again, there were four more familiar faces in the room.

“Sienna, honey,” Jocelyn greeted me. “You look beautiful.”

I hugged Josh hello and then kissed Mia and Harry on their cheeks. “Guys, thank you for coming!” I exclaimed to the newly mated pair.

“We wouldn’t miss it,” Harry said, and I couldn’t help but feel overjoyed for my friend. Harry was such a good guy, and I knew they were really meant to be. Just then Erica grabbed my arm, forcing me to swivel, and I saw she had located the champagne bottle.

In one swift motion she’d popped it, handing us each a champagne flute, and poured a healthy dose of bubbly into the glasses.

“Cheers!” she said, and we brought our flutes together. I eyed Mia, and we shared a look. Ever since Erica had been the only one of us to go without a real catch for the season, she’d been drinking a lot more I didn’t think it was cause for concern, but I was still hoping she’d find someone. I looked over Harry’s shoulder and found Aiden talking to Rhys, one of his oldest friends.

“Hey, Aiden, we have champagne over here!” I called out and watched as their little group came to merge with ours. Introductions were made, as per my plan. Aiden had mentioned Rhys was single for the Season, so I wanted him and Erica to chat.

“Erica, I think Rhys wants a drink.”

“Do you?” she asked him. He smiled at her, grabbing a flute off the table and then holding it out for her to pour. *Good.*

I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned to find Mia. “Where’s Michelle?” she asked.

“I don’t know. I thought she was coming with you guys.”

Mia shook her head. “She was supposed to come with Ross. I tried to call her before we left, but she didn’t answer.”

“Weird. They’ll probably be fashionably late. You know how they are when they’re together.”

together.”

“Can’t go five seconds without...” We looked at each other and erupted into giggles. So something about the champagne and having all my friends together, with Aiden, it kind of made me giddy.

Michelle im outside

Sienna

??

Sienna Come in silly

Michelle

can u come out

Sienna

Mich

Sienna What is goin on

Michelle

ES GW

please sienna

Michelle

i need u to come

I snuck out of the dining room as everyone was taking their seats at the table, closing the front door gently behind me. “Michelle?” I called out softly, not wanting anyone inside to get worried.

I didn’t see or hear anything at first. But then, a few seconds later, I saw some movement by the edge of the lawn. Michelle stepped out from the shadow of a tree.

“I’m here,” she said, and I could tell she’d been crying. Immediately my mind went to the worst—to what had happened to Emily and how I had been too late for that, too.

I ran over to her. “Are you okay? What happened?” I asked so quickly the words were incoherent.

“He... he...”

“Shhh, come here. Take a deep breath,” I said, guiding her to the big rock beside the driveway. We both leaned on it as I rubbed

driveway. We both leaned on it as I rubbed her back. I watched as Michelle, usually my hyper-confident, badass, outspoken friend, brought a trembling hand up to wipe the tears from her cheek. "Did he hurt you?"

She looked at me, her eyes filled with pain, but a different type of pain than Emily's had been on that day.

"He dumped me."

"What???"

"For another girl. He said she's... she's hotter. And better in... in bed." I could barely understand her through the sniffles, but I knew that was the worst possible thing Michelle could hear. She was used to getting her way, especially with boys, and Ross had been a guy she trusted.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, Mich," I said, hugging her. She hugged me back. Then she pulled away.

"I don't think I can come inside..."

"Stop that. Of course you're coming in."

"I'm a mess."

"If you go home, he wins. You need to have a fun night. You deserve that."

She smiled at me. "I've missed you, Si," she said. "I'm sorry we've been..."

CCTT

"Yeah. Me too," I said, grabbing her hand. "Can we not fight again? Like, ever?"

"Promise," she said, and we both laughed. Then she stood, rolled her shoulders back, and took her hair out of her ponytail.

"How do I look?"

"Perfect," I said. And then we headed back inside.

Aiden

It didn't feel like I'd known Sienna for only a few weeks. Looking around the dining room, seeing all our friends mingling with each other, it felt... normal. And nice.

“Hey, man, this gouda is *gouda*,” Josh

said, slapping my shoulder as he chewed a mouthful of cheese. I couldn’t help but laugh. Some things changed, but others... they never would

“You want another drink?” I asked Josh.

“Beer,” he responded, so I got up to grab us some beers from the fridge. Josh was my oldest friend, my best friend, and, now that we’d made a few things clear this past week, a Beta I could trust.

I mean he’d always been a guy I could trust. He knew everything that had gone down with Aaron, how messed up it made me for a while.

But now, with all the weirdness happening around the Pack—what with the incident with the unknown threat and now the Alpha of the Millennium’s appearance—I finally felt like I’d be able to lean on him in a transparent way for work-related issues, too.

He was smarter than his frat-wolf demeanor let on, after all.

I pulled a couple beers out and brought them back to the table. We brought the bottles to our mouths—part of being a werewolf meant

you never needed a bottle opener, and fastened our teeth around the cap.

Josh had his open in less than a second, but for some reason, mine wasn’t budging.

“Come on, bro, what’s happening?”

I waved him off, trying to wiggle the cap, but still nothing. People were starting to notice.

“He’s gone weak!” Josh bellowed from the seat next to me, and now everyone at the table was watching me squirm against the cap.

“Come on, Alpha!” Rhys hollered from the other end.

“Alpha versus cap! Alpha versus cap!” Josh chanted, pounding his hands against the table.

Now I was pissed. I grabbed the cap between my back molars and ripped it off, spitting it out across the table. Josh clapped me on the

back.

“There ya go, buddy. Thought you were really losing your power for a second.”

I shot him a look before he went any further. Sure, we weren't on the job or at the Pack House, but I was still his goddamn Alpha. He retreated back into his seat.

“It was a busted bottle,” I muttered.

“Yeah, or maybe she's not your mate.”

Before he could go further, I was at his throat. “What'd you say to me?”

He eyed me, kind of nervous, and then his gaze shot around the table. Rhys had noticed, but everyone else was still deep in conversation. I backed up, not wanting to cause a scene.

Josh leaned in. “I'm just saying, if she was your mate, you'd have all the strength you'd ever had. You would know.”

Before I could answer, Sienna was walking into the room, her friend in tow. And I realized I hadn't seen her in awhile, that she'd been out of the room.

Where had she gone? Why hadn't I noticed?

And just like that, Josh had gotten into my head. Making me question myself in ways I never had before.

Sienna

I led Michelle into the dining room, watching as she changed back into the girl I knew. The one who held her head high in every situation, who refused to take any shit from anyone.

I locked eyes with Aiden. I knew I should've been used to his looks by now, the way his scruff illuminated his striking jawline and how his mouth curled into the little smile that sent my butterflies dancing.

But I wasn't. He still gave me goosebumps.

“Michelle's here,” I said to everyone at the table, and all turned to see. And then something I couldn't quite explain happened.

It was like a wave of electricity shot through the room, but it hit only two people.

The air became thinner, all noise went mute, and Michelle and Josh were connected by some other-worldly current. Their eyes were locked on each other with such a

distinct intensity that everyone in the room immediately knew what had happened.

Michelle and Josh, the first time they'd seen each other, had mated.

I couldn't help but be happy—
somewhat selfishly, as I was the one who'd convinced Michelle to come inside, and now I'd be a part of their mating story forever. I looked around the room, wanting to share my elation, but then my eyes landed on Jocelyn.

Shoot. Jocelyn.

Slowly but surely, everyone aside from Michelle and Josh—
whose eyes were still locked—
shifted their attention to her. She knew what was happening. She wasn't in the dark. Not at all. But instead of the reaction we were expecting, one with tears or screams or dramatics, Jocelyn just stood up.

She took her champagne flute in one hand and lifted it into the air. "A toast. To the two new mates," she said, her voice as elegant as a dove. Michelle and Josh had snapped out of it, and Josh ran around the table to bring Michelle a glass of champagne.

"To Michelle and Josh," Aiden said, and everyone lifted their places eroino him

a dove. Michelle and Josh had snapped out of it, and Josh ran around the table to bring Michelle a glass of champagne.

"To Michelle and Josh," Aiden said, and everyone lifted their glasses, echoing him.

I shot another glance at Jocelyn after we'd all sat back down, and I couldn't help but wonder if there was something less elegant beneath the surface. She was smiling and saying the right things, sure, but the man she'd been with for the season had just fallen in love with another woman, a woman he didn't even know ten minutes ago, right in front of her.

Jocelyn might be a healer, but one thing my mom always told me was that you can't fill someone else's glass if yours is empty. And if Jocelyn's glass was empty, I was wondering when she might notice.

I was hoping it'd be before it cracked.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 12

Sienna

Instead of causing a scene last night after Josh and Michelle had, very publicly, mated, Jocelyn just took it in stride. She stood up at the table and raised her glass, proposing a toast to the new mated couple. And just like that, everyone was at ease.

The Healer had healed.

But when I woke up this morning. I didn't feel all that healed at all. Because there was an empty space beside me where Aiden usually was. Usually I was the first one up, so it was more than odd. He hadn't just woken up. He'd left.

And then it dawned on me: today wasn't just any day. Today was the Yule Ball.

Aiden would be at the Pack House all day getting ready, making sure everything was prepped for the biggest town event of the year. This was the one Ball that everyone over sixteen was invited to by humans and werewolves alike. It was the holiday event that brought everyone together to celebrate the year that had past and to hope and rejoice for the year to come.

And it was a spectacle. Everyone dressed to the nines, making sure their children/dates/mates did the same. It was the place to see and be seen and an especially popular event for the young singles Innlings for their mates

Even though the previous years I'd never really been looking, my subconscious had kept an eye out, just in case. But this year would be different. This year I had a hand to hold—the Alpha's. If you had told me that a year ago. I would've laughed in your face. But now, the thought felt... right.

Just then, my phone buzzed on the bedside table reached for it, looking at the screen.

Michelle hello??

Michelle

im outside

Michelle have been knocking forever!!!

Oops. I jumped out of bed and ran down the stairs, flinging the front door open. Michelle took one look at me and doubled over in laughter.

"Your hair..."

"Shut up!"

I walked over to the mirror in the hallway and, at the sight of my reflection, started laughing too.

the sight of my reflection, started laughing too. "Okay, fine. It's bad."

My hair was hanging in tufts in all directions, and I had some strange imprint on my cheek. I must've fallen asleep on my hand or something

"Did you just wake up?"

Michelle handed me a coffee, and I nodded, taking an appreciative sip.

"It's ten thirty. Since when do you sleep late?"

I almost spit out my coffee. "It's ten thirty?!" I asked. How had that happened?

"Come on, get your butt in the shower. Selene will be here soon with the dresses, and we need to get our hair done beforehand."

We were walking back up the stairs when I turned to Michelle and asked the question that had been weighing on my mind since the dinner party. "Have you talked to Jocelyn?"

Michelle nodded. "Yeah, we went for coffee."

"And?"

**I don't know what it is with that girl. Sienna,

"What do you mean?"

"When Ross dumped me, I lost it. You saw me. You should've seen me when he told me. I was trying to knock him out. Literally. It was all just blind rage. But Jocelyn... it was like she had this sense, like she'd seen it coming. She told me that love is the most important thing to her. That she's honestly just happy we found it."

"God."

"I *know*. I could never be that kind."

"Don't say that. You're kind," I said, grabbing a towel and heading into the bathroom,

"Yeah. *Kind* of a bitch!" she called from the hall. I couldn't help but laugh. I was so glad my friend was back to being my friend. And that she'd found her perfect match.

I had a good feeling about today-it might even turn out perfect.

"You look *insane*."

“Oh my gosh, Sienna!”

“Let her look!”

Michelle and Selene had made me avoid the mirror while they did my makeup and helped me slip the dress on, but now we were all standing in front of it. Well, that was what they said, anyways. Selene’s hands were covering my eyes.

“Okay, ready? One... two... three!” She removed her hands.

Suddenly I could see again, and I couldn’t believe the reflection in front of me. It was me. I knew it was, but it was a whole lot more... sophisticated. And sexy. No, not just sexy

Sultry

Michelle had done my hair so it fell in soft waves down my shoulders, and she’d managed to make my usually unruly locks fall sleekly, with no frizz.

The style somehow made my hair look even more red. It was naturally a deep red, but now it looked like red velvet. And it popped against my skin,

I’d spent many nights dreaming of having tanned skin, but my complexion had never cooperated, But now I didn’t mind my paleness because it seemed to make everything else about me pop.

My lips looked extra red, given the lipstick that Selene had chosen to match my hair. And my eyes, my blue eyes, looked clear as ever, big and bright. Michelle had worked magic with her neutral eyeshadow palette, making my eyelashes look centimeters longer than they’d ever looked before, too.

And then there was the dress.

One of Selene’s original designs, she had insisted I wear it tonight. “Just don’t spill anything on it, or I’ll kill you,” she’d warned, but then she unzipped the garment bag and I knew that if I spilled anything on it, I’d kill myself before she could.

It was that beautiful.

It was a deep blue, like sapphire, and form-fitting, with a high-collared halter neck and no sleeves.

The back was completely open, and the dress was so long it hit the floor.

It accentuated my curves like nothing I'd worn before. It clung and fell in all the right places, and when I'd put the matching stilettos on, I felt like a completely different person.

"How do you feel?" Selene asked, pulling my hair behind my shoulders. Both of their eyes were still on me, but then again, I couldn't take my own eyes off me, either.

"It feels like it's not me."

"Oh it's you, Sienna, Michelle said, her hands on her hips. "Aiden's going to go crazy."

"You're definitely the lady of an Alpha," Selene added, grabbing her purse off the chair.

"Thank you. Both of you," I said, finally turning from the mirror to face them. I couldn't have done any of this by myself."

Michelle was strapping her silver platform shoes

on, but she stopped to blow me a kiss. She looked spectacular in a sleek black satin gown and a deep burgundy lipstick, her hair tied into a perfect chignon.

And Selene was as immaculate as ever, wearing a pastel pink gown with slits along the rib cage that only she could pull off

"Are we ready, ladies?" Selene asked, dabbing a final smudge of blush onto her high cheekbones.

"Ready!" Michelle exclaimed, standing up.

They both looked at me. I pushed my shoulders back and held my chin high.

"Let's do this," I said.

Aiden Won't have time to see you before

Meet me inside?

Sienna Of course

I was on such a high that I didn't even mind having to walk into the ball without Aiden. I felt invincible, like nothing could go wrong when I looked like this, when I had these women beside me.

We were in the car. Selene was driving us because Jeremy and Josh were already at the Pack House, too.

We passed the security guard's booth, and he waved us on through. Every year before we'd park in the normal parking lot, the one we were passing now, where countless families and dates were beginning their walk from the car to the ballroom.

But this year, Aiden had arranged for us to park in the Pack House parking lot. It was a lot closer to the ballroom, which would make walking in these shoes way more bearable.

Selene pulled into a spot in the Pack House lot, and we got out of the car, straightening our dresses. It was time.

A few minutes later, we were walking through the doors to the ballroom. The room looked incredible. Christmas trees lined the walls, and sparkling chandeliers hung from the ceiling. Each table had a magnificent candelabra centerpiece. and the whole room was cast in a soft glow. Gl

Selene found Jeremy almost immediately, and he swooped her up into his arms, kissing her

intensely. Then I heard Michelle squeal, and I turned to find her running toward Josh, who was coming toward us.

I could hear the "damn!" he let out from where I was.

I felt a pang of jealousy, looking around to see if I could spot my Alpha. But I couldn't see him anywhere, and before I could ask Josh, he and Michelle had disappeared into the crowd.

I took my phone out, thinking I'd text him, but I saw I had no service inside.

I went back through the doors, outside, and was walking off to the side of the ballroom trying to find a signal. Still nothing

So I walked a few steps down the alley beside the ballroom—eyes glued to my phone—and that was when I saw something.

My head snapped up, but there was nothing there.

I turned my attention back to my phone. But then out of the corner of my eye, I saw it again. I spun my head around, and there she was.

The same lady with the purple eyes I'd seen in the forest and at the fair.

Only this time, she didn't disappear.

“You.” I got out, feeling like I should be afraid. But there was something about her that was calming. Like I knew, deep down, she wouldn’t hurt me.

“Sienna Mercer.” It was like her words were draped in cashmere.

“How do you know my name? Who are you?”

She stepped toward me, the silk that wrapped around her body glistening with every move. And then her finger was under my chin, and her eyes were inches away from mine.

“Who I am is not important. But who you are... who is after you... that’s something you ought to know.”

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 13

Aiden

I was in the back room, the one only I, and whoever I invited, had access to. It was sort of between a library and a dressing room, where I could come to get ready or take a moment alone during busy ballroom events.

I’d been in the ballroom briefly tonight, but the Yule Ball had only just started. I’d organized and led more than my fair share of Yule Balls, but tonight there was more on the line.

Tonight the Millennium Alpha was making an appearance, for some reason none of us knew.

That was why I’d tried to go the extra mile with the preparations, why I’d been working such long hours and feeling more stressed about it than ever before. It didn’t make sense why he’d insisted to come tonight.

Of course, I was more than happy to host him. He was the Alpha of the Millennium. There was an inherent degree of pride attached to him wanting to come to my Ball.

But still, it felt like something didn’t add up.

I heard a knock, so I stopped pacing and walked to the door, opening it a crack. When I saw it was Josh, I let him in

“Man, what are you still doing in here?”

“Is he here?”

“Not yet, but come on. The people are waiting.” That was when I noticed the two glasses in Josh’s hands. Both contained whiskey, neat. He handed me one. That’s what a Beta is for. I thought.

“To the Yule Ball,” I said.

“To the Ball.”

We downed the drinks, and Josh turned to head back out, but I grabbed his shoulder. “Josh,” I started, letting my nerves show to my Beta for the first time. “Why is he coming? Why now?”

For a second I saw something flash behind his eyes, like he knew something I didn’t. But then he blinked and looked at me with the same smirk he always wore. “Aiden, chill. Even the Alpha of the Millennium loves a good open bar.”

He clapped me on the shoulder and walked through the door, stopping a few steps down the hallway to wait for me. “You coming or what?”

Maybe he was right. Maybe I was overthinking it

I put the empty glass down on the desk, closed the

door of the back room behind me, then started for the ballroom beside my Beta.

Sienna

Her finger was still under my chin. It felt like it had been there for hours, like maybe it had been there my whole life. There was something about her touch, the way it permeated through my skin and reached all the way through. To my mind.

“Calm now. Don’t worry.”

“I’m not worried,” I said, trying to keep my voice level. “But how do you know me?”

“We have not met,” she said, her eyes traveling over my figure and making me self-conscious for a reason I couldn’t explain. “But I’ve come to warn you. A threat is fast approaching.”

“A threat? What are you talking about?”

“Beware. He will not rest until you are his.”

“Who?” I whispered, suddenly feeling uneasy. I felt the color drain from my face as my eyes zeroed in on hers, trying to find an answer inside them. But I couldn’t. Her eyes were so purple, so endless, that it’d take a key I didn’t have to unlock them.

“You should know you have power. Power that most like you do not have.”

“Why... why are you here?”

“I am here,” she began, each word holding its own strength, “for the Alpha.” A chill ran through my body, from my toes to my scalp.

Aiden.

“But not *your* Alpha,” she stated plainly.

“Why I don’t understand,” I said, confused. But the woman just looked away, her eyes focusing on something in the distance.

I turned my head to see what she was looking at, but there was nothing there. Just an empty sidewalk

What’s your name?” I asked, turning back to her, needing more answers. However, she was no longer there. It was just me in the alley, alone.

As I began to leave. I stopped when I heard one final whisper of a name echo in the crisp night

air...

“Eve.”

Aiden

I was greeting the townspeople who had lined up to meet me at the top of the ballroom in front of the head table when I heard my name spoken from the other direction.

I turned and saw a confident, athletic-looking guy with jet-black hair and a natural charisma. Without trying, he had commanded the attention of everyone around us. Something I was used to doing, not seeing

“Alpha of the Millennium,” I said, extending my hand to him

“East Coast Alpha,” he responded, and we shook. Somewhere in the distance a camera flashed.

“Welcome,” I said. “We’re happy to have you at this year’s Yule Ball.”

He smiled, exposing teeth that couldn’t possibly be as white as they were naturally.

“It’s an honor to see the beauty of your pack,” he replied.

“Let’s get you a drink.” I smiled at the line of waiting townspeople-no further explanation was necessary, given he was the Alpha of the Millennium-and then guided him toward the bar.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Josh talking to his new mate Michelle, and he must’ve felt my gaze on him because he locked eyes with me instantaneously. And then he looked away. *Odd.*

I turned my attention back to the man next to me “So tell me, what brings you out here?”

“Aside from the party?”

“Aside from the party.”

He sighed. Looked around the room. And then his eyes landed back on me.

I’ll be straight with you, Alpha. I came to check up on the leadership of the pack.”

“And what does that mean, exactly?” I asked before I could bite my tongue. But the Alpha of the Millennium just smiled, patting me on the shoulder and getting the bartender’s attention,

“Drinks first, business later,” he said. And like everyone else, I had no choice but to abide by his orders.

Sienna

I was walking back into the ballroom, my head still reeling from the conversation I’d just had with the purple-eyed woman. How did she know who I was? What did she want with Aiden? And how had she just... disappeared?

I needed to find Aiden, to tell him what she’d said. That she was here for him.

I knew in my bones that she was the threat the Pack had sensed, the one they were freaking out over. What if she was here to cause him harm?

I looked around urgently, trying to place him in the swarms of well-dressed townspeople. He’d be wearing a tux, but that didn’t really narrow it down for me. So were ninety percent of the men

here.

I was on my tiptoes, trying to see farther down the room, when I noticed Josh and Michelle talking by the DJ. I rushed over to them, as fast as my stiletto-clad feet could take me.

“Hey!” I exclaimed as soon as I was within earshot.

**Sienna!” Michelle greeted. “Where’s Aiden?”

“I don’t know, but I need to find him. Josh, have you seen him?”

Josh finished his drink with a gulp. “He was with the Alpha of the Millennium last I saw him.”

“Where?” I asked, impatient.

“By the bar.” I’d turned on my heel, about to march over, when Josh grabbed my arm. “You can’t interrupt them. That’s the Alpha of the Millennium we’re talking about.”

“I know, but Aiden’s in trouble, Josh. I have to warn him.”

–What?”

“The woman I saw outside said,”

Josh held a finger up, motioning for me to hold on. Then he turned to Michelle. “We’ll be right back, babe, okay?”

“Okay,” she squealed, the gin and tonic in her glass clearly making her happy. I knew gin and tonics were her favorite. But then Josh was pulling me to the front of the ballroom, by the coat check.

Away from prying ears.

“What were you saying?”

“I saw this woman. Outside, with purple eyes. She looked... haunting. Somehow. And she said she was here for Aiden.”

“You’re sure?”

I nodded frantically. “I got this... *sense* from her Josh. I have to warn him.”

“I’ll do it. I’ll pull him aside right now.”

“Why can’t I?”

“I’m his Beta, Sienna. It’s a politics thing.” A *politics thing*. That was such bullshit. But this was too urgent to fight over, so I let it go.

“Fine.” I said, “But quickly.” He was about to go when he turned to look back at me. He opened his mouth, like he was about to say something, but then closed it after a second and shook his head.

“What?” I asked.

“What do you want with him?”

“With who? Aiden?”

Josh nodded.

“What do you mean, what do I want with him?”

“Look, you’re young. You haven’t experienced a lot

“I’m the same age as Michelle, if you’re

11:07 AM 1.0KB/S

forgetting.”

“But I know she’s a lot more experienced than you.” he said with some sort of pompous look. I wanted to slap him. “I just don’t want to see you get hurt.”

“Why would Aiden hurt me?” I asked, ignoring the fake-older-brother routine Josh was laying on thick. He looked away to the crowded dance floor and then back at me.

“He’s been under some scrutiny. From the Pack.”

“Okay...”

You know, the longer an Alpha goes without a mate, the more strength he loses. Some think he’s not strong enough to lead since he’s without a mate.”

“Josh, you aren’t making any sense.”

“You came along at a real convenient time, Sienna. That’s all I’m saying.”

My stomach dropped. “But Aiden and I aren’t even mated.”

“So then it’s just casual fun? He hasn’t talked to you about any kind of future?”

11:07 AM

1.1KB/S

I looked at the ground, feeling like I was about “LIMITER to vomit. I’d let him in. I’d told him things I’d never told anyone before. I’d slept beside him and cooked for him and... and what if he was just Lising me?

What if it was all a show put on for his Pack?

Aiden

I was drinking with the Alpha of the Millennium

—and the man could drink, let me tell you when I saw her.

Sienna

From across the ballroom, she was goddamn radiating. My pulse immediately quickened, and I felt a pull so magnetic I thought I’d be carried across the room without moving a muscle.

I could see the way her body curved from here, the way her hair fell in luscious locks. I wanted to run my hands through her hair, down her body, everywhere. She was consuming me. But then I saw she was talking to Josh, and they were both deep in the conversation.

I was wondering what it could be about when I saw her glance at me. Even yards away, the power of sharing a look with her was unbelievable.

I saw her.

Sienna.

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I was wondering what it could be about when I saw her glance at me. Even yards away, the power of sharing a look with her was unbelievable.

But it was like she didn’t feel it or didn’t care. Because, without another word to Josh, she bolted away from him, running right out the ballroom doors.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 14

SIENNA

I took off toward the main doors, running as fast as my high heels could coordinate. I sprinted through the doors, out into the lawn, past the pack house parking lot, and made it out onto the road.

I couldn't believe it. I had been a prop this whole time. There I was, trying to warn him about some imminent danger, and he'd been using me like a goddamn rag doll.

That was why he had me move in with him, why he'd told me to go to the fair. It was all one giant photo op.

And I was the dumb teenage girl who'd fallen for

The fresh air was hitting my face, but it wasn't helping all that much. My hurt-my anger—was still blossoming

I looked around, seeing the edge of the forest a few yards to my right. I ran toward it, and then I paused to carefully unzip Selene's dress. If anything happened to it, I wouldn't forgive myself.

But I needed to be free of fabric, free of anything remotely human.

My emotions wouldn't be stuffed down, not anymore. I needed to let them out.

I slipped the gown off and hung it on the first clean branch I could find at eye level so its train wasn't hitting the muddy floor,

Then I kicked the shoes off and let the rage consume me.

I felt my body shift as I ran. I whirred by trees and logs, leaves and mud, my limbs stretching and my muscles tensing until I was no longer sprinting on two feet but on all four.

