

Enslaved By The Alpha Chapter 101 - END

Chapter 101 ~MAYA~ There is a stunned silence as everyone looks at Kane and Maya. This was the last thing that I was expecting him to do the moment he found out the truth. I blink away the tears as she gently hugs him to her. I think she's happy that he's hurting me. I can tell by the sly look she sends my way when she feels no one is paying attention to her. Gabriella looks at me, and she knows what this is doing to my heart. She gives me an apologetic smile, but she has nothing to apologize for; she didn't purposefully let this happen. Kane was the one doing this. Not her, not anyone else. He broke my heart, but I don't think I'm even on his mind now. The woman in front of him is all that he cares about at this point. Telling him about Eric and Ariana has managed to push him back closer to her. If he had doubts before, he doesn't have them again. I can see that he wants to make things right between them. Then what does that mean for me? Did I read him right earlier? Was it finally the end? Austin and James are looking at each other, and I think that maybe for once, they do not hate Kane. They're happy to see him give a heartfelt apology to their sister even though I know there is no way that she is Maya. Not after the things I've seen her done. These people may love her, but she doesn't love them back. I bite my lip to keep myself from shouting at her again. The last time I did that, I pushed Kane further away from me. There was nothing else that I could do today. I thought I was doing the right thing when we decided to tell him the truth; not once did I think it would push him closer to her and further away from me. It's not like I regret him finally learning the truth. He had to find out eventually. I was hoping that Gabriella and Kane would be able to bond and catch up on all the moments they'd missed out in life. I didn't have a brother, at least not right now when I had no memory of my past, but I wanted Gabriella to experience the love that Austin and James had for their sister. Somehow, none of that happened. Kane doesn't look ready to accept her yet. He doesn't even look prepared to accept his parents. The only person he seems like he wants to be near right now is Maya. I exhaled and tried to keep calm even though my emotions threatened to explode. Maya runs her hand through his hair, pretending to care about his feelings, "I love you, Kane. You don't need to apologize. I know that we will be together always. I know that no one in this world or even in this room will ever be able to separate us." I know that she said that last line to challenge me. I knew that she did because of the way she looked at me. Did no one else see what I saw? I felt like I could see straight through her act. Her 'I love you' did not sound sincere. There was no emotion in those words. If I were to say those same words to Kane, it would come straight from the heart; I would shout it, whisper it, and you would still be able to hear the intense emotion in my voice. No one would ever have to question if I loved him. They would know it by just the

way I said the words. It was not the same for her. It was not the same because she didn't truly love him. I excused myself to the bathroom. I couldn't watch Kane bowing down to Maya anymore. Gabriella was the one that gave me the directions. I opened the door and dropped myself to the ground as I brought my knees to my chest. What kind of hurt was this? The look on Kane's face told me he was done with me. He was done with us. He was ready to be the man he wanted to be for Maya. And for all we knew, it wasn't even the Maya he knew and truly loved. Shouldn't he be able to tell it wasn't her by now? What was taking him so long? Why was he ignoring all of the signs? Why was everyone who once knew Maya ignoring every single sign that this fake woman was showing to them? I don't know how long I could stand back and not say something. I knew that the moment Kane found out the truth about his family, everything would change. But not once did I think it would take him further away from me. I knew this day would come one day, a day where he decided that it was time to let me go for good; I didn't think that day would be today. Earlier, I felt the distance he was putting between us. Now I knew that the distance was very much real. He may have decided this even before Gabriella told him who he was. He was already trying to push me out of his life before he showed up here today. Why? What caused the change? My heart aches. Actually aches. The horrible part was that I didn't blame him at all for anything. I blamed myself. This was all my fault. But was it really? According to Atticus and his brothers, it's possible that I am also his mate. If that's true, I can't put the entire blame on myself. Being his mate meant that it would hurt to see him with another woman. But she was his before I even met him. That's why she is the one that has the hold on him, and he is rightfully hers. My only problem is that I don't think that's his Maya. And I'm not the only person that thinks this. It tells me that I'm not being paranoid. I'm not just hoping that she's a fake so that there would be a chance for Kane and me. I wipe the tears. I couldn't spend the rest of my day locked inside this bathroom. It's already been a few minutes since I'd stepped inside here. I had to pick myself up before Gabriella came looking for me. She tends to worry about me, and I know that she understands how painful it is to see Kane with Maya. She knows that there is a high possibility that I'm also his mate. She knows more than anyone else the kind of torture this is for me. I don't know what fate brought Gabriella into my life. But isn't it crazy that the closest friend in my life right now is Kane's sister? I force myself up and take a look in the mirror. I could try to make myself look less broken-hearted, but I don't think anything could help this right now. When I open the door, I'm surprised to see the man responsible for my pain in front of me. "We need to talk," he says to me. "Did you follow me here?" I ask, unable to hide the hope from my voice. I want to kick myself for being this way. Why is this the first thing that I ask? There are so many other questions that I needed to ask him, yet those are the first words that come out of my

mouth. There is an awkward yet painful silence between us. I'm not even sure what he's doing here right now. Wasn't he by Maya's side just a few minutes ago? Wasn't he telling her that he would never hurt her again? So then why did he follow me here? What could he possibly have left to say to me? Just earlier, he wouldn't even look at me. He places his two hands on the wall behind me and leans in, "I'm sorry," he whispers. "I'm so sorry. For everything. For leading you on when I knew Maya would always come first. For making you think there would ever be something between us. For what I'm about to do and for everything else. You don't deserve it. Maya doesn't deserve what I did. Neither of you does. I'm the problem, and I'm trying to fix it. I know I shouldn't admit this, but letting you go will f*****g rip me apart, but I have to do it. I can't hurt Maya, not after everything. I'm finally thinking straight, and I beg you not to say anything. If you open your mouth, if I hear your voice, you will make me weak, and I can't let that happen. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not ever." My lips part when he leans in closer and exhales, "Please help me do this. I can't do it without your cooperation. I love Maya. I will never love anyone else as much as I love Maya. So please, help me be good to her. Please. She's been through too much, and I'm the reason her life is such a mess. I will never be able to live with myself if I hurt her again." Hearing Kane says these things to me made it hard for me to stand. How could I say no to him when he asked me this nicely? I could see how much he loved her. How much he wanted to make things right between them. I've always wanted Kane to be happy. His happiness was always the most important thing for me. And if it meant being with the fake Maya, I wouldn't stop them from being together. She may be an imposter, but in Kane's eyes, she was the same woman he loved in the past. If I were to tell him that she was a fake, he would never believe me. He would think that I'm making up a lie so that we can be together, he would think that I was being selfish. And I wouldn't let that happen. I wouldn't mess things up because I wasn't thinking straight. "If this is what you want," I whisper, trying to fight back the tears. "I will stay out of your way. I will step back and never interfere in your life again. There are plenty of things I wish to say to you for one last time, but I know that it will only make things harder for the both of us. I'm sorry, Kane, for turning your life upside down. I'm sorry that I made your life more complicated than it already was. I should have kept my distance from the first time I learned about Maya. You are doing the right thing. I wish you all the happiness in the world." Kane's eyes are closed, and I can see the misery in his expression. I can't stay beside him, not when he is like this. It will make me cave and regret everything I just said. I slowly remove his hands from the sides of me. He doesn't open his eyes as I begin to walk away from him. But I can't stop the tears this time. They're flowing like a river. I can't believe it's all over. He will never be mine.

~KANE~ I watch her walking away from me, and I don't do anything to stop it even

though I know she is walking away with my heart. There is nothing that I can do for her, not when Maya is around. The guilt I felt inside for hurting Maya would never let me be with another woman. And that's how it's always supposed to be. It was always supposed to be her and no one else. I was wrong for ever engaging in physical contact with anyone else but her. I should have stopped it before it ever came to this point. To the point where I felt like the girl was stealing my breath as she walked out of my life. I unbuttoned the top of my shirt; suddenly, it felt too hot. I was fighting everything inside of me not to run after her. I had betrayed not one but two women. They both deserved much better than me. Maybe the right thing was to let them both go, but I knew what happened the last time I tried letting Maya go. She disappeared from my life and ended up being in danger. And I was still spending every day trying to make up for that. I couldn't make the same mistake again. I wasn't walking out on her. I wasn't leaving her alone when she needed me the most. This was the only proper way to move forward. I could never give my heart to another woman but her. I would stop myself before that ever happened. And that's exactly what I'm doing here today. I'm stopping myself before another woman takes the place of Maya in my heart. She was by my side since the start, and she was the one I treated the worst. Maya stuck by my side even when I destroyed her life. She loved me even when I didn't deserve her love. She saved me from her brothers when I'd almost killed her from emotional pain. After everything, I knew that it would always be the right decision. Always. ~ONE WEEK LATER~ ~MAYA~ "Please talk to me," Gabriella begs. "I hate seeing you like this." "I'm sorry, Gabriella," I whisper. "I'm not in the mood to talk to anyone. I want to be alone. Please try and understand. It's hard for me to talk right now." I miss him. I miss Kane so much. I refused to step out of the house since the last time we spoke. Lucy invited us over the past few days, but I turned down the offer each time. Gabriella and Arthur went to those events while I stayed home with Emma. "It's been one week, and you still haven't recovered from what happened with Kane. I knew I should have fought more to protect you from getting heartbreak. I should have known that a man never leaves his mate for anyone else. I didn't think telling Kane he was my brother would mean he would fall more for this fake Maya. I thought he would have realized by now that she wasn't who she said she was." "Maybe we were wrong about her," I whisper. "Kane seems sure that she is his mate. He wants to make her happy. If he had any doubts in his mind, he wouldn't have chosen her over me. He chose her because he still thinks that she is his Maya. He thinks that she deserves to be happy now after all of the pain she's been through." "Are you hearing yourself?" Gabriella demands. "How can you let Kane destroy his life? She's not the real Maya. Are you not trying to prove it like we proved that he is my brother? You've fought so much for Kane already since the first day that you met him. Why are you willing to stop now? Why are

you willing to let the fake Maya hurt him?" My fingers tighten around the blanket. Her words are getting to me, and I think that she knows it. "I didn't want to say this, but Kane doesn't look any better than you." She whispers. "I can see the disappointment in his face every time we show up without you there. He's looking for you even though he asked you to let him go. I don't think he meant those words. I think it was the shock of finding out about our family that made him act irrationally. He misses you. I know that he does. And you're not doing anything wrong by loving him; that woman is not Maya. You're not betraying anyone. At first, I thought you had to stay away from him, but I realize now that I was wrong. What you feel for him is not normal; this love reminds me of the love I feel for Arthur. You're his mate, and you have to fight for him. Make him realize that you're the one he has to be with. No one else." I slowly lift my gaze towards Gabriella. Was this true? Was I indeed not betraying anyone by fighting for Kane? Nothing would make me happier than knowing there was a chance for us ; that I was the right option for him. I miss Kane so much. These past few days were awful without him. "Do you want to get Kane to finally admit that you are his?" Gabriella asks me. "We both know that Maya is not who she pretends to be. I don't want my brother to be with a woman like her. I want him to be with someone that actually loves him, and you are that person. We need to push him towards you, or he isn't going to realize the s**t he's doing. We need him to see that he needs you just as much as you need him." I hug Gabriella to me. "Thank you, thank you so much." She doesn't realize how much it means to me that she is on my side. That she wants me to end up with her brother. "How do you plan on making him see that I'm the right choice?" I ask her. "What are you two up to again?" Arthur barges into the room. "I get a bit worried whenever Gabriella has an idea. It usually involves a lot of trouble." "Trouble is good." She responds. "It's how we got together. Isn't it?" He shakes his head and leaves the room without answering her. "Back to what I was saying before we were rudely interrupted." Gabriella continues. "I think that we should start by ignoring him. It would be best if you ignored him as much as possible. Don't give him any attention. Make him believe that you're really over him. Since he's been looking for you everytime we visited, I'm positive that the moment he sees you again, he will be craving your attention. He will become frustrated when he realizes that you're finally listening to him. I know that he will be." I nod; I've never ignored Kane before. I've tried a few times, but it always failed. This is the first time that I'm willing to do it because I know that there is a chance that it will bring us closer together. I was willing to listen to him, to let him forget me so he could be with Maya. But Gabriella's words have successfully changed my mind. She's not Maya. And she can't be his mate. I'm his mate. I'm the one that he needs to be with unless the real Maya shows up. It was the only time that I would be willing to step down. "Has he warmed up to you as yet?" I ask her. I was too depressed before to ask her

anything about Kane. Just his name would have been enough to make my heart hurt. Now that I knew that she was going to help me get him back, I wanted to find out everything that I had missed in a week, from locking myself inside the room and avoiding everyone. She sighs, "I've tried having normal conversations with him, but I don't think he's willing to accept that he's a part of my family. At least not right now. I think Kane has a lot going on in his heart and mind right now to welcome the thought of having a family that loved him. He has always been so skeptical about everything it will take him time to trust us. And I think we have the rest of our lives to make that happen. I don't want to force him into anything. I want him to come to us on his own. I feel like forcing him would only make things harder on all of us." I had to agree with her. Forcing Kane would never work. He had to see that his real family did love him and wanted what was best for him. "Now that I've finally managed to get you into a better mood, I can finally tell you that we have a wedding to attend at the end of this week." She informs me. "A wedding?" I ask her. "Yes, Atticus Fawn is getting married, and we're all invited. This is your chance to see Kane and ignore him. This is also your chance to act interested in other men. If I know my brother or any man with a mate, I know he will go insane when he sees you with another man. Atticus has many brothers; maybe we can pretend to hook you up with one of them." "Is he marrying his mate or Autumn?" I ask her. I remembered the article that spoke of his wedding. I knew that he didn't want the wedding to happen. "And doesn't his brothers have the same mate? Why would they agree to act like my date?" Gabriella's eyes are sad, and I know the answer before she says anything, "he's marrying Autumn. I don't know how his family got him to agree, but they are to wed. And I wasn't referring to Dante or Damon. He has other brothers. As far as I know, none of them have found their mates, and Arthur knows them well. He can ask them for a favor." I narrow my eyes, "it seems like you have an answer for everything. How long have you been planning this?" She laughs, "since I found out about the wedding from Lucy. She was the one to announce that we should all attend together when she received the invitations." I can tell that Gabriella knew how to be sneaky when she really wanted to. But I loved that about her. I hugged her one more time to me. Things were about to be crazy at this wedding. I could feel it.