I felt my tail waving behind me and noticed the wind smacking through the thick red hair that now covered every inch of me.

Gone was the damsel in the ballgown. No, I was nobody's fucking damsel in distress.

I was a wolf.

A dominant one.

And the forest was about to see just how goddamn mad I was.

AIDEN

I was still at the bar. With the Alpha of the Millennium. I'd watched Sienna leave seven minutes ago and knew something was wrong. But he kept talking, kept ordering us another round of

drinks.

I couldn't leave him. I knew that much... but I had to.

"Would you excuse me for a couple minutes? My Beta... just down there, let me introduce you two. He makes a great drinking partner," I said, motioning to the wall where Josh was mingling

"No need," the Alpha of the Millennium said, stopping me from taking any more steps to Josh. "I'll come with you."

"I was going to head outside, get some fresh air."

"I could use some too." *Huh.* He was not budging from my side.

"Great," I said and then led him through the ballroom and out the doors. I looked around when we got outside but didn't see a soul. I tried to close my eyes, to sense her- but I couldn't.

Think

She'd looked upset. She wouldn't have left the ball, not if there wasn't a real reason. If she were really upset. mad, she'd shift. In the forest.

"Who sent you?"

"No one sent me. But I'd been hearing things. About the possibility of your power dwindling." I let out a growl before I could stop myself,

Someone in my pack was going behind my back, questioning my strength, to the *goddamn Alpha of the Millennium?!*

"From whom?" I seethed.

"That's not important. What's important is I'm here. To sense you, to see if the potential problem is actually a potential problem." He paused. looking out into the trees before turning back to me. "Are you looking?"

"Looking?"

"For your mate."

So that was what this was about. My strength dwindling, the rumors that I wasn't as dominant as I used to be because I hadn't found someone.

But I had

"No need. I've already found her,"

"You have?" the Alpha of the Millennium asked, skeptically. "I don't feel that from you."

Now I looked at the ground. "She doesn't know it yet. We are a pair, for the Season. But I'm taking it slow. For her sake."

I could've sworn his expression softened, just for a second. "That's why you haven't consummated. I can sense it. Your frustration, your hostility. That's what's interfering with your dominance."

"Tonight was gonna be the night." I said without thinking. "But she... she ran from the Ball. Something must have happened..." And just then, in that moment, I scented her. As clear as crystal, I was certain the aroma was hers. And she was near

She's here. She took off for the forest. I just... I have to find her. I have to tell her."

He gave me a nod, nothing more, nothing less,

"Thank you. Alpha of the Millennium."

"Aiden. It's Raphael. I'll see you inside." And then he turned and started walking back the way we had come. Without wasting another second, I removed every article of my tux and shifted, taking a deeper whiff.

I let out a howl, letting her know I was near. But she didn't respond. So I started to run

After a few yards I started to see the red of her fur in front of me. She was about half a mile ahead, so I upped my pace. I howled again to let her know I was there, but it only seemed to make her run faster.

Within seconds I was on her tail, but still she wasn't stopping. No matter how much I howled, she didn't slow down or stop. I had no other choice, so I lunged forward and tackled her.

We tumbled for a while, her limbs trying to fight me off, but when we came to a stop. I had her pinned beneath me.

I growled. *Shifi*. She shook her head. No.

I growled louder. *SHIFT!* But she just shook her head harder.

I tightened my grasp on her hands and snarled directly into her face. Her big blue eyes rolled in a complete circle

And then she started to shift. I watched as the fur disappeared, her limbs condensed, and her muscles spasmed their way into human form.

She was under me, naked, her back on the muddy floor of the forest. I shifted too, holding her as a human.

That was when I saw the tears.

“You lied to me. You were using me to... to convince the Alpha of the Millennium you’re strong

“What? What are you talking about?”

“Josh told me... he said you knew you weren’t my mate.”

** Josh said *what?*”

“He said you’re not my mate. That you’re just pretending.” I grabbed her face in my hands, forcing her to look directly at me.

“I lied to you. I admit it. I did. This whole time.” More tears pooled in her eyes, and her face got all red.

I continued, my voice cracking a bit. “Because I knew you were my mate the second I laid eyes on you, Sienna Mercer. I knew it when you were drawing by the river. And I’ve known it every second we’ve been together since.”

The red in her cheeks slowly faded to pink, and I could see the realization pass through her eyes. “If you’re lying to me, Aiden, I swear to God, I will kill you.”

I laughed. I couldn’t help it. “I know. And that’s why I love you.”

SIENNA

“I love you too.” I responded, and it felt right. Like it was a familiar notion, something that felt at home on my tongue.

And in that moment, I knew this man wasn’t just my partner for the season or a sexually frustrated alpha

No, Aiden Norwood was my mate.

I could feel the truth of those words with all my heart. It made me positively burst with joy and...need for him.

He leaned down to kiss me, and I could taste the saltiness of my old tears on him. But then something changed. We weren't kissing in a happy, sweet way. We were kissing in an *I need you now* way. It was urgent and dangerous and... *hor.*

Although a canopy of leaves covered us, I felt a surge of excitement from how completely exposed we were.

I pushed any reservations deep into the recesses of

I pushed any reservations deep into the recesses. my mind.

Normally, I'd have felt unsure about making such a rash decision. I would've wanted everything to be *perfect* for my first time.

But right then, all I could think about was how I wanted Aiden to absolutely *ravage* my body.

He wanted me. And I wanted him. Every damned inch of my skin shivered at his touch.

I could feel him getting harder and harder as I writhed on top of him, our naked bodies moving right on top of the dirt and roots of the forest floor.

It was so natural, so raw. Especially now that I knew we were mates. My body, my mind, my heart, every part of me hungered for him.

His hands started moving all over me, rubbing me, squeezing me, and then I felt them on my butt, controlling the rhythm of how I moved on him. The other times we'd gone further than just dry humping, it had been slower, more intentional,

But now I needed a release. I didn't have time to wait.

Oh my God

Am I really about to do this?

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Oh my God...

Am I really about to do this?

As Aiden's golden-green eyes burrowed into my very soul, he asked me the same question I was asking myself.

Sienna... Are you ready?"

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 15

SIENNA

The answer to Aiden's question was on the tip of my tongue

My head was swimming with lust, desire, passion It was an intoxicating combination, and I was caught in the maelstrom.

I knew in my heart what I wanted, or rather *needed*.

But no words were coming out of my mouth.

So instead I grabbed Aiden's silky black hair and pulled it hard as I brought his head down to mine.

I kissed him, not just with passion, but with an insatiable desire.

I wanted us to join together as one—to give every part of ourselves to each other.

Aiden lifted my legs, and I felt his cock rub up against my sex. The way it teased me was almost unbearable.

As my sex began to part, I moaned in ecstasy

"Aiden, wait..." I murmured, digging my claws into his back.

"Do you want me to stop?" he asked, stroking my hair and giving me an affectionate look.

"I... Yes... I mean, I don't know." I stammered, feeling conflicted.

Of course I didn't want him to stop, but at the same time...

"Here, now... It just doesn't feel..."

As I searched for the right words, Aiden found them for me.

“Perfect,” he said quietly. “You’re right. It’s your first time. I want it to be just as special as you are.”

Aiden’s body pulled away, and it made my heart ache even though I knew it was for the best.

“Do you hate me for wanting to wait?” I asked.

“Of course not,” he replied, “You’ve already made me wait this long. What kind of alpha would I be if I couldn’t wait just a bit longer. Besides, you’re worth the wait.”

I kissed his lips tenderly, tasting his sweet saliva as our tongues rolled into one.

I pulled away and smiled. “After our mating ceremony. I promise... I’m all yours.”

“And I can promise you it will be a night you’ll remember forever,” he said in a soft growl.

Aiden held me in his arms as we lay on the mossy floor of the forest. I closed my eyes and listened to the sound of his steady breathing.

I thought of what the future held for Aiden and me, and for once I wasn’t scared.

In fact, I’d never felt more safe and secure in my entire life.

With that comforting thought. I drifted off to

sleep

TWO WEEKS LATER

“Holy shit,” Aiden said, his sparkling eyes looking right into mine. He was across the room and literally just stopped in his tracks.

**Holy shit.” I repeated. He was looking sharper than a goddamn steak knife. Wearing a navy blue tuxedo and freshly shaven for the first time I’d ever seen. His cheekbones were as strong as his jaw, and both were mine. All mine, for eternity,

It was the day of our mating ceremony. Unlike humans, we weres didn’t have the same rituals typical in weddings. There was no rule against mates seeing each other before walking down the

aisle, which was why Aiden was in my dressing room.

It was why he was coming toward me at this very moment, a hunger deep in his eyes. I met him halfway in the middle of the room, and we embraced with such intensity I thought he was going to bite my lips off.

Not if I bite his off first, I thought.

—

You look spectacular,” he breathed into my ear. I believed him, too. I was wearing another Selene original, a specially designed mating ceremony gown she’d worked overtime on to have ready for my special day.

It had a strapless corset bodice and a flowing gown that moved whenever I did. The long train in the back made me feel like a goddess.

It was even better than the dress I’d worn to the Yule Ball, and I’d thought beating that one would be impossible.

“You’re not too shabby yourself,” I said, pulling away. “But you gotta go now! It’s almost time to walk.”

“Yes ma’am” he said and headed for the door

“Yes, ma’am,” he said and headed for the door. But not before taking one last look at me and letting out a soft whistle. I couldn’t help but smile, even if my eyes rolled a little, too.

He left, and I took a deep breath, preparing myself for what I was about to see. A ballroom full of our friends and family and the lucky pack members who had gotten invited to the alpha’s mating ceremony

It would be a lot of eyes, all on us.

I took another breath and then watched as my feet, wearing eggshell-colored stilettos, took one careful step at a time outside the dressing room.

Wow.” I heard from in front of me. I looked up and saw my dad, holding his hand over his mouth. “You look beautiful, honey,” he said.

Seeing my dad get so emotional was making me emotional too.

Even though he wasn’t my birth father, or even a werewolf, he was the most important man in my life, alongside Aiden.

I still hadn't told my parents what the lady with the purple eyes had said. I wasn't sure how they'd take it, or if they already knew.

But then again, I knew how they'd found me. Abandoned, in an alley. How could they possibly know I'd come from alphas?

Regardless, my mating ceremony was definitely not the right time to bring it up. Or even to think about it. So I ran over to my dad and hugged him as hard as I could

I was feeling

the emotions starting to take over, but I willed my eyes to hold the tears in. If I ruined the makeup Michelle had spent an hour doing, she'd kill me.

My dad grabbed my hand and looked into my

eyes. "Are you ready?"

I couldn't help but let a massive smile stretch across my face as I nodded. **Are you?

"Of course, honey." And then he opened the doors to the ballroom, the same doors I'd see printed out of just three weeks ago.

My breath hitched. The ballroom was done up perfectly. There was a long white carpet, which I'd be walking down, and a raised platform where the head table usually was.

The trees that lined the room were covered in white lights and white ribbons, and every table had a small floral centerpiece.

We'd wanted to bring the forest inside, to make this our own woodsy wonderland.

Dad looped his elbow through

mine, and, as the music started, we began to walk. I smiled at all the familiar faces in the pews that had been arranged

I passed by Mia and Harry, who had just had their mating ceremony last week, and Eric and Rhys, sitting right next to them.

As we neared the

front, I saw Mom and Selene and Jeremy, and next to them were Michelle and Josh.

The remaining pews up front were filled by other elite pack members, and the rest of the pews spanning the entire room were filled by what looked like half the city. Apparently the alpha's wedding was a hot ticket.

I reached the platform, and Dad kissed my cheek and shook Aiden's hand. And then Aiden helped me up onto the platform.

"I want to devour you," he said into my ear so only I could hear. A blush immediately crept up my cheeks.

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the mating of the East Coast Pack alpha, Aiden Norwood, and Sienna Mercer," the Alpha of the Millennium began.

Oh yeah, did I mention the *Alpha of the Millennium* was officiating our mating ceremony?

I was attacked with roses, yes, roses. Flying through the air, hitting me and Aiden right in the face. This was typical for mating ceremonies, especially ones that had so many attendants: the ritual of pelting roses at the couple before their first kiss as mates.

"Okay, okay," the Alpha of the Millennium bellowed, laughing and holding his hands up. "It's time." The room fell silent, and the roses stopped soaring through the air. "Mate Aiden Norwood, Alpha, you may kiss your Sienna."

And then his big hands came around my neck and his chin tilted down. His soft lips were on mine in an instant, and I thought the butterflies inside me were going to explode.

Everyone in the pews, everyone who I loved, who I cared about, they all fell away into the background. They didn't matter. Not right now.

When we stopped kissing. Aiden grabbed my hand and pulled me back down the white carpet. We heard what felt like an endless stream of applause and cheers from either side, and it didn't subside until we were at the dance floor.

The DJ switched from the instrumentals he was playing to the song Aiden and I had chosen for our first dance. It started, and Aiden twirled me around. He might be good at a lot of things, but dancing was not one of them.

I was laughing so hard I thought I was about to pass out. And then the song ended, and I saw Michelle and Josh appear from behind Aiden.

"Hey!" I exclaimed. Aiden let me go, and Michelle kissed both of my cheeks.

"I *cannot*, Si. That was a fairytale. Congratulations!" she squealed.

"Thank you!" I squealed back. I didn't care that we sounded obnoxious. It was my mating ceremony day, and I could squeal if I wanted to.

I was about to ask Aiden and Josh if they minded if Michelle and I danced to the new song, just us girls, but I saw they'd already taken off to the bar. *Classic*

AIDEN

Josh asked

if I wanted to get a drink, and I wasn't going to turn down a whisky toast on my mating ceremony day. Even if it was with my supposed Beta, who had gone behind my back at every turn,

I hadn't confronted him. Still. Even after

what Sienna had told me in the forest and the sense I had that he was the one who'd brought my "dwindling strength" to the Alpha of the Millennium's attention.

I was certain it was him. I didn't know what he was after. Was it that he wanted to be alpha? Would jealousy lead him so far astray that he was betraying his own?

"To you and Sienna," he said, his shot in the air.

"Thanks, Josh." I said, forcing a smile and raising my shot too.

"Come on, cheer up! You're mated!" he exclaimed

"I'm cheery as can be." I swallowed the shot, feeling it burn. It was weird being around him like this, knowing what I knew. I should've dealt with it earlier. I knew I should have. But I just... couldn't

I had been on cloud nine with Sienna ever since the Yule Ball. And I didn't want anything to distract from that, not work life, not personal life. I just wanted to ride the wave of happiness that we were on

"Come on, another!" Josh yelled at me. unnecessarily boisterous. He held two more whisky shots and jugged one out in my direction.

"Do you really need another?" I asked, looking pointedly at the flask in his waistband. His eyes narrowed.

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"Act your age, Josh." I said, turning to head back to Sienna. But he put the shots down and grabbed my arm, pulling me back.

"This 'cause you've had your ceremony and I haven't? I'm just as much a grownup as you."

"You're drunk, and the party just started."

“I’m celebrating.”

“Celebrating what? Going behind your alpha’s back? Betraying your friend?” I couldn’t help it. The words just slipped out.

His face paled immediately. “What... what are you talking about?”

“I know what you told Sienna. That I was just using her.”

“I really didn’t say any of that... shit... to hurt you. I know it was shady. I can see how inappropriate it was. You’re my goddamn alpha.” he said, and I could see his eyes tinting red.

– Then why d you do it. Josh?”

He was looking at his shoes. After a moment. his eyes lifted up to mine. “I don’t know. I want you to succeed. I want the pack to succeed. But something inside me... it just... it wanted to take the glory of having something you didn’t have. For the first time in my life, the first time since I’ve known you. Aiden. I had something you

didn’t

“A mate.” I said, suddenly understanding. Josh had always felt like he was in my shadow, and maybe I’d been a little too comfortable keeping him there, even if I was his alpha.

“I just wanted to know what it’d feel like. To be the respected one, the one everyone turns to for answers,” he said.

I exhaled. There it was my Beta’s admission of guilt.

But then he continued. “Understand that, even when I was meddling, I knew it was wrong. I didn’t feel good. It didn’t make me feel better, not at all. And I understand this isn’t the place to talk business, that you’re gonna have to decide what to do with me based on what’s best for the pack. I’m just truly sorry. I owed you more than that. You deserve better.”

After a moment, he nodded and then swiveled and walked back down the hall.

I let him walk for a few steps before I called to him: “Josh.”

He turned back and walked the steps toward me. “You know you fucked up.” I said, a low growl escaping my lips.

“Yes, Alpha.”

“You swear on your life, on the pack’s life, you’ll never betray me or the pack again.

Yes, Alpha,” he said, and I could see the earnestness in his eyes.

I extended my hand, and he took it, but I pulled him in for a hug instead. It took a real alpha to show forgiveness.

I couldn’t stay mad at Josh—he’d been like a brother to me since Aaron died.

“Love you, man. Even though you’re a pain in my ass sometimes,” I said.

“Love you too, bro. And that’s not just the whiskey talking,” he replied.

As we pulled apart, Josh punched me in the shoulder, trying to lighten the mood. “Hey, save

shoulder, trying to lighten the mood. “Hey, say some of that sentiment for Sienna. It’s your damn mating ceremony night.”

I watched as Sienna danced with Michelle, smiling and twirling, happier than I’d ever seen her.

She was fucking radiant. The most gorgeous creature I’d ever laid eyes on.

And she was finally mine.

SIENNA

I couldn’t stop laughing as Michelle dipped me low on the dance floor, then spun me around and pulled me in so that we were chest to chest.

“Why am I the one who’s leading?” she asked, arching her eyebrow. “Aren’t you supposed to be a *dominant*?”

“Sometimes it’s nice to let someone else take control,” I responded.

As Michelle released me, I stumbled backward, feeling dizzy, but I was immediately stabilized by a pair of powerful arms.

Aiden’s scent of woody musk and citrus wafted into my nose as he pressed into me from behind.

“I’ll catch up with you later.” Michelle said, giving me a wink. “I should make sure Josh isn’t getting too drunk.”

Now that he had me all to himself. Aiden

tightened his grip, and I could feel his bulge throbbing through his pants.

“Let’s get out of here,” he said in a low growl.

What did you have in mind?” I asked breathlessly as I felt my sex tingling.

His scent was becoming so intoxicating that I felt light-headed.

Aiden’s rough hands dug into my hips. He leaned in close, so that his lips were hovering just next to my ear.

“Do you remember the promise you made about our mating ceremony night?” He whispered, but didn’t lose his domineering tone.

“Yes,” I replied, swallowing hard.

My heart was beating out of my chest, and a sensation stronger than the Haze was overtaking my body. My sex was wet with anticipation

“Good,” he growled, almost hungrily. “Because

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My heart was beating out of my chest, and a sensation stronger than the Haze was overtaking my body. My sex was wet with anticipation.

“Good,” he growled, almost hungrily. Because you’ll be howling to the heavens for mercy by the time I’m done with you.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Two Chapter: 16

SIENNA

Aiden carried me bridal-style in his arms as he walked down the cobblestone path leading to our house. My heart hadn't stopped racing since we'd left the reception, and I didn't know if it ever would.

My insecurities were like swelling waves, lapping against the edges of my mind.

What if I'm not good in bed?

What if I don't live up to his fantasies?

What if I can't satisfy an alpha?

Aiden stopped at the front door, as if he sensed my fears. And maybe he did. Mates were connected in a way that was so intense it was almost indescribable.

"What's wrong?" he asked in a gentle tone that was unusual for him.

"I... I just don't want to let you down." I murmured. In that moment, I'd never felt like less of a dominant in my life.

To my surprise, Aiden laughed. "Oh, Sienna...you have no idea...."

"No idea about what?" I asked, a bit annoyed by his laughter.

**No idea how much power you have over me."

My face burned hot and a gasp escaped my lips.

He continued, holding my gaze. "Yes, I marked you. And yes, I made you mine, but...."

Aiden took a deep breath as he pressed his forehead to mine.

"You made me yours too. Make no mistake I'm not just your alpha, I'm your mate. And there's nothing that will ever change that. Your love has made me stronger than any alpha blood ever could."

The heat in my cheeks spread through the rest of my body like a wildfire, and just like that, my dominance returned.

I loved Aiden more than words could express. So I wouldn't use my words.

I grabbed the hair at the back of his head and feverishly pressed my lips to his.

I wanted my fire to spread. I wanted it to consume everything until the whole world turned to ash and

we were the only ones left standing

Aiden's tuxedo jacket was bursting at the seams as his muscles swelled underneath. He was practically shifting when he took a step toward the door and lifted his leg.

CRACK

Aiden kicked the door clean off its hinges, sending wood splintering across the marble floor.

He stepped over the debris, bringing me inside.

Well, that's certainly one way to carry your mate over the threshold...

When he entered our bedroom, Aiden set me down, then pushed my back up against the wall. Our feverish kissing resumed as I started ripping off his tux, piece by piece.

Once his torso was bare. I ran my fingers down the deep ridges of his abs, to his belt buckle.

Aiden's own fingers were busy racing to unlace my corset. He was getting frustrated, and I couldn't help but enjoy it.

Finally, it was unlaced, and my gown fell to the ground. I whipped his belt out through the loops in one swift motion, and seconds later his pants fell and landed on the floor. Aiden's pants were no different than a nod throat thimble.

followed as Aiden tore them off and threw them across the room.

We spent a moment taking each other in, officially mates. But a moment was all we were willing to

spare. We'd both waited long enough.

Aiden picked me up like I was lighter than a feather, and I wrapped my legs around his waist.

We crashed onto the bed in a free-for-all. There were hands and mouths everywhere, both of us

trying to grab and bite whatever we could

Aiden's claws were lightly digging into my bare flesh, and I wanted them to dig even deeper. I held his neck tightly, kissing it, before my kisses moved to his chest

I let my teeth scrape down his stomach, and when I got to his rigid cock, I took it right into my mouth without hesitation.

I started moving slow, driving him crazy, and then upped my rhythm until he was crying out. It was so big that I could barely contain it, but I forced it deeper into my throat.

When I came up for air, my saliva hung from his thick appendage like a silvery, translucent spider web. Aiden wiped my mouth off with his thumb, then gripped my neck, pushing me back down.

I could tell from his satisfied grunts that he was

I could tell from his satisfied grunts that he was feeling pure bliss. But that wasn't enough. I wanted to take him to fucking Nirvana,

I savored his salty and sweet taste as my tongue worked the tip. Then I took the whole thing in my mouth again until I reached the base.

My lips tightened around his cock as I slid them slowly up his length.

But when I came up for air the second time, Aiden flipped me over so that I was on my back. He pried my legs apart so fast that it caused me to inhale sharply.

Aiden used his fingers to spread open my sex, then he inserted his tongue, skillfully flicking it around and licking my most sensitive areas.

I moaned as my body convulsed with rhapsody. It was like he was using his tongue to compose a symphony in my pussy. And my involuntary cries of pleasure were the choruses.

His tongue continued to work as his fingers slid inside of me, testing my flexibility, preparing me for his massive manhood.

As his fingers explored me, I felt a twinge of pain mixed with the pleasure. I could only imagine what was in store for me in just a moment.

A thrill ran up my spine at the thought of Aiden finally penetrating me. I was scared and excited at the same time.

As Aiden's cock rubbed the outside of my sex forcefully, his soft kisses a stunning contrast to the roughness.

"Are you... ready?" Aiden asked, brushing my hair out of my eyes and staring into them deeply.

It was the same question that he'd asked me before. But this time, I knew my answer without a shadow of a doubt.

"Yes," I whispered as my arms cradled his neck.

My breath hitched as Aiden finally slid inside me.

At

first, the tension was almost too much to bear. Like I was being pulled apart, but slowly, that pain turned into pleasure. The more I relaxed, the more we became a perfect fit for one another.

"Is it okay?" Aiden asked, not moving a muscle.

I nodded, smiling at how sensitive he was to my needs.

But the longer he stayed inside me, the more I was sure...

My pussy wasn't made of porcelain.

"You said you were going to make me how to the heavens," I growled sensually. "So, come on, Alpha. Show me what you're made of."

Aiden's lips curled into a wicked grin that almost made me regret my words.

Almost

He pulled out, then thrust back in. Hard.

I yelped as I felt him even deeper inside me. My increasingly wet sex accepted him with fervor as he started moving faster and faster.

But it still wasn't enough. So I grabbed him by the shoulders and seamlessly rolled on top of him.

Now I was riding him, controlling the pace. I lifted my hair off the back of my neck and gyrated as fast as I could, making sure he could hear how much I was enjoying myself,

It felt like the friction between us was enough to set us ablaze.

Then it wasn't just a building—that fire inside it was coming. Like a raging inferno.

"Fuck, Sienna," Aiden moaned, and I was right there with him

"Oh my... GOD!" I screamed, a sensation enveloping my entire body like an explosion

The lights before my eyes were flashing like fireworks, and I felt as though I might black out.

Aiden grabbed my hips and pulled out, his seed shooting into the air like a geyser.

I collapsed next to him, panting and trying to process the euphoria that I'd just experienced.

He grabbed my hand in his and brought it to his mouth, kissing it tenderly. "You're unbelievable," he said.

We turned on our sides and stared into each other's eyes. Everything felt exactly right.

"I love you." I said breathlessly

"I love you more than anything," he replied, equally out of breath. "I didn't even have to take you to heaven... You *are* heaven."

As his golden-green eyes flickered in the dim lamplight, full of adoration, I wondered at how I'd gotten here. Mated to the alpha.

11:12 AM 0.1 KB/S

I just saw myself as a regular girl, but Aiden...

He saw me as a goddess.

And I couldn't wait to start the rest of my life with him.

When I awoke the next morning. I was still feel the high of the previous night with Aiden.

My body ached, but in a good way. *Will I ever be able to walk right again?*

I turned over to see how Aiden was faring, and was surprised by the empty indentation next to me,

Where could he have gone?

My phone started buzzing on the nightstand and I reached over to grab it. My heart leapt into my throat when I saw a message from Aiden.

Aiden I have a surprise for you.

Aiden Meet me at 121 Furtaugh Ave.

Sienna A surprise??

Aiden How fast can you get here?

Sienna

Omwl!

AIDEN

I stood outside, anxiously awaiting Sienna. I couldn't wait to see the look on her face when she saw the surprise. Her car pulled up in front, and I walked around to open the door for her.

"Hi," she said, her eyes bright as she jumped up to kiss me.

"Hi, my love," I said, grabbing her hand and guiding her to the storefront. It was an empty venue. The record shop that used to inhabit it had just closed.

A friend of mine in real estate had told me about it. He knew I'd been looking for a space.

I pulled the door open for her and watched as her eyes went wide, looking at the wood floors and the blank walls. "What is it?"

"It used to be a record store." I said, "The owner retired and put the space up for sale."

"So, what? We're gonna have a picnic here?"

I wrapped my arms around her and pulled her close to me, bending over to kiss her cheek. "We can have a picnic here if you want."

She turned around so we were face to face.

"Aiden Norwood, what are we doing here?"

I looked deep into her eyes, trying to hide the smile tugging at my lips. "Sienna Mercer-Norwood, I thought you'd wanna see your new gallery."

Her mouth formed an "o," but no words came out. Then her head snapped around, taking in the space like she was seeing it for the first time. She turned back to me, her eyes still wide.

"Happy one week anniversary. Sienna."

She squealed—I didn't even know her voice could reach that octave—and then she ran around the entire circumference of the shop, looking at each wall for a moment before moving to the next.

Something inside me welled up, something made of joy and love, of passion and of familiarity, like first time.

Then she came back to me. I can't believe you did this... for me," she said.

"I'd do anything for you."

She looked at the ground then back at me "There's something I want to tell you. I found out something. About my... my birth parents."

I'd known Sienna had been adopted by her parents, but we'd never talked much about it before. I could see how important this was to her, how much it made her whole body tense up, like she was trying to keep the information inside.

"They were alphas."

My mind went blank. I blinked. "Where? Where? When?"

"They're gone now but... in the Texas Pack. They were alphas, Aiden."

"They were alphas," I whispered back, and everything started to make sense. Her power, the way we could communicate, the way she felt like the most perfect fit. I grabbed her and kissed her because this day... it couldn't get any better.

SIENNA

I'd gotten so excited by the new gallery, Aiden had insisted on giving me some time to get acquainted with it by myself.

He probably just wants to get away from all my squealing.

I'd already made a stop at my parents place to pick up some of my sketchbooks and paintings from the garage. It had served as my makeshift studio for a while, but now..

"I have my own fucking *gallery*." I said aloud to no one. I still couldn't believe it was real.

I picked up one of my old sketchbooks and started flipping through the pages to see if there was anything that had potential,

I smiled when I saw an unfinished sketch of a handsome and muscular man, looking like he had the weight of the world on his broad shoulders.

It was from the first time I'd met Aiden.

I thought back to that day at the river. The day that had changed everything. Now everything was so different, but it all felt like it had happened the way it was supposed to.

As I flipped to the next page, my heart stopped.

It was the *other* sketch that I'd drawn that day. The haunting, sexual vision that had hung over me like a dark cloud.

But when I looked at it now, it didn't fill me with dread. Instead, I felt a sense of peace.

I thought of Emily and felt tears brimming in my eyes. I had finally found a way to move on from the past. I knew Emily would've been proud of me.

I hoped that, just maybe, she was up there watching over me. Maybe my peace could be hers as well.

I wiped away the tears and picked up a pencil, then flipped to a blank page.

A new beginning

As I sat in my gallery, watching my pencil scribble over the page in abstract movements, I had a different kind of determination. One that wasn't fueled by any traumatic past memories or regrets or anyone else's judgments.

No, now my determination was for my future.

I had a gallery to fill my own gallery, with walls so blank they screamed possibility. So I'd promised myself that I'd be here drawing every morning until there was no space left in the gallery

for new work.

I suddenly felt a gust of wind hit me, but the chill that came with it lingered long after it had gone. *Did I leave the door open?* That's when I turned to my left. And saw her.

The purple-eyed lady.

She was back.

"Hello, Sienna." She walked toward me, every one of her movements more graceful than the last.

“You never told me your name,” I responded, keeping my guard up. Something about being mated to an alpha was making me more confident in myself.

“It is Eve,” she said, her purple eyes glowing at me. You looked beautiful at your mating ceremony.”

You were there?”

She just smiled. Of course she was there. She was everywhere. But I’d asked the wrong question...

—“Why are you *here*?”

“I’m on my way out of town. But I wanted to warn you of the dangerous path ahead, seeing as how I’m the one who set you on it,” she responded cryptically.

Warn me? What path?”

“The path to finding the truth about your birth parents.”

I was stunned into silence, but Eve continued speaking. “Just be careful of who you trust. There are those who don’t have your best interests at heart.”

“Like who?” I asked, but Eve was already gliding back toward the door. “How do I find the truth?”

“Only you can answer that, Sienna. You may even find that the answer is already within you.”

With those final words, Eve disappeared, leaving me more confused than ever.

When my eyes returned to my sketchbook, that confusion turned into a feeling of foreboding. The abstract sketch I’d been working on when Eve walked in suddenly held a very clear form.

A shadowy figure with elongated fangs. parents.”

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A shadowy figure with elongated fangs.

A vampyre.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 01

SIENNA

The water beat against our naked bodies as we stood facing each other in the warm summer rain,

Our glistening figures were bathed in an amber light that turned the whole meadow bronze.

His eyes wandered over my curves in shameless

desire.

I blushed, not used to the attention.

The run had lasted hours and brought us to the top of a hill overlooking the entire island. Far in the distance, the glowing towers of the resort barely registered on the horizon.

We stopped only when we knew we were completely alone.

“Come here,” he beckoned, holding out his hand.

My heart raced as I stepped toward him, steam rising from his bulging shoulders.

I felt his rough hand against my cheek as he pulled me in for a kiss.

Soon he was on top of me, our bodies sliding against each other on the soft grass like we were trying to start a fire.

His tip brushed against the outside of my sex in a tantalizing rhythm, spreading my lips but refusing to enter

It was a torture that I couldn't take.

I pulled him into me, gasping in pleasure and a little bit of pain. He was deeper than I had ever felt before.

I moaned in delight, calling his name, begging him not to stop as the rain showered down on us.

I turned the handle to off, letting the last trails of water escape down my chest.

It was winter now, and our honeymoon had long been over, but hot showers still reminded me of that day on the island with Aiden.

The steam hugged my skin like a warm blanket as I stepped out of the shower.

It was funny to think that, one year ago. I had stood in the same bathroom, furious that I had been tricked into staying with Aiden, but now here I was mated to the alpha of the East Coast Pack

I was, mated to the alpha of the East Coast Pack and wanting to be nowhere else but here in this house with the man I loved.

"Do you need help in there?" he asked through the door in his growly baritone voice.

"No. I'm perfectly capable of drying off on my own, thank you very much." I replied, smiling myself.

Over the past twelve months, he had become more playful, letting down his guard and showing me a side that was different from the dominant alpha he had to display to the rest of the pack.

"I'm happy to help," he continued, with a charming persistence that made me giggle. It's truly no problem at all."

"Down, boy." I said, wrapping myself in a towel and laughing.

"But I've been so good," he protested,

"Good things come to those who wait." I answered, wiping the steam off the mirror and tousling my damp locks.

I opened the door and took a step forward, pressing my wet body against his broad chest, wrapping my arms around him, and gripping his muscular back.

He tilted his head as if to kiss me, and I pulled away. "I said good things come to those who wait...and you didn't wait."

I pushed him away and sauntered into my closet, making sure he had a good view of my ass. Once around the corner I tossed out my towel so he knew I was naked and pulled the sliding door closed.

I had barely put on my underwear when the door flew open and I found myself wrapped up in Aiden's arms, his lips on mine in heated passion.

I felt myself dip back, and we crashed into the pillowy mattress. Aiden's weight pressed against me with powerful longing. I could feel how hard he was, and I felt myself getting wet in anticipation.

He tore off his shirt, revealing his chiseled torso and bulging arms. His chest heaved with desire, and his golden-green eyes flickered with lust.

I leaned down and kissed my alpha. His lips were soft and warm, and every time we touched it felt like I was melting into them.

"I want to start a family with you, Sienna," he said suddenly.

"I know," I replied. "We will."

"I mean right now. I want to start trying."

Aiden's words caught me off guard. I knew we would have to talk about it eventually, but I had put it out of mind over the past six months.

There was so much to get used to being mated to the alpha of the second most powerful pack in the United States. I could no longer dress the way I used to. I couldn't go out in public with bodyguards, and I was constantly under the microscope.

No more spontaneous meetups with the girls at Winston's.

No more peaceful afternoons in the park, where I could be alone with my sketchbook and my thoughts.

I had duties now, like the one I had to perform this afternoon. It was the first day of the Fertility Festival, and pack tradition required me to shift with Aiden in front of the entire pack and let him mount me.

I thought Aiden had been joking when he first told me about it, but I guess when you're brought up as an alpha, you don't question the status quo and outdated ceremonies.

But I didn't come from pack royalty. Before I was his mate. I was an adopted nineteen-year-old with one human parent and a severe aversion to the

spotlight

The idea of being so vulnerable in such a public setting was absurd, not to mention humiliating.

I had tried confronting Aiden about it, but every time I brought it up, he would go off on some tangent about how it wasn't a big deal and how important it was for the pack.

We weren't actually having sex or anything, but I still considered him getting on top of me as a fairly intimate, and private, affair.

"Sienna?" Aiden asked, grabbing my thigh,

"Yes, sorry. I was someplace else."

"Do you want to keep going?"

"Aiden, I don't know if I'm ready yet."

"What do you mean? It's been a year. Alphas and their mates are supposed to start trying for pups at the beginning of the first Haze after they've been mated. It's tradition."

There was that word again. "*Tradition.*" God, how I was starting to hate the sound of it. And the Haze, that lustful craze that possessed every werewolf during the Mating Season, was about to make matters ten times worse.

"Can we talk about this later?" I asked, trying to salvage the romantic moment, which was quickly slipping away.

"Of course, we can talk after the ceremony." Aiden replied, gazing at me with his soft, unsuspecting eyes. The longer I looked into them, however, the more confident I became that I couldn't go through with the ritual this afternoon.

It killed me to do this to him, and I knew it was my fault for letting it go this long, but something deep inside me didn't feel right.

"That's something else I wanted to talk to you about," I said, breaking his gaze.

"What do you mean? Are you nervous?" he asked, rubbing my arm.

Damn it, why does he have to be so sweet right now?

But I couldn't back out again. There wasn't any more time to put it off. I had to tell him how I felt.

"Aiden. I don't want to do it."

A confused look came over his face, and I hoped we could sort through this without it blowing up into a fight

"Why? It's only a short display for the pack so they can give us their blessings as we try to conceive."

"If it's just for the pack's blessing, then why do we need to shift and do all the other stuff?"

"It's symbolic."

I was hoping Aiden would take a moment to listen to himself and realize how weak an argument he was making, but his genuine expression meant I would have to spell out my objection.

"Maybe for you, but I think it's degrading."

"My mother did it, and so did my father's mother. You're my mate, Sienna. No one will think less of you"

"It's not what other people think, Aiden. It's what I'm comfortable with."

"Listen," he said, getting out from under me and sitting up on the bed. "This only happens once or twice in a lifetime. We'll be shifted for less than a minute. Tradition is what keeps a pack together. Without it, we lose our identity."

There was that stupid word again. "I feel like I'm losing my identity having to follow all these stupid rules," I shot back

I put a stern look on my face, letting him know he wasn't going to sway me.

"Look, Sienna, forget the pack. Can you do this for me? And I swear that I'll never ask you to do something like this again."

Aiden was my world, and I would do anything to make him happy, but right now I hated that he wasn't listening to me. As an alpha, he wasn't used to compromise, but if our relationship was going to continue growing, he'd need to figure out how.

"Do you seriously not understand where I'm coming from?"

"It's just this once, Sienna," he replied, "After this, you get to call the shots, my love."

I could tell he wasn't going to budge.

"I need to finish getting ready." I said, hopping off the bed and heading back to the closet.

"Do you need any help?" he called out with a playful tone.

"No, I can manage on my own," I answered unenthusiastically.

"Don't take too long now." said Aiden picking up

"Don't take too long now," said Aiden, picking up his shirt and blowing me a kiss before sauntering out of the bedroom.

I put on the festival dress and looked at myself in the mirror, thinking about all the alpha mates who'd endured this before me and wondering whether or not they felt as disgusted as I did.

Its less than a minute, Sienna. It's less than a

The stage was built in a clearing in the forest. Giant trees had been hewn and their bodies bound together to create the gigantic platform that Aiden and I now stood on. Behind us was the rest of the council and a surprise VIP. Raphael Fernández, the Alpha of the Millennium.

No wonder Aiden didn't want to call off the festival

All around on the ground, looking up at us with excitement, was what seemed like the entire East Coast Pack

For a moment I thought I saw a pair of purple eyes, but it must've just been my imagination.

I hadn't seen Eve since she'd stopped by my gallery over six months ago. Nor had I gotten

any clarity on that vague warning about my birth parents that she'd left me with

If my parents really had been alphas. I wondered if they'd had to participate in this horrid ritual too.

As the opening declarations were made, my heart started pounding. I couldn't believe I was going to do this. I'd run through it dozens of times in my head as we drove to the festival.

I felt Aiden's hand grab mine and squeeze it in reassurance. He then shed his robe, revealing his dark, statuesque figure, and began to shift.

This is it. There is no turning back.

I stood in place, not moving. A gasp rippled through the crowd like a tidal wave.

Aiden's massive wolf now stood beside me, gazing expectantly at my human form.

I walked up to the microphone and scanned the dumbfounded faces in the crowd. My hand shook as I pulled down the microphone so it was pointed at my lips.

It's not too late. You can still shift.

No, you're doing this, Sienna.

I tried to force the words out, but they refused to budge. My adrenaline was spiking, constricting my throat and every muscle in my body.

You're an alpha too, Sienna. Start acting like it.

I closed my eyes, blocking out the sea of people and marshalling my nerves. My throat relaxed, and the words came pouring out before I had a chance to think

"I will stand with my mate but only as his equal, not as his prize. I still ask for your blessing, but I will not shift."

There was a moment of silence as my words sank in, but angry howls soon pierced the growing tumult. I stepped back from the podium, unsure of what to do now that I had made my protest.

The shouting intensified, and the spectators' faces teemed with malice. I started to feel frightened, threatened

Had I just made a huge mistake?

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 02

Sienna

I felt a nudge in my back and turned to see Aiden still in wolf form.

"I'm sorry, I can't," I said, placing my hand on his muzzle. This is one tradition I refuse to uphold."

Even my mate's wolf eyes held disappointment and betrayal. It stabbed me in the heart like a sharp knife. It was all too much for me to take. I had to get away before I completely broke down.

I turned and walked off the stage as quickly as I could without running

When I made it to the ground, Jocelyn was there waiting to intercept me.

"Sienna, wait!

**Jocelyn, I can't. I need to get out of here."

"Okay," she said, taking one look at me and realizing I was in no state to listen to anything she had to say. "Come with me."

She took my hand and pulled me past the news vans. Already, reporters and camera operators had started to swarm around me, lunging with lenses and microphones.

By the time my security caught up with us, we had already made it to the Pack cars. One of the security team opened the door to a limousine and ushered Jocelyn and me inside.

The door slammed closed, and the sounds outside were instantly muted. As we sped away, I looked out of the tinted windows at the mob of angry wolves shouting at our car. I don't think I'd ever felt so hated in my life.

Thankfully, I still had Jocelyn.

As the Pack Healer, she not only mended physical wounds but emotional ones as well.

We had become like sisters over the past year, and her previous relationship with Aiden meant that she knew him as well as I did, if not better.

That said, I had kept her in the dark about my apprehensions. She'd been brought up in the same Pack-centered world as Aiden, and if she sided with him, well, I decided I'd rather go it alone than risk tainting our friendship.

"Si, why didn't you come to me?"

"I didn't think you would understand. I thought you would tell me the same thing Aiden did."

"Which was?"

"That it wasn't a big deal. That it's important for the Pack. That I'm overreacting. But now I see how stupid it was to keep it all bottled up. And now you both hate me."

"I don't hate you, Sienna, and neither does Aiden."

"You didn't look into his eyes like I did," I replied, fighting back tears.

"I'm sure he felt embarrassed," replied Jocelyn. "And it certainly didn't help that the Alpha of the Millennium was there."

"Thanks for reminding me." I cried, burying my face in my hands.

Jocelyn put her arm around me and stroked my hair, trying to calm me. I could only imagine what Aiden was dealing with right now. I had abandoned him there, with the crowd, with Raphael

I was such a horrible mate.

"I can tell that this is about more than just the ritual," said Jocelyn in her soothing Healer voice.

Sometimes I hated how good she was at her job, but I had just witnessed what happened when I kept things to myself.

Besides, I had no reason to be afraid of Jocelyn's judgment. She was my best friend. I felt embarrassed that the thought had even entered my mind.

"Aiden wants to start trying for a family, like now, and I'm not ready at all."

"What makes you feel not ready?"

"I don't know. It's this feeling that's hanging over me. I can't explain it."

"Does it have to do with Aiden?"

"That's definitely part of it. It's like he only wants pups because tradition says we start now. That's crazy, right? You should want to have kids because you want to have kids, not because some outdated rules say you should.

Have you told him that?"

"I don't want him to think that I'm ungrateful or that I don't want to have his pups. What I want to say is that I think a big part of the world he was raised in is folksy bullshit."

"Maybe don't use those words," Jocelyn replied, laughing, but every healthy relationship is based on open communication."

Yeah, but that only works when your mate is willing to listen

I picked at the seat in frustration, thinking about my exchange with Aiden before we'd left for the festival, cursing myself for not being more assertive.

"And the other part?" asked Jocelyn.

"What?" I replied, returning from my thoughts.

"What is the other part of the feeling that's hanging over you?"

I wasn't sure I even knew, just that it was there, looming ominously above me whenever the conversation of having children came up.

"It's like this fear lurking in the back of my mind."

"Fear of what?"

"I don't know. The unknown. I guess."

"It's normal to be apprehensive about the future. Si. Especially when it comes to starting a family."

"No, it's not about the future as much as it is the past, like where I come from."

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-You mean your family?"

"Yes, but not my adoptive family, my biological one. I don't know anything about them."

"What about that frightens you?"

"I mean I was found in a carriage. They could be anyone. Before you pass along your genes, don't you think you should know what they're carrying?"

"Family is more than genetics, Sienna. Look at your adoptive parents. Do you think they cared who your parents were when they brought you home?"

"That's different," I protested.

"Is it, though?" answered Jocelyn,

"Of course it is. I was literally pushed into UNLIMITED their lives. Were they supposed to wait for a background check on my parents before bringing me home?"

“Si. I think you’re obsessing over this too much. Any children you have with Aiden will be fine. You’re a perfectly healthy, loving she-wolf, and he’s an alpha. They get half his genes too. you know.”

“That’s easy for you to say. You’re not even mated.”

I instantly regretted letting the words out of my mouth. Being mateless was something that weighed heavy on Jocelyn, and although I hadn’t said it to be mean, I knew I had come off as the biggest bitch

**Jocelyn, I didn’t mean to say that. I was trying

“It’s fine. Sienna. I know your head is in a million places.” Her reassuring smile let me know she hadn’t taken it to heart. I breathed a sigh of relief

“You need to talk to Aiden, though...about both items.”

As usual, Jocelyn was right, but how was I supposed to approach him after what I had just done?

-Well, that’s your advice on how to patch up the relationship with my mate. What would you prescribe for repairing my image with the rest of the Pack?”:

“I’m a healer, not a miracle worker,” answered Jocelyn, raising her hands in protest.

I had silenced my phone when we got in the car, excepting a torrent of notifications, but now I glanced down and saw that I had new messages excepting a torrent of notifications, but now I glanced down and saw that I had new messages from my mom and Selene.

Besides Jocelyn, they were the only other people in my life who I felt comfortable talking to right now. I knew they wouldn’t judge me for what I’d done.

“Answer them,” said Jocelyn. “I think I’ve given you all the advice I have, anyway.”

Mom

Honey, give me a call.

Mom I’m not angry. I just want to know you’re okay.

Mom

Don’t listen to what the horrible people in the media are saying.

Mom Si?

Sienna

Hey

Sienna Thanks for checking in, mom

Sienna

I'm fine

Mom What you did was so brave.

Mom Your father and I are here for you if you need us. We love you.

Sienna

Thanks. That means a lot

Mom This whole thing is really teaching me about my friends.

Mom Patty came over right away and started saying some not nice things.

Mom I don't think I'll be speaking to her again.

Jeez, was my mom seriously losing friends over what I had done? That was the last thing that I wanted to happen.

I hadn't meant to divide the Pack. And what was the media saying about me?

Selene Sister, all the gals at work think you're awesome

Selene I'm so proud to be related to you!

Selene Not that I wasn't before lol

Sienna Thanks, sis

Sienna

I appreciate the support

Selene Im starting a new collection

Selene

calling it “fuck the pack-riarchy”

Selene too far?

Sienna Just right, Goldilocks a

So, I was destroying friendships *and* spearheading social movements.

Great.

The car dropped us off at the Pack House. I thought about having it take me home instead, but Aiden’s numerous texts and voicemails made it clear he had to deal with damage control and would be there for the rest of the day.

Aiden was on the phone when I arrived at his office. He held up a finger to let me know it would be a moment before he was free.

I took comfort in the fact that he looked at me with the face of a man buried in work, not an angered mate.

Still, his distance upset me.

I started running through what I would say to him when he got off the phone. How would I start? What if he said he was working late and I should go home without him?

“Hey, little girl.”

Was he finished already? I still had no idea how I should begin

“Hey, Mr. Wolf,” I said, stalling, “I wanted to know if you needed a lift home tonight.”

What? A lift home? No, I want to know if we can talk about how I just turned our life upside down.

“Depends on who’s driving,” he replied, walking toward me with a swagger that made my mouth water.

Focus, Sienna.

Instead of kissing me like I wanted, he stopped a few paces away and crossed his arms, expecting a reply

I couldn’t stand this tension between us. It was like we were each waiting for the other to take the first swing. The playful flirtations of that morning felt like a millennium ago.

“Aiden, I want to talk about this afternoon.”

–What about it?”

– Don’t do that.”

-What?”

“Don’t make me spell it out. You know I’m sorry about all this. It wasn’t my intention

“Look, Sienna, I understand why you didn’t shift.”

“Then why are you acting so cold?”

“I didn’t say I agreed with it,” he replied, shifting his expression to one of disdain.

I couldn’t figure out what hurt me more, the fact that he understood how much pain it would cause me yet still pushed me to go through with it or that, even after the fact, he was upset with my decision

Any feelings of reconciliation began to evaporate and were immediately replaced by a boiling rage.

“Why is it so hard for you to let go of your stupid traditions!” I yelled. “Can’t you see they are tearing us apart, Aiden? And for what? So the Pack can sleep happy, knowing that their alpha and his mate are at home fucking every night, trying to conceive the next alpha?”

“Why don’t we talk about this tomorrow, I think we’ve both had long days.”

I couldn’t believe he wanted to sideline this like it was some trivial item on his agenda. His nonchalance only stoked the fire pouring out of my mouth.

“Either we talk this out now or you find another place to sleep tonight!”

Surely he would know I was serious now.

tearing us apart, Aiden? And for what? So the Pack can sleep happy, knowing that their alpha and his mate are at home fucking every night, trying to conceive the next alpha?”

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Surely he would know I was serious now.

“I’ll see you in the morning then,” he said, straight-faced.

I couldn’t believe this was happening

What had I done?

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 04

Sienna

As I prepared the coffee, I strained to hear any tidbits they might let slip while I was out of the room. The fallout from Selene’s shower wasn’t nearly as bad as I’d thought it would be.

After the initial shock, everyone exchanged pleasantries; they were my parents-in-law after all.

Aiden, however, was quick to whisk them away.

He wanted me to stay at the shower, but I wanted to come along. They clearly had a reason for showing up when they did, and I didn’t want to be left out of the loop.

I finished putting the tray together and brought it into the living room, where everyone sat. I smiled at Aiden’s mother, and she returned my gesture with a polite smirk. I knew she was judging me.

Charlotte, if you don’t mind me asking, how did you and Daniel know about my sister’s shower?”

“Oh, darling, what a trifle of a question.” she replied with a self-indulgent chuckle. She tapped her designer sunglasses against her lips as she laughed, like she thought it made her look pensive.

“We always know where Aiden is.” she went on.

picking up the mug of coffee like she had never seen one before. “Aiden, is all your china in the wash?”

I wanted to like this woman, I really did, but if this was how she acted, I’m not sure how much more I could take

“Where are you staying?” asked Aiden, trying to change the subject

“What do you mean?” replied Daniel. “You still have the guest house, don’t you?”

Nope, over my dead body. I subtly moved my foot over Aiden's and pressed down on his toes.

I'm not sure it's up to Mom's standards," he countered

Good boy

"Ha, we can make do," answered Daniel, sipping his coffee. Besides, staying somewhere else would defeat the purpose of our visit.

"And what is that purpose?" I asked as innocently as possible.

"Well, to meet you, dear," replied Charlotte. "I wanted to see what kind of woman was mated to my son."

"If you were that interested, you could have come to our mating ceremony." said Aiden sternly.

"Don't get sour, Addy. Mating ceremonies are a bunch of pomp and rigmarole. It's not like you have to shift or anything."

Charlotte let the last words roll off her tongue like acid.

What a royal bitch.

So this was all about the fertility festival. I had caused a scandal, and now she wanted to see who had messed up her son's perfect alpha world.

"Did you decorate this place yourself, or did you hire someone?" Charlotte asked as she surveyed the room.

"I did it myself." I said.

"I thought so," she replied, bringing her mug to her lips. "Hm," she said, smelling it.

"Is something wrong? I can bring you something else to drink," I offered.

"No, this is wonderful," she replied, setting down her mug. "I just don't think I'm in the mood for anymore. Addy, what possessed you to buy that painting? It's a bit amateurish, or was that the intent?"

"Sienna painted that, actually," replied Aiden.

She has her own gallery."

So, that's what you do when you're not making headlines," remarked Charlotte, still chewing on her stupid sunglasses.

**Aiden, how about you put those muscles to use and help me bring in our bags," said Daniel, getting to his feet.

Aiden shot me a look as if to say there was nothing he could do, and I replied with a forced smile.

I watched him and his father leave the room, and it felt like I was being marooned on an island with a hungry lioness.

You have no idea how lucky you are," said Charlotte, leaning back in her chair. "I was twenty-four when I mated with Daniel. How old are you again?"

"Twenty."