Chapter 102 ~KANE~ Why am I here? Why am I standing in front of the house that I once knew to be my home? Before I moved out, I stayed with the man I thought was my

father and the woman I thought was my sister. I had so many memories here. So many that were all fake. I made a promise to myself never to come here. Never to show my face knowing that they were dead. Now that I knew their love was fake, I don't know why I'm back. Part of the reason is that I needed to get some closure. They were gone, no longer on this earth, but somehow I couldn't bring myself to hate them. They were both far from perfect; they've done things that caused pain to the people around them. They did deserve what happened to them, but still, I don't hate them. Still, there is love in my heart for the man I thought was my father and the girl I thought was my sister. Ariana was not good to me; she wasn't the sister I hoped to have, but I still had plenty of memories with her. The pictures on the desk in front of me prove those memories. There were times that I enjoyed their company, times that they weren't the worse to me. Those were the moments I loved them for. Knowing now that I had parents willing to love me and who missed me, who never stopped searching for me, didn't make anything easier. I thought that it would, but it didn't. I don't know why it's so hard to accept them. I don't know why I can't just open my heart to them. Something is preventing me from doing that, and I'm not quite sure what it is. Gabriella has tried becoming closer to me these past few days, but I kept pushing her away. Part of me still doesn't want to believe that the two people closest to me were my biggest enemies. Part of me thinks that a small part of them loved me. I know I'm a fool for thinking this way but damn it, I don't know why I'm this bloody way. I don't know why I would still love people that destroyed my life. They stole from me a perfect home, one where I wouldn't have been forced to live a life like this. They stole everything from me, took it all, and I still can't bring myself to hate them. Was this how Maya felt with me? I took everything from her. I made her cry, and I made her life the f*****g worst it has been in her entire life. I did that. I destroyed everything for her. And still, she chose to love me. I could never understand why she did it, but now I think I did. Sometimes you can't help but love the people that tried to destroy your life. You can't control who you love. But there comes a time where it becomes unhealthy, and you need to know when to f*****g stop. Because loving someone like that only brings great pain. "Why did you do it?" I ask the picture of my father in front of me. "Why did you take me away from my family? Why did you try to use me for your own benefit? Why did you destroy my life?" I don't know why I was expecting a response from him. I don't know what I was expecting from talking to a picture. What would have happened if they were alive when I found everything out? What would I have done then? Would I have had the guts to get rid of them myself? Or would I still love them as I did right now? I guess I would never know. But having a family like this was something that I deserved. My destiny was already written. I was always going to hurt Maya the way that I did, and it's why I never deserved to have a happy childhood. I had such a shitty life because of my

future and the things the universe knew I would do. Maybe this is the reason why I don't hate them. Maybe I'm grateful they destroyed my life because it made me feel good that I suffered the same way I made Maya suffer. I slammed the desk onto the floor, and everything crashed to the ground. "Why don't I f*****g hate you?" I roar. "I should hate you after everything you've taken away from me. Why don't I?" I felt like destroying everything inside of this place. I wanted to get rid of it all. All the memories that I had of them. I wanted to forget that they ever existed. I want to hate them so badly. I pick the picture up from the ground and stare at it. I let myself fall against the wall. Why did you do it? Why? I stayed that way for minutes, maybe hours; I'm not even sure anymore. I just knew that I stayed in that exact position without moving. I close my eyes, and all I can see are their smiles. I want to remember them that way. I want to remember the good parts, not the bad. I want to pretend that they weren't the monsters I found them out to be. I want to remember them as my father and sister. The father and sister I had before I found out about my next family. "I forgive you, father," I whisper. "I forgive you, sister." I forgive them both. I forgive them because it's the only way that I can get closure. I won't ever hear their voices again or see their faces in person. All I had were my memories, and I would choose what I do with those memories. I run my hand over my face as someone else pops into my memories. She's another reason why I came here. I hoped getting out of the house would help me forget about her. I needed to get her out of my mind, out of my system. She listened to me without questioning anything. She let me go without protest. She surprised me that day. Then she disappeared from my life. She never showed up. She was punishing me and ensuring I didn't get to see her face. She knew that would ruin me more than anything else. She knew not being able to see her, not being able to hear her voice, would destroy me little by little. She f*****g knew that she was making my life a living hell. Ah—f**k. Now I was blaming her for listening to me. What was wrong with me? I should be happy. And now I had a damn wedding to attend. I tried getting out of it, but Maya wouldn't listen to me. She insisted that it would look bad if I left her to participate in the wedding alone. Now I had no choice but to go since I've been listening to her every command while trying to please her. But the real reason for going was the small part of me that was holding onto just the slightest possibility of the girl being present. I wanted to see her again. Just once. I wanted to see her. I knew I promised myself not to even look her way again, but I was craving for just one chance to be next to her again. Just one chance. ~MAYA~ "I absolutely love that dress on you," Gabriella tells me. It's a light pink dress that wraps around my neck with two short slits on each side. I smile, "thank you, and I absolutely love yours. It really highlights your beauty. Not that your beauty needed any highlighting!" She laughs and hugs me. "Is that my star girl?" Arthur asks as he goes straight to Emma. "Look how beautiful she looks."

Emma did look absolutely breathtaking in the pink gown Gabriella chose for her. The two of us decided that pink was the color to wear, and Emma was happy to be matching us as well. "I'm kind of nervous," I confess to Gabriella. This was the first time I would see Kane after so long. I'm not sure how my body would react to seeing him after missing him for so long. This is the longest we've been apart since the first time I saw him back at Giselle's palace. It's something that I didn't want to get used to. I wanted to see him whenever my heart desired. And that would be every second of every day. "Don't be," Gabriella tells me. "We're about to have plenty of fun with my brother today. He won't stand a chance against us and our plotting." I smiled; she always knew what to say to cheer me up. It was one thing Gabriella was excellent at doing. I looked at the time. We were running a little late, and I'm surprised Arthur didn't mention it yet. He was probably too busy filling Emma's cup with ice cream. No one spoiled her as much as he did. It's incredible how much they loved Emma. It's something I never got tired of seeing. She was a lucky little girl. "Are you ready?" Gabriella asks me. I nod. It was time to join Lucy and everyone else. They planned on meeting up a little distance from here. Then we would all drive to the wedding together. I still couldn't believe I was about to attend a billionaire's wedding. The people around me all had money, but none were billionaires as far as I knew. I'm not sure what to expect from this wedding. I knew that it wasn't about to be a happy one, however. Knowing what we did about Atticus and Autumn, I was a bit concerned about what we would witness today. "Let's go have some fun then." She tells me with a grin. We get into the vehicle, and it doesn't take long for us to meet up with Austin and his family. We don't bother exiting the vehicles; instead, Hunter leads with his jeep to the front of us. "Remember what we spoke about," Gabriella says to me. "Ignoring Kane is a must. You have to do it for this plan to work. Don't let him get to you. It will be hard now, but it will be worth it in the end. Trust me when I say it will be more than worth it. I know what I'm saying; I've had lots of experience with Arthur. My plan is sure to be successful. When we're done with Kane, he will be at your feet begging for forgiveness, and that's exactly what we want. Don't make it easy for him. Men like him need to have it a little difficult." I nod, "I won't mess up this time." I meant those words. I knew what had to be done, and I was going to do it the right way. We don't repeat much after that. There isn't anything else to discuss. We went through everything this morning already. The drive was a long one, but that was expected. "We're here," Arthur announces as we pull up to a beautiful gate. How tall exactly was this thing? You couldn't see anything from the inside from here. My eyes widened when a guard asked us to step out of the vehicle so that he could search us. It takes him a few minutes; he then checks the validity of our invitations before allowing the gate to open. These guards were even stricter than the royal guards I was used to seeing. "Are they scanning the vehicles?"

Gabriella asks as something like a blue laser flashes us as we pass through the gate. "Fun fact, our family sold this to them. The Fawns are one of our biggest customers." Arthur explains. His eyes grow sad suddenly, and Gabriella squeezes his shoulder as if to tell him it is okay. I didn't know their entire story, but this conversation severely affected Arthur. "Do you think that your father would attend?" Gabriella asks him. "I know that they are good friends. He must have also received an invitation." His hand tightens on the steering wheel, "if he does attend, you don't have anything to worry about. He won't come near us. He won't risk causing a scene in front of one of his most valuable customers. Not on an important day like this. He will respect their place. I know him well enough to know this." "Nevertheless, I hope he won't be there," Gabriella says. "But I do hope that we get to see your siblings. I'm sure that you miss them." Again, Arthur looks in emotional distress at the mention of his siblings. "We're about to find out, aren't we?" I follow his gaze; there are hundreds of cars and even more people present. I'm assuming that this must be the wedding of the year. I don't think I've ever seen this many people in my entire life before. I can tell that only the most influential people are invited to an event like this. The only reason I'm here is that I'm associated with them. I'm not surprised that we easily found a parking spot; a number was given to us at the entrance, assigning us to the perfect area, shaded under a tree. There were many acres of land around us; the house alone must have been built on plenty. "Do they not get lost in that house?" I ask Arthur. He laughs, "I don't even think they spend much time in that house. They're traveling a lot and constantly meeting potential partners. They're very good at negotiating." That was to be expected from a family with their status. I won't expect anything less from billionaires. They would be experts in that field. Their home alone was a symbol of their qualities. "This isn't their only home," Arthur tells us. "They have private islands as well. Each of those islands had their own yacht. They're living the great life." He informs us. Even though they were living such a lavish lifestyle, Atticus still wasn't happy. He was marrying the best friend of his mate. I'm about to ask another question when I spot Lucy and the rest of the family approaching us. I try to stay calm as I slowly take a look at everyone present. I was searching for one person. Where was he?

Chapter 103 ~MAYA~ I spot Kane then. It's hard not to. He looks beautiful. He is dressed in all black and looks just as dazzling as he always does. He is holding hands with Maya or the fake Maya; I'm not sure what to call her anymore. They look good together, like a couple made for each other. There was just one thing wrong with the picture; he seemed to be unhappy. Kane couldn't hide the misery from his face. I don't think he even wanted to be here today from his expression. I glance at Gabriella, who is giving me the look.

She's reminding me of what I need to do. I had to keep my eyes on anyone but him. I couldn't give him any kind of attention. Kane needed to believe that I was finally moving on without him. He needed to realize that we were mates. And I couldn't do that for him. He had to know it on his own. I couldn't let him see me looking at him. So far, it doesn't look like he's spotted me yet. He's talking to Maya; she's saying something to him. Unlike him, she seems delighted to be here. I turn away from them and hug Lucy before kissing Roman on his cheek. I loved how he always looked happy whenever he saw me. It warmed my heart every single time. I touch his little fingers and give his hand a soft kiss. And I absolutely love the way Lucy dressed him for the wedding. He looked like a handsome prince. A baby prince. "How beautiful is this place?" Lucy asks us. "It is beautiful," Isabella says. "But a little too big for my liking. It doesn't feel like home. Anyone could get lost. You will need a car to get from one part of the house to the next." "That's because it isn't your home." Eden teases her sister, who in turn rolls her eyes. "Did anyone see Lucas?" Lucy asks. "I'm hoping that they got invitations to the wedding. I don't want to see Gideon, but I want to see everyone else. Especially him. I miss him so much. We all do. And I think that Maya will be overjoyed when she finally sees him after so long." "If they received invitations, I'm sure he will be here," Austin says. "He knows that we found Maya. I'm sure that it has been eating him inside, not being able to see her for himself. This will be the perfect opportunity." Everyone looked excited at the possibility of seeing Lucas. They've mentioned him a few times. And everyone seemed to love him plenty. He must be a wonderful person for their eyes to light up how they did whenever he was mentioned. "Shall we go inside?" Isabella asks. "If we stay here talking, we will never make it in time for the wedding." She was right. We would never make it inside if we kept on talking. There were always so many things to discuss when everyone met up. I know precisely when Kane's eyes fall on me, I could feel my skin tingle without looking in his direction. A part of me thinks that he's been trying hard this entire time not to look at me, but it would seem that he had just failed. My skin felt hot under his gaze. It seemed like this would be a lot harder than I thought it would be. I was dying to look his way, but I knew I couldn't do it. I knew that I had to be strong around him just once. This was necessary for our future. If there was ever going to be one for us. "Can we stop at the washroom before we go in?" I ask Gabriella. She sees the look in my eyes; I think she knows I'm begging for help. Gabriella was good at reading my expressions, and I'm grateful for that. I can't imagine having to tell her in front of everyone why I needed to get away from here. "We will join the rest of you in a few minutes." Gabriella excuses both of us. "We're taking a trip to the bathroom. I blame being pregnant." She doesn't say anything else as she pulls me forward. "I saw him looking at you." She tells me as we near the mansion. "Our plan is already working. I think he's concerned that you aren't