"So you were only nineteen? Oh, that's rich," she said, amused. "It's all making so much sense. Nineteen, oh dear.

"Excuse me?"

"I was trying to figure out why you felt it was important to make a fool of my son and our entire pack. But now it's clear that you didn't know any better. Don't worry, we'll clear everything up in no time."

"Actually, I knew exactly what I was doing." I snapped back

"And what did you think that was, honey?"

"Protesting an archaic ritual that made me feel extremely uncomfortable."

Did you ever question why, in the thousands of years the Pack has existed, you were the first to refuse to shift?

"Times change."

"Yes, my dear, they do, but people don't."

Clearly." I muttered under my breath. "Maybe I should go see if Aiden and Daniel need help."

*No need." called Aiden, hauling an obnoxiously large leather suitcase in each hand.

“Are you sure? I can go put linens on the bed.”

“No. I can do that when I drop off these bags.” said Aiden.

“Well, in that case, if I’m no longer needed, I think I’ll go to bed for the night.

“It’s only nine thirty.” protested Daniel. “I was about to make us all Manhattans.”

“May I take a rain check for tomorrow?”

“Of course. I’ll see you in the morning, my dear,” he replied.

“How long are you and Mom staying?” asked Aiden.

“Have you tired of us already?” said Charlotte, toying with her sunglasses again.

I swear I wanted to grab those dumb things out of her hand and snap them in half. The nerve this woman had, coming into our house and telling me my protest was childish.

I didn’t care if she was my mother-in-law, this woman was going to find out what kind of a grown-ass woman I was.

Sienna and I actually have a lot going on,” said Aiden. “You know what it’s like running a pack. I

Aiden. “You know what it’s like running a pack. I just want to make sure you understand that we’re not going to be around all the time.”

Don’t worry about us, Addy. Your father and I don’t need babysitting. We know you do enough of that already,” she said, flashing her eyes at me.

This bitch is asking for it.

“Goodnight, everyone. Charlotte and Daniel, I’ll see you in the morning.”

I’ll be up in a little,” said Aiden. “I’ll try not to wake you.”

“Oh, don’t worry about me, babe,” I replied, grabbing him by the face and locking my lips to his. I made sure my tongue explored his entire mouth before letting him go. “Don’t take too

long

I shot a smug look at Charlotte, who was silently steaming

When I closed the door to the bedroom I knew there was no way in hell I was staying around the house tomorrow.

I needed to find an excuse to get out.

Sienna

Michelle not much

Michelle why?

Sienna Alden's parents showed up at the shower last night

Michelle *WHAT?????*

Michelle

OMG do u need me now?

Michelle wut they like?

Sienna No, tomorrow is fine

Sienna I'll pick you up at 9

Sienna Dad seems nice

Michelle

and his mom?

Sienna I'll tell you tomorrow

Michelle

can't wait

Whenever Michelle and I needed to have real girl time, we had to shed the body guards who accompanied me when I went outside my home or the Pack House.

I thought having security was silly, considering I was a dominant she-wolf who could handle herself, but now that there were literally mobs outside the Pack House calling for me to be

tamed," I didn't mind having them around.

Since Michelle had mated with Aiden's Beta, Josh, we both had to deal with adapting to our new lives. Her transition was much easier than mine, though. Michelle loved all the fancy clothes and rules of etiquette.

Unlike me, she had always loved being the center of attention.

The next morning, as I slipped on my shoes, I prepared some excuse for why I couldn't stay for breakfast, but when I came downstairs, Aiden informed me that his parents had already gone out

for the day, which was fine with me.

His mom could never come back as far as I was concerned.

When I arrived at Michelle's, she was already waiting outside. Gossip was her life force, and she knew she was about to get enough to keep her full for a month

She piled into the back seat and immediately threw her arms around me.

"Si! I literally could not sleep last night after your text."

"It's not that exciting,"

"Are you kidding? This is better than when Mia found out she was pregnant with twins!"

"Does everything have to be about kids?"

"Sorry, sorry! I forgot."

"Where to, ladies?" asked my bodyguard. I really wish they didn't rotate around so often so I could remember their names.

"Uptown, please, we're going to try on some dresses," Michelle replied.

"Dress shopping? You couldn't get more creative."

—You didn't give me much notice. Si. I can only do so much

**I suppose it will have to do," I said, sarcastically.

The dress shop Michelle picked out couldn't have been more feminine. My bodyguard was clearly uncomfortable standing amongst the flowery displays and brightly dressed mannequins.

"We're going to try these on," said Michelle, grabbing some random sundresses off the rack,

After we were out of sight, one of the girls who worked there came over and Michelle handed her the dresses and a fifty-dollar bill.

"Jas, pretend you're pulling dresses for us, and after ten minutes, you can tell them we disappeared so you won't get in trouble."

"Not a problem," replied the spunky teenager.

I normally got a rush whenever we were about to make our escape, but this time I had a bad feeling

"Michelle, maybe we should stick with my bodyguard this time. I pissed off a lot of people at the festival. I don't care if he hears us talk.

"Si, please," replied Michelle, pulling a beanie, scarf, and large pair of sunglasses from her bag.

"Did you not think I would take your safety into consideration? We'll only be on the lam for an hour to two. Don't be such a scaredy cat. Madame Alpha."

A voice inside of my head was telling me not to go, but maybe I was being too cautious.

"You're right, let's go," I said, putting on the disguise.

Jas lead us down the hall and unlocked the emergency exit

"Okay, I'm impressed." I said as we ran out the door and into the back of an idling cab.

"See. I got you, girl."

"I can't wait for all this to blow over."

"That makes two of us. Josh has been super pissy about it, but I set him straight."

"You didn't have to do that, Michelle."

"Are you kidding? I mean, if I were in your shoes. I would have let Josh mount the shit out of me. The mara nanno the hotter laa off an that I-ind

"You didn't have to do that, Michelle."

“Are you kidding? I mean, if I were in your shoes, I would have let Josh mount the shit out of me. The more people, the better. I get off on that kind of stuff. But to each wolf her own. That’s the point, right?”

“One of them, yes,” I replied, laughing. “How do I look?”

“Like hot garbage,” said Michelle with a grin.

As we pulled out of the mall, I couldn’t shake the feeling that we were being followed.

I glanced out the back window, but I didn’t see anything out of the ordinary.

You ‘re being paranoid. Relax.

“So, Michelle, where are we going?”

“Where do you think we’re going before eleven on a weekday? Fucking *mi-mo-saaaaas!*”

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 05

Aiden

I wasn’t stupid. I knew my parents hadn’t come to town out of a desire to reconnect.

After Aaron died, they made it clear what their priorities were. Sure, I was just as guilty as they were for not keeping in touch, but I was eighteen when they started their globetrotting.

I had lost my brother and needed them more than ever. Instead of making sure I was okay, they handed me the Pack and, in the same breath, bid me adieu.

I may have been the alpha, but it didn’t mean I had all the answers,

It was a relief when I woke up and saw that their car was gone.

After Sienna went to bed last night, I was expecting some sort of substantive conversation, hell, maybe even an apology. Instead, we just talked about their travels, and I listened to their critiques and praise of people I had never met before.

Why was I even getting worked up over this? It’s not like they were going to stay forever. I gave them a week at most before they were compelled to fly off once again.

10:29 AM 2.5KB/S

Maybe I'd see them again in another ten years. Until then. I was more than content to receive the random postcard or two they would send.

I could deal with all this later tonight, though. Now I was finally alone and could get started on the mountain of paperwork sitting on my desk.

As I opened the first folder in the stack, I heard a gentle rapping at my chamber door.

Yes? Come in," I said.

"I hope we're not interrupting anything," started my mother, waltzing in with my father like they owned the place. "When did you do away with secretaries? I feel so rude dropping in without someone to announce me.

"I like what you've done with the office, son," said my father, surveying the room. "Did you hire someone or do the work yourself?

"I did it myself. Something about wallpaper and tapestries wasn't quite for me."

"You didn't throw the tapestries out, did you, Addy? Those were priceless pieces of pack heritage.

Of course that was the first thing that came to her mind. She was the one who made sure I grew up

knowing every bit of pack tradition and history

When I'd been a little boy, she would make me recite the names of the last twenty alphas and what each of them had done to contribute to our pack before I could eat dinner.

"Where's that hothead wife of yours?" asked Daniel.

"I don't know," I replied.

"I would keep a tighter leash on her if I were you." he replied, "She's a loose cannon, and there's no guessing what other statements she might have to make."

"I'm not her keeper. Dad. She's a grown woman."

"Well, according to the news, you seem to be alone in that opinion," interjected my mother.

That stunt she pulled at the festival was unconscionable. We were halfway around the world and we heard about it for goodness sake."

“She and I are working through it. Mom. I don’t need you here interfering.”

“On the contrary, I think that’s exactly what you need us to do. It’s clear she has no concept of duty or tradition. Daniel, can you help explain to our son the importance of what’s going on.”

“Aiden, you have to realize that Sienna didn’t grow up like you. We know you can’t choose who you mate with, so we’re not saying any of this is your fault, but she’s very young, son.

“She simply doesn’t understand what it means to be at the head of the pack. When we left you in charge, we knew everything was in good hands. You were groomed for this. She wasn’t.”

“So, what? Are you saying it’s not in good hands?” I asked, perplexed.

“No, frankly, it’s not. Addy. This family has been head of the Pack for five generations, and this nobody of a girl could tarnish our entire legacy.”

I’d had enough of their insults. They were my parents, but there was a line I wouldn’t let them cross.

“That’s my mate you’re talking about, Mother.”

“Yes, I’m quite aware. Her humble origins are

common knowledge, dear. There’s no need to get testy.”

“We’re here to help you clean up this little hiccup, Aiden. If you, your mother, and I sit down with Sienna, I know we can make her understand that the cohesion of the pack is more important than her fanciful protests.”

Dad, I told you, we’re working through it together.”

“And how is that working out for you?” my mom replied, “You’re twenty-nine, Addy. What do you think happens when a pack’s alpha reaches thirty and he still has no pups? People start to get worried. Other alphas start eyeing your territory.”

“You need to get her under control and start trying for a family, Aiden. It’s your responsibility as the alpha.”

Before I could say another word, Josh walked through the door, unaware of the spat I was having with my parents. He saw them then looked at me.

“I can come back,” he said, starting to retreat.

"No, they were just leaving," I replied, happy to put an end to the conversation.

"Josh, is that you?" asked my mother, beaming. "Oh, what a handsome man you've grown into. I also heard you've been mated."

"Hello, Mrs. Norwood, Mr. Norwood. Yes, it's been a while. That's actually why I'm here. Aiden, our lovely wives have given Sienna's security detail the slip again. My guys are kind of losing patience."

10:30 AM 1.8KB/S

Great, this was just what I needed right now.

I looked over at my mother, who was on the verge of uttering some smug I-told-you-so quip. We locked eyes, and I immediately knew she wasn't going to stay silent. The moment was too good for her not to

"Yes, it seems like you have a firm grip on tha mate of yours," she said, biting the end of her sunglasses. "Well, since everything is under control here. I think we should go find somewhere to lunch, Daniel. Don't you think?"

"Yes, let's get out of Aiden's hair. We'll see you and Sienna tonight, son. Manhattans at eight. No excuses.

I made sure to walk them to the door and closed it promptly upon their exit.

My life was going from bad to complete shit, but the first order of business was making sure Sienna was safe.

This was the fourth time she and Michelle had eluded her bodyguards. I insisted on them ever since that strange woman. Eve, showed up at the

Yule Ball last year and told Sienna she was in danger.

"I didn't know your parents were in town," said Josh.

"I didn't either until last night. I already can't wait for them to leave."

"Do you, uh... want to talk about it?" said Josh, clearly feeling a little awkward but also obligated to ask. Interpersonal communication had never been his strong suit.

"It's okay," I replied, much to Josh's relief. "Right now we need to figure out where our wives are.

"Since it's prime brunch time on a Thursday, I have a pretty good idea of where Michelle took Sienna."

“Great, can you go pick them up? I need to sort through some things here.”

“Yeah, no problem. I’ll have them back here pronto.”

“Send Sienna straight to my office. I’m going to have a long talk with her.”

Sienna

The bubbly sweetness of the mimosa was exactly what I needed. One more reason I was happy to not be pregnant

“So, what’s she like?” asked Michelle.

“Oh, Charlotte is a real dream.” I replied. She basically told me straight to my face that she thinks I’m too young to be with her son and that I was being immature by not going along with the ritual. Who the hell is she to put me on trial when she’s the one who basically abandoned her son for ten years.

“And you said they’re staying with you?”

“Yes, in the guest house, although I doubt they’re going to keep to themselves.”

“What about Aiden’s dad?”

“He’s not as slimy as his mom, but he’s just as narrow-minded. She is literally the worst.”

“Jeez, remind me to give Josh’s mom a big hug when I see her. The worst thing Nancy has ever done was tell me she thought my potatoes could use more salt.”

“I don’t even want to go home. It’s that bad, Michelle. There is no reaching this woman. She’s stuck in a time machine. It’s like she’s been so brainwashed by tradition she has no idea how crazy she sounds.”

“Why don’t we get the gals together and go on a trip this weekend? That would keep you out of the house.”

“No, then she’ll think I’m running away. I can’t give her that ammunition.”

“And Aiden? What does he think?”

“To be honest, we haven’t really had a moment alone since they got here.”

“Sienna, babe, you need to talk to him,” replied Michelle, downing another glass. “You haven’t even sorted out the whole kids situation. The longer you wait, the bigger this is all going to be when it blows up.”

“I know, I know,” I replied, pouring myself another mimosa. “I just need the Haze to hold off for a few more days.”

“Speak for yourself,” said Michelle as she buttered a scone. “I can’t wait for my first season with Josh. I have all sorts of sexy surprises planned out for him. Poor boy is barely going to have time to sleep.”

“Oh my God, Michelle, stop,” I said, giggling. “I don’t want that in my head.”

—Who knows, you might learn a thing or two.” replied Michelle, taking a seductive bite out of her scone.

I was having fun with Michelle, but at the same

time, I couldn’t help but feel like I was spending the whole morning proving Charlotte right.

A strong woman wouldn’t have dodged her security to go get brunch and dishes. A strong woman would face her head-on, and that was precisely what I intended to do.

Michelle

I flagged down the server to order another pitcher.

I loved Sienna, I really did, but sometimes she made her life more complicated than it needed to be.

At the end of the day, she was still mated to the Pack’s alpha. Like, *hello*, how bad can things really be?

Of course, I couldn’t tell her that.

Right now, cheering her up was priority number one.

Which was why I made sure to get away from everything Pack-related this morning. Also, orange juice and champagne heals all wounds.

“What are you doing?” I asked, catching Sienna looking over her shoulder.

Of course, I couldn’t tell her that.

Right now, cheering her up was priority number one.

Which was why I made sure to get away from everything Pack-related this morning. Also, orange juice and champagne heals all wounds

“What are you doing?” I asked, catching Sienna looking over her shoulder.

“Nothing, it’s just...”

“What? Spit it out, girl.”

Sienna leaned in across the table like she was about to tell me a Pack secret. The gossip inside me began twiddling her fingers in anticipation.

“Ever since we left the shop. I’ve had this weird feeling...like we’re being watched.”

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 06

Michelle

“Wait, hold the phone, you mean someone is spying on us?” I asked. Like this second?”

“I don’t know for sure, but I can’t shake this ominous feeling that started as soon as we got in the cab.”

I scanned the area behind Sienna and couldn’t see anything unusual other than a woman wearing pastels out of season.

“Si, I think you’re being paranoid. Besides, it’s impossible to recognize you in that ensemble.”

Before Sienna could reply, my phone blew up with notifications.

Fuck, it’s Josh.

He wasn’t always the sharpest, but he did have an uncanny ability to know when I was up to no

good.

“Give me a sec. I think we’ve been made.”

“Our luck had to run out sometime,” replied Sienna, swirling her champagne flute.

Sienna

I fished out the strawberry from the bottom of my glass and popped it into my mouth, rolling it around on my tongue and letting the last drops of orange juice and alcohol seep out before squashing it between my teeth.

The sweet pulp tasted good,

At least in the midst of all this drama, I was still remembering to get my vitamin C.

A light breeze ruffled the napkins on the table and kissed my exposed nose. I enjoyed the crisp winter air that enveloped the city this time of year. It always felt healthier to me for some reason.

I watched the people pass by from behind my tinted lenses. I wondered if any of them had an inkling of who I was. The whole concept of being a public figure still baffled me.

Why did I have to change who I was to conform to this archetype of what it meant to be an alpha's mate? I didn't care if everyone loved me. I don't

love everyone, and I don't think it's natural to.

If people minded their own business and spent as much time focusing on their own lives as they did mine, the territory would be filled with a lot of happier wolves and humans,

From the corner of my eye. I noticed a figure moving faster than the rest of the people on the street. He was wearing a trenchcoat and concealing something in its folds.

My heart started to race, and adrenaline shot into every corner of my body

I felt like such an idiot for letting Michelle convince me to abandon my bodyguard, but I didn't have time to linger on it.

**Michelle, get up."

"Yeah, one second."

"No, get up right now!" I shouted.

Everyone outside turned to look at us, but I didn't have time to care. There was a small fence separating the table from the street, so I couldn't confront him. He was staring right at me now, his face contorted into a devilish grin.

Everything went into slow motion as he pulled back his coat and I wrapped myself around Michelle

Click! Click!

Click! Click! Click!

–Smile, Sienna!” called the man from behind his camera, furiously snapping photos.

It took me a second to realize what was happening, and before I knew it, everyone at the restaurant had their phone out and was taking photos of Michelle and me.

I heard the loud roar of a motor as a Pack car pulled up and Josh jumped out with two men. They pushed back the crowd and threw their hands up over the paparazzo’s lens.

“Get in. Now!” ordered Josh.

“Don’t yell at us like we’re children,” shot back Michelle

“Where’s Aiden?” I asked.

—

He said he’d talk with you when we get to the Pack House. I hope you both realize how much trouble you’ve stirred up.”

I could tell Josh didn’t want to appear unprofessional with the other two men in the car, so he didn’t say much on our ride back. But from the looks he and Michelle were exchanging, it was obvious that a silent argument was raging inside the car.

When we pulled up to the Pack House, I hopped out and marched straight to Aiden’s office. It felt like I was reporting to the principal’s office for skipping class, but in this case, I wanted to give him a piece of my mind.

“Have a minute for your mate?” I said, barging in.

“I think I can spare two or three, actually,” he replied, setting aside some financials.

“Enough of the banter, Aiden. Why didn’t you come with Josh this afternoon?”

“I didn’t see the need.”

“I’m *your* mate. I don’t need someone else scolding me for screwing up.”

“So you admit that leaving your security behind was a screw-up?”

Damn it. I didn’t mean to walk into that. It was what I got for letting my temper take over the conversation

“Look, I don’t think you understand everything I’ve given up to be with you, Aiden. When we were mated, your life didn’t change. You kept on being the alpha. Mine was turned upside down. Suddenly, everyone cared about what I wore, how I spoke. I had bodyguards following me around whenever I left the house.

“I’ve had to give up being a normal person. And in case you hadn’t noticed. I’m not someone who likes the spotlight. This...this new life is really hard for me. And when you pressured me with the festival and all the family stuff. it was too much to take on. I need time to adjust.”

“You’ve had a year, Sienna,” Aiden shot back. “How much longer do you need? The whole pack is up in arms about what happened at the festival, and now my parents are here breathing down my neck. While you were off having a pity party with Michelle, do you know what I was here dealing with?”

“My parents decided to stop by for a little inquisition and informed me that it is my duty to get you in line before you destroy the East Coast Pack and tarnish the Norwood name,” he growled. “And to think I stuck up for you. I told them you were a grown woman and didn’t need to be babied, but it sounds to me like I was wrong.”

Pity party? He had to be joking. If his plan was to get me even more pissed off at him it was working

“Do you really think that?” I asked, on the verge of blowing my top.

“I think that if you truly cared about me you would know that my life is the Pack, so when you disrespect it and the traditions it’s built upon, you

I couldn’t believe he was flipping this around to make himself look like the victim. This had to be the result of whatever conversation he had with his parents that morning.

Sienna, are you even listening to me?”

“Yes, I heard every word, Aiden.”

“This isn’t a game, Sienna. The Pack needs to know it has an heir.”

“Is that you talking or your mother?”

“Hey, I don’t like the way she’s treated you either, but she has a point. They may be tactless in how they make it, but it’s coming from a place of sincerity. They only want what’s best.”

“For us or for the Pack?”:

“That’s what you don’t understand, Sienna. They’re the same thing.”

I was over this conversation. It was clear he wasn’t going to budge, especially after being radicalized by his parents.

I turned and started to walk out the door.

“Where are you going?”

“I’m going back to our home. I promised your father I’d try his Manhattans.

“I think you should cool off before you go over there.”

“I’m not going to pick a fight with your mother, if that’s what you’re getting at,” I said, annoyed.

“Really? Because you just blew up at me pretty easily, and all I did was try to reason with you.”

I can I believe him right now!

“You call that reason? If it weren’t for these arbitrary rules, would you even want children? When was the last time you actually did something because you wanted to do it and not because it was dictated to you by some dusty book?”

Aiden scowled at me, and I could hear his heated breath escaping through his flared nostrils.

He got up close. I had to tilt my head back so I could keep his gaze. We stared at each other for a full minute, both waiting for the other to speak, until finally Aiden broke the silence.

“Grow up. Sienna.”

Out of all the things Aiden could have said, that had to have been the one that hurt the most.

I could handle his parents and the media thinking I was some self-righteous child, but hearing it from my mate, the one person I thought would always love and respect me, hurt beyond measure.

It was clear to me now that I would never get through to him with words alone. I needed to do something that would grab his attention. I had to hit him where I knew it would hurt.

As I caught his gaze wandering down my neckline, I knew I had my answer.

“Now you listen to me. I refuse to put up with your parents’ disrespect for another evening, Either you tell them to shape up or I want them out of our house. And if you think I’m joking, you better believe this... **

I hope you ‘re ready, big boy.

“Until you and I come to an agreement about starting a family, and your parents decide to either get with the times or remain in the past and send us the occasional postcard, we’re not having sex.”

Aiden tried to maintain his composure as he stared at me, assessing whether or not I was serious. us the occasional postcard, we’re not having sex.”

Aiden tried to maintain his composure as he stared at me, assessing whether or not I was serious

“I’m calling your bluff. The Haze is going to hit any day now.

“I made due for two seasons before I met you, Aiden. I’m pretty sure I can take care of myself for a third.

“That was before you were mated. The Haze lets me do things to you that you couldn’t imagine.

“You don’t intimidate me. We’ve been making love for a whole year. Even if you have a few new tricks, they won’t be enough to charm me.”

Aiden leaned in so that his lips were inches from my ear. “We’ll see about that,” he whispered.

“Bring it on,” I replied, chomping my teeth.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 07

Aiden

So, this is what it meant to love someone...

If anyone else had created as many headaches as Sienna had this past week, I would have kicked them out of the pack, but no matter what she seemed to do, this small ember of devotion still glowed deep within me.

I looked across the table at my cabinet. Josh, Jocelyn, Rhys, Nelson, and, of course, Sienna. God, she was looking especially delicious, and I knew it was on purpose.

Everyone else looked uneasy and avoided making eye contact with me. They could sense the rage simmering beneath the surface.

I had called this emergency session after the afternoon news came out. I knew they had all read the story by now, but I made sure to have a physical copy, which was now rolled up in my clenched fist.

I slammed it down against the table and slid it across the polished oak surface so everyone could read the headline printed in bold letters across the front page:

ALPHAS MATE DITCHES BODYGUARDS

FOR BOOZY BRUNCH.

“You’re the gift that just keeps on giving!” I roared, staring straight at Sienna. “Now we have to deal with fallout from the festival *and* this fiasco.”

It’s not that bad, Aiden,” said Rhys hesitantly. “The headline is sensational, but if you read the articles

“How many people do you think actually read the article?” I shouted. “And *it is* that bad, Rhys. Let me read you a few lines.”

I walked around the table and picked up the paper. nearly tearing it in two when I snapped it open.

“And I quote: Such blatant disregard for Pack protocol would lead any rational wolf to believe that Sienna Norwood has no interest in attending to her responsibilities as our alpha’s mate and instead prefers to spend her time indulging in the perks of her position.’ End quote.

*This entire article makes Sienna sound like a vapid she-wolf obsessed with partying and spending Pack money. These accusations don’t only make Sienna look bad, they reflect poorly on this whole council. Every one of you should be as furious about this as I am.

“We work our tails off for this Pack, and I’m not going to let some hack journalist smear our reputation. Nevermind that Sienna is my mate. This is about how this group is perceived by the public.”

“What do you think we should do?” asked Josh.

“I don’t know. That’s why I called this meeting,” I answered, crossing my arms. I hated how angry this article was making me, but it was the final nudge to push me over the edge.

Between my parents, Sienna's obstinance, and the blowback from the festival, I was ready to put my fist through a wall.

"The Pack needs to know you stand by your mate. You should make a statement defending Sienna's actions," replied Jocelyn. "If you attack the paper, you only give the story more credibility."

Of course that was what Jocelyn would want. It would be good for Sienna and me, but it would make matters with the press worse.

I had purposely avoided making any statements that would give them a clue how I felt about Sienna's actions at the festival.

This would make it crystal clear.

"If he does that, Aiden will look like a pushover." countered Nelson.

He was a lanky, pale werewolf who, despite his mild stature, always advocated for whatever option projected the most strength. "I say you

denounce the accusations and simultaneously announce some high-profile project that Sienna will take charge of."

"Maybe we can kill two birds with one stone." added Josh. "Spin it so that, like, Sienna was meeting with Michelle to secretly announce that the two of you are going to start trying for a pup or something, you know?"

"Everyone will forget about the story as soon as they hear you're trying for a family. The people are crazy for babies, so just give them what they want."

Josh had a point. At least that would get all the public pressure to go away. Or maybe it would only shift it. I could see news vans outside our house, waiting to catch any sign that we were fucking. Yeah, no way

"So, you want Aiden to lie?" replied Jocelyn.

"I said 'start trying.' Not that Sienna is pregnant." answered Josh, annoyed. "Besides, these tabloids started it. Why not give them a taste of their own medicine?"

"Are you trying though?" asked Rhys. "That would make this whole issue go away in an instant."

Sienna cleared her throat angrily. "I guess whatever I have to say doesn't matter?"

Here we go. I didnt want to fight right now.