looking his way. And I think he loves that dress on you." I can't help but blush, "I did feel his eyes on me. Thank you for getting me out of there. I didn't think it would be this hard to ignore him. I've never done it before. I'm so used to doing the opposite." "Can I help you?" A kind lady asks you at the entrance. She must be one of their workers. Even the maids were dressed in expensive clothes. I don't think there was a single person here that didn't stand out. They made sure that everyone was up to their standard. "Yes, we're looking for the bathroom," Gabriella tells her. "Can you please point us in the direction? We don't want to be late for the wedding ceremony." She nods and shows us where to go. There was a screen to the left of us where we had to type the word bathroom, and we were shown all the different options throughout the mansion. "Do you think Arthur's family was also responsible for installing this?" I ask Gabriella. I didn't know much about his family, but their family business sounds like a cool one. Imagine being able to create things this fantastic? She shrugs her shoulders, "I think it's possible. They're good at those things." Gabriella seems to distance herself at the mention of his family. She must have had a bad experience with them to react this way. What did Arthur's father do to her for her to be this way? We continue walking in silence. There are many portraits hung on the walls. There was even a painting with the Fawns. I didn't stop and look at it, but it seemed like there were many more siblings that I hadn't met before. Everything in this house was pleasing to the eyes; it's insane how expensive everything looked. "Tell me why we are heading to the bathroom when it's clear that neither of us needs to use it," Gabriella says to me. "I don't think we stopped to think about that small detail." I bite my lips to keep from laughing. She was right. Using the bathroom was just an excuse to get away from Kane. It was an opportunity for me to get enough time to compose myself once more. But here we were, heading to the nearest bathroom. "Is that a spa room?" I ask as my jaw drops. The door was open, unlike the other entries we'd just passed earlier. Gabriella grabs my hand and pulls me into the room without warning, "there is only one way for us to find that out." "What are you doing?" I whisper as she shuts the door behind us. "When will we ever get another opportunity to check out the spa room in this unbelievable mansion?" She asks me. "We have time to waste since everyone thinks we excused ourselves to use the washroom." I shook my head at her as I took a look around me. There was a sauna, amongst many other things. "I think they even give facials in here." She tells me as she points at the monitor. Even the spa room was a sight to see. It was bigger than any of the rooms I've stayed in before. I couldn't imagine what their bedrooms would be like. The doorknob turns, and Gabriella and I freeze. It takes us a moment to compose ourselves, and we rush to hide under a table. We weren't exactly doing anything wrong, but I can't imagine how it would look if anyone found us inside here when we knew how to find the bathroom. I watch as two persons walk inside and

lock themselves in. One was a man and the other a woman. I could tell by their shoes. The man seemed to be in a rich white suit while the woman wore a white dress. I couldn't see their faces from this angle. Isn't it supposed to be wrong to wear a white dress to a wedding? Unless this was the bride, that didn't look like a wedding dress, it was a beautiful dress but not one I would expect a bride to be wearing. "Please don't cry," the man whispers. I can't believe Gabriella got me stuck in such an awkward situation. We should have never gotten ourselves stuck in this damn spa room. Now we had to listen to this private conversation, and there was nowhere for us to escape. As far as I knew, there was only one door, and it was behind both strangers. "How can I not cry, Atticus?" The woman cries. At his name, Gabriella and I gave each other alarmed looks. This was the groom that was supposed to be married in less than an hour. What was he doing inside here asking another woman not to cry? "I tried every way possible to get out of this wedding." He tells her. "There is nothing else that I can do to stop it. It's too late now. There are too many people here today to walk out. You know that just as much as I do. If I walk out today, my parents will lose faith in me. I can't do that to my family. We've worked too hard to get to this point." "I understand that!" She hissed. "But you're my mate! And you're marrying my best friend. I can't believe she didn't think once to try and stop this wedding. How can I see the people I love so much get married? I'm hurting. You're supposed to keep me happy. You promised me that. If it was Damon or Dante, I'm sure they would have found a way to get out of this wedding for me. But you're not trying hard enough." "Why would you bring up my brothers?" He growls. "You already know how hard it's been for me to share you with them. It kills me every day to know that you belong to them just as much as you belong to me. I know you're hurting, but you don't have to throw salt on my wounds." "Just answer me one thing." She tells him. "What is that?" "Is this the end for us?" She cries. "Will you forget about me after you marry her? I don't want to lose you. I love you, Atticus. I don't want Autumn to know you the way that I do. I don't want you to touch her. I don't want you to care for her. I don't want you to even look at her the way you look at me." Gabriella and I are as quiet as we can be as we wait for his response. There is a sharp intake of breath, and I'm sure it was his. How can she ask him these things when he is getting married today? In less than a damn hour! But who am I to talk to after all the time I spent with Kane, even after knowing he was in love with Maya? It doesn't make me any better than she is. Even now, I'm trying to get Kane to realize our connection. "These are promises that I can't make you, Anya." He says to her. It wasn't the response I was expecting from him. "Autumn will be my wife from today. At the same time, I could never love her as I love you. I can't mistreat her either. You will always come first; you know that. I'm not sure what will happen after today, but I can promise that I will never look at her the way I look at you. We are mates; I can't look at

another woman like I do you. But right now, sweetheart, I can't tell you I won't care for her. After today, I have responsibilities toward her, and I won't be able to ignore all of them. If you want me not to touch her, you know that certain traditions will require me to touch her; I can promise not to take her to bed, to not sleep with her. That's the most I can do for you, my mate. I'm sorry for failing you like this. I'm so sorry." Anya is crying more than ever now; I can hear it in her voice. "Why have you always been the perfect one? Why did I have to lose you? Why did it have to be you?" Before he can answer her, the door flies open, and I can see that it's a woman—a woman wearing a wedding dress. Gabriella covers my mouth to prevent me from gasping. That was no doubt, Autumn. His soon-to-be wife. This couldn't get any worse, could it? How did we get stuck in such a situation? I'm sure Arthur and everyone else was probably worried about us by now. We were supposed to use the bathroom or pretend to use it and then return by their side. Instead, we're stuck here listening to something we shouldn't have heard. Not like this. It felt personal and like trouble. "I shouldn't be surprised, should I?" Autumn asks the both of them. There is no hiding the pain in her voice. Does Autumn have feelings for Atticus as well? Even though this was an arranged marriage, something about the way she spoke told me that Anya wasn't the only one that liked him. "Autumn," Anya whispers. "You know that I love him. Can't you stop this wedding? He is my mate. You know more than anyone else what my feelings are for him. I can't just ignore him after this wedding and pretend like there was never anything between us. And you know he loves only me. He will always only love me. Do you get that? You can never be happy with a man that loves another woman. Especially not when that woman is your best friend." Autumn is silent for a few minutes, and in those minutes, I try to be as quiet as possible. If we made any sound, they would know they weren't alone inside this room. She sighs before saying, "Is that what you want? For me to find a way to destroy this wedding and destroy the relationship between our families? Should I tell my father what the two of you are doing less than an hour before the wedding? Would that be something both of you would like me to do?" I assume that she's speaking to Atticus. Who is unusually silent. I wish I could see their expressions. There is obvious hurt in her voice as she asks those questions. I definitely think she has feelings for him. But it doesn't seem like he likes her; he only seems to love Anya. And that was expected since Anya was his mate. He wouldn't be able to even look her way because of his strong feelings for her best friend. I felt sorry for her. She doesn't seem like a bad person. How hard must this be? "Anya," Atticus says. "Can you please leave us alone?" I'm surprised that she's the one he asks to leave. I thought he would want to keep his mate by his side. She goes to protest, but he cuts her off, "please, Anya. I need to speak to Autumn alone." I don't hear anything except his heels pounding against the floor as she storms off, slamming the door behind her. If she

wasn't pissed with him before, she definitely was now that he'd sent her away. He exhales loudly as soon as she leaves. And I'm not sure what he's going to say. Will he ask Autumn to tell her father to stop the wedding? I didn't think her father would listen with the number of people I've seen present here today. "It's bad luck to see the bride in her wedding dress before the ceremony." Those are the first words that Atticus has said to her since Anya left. And once more, I'm surprised by this man. He's unusually calm for someone going through so much on his wedding day. "What are we doing, Atticus?" She asks him. "You don't love me. You love my best friend. She loves you along with your two brothers. This marriage will be a burden on both of you." "And it won't be a burden on you?" He asks her. She is quiet, and I don't think she's willing to answer his question. "I asked you a question. Do you want me to cause a scene? Do you want me to find a way to stop this wedding? This is your last chance." He steps closer to her, and I think I heard her tiny gasp. "Our worlds don't revolve around us. We don't do things for our benefit. Our families didn't get to where they are today by making rash decisions. Every move is well calculated and executed in a way that would benefit us. I will not ask you to turn against your family for me. Anya asked you to do it, but she isn't thinking straight. This wedding will happen today whether we like it or not because this is the right thing to do for our families. And us Fawns always put family first above everything else. Nothing will ever change that. And I think it's the same for you. Is it not?" Autumn is quiet once more. I think even she is shocked by his response. "Are there any other questions you would like to ask me before we get married, Autumn?" he asks her. I assume that her response was no because he suddenly storms out of the room, leaving her behind alone. Now it was just her turn to leave so we could get out of this room. I think that the look on Gabriella's face told me that she was thinking the same thing as I was. I'm surprised when she drops herself onto the ground and buries her face in her hands. Is she crying? She seemed strong and unbothered just a few seconds ago speaking to Atticus. Was this how she truly felt? Now that she thought she was alone, she showed genuine emotions. "Why did it have to be you, Atticus?" She cries. "Why did it have to be you?" She finally raises her head, and both Gabriella and I freeze when her eyes connect with ours. It's the last place we were expecting her to look. Crap. We were in big trouble now. Gabriella gives me an apologetic smile, and I can't help but sigh. How did we get out of this mess now? "Please don't scream!" I say to her. Her eyes were wide as we both got out of our hiding spots. I knew how bad this would look to anyone now meeting us. She didn't know either of us, yet we'd just heard her most private conversation with her future husband. That was our fault. I am sure that I will never be following Gabriella into a room ever again after today. "This isn't as bad as it looks," Gabriella explains. "I got a glimpse of the spa and wanted a better look at it. Then Atticus and Anya barged in, and we didn't know what to

do, so we hid since we weren't supposed to be inside. We promise to you that we were only looking for the bathroom, and then all of this happened. We got stuck in here. And we didn't mean to listen to your conversation." She slowly calms down after hearing our explanations. I think she can see that we weren't trying to harm her or cause trouble. At least, I hoped that was the case. As far as we knew, she could call guards and have us removed from the wedding. Won't that be something interesting to see? "I'm sorry you had to see me like this before the wedding." She apologizes. "This must not be a very good first impression." "Are you kidding me?" Gabriella asks. "Look at the both of us. We aren't exactly giving off the best first impression. I'm Gabriella, by the way." "Nice to meet you, Gabriella. I assume you know I'm Autumn by now." "We know," I answer. "I don't have a name to give you; that's a long story on its own. But it's a pleasure to meet you, Autumn." She nods, "I would love to stay and chat, but I have a wedding to return to. There isn't going to be a wedding if the bride is missing." I smile, "we understand. We will be cheering for you in the crowd. And you look absolutely beautiful." "You sure do," Gabriella says. "Everyone will be looking at you in awe, including us." She smiles, thanks us one more time, and finally leaves us. "Let's get out of here before anyone else comes in and traps us inside," Gabriella suggests. She didn't have to tell me twice. We were out of there before anyone else could join us. "I'm assuming what we just witnessed shouldn't be said to anyone else?" I ask. She nods, "I'll tell Arthur about it later, but no one else. I think we already knew this was happening after what happened the first time we met the Fawn brothers. I just didn't think that we would end up in the middle of everything." We hurry out of the room and follow a few guests to find the others. While there were many guests surrounding us, it wasn't hard to find our people. They would stand out in any crowd. Lucy was the first one we saw. The rest of them were a little distance away but close enough for us to see them. "There you two are!" Lucy says as she spots us. "Arthur is going crazy thinking something happened. I had to force him to let me come get you while he stayed back with Emma." "It's a good thing we didn't take any longer in that room," Gabriella says. "He might have caused a scene by the time we returned." She was right. Imagine what would have happened if Arthur had barged in while Atticus, Anya, and Autumn were all in the same room with us? As soon as we join the others, Arthur attacks Gabriella with questions about why she took so long. She had to explain that she would tell him about it after the wedding. We couldn't risk anyone else hearing what we heard. We could trust everyone here, well, not exactly everyone. We couldn't trust the fake Maya. I'm surprised that she hasn't caused any real damage yet. We had to expose her before she tried anything crazy. "While you were gone, I was able to find a few men interested in getting to know you better," Arthur says loud enough for Kane to hear. And he does hear. I know because he immediately looks at me. This time, I

didn't get a chance to look away before I caught him looking at me. The yearning in his eyes almost makes me forget about everything else, but then I remember that I had to do this. I had to act like I didn't care about him anymore if I wanted this plan to work. And I did want it to work. Looking away from him was one of the hardest things I'd ever had to do. "I'm looking forward to meeting each of those men." I finally respond. It was time to give Kane a taste of his own medicine. Maybe then and only then would he realize who I was to him.

Chapter 104 ~MAYA~ "She looks so beautiful up there, like nothing happened in the spa room," I whisper to Gabriella as Autumn joins Atticus. She nods, "she's good at hiding her emotions. Maybe she's used to it because of the kind of life she's lived. It seems like they've both listened to their parents their entire lives, from what we heard. They've both made sacrifices for their families, and this wedding was yet another sacrifice." "I feel sorry for all of them," I whisper. "It's unfair that they're being forced into this. None of them look happy about it." They weren't the only ones in pain. I was also in pain. I could feel the tension in the air. Kane still hasn't gotten over what Arthur said to me earlier. I knew that he was angry. I didn't have to look at him anymore to know this. So far, the plan was working. If I could get him angry enough, he might snap and accept what we have. But what were we going to do about Maya? How would we prove that she wasn't the real Maya? I'm not sure if Arthur and Gabriella are looking for a witch to help, but they haven't said anything to me. I believed that only a witch could help us prove that this Maya wasn't who she wanted everyone to believe she was. "They're about to kiss," Gabriella whispers. "I have a bad feeling about this." I follow her gaze. I had a bad feeling about it too. We heard Anya ask Atticus not to touch Autumn. It's not like he could refuse to kiss her in front of everyone. Maybe he could, but that would be a bit embarrassing for Autumn. I was scared to keep looking. I liked Autumn; she seemed like a kind girl; I didn't want her to be embarrassed in front of all these people. There is an awkward pause between them as everyone waits for the kiss. Gabriella gives me a concerned look. The crowd is becoming restless. It already looks bad that they're taking this long. Any happy couple would kiss without a second thought; they were doing the opposite. You could sense the hesitation from both of them. I'm not sure how long they kept staring at each other before they finally moved closer. Their lips touch for a second, and suddenly someone shouts a name. It took me a moment to realize that the person had called Anya's name. My gaze follows the commotion, and I spot the girl from earlier; I noticed her dress immediately. That was definitely Anya. It looks like she's just fainted, and all attention is now on her as Dante and Damon try to reach her. It's not a good sign

when Atticus stops kissing Autumn the moment that his brothers shout Anya's name. It looks even worse when he pulls away from her and rushes to their side, helping his brothers escort a motionless Anya out of the room. "I told you I had a bad feeling about this," Gabriella says to me. "You were right. Things are in a mess now." I say to her. But there was nothing that could be done; Atticus and Autumn were officially husband and wife from today. And from the looks on their family's faces, nothing would change that. They seemed annoyed at what happened, but now they're speaking to the crowd and trying to play it off as nothing. They want the guests to believe that Anya was light-headed because she didn't eat earlier. Anyone that knows them knows the true reason why she fainted. She just watched her mate get married. With all the commotion, I didn't realize that someone had joined us. "Maya?" I hear him ask in disbelief as he looks at her. There's both pain and joy in his eyes. "Lucas!" Lucy says happily. Maya looks at him, and she doesn't have the same joy in her eyes as he does. He rushes to her side and pulls her into his arms, "I missed you, my little troublemaker! I missed you so much. I thought we had lost you for good. I'm so happy you're in front of me. I'm so happy to have you back safe in my arms." She hugs him back when she sees everyone looking. Can no one else know that she isn't their real sister? There should be tears in her eyes after reuniting with her brother, but there are none. She looks exceptionally calm under the circumstances—another big red flag. "I'm sorry I couldn't come sooner. I've wanted to all along." He apologizes. "It's been killing me inside knowing that I couldn't come to you the moment I heard that they'd found you. I'm sorry your brother failed you. I'm sorry I couldn't be there for you when you needed me the most." Why wasn't she saying something to console him? There is another woman that I didn't notice earlier. She is beautiful but her eyes look distressed. Something must be bothering her. She has long black hair and beautiful green eyes. She reminds me a lot of Arthur. She looks at him at the same time that thought enters my head. "Arthur!" she calls out to him. She looks happier now that she spots him. How did they know each other? Even Arthur looks overjoyed when he spots her. The only other person I ever see him like this with is Emma. "Freya," Arthur whispers as he hugs her to him. "It's so good to see you. It feels like it's been forever since the last time I saw you. I can't believe how long it's been. Did anyone else come?" "She's Arthur's sister," Gabriella explains to me. "The one Lucas married." That would explain why she reminded me of Arthur from the moment I saw her. "Yes, Avery is around here somewhere. It's just the three of us." Freya answers him. "Father has this entire thing going on back home, and he wanted everyone else to stay back. He allowed Avery and me to come with Lucas so that it didn't look bad that none of us attended the wedding." Arthur looks disappointed, but he does seem happy to have her by his side at least, "how have you been? Is Lucas treating you right?" Gabriella rolls her

eyes, "he knows Lucas is a sweetheart. I don't know why he has to ask something like that." Gabriella seems to also be very fond of Lucas and I think from Arthur's expression that he doesn't like that she's so close to him. But that was every typical mate. They didn't like their woman close to any other man but themselves, especially someone who wasn't a relative. "Yes, Arthur, Lucas is the perfect gentleman. Maybe too much of a gentleman." She confessed. Too much of a gentleman? What did she mean by that? I don't see why someone being too much of a gentleman should be a problem for a woman. She should be happy that he was. "Well, that's good to hear. I hope you're not just saying that to protect him." Arthur says with narrowed eyes. "Of course not," she disagrees. "I have no reason to do that. He's been so good to me Arthur. I couldn't ask for anyone better." Gabriella hugs Freya then, "I'm sorry that Arthur is such a pain in the ass. He may harass you about Lucas for the rest of your life." "Sweetheart, aren't you supposed to be on my side?" Arthur asks Gabriella. "I can't make it easy for him. He must know that I will beat his ass if he hurts my sister." Lucas hugs Gabriella then, and Arthur growls. "Why do men always growl when I hug their wives?" Lucas asks playfully. "I will never understand." Gabriella laughs, "you haven't changed at all. That's good, Lucas. We were all worried about you. I'm happy to see that you look good." His face looks tensed at her words, but he tries to pretend he's unaffected. Maybe he wants to look happy for Maya and his family. He doesn't want them to worry about him. And I can see why everyone so loves Lucas. He's a joy to be around, and something about him makes everything seem lighter. It's like his presence makes your troubles seem like less. Not looking at Kane was giving me a chance to examine others around me. It was also a form of distraction. I had to keep my mind on anything but him for this to work. And it was working. Everyone had their troubles, and I hate to admit it, but it helped distract me from my own. "You haven't introduced us to your wife," Austin says. "Do you not want her to meet your brothers? Are you scared we will embarrass you with the many stories we have of you while growing up?" Lucas laughs, "embarrassed? Two can play at that game, brother." He looks at Freya, and I can see the tension between the two of them as he finally introduces her to all of us. "Avery!" Arthur says to a woman that just joined us. "This is Arthur's other sister," Gabriella explains to me. I'm happy that she's here to tell me these things. I would have been lost otherwise. I noticed that both Lucas and Freya looked uneasy the moment that he said her name. Arthur hugs his sister, and she smiles at him, "We all miss you." She tells him. "Even father." Gabriella looks troubled at the mention of Arthur's father; in fact, everyone here looks uncomfortable. I also notice how Avery looks at Lucas when she thinks no one is looking, and when he catches her looking, the two of them seem to get lost in each other. I also see the hurt in Freya's eyes when she notices their connection. Plenty was going on between these three; I could tell by just looking. Maybe

not paying attention to Kane was not such a good idea. I felt like I was invading everyone's privacy by examining their reactions to each other. Lucas breaks eye contact and immediately looks at Freya, she tries to hide her hurt, but he spots it before she can do that. I felt her pain. Lucas seems conflicted about what to do, but he walks over to her and wraps his arm around her waist as if to tell her he is sorry for looking at Avery. I can be wrong; I may be looking for something that wasn't even there. It was hard for me to believe that Avery would be interested in Lucas when he was married to her sister. She didn't seem like someone who would do something like that, and I'd only just met her. Lucas also didn't seem like the man to do something like that to his wife. There was something else going on here that was causing them to behave that way. I just wasn't sure what it was. My heart aches the longer I look at Lucas. I want to hug him. Here I was acting all weird again. I often behaved this way whenever I was introduced to someone new from Austin's family. I knew that everyone here had a soft spot for Lucas, but it doesn't explain why I did as well. Seeing him so unhappy was bothering me for some unknown reason. Why? Who was Lucas to me? He knew everyone here for years, and that's why they were reacting this way. But I didn't know him at all. He looks my way, and I don't know what happens to my heart when he does. Why does he feel like my little brother? Why do I want to protect him with all my heart? What is wrong with me? "No one has introduced me." He said as he continued to look my way. "I don't think we've met before." He tells me. "I'm Lucas. Everyone's favorite, as you can tell already." "It's a pleasure to meet you, Lucas." I greet him. "I'm sorry, but I don't have a name to give you." "It's a long story," Gabriella says. "We can explain it to you later. For now, I think that we all want to catch up on how things are with you. I'm sure Arthur also wants to know how everyone back home is doing." "Of course," Lucas says. "My wife can tell him everything he wants to know." "There is going to be a dance soon," Gabriella says suddenly. I think she's reminding Arthur that he needs to introduce me to some men. We had to get Kane to show his real emotions around me. Time was running out on us. I didn't want to wait any longer. "I'm excited," Lucy says. "I'm always looking for excuses to get Austin to dance with me." "Can you excuse me for a few minutes?" Arthur asks as he disappears into the crowd. Gabriella gave me a mischievous glance as if to say it was almost time to put on the most significant act of my life. I had to pretend to enjoy being in the company of whoever Arthur was going to bring for me. I'm not excited over this, but I was trying to stay positive. I kept telling myself that this was the only way for me to move forward. "I think he's bringing one of the Fawn brothers," Gabriella whispers as she tiptoes to better look at Arthur returning. I try not to look; I'm nervous. I don't think looking at my potential date for the rest of the wedding would make things easier on me. The tension is even greater than earlier when Arthur shows up with a man that has light

blonde curly hair. His grey eyes are a perfect match for his gorgeous face. "Arthur chose well," Gabriella whispers under her breath. "This is Griffin Fawn." Arthur introduces him to me. "I already explained your situation." I'm not sure if he's referring to my situation with Kane or that I can't remember my name. Griffin looks like a player by the way his lips curl into this gorgeous smile that I'm sure will make any girl that isn't in love fall to their knees. It doesn't work on me because I'm already crazy for Kane. But I had to pretend at least that it had some effect on me. I pretend to blush and act all flustered. How embarrassing must I look to the others around me? "It's nice to meet you, beautiful girl with no name." He says as he brings my hand to his lips. I'm shocked at his actions, but I quickly mask my shock with pretend awe. "And it's nice to meet you as well, Griffin." "I'm happy that Arthur didn't let me down yet again. He chose the right woman for me to spend the rest of my evening with," he says. "And if you keep blushing in front of me, we might have to make your stay here a little longer than just for the evening." He winks. I'm surprised by how forward he is, and now I'm hoping that Arthur did indeed explain to him that I was in love with Kane. I didn't want him to think that there was a chance for us. Since he did seem like a player, hopefully, he will quickly move on to the next girl that shows him any attention. "They're about to have the bride and groom dance," Lucy says as we notice Autumn and Atticus returning. Atticus looked even more frustrated than he did earlier. Autumn was still good at masking her feelings. How beautiful would this have been if they had been in love? They both suited each other in looks, and they looked lovely together under the lights as they swayed to the slow song. I sigh. Life was unfair sometimes. ~KANE~ What the f**k? The motherfucker just kissed her hand in front of me. It was taking all my self-control not to snap his damn neck in two. How could she move on so quickly? She was blushing and acting all shy in front of him. It was making me pissed. I can't remember the last time I felt like this. I remember all the times she looked at me that way. I know I should be happy. I was worried about her all this time. The past few days had been hell for me without seeing her, without knowing anything about her. I wondered if I was too harsh on her and had done the right thing. That day I was so hurt and guilty that I was only thinking about Maya. And that was how it was supposed to be. Maya was always the only one I was supposed to be thinking about. I've spent these days trying to give her as much love as possible. But the more I gave, the more I felt less for Maya. I was forcing myself to be with her at this point. I knew now that I had a mother and a father. I had other brothers and sisters. I had a family. And now I had Maya back in my life. Then why the f**k do I still feel so damn lonely? My heart still beats for the woman now looking at another man. I knew that I had to let her go to keep Maya happy. I knew that it was the right thing to do but damn it, why did it hurt so much? I knew the right decision was never easy, but why is it so hard? Why

can't I watch her with another man and be happy for her? Why do I want to stab his eyes for even looking her way? I was a selfish ass for wanting to murder the one man she showed any attention to since she met me. She was just another woman that was too good for me. Maya deserved more, and she did as well. I've said this a million times, and I meant those words. I don't know why they ever fell for me. I was never worthy of anyone's love. I still am not worthy of it. I watch as Griffin extends his hand, and she takes it. I exhaled and wiped a finger over my bottom lip. I didn't know how to f*****g survive the rest of this damn wedding. How? How could I stand here and watch her be with another man without losing my f*****g mind? And how did I pretend that it wasn't ripping me apart?