“I don’t need you or anyone else to speak for me.” she continued. “Alpha’s mate or not, they have no right to intrude on our life.”

“It doesn’t work like that,” I replied, gritting my teeth.

Sienna’s blue eyes ignited as she fixed me in her gaze. I could tell she was about to go off by the way she wetted her lips. Like a sprinter stretching before a race, she was lubricating before she unloaded a torrent of abuse in my direction.

The others could sense what was coming and immediately shut up, shifting their eyes between the two of us, unsure if they should leave or stay.

Jocelyn, who usually mediated any disagreements between council members, sat silent like the rest. This was a showdown between mates, and only Sienna and I could settle it.

The hinges of the council door creaked behind me.

“Come back later. We’re in session!” I barked.

**Is that what you call decorum?” sang my mother’s voice

Great. She is the last fucking person I need in the

Great. She is the last fucking person I need in me room right now.

“Mother, can you wait for me in my office. We have some business to finish up.”

“You mean how you’re going to respond to that terrible article? Your father and I already took care of it.”

What do you mean? “**

“We still have connections at the paper, so we rang them up and took the liberty of releasing a statement on your and Sienna’s behalf,” she replied, twirling her sunglasses contently.

“What did you say?” I asked, a pit starting to form in my stomach. I looked at Sienna. She was seething. This was not going to end well.

“We told them that Sienna would issue a public apology for her recent behavior and that she agreed to redo the fertility festival ritual during the next full moon.”

The pit in my stomach eroded into a gaping canyon as the words left her lips.

I knew she and my father had an agenda, but I never thought they would go over my head like this. They might be my parents, but I was still the alpha damn it .

“You should have talked to me first,” I replied, eager to cut off Sienna who was about to go off.

“We know how important it is to act quickly in these situations, darling.”

“You didn’t think to call, may be send a text?”

“Oh, Addy, you know I can never understand how to use those smartphones. Why do you look so upset? Do you object to something we said?”

She

put a confused, innocent look on her face, but she knew exactly what she was doing. She was forcing me to pick sides in front of my council, in front of Sienna.

Over the last ten years, I had grown indifferent toward my mother, but I never thought I would resent her like I did now.

Even if we both wanted the same things, her methods for obtaining them were low and deceitful.

“Aren’t you going to offer me a seat?” she asked.

I could feel Sienna’s eyes on me, like daggers hovering around my head. I didn’t dare look at

her.

“Of course,” I replied. You can sit wherever you please.

Sienna shot up, her chair practically flying back against the wall.

“I will not sit

at the same table as that woman. If you let her sit down, you’re validating everything she’s done to undermine your position in this Pack

“Sienna,” I shot back, we haven’t had the chance to discuss—”

“It doesn’t sound like anything she said is up for debate, Aiden. I’m not going to issue any apology. and I certainly have no intention of going through with the fertility ritual at the next full moon.”

Sienna turned her attention to my mother, who calmly locked eyes with her. “Who do you think you are?”

“Someone who is looking out for the well-being of this pack, my dear.”

**If that’s what you truly cared about, you wouldn’t be trying to sabotage my relationship with your son,” replied Sienna coldly. “In case you forgot, I will always be mated to Aidan, so you can either accept that or get the hell out of this pack House and get the hell out of our lives.”

“I’m only here because of the poor choices you continue to make, darling. Perhaps I’m not the one who has trouble accepting the facts. Without this Pack, you are nothing.

The eyes of each council member flicked to me, imploring me to intervene before these two went for each other’s throats.

“Mother, why don’t you head back to the house. We can talk this over tonight as a family.”

“The paper is expecting Sienna to make a statement this afternoon, Addy.”

“Sienna and I will take care of it.”

“No need, dear, I already have something drafted. All she has to do is read it,” replied Charlotte, pulling a crisply folded piece of paper from the pocket of her short coat.

Thank you, you’ve done enough for one day, Mother. The council has other business we need to discuss.

“Oh, I see,” she replied, visibly displeased. “Well, I’ll just leave this here for you to look over. I think you’ll find it doesn’t require any alterations.”

She placed the paper on the table and turned to leave. Just a few more steps and then she would be out of my hair for a few hours while I did damage control with Sienna.

*On second thought,” she said, pausing at the door, you may need to make some adjustments to account for her rustic way of speaking. *Ciao*, darling

The door closed with a graceful click of the latch, but the venom of her words clung to every surface in the chamber

One look at Sienna and I could tell things were going to get ugly.

“I need a moment alone with Sienna.”

“Of course,” replied Josh, anxious for any excuse to leave.

“Yes, we’ll be in our offices,” added Rhys. “C’mon, Nelson.”

“Are you sure you don’t want me to stay?” asked Jocelyn. Her healer instincts knew how much discord my mother had sown, but this wasn’t the time to bring a third party into our conflict.

“Yes, I’m sure. We’ll reconvene after lunch.”

Everyone filed out of the room in quick order except for Sienna, who remained standing in front of her chair

“C’mon, Nelson.”

“Are you sure you don’t want me to stay?” asked Jocelyn. Her healer instincts knew how much discord my mother had sown, but this wasn’t the time to bring a third party into our conflict.

“Yes, I’m sure. We’ll reconvene after lunch.”

Everyone filed out of the room in quick order except for Sienna, who remained standing in front of her chair.

The flame in her eyes had abated, but the rest of her body was tense with agitation.

“Well?” she asked, glancing down at the paper then back to me. She was waiting to see if I would pick it up, waiting to see whose side I would take.

Both had ramifications. Both had sacrifices.

I weighed up my options, let out a long breath. and made my move.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 08

Sienna

I watched in muted rage as Aiden’s hand reached for the paper that Charlotte had left on the table. The idea that he was even curious to read it made my blood boil.

Was he really choosing his mother over me? He did realize that we were mated for life, right?

With any luck, Charlotte had only a few more years before she kicked the bucket.

I took a step toward him and parted my lips, but before a single word could escape, he held up a

finger and walked over to the wastebasket, letting the folded sheet drop into it.

“This doesn’t mean that I’ve taken your side,” he said coolly.

I was stunned but mostly relieved. Maybe he wasn’t as brainwashed as I thought. Still, the fact that I had doubts about which one of us he would side with made me furious. I needed to know where he really stood.

“What does it mean?” I asked.

“Sienna, I understand where you’re coming from, but that article didn’t do you any favors.”

“And neither did your parents,” I shot back.

“You let me handle them,” he said, coming into my space.

Yeah, okay, Aiden. It’s not like they’ve been walking all over you.

It was so typical of him to think he could intimidate me this way. It was how he handled anyone else who questioned him, but it didn’t work on me. I knew him for who he really was.

I had seen his compassion, his sweetness, which was why all this drama between us was killing me.

Maybe if I got him to see what I saw, he’d understand why I had been so hostile toward his mother

“Aiden, you’re under their thumb. Take a step back and look at all the things they’re pushing you

to do.”

“Did I not just throw away my mother’s statement?” he protested. You think I liked it when my mother accused me of being incompetent in front of my entire council?”

Seriously? I couldn’t believe after that whole interaction he was hung up about how he looked in front of his friends.

Maybe I was wrong about there being hope he could see things through my perspective,

“So, that’s what you think was out of line? Not the whole promising-I-would-submit-to-you-at-the-next-full-moon thing?”

“I’m still waiting for you to propose a solution to that problem,” he replied. “Agreeing to reschedule it would save me a lot of headache.”

“Getting your parents out of our hair would save us both a lot of headache.” I said dryly. “I don’t understand why you let them get away with all this.”

“At the end of the day, they’re still my parents, Sienna. I thought you of all people would understand that.”

Was he really calling me out for being a hypocrite?

It would be one thing if his parents were lovely people and I was being some crazy-jealous mate, but his relationship with Charlotte and Daniel was toxic. I was genuinely baffled that he couldn’t see **that**.

Aiden was sorely mistaken if he thought his mother deserved a pass simply because she was family.

“Excuse me, I understand what it means to have a healthy relationship with your parents. One based on respect and empathy, not legacies and politics. This isn’t how healthy families treat each other,

Aiden.”

I could tell I was making him uncomfortable. Maybe I had pushed him too far.

He hadn’t grown up in the loving home like I had, and despite the fact that I didn’t share a drop of blood with the rest of my family, I knew that they loved me in a way Aiden couldn’t fathom.

When we first mated, our relationship was overwhelmed with lust and passion, but as the weeks turned into months, I discovered the

emotional void that existed in Aiden’s heart,

I had done my best to fill it, showing him what it meant to have someone love him unconditionally, that he was valued and wanted for something other than being the alpha.

Maybe I hadn't done a good enough job patching him up. Or maybe I had to face the fact that I could never replace the love that he sought from his parents.

After my last comments, Aiden had folded his arms and was staring pensively at his shoes.

The silence was starting to make me
uncomfortable

"Sienna, ever since I started hanging around your parents and your sister, I've seen how a family is supposed to function. In a way, it feels like your parents adopted me too.

"They remind me of the family I used to have. one before Aaron died. And now that my parents are here again, I want to make it work so badly. I want to have them back in my life."

I could see the pain in his eyes as he struggled to open up. I knew this wasn't easy for him.

Talking about breakups and crushes with the girls was one thing, but this was serious emotional trauma. I felt completely out of my depth.

"Aiden, they abandoned you." I replied, deciding to be straightforward. "What makes you think you can get them to change now?"

"That first night, when you went to bed early, they told me they wanted to be here for our children. So, I thought if I told them we were trying..."

Wait, you told them we were trying to conceive to gain their affection? Aiden, why didn't you tell me that?"

"What do you mean?" he replied bitterly. "If I'd told you, you would have burned the house down

I thought I could buy enough time to get you to change your mind, but then this article came out and it's all a big fucking mess."

Okay. I had to admit I probably would have burned the house down, but he shouldn't have been making promises for the both of us.

We were supposed to be partners, and right now, I felt less like his equal and more like an annoyance. Some cute young girl he kept around to pump out babies and look nice at special events.

“Love isn’t conditional, Aiden. You shouldn’t need to promise your parents grandkids to earn their affection.”

Why can’t you—” Aiden stopped short, gripping his chest. His breathing became heavy, and he wrenched his head to the side. “Damn it, it’s happening.”

My face went pale as terror overtook me.

What did he mean?

Was he having a heart attack?

“Aiden, what’s happening? Tell me!” I pleaded, but before he could reply, I had my answer.

The pulsing, molten heat of the Haze ignited

within my core and spread throughout my body like a wildfire. My legs tingled, and my breasts swelled. When Aiden’s scent hit my nose, it was like pouring gasoline on the flames

I looked at him with crazed desire.

I had to have him.

I longed for him to be inside of me.

The way he looked at me, those golden-green eyes ablaze with lust, let me know he was wrestling with the same primal urges.

His muscles flexed and strained as he tried to fight it, but with each breath, he took in more and more of my pheromones, becoming drunk with a violent, Haze-induced hunger.

“Still want to try one of those magic tricks?” I asked, trying to steady my breathing.

“From the looks of it, I don’t need to,” he said with a wry smile.

*Speak for yourself,” I shot back, wrestling with my body’s urge to throw myself against his bulging muscles and start tearing off his clothes.

He closed the distance between us, so I could feel his breath against my face.

I ran my fingers through his messy raven locks before wrenching his head to the side. He clenched his teeth in ecstasy.

"I'm sorry, did that hurt?" I asked, mockingly,

"It was just a tickle"

"What about this?" I said, sliding my hand down to his crotch. He bit his tongue and slammed his fist against the wall.

"Is that all you've got?" he ground out.

I knew I had to be careful with how far I took this. The feeling of his rigid member in my hand was almost setting me off as well. It throbbed at my touch, and I imagined it sliding inside me, stretching me.

"Are you really not going to do anything?" I asked, tightening my grip.

You're not the...only stubborn one... in this relation... relationship," he managed to eke out between breaths.

The longer I looked at him, the more dangerous my game became. I felt myself getting wet, and the air in my lungs heated up. I could barely breathe as my clothes tightened against my body.

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But I couldn't back down now. If this was going to work, he had to be the one who waved the white

flag

"You okay?" asked Aiden, blowing against my neck. "You're looking kinda hot."

"I'm perfectly fine." I replied, my voice quivering

"Are you sure you don't need a hand?" he asked, guiding his own down between my legs, cupping my sex, "Because you feel kinda hot."

His touch sent tremors through my body, and my thighs clenched around his hand. I was practically panting as the Haze ravaged me.

"Don't flatter yourself, babe. This is normal for the first hit of the Season."

I needed to turn this back on him before I lost all control. I started rubbing him through his pants.

His grip on my crotch loosened as he buckled under the stimulation.

That's just my hand. Can you imagine how good my mouth would feel." I said, licking behind his ear. I felt his hand start to slide back to my sex, but I wasn't going to let him fight back. I had him on the ropes; it was time for the knockout.

In one quick movement. I lifted his shirt and plunged my hand into his pants. There was no barrier now

My fingers wrapped against his smooth shaft, gently sliding up and down its length.

The touch of my skin against his sent us both into a frenzy. Aiden grabbed my arm, pushing me up against the wall. He brought his lips in for a kiss, but I pulled away

He tried to put his hands on my breasts, my ass. anywhere he might gain the upper hand, but I just stroked faster and faster until I could feel he was on the edge of climaxing.

Just a few more strokes.

Aiden was breathing hard. lost in the pleasure of my handiwork. Any fight left in him had gone,

and he had given over completely to his haze. He was exactly where I wanted him.

"That's close enough," I said, pulling my hand out of his pants.

"Was that the best you have?" asked Aiden, sweat rolling down his face.

"Not even close, babe." I replied. "I'm just warming up."

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Jocelyn

Ever since that car ride with Sienna, my head was a tangled web of thoughts and emotions. I tried to meditate, but I couldn't clear my consciousness. Whenever I got like this, I had to go old school.

I needed a drink.

Housman's was my go-to place when I needed to get away. It was an old bar tucked away down a side alley. It didn't have any of the glitz and glam the popular bars and clubs, but that was what I loved about it

I never had to worry about a Pack House wolf walking through the door or anyone else who might recognize me.

The woman behind the bar was a sweet old soul named Clementine. She treated me like a daughter, always making sure to grab me by the hands and ask me how I was doing.

She knew I only visited when I had to work something out, and man, did I have stuff to work out.

Sienna was like a younger sister to me. I saw so much of myself in her, and when she mated with Aiden, my healer senses told me she needed someone to help her navigate pack life.

I grew up in that world and could aid her in ways that her mother and sister couldn't.

Of course the irony wasn't lost on me. I was twenty-five and unmated, practically a spinster in werewolf years, advising a twenty-year-old girl on how to plan a family and handle her mate.

After my failed flings with Aiden and Josh, I was impatient to find my mate. Healing was lonely work. I was the one everyone came to, but where is the Healer supposed to go when she has issues?

That was what I was at Housman's trying to figure out.

I took a sip of my drink.

It trickled down my throat and spread its fire through my chest. But instead of stopping there, its heat continued down my body, settling between my legs in an unexpected inferno.

Fuck, I'm about to Haze.

As the explosions rippled out from my crotch, I scanned the bar.

None of the men were doing it for me.

The Haze may make she-wolves horny, but there

I swiveled around and surveyed the booths. Butterflies started dancing in my stomach. This couldn't be right.

I was staring at a man and his female lover getting handsy. They weren't mates, I knew that much. but why was my Haze pulling me toward them?

They must have scented how aroused I was getting because the woman stopped kissing her partner's neck and glanced in my direction.

We locked eyes, and then she whispered into her man's ear. He gave me a once-over and smiled before offering his response.

The woman got up and walked toward me. She had frizzy gingerbread hair and gorgeous mocha skin. Her hips swayed from side to side in a hypnotizing rhythm.

Maybe she's just ordering a drink from the bar. Look at your drink. Don't make eye contact.

"My partner and I couldn't help noticing you."

Shit.

My face flushed as I turned to face her. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to stare."

"Did you like what you saw?" she asked with a playful smile.

Wait, what does she mean?

Before I could work out a response, my Haze flared up

I grabbed the bar to keep myself upright. Something about this woman and her man made my body melt. I looked at her partner, a muscular, tall dominant with flowing brown hair and rugged beard.

They were both so gorgeous and sexy. I had never done anything like this before, but nothing about it felt wrong at all

"I liked it a lot." I replied, touching the woman's hand

The three of us crashed onto the bed, tearing off each other's clothes in a heated frenzy. I grabbed the man and started kissing him, but the warm press of the woman's lips on my breasts made me gasp.

Before I knew it, I had given over my body to their hands and lips. I twisted and flexed under the intense pleasure that gripped every muscle and nerve ending

They took turns entering me. Him with his penis and her with her fingers and tongue.

I felt everything tighten and a pressure start to build inside me.

I was so hot, bordering on delirious. My skin was covered in sweat, and I could barely catch my breath

"I'm going to cum!" I cried out.

I grabbed the woman and pulled her face into mine. We locked lips, our tongues touched blissfully, sensually

In that instant, everything was released in a violent eruption, and waves of hot contractions shook my body. All the air rushed out of my lungs, and my mouth opened, but I was unable to scream.

I clung to her, and she held me, staring at me with her dark, reassuring eyes.

The orgasm left me completely limp. I felt like I had just run a marathon and the only parts of me still working were my heart and lungs.

"Did you have a good time?" she asked.

"You're joking, right?" I said, still catching my breath. "Yes. I had a very good time."

"Good. So did we," she replied, smiling. She and her partner lay down on either side of me and stroked my body gently with their fingertips.

I lay there for a half-hour and watched them make love while I gained my strength back. For some reason, I felt at ease with them in a way I had never experienced with any of my previous lovers.

As I left, they both offered a parting kiss.

"Maybe we'll see you again," said the woman, pulling me into her embrace.

I smelled her one last time.

I didn't want to let go.

"Yes, I'd like that," I replied, holding her tight.

Josh

I didn't mind having Sienna on the council. As the Alpha's mate, she had every right to be involved in the governance of the Pack. What I *did* mind, however, was all the drama it was stirring up.

I liked to think I was a pretty chill Beta, but I still

needed to run the Pack as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Not only because it was my job but also because Aiden was my best friend, and if I performed well, that made his life a little bit easier. That was what best buds did for each other.

All this overlap between his home life and Pack life, though, was causing some major problems.

That was not to say I thought Aiden and Sienna should sweep their differences under the rug, but given the current arrangement, when they fought, the Pack suffered

“Aiden, do you have a minute?” I asked, catching up to him in the hall.

“Sure. Josh. What’s on your mind?”

“I was looking for the list of charities we’re donating to this holiday season, and I can’t find it.”

Sienna is taking care of that.”

This was going to be harder than I thought. How was I supposed to tell him that his mate was dropping the ball without pissing him off?

“Great, but I kinda need the list by Wednesday. Otherwise the funds won’t get delivered in time

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Otherwise, the funds won’t get delivered in time. I’m more than happy to do it if she’s busy.”

“No, I’ll remind her this afternoon.”

He still wasn’t getting it. If this was how dense he was with Sienna. I could understand why she was pissed at him. I guess I needed to be more direct.

“You know I feel like you might have burdened her with too much, Aiden, Especially when it’s clear the Pack isn’t necessarily her number one priority. If she wants to scale back her involvement, I can take on the work. I was doing it all before anyway.”

I held my breath, waiting to see which version of Aiden I was about to get.

“Josh, she needs to learn that Pack business is just as important as anything else she does. She’s my mate, and it’s part of her responsibilities.”

“Right, but given everything that’s been going on between you two—”

“I said I’ll talk to her about it this afternoon. You’ll get your list.”

I knew not to push him when he got like this. I said my piece and cleared out before he blew up.

Sienna

Winston’s had always been the place where my friends and I hung out before Michelle and I were mated.

It was an average diner with nothing redeeming about it other than the fact that it was consistently average.

At the moment, Michelle and I were splitting a basket of fries while we each sucked down a milkshake. After painting in the park, I decided that I needed Michelle to inject some levity into my day.

“Having these stooges around certainly changes the mood,” commented Michelle as she shook a fry at our security detail. “Do you guys want some?” she asked, offering the greasy basket of deep-fried potatoes. “If you’re going to stand there, you might as well join the conversation.

“I’m fine, ma’am, thank you.” replied one of the bodyguards in an emotionless drone.

—Suit yourself,” said Michelle, rolling her eyes.

So. Si. have you and Aiden Hazed yet? Josh and I Hazed while he was driving, so we had to pull over and do it right there on the side of the road. I don’t know if it was the confined space, the fact that people could see us, or just the fact that I was riding my mate, but it was the best sex I’ve ever had.”

“What? When did you become such a prude,” she said, smiling

The bell that hung above the door rang. and I looked up to see a dapper man looking around inquisitively. Upon seeing Michelle and me, he immediately perked up and headed toward our table.

For once I was thankful to have security. The man barely got within ten feet before a large hand shot out and grabbed him.

Whoa, I’m just a courier. I have a letter to deliver to Sienna Norwood from her mother-in-law,” he said, holding up the envelope.

Great, what did Charlotte want with me now? The security guard took the letter and handed it to me. I tore open the top and almost threw up at an ostentatious invitation.

“What’s the old bag want?” inquired Michelle, slurping the last bit of milkshake from her glass.

“It’s an invitation to a luncheon tomorrow afternoon,” I said warily. She wants me to be the guest of honor.”

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Aiden

“Mom, this is exactly the kind of thing I asked you *not* to do.”

“I haven’t the faintest idea what you’re referring to, Addy. I’m simply organizing a nice lunch for your mate and a few of her friends and family.”

She had always done this, reframing things to suit her view, her version of reality. She’d done it when Aaron died, and she was doing it again now.

Sometimes I thought she really believed it, but there was always a part of me that remained skeptical. She was too cunning to fall victim to such willful delusions.

The lunch had come as a complete surprise to me.

After Sienna and I had our moment in the council chamber, I talked with my parents, and they agreed to relocate to a place in the city. It certainly eased the tension at home, but it also meant I couldn’t keep tabs on them.

Now I was watching as the Pack House dining hall was transformed with extravagant place settings and spreads that would make you think the Alpha of the Millennium was coming to visit.

“That goes over here, dear.” called my mother, motioning to one of the staff. “Who put this spoon out? Can’t you see it’s smudged?”

She was up to something. I was sure of it.

“Addy, shoo shoo. This luncheon is just for us gals. Go take care of your Pack.”

I gave her one last glance, hoping to derive any trickery that might be lurking in her eyes. Sienna had seemed oddly receptive when she told me about the lunch, so maybe they were both willing to turn over a new leaf.

If that was the case. I wasn’t about to get in the way.

Sienna

I ran my hands over my skirt, smoothing it out before I went down the hallway toward the dining hall

I had wanted to wear pants, but Michelle convinced me it would be too casual, so I threw on some tights and found the heaviest winter dress I owned.

It helped that Aiden kept the Pack House toasty during the winter months, but I was still salty knowing that I had changed for Charlotte's sake.

"Good afternoon, Mrs. Norwood," said the eager page who was posted outside the door. She was a wide-eyed young girl with dirty blonde hair French braided into a neat bun and two beauty marks on her left cheek.

"Is there a password?" I asked after she failed to move.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, I'm such a hatrack. I was distracted by your dress. It's so pretty. Oh my God, am I allowed to talk to you this much? I'm so sorry. I never know when to shut up."

"It's okay. You're fine," I replied, smiling. Thank you for the compliment. I love how you've done your hair.

"Really?" she said, beaming. "Thank you. Mrs. Norwood. It's such an honor to meet you. You're my biggest role model."

What do you mean?"

"Everything you're doing for young she-wolves. Letting us know that we get to make our own decisions. It's empowering to see our lady alpha take the stance you did at the festival."

I wasn't sure how to respond. The whole idea of me being a role model took me by surprise. Selene had joked with me about it, but I'd never thought anything of it

What's more, this girl couldn't have been more than a few years younger than I was. How could she look up to me?

"Thank you for the kind words," I said, "but I don't want to keep them waiting in there.

"Of course, I'm sorry I held you up. Mrs. Norwood," she replied, opening the door.

I had expected to see only Aiden and his parents, but instead I was greeted by a table full of all my closest female friends and family members.

My mom, Selene, Jocelyn, Michelle, Mia...even

Erica was there

“Well, don’t just stand there like a deer in the headlights, darling. Come take your seat as our guest of honor.”

“What are you all doing here?” I asked, walking toward the table.

“Now that we’re family, I thought it would be good for all of us gals to get acquainted. After all, we all know who really runs things in the Pack House.” said Charlotte with a playful smile. “Here, take your seat,” she said, pulling out my chair.

I made a face at Michelle as if to ask “what the hell is going on,” but she just shrugged.

“Now, I’d like to make a toast to my daughter-in-law,” said Charlotte, raising her glass.

Sienna, dear, you’ve been through so much this past week, and I admit that the arrival of Daniel and me was...a bit jarring

“I would like to apologize for that. I think we all could have comported ourselves better, which is why I organized this get-together. I think it’s time we start off on a new foot, Sienna. To new beginnings and the future of this family.”

Everyone cheered and clinked glasses. I guess Aiden had been right; maybe Charlotte did have a sincere side after all.

“Selene, honey, when are you due?” continued Charlotte. “You have that expectant-mother glow about you.”

“Oh, thank you, Charlotte,” Selene replied, blushing. “I’m due in three weeks. Then we’ll have one more little lady to join us at the table.”

“I’m sure you’re eager as well, Melissa.”

“That’s an understatement,” said Selene,

“Hey now, I’ve been very good about not sticking my nose in things.

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“Mom, you get lunch with my obstetrician three times a week.”

“We’re doctor pals, Selene. Not everything is about you,” she replied with a guilty smile. “But to answer your question, Charlotte, I can’t wait for my first grandchild to arrive.”

“The first of many, I’m sure,” answered Charlotte

As the servers came out with the first course, Charlotte continued her conversation.

“And, Mia, you already have a little pup, don’t you?”

“Yes, twins actually. They are four months old now.”

“You should have brought them,” piped Michelle. “They are literally the cutest damn babies I’ve ever seen.”

“They’re with their father for the afternoon, so if you see me checking my phone a lot, that’s why.”

“That’s a bold move, leaving Kyler and Emmett alone with Harry.”

“I know, that’s why I’m heading back in two hours. Baby steps.”

“And what about you, Michelle?” said Charlotte. “Are children on your horizon?”

“We’ll see. Josh and I definitely want them, and now that the Haze is here, I wouldn’t be surprised if I had an announcement to make before the new year.