Chapter 105 ~MAYA~ "I'm assuming the man that's shooting daggers my way is the person Arthur told me you're in love with," Griffin says as he twirls me on the dance floor. I attempt to look, but his hand moves from my waist to squeeze my cheeks, forcing me to look at him. "If you're trying to get him to man up and show his true emotions, I suggest you only look at me tonight." I was only trying to look to confirm that Kane was the one staring at us. Who was I kidding? I wanted to look because I needed to see the look on Kane's face. I already knew he was looking our way; I could feel the heat in my back. I just wanted to see that Griffin knew what he was speaking about. I couldn't see anything from this direction. Maybe that was for the best. If I saw Kane, I might want to run to him. I'm good at that; running to Kane at the worst time. My body shivered from the thought of him glaring at Griffin with jealousy. I've been the jealous one this entire time. It felt good to be on the opposite end for once. I know that I shouldn't be enjoying playing with Kane's heart, but I had no other choice. He didn't make it easy for me. He was stubborn like he usually is about everything. Gabriella may have only spent a few times with him, but she already knows him well. She knows how to get under his skin, and that's the benefit of having his sister as a friend. "You're good at this," I note. "Are you used to girls asking you to pretend that you like them to get the guy they like jealous?" I wasn't trying to be funny. I really wanted to know. He shouldn't be this calm and natural, yet he is, almost like he's done this a million times before. And Griffin was someone that could make any man jealous. He was handsome and had money, with girls running after him. No one would want their woman around a man like this. He laughs and twirls me another time, "no. This is the first time. But I must admit that it's a lot more fun than I expected it to be. I should thank Arthur for giving me a chance to dance with you." Why is he this kind to me? He doesn't know me. He knows nothing about me but is willing to help me without expecting anything in return. Maybe he's just trying to repay

Arthur. They seem to be good friends. Arthur's family looked like they were well respected. Even the billionaires had great respect for them. They must be good at their job. "Thank you," I whisper. "For helping me. You didn't have to. But here you are, helping a stranger and doing a great job at it. You don't know how much this means to me." He smiles, "I think I should get something in return for helping you." Maybe I spoke too soon. What could I possibly have to offer him? I hope he wouldn't ask for something that I couldn't give to him. My forehead creased as I asked, "what do you want in return? I don't have much to offer." He chuckles, "you don't have to look so worried. I don't want money or anything that you won't be able to give to me." "Then what is it that you want?" I ask, curious. His words have definitely put me at ease. I wasn't as worried as I was earlier. "I think a smile will be enough. You're too beautiful to be this sad." He tells me. I'm taken aback by his words. Griffin was most definitely a sweet talker. How many girls did this guy have falling for him? I think I have my answer by the number of them looking our way with great jealousy. They didn't have anything to worry about. I wasn't interested in him. I was interested in the man that didn't recognize yet that I was his mate. He was making it hard for me by taking so damn long to realize what was right in front of his eyes. I let myself smile, and he smiles in return, "see, now a face like yours always need to look this way. Your smile brightens up your face." I didn't think Griffin would be this fun to be around. I thought he was just this player that would constantly be trying to flirt with me. While he was playful, I didn't think he was trying to flirt with me, at least not when he knew I loved Kane. "I may end up in a wheelchair by the end of tonight." Griffin points out suddenly. I know that he's looking directly at Kane. Was he challenging him? "Why?" I asked him; I wanted to confirm if my suspicions were correct. "He's getting angrier by the second." He says, telling me exactly what I wanted to hear. I bite my lip; I still want to turn and look at him. "Judging by your smile, I can tell this makes you happy." He notes with a chuckle. "Am I that easy to read?" I ask him. He smiles, "you are, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing." I attempt to turn around, but he stops me again, reminding me that I can't let Kane know I'm thinking about him. "You must love him plenty," Griffin says. "I hope that he's worth the trouble." My mind replays all the times Kane had protected me when he didn't have to. All the times that he's made my heart flutter. All the times he's said things that touched my soul. There was no doubt in my mind that he was worth all the heartache. I couldn't be upset with Kane for choosing the woman he thought was his mate. It was the only logical decision. Kane was also filled with so much guilt over the past that it prevented him from seeing anything else. If he were thinking straight, he would have been able to tell that the woman he thinks is Maya is not her. It would also explain why he couldn't find her when they blindfolded him. He was so confused by his actions that he was even disappointed in himself when in truth, he

didn't do anything wrong; that woman was not Maya. The only part of the entire game I couldn't understand was why he chose me. Other than the clothes that Lucy gave me to wear, I don't see how he came to my side thinking that I was Maya. He did say my voice reminded him of her, and so did my scent. I was beginning to feel strongly connected to Maya in some weird way. Her name always made me feel a specific type of way, and then there was the fact that I had a soft spot for her family. . . Not to mention her mate. "I know that he's worth it," I tell Griffin. It may not look that way to others, but if they knew the things Kane did for me, they would understand why I love him as much as I do. They would know why I was fighting so hard to get him by my side even though he begged me to let him go. He nods, "I think so too. That man loves you. I can see it in his eyes. I have brothers who are deeply in love with one woman; I know the look they have in their eyes. He has it in his. Is he your mate?" I sigh, "I think that he is, but he doesn't seem to think so. I'm not sure if I'm the only one that realizes our connection. That's why we're here today, pretending to like each other." "Pretending?" He asks, feigning disappointment. "I thought this was real between us!" I laugh and playfully hit his chest, "stop it!" He wiggles his brows, "was that a real laugh? I didn't think it was possible." I roll my eyes, and he laughs, "I should win a medal for this." He teases. "I know this isn't my business, but do you think they will be okay?" I ask as I look at Atticus and Autumn. He quirks a brow, "it seems you know that this marriage was forced on my brother." He says. "Atticus is strong. He may have it hard now, but I know he will overcome this. And Autumn is a darling; she will surely win him over in no time." "But isn't Anya his mate?" I ask. He sighs, "she is, but she has my other two brothers. To be honest, don't tell anyone I said this, but I'm glad Atticus married Autumn. Things have been tough since the three of them realized Anya was their mate. It was pushing them further apart. I saw my brothers begin to lose their bond because of that woman. Maybe this will help. It won't be easy, but I think it's for the best." The song finally ends, and I'm surprisingly sad. Griffin somehow has made me happier than I've been in a long time. He was like a breath of fresh air. I could see us being good friends. "I don't think just one meeting will be enough to get him to confess his true feelings," Griffin says as he glances at Kane again. "We're having a party at one of our private islands later to celebrate the success of the wedding. I can get everyone you came with today on the yacht with us. That is if you're willing to come. We can continue this conversation there." My lips part in shock. It's the last thing I was expecting him to say to me. Why would he invite me to a private island with his family? And he wasn't only inviting me; he was asking everyone I came with. Griffin kept surprising me. "I'm not sure that's such a good idea. It's last minute, and I don't think everyone would agree." I explain. While it did sound like fun, we all had to return home soon. We didn't plan on getting on a yacht and going to a private island. I'm not sure we

would have everything needed for a trip like this one. Griffin looks disappointed with my response, but he also seems unwilling to take no for an answer. I want to laugh at his persistence. Never have I met a man like this in my life. "I can promise you to make him the most jealous he's been in his entire life." He says, trying to convince me. "He's already near his breaking point. We can push him past it if you just let yourself have some fun. And I can tell that we will be good friends after today. As your friend, I think that you should give me this one wish. I promise that you're not going to regret it." I sigh, "you don't like to take no for an answer, do you?" I ask. "No, as a matter of fact, I don't." He says as he takes my hand in his once more. I'm not sure why he did it when the song was over. I try to pull away, but he holds onto it tightly. "Trust me. We need to do this to push him over the edge. I'm not going to do more than this; you don't have to worry. I won't make you uncomfortable. And I can assure you that I don't have bad intentions towards you. I don't have any ulterior motives. You can ask Arthur. He wouldn't have introduced us if he thought I would ever hurt you. He's smarter than that." I did trust Arthur. This meant he had to be telling the truth. I could trust him as well. And if this was all to get Kane to act right, then I should at least try. Shouldn't I? It felt awkward holding his hand, but I had already started this game; I had to keep it up until I got what I wanted. Besides, Griffin didn't look like someone who had bad intentions. Just like he'd just said to me. He was only trying to help me. He guides me back to everyone else who are already looking at us. I felt nervous under all the stares. I think everyone wants to know if I enjoyed the dance with Griffin. It must be strange for them to see me with someone. I've never acted interested in anyone else before because Kane was always the only one who held my heart. That didn't change, but I wanted him to at least think that it did. "You two seem to be getting along well," Gabriella says. I can see that she's enjoying this. She planned everything, to begin with; of course, she would enjoy it since it's been going according to her plans. She grins and winks at me. I try not to laugh. She shouldn't be doing this in front of Kane. What if he realizes that she's the one behind everything? I'm not sure if this will make him closer or further away from her. He wouldn't be happy to know that his sister was plotting against him. Of course she was only doing it because she thought that I would be the better option for him. She felt like I was the one that would be able to make him happy and that's all that both of us have ever wanted from the start. For him to be happy. "We are," Griffin says. "She's a real joy to be around. I can't remember the last time I've had this much fun. And I have Arthur to thank for introducing us. When he said he had someone interesting for me to meet, I never thought she would exceed my expectations. But she's truly special; she caught my attention in a split second. And she's going to hold it for much longer than that. We were discussing something earlier. Will you tell them what I asked you? I think it will be better if they hear it from you."

Everyone is staring at me, waiting for me to answer his question. Would they agree to go with us? I knew that I wasn't going if they said no. The whole point of this was to piss Kane off. And if he wasn't going to be there, I would stay out of it. I know that Griffin was fun to be around but I wasn't willing to go on such a trip without everyone here. "He invited me to a party he's having at their private island. He said that every one that came with me was also invited. We can all get on his yacht." I finally say. "I think that it's a good idea. I'll be happy to go with him, but I'm not going unless each of you is also coming with us." There are surprised looks all around me. I don't think anyone expected him to do that when he just met me. Even I was surprised, but he looked like a kind person. Was his entire family this nice? I only spoke to his brothers a little, and they didn't seem like horrible men. Maybe they were all like him. "I mean, I'm in!" Isabella says. "I can do with a mini-vacation." "I'm in as well," Gabriella says. "Wherever she's going, I am as well." She says as she winks at me. I knew I wouldn't have had to ask Gabriella more than once. I can always count on her. And she, more than anyone else, couldn't wait for me to get under Kane's skin. Gabriella was already acting like Kane's sister, meddling with his life and making it miserable, but only because she wanted the best for him. "It's safe to say that all the men are going as well," Austin says. "There's no way our women are going on a trip like this without us present." "Well, I guess that settles it then?" Griffin asks. "I'll inform my family that we'll have a bit more guests than planned. After, I'll come to get you guys." "Are you sure they'll be okay with it?" Arthur asks. "We don't want any trouble. I know this is very last minute, and you usually plan these things carefully. You don't need to do this if it will be too stressful. I know it's plenty of us." Griffin shrugs his shoulder, "they won't. And if they do, I'll have you in my yacht instead. We own a few. It's not going to be an issue. I just need to mention it." Griffin excuses himself, and Lucy nudges my shoulder. "You go, girl. Look at you attracting a billionaire. And getting us all invited to a private island with just meeting him once." "She's someone you can't help but fall in love with." Gabriella teases. "Griffin was able to spot her uniqueness in a few seconds. I think that says a lot about him." "I have to say," Isabella says. "You have great taste in men. You go, girl." Hunter growls, "she has good taste in men? Do you think he's that great?" Isabella laughs, "not as good as you, sweetheart, of course not. I'm saying he's good for her." "Isabella was only speaking the truth," Gabriella says. She gives me a look that says our plan is working. Kane hasn't said a word since I returned from the dance. Maya hasn't said a word either. She's too occupied looking at all of the guests. What was she looking for? "Should we prepare for the trip?" Gabriella asks. Everyone agreed with her and left me alone. I was supposed to wait until Griffin returned. It takes me a second to realize that I had company. And I knew who it was by the way my heartbeat increased. I gasp as I feel Kane's hand on my

arm, " Can we talk, just for a few minutes, please." His hands on me are making it hard for me to say no. But I know that I have to. "I'm sorry, I'm busy right now." I apologize. "Maybe next time." I see the hurt and surprise in his eyes, and I try to ignore it. I couldn't let it stop me from doing what I had to. Gabriella said to ignore him, and I was listening to her. It would be all worth it in the end.

Chapter 106 ~KANE~ She just said no to me. It's the first time, and it makes me feel miserable. A million thoughts were flowing through my mind. Did she already move on? Who the f**k was this Griffin, and why, out of everyone else, does she seem interested in him? Why does this feel like someone was constantly pulling at my heart? Why do I feel like my entire world was falling apart because she refused me once? I've been pushing her away since the first day I met her, and she stood by my side each time. Now she doesn't want anything to do with me. Instead, she's dancing with a billionaire and attending parties he invited her to. It almost felt like I didn't know her anymore. It feels like she's changed overnight. I don't think I've ever been this angry in my entire life. I want to rip the man's head out of his damn body. I kept telling myself that I was here with Maya and needed to behave myself. I knew that I promised to treat her better from now on, and I managed to do that for more than a week, but now I wasn't sure how long it would last. When I let Giselle's maid go, I did not think about having to let another man have what I had. Not once did I think another man would get to dance with her and make her laugh. Not once did I think he would get to touch her and hold her hand. Those are things I've loved doing, and I was foolish enough to believe I would always be the only one that she would let be that close to her. Seeing her smile was something I've always wanted to see. And he was making her smile so effortlessly. She was happy by his side, and she wasn't faking it; I knew when she was pleased, and she indeed was around the asshole. And she deserved that happiness. She deserved to smile after all the pain I've given her. So then why can't I be f*****g happy for her? Why do I have to act like a possessive moron? And why the f**k is Gabriella encouraging her so much? Shouldn't she be on my side? Of course, she didn't know how I felt for the girl but still, she should have known not to meddle. Why did she have to introduce her to him? I'm sure she was the one responsible for it. Arthur wouldn't just decide to go into matchmaking. My sister had to be the evil mastermind behind this mess. My jaw clenched as I approached her. She's luckily standing by herself. I didn't want to cause a scene; I've done that enough times in my life already. But if this kept on happening, if I had to continue seeing them together, I couldn't promise to behave myself for the rest of the night. I was already holding onto the last bit of self-control I had left. "Why did you do it?" I growl. Gabriella

folds her arms and acts innocent, "do what?" she asks. "I'm not quite sure what you're referring to. And are you suddenly speaking to me now? I've been trying to communicate with you for over a week now, and you've been ignoring me. Why are you here asking stupid questions, Kane?" My fists tightened at her tone. Was that any way to speak to me? Her brother? "Why are you trying to set her up with Griffin?" I demand. "Why are you getting involved in her life? Why don't you let her decide who she wants to be with?" She quirks a brow, "I don't see why this is a problem. She is single, and she's been through a lot. Shouldn't you be happy for her, Kane? You, more than anyone else, know all the troubles she's been faced with. Finally, a kind man has taken a liking to her and is planning on treating her well, the way she should have always been treated. I don't think I'm doing anything wrong by setting her up with him. She deserves someone like him. She deserves to be happy. She's a beautiful person inside and out." I knew that she was right but damn it. I can't just let her go that easily. I wish that I could. Lord knows that I've f*****g tried. I've been trying since the first day I laid my eyes on her. Each time I failed miserably. This was the closest I'd gotten to letting her go and f**k me; it was so damn hard. So f*****g hard. It shouldn't be this hard, but it was. And why was she so sure that Griffin was a nice guy? He looked like a flirt; I was convinced that he often did these kinds of things with girls to sweep them off their feet in order to get what he wanted from them. Only to leave them the next day and find someone else to start his game all over again. That's the impression I got from him. And if he thinks for a second that he could do that to her and live to see another day, he had another thing coming his way. "I'm trying to be f*****g happy," I say softly. "I am." "I didn't quite hear that," she says, but the look in her eyes tells me that she did. Was she messing with me? Why the hell was she doing that? Was this payback because of my attitude towards her after finding out she was my sister? I wasn't intentionally being rude to her; it was just hard for me to accept anyone in my life. It felt out of control, and things were changing way too quickly for me. I was trying to hold onto the little sanity that I had left, and she wasn't helping me by setting the girl up with a damn Fawn. "How are you so sure he will keep her happy?" I ask her. "He looks like he's a damn player. Who invites a girl to their private island after just one meeting? It seems like he's accustomed to using his money to get girls to fall for him. If he hurts her, I won't forgive you for trying to set them up. You're right. She deserves to be happy. And I would kill anyone that f*****g hurt her. Do you understand me? He will be dead if he breaks her innocent heart." "Do you see a better option around Kane?" she asks me. "Do you have someone in mind that would care for her more than Griffin would? If you have any suggestions, I would be glad to tell her about them. Maybe you haven't noticed, but she's been depressed recently. I watched her cry for an entire week over someone, and I think you know who that person is. She's finally letting

herself go, finally letting herself live a little. If you don't know someone that could make her smile again, I suggest you let Griffin have her. That will be best for everyone." Why does it seem like she's purposefully messing with me? It looks like she's trying to get under my skin, and it's f*****g working. Was Gabriella always this sly? What else did she have up her sleeve? For once, I could see why we were siblings. We both had it in us to be this damn tricky. She knows what happened between us in the past. She knows everything. So why was she doing this? I felt like I was missing something important. I felt like she was up to something, but I didn't know why. Why would she meddle so much? "I thought you said you wanted me to be happy. I thought you said as my sister—" She doesn't let me finish my sentence. "I'm confused. What is setting up Griffin with her have to do with your happiness? Isn't your happiness with Maya? I feel confused, Kane. Is there something that you'd like to say? As your sister, I would be happy to listen to every word. All you have to do is tell me and I'll be happy to help." I take a step toward her, "why are you doing this, Gabriella?" I demand. "What is your ulterior motive here?" "I'm your sister Kane." She says. "You may not see it now, but eventually, you will realize that I did this for your good. Maybe after this, you will realize that you have a generous sister that looks after you." "Looks after me?" I ask. "I think we both have different definitions of that." She smiles, "I guess we will have to wait and see. Won't we?"

. ~MAYA~ "I have exciting news!" Gabriella whispers to me. "You won't believe who just had a long conversation with me." "Who?" I asked her even though I already had an idea. "Kane!" she hissed. "He was so pissed that I hooked you up with Griffin. Our plan is working better than I expected it to. I don't think I've ever seen him this mad before. He was so angry that he couldn't even ignore me. I told you he's been missing you this entire week, but he couldn't keep it in when he saw you with Griffin. He had a lot to say to me, and it felt so good to listen to him talk and not have to force him to have a conversation with me. I didn't think there would be anything in this world that would get Kane to have a proper conversation with me, but I was wrong. You are the link to that. Through you, I got Kane to open up to me. Not in the best way, but it's a good start, and it shows that if we try hard enough, we can get him. We can get my brother to show his real emotions and finally be the person he was meant to be from the start." I didn't think her plan would work so quickly. Kane already seemed bothered by my actions, and while I knew it would happen, I didn't think it would happen so soon. I take a look at the view around us. It was a breathtaking one. We'd just boarded the yacht. Griffin was standing next to me, with Gabriella next to us. Kane was beside Maya, but he wasn't looking at her. He was looking directly at me. Today was the first day I'd ever turn him down. It was the first day I didn't give him what he wanted. I allow myself to look at him just for a few seconds. It's long enough for me to see how miserable he is by all of this. Would this be

enough to make Kane realize that I was his mate? Why was it so hard for him to see the obvious? Why did I know it before he could? I turn towards Griffin next and pretend to be interested in what he's saying. He and Arthur are having a conversation about some business deal. Arthur was going to start his own business, using everything he'd learned from his family. It would be challenging, but with help from the Fawns, I think it would be possible. This was a massive opportunity for Gabriella and Arthur. "He's still looking this way," Griffin says to me suddenly. "I think it's time we did something that pushes him more towards you." "What else can we do?" I ask him. We've already danced together, I've laughed at his jokes, I ignored Kane. While it was all working, it still wasn't doing enough to get him to confess his feelings for me. He takes my hand and pulls me towards the front of the yacht with him. His brothers are there as well. Atticus is included, and he isn't next to Autumn. Instead, he's standing by Anya. Why the hell would he do that right after they got married? "I want to introduce you to my date for the night," Griffin says to them. "You don't need to know her name. That's only for me to know." He winks at me. He knows that I cannot remember my name but pretends that he's keeping it from them. I shook my head at him but still smiled. His brothers reach forward and shake my hand once more. They know this isn't the first time they've seen me. They also already know that I can't remember my name. Which means that they know he was lying to them earlier. "We met her already," Damon informs him. "Really?" Griffin asks. "Interesting. Then you already know how awesome she is." Dante and Atticus give each other a knowing look. It seems like Griffin's acting didn't convince them. They knew him well enough to know that he was up to something. "What trouble are you trying to get yourself into now?" Atticus asks him. "Just know we have enough problems on our own and don't have the time to help you if you mess things up." So he was accustomed to making trouble for himself? I wouldn't be surprised. However, he had an unusual charm that would quickly get him out of difficult situations. Griffin laughs, "are you trying to embarrass me in front of her?" he asks them. "They don't know what they're talking about. Just ignore them." He tells me with a wink. "Where is Autumn?" I ask intentionally. I wanted them to realize how wrong it was that she wasn't the one here with Atticus. "Yes," Griffin says. "Where is my sister-in-law? Why isn't she here spending time with her new family? Especially her new husband." Atticus stiffens and takes a sip of the drink in his hand, "I'll go get her." Griffin grins as we watch him leave. Anya doesn't look happy with us. "I think we just got a certain someone angry," he whispers in my ear. It did seem like we were angering the wrong person. This entire thing was to get to Kane, no one else. Griffin takes my hand once more and guides me through the crowd. Everywhere people are greeting him, and he nods and smiles at them. He doesn't try to stop and talk. He doesn't stop pulling me along until we are alone, away

from the crowds. "Why are we here?" I ask him, suddenly anxious. "Relax, don't get worried," he tells me. "I saw Kane following us. I wanted to use this opportunity to our advantage." "What exactly do you plan on doing?" I ask him. We were running out of options. "I don't want you to panic, but I'm going to pretend to kiss you." He informs me. I gape at him in horror. Pretend to kiss me? Was he looking for a death wish? He doesn't know Kane as I did. I wanted to make him angry enough to confess his feelings for me, but I didn't want him so pissed that he tried to murder Griffin tonight! "That's not such a good idea," I warn him. "Kane is very dangerous when he gets angry. You've been so nice to me, and the last thing I want to do is get you in trouble." "I'm a Fawn," he tells me. "Trouble is always following us. Especially me. My brothers weren't lying earlier. Despite what they said, if I'm in trouble, they will come to my rescue. I'm the last person you have to be concerned about." But what would happen to Kane if he messed with a Fawn? We were on a ship surrounded by them. This would turn out bad for everyone if I let this continue. "Show time," Griffin says, surprising me. My eyes widen when he leans into me; he doesn't even make it near my lips as Kane grabs him by his neck and shoves him behind me. It was happening. Crap! I had to stop it before it got worse and someone got really hurt. "Kane!" I shout. "Let him go!" Kane ignores me, tightening his hold on Griffin, who, in turn, continues to grin at him. How can he still smile under these conditions? I grab his shoulders, trying to pull his hands off him, but even that doesn't work. "Kane!" I say louder this time. I'm grateful that there is music on this yacht. Otherwise, people would have heard me shouting his name and known something was up. That's the last thing I wanted to happen right now. "How dare you put your f*****g hands on her," Kane roars. "You're looking to be ruined tonight, boy!" "He didn't put his hands on me without my permission!" I shout, but my words have managed to anger him even more. I'm terrified of what he was going to do. I had to do something quickly. Anything. I push between them and wrap my arms around Kane before he can try and harm Griffin. His body immediately freezes under my touch, and he finally looks down at me; I think he can finally see me clearly for the first time since he witnessed Griffin pretending to kiss me earlier; I'm trembling as I try to calm him in the only way I can think of right now, "please let him go." I beg. "Please, Kane."

Chapter 107 ~MAYA~ I sigh with relief when Kane finally listens to me and lets go of Griffin. I look at him, and he grins, acting like Kane didn't just try to strangle him a few seconds ago. "I think you two have plenty to talk about," Griffin says. "I'll leave you to do that. Nice to meet you, Kane! Always a good time when someone tries strangling me. Fun times indeed. I look forward to the next time we see each other. Until then, bye!"

How can he still make jokes right now? He does leave us alone like he said he would. I loosen my arms around Kane and pull back to look at him. His eyes are still red with rage, and I believe the only thing stopping him from going after Griffin again is me. "Are you insane?" I demand from him the moment we are by ourselves. "He's a Fawn! He invited us to this yacht to have some fun, and this is what you do to him? Just imagine what would have happened if any of his family members had seen what you were doing to him. We would probably have been thrown into the sea because of your actions!" Kane looks uncomfortable with my words, "do you care for him that much? So much that you're willing to let him touch and kiss you? A man you barely know. A man who only knows how to sweet talk and flaunt his money?" His hands have moved to my waist, and I fight the effect it has on me. Kane touching me always makes my body melt. "Who I care about is none of your business." I snap. "I thought we were over this, Kane. I thought this thing between us was done for good. I don't see the point in hurting anyone who tries to get close to me. You need to make up your mind before making a mess out of everything in both of our lives." "It is my f*****g business." He growls. "He isn't good for you. He is not going to make you happy." "You don't know that." I snap. "Why are you doing this?" Kane whispers. "Why are you here with him? Why now?" I narrow my eyes, "I don't want to speak to you, Kane. I'm trying to move on with my life, and I need you to let me do it. This is what you wanted all along, is it not?" "It is," he growls. "But not in this way. I didn't want to have to see you with anyone else." "Do you hear how selfish that sounds?" I demand. "You expect me to see you with Maya, but you don't want to see me with anyone else?" His hand tightens on my waist, "I know I'm f*****g selfish. I never said that I wasn't." I sigh; it seems that Kane still was not ready to accept that I was his. He was also unprepared to see that the current Maya was a fake. If he couldn't open his eyes to see these things, then why was I wasting my time over this? Why was I here pretending to flirt with a man to get him to realize how important I was to him? I shouldn't need to do these things to get Kane to confess. I was wasting my time. I can't believe it took me this long to realize this. I push away from him, "I need you to leave me alone." Kane doesn't try and stop me again. He lets me go, and this time I think it's truly the end for us. I was the one that was holding onto him this entire time. I was finally letting go after finally realizing it wasn't worth my time anymore. I couldn't force Kane to realize my importance in his life, he had to find this out on his own, and if he didn't, it just meant that I deserved better all along. Walking away from him is the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I felt like I was leaving my heart behind, but this was the only option for me. I was tired of loving him with all my heart and not receiving the same kind of love. I was tired of fighting for someone that wasn't fighting for me. I couldn't do this anymore. I had to protect myself from the heartache of loving someone like Kane. He