“My goodness, it sounds like there might be a whole pack of little ones scampering around here soon. Erica, what are your plans?”

“I’m not mated,” replied Erica, a bit defensive.

“I see,” answered Charlotte. “Well, the Season is upon us, my dear. Perhaps this is your lucky year. Jocelyn, sweetheart, what was it you were telling me the other day about how the health of a pack is

predicated on the stock of its posterity?”

I shot Jocelyn a quizzical look.

Had she been talking to Charlotte behind my back? Why hadn’t she mentioned anything when I went to see her the other day?

“I think you’re taking my words a little out of context, Charlotte,” answered Jocelyn calmly. -What I said was the collective conscious of a pack is improved when they know that the future is stable, and part of that stability involves rearing a healthy stock of pups.”

“Yes, yes, but if you boil it all down, having babies is good for the Pack. That much I think everyone at this table can agree on. Don’t you think, Sienna?”

Now I was starting to become uneasy. This whole lunch felt less about getting to know each other and more about how everyone around me in my life was having babies.

“Sure.” I replied cautiously. “I’m happy that my friends and sister have chosen to have children. It’s not something to take lightly.

“I couldn’t agree more,” replied Charlotte. “A lot can change when you decide to have children, or not have them.”

She paused to make sure she had my full attention, and I suddenly felt like we were the only two people in the room.

**Other areas of your life that you might not even think are related can be impacted. Your job. your hobbies...your mate. No, starting a family is not something to be taken lightly at all.”

This was the final straw. I could see through her sheep’s clothing and spot the wolf underneath.

There would never be a world where she and I were reconciled. Even if I got pregnant tomorrow, she wouldn’t give a damn about me. She just wanted to hold a grandchild, a Norwood

grandchild.

“Charlotte, you don’t have to pretend to like me.”

What do you mean, dear?”

“This act isn’t going to work. You’re not going to pressure me into having a baby by surrounding me with women who want them. I love each of these ladies with all my heart, and respect their choices, but they would never peer pressure me into starting a family like you’re attempting to do right now

“When are you going to stop seeing me as a villain, Sienna?

“When you stop acting like one and start respecting me

“It’s hard to respect someone when they only think about themselves, darling.”

That’s rich.” I shot back. The only reason you came back here was to make sure your family’s legacy wasn’t tarnished by some outspoken upstart.”

“Sienna, Charlotte, please stop this,” pleaded Melissa, getting to her feet.

“Fine, you can think that I’m horrid, but I will always be Aiden’s mother, and I will always put

always be Aiden’s mother, and I will always put him first

*That’s what being mated means, missy. You make sacrifices. Aiden’s bent over backwards to accommodate your finicky sensibilities, and what have you done in return? Embarrassed him in front of the entire pack and deprived him of the greatest joy a wolf can have. You don’t deserve my son, and you never will.”

Charlotte’s words ate through me like acid as my heart sank into my stomach. I wasn’t going to give her the satisfaction of seeing me cry.

“Excuse me, ladies, but I don’t think I can stay.”

As soon as I left the dining hall. I rushed to my office and locked the door.

The tears poured out, and I slid to the floor, unable to control the grief that overtook me. I couldn’t help but feel like there was a shred of truth in Charlotte’s words.

At that moment, I didn’t want to see anyone except Aiden. I wanted to feel him and hear him tell me that I was enough, that I was his mate and he would love me forever.

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Sienna

My phone was buzzing non-stop the rest of the afternoon. Everyone was trying to get a hold of me after I ran out of Charlotte’s luncheon.

I thought I wanted to be alone, but I couldn’t have been more wrong. I needed to talk to someone.

I thought about Jocelyn, but I still wasn’t sure what her connection to Charlotte was, and Michelle and Mia wouldn’t understand what I was going through

I needed my mom.

Sienna Hey mom, can I come by?

Mom Yes! Of course!

Mom I am home all day

Sienna Thanks. See you in 20

Mom

Sounds good!

“Is there anything else I can get you?” my mom asked.

“No, this is perfect. I just need to know that you both don’t hate me.

“Oh my goodness, Sienna, why would we hate
you?”

“I don’t know. I see how excited you are for Selene’s baby, and I feel like it would be perfect if we both had kids around the same time so they could grow up together and”

**Si, you’re talking like a crazy person,” interrupted Selene. “You shouldn’t have kids because you think it would be cute for our babies to be around the same age. There is a reason Jeremy and I waited until we did. We had other things we wanted to do before we settled down.”

-Yes, and don’t think I love you less because you’re not giving me a grandchild. All I care about is that you are happy with whatever path you take in life.”

“Yeah, don’t let that beat-up handbag of a mother-in-law get to you, Si. It’s your life. It’s your womb.”

I was so thankful to have both of them in my life. We spent the rest of the afternoon watching movies and not talking at all about children or the

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Mom I love you, Si. Xo

Before I could even reach the door. she and Selene were outside with their arms around me.

“Oh, Si, I’m so sorry. We had no idea that was going to happen. We really thought it was going to be a normal lunch.

“I started to tell her off after you left, but Mom made me stop.” added Selene.

That’s okay.” I replied. “I know you were just as surprised as I was.

“Come inside, honey, and get out of the cold. I have a big mug of cocoa waiting for you.”

The familiarity of being inside my childhood home was enough to already make me feel better. I didn't have to think twice about what I said or look over my shoulder like I did at the Pack House.

I curled up onto the couch, and my mom brought me the cocoa and a plate of gingersnaps while Selene tucked me in with a blanket.

"There you are, sis. Snug as a bug."

movies and not talking at all about children or Pack

Aiden

Sienna had come home in an unusual mood. For the first time since the Festival, she seemed at ease

Jocelyn had already told me what happened at the lunch, and I was expecting Sienna to give me another ultimatum regarding my mother, but Instead, she crawled into my arms and asked me about my day.

I couldn't understand it.

We simply lay in each other's arms and talked. We talked about anything and everything. We talked until the sun came up.

It was so simple and easy. It was like reconnecting with an old friend after spending decades apart.

It reminded me how crazy I was about her, what a perfect mate she was. After last night, I could never imagine a life without her by my side.

A sharp rapping on my door distracted me from my daydream

"Addy, the press are here for your update on the new Festival placed my hands on either side of the podium and leaned into the bouquet of microphones pointed at my face.

"Good morning," I began. "A few days ago Sienna and I announced that we agreed to reschedule the Fertility Festival ritual to the next full moon. Since then, we have released very little follow-up information."

Out of the corner of my eye, I caught my mother nodding along. Everything was going as she had planned

"Well, the reason for that is because I've decided to respect the decision of my mate and indefinitely postpone the ritual altogether.

“When Sienna and I are ready to start having children, we will let the Pack know, but for now, our decision to start a family will not be dictated by anything except our own personal desires Thank you.”

A litany of objections shot from the crowd along with eager hands, but I had no intention of answering their questions. All I cared about in that moment was being with my mate.

I turned to Sienna, who was beaming. She mouthed a silent “I love you” that filled me with pride and joy.

7:53 AM|1.4KB/s 0

Everyone, including my council, was dumbfounded. I could see my parents fidgeting, their eyes twitching, trying not to lose their bearing in front of the cameras.

“Meet me in my office in ten minutes,” I said, kissing my mother on the cheek. “Dad, you’re invited as well.” Both of them were too furious to utter a proper response, but I couldn’t have cared less if they showed up.

I grabbed Sienna by the hand and planted a soft kiss on her lips. “I’m sorry it took me so long.”

“Oh, Addy! I can’t believe you would be so foolish!”

“This is not the decision of a strong alpha, son,

You’re setting a dangerous precedent.”

I sat in my chair, taking their slings with unexpected glee. There was something humorous about how all the vitriol they had bottled up came pouring out in a desperate flurry.

“Whatever that girl has done to you.” railed my mother, pointing her finger at Sienna, “it’s the result of selfish motivations. She couldn’t care less about the Pack and this family.”

“Your mother and I tried to steer you out of the mess she created, but you’ve just gone and jumped in head first. Say something, damnit.”

I contemplated the two fuming figures in front of me.

Nothing they could do or say would ever make me as happy as Sienna

Nothing they could provide would ever make me feel as complete as I did when I was with her.

“Mom, Dad, ever since you got here, you’ve made one thing clear to me: your priority will always be protecting our family’s legacy. I thought that might have changed when Mom hosted that lunch, but I was clearly mistaken.

*You’re both so caught up in what’s best for the family that you have no idea what it means to *be* family. Sienna is my mate. Period. End of story.

“There is no one else in this world with whom I want to navigate life. And nothing is going to compromise our partnership. Not you, not the Pack, and certainly not whether we have children or when

“I don’t expect you to understand, so I’ll say it another way: I don’t want to see either of you anymore.”

My father’s face grew stern, and he clenched jaw. I didn’t care if he was pissed. He had brought it on himself: they both had.

“Yes, crystal,” said Daniel, putting his hands on my mother’s shoulders. “I’m glad Aaron isn’t around to see what kind of wolf you’ve become.”

My mother’s eyes watered as she stared at me in disbelief, shaking her head. “Addy, oh, Addy. I’m so disappointed.”

They left the room quickly but made sure to close the door behind them with a cold, unceremonious click

Any drop of guilt I thought I might have had failed to materialize. My father’s attempt to use Aaron’s death to his advantage only made the decision easier.

I turned my attention to Sienna, who, for the first time in recent memory, was speechless.

**I didn’t just do it for you,” I said, uncomfortable with her silence. “I’ve needed to stand up to them for a long time now.”

Sienna walked toward me and slid her hand around my waist, pulling me in for a passionate kiss. I closed my eyes and lost myself in her embrace.

New Festival.”

“Yes, I’ll be right there, Mother.”

“Good. It’s poor form to keep the press waiting. Idle minds write fanciful stories.”

Did she always have to impart some bit of wisdom like that? Did she always have to have the final

word?

I walked toward the press room with conflict brewing in my gut. I was unsure of what I wanted to say, but whatever I said, I needed to stand by. An alpha never wavers with his words.

I arrived to see my mother, father, Sienna, and the rest of the council flanking the podium in a neat line. The reporters had crammed themselves into the room like sardines.

I felt their eyes on me, tracking my every move and facial expression

My mother and father both smiled as if nothing had ever been amiss between us. Then I caught Sienna's gaze, her expression more reserved but ten times as genuine.

It was going to hurt, but I had made up my mind,

I placed my hands on either side of the podium

Sienna

I took in his smell as our lips pressed together in a fiery friction

I pulled away, still savoring his taste.

I was ready to make good on my promise. I grazed his cheek with my fingers, letting my thumb come to rest on his dark, delicious lips.

He opened his eyes, silently pleading to release him from this agony.

He had relented. I didn't need to hear him say it. We both knew.

I pressed my thumb into his lips, and he let it plunge into his mouth. His warm tongue engulfed my finger, sending tremors through my body,

I felt my nipples harden, and my whole body began to tingle. My vision blurred, and I felt my legs give out from under me,

As I collapsed, I felt his strong arms wrap around me, pulling me tight against his sculpted body.

Every inch of me was screaming for him, and my sex was aching in anticipation.

He ran his hand through my hair then pulled my head to the side, exposing my bare neck. I gasped as his teeth bit at my skin and his mouth massaged away the pain

I became lost in the ecstasy of Aiden's touch, ripping open his shirt and sending buttons flying across the floor

"Take me now or not at all," I commanded,

Aiden never had an issue following orders of this sort.

He grabbed the bottom of my top and pulled it over my head. Flinging off his own shirt, he lifted me onto the conference table so that my legs hung

over the side, straddling him,

"Do it." I moaned.

"Patience. Good things come to those who wait."

"Fuck you," I struggled out.

One of his hands gripped my leg, and the other pulled my panties to the side. He lowered himself and hovered his mouth above my sex, his warm breath crashing against its surface

I closed my eyes, waiting. yearning,

I couldn't take it anymore. I wanted him inside me.

Grabbing him by the hair. I pulled his head back so that we locked eyes.

*Get up here and fuck me."

Without a word, he shed his pants and climbed up onto the table. It creaked under his weight, but it could have collapsed beneath us for all I cared.

He grabbed my hand and pinned it over my head. Before I could protest, I felt him sink into me. The breath flew out of my lungs, and my mouth flew open, gasping for air.

His powerful thrusts shook me, and I sank my teeth into his shoulder to keep from screaming

I could feel him getting harder inside of me, and I knew he was going to cum.

Aiden's strokes got faster and faster as we both crescendoed into an atomic orgasm that felt like it would split me in two. Aiden roared out as he climaxed, and I shrieked in mindless delight.

After collecting myself, I looked up at his sweaty face and brushed away the hair clinging to his forehead.

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I couldn't believe this beautiful, compassionate man was my mate, and I couldn't wait to share the rest of my life with him.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 12

Sienna

The encounter in the council chamber helped Aiden and me reset our communication. After his parents packed up and left town, we spent the following week rekindling the passion that we had before all the festival drama.

We let our Hazes run wild, making love everywhere we could. It truly felt like I had my mate back,

One thing was for sure, we couldn't use sex to solve arguments.

Not just because we were both crazy for each other but it didn't work. It just made Aiden and me resent each other,

The whole experience with the festival and Aiden's parents had really forced me to grow up.

Moving forward, if we had a difference of

opinion, consensus had to come from genuine understanding and change of heart. Not spiteful threats.

Aiden had taken off early, but I chose to sleep in. My body was still sore from the previous night's activities.

I'd started to drift off again when the sound of my phone shocked me awake.

Aiden Rise and shine, sleepy head

Sienna You didn't kiss me when you left

Sienna Rudes

Aiden You were so peaceful

Aiden Plus I know what you're like when you first wake up

Aiden

Sienna

Hey!

Sienna Don't make me reinstate the embargo

Aiden You wouldn't dare

Sienna Try me

Aiden Yeah? I'll happily have a taste u

Sienna Not what I meant, nerd lol

Sienna imeant, nerd lol

Aiden Get over here, pretty lady

Sienna Good things come to those who wait...

Sicon himos come to those who wait

Aiden

Sienna

Aiden's texts had put me in the mood to get a morning dose of the Haze. There was definitely no

going back to sleep now.

He was going to get it. I'd make sure of that.

I slid out of bed and went to the bathroom to brush my teeth. I glanced at the digital clock on the shelf. It was almost ten thirty

8:00 AM | 1.0KB/S OM

You need to go to bed early tonight, girl.

I spit out my toothpaste and was wiping off my mouth when I looked at the clock again and horror gripped me.

The date. Was that right? It couldn't be. I went into the bedroom and grabbed my phone. The same date flashed across my lockscreen,

My stomach churned, and a wave of panic came over me.

My period was late.

Sienna I need to ask a favor

Sied to ask a favor

Jocelyn Sure, what is it?

Sienna Can we do this in person?

Jocelyn I'm free after 2

Jocelyn Want to swing by?

Sienna

Sien

Yeah

Sienna You'll be at your office?

Jocelyn Sienna, I can come right now if you need me

Sienna

No, don't worry

Sienna Not an emergency

Sienna Just kinda personal, that's all

Jocelyn Okay, if you say so

Jocelyn See you at 2 then! xo

That was the true beauty of Jocelyn. She could look through everyone's exterior and focus on what they were experiencing on the inside.

Right now, as I stood outside the door to her office, I needed her services twofold. I had a lot on my mind that I needed to unpack, and also I

needed her to see if a little something had hitched

a ride inside me.

The door opened, and the soothing smell of incense and jasmine flowed into my nostrils.

The anxiety that had gripped me all morning began to dissipate as Jocelyn took both my hands in hers and looked at me with her smoky hazel eyes, searching for what might be troubling me.

What brings you to me, goddess?" she asked, ushering me inside. "Your texts had me worried."

I made sure the door was closed before I told her the reason for my visit.

"I missed my period, Jocelyn."

"By how many days? The Haze can throw off cycles sometimes."

"I'm six days late."

Jocelyn was quiet for a moment then invited me to take a seat on the couch. "I'm guessing you and Aiden have had sex recently."

I gave her a look as if to say, no shit, girlfriend. "Hey, I have to ask these questions," she replied, grinning. "I'm happy to hear the two of you were able to patch things up."

"I am too. I mean I'm grateful that Aiden's managed to come around this far on the whole

family issue, but I can tell it's hard for him. He still has to fight the urge to push me sometimes.

"I actually kind of feel like there is more pressure now because he is so understanding. I want to give him what he wants, but there is still all that junk about my birth parents getting in the way."

"Sure," answered Jocelyn, "you aren't the first she-wolf who has come to me feeling pressured to start a family. The mating bond is a beautiful thing, and when it first happens, both partners ride this incredible high."

"And then?"

"And then couples can sometimes disagree about how to keep that high going. One may want to take a few years to adjust to being mated before starting a family while the other sees kids as a wonderful new adventure.

"And in some cases, one of them could not want pups at all. What I'm trying to say is, they both want what's best for the relationship, but they might not agree on what that is."

"I want to start a family with Aiden, Jocelyn. I really do. He'll get what he wants. I just feel guilty now taking my time."

"You shouldn't. Aiden isn't trying to trick you."

"I know." I said, feeling stupid that I had even suggested that was the case.

"So, what about your birth parents do you want to know? If they really are the only obstacle holding you back, what would give you the peace of mind you're looking for?"

I had thought about Jocelyn's question a thousand times over the past week. There was so much I wanted to know about them, but it all came down to one question.

"I want to know why they did it. Jocelyn. I need to know why they abandoned me in that carriage."

"And why is that the most important question for you?"

"Look at Aiden's parents and how they walked out on him. Look at how messed up that left him emotionally, and look at me. I can't even feel comfortable having kids because of my issues. If I don't find out why they gave me up. I'm afraid I might find myself in the same position."

"Sienna, you're not going to abandon your child." replied Jocelyn, resting her hand on my knee. "At the same time, I'm not going to lie to you. Being a parent comes with uncertainty."

**It's like every other decision you make in life." The outcome can never be guaranteed. So, if that's what you're waiting for, I don't think you'll ever feel ready to start a family."

Could that be it? Was I using my parents as an excuse?

Even if I was, I couldn't help the fact that the idea of having a child didn't feel right to me. Not right now, at least

"Do you think I'm ready?" I asked, catching Jocelyn's gaze.

"You're the only one who can answer that question, Sienna.

"But you know me, Jocelyn. What if I'm pregnant? I need to know that I'm ready."

"It's okay if you're not," she said reassuringly.

"Is it? What if my mother wasn't ready? What if that's why she abandoned me?"

Suddenly, the idea of having a child growing inside me became terrifying. What if this was how my mother became pregnant with me? Would I keep it? What would I tell Aiden?

Things had just started getting good again.

This was all wrong.

It felt wrong.

I was supposed to be overjoyed that I might be pregnant. But why was I feeling terror instead?

This wasn't normal. Why couldn't I just feel happy like I was supposed to?

I started to hyperventilate.

"Easy. Sienna." Jocelyn said, rubbing my back, "Breathe slowly through your mouth. Breathe deep into your belly."

"I'm not ready. Jocelyn, I'm not. I'm going to have this baby, and I'm not ready."

"You don't have to have it if you don't want to Sienna."

"What do you mean? I don't have a choice."

"You always have a choice. It's your body."

Was she saying what I thought she was? I looked into her eyes to be sure.

“Like I said, you’re not the first she-wolf who has come to me not wanting to start a family.”

I gripped Jocelyn’s hand. I was ready for her to tell me what I had already convinced myself was true. “Tell me if I’m pregnant, Jocelyn.”

“All right, lie down on the couch,” she replied, placing a pillow behind my head. You need to keep still

I watched as Jocelyn lifted up my shirt and placed her hands just below my navel, Her hands felt smooth and sterile against my skin. I flinched, not used to being touched so clinically.

Try not to move,” she repeated, deep in concentration

I felt the area under her hands go numb. Soon after, an uncomfortable warmth radiated from between my hips.

I stared up at the ceiling, waiting for her to say the words that I dreaded but knew were coming

I lay there for what felt like an eternity, my mind racing through all the ways my life was about to change.

I hated the Haze. I hated what it had done to me, how weak I had been.

The next thing I knew, Jocelyn was rolling down my shirt.

“Try not to move,” she repeated, deep in concentration

I felt the area under her hands go numb. Soon after, an uncomfortable warmth radiated from between my hips.

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The next thing I knew, Jocelyn was rolling down my shirt.

She looked at me and grabbed my hand, her eyes full of emotion.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 13

SIENNA

No matter how I wrapped myself in the sheets, they clung to me like a hundred unwanted hands.

But when I threw them off, I felt naked and cold.

I'd come straight home after leaving Jocelyn's, hoping to find comfort in my bed. But all I'd done the past few hours was toss and turn.

I couldn't shake the worry that some part of my biological makeup might have predetermined my failure as a mother

Suddenly, I heard Aiden's car pull up in the driveway.

I hadn't expected him home till later. I didn't want him to see me reacting this way.

And I was worried I wouldn't be able to communicate properly why I was feeling this uneasiness.

As soon as he opened the door, he called out my name

"I'm upstairs," I shouted, trying to compose myself before he saw me.

When he entered the room I looked over at him and was taken by how statuesque and handsome he appeared.

His crisp collared shirt clung to his chest and stretched around his arms, tapering neatly to his trim waist. His wild black locks rested perfectly atop his head, begging me to run my fingers through them.

And his face, that once-in-a-lifetime face that was all I wanted to see when I woke up and before I went to bed... And here I was looking like a mess. clutching the bedsheets like a child.

"You're home early." I said, hoping to put the focus back on him.

"You weren't answering your phone. Jocelyn said you might be here."

"I needed some alone time. I'm sorry if I made you worry."

Aiden walked over to the bed and lay down next to me, his powerful hand coming to rest on my hip. Tell me what's wrong, Sienna.

This was the moment. I had to be honest with him.

“I missed my period.”

His face went blank for a moment before processing the implications. “Wait, are you saying that—”

“I thought I was. I went to Jocelyn. She didn’t see anything. She said it’s the haze messing with my cycle.”

**Are you sure? I mean maybe it was too small for her to see.”

“I’m sure. Aiden.”

The light in his face faded, and he looked down at my pillow.

Noticing the tearstains there, he said, It’s okay. You don’t have to be upset. We can try again.”

“That’s not why I’m crying, Aiden. What if this is my fault? What if I’m not meant to be a mother? You’ve already given up so much for me, I don’t want you to have to sacrifice kids as well.”

“Sure. I’d love to have kids with you one day. But you’re the most important thing to me. Plus, I think you’re forgetting we’re mates. Sienna. You’re stuck with me for life.”

“I know. That’s why I’m so freaked out, Aiden. What if there’s something about my birth family that means I can’t have kids?”

“It wouldn’t matter, Sienna.” he replied, sitting up. “You’re my main priority. I thought I made that clear.”

He had, and I knew it was silly of me to think otherwise.

“I know you’re nervous about having children, but you won’t be alone, Sienna. I’m here: your family is here.

“If we’re being honest, I’m scared too, but I know what a wonderful mother you’ll be and that, together, we can figure it all out.”

How could he be so sure? There was no way to know. Was he just telling me what I wanted to hear to calm me down?

I think he could see the doubt that was lingering in my expression, because he reached out to stroke my arm.

“Sienna, you don’t know what led to your parents leaving you. You don’t even know if it was their decision,

He had a point. I had kind of jumped to the worst-case scenario. I just hated feeling like I was letting Aiden down

“You’re right. I’m sorry,” I replied.

Aiden lay down again and nestled beside me.

– You don’t think I’m like my parents, do you?” he asked.

“God no!” I replied, almost laughing at how ridiculous he sounded.

Sure, he had the same stern brow as his father and the same dominant vibe as his mother... but Aiden was nothing like his parents.

“So you see,” he said, sounding smug, “it doesn’t matter who your birth parents are or why they left you. You’re not them, and you’re going to be an amazing mother, whenever that happens.”

I rolled over and kissed his cheek.

“Interested in trying for that right now?” he said, raising an eyebrow

I smacked him jokingly. He always had to ruin a nice moment by bringing his filthy mind out to play.

We were having a nice moment!” I said, rolling onto my back.

For a while we just lay there with our arms pressing against each other.

I knew he was right. Whoever my birth parents were, it didn’t define who I was, or what type of mother I was going to be.

But I still felt that vacant space in my heart.

I still wanted to know who they were.

By this time of year, the trees in the park had lost their leaves. All that remained were clumps of spindly skeletons huddling together for warmth.

As I sat painting in the park. I too felt stripped. Selene had always told me that relationships required hard work, but I’d thought she was being dramatic.

She and Jeremy were constantly happy, and now, with the baby on the way, they would have the family they'd always wanted.

They'd waited, though. She and Jeremy had been married for three years before she got pregnant. Maybe that was all I needed to calm my fears: some room to breathe.

I got lost in the brushstrokes of my watercolor. It was calming watching the pigments blend and dry.

I could choose which colors I wanted and the limits of where they spread, but there was always a degree of unpredictability in how they mixed.

I would never fully be in control.

But the painting was still beautiful.

Maybe I needed to be more like my watercolors.

I could still dictate the bigger things, but I had to accept that there would always be a part of my life that I couldn't control, a blending of possibilities.

The painting in front of me proved that this wasn't always bad, that it could lead to beautiful results.

"Wow, your work is exquisite," a voice said from behind me.

I spun around, expecting to see one of the many retirees that visited the park during the week, but instead there stood a handsome, well-dressed man.

His immaculate white-blond hair was slicked back, and his piercing gray eyes almost put me into a trance.

He couldn't have been much older than Aiden, but there was a quality about him that made me feel like he had already lived a lifetime.

"Pardon my intrusion," he said, flashing a dashing grin. "I was passing by, and something about your painting struck me. Are you a professional?"

This wasn't the first stranger to offer me compliments, but somehow his remarks felt like deliberate flattery

"I am," I replied. "I mean I sell some pieces from time to time."

"Really? Where can I see more of your work?"

"I have a gallery you can stop by."

"I would like that," he answered warmly. "Will this one be for sale?"

"This?" I said, blushing. This is nothing. It's not that good."

"I think it's incredible," he remarked. "My name is Konstantin, by the way."

"Sienna," I replied.

"Sienna, what a lovely name," he said, extending his gloved hand.

I reached out and shook it.

"I've just moved to the city and have an apartment with lots of empty walls. I would love to arrange a viewing at your gallery sometime.