was so damaged that he didn't allow anyone to love him. I stop walking when I see Maya in front of me, blocking me from moving forward. "Can you let me pass?" I ask her. She quirks a brow, "no." She says flatly. "I have some things I want to discuss with you; you can leave after we talk about it." I sigh. Was she going to ask me about Kane? She wasn't even the real Maya, then why would she want to speak with me? "What do you want to speak about?" I ask her. This woman gave me the creeps. Everything about her was so off; I still don't see how no one else could realize that she wasn't Maya. She folded her arms and smiled at me; even her smile was dangerous. "I've been watching you for a while now. You may not have known it, but I have been noticing every moment you've been spending with my mate." I want to laugh that she dared to call him her mate when I knew it simply wasn't possible. He had no feelings for her; how could she be his mate? Kane was forcing himself to be around her. "You don't have to worry about it anymore," I assure her. "I'll be out of his life as soon as this trip ends. No one will ever have to see me again. Not you and not him." She laughs, "do you truly believe yourself when you say that? You can keep lying to yourself, but you can't keep lying to me. I know that you want him. I know that you can't go a day without being by his side. You can tell yourself that, and maybe you'll attempt to do it, but it wouldn't be long before you come running straight back to him. And you can't deny that truth." "I can deny it." I hiss. "Why are we even talking about this? I'm trying to move on with my life, but you people don't want to let me." "We're talking about this because you brought this upon yourself. You flirted with my mate, and we all know you did more than that. I know he was in that room with you while you stayed at my home. I know what you two did. It's a shame you would do that knowing anyone could have walked in and seen you." She tells me. How did she know this? I was sure that no one had seen us that night. I knew that Kane had left the door open, but I thought that if someone had seen us, they would have exposed us immediately. If she knew this all along, why did she take this long to confront me? And did she also confront Kane? Did she ask him why he did that? But why would she when she wasn't the real Maya? And if she wasn't the real Maya, why was she wasting her time speaking to me about this? It's not like me being with Kane would bother her. She doesn't love Kane as the true Maya did. She doesn't have any feelings for him. I've seen the way she acts around Kane, and I've seen how she behaves around Maya's family; she doesn't care about any of them. So what was her purpose behind confronting me over this? Did she have a hidden motive? Was Maya's brothers around to hear our conversation? I wouldn't be surprised if she were trying to set the both of us up. I took a look around us to confirm if my suspicions were indeed correct. I was surprised when I saw no one. It was just the two of us here. This made it all the more suspicious. Why was the fake Maya trying to have a conversation with me? Why was she trying to pretend that she was

actually upset that Kane and I had a relationship? "Do you have no words to say to me?" She asks. "Not even an apology after you tried to steal my mate from me? He was never going to leave me for you, though. After everything you tried, Kane still decided that he wanted me. . . Maya. Not you." Her words are pissing me off. I know that he chose Maya, the fake Maya. And I was beginning to accept that until she had to rub it into my face. Here I was, ready to let him go and move on with my life, but somehow she's making it so freaking hard. I want to rip her head out of her stupid body. "Are we even sure that you're the one he chose?" I ask sarcastically. "I know that he loves Maya. I know that Maya will always be the most important woman in his life. I know that he will give his life for her. I know that he thinks he doesn't deserve her after everything they've been through in the past. I know all of these things." She narrows her eyes, "what is your point exactly?" I smile, "my point is that even though he loves Maya this much and chose her over me, it's clear he didn't choose you. Because I think that we both know that you are not the real Maya. You're an imposter. Someone pretending to be her. It's only a matter of time before you get caught in that lie." I can see the surprise flash in her eyes. She didn't think that I knew all along. She still felt that I believed she was the real Maya. I know I shouldn't have said anything, but her taunting forced it out of me. And now I'm wondering if I've fallen straight into her trap. Maybe she was trying to anger me to get me to spill what I knew about her. If that's the case, I was in for a lot of trouble. "You still don't remember a single thing, do you?" She asks me. What was she referring to? What did I not remember? I knew I couldn't remember anything from my past; was she referring to that? And why did she choose now to bring it up to me? She laughs, "I guess it's a good thing that you're so weak. It works out well for me when you act this clueless. It's a pity things had to turn out this way for you. You had your chance to reunite. It's too late for that now." "What are you talking about?" I demand. She pulls a lifebuoy from beside her and shoves it into my hand. I stare at it for a few seconds. "Why on earth are you giving this to me?" I ask. "Because you're going to need it." I don't have time to understand her words as she shoves me over the yacht. My eyes widened as I tried to grab onto something. It was no use; it was too far. I held onto the lifebuoy tightly as my body crashed into the water. I couldn't believe it. That b***h just threw me over the boat!

..... ~KANE~ I held the back of my neck as I forced myself not to run after the girl. She was right. I was selfish. I have always known it since the beginning. I was the one that asked her to let me go, and when she gave in to my request without trying to stop me, something snapped inside of me. I didn't think it was possible to want her more than I already did. Now she was threatening to leave me for good, and the look in her eyes told me she was serious about it. I want to run after her. I want to beg her never to leave me, but I can't bring myself to do it. I was scared that I would ruin her life. If I begged her to

stay and somehow convinced her to do it, what would happen next? Does this mean that I have to let Maya go? I've never once considered doing it. Ever since we rescued Maya, nothing felt the same. I didn't love her the way I used to; the connection was no longer there; I didn't think that she loved me the way she did in the past either. She didn't look at me the way that she always did. A part of me is screaming that it isn't her. Screaming that she isn't my mate. I've been ignoring that voice for some time now. Now I feel like I shouldn't have ignored it. I should have let myself search for the truth. I think the main reason I didn't was my fear of what would happen when I discovered the fact. I was terrified of the truth. And I've been running from it. There are so many things I've been running from. The most important truth was that I loved her. I loved this girl. I loved her and with all my heart. I wanted to make her happy. I didn't want Griffin or no other man to take her from me. But what other choices did I have at this point? If I got her back into my life, if I got her to stay, I would only bring her more pain. I didn't want to hurt her anymore. I didn't want to do things that made her cry. Loud cheers erupt around the boat, and I realize we are nearing the island. What was I even doing here? I had the option to stay behind but refused. I came here for her. I came here because I didn't want Griffin to make a move on her. I wanted to be there to protect her from him. "What are you doing here? I've been looking everywhere for you." I turn to find Maya staring at me. Her eyes are wide with fear, and the look on her face immediately makes me panic. Something must have happened for her to look this way. "What's wrong?" I demand as I grab her shoulders. "Did something happen to you?" Her body is shaking, making me more worried, "say something. Tell me what's going on." "I saw something horrible." She whispers with tears streaming down her face. I hug her, trying my best to stop her body from trembling. Whatever she saw must have scared her. "It's okay. Tell me what it was so that I can help." "I saw someone fall over the boat," she cries. "I tried to help her, but I wasn't fast enough. I think she was trying to harm herself." Did someone throw themselves off the boat? Who could that have possibly been? Why would anyone do that? "Did you recognize the person?" I ask her. "And did you call for help?" She nods, "it's the girl that stays with Gabriella. The one that doesn't remember her name. I swear I tried to help her, Kane, but I was too late. I didn't move fast enough, and now I'm terrified that something horrible has happened to her." Her words send a sharp pain through my heart. For a moment, I can't breathe; I can't move. It takes my body a few seconds to start to process her words. I push Maya away from me when I finally do understand her words. I rush towards the side of the boat, searching the waters, looking for any signs that she could still be alive somewhere. "Kane!" Maya shouts. "What are you going to do? I'm going to call the others for help. You don't have to look for her on your own." She says something else, but I'm not paying her any attention. I'm desperate to find the girl. I don't

give it a second thought as I jump from the yacht, I can hear Maya's scream behind me, and it doesn't take long for me to hit the water. I'm going to find her. Nothing is f*****g going to happen to her. Thoughts of her almost drowning the last time she was thrown into deep waters send me into a panic. I'm searching more frantically for her now, praying that she will be okay. I'm desperate. f*****g desperate to find her. She had to be okay. She had to be. I would never be able to live with myself if something happened to her. Never.

Chapter 108 ~GABRIELLA~ "Have you seen Kane anywhere?" I ask Arthur. I've been looking everywhere for my friend, but I couldn't find her. I thought that finding Kane would lead me to her, but I couldn't find either of them. That was not a good sign. It could never be a good thing when they were both missing at a time like this. Kane was pissed after seeing her with Griffin, but that didn't mean he would kidnap her and disappear with her. He wouldn't do something like that. Something else must have happened. I watched every single person that exited the yacht, and I still couldn't find either one of them. I don't know why I didn't follow Kane when I saw him storming after Griffin and her. I thought I was doing the right thing by giving them time alone. I was wrong. "No," Arthur says. "I've searched the entire boat as you asked me to. I didn't see either one of them." "Griffin!" Arthur shouts to his friend. He comes running towards us, "is something wrong?" "We can't find Kane and our friend anywhere," I explain. "I think you were the last person to see them. Did anything happen while you were there? Did Kane do anything out of the way?" He scratched the back of his neck; the look on his face told me I was not about to like his response. "I pretended that I was going to kiss her. I knew Kane was watching; that's why I did it. Kane got pissed and tried to strangle me. She tried to stop him, and it worked; he let me go. That's the last time I saw them. I left them so that they could have a conversation with each other. I'm not sure what happened after that. I don't understand how they both can go missing without a trace. Are you sure you checked everywhere?" Arthur nods, "there isn't an inch on that boat I didn't search. Gabriella checked everyone exiting the yacht as well. She is positive that none of them happened to be Kane and our friend. They're both missing." Griffin looks restless, "I'll see what I can do. We must find them." He doesn't waste any time. I watch as he starts barking out orders. I squeeze my temples as I try to think of where they might be. My eyes fell on Maya, and I saw the smirk on her face. She wasn't looking at me, but she seemed too happy for my comfort. Her expression made me feel uneasy. She knew what had happened to them. I could feel it. I narrow my eyes. I will beat the truth out of her if it's the last thing I do! I only make one step towards her when Arthur grabs hold of my

arm and pulls me backward. "What do you think you're doing?" He asks me. "I need to find out what she did to them." I snap. "She looks too happy. I know she has something to do with their disappearance." Arthur tightens his grip on me, "we will find them, but you can't risk her finding out that you know she isn't the real Maya. We don't know what else she has planned. Austin and his family still think she is their real sister. Confronting her now will be like walking into a death trap." "What should we do then?" I demand from him. "Let's talk to the others." He tells me. "They need to know what's happening. We will have to organize a search to look for them." "But where could they be?" I demand. "If they're not on the boat, there is only one other thing that could have happened to them." I didn't want to think that they'd fallen off the yacht. But that was the only option left. Neither of them would willingly jump off. "What's wrong?" Austin asks as he joins us after Arthur signals for him to come over. "We can't find Kane and the girl that stays with us." He explains to him. "They aren't on the boat. There is no sign of them in the water either. The sea is rough. I'm not sure what happened. We will have to search the island. If we are lucky, we will be able to find them." "How is that even possible?" Austin asks. "And why did only those two go missing?" Arthur gives me a look, and I remain quiet. There is no use telling him about their relationship. "I'm not sure," Arthur says. "But we need to start the search now." Austin nods, and I watch as they both walk off to inform the others. I close my eyes and take deep breaths. We had to find them. And soon.

.....~AUSTIN~ "Where could they be?" I ask James. Roman was sleeping in my arms, and I didn't want to do anything that could wake him. It was hours since we'd last seen Kane and the girl. Why did they both disappear at the same time? And why did Gabriella and Arthur seem suspicious when I asked them this same question? Was something going on that I didn't know about? It felt like they were keeping something essential from us. I knew that I didn't have time to press them on the matter, and that's why I let it go without saying anything else. But it was still on my mind. "I don't know, but it's going to be hard to find them in the dark." James mumbles. "I don't understand how two people could just disappear from a boat." "I want to speak to you." Maya interrupts us. "This isn't the right time, Maya," I tell her. "We are in the middle of searching for your mate. Don't you want us to find and bring him back safely to you? You've been through enough; I don't want anything else to hurt you. As much as I don't like Kane, I know you love him, and I will do everything I can to bring him back to you." "This is important." She shouts. "I need you to hear what I have to say. It's about Kane, and it's about that woman he went missing with!" I paused; I didn't like the tone of her voice. I know she's probably just frustrated that he's gone missing, but I also felt like there was something else going on here. It felt like she was trying to hint that something was happening between them both. James looks at me, and we both stop what we were

doing to hear what else she had to tell us. "I've been noticing since I came back into Kane's life he's been acting strangely. He doesn't look at me the way that he used to. At times I feel like there is no love in his eyes. He's distanced himself from me. I'm sure that he no longer cares for me." She confessed. "I didn't want to say anything before because I was scared I was wrong. I didn't want a repeat of last time. And so, I kept the pain to myself, but I can't keep it in anymore." "Are you sure?" James asks. She nods, "this isn't all I have to tell you. There is more, and it concerns him and that woman." My body stills, "what about them?" A tear rolls down her cheek, and my heart squeezes in my chest. What the f**k did that bastard do? Why does he have Maya still crying after all this time? He promised to be a better f*****g mate to her. Then why the f**k is my sister sad right now? "I've been noticing the way he looks at her. At first, I thought it was nothing." She says, and each word sends my heart pounding with rage. "I dismissed it at first. After everything he's put me through, I was sure that he wouldn't do anything to hurt me again. It turns out that I was wrong. Kane has been cheating on me with her. He's been going to her room back at home; I saw them together. I know he's doing more than just going into a room with her. I saw them kiss. They've probably already done more than that. I confronted him about it, but he didn't try to deny it. Instead, he said that he would make it up to me. He promised that he wouldn't be with her anymore. Tonight, I decided to tell you because I realized that it wasn't over between them. It's why they snuck off to be alone. This is just their way to be together." I'm going to f*****g kill that bastard when I see him. This time was different. This time Maya would not beg me to save his life. And even if she did, I would not listen. I will kill that son of a b***h. Roman stirs in my arms, "I'll have to take him to Lucy. Then we're going to find Kane, and we will get rid of him once and for all." Maya extends her hands towards me, "I can take Roman to Lucy for you. I don't want to be there when you hurt Kane. Even though I'm angry about what he did, I'm not going to be able to see you hurt him. It will still hurt me. I understand now that I should have left you to deal with him the first time. I was wrong. You were right, Austin. He was never any good for me." I give Roman to Maya after kissing his cheek. I wait for her to leave as Lucas joins us. "What's happening?" He asks as he sees the look on my face. "Don't tell me something is up again. I thought we were finally about to have a peaceful trip without any problems." "I'm going to murder him," I growl. "Who?" Lucas asks. He didn't hear anything Maya just said to me. "And why was Maya crying when she left? What am I missing?" "It turns out that Kane has been cheating on Maya with the girl he disappeared with," James growls. Lucas looks surprised, "the woman with no name? That's crazy; she seems like a kind girl. Is Maya sure that's what she saw?" "Do you think Maya would mistake something that serious?" I demand. "I knew I never liked him. Since the beginning, he's done nothing but hurt