"Here is my card," he said, reaching into his coat pocket and producing a sleek white piece of card stock with embossed lettering. You'll find my number there at the bottom."

"Yes, of course," I replied, not sure what to make of his intense interest in my work.

"Good. I look forward to seeing the rest of your art, if this piece is any indication."

He gave me a smile and walked off down the path.

There was a foreignness about him that I couldn't place, and it made me want to know more.

He carried himself in such a refined way, but there was also a distinct hint of mystery to him.

I looked down at the card he'd handed me and was surprised by what was printed there:

Konstantin, Doctor of Psychology: Therapist

Specialization in mind-linking and memory mapping

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I looked down at the card he'd handed me and was surprised by what was printed there:

Konstantin, Doctor of Psychology, Therapist

Specialization in mind-linking and memory mapping

It certainly sounded impressive.

I traced the edge of his card with my index finger, debating what I was going to do. It was exciting to have a potential client who was interested in my work.

But there was something strange about him that I couldn't quite put my finger on...

Something tells me I'll be seeing Konstantin again very soon.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 14

Sienna Good morning, Konstantin, this is Sienna

Sienna The artist from the park

Konstantin Of course! How are you?

Sienna

I'm well, thanks

Sienna

Still interested in stopping by the gallery?

Konstantin I certainly am. What time is best?

Sienna Today at 4?

Sienna

1071 5th Ave

Konstantin Perfect See you then, Sienna

SIENNA

I was excited to meet with a new customer, especially one with taste. It was a good distraction

especially one with taste. It was a good distraction from all my thoughts surrounding my birth parents.

That said, I still had to catch up on all the administrative tasks I had fallen behind on, like the charity list that Josh kept hounding me about. He was a really nice guy outside of work, but when it came to pack business, I think he took his job a little too seriously.

I had just finished reviewing the impact proposals and was about to start on my list when I felt a strange tingle in my thigh.

It felt like a muscle spasm, but I hadn't remembered bumping into anything earlier in the day, and I hadn't worked out in over a week.

I reached my hand down and started to massage the spot.

Oh shit, thats what it is.

The touch of my hand against my thigh set off an explosion of pleasure that pooled inside my sex and shot up through my core and into my breasts. hardening my nipples and shortening my breath.

Fuck, where is Aiden? Never mind, I dont have time.

I flew out of my office and headed for the stairs, steadying myself against the railing as I made my way to the basement bathrooms. There were

10:49 AM 0.9KB/S no offices on that floor, and at this time of day, everyone was out to lunch.

I needed privacy in a hurry, and that was my best bet.

I'd thought about taking care of it in my office, but I was scenting like crazy, and it would have taken the whole pack house two seconds to know what was going on behind my door.

The weight of each step grew heavier and heavier until I was sure I was going to collapse on the ground.

Christ, did this staircase get longer?

I stumbled into the hallway and looked both ways down the silent marble corridor. The coast was

clear.

By now my skin was on fire, and all my sensitive parts were pulsating with sensual energy

I found the nearest bathroom and burst through the door.

"Hello?"

Perfect, nobody was in here, and from the look and smell of things the whole place had been cleaned less than an hour ago.

I labored into the closest stall and latched it shut, then scrambled to pull up my dress and push my panties out of the way.

Fuck, fuck, fuck.

Spreading my legs, I plunged my fingers deep into my wet lips and moaned at the instantaneous release.

I began working my fingers back and forth, stroking my clit. I steadied myself on the bowl, massaging my breasts and picturing Aiden on top of me, thrusting inside, his lips dancing across my neck

Closing my eyes, I could swear I started to smem him, his musk wafting into my nose, exciting me even more. I sped up my hand, rubbing myself wanto

Yes! Fuck, yes!

“I can scent you, woman.”

My hand stopped. I held my breath. Was this really happening?

I heard his heavy footsteps approach the door.

“Are you going to let me in?”

“You’re going to have to huff and puff if you want that door open.”

“Very well.”

In an instant, the door was ripped off its hinges and before me stood Aiden, hulking, veins bulging from his arms.

“You’re late.” I said in a sexy tone. “I hope you don’t mind that I started without you.”

A sly grin spread across Aiden’s face. “I’m sure I can find something to satisfy me.”

He lunged forward, but I was quicker and threw him against the wall of the stall.

I wanted it rough

I reached down and grabbed his bulge. “I see you came ready to play.”

“Is that a problem?”

“Not at all.” I pulled his hair and pressed my lips against his, catching his bottom lip between my teeth and biting down.

I felt his grip on me tighten as he registered the pain. He responded in kind by biting into my neck. I let out a moan and yanked his head back.

Now he was the one who threw me up against the wall. The whole structure shuddered with the impact of my body, but I didn't mind.

Pleasure and pain were all the same to me.

“Lose the shirt.” I ordered, and as Aiden pulled it over his head, I dropped down to my knees and unbuckled his belt.

I could already see his erection straining against his pants, waiting for me to set it free.

He pulled my head back by my hair, as I took off his slacks and briefs. I gripped him by the base and put his tip against my lips. Aiden's breath Muivered and I felt him stiffen even more in my

10:50 AM |1.0KB/S quivered, and I felt him stiffen even more in my hand.

I teased him with my tongue, running it along his shaft, taking delight in how his face strained under the torture.

Then I took all of him into my mouth, sliding my lips back and forth while stroking with my hand.

“Oh, fuck, Sienna. Just like that.”

I always liked when he gave me positive feedback, but I wasn't going to let him finish. I still needed him for other activities.

I rose to my feet and licked his face. He growled and pushed me back into the stall.

He lifted me up onto the handrail and slid his hand between my legs. I propped one foot against the toilet as he buried his fingers deep inside me. I let out a gasp as he started to rock them in and out.

“Harder,” I whispered into his ear.

I was getting so wet I could barely feel his fingers sliding inside me.

Aiden picked up the tempo, pressing his fingers firmly against the walls of my sex as his whole arm rocked back and forth.

Every time his palm slammed against my clit I let out a shriek of delight.

I grabbed his throat.

He didn't flinch

I squeezed harder.

"Is that all you've got?" he ground out.

Incensed by Aiden's challenge, I pushed his fingers out of me and threw him down onto the toilet lid

I tossed my leg over his lap so I was straddling him and grabbed on to the handrails that lined the stall. I started to rock my hips, grinding my wet sex against his shaft.

The whole stall started to shake, and I was certain the toilet would rip off the wall.

He felt amazing inside me, like he'd never been this deep before. My muscles tightened as I felt myself getting closer to cumming

Aiden's fingers dug into my sides, and I knew he wasn't far off either.

The pressure continued to build inside me, boiling up through my body.

My heart raced, and I felt my skin start to tingle.

I rode him even harder, throwing all my weight against him in a mindless fury.

"Aiden, don't stop. Don't stop!"

The orgasm tore through me like a lightning bolt.

"Aiden, don't stop. Don't stop!"

The orgasm tore through me like a lightning bolt.

My arms turned to jelly, and I collapsed onto my mate

Aiden pulled out with a grunt and shot his warm seed across my thigh.

He pressed his soft lips against mine, and I held his kiss, not wanting it to end.

We both sat there, panting, sweat dripping off our

exhausted bodies.

Aiden tucked a strand of hair behind my ear and smiled. "We should get back to work."

"Of course." I replied, sliding off him. "I wouldn't want to deprive the pack of their alpha. I'll see you later this evening"

I planted one last kiss on his cheek and pulled down my dress, then I glanced in the mirror and laughed.

I'd *definitely* need to go home and clean up before I met Konstantin at the gallery.

I was still arranging paintings on the wall when he strode in wearing a sharp navy overcoat and charcoal fedora.

Every time I'd seen him he'd looked like he just

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Every time I'd seen him he'd looked like he just stepped out of an expensive menswear catalog

"I'm not early, am I?"*

"No, not at all. I'm running late. Please come in."

His cologne smelled like roses and spice and had an almost intoxicating quality to it.

I didn't know what it was about this man, but he wasn't like most werewolves that I knew. In fact, I wasn't even sure if he was a werewolf.

"This is a lovely little space you have here."

"Thank you, it was a gift from my mate."

"Yes, I've heard about him. The esteemed alpha."

Well, he certainly knows about werewolf current events...

"How did you..."

"You've been all over the news. Unless that's your twin sister I've been reading about."

Of course, what was I thinking? I had tuned out so much of that noise, I'd forgotten the papers and blogs were still reeling from Aiden's press conference.

Being instantly recognized was something I still had to get used to.

"It must be hard," he said, giving me a sympathetic look. "Having your family background scrutinized, being called a stray, leading a pack when you're so young; it's a lot to handle for one person."

I suddenly remembered that Konstantin's card said he was a psychologist, and I was beginning to feel a bit... *psychoanalyzed*.

I wanted to change the subject.

Even though his analysis was spot on.

"I try to ignore the tabloids," I said, avoiding eye contact

He must've picked up on my discomfort with the subject because he didn't press it any further,

"Do you manage this place on your own?" he asked.

"For now." I answered. "Maybe if I start putting more time into it, I'll hire help. Right now it's kind of my personal sanctuary.

"Lovely," he replied, starting to stroll along the wall.

"So, what type of pieces are you looking for?"

"Like I mentioned in the park, I have a penthouse that I need to decorate, and I'm looking for some statement pieces," he replied, removing his coat and hat to reveal a fitted black suit.

He approached me and started to inspect the canvases I had just hung on the wall.

**Are you looking for a still life or a landscape?' I asked.

"I'm hoping for something more abstract. Provocative. Like this," he said, motioning to a painting in the back corner of the gallery

I was surprised by his choice.

The painting was one I had done quite some time ago: a gorgeous ethereal woman with jet-black hair and haunting purple eyes.

Eve.

I hadn't seen her since that night, over a year ago. when she'd stopped by my gallery. I couldn't even remember what we'd spoken about.

"Why this one?" I asked.

He stroked his chin as he approached the painting and stood in front of it.

"She speaks to me," he responded cryptically. "I suppose I can see a bit of myself in her."

Eve was about the most mysterious person I'd ever met, so that made me even more curious.

"How so?"

Konstantin turned to me and grinned. When I saw his teeth I gasped.

Fangs.

He stroked his chin as he approached the painting and stood in front of it.

"She speaks to me," he responded cryptically. "I suppose I can see a bit of myself in her."

Eve was about the most mysterious person I'd ever met, so that made me even more curious.

****How so?***

Konstantin turned to me and grinned. When I saw his teeth I gasped.

Fangs.

"You could say there's a sort of *blood* relation between us."

"You...you're... a...." I stammered.

Konstantin's gray eyes flashed with amusement.

"I'm a vampyre."

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SIENNA

I stood in my gallery, mouth agape, as Konstantin suppressed a chuckle.

Suddenly all the mysterious puzzle pieces clicked into place

His timeless demeanor...

His sense of style...

His nearly psychic level of intuition..

Konstantin was a *VAMPYRE*.

"I see that I've rendered you speechless," he said, unable to hold back his laughter any longer.

I blushed, feeling foolish.

"Sorry, I've just... never met anyone like you before," I replied.

Konstantin looked back at the painting of Eve. "Are you sure about that?"

"Wait, you mean... she was a vampyre too?"

That would certainly explain a lot...

Konstantin nodded. "Yes, but she's a vampire with an i, not a y like me."

"What's the difference?" I asked, realizing I knew next to nothing about the world outside of my Werewolf bubble.

"-*Vampires* are born with the gene, while *vampyres* are turned by vampires," he explained.

"So someone turned you," I said, thinking about long fangs sinking into my neck.

I imagined it was a *very* different experience to being marked by your mate.

Konstantin smiled wistfully. "A long time ago."

I was dying to know how old he was, but I couldn't bring myself to ask. I didn't know vampyre etiquette, and it might've been a rude question.

Still, I had so many other questions to ask.

"What brought you here?"

Konstantin's gray eyes almost looked silver for a

Konstantin's gray eyes almost looked silver for a moment as they flashed with intensity. He looked like he was considering the answer to my question, but then he finally spoke.

"I'm opening my practice here," he said. "I've traveled all over the world, seeking knowledge, and now I just want to help others find what they seek."

Oh, right... I keep forgetting he's a doctor.

"I use my powers for good." Konstantin said. "I can unlock things in people's minds that they didn't even know were there. I can schedule you in for a session if you'd like."

My heart started beating faster.

There was so much about my own past that I still didn't know

So many questions swimming around my head. About where and who I came from.

Could Konstantin help me unlock the answers?

I lay in bed staring at the ceiling. I couldn't stop thinking about my conversation with Konstantin yesterday.

LIELINING JUDUL ILIY LUITVCI Sauvu WILL NOUS LILLLL yesterday.

He'd offered to help me work through my issues as my therapist, but I wasn't so sure.

Therapy was never something I'd given much thought to.

But Konstantin was no ordinary therapist...

Maybe he actually could help me find the answers

I was searching for?

I sighed, throwing off the covers and getting out of bed. I needed to get ready for a pack meeting.

I stepped into my dress from the previous night, still lying on the floor, and pulled it up over my body. Aiden walked in just as I was zipping it up,

He approached me from behind and pulled the zipper right back down.

"Aiden." I said reproachfully. "It's a miracle that I ever manage to get ready with you as my mate

He pulled the top of my dress down, and I let my arms fall through the sleeves.

"Aren't we going to be late to the meeting?"

"They can wait," he said, cupping his hands over my exposed breasts. I wasn't wearing a bra, and the feeling of his warm hands against my body ignited my haze

His fingers played with my nipples, circling them, rubbing them

I felt my skin tighten, and the all-encompassing heat of the haze began to grip me.

Aiden locked his mouth to mine and let our tongues dance with each other. He started walking me toward our bed.

We didn't have time for this, but my body didn't give a shit what my mind wanted.

"We're going to be late." I said again.

"I'll be quick," he replied, giving my ass a squeeze.

My dress fell to the floor in a pile again, and I was right back to where I started.

In one swift motion he pushed me onto the bed and pinned me beneath his bulk. I felt the weight of his hips press against my sex

He placed his mouth on my breasts, sucking softly

on my nipples. I moaned out in ecstasy.

Oh God, why does the haze always make me lose my damn mind?

I wrapped my legs around Aiden as he trailed kisses down my abdomen until he reached my sex.

His tongue lapped me up and I felt myself getting wetter by the second.

Then his fingers began to play with my clit and my body felt like it was soaring through the

clouds.

"Aiden... we... have... to...go." I could barely speak between my uncontrollable moans of pleasure.

He finally pulled his face away from my sex and looked at me

"Babe, when the haze comes knocking, you don't ignore it."

“Well, the haze is going to have to wait this time because I really want to take my luna duties seriously.” I said. “The pack is finally starting to trust me, and I don’t want to lose that.”

Aiden sighed, sitting up and squeezing my thigh tenderly. “Fine. But don’t say I didn’t warn you.”

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AIDEN

I didn’t like these pointless meetings. I’d much rather be pleasing my mate.

Josh, however, had insisted on these weekly recaps, where everyone in the council updated each other on what they’d accomplished during the week and brought up any items they’d like to discuss with the group.

They were typically uneventful and not of much value to me, which was why I was fine if Sienna and I were a few minutes late.

I tolerated them because I could sense that Josh was trying to prove himself.

These meetings gave him a bit of control – something he could own.

I didn’t harbor any ill will. His motivations made sense.

For much of our lives, he’d been the one I turned to when I needed a second opinion or someone to vent to. But that changed last year when he betrayed me.

Now I had Sienna to fill that role, and I could tell he felt cast aside at times.

“Sienna, did you finish the charity list?” questioned Josh, looking up from his spreadsheet.

For all our sakes, Sienna. Please say yes.

“I was about to send it to you before this, but I got distracted. It’s basically done, though. You’ll have it first thing tomorrow.”

“What distracted you?” asked Josh.

Sienna blushed and shot me a coy glance. “I can’t remember exactly.”

“All right, well, could you send it today before you leave?”

“Of course.”

“If you need help catching up on anything you know you can holler and I’ll take care of it.”

“Absolutely, Josh. Thanks.”

I had to hand it to her. Sienna had picked up the passive-aggressive doublespeak of pack-house politics faster than expected. It was oddly attractive, actually.

“Is that everything, Josh?” I asked, trying to speed

“Is that everything, Josh?” I asked, trying to speed things along so I could get Sienna home and continue where we’d left off.

“Yes, I don’t have anything else on my list, unless someone has any other items,” he replied, looking around. “Great, in that case, meeting adjourned.”

JOSH

I thought I was being pretty reasonable, but Sienna had me steamed. I didn’t know how to be any nicer

I’d given her an easy out. Why wouldn’t she take
it?

It was like she didn’t take her position seriously at all.

A position that used to be filled by me.

I needed Michelle. She always knew how to calm me down when I got like this.

Josh She still didn’t have the list A

Michelle boo, relax lol Senes

Josh

Sry, I needed to vent

Josh It’s like Aiden doesn’t even care

Josh I’m busting my ass and she can’t put a list together

Michelle she’s had alot going on the past few months

Josh I know but she's the LUNA

Josh Apparently Aiden wants her to be his new beta too...

Josh

I wish he'd just say it

Michelle ur not the only one whos had to adjust

Michelle Si was always the quiet one, but now shes ms, spotlight

Michelle I basically live in her shadow

Josh That's not true

Josh You'll always be my sunshine

Michelle get outta here with that

Josh You love it

Michelle Hurry home. I have a surprise for uy

Josh

SIENNA

I couldn't believe I was doing this. Josh wouldn't even look at it until the morning.

Actually, from the way he'd been badgering me about it, I wasn't so sure. He either really cared about giving to charity, or he was trying to call me

out in front of everyone.

All because he'd screwed up and was trying to make amends.

Before Aiden and I had mated. Josh and I were already on shaky terms. I'd thought he was a dick, and he'd thought I was an airhead.

But once we'd spent more time together, we'd learned to tolerate each other. I mean, we had to.

Not only was Josh Aiden's best friend, but he was also mated to my best friend, Michelle. In other words, our personal relationships depended on the two of us getting along,

And Josh didn't understand that I was dealing with a lot of doubts and insecurities,
No one understood, really-myself included.

I was trying my best to be a good luna, but I needed to start accepting help.

Which is why I decided that I needed to finally confront my issues instead of sweeping them under the rug

Sienna Hey Konstantin

Sienna Does your offer to schedule me for an appointment still stand?

Konstantin Of course!

Konstantin When were you thinking?

Sienna Does now work for you?

I pressed the P in the elevator, for *penthouse*.

If the hotel was any indication. Konstantin's apartment would be more lavish than I could've ever imagined

As the elevator began to rise, I started feeling a tingling sensation in my thighs.

Was I just nervous about my first therapy session?

You've got this, Sienna. There's nothing to worry about

Except the slow, molten heat that started crawling

through my body wasn't nothing. My stomach quivered, and I fought to breathe.

Aiden's face flashed before me, and I felt him. I felt his hands caressing my neck, my breasts, my stomach... my sex.

What the fuck is going on?

The elevator kept rising, getting closer and closer to Konstantin's apartment.

To my horror, my body embraced Aiden's phantom touch

I started to perspire and felt myself open up to his caress. His scent filled my nose, and his face filled my imagination. I couldn't escape it. I didn't want

to escape it.

I was burning up in my clothes. I needed to get them off before I suffocated.

I unbuttoned my blouse as I collapsed on the floor, gasping for air.

Aiden's fingertips danced along my inner thigh and traced the outside of my lips.

I was going crazy with desire, and I couldn't stop what was happening

Aiden had been right earlier...

When the haze came knocking, you didn't ignore

And now my haze was even stronger than before.

I tried to squeeze my legs together as tight as I could, fighting the feeling of Aiden's touch, but my panties were getting wet.

The fire was threatening to consume me, and I needed a release before I burned up.

Not here! Not now, dammit!

DING!

Oh my God...

The elevator arrived at the top floor and the doors opened.

And standing over me was Konstantin

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SIENNA

I was sitting on the floor of the elevator, my legs splayed out, blouse unbuttoned, sweat dripping down my chest and into my cleavage.

And standing over me was my new therapist, looking confused as hell.

If this isn't a cry for help, then I dont know what

"Sienna... are you, uh, all right?" he asked.

I got to my feet, attempting to ignore the waves of unrelenting pleasure that were still rocking me.

"I'm fine," I said quickly. "May I use your restroom?"

Keep it together!

"Yeah, it's just down the main hall and to the left." he replied, still looking concerned.

I bolted past him immediately, but each step was hazed torture.

Focus on something else!

The penthouse's entry way was adorned with marble Grecian statues, which looked like they might actually have been imported from the Parthenon

In fact, his whole apartment was filled with rare art from different eras throughout time.

How had he managed to get his hands on all this?

I guess being a vampyre has its perks.

I turned left at the end of the hall and saw the bathroom in front of me. When I got inside I closed the door and locked it.

The haze had spread to every inch of my body, pushing me to give in.

I needed Aiden beside me. I needed Aiden *inside*

1. me.

It was all just too much to handle.

I slid down to the floor and took deep breaths,

All I wanted to do was plunge my fingers into my sex and make this go away, but I resisted.

1, 2, 3... and breathe.

1. 1. 2. 3... and

The haze finally started to subside, and with it, my anxiety.

My body felt like it had just returned from war—a war it had nearly lost.

That's the LAST time that I'll put off sex during the season.

I'd come here to get therapy, not create *more* reasons for needing it.

Konstantin must think I'm insane.

I stood up and straightened my clothes as I walked to the mirror. I was a complete mess

I quickly buttoned up my shirt and tied my hair back in a ponytail.

It will have to do.

I unlocked the door and went back into the hall. I saw Konstantin sitting in what looked like a study. It was just as impressive as his entry way.

Art and artifacts adorned the walls. The furniture looked like it could've come from Buckingham Palace. The shelves were lined with hundreds of thick books.

"Have you actually read all of these?" I asked, entering the study and running my finger across the book spines.

"I'm older than I look," he said with a laugh. "I've had plenty of time."

Konstantin motioned to a chair across from him and I sat down.

"Are you...doing better?" he asked hesitantly.

"Yeah, I just *really* had to pee," I responded, trying to play it off.

Konstantin smiled at me and steepled his fingers. "Sorry for the inconvenience. I haven't had a chance to set up my office yet, so I'm conducting my sessions from home for now."

"No need to apologize. This place is stunning," I said.

There was a moment of silence as Konstantin studied me. It was like he was trying to read me. as if I were one of his books.

—What brings you here, Sienna?"

Oh, I guess we're getting straight down to business.

I felt a bit awkward, uncertain of how therapy sessions were supposed to go.

"I'm... I'm not exactly sure," I said.

Konstantin nodded. "That's okay. There are no right or wrong answers. In fact, you don't have to have answers at all. That's why you're here."

That made me feel a bit better, more at ease.

"I guess I... I just feel lost," I said.

"How so?"

"Well, you kind of hit the nail on the head when you were in my gallery the other day."

Konstantin didn't speak, just listened, so I continued.

*Becoming luna, being thrust into the spotlight, not knowing who my biological parents are

"Your parents," Konstantin said, stopping me.

"That's the thing. I can't. I know nothing about where I come from.

"You have no memories of them at all?"

"None," I replied, "I've tried to dig as deep as I can to find even a shred of memory, but I always come up empty

"That must be frustrating," Konstantin said, his tone sympathetic.

"My birth parents have always been in the back of my mind, and I know I've kept them there for a reason," I said. "But when I became luna, my desire to know who they were only intensified."

"Do you think that desire surfaced as a result of your treatment by the media?" Konstantin asked.

I nodded. When they started asking questions... it brought up all the questions that I was too afraid to ask myself."

Konstantin was already starting to get to the root of my issues.

I'd let this weigh on me for far too long, and even just talking about it was making me feel lighter.

I leaned forward and looked Konstantin directly in the eyes. "You said before that you use your powers to help unlock people's minds. To find things that they didn't even know were there."

**I do," he said. "But it's not as easy as that.

The process can be a bit... intense. It's not for everyone. You must be absolutely sure that you can handle it."

I didn't want this to hold me back any longer.

I needed the truth.

But was I really ready for it?

AIDEN

My paws slapped across the muddy ground as I weaved in and out of the dense forest.

I loved the feeling of the wind blowing through my fur.

The feeling of my senses at their most heightened,

The thrill of the hunt.

I always got a rush from going on patrol with my beta, but even more so when it involved a chase and tonight, we had no fucking idea what we were chasing

"Josh, are you seeing any tracks?" I asked, communicating through our mind-link.

"None," he replied, shooting out of a nearby bush and joining me in pursuit. *"I don't think this thing is on foot—if it even has feet."*

"I'm scenting someone directly ahead. There's more than one scent," I said, sniffing the air. *"One is definitely a werewolf. But the other..."*

In the past year I'd become aware of the existence of other creatures, something previously only known to Millennium Wolves, and with what Raphael had told me about how dangerous vampyres could be...

I was ready for anything.

We plowed ahead toward a clearing. "We're *almost the*

Without warning, a flash of light burst throughout the entire forest, completely blinding us. It was as though the sun had dropped right on top of us.

I lost my footing and smacked into a tree, rolling

I lost my footing and smacked into a tree, rolling through the dirt. I heard Josh howling, he must've done the same

"What the fuck was that? Josh, keep howling so I can find you!"

The flash was gone in an instant, but my vision was still adjusting

As my eyes finally corrected, I saw Josh had already shifted, his naked body lying in the dirt. I shifted into human form and helped him to his feet.

"You okay, bud?"

"Just a few scrapes." Josh grinned. "Guess we need to inform someone that this is a no-flash-photography zone.

"Keep your senses alert. We could be under attack," I growled as I started to shift again.

"Aiden, wait!" Josh stopped me. "Behind you."

I turned around to see what Josh was looking at.

A woman, lying in the clearing alone, badly wounded and barely clinging to life.

JOCELYN

For the most part I'd gotten past any discomfort of seeing my two ex-boy friends together.

But when they burst through the door of my pack-house office completely naked, carrying an equally naked woman, that was a new level of uncomfortable for me.

Jocelyn, we need your help," Aiden yelled, placing the bruised and bloody woman on my desk. "She's not moving.

"What the hell is going on?" I blurted out.

"No time to explain," Josh responded, "She's badly injured. She won't make it if you don't do something right now."

He was right. This was no time for explanations. I jumped into action and placed my hands above her heart, transferring some of my energy to her.

Okay, at least there's a heartbeat.

Whoever had attacked her like this must've been a true monster.

something right now.”

He was right. This was no time for explanations. I jumped into action and placed my hands above her heart, transferring some of my energy to her.

Okay, at least there's a heartbeat

Whoever had attacked her like this must've been a true monster

As I looked her over for more injuries, I noticed that despite her wild appearance, this woman was strikingly beautiful.

When I pulled open her eyelids to check her pupils, I gasped in surprise. “Oh, she's ”

“What is it?” Aiden questioned.

“She's an omega wolf.”

A rogue. A wolf without a pack.

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JOCELYN

I finished laying the sage leaves around the omega wolf and placed a quartz crystal at the base of her feet.

My mother had taught me this ritual when I was just a child. She'd said if I ever found myself lost or alone, this would guide me back to safety.

I didn't know if her ritual applied to this situation, but I'd tried everything else I could think of in the past twenty-four hours, and nothing had worked.

This omega wolf was very much alone, and I was trying to bring her back to consciousness, so maybe this would do the trick. Or maybe I'd just end up looking foolish.

Werewolves healed fast, but this one had taken a real beating. I couldn't imagine what had done this, but Aiden and Josh would be expecting answers from me, and right now, all I had were questions.

“Who are you?” I voiced my thought aloud. “I can't just keep calling you *the omega wolf*, now can I? I bet you have a beautiful name.”

This mysterious woman entranced me. I wondered what she would sound like if she could talk,

How she ran in wolf form.

What her favorite meal was.

Her favorite flower

God, what's wrong with me? Maybe I need to go see a healer myself.

I began packing up my things. It was time to call it a night, although *morning* might be more accurate, I was definitely beginning to sound delirious.

"If I keep talking to unconscious patients, I might get my healer status revoked," I said to no one in particular.

"Well, that would suck. Who'd keep me company?"

I dropped my bag, causing my medicinal herbs and salves to spill out all over the floor.

"Oh my God, you're-you're..." I stuttered,

"Nina," she said, struggling to prop herself up with an elbow. "Or would you still prefer *omega*

wolf?

Nina. What a lovely name.

The thin sheet covering her began to slide down her naked torso, and it caused me to blush.

Her skin was dark and shiny, like the night sky, and her nipples like glimmering stars—I wanted to get lost in her galaxies.

"Hello, paging Doctor Distracted. My eyes are up here," she said unsteadily.

"I was just... just examining your wounds," I sputtered quickly, trying to compose myself. "You know...you really shouldn't try to sit up. You still have a lot of healing to do."

"Oh this? It's just a flesh wound," she said, pointing to a huge gash across her thigh.

"Nothing I can't

Nina winced in pain as she tried to get out of the bed, and her legs buckled, sending her straight into my arms.

I was sure that all the blood in my entire body had relocated to my face as I held Nina in my arms. There was no way she didn't notice the damned strawberry-tinted face staring back at her.

"I like your bedside manner, Doc." Nina clenched her teeth as she transferred her weight to me and allowed me to place her back in bed.

"Do you always make jokes, even when you're about to bleed out?" I asked reproachfully.

"It helps take my mind off the pain," she replied. "Do you have any *other ways* to distract me from the pain?"

I crossed my arms. "If you're suggesting drugs, then I can't condone

"I was gonna suggest that you sit here and talk with me for a while," Nina smirked,

"Oh, uh, okay. I guess I could do that," I said, feeling like an idiot.

Talking wasn't such a bad idea. I needed to find out just who this woman was for Aiden's sake and the safety of the pack.

Or was I just telling myself that to justify my curiosity? I hadn't been able to take my eyes off of Nina since she'd gotten here.

"So, who goes first? Are you more of a truth girl or a dare girl?" Nina asked, thankfully covering herself with a thick blanket.

"I'll talk, Nina, but this isn't a game. If you want me to keep treating you, you'll need to tell me what happened." I said in a serious tone.

"You almost died. I need to know what did that to you and if it's still out there.

Nina rolled over, avoiding eye contact with me. "Hunters," she murmured.

"Divine Hunters?"

"Yeah, they were tracking me-almost had me too. Your alpha must've scared them off," she said. "What's his name?"

"Aiden," I replied, already wanting to talk about anything other than my ex. "Tell me more about the Hunters."

"Just your run-of-the-mill humans who hate what they don't understand," she growled. This was the first hint of anger that I'd seen from Nina.

I sat down on the edge of the bed, suddenly feeling an emotional pull toward her.

****Putting my healer duties aside for a moment, can I ask you something personal?***

Nina looked intrigued. "Okay, shoot."

"What happened with your pack? Why are you alone? I mean, alone out in the wild. With no pack."

AIDEN

My stomach growled with anticipation at the spread of pasta and baked breads laid out before me.

Sienna's mother was a damned good cook, and although I'd protested these weekly family dinners initially, her family had really grown on me.

I'd begun to consider them my own

I tried to dig in to the spaghetti, but Melissa smacked my hand away.

"Now. Aiden, we have to wait for everyone," she said sternly. "Selene and Jeremy aren't here yet."

I'll have to give Jeremy less work at the pack house if it means that I can eat earlier.

I turned to Sienna, who was lost in thought. She'd been that way all day. "Are you feeling okay?" I asked, placing my hand on hers.

"I'm fine. Just going over some pieces for a client in my head," she said, forcing a smile.

The sound of the front door slamming and high heels clacking on the hardwood floor echoed through the hallway.

She sighed, looking disappointed.

Damn, I could have worded that far more eloquently. Had I really just asked her why she was alone? It was a question that I'd had to answer far too often.

What you're really trying to ask is why I was exiled, right? Wolves don't run around on their own unless they're forced to."

"If you're not comfortable saving. I won't pry." I said, thinking about how Aiden would probably be interrogating her in a cell right now if he knew she was conscious

*No, it's fine. I'll be honest. I got caught stealing. I'm a thief," she said bluntly. "A damn good one too. I'm not proud of it—okay, maybe a little proud—but I did what I had to for my own survival.

"I learned a long time ago that no one will look out for you, so you'd better learn to do it yourself

"Didn't you have some family members that you could turn to for help?" I asked, finding myself scooting closer to her.

Nina frowned at the mention of family. "I was dead to my parents years ago, and they're dead to me as well. I have no family."

"We're here, we're here. Sorry we're late," huffed Selene, pulling Jeremy into the dining room and sliding into her seat without taking a breath

Jeremy gave me an awkward nod. He still hadn't gotten used to his boss being at family dinner.

"All right, I officially declare this meal in session." Robert grinned. "Dig in!"

"Finally," I growled. "Melissa's cooking is a work of art that will not go unappreciated."

"Oh, stop," she giggled. "You'd wolf down anything that was put in front of you."

I glanced over at Sienna again. She was barely touching her food.

What the hell is going on with her today?

"Hey, Mom, Dad, I have a question," Sienna said, speaking carefully. "What happened on that day that you found me abandoned outside the hospital?"

The room got uncomfortably silent, and Sienna's parents looked at one another with apprehension,

"Where is this coming from, sweetheart?" Robert questioned.

I wondered the same. I knew Sienna had been thinking about her birth parents a lot lately, but I wasn't sure dinner with her entire family was the right place to ask about them.

"I just want to know more about where I came from—who I came from," she said quietly. "My parents... did they leave a note? Did they regret abandoning me? You've never told me any details."

I watched Melissa tense up at Sienna using the word *parents* to refer to someone else.

“Why does any of that matter?” I asked, annoyed. “Whoever they were, they made a fucking rotten decision to leave you, and they deserve whatever regret they have until they make it to their graves.”

Sienna’s eyes lit up like a volcano.

Fuck

I actually expected flames to start shooting out of her eyes at any second.

Selene and Jeremy exchanged glances.

“You don’t know anything about them,” Sienna shouted. Just because your birth parents are a nightmare doesn’t mean that mine are.”

quietly.

“Is it something that I’ve done?” I asked. “Because if I

“No, Aiden... it’s not about you. I promise.”

Her tone was reassuring, but I still felt like I was failing her in some way.

“I just need to work through some issues, and I think therapy is the best way,” she said.

I lifted Sienna’s chin so that I could stare into her eyes.

I wanted to take away all of her pain and sadness on my own. I never wanted to see tears in those beautiful eyes ever again, unless they were happy ones.

But maybe I needed to take a step back this time let Sienna deal with this her own way.

I sighed and gave her a kiss on the forehead. “I’ll support you if this is what you think is best.”

Sienna grabbed my collar and stood on her tiptoes, pressing her lips against mine.

After she finally pulled away, she smiled. Thank.

Sienna pushed her chair back, scraping it against the floor, and stood up in a fury.

“Where the hell do you think you’re going?” I growled angrily.

“Therapy!” she screamed.

THErapy?!

I got up to follow her, but she was already halfway down the hall. "Sienna, wait!"

She stopped, but didn't turn around. When I placed my hands on her shoulders, I felt her relax at my touch

"I'm sorry." I said. "I didn't realize it was such a sensitive subject."

Sienna turned around to face me and she had tears in her eyes.

I pulled her in close to my body, holding her tight. "Tell me what's going on."

"I've just been dealing with this pain on my own for too long," she said.

"And that's why you're going to..." It was hard for me to say the word aloud for some reason,

SIENNA

I was sitting across from Konstantin in his study again, but this time I knew why I was here.

I knew what I wanted.

"Are you sure about this?" Konstantin asked. "I told you before, this will be intense. You might not like what you find-even in your own head.

"I'm sure," I replied, "Help me unlock my memories. I want to know who my birth parents are."

Konstantin nodded and then locked his gaze on mine. His eyes flashed that intense silver that they did when he was focused.

"Very well, let's begin. First, you must open up your mind to me."

I nearly fell out of my seat as Konstantin's voice suddenly echoed in my head.

"You have to let me in."

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 19

Senes

Mia

Girls, ur in for a treat

Mia

And second

Mia Ya'll are crazy if u think we're getting into Chateau on a Friday

Erica

Yeah, aren't they booked, like months in advance?

Michelle u guys chill

Michelle I have connections

Mia Where's Sienna? You alive, girl?

Sienna Oh, sorry guys

Sienna

Just saw this

Sienna

Thanks, you too, Michelle! I love the earrings." she responded. "Shall we go in? I'm starving."

"Well, about that...." Erica started.

Sienna strolled past us and approached the host. -Reservation for four, Sienna Mercer-Norwood."

"Ah yes, Mrs. Mercer-Norwood, I have you right here. Follow me," he said, shooting a sideways glance at me.

"You had a reservation?" I asked, astounded.

"I called on my way over here and they said they'd seat us at a balcony table. So lucky, right?" she said with complete sincerity.

"Oh my God, SO lucky," I said.

Mrs. Mercer-Norwood.

It's hard to enjoy five-star food when your stomach's in knots.

Listening to how Mia and Erica fawned over every word that came out of Sienna's mouth just made me even more nauseated.

"This year's Yule Ball will be your first as Aiden's mate. You'll enter down the grand staircase together!" Erica sighed.

"Your life is so damn romantic, Sienna. I can't handle it." Mia gushed.

Yes, I'll be there, but I might be a bit late

Michelle okay bitch u better not flake again!

Sienna I won't I promise!

Michelle chateuuuuu!!!

MICHELLE

"What do you mean, *no*?" I said, exasperated.

"Like I said, we don't have any available seating tonight, the host said, smiling through gritted teeth. "*Reservations only.*"

"Told ya," Mia sighed, reapplying her lipstick for the fourth time.

"I just saw you let in a couple without a reservation," I shouted.

"Oh, why didn't you tell me you were the prime minister of France? Right this way, miss," he said mockingly.

"I'll have you know that I'm mated to the beta." I smirked. This always worked.

The host put his hand above his eyes and squinted past me. "Oh yeah, where is he? Because all I see

are three drunk she-wolves."

"We're not drunk." Erica replied in indignation

"Speak for yourself," Mia slurred.

"If my mate, Josh, hears about this, he'll..he'll have you fired."

"Well then you *beta* go get him."

I wanted to claw the sass right off his face, but then we'd sure as hell never get in.

Don / scream.

Don't make a scene.

Deep breaths.

I turned to the girls, deflated. "What do we do now? I really thought we'd get in."

"Sorry I'm late, guys!"

Sienna, jumping out of a chauffeured car, ran over to us looking like a breathless beauty.

Her dress was covered in exquisite rhinestones, and the necklace that sat on her collarbone made the statement, *Hey, everyone, I'm rich as fuck now.*

Is she wearing a Wolfric original? That bitch.

"Sienna, girl, you look gorge!" I yelled, probably a little too loudly.

"Than

van Mishallal Ilava tha arrinar

Neither can I.

It's not that I wasn't happy for Sienna. She was my best friend. Of course I was.

But being completely overshadowed by my best friend while she was oblivious to her special treatment was frustrating as hell.

I had accomplished a lot in the past year too, but my accomplishments were always going to be second place or runner-up to Sienna's—even my husband, the beta.

Sienna didn't even appreciate the attention. She had her eyes glued to her phone all night, texting someone, probably Aiden. Couldn't even have one night away from him.

Sienna stood up abruptly, startling me. For a moment, I thought maybe she could read my mind, and I turned red.

"I'm so sorry to cut out early, girls, but I have a meeting with a client," Sienna apologized.

"You take meetings at this hour?" I asked, raising my eyebrows.

"Go, be brilliant, do your thing," Erica said, blowing kisses. ***Proud of you, girl.*"

I might actually vomit.

Slightly tipsy, I threw my purse on the floor as I stumbled into the house. Josh was watching *Pack*

News and didn't even look up as I came in.

Typical

I bet when Sienna arrived home. Aiden littered the driveway with roses and scooped her into his arms at the entryway, kissing her, like in a fucking fairytale.

It was completely irrational for me to be mad at Josh, but right now, I wasn't thinking rationally.

"Josh, are you just gonna leave me standing here? Pick me up. dammit!"

Josh turned around, looking confused. "Wait... what?"

"Why don't you do something. Fucking do *something*. You're always just letting yourself get sidelined." I shouted.

"Oh, you're just drunk," he said, turning back around and ignoring me.

I marched in front of the TV and got in Josh's face. "Are you really content with always being second best? Letting yourself get walked all over while someone else replaces you?"

"Oh, I get it now. This isn't even about me. This is about you and Sienna, Josh replied smugly.

"No it's not," I barked. "It's about you being a fucking man and telling Aiden that you don't want Sienna taking all your responsibilities, now that she's on the council."

Josh shot out of his seat, infuriated. You know what, Michelle? You're a fucking hypocrite.

You're barking at me about confronting Aiden when you won't even talk to Sienna about how you feel outshined."

He was right. We were both feeling eclipsed, and neither of us was doing anything about it.

Suddenly, the fire and the rage that I was feeling toward Josh started moving down my body. I grabbed my sex as I felt a burning desire for my mate.

He felt it too-I could already see that he was getting aroused through his pants.

The haze was calling us, and it couldn't have come at a better time.

I wanted Josh to pick me up? Well he fucking picked me up, sweeping me off my feet and shoving me up against the wall.

He lifted my skirt over my hips and pressed his massive dick between my legs.

"No underwear tonight?" Josh grinned.

"Shut up and put it inside me." I growled, digging my fingernails into his back.

As he slid inside me, I screamed in ecstasy. God. it felt so good. I couldn't even remember why we were fighting

With every thrust, the haze became more intense

and my moans became louder. Josh's bulky arms had me pinned, and all I wanted was for him to push

"Harder!"

"No problem, babe," Josh said as he started fucking harder and faster.

Yes.

Hell yes.

Josh might've been a beta, but he fucked like an alpha.

SIENNA

"Are you ready?"

Konstantin's piercing eyes stared through me as I sat across from him in the penthouse. It felt as though he could see me in some other way that no one else could

Was I ready?

Part of me felt like this was wrong-letting someone into my mind, my innermost private thoughts that not even Aiden knew.

But Konstantin was my therapist, and I needed to accept that there were some things that I couldn't do on my own

Nothing was clear, but if I was going to find my parents. I had to trust him.

"I'm ready." I said, "Tell me what to do."

"Close your eyes."

He was speaking to me telepathically again. I followed his instructions.

"Now, take my hands."

I gently grabbed his hands.

"Remember... follow your heart."

Without so much as a ripple, my surroundings changed entirely. I was in what appeared to be a castle, wearing a gauzy robe with nothing underneath.

I shivered, my nipples hardening through the robe. This was definitely my mind.

In Konstantin's mind, I couldn't feel a thing, but in my own, everything felt real—hyperreal, even.

I began walking down a candlelit staircase, but found my way blocked by a locked door. As my hand slid into the robe's pocket, I found a key.

I guess this is my mind. Why wouldn't I have the key?

I unlocked the door and pushed through it, stumbling straight into a pair of muscular arms.

looked up and gasped.

"Aiden?"

"Ah, there you are." He smiled. "I was wondering when you'd come get me."

Except it wasn't the real Aiden this was the guide that my mind had created, the person who I trusted the most.

I took in my surroundings...

Strange, this room looked like a dungeon; the unlocked door was the only way out.

"Where do we go?" I asked.

Aiden nodded silently toward the stairs,

As we walked up the spiraling staircase, I became very aware of how see-through my robe was.

I cursed my mind for designing this outfit. Why the hell did I choose this? I was practically naked.

Aiden didn't seem to mind, judging from the way I felt his eyes following my ass.

The staircase seemed never-ending, and I suddenly realized that it hadn't taken nearly this long to descend it.

"Sienna, I think you're holding back. We'll just keep going in a loop if you aren't open."

*"I'm sorry, my mind is a mess. I don't know how to
that spread across every inch of my skin.*

Oh no..

Not here

How is this happening here?

The haze hit me like a freight train. Or some version of it in my head.

How could I be so uncomfortable and so turned on at the same time?

*My robe began to loosen, and my chest started heaving. My
sex ached for someone to be inside it.*

Aiden looked surprised. "Sienna, what's happening? What are you feeling? Tell me."

I was feeling

Everything

And it felt damned good.

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 20

SIENNA

I jolted awake, sweating and breathing heavily. Konstantin was still holding on to my hands, and I quickly pulled them away and put them under my arms for warmth

I was wet all right, but not from an orgasm. Outside my mind, I was clammy and drenched in a cold sweat.

Konstantin rushed to my side, throwing a blanket around my shoulders.

"I—I was hazed," I said, teeth chattering, "I don't understand what happened."

"Fascinating," Konstantin said, studying me. "So, that's how it manifests in your mind."

"What do you mean?"

**That wasn't the haze, not the real one anyway. Your mind is going to try and fight you off. It's only natural. Your brain has a kind of defense mechanism—like white blood cells—to keep you from entering too far."

"I can't control it," I coughed.

"I know. That's why we'll work on it together, Konstantin said calmly. "This defense mechanism manifests itself differently for

every individual, and in your case, it must be manifesting as the haze."

Of course it was. So that meant that every time I tried to access my memories, I'd feel a superintense version of the haze.

Fucking perfect

The *last* thing I wanted was to get hot and bothered during therapy.

"It's important to remember that even though it feels very real, nothing that's happening in your mind is actually physically happening in the real world. It's all in your imagination."

"I can't do any more tonight. It's all too much right now."

"I understand; we'll pick this up tomorrow. I don't want to push you if you're not ready," he said, grabbing my jacket and guiding me to the elevator.

Thanks for understanding." I smiled weakly. "I feel embarrassed."

"Nonsense. Go home and get some rest. We'll try again tomorrow."

The hot water rolled down my back as I stood in the shower, trying to make sense of what was happening to me.

Why had my mind placed me in such a precarious position?

What was I hiding from myself?

Whatever it was, it was buried *deep*.

As I splashed my face with water, I heard the shower door slide open behind me.

“Want some company?”

I whipped around to find Aiden, naked and fully erect, grinning at me with anticipation.

He was hazed

The *real* kind of hazed.

Before I could say anything, he had me pinned against the wall and we were kissing

He bit my lips, and his tongue began moving down my neck, then my torso, until he was on his knees and his head was at my sex.

I quivered with pleasure as his tongue flicked

inside me. I closed my eyes and gave in to my desire as my haze kicked in.

Aiden could trigger it just by *looking* at me the right way, but his touch was even better.

“You love it when I’m inside you, don’t you, Sienna?” Aiden said, looking up at me.

“God, yes.” I moaned.

Aiden stood up, and the tip of his cock brushed against my sex

“We haven’t been hazed in a minute,” Aiden whispered in my ear.

Only if you doncount the Haze in my head.

“Sorry I’ve been working so much.” Aiden said, his cock beginning to breach my sex. “Let me make it up to you.”

I moaned in approval as his tip slipped in

Aiden pulled back out, then grabbed me by my shoulders and flipped me around, pressing me up against the wall.

He suddenly entered me from behind, and I gasped as I felt his manhood filling me up.

Fuck!

I put my hands on the wall to brace myself as Aiden began to thrust into me with his alpha strength.

–Ye–ves, fuck ye–yes!” I stammered as each thrust hit me in exactly the right spot.

My whole body was quivering with desire, begging for more.

I felt like I was about to pass out from the pleasure.

It was just what I needed to clear my mind having my brains fucked out by my mate.

Aiden You haven't checked in with the status update today

Aiden Is she healthy enough to leave yet?

Aiden

I want a date and time

Jocelyn Aiden, I'm working with her, but she's not

Aiden, I'm working with her, but she's not just going to heal overnight.

Jocelyn You need to let me do my job

Aiden And you need to let me do mine

Aiden We can't trust her

JOCELYN

Exasperated, I placed my phone facedown on my desk. Nina shot me an inquisitive look.

“Boyfriend troubles?” she asked teasingly.

“Ex–boyfriend, actually.”

“Is this the beta flavor or the alpha flavor that's making you look like you just tasted something bitter?”

“Alpha,” I laughed. “Wait, how did you know about?”

You don't think I've noticed all the tension in the air when the three of you are in a room together? It's so thick I can barely breathe,” Nina said, haldina har naal– and ratandina t ookal–a

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holding her neck and pretending to choke.

That's very much in the past. It didn't work out with either of them."

"Alpha, beta... maybe you just need to try omega." Nina smirked.

I found myself blushing again. Why did this always happen to me when I was around her?

I helped Nina stand up and limp over to the parallel bars so we could work on her physical therapy. My blushing only increased as she clutched my arm tightly.

"The alpha doesn't like that I'm here, does he? He wants me gone."

"Aiden is just very protective of his pack, as a good leader should be," I responded. "He's not always the most open person, but he usually warms up with time."

"Is that what happened with his mate? What was her name? I heard they had quite the fairytale

romance."

"Sienna—and where did you hear that? The tabloids?" I asked cagily.

"I've been known to read a trashy magazine or two " Nina admitted "So what's Sienna's deal?

"Usually, but she hasn't come in for the past few days. Why are you asking all these questions about Aiden and Sienna?" I asked.

Nina suddenly lost her balance and fell to the floor with a thud, screaming out in pain.

"Nina!" I dropped to the floor and helped her up, inspecting her ankle: it was bright purple.

"I think I rolled it." She winced.

"We tried too much too soon. I shouldn't have pushed you so fast." I apologized.

Nina placed her hand on mine and looked at me with her bewitching eyes.

My heart started beating out of my chest, but I didn't move my hand.

Why the hell aren't my hands moving?

I finally managed to pull away and regain my composure. "I think we should pick this up tomorrow," I said, clearing my throat.

"Okay," she said, disappointed. "But, Jocelyn, sometimes it's good to push. Sometimes you have to try something to find out if you're ready."

SIENNA

Once Aiden had helped clear my mind and taken care of my haze, I felt much more confident about attempting another session with Konstantin.

"Are you ready to try again?" he asked, sitting across from me in his study.

"Yes, I think so."

I took a deep breath

"I *know* so."

Whatever happens, don't fight it. Do you understand? You have to give in," Konstantin said. "It's the only way to find what your mind has hidden away."

"I'll do my best."

"Give me your hands."

A lush garden filled with flowery arches and gushing fountains led the way to a gorgeous brick manor. I lifted my dress as I walked toward it,

trying not to get it dirty.

Wait, what was I doing? This wasn't real.

As I picked up my pace, my breasts practically spilled out of the right bodice that was boosting them up.

Again, this was my own mind's doing. Everything in my head was designed by me. Last time it was a creepy castle, this time, a charming countryside estate in the Victorian period.

I had to say, I preferred this one.

When I reached the manor, I found Aiden inside, dressed in a dashing suit and tie.

Leave it to my mind to somehow make him even more handsome

"Where to?" I asked, surveying the massive mansion.

"This is your brain," he replied. "Follow your instincts. Where is it telling you to go?"

Without thinking, I started walking up the grand staircase, with Aiden following behind. I moved past dozens of doors, but I knew that none of them was the one that I was looking for:

Twisting hallways.

Twisting hallways.

More narrow staircases.

Wallpaper that was constantly changing

This place was more maze than mansion. I was starting to feel as though I was missing something until I found myself abruptly stopping in the middle of a hallway.

"I think it's here, but I don't know why." I said, confused. "There aren't even any doors in this corridor"

I instinctively looked up at the ceiling to see an attic door, hanging slightly ajar.

"It's too high to reach. Give me a boost."

I really hoped that my mind had been courteous enough to give me underwear this time.

As Aiden lifted me, I started feeling a tingling throughout my body.

The goddamn haze again, my body's defense mechanism. That meant we must be close.

"It's happening again." I whimpered.

Aiden's face was dangerously close to my ass.

"Don't fight it. Give in to whatever your mind tells you to do when we enter that room.

I managed to pull the ladder down and ascend it, trying not to think about how extremely hazed I was feeling

When I saw what was inside the attic, my jaw dropped open.

"What the fuck?"

Old-

school wooden BDSM contraptions littered the room, along with plenty of whips and chains,

I had just brought us to a damned sex dungeon except it was in the attic.

The haze spread through my body like wildfire. I wanted to rip my clothes off, and when I looked at Aiden, it seemed the same thought may have been going through his head too.

I approached one of the wooden contraptions, not in control of my own body, like I was sleepwalking

My mind fastened the straps around my wrists.

"What are you doing?" Aiden asked with a smirk.

The haze spread through my body like wildfire. I wanted to rip my clothes off, and when I looked at Aiden, it seemed the same thought may have been going through his head too.

I approached one of the wooden contraptions, not in control of my own body, like I was sleepwalking

My mind fastened the straps around my wrists

"What are you doing?" Aiden asked with a smirk.

"I honestly don't know," I said, trying not to panic.

Another wave of the haze hit me, and all I wanted was to feel something

To feel anything

"Grab a whip, "I commanded.