Maya. This time he's crossed the limit. I'm not going to let anyone stop me from hurting him anymore. He's finally going to get what he deserves." "Where do you think we could find them?" James asks. "They could be anywhere on this island." "I can't believe he would hurt Maya again," Lucas whispers. "How could he do that to my sister? How could he do that to our sister? Did he not learn his lesson the last time he was almost killed?" "He hasn't," James says as he grabs his dagger. "We're going to find them faster if we shift. But we need to catch them in the act. We can't give them the chance to make up any excuses." "You're right," I say. "We need to see it for ourselves. This way, we can explain to our wives why we got rid of the asshole." "What will we do about the girl?" Lucas asks. "Is she not pregnant? She cannot be harmed." I didn't want to harm her. My body still felt weird around her, and my heart begged me to protect her. The last time I didn't listen to my heart, I paid for my actions. This time I would be forced to listen. She was pregnant, like Lucas said. We wouldn't hurt her. Kane was the only one that was going down tonight. He was to blame. He was the main culprit. And he would f*****g pay once and for all. I sigh, "we will decide what to do with her when we find them." I tell Lucas. "Are you ready to beat that motherfucker?" James asks. "Ready as I'll ever be."

Chapter 109 ~MAYA~ It was dark. I don't even know how I made it to the island. There weren't any houses here. I knew the party was supposed to take place at a beach house, but there was no sign of anything like that. I tried to listen, hoping to hear voices, music, anything to show signs that I was near the house. Unfortunately for me, I heard nothing of the sort. All I could hear was the rough sea along with the calls of nature. I held my arms close to my body as I tried to keep myself warm. The wet dress stuck to my skin, which was not helping my situation. Who would have thought there would come a day in my life when someone would push me off a boat? And who would have thought I would be stupid enough to let them do it? I kept surprising myself, and not in a good way. I couldn't believe that psycho woman actually did that to me. I knew she was dangerous, but I didn't think she would go to such lengths to try and harm me. I felt that she was after Austin and his family. I didn't think that she was also after me. Maybe Gabriella and I were wrong about that. She was out to destroy everyone, not just a select few. Would anyone believe me after I told them what she'd done to me? They had to believe me; how else would I have fallen off the yacht? I don't understand why she gave me a lifebuoy. If she wanted to kill me, why leave me with something that could possibly save my life? There was something else that she had to be up to. But the more I thought about it, the more I couldn't figure her out. She was insane and cruel, that was true. And she'd just proven once more that she wasn't Maya. It was my fault for telling her I knew she wasn't

her. She had no idea before, but now she knows I have known her secret for some time. I kick the sand beneath my foot in frustration. Why did I let her get to me? If I had kept my mouth shut, none of this would have happened. She wouldn't have shoved me off the boat because she wouldn't have seen me as a threat to her plans. Now I had to think of a way to find my way back to the others. I knew that it was only a matter of time before Gabriella realized that I was missing. She would inform Arthur, and I knew they would organize a search party to find me. I had plenty of faith in those two. I wasn't sure if moving around would make it harder for them to find me. But I couldn't exactly stand here either. I was cold and miserable. I'd just told Kane I was over him and ready to move on. Somehow, instead of returning home, I'm stuck on a private island with nowhere to run and no one to turn to. Just my stupid luck. I grab a piece of my dress and squeeze, removing as much water from it as possible. I didn't want to walk around with nothing on, and I had no underwear under this dress. If I removed it, I would be left with no clothes at all on my body. I either stayed in a wet dress or walked around this island completely naked. I feel a droplet of water on my face and immediately look up to the sky. Are you freaking kidding me? I dropped myself to the ground as the rain began to pour heavily on me. I couldn't believe this. I thought things couldn't get worse than this, but here I am, stuck in one of the worst situations ever. I still think this was better than being locked in a cold cell. I still had a fighting chance, and I knew no one would leave this island until they found me. That is unless they think that I'm dead. Then I would be screwed. I was sure that Maya would come up with some incredible story to make people think I was dead. I'm not sure exactly what that story would be, but I knew she would tell everyone a lie. It's going to be my word against hers. Things would be crazy when I finally got reunited with everyone else. I knew that Gabriella and Arthur would believe me. And I knew that Austin and his family would believe her. Kane. . . I'm not sure who he will believe. Anything was possible with him. He always manages to surprise me. Still, his first choice is always her. The chances of him believing me over her are very low. Everyone came here to have fun, and again I'm going to cause difficulties for them. I sigh; it wasn't my fault entirely. I close my eyes and try to remember when my life wasn't this hectic. Since the day I woke up with no memory of my past, I've been living a pathetic life. I'm constantly in shock and pain. But I couldn't deny that there were also times when I was happy. My life could have been worse if I didn't have certain people in it. I'm suddenly very aware that I am no longer alone. I could hear someone moving through the sand, coming closer to me. My eyes flash open, and I'm surprised when I see a familiar face looking down at me. Kane. My heart skips a beat. His clothes were soaked to his body just like mine was. His hair was dripping wet; in fact, the water droplets falling onto my face were not just from the rain but from his hair also. He looked tired.

But he also looked relieved to have found me. How long has he been searching for me? And how did he know where to find me? Did everyone already realize that I had been missing? Was that how he knew to come and search for me? There were so many questions that I wanted to ask him. So many things that I wanted to do now that he was in front of me. My hands are itching to pull him down on top of me. My body is begging me to close the distance between us. I swallowed those feelings; I knew that I was vulnerable right now, but I was not willing to fall into his trap again. I gasp when his eyes close and his knees drop onto either side of me on the sand. I was so lost in my own thoughts that I didn't realize that something was wrong with him. "Kane?" I call out to him. He doesn't seem to hear me as his body drops down on top of mine. Kane feels like a massive rock on top of me. He's beginning to scare me. Why was he acting this way? I tried to shift so that I could see his face. And when I do, my panic rises. What did I miss? What happened to him while I went missing? His eyes are closed, and I don't think he's conscious anymore. He isn't moving; his body is as motionless as a stone. "Kane?" I say again. "Are you okay? What's wrong?" I don't know why I'm still trying to talk to him when it's apparent that he wasn't hearing a single word that I was saying to him. What could have caused this to happen to him? I never saw Kane like this. He's always on top of everything. He never looks weak. I gently roll him away so I can get a better look at him. His face is pale, and seeing him like this was beginning to frighten me. There was no one around to help us. I gently shook him one more time, but again, there was no response from him. What exactly did Kane do to find me? Whatever it was, it must have been too much for his body. I look around for somewhere to shelter, but there isn't a single thing that could help us. Even if I tried to drag him out of here, he would still get soaked by the rain. I lift his head and place it only on my lap. I lean over him, trying to block off as much of the rain as I possibly could. I caress his cheek gently and whisper, "please wake up. Please, Kane." I don't know how long we stayed like that, but the rain had finally stopped. Our bodies were still wet, but at least the water wasn't pounding against us anymore. I held my breath as I felt Kane stir on top of me. He slowly opens his eyes and looks surprised to see me staring down at him. It takes a moment for everything to settle in his mind, and I see when he remembers everything that happened. He lifts himself off me and cups my cheeks in his hands, "are you okay?" I nod, "I'm fine. What about you? You just collapsed on top of me. I was so worried. What the hell did you do to your body for it to collapse like that, Kane?" He runs a hand through his wet hair, "I wasn't thinking right. When Maya told me that she saw you jump off the yacht, the only thing on my mind was to get to you." The mention of Maya sends my blood boiling with rage. Was that what she told him? That I tried to harm myself by jumping out of the yacht? My breaths have escalated. I was fuming now. She was the one that shoved me out of that

thing! And she has the damn nerve to tell him that I jumped from it? I pull away from him and stand on my feet. "What's wrong?" Kane asks as he notices my sudden change in mood. Is that all he has to ask me? Could he not realize by now that she was a damn liar? "Your 'mate' Maya almost tried to kill me!" I shout. Kane looks at me as if I've lost my mind. "Why the hell would Maya try to kill you?" He demands from me. "She said she tried to save you, but she was too late. If she wanted to kill you, why would she call me to help you?" "I did not jump off the boat!" I hiss. "I was thrown off it. Pushed off the boat. That's a big difference, Kane." Did he think I was stupid enough to jump off a moving boat like that? And he knows that I can't freaking swim. Didn't he stop and think there was a huge possibility that she was lying to him? I take a deep breath, trying to calm myself. Why does he not know by now she's a damn fake! How long would it take him to realize that I was his mate? "How do you know that your new boyfriend Griffin didn't have anything to do with it?" He demands. "Why would you blame Maya?" "Boyfriend?" I ask sarcastically. Griffin was nowhere around me when this happened! He makes no sense whatsoever. He was looking for any opportunity to bring him up to me. "In just one day, you're closer with him than any other man that has been in your life." He points out in a bitter tone. "And on that same day, you distanced yourself from me. And now this happens. You almost drowned being thrown off a boat that he invited you to!" "This has nothing to do with Griffin, Kane. This has everything to do with Maya. And I will not say anything until you figure it out for yourself." I snap. "Would you come here so I can help dry you?" He growls. I'm surprised by his sudden change in conversation. We were arguing about Maya, and this is all he has to say to me? I know I'm soaking wet from head to toe, but I do not care right now. I want him to realize that she isn't his Maya for once. I want him to learn for himself that I am his mate. I don't want to spell everything out for him. I want him to come to terms with it on his own. "No!" I snap. "I don't want you taking care of me anymore. I'm tired of depending on you. I'm tired of letting you suck me in one day and then leaving me the next. I'm over that, Kane. I'm over this thing between us. All this time, I've been thinking about what would be best for you, and not once did I think what would be best for me. I let myself hurt for you, and I'm tired. I'm tired, Kane. There are things you should have been able to see by now, and, sadly, it's taking you so long. I give up. I'm not waiting for you to see it anymore, and I'm not wasting my time playing games trying to win you over."

Chapter 110 "Will you let me f*****g dry you!" He shouts. "You'll get sick if you keep those soaking clothes on." I narrow my eyes. He wants me to remove my soaking wet clothes? If it bothers him that much, I'll give him exactly what he's asking for. I hope he

doesn't have any more complaints after this. I narrow my eyes and walk toward him until I'm a few feet away from his body. I make sure that his eyes are directly on me before I make my next move. When I'm satisfied and know I have his full attention, I grab the dress and pull it off my body. His eyes turn wide with surprise at my actions. I don't wait for him to say anything as I turn around and walk away from him. It's a few seconds before I can hear his footsteps behind me, but I ignore them. I don't care what he decides to do now; it has nothing to do with me. I gasp when I feel his hand wrap around my waist. He pulled me roughly against his body, so my bare ass was pressed against his lower body. What the hell was wrong with him? Why couldn't he leave me alone? There was a time when I wanted his attention more than anything else; it was in those times that he pushed me away the most. It makes me angry just thinking about it. I was finally giving him what he wanted. Why wasn't he happy? I lifted my head backward so that I could look up at him. "Let me go, Kane," I say through gritted teeth. He was making me more pissed than I was before. I just told him that this was over. That I was over letting myself fall for him. This was his chance to let me go for good. Wasn't this what he wanted all along? For me to move on with my life and let him be with Maya. I was ready to let that happen finally. I was letting him be with the fake Maya. What she did to him would be his problem from now on, not mine. I will always love him. That was the truth. But I was no longer putting my heart and life at risk for him. If he couldn't figure out my importance in his life, I wouldn't force him to do it anymore. "Never." He growls possessively. "I'm never f*****g letting you go." His words send a shiver down my spine, but I ignore that reaction. I didn't want my heart to flutter because of his words anymore. His actions are more important than those damn words of his that always made me weak in the knees. I laugh, "you're never letting me go?" I ask him. "Weren't you the one that told me to let you be with Maya? Weren't you the one that pushed me away from the very beginning! And suddenly you're not letting me go when I'm ready to let you go? Are you even listening to yourself? Why do you keep confusing me? Why are you making it so hard for me, Kane?" "Maya will—," "Did you just call me Maya?" I ask in disbelief. "Are you now calling me by the name of the woman that's been keeping us apart this entire time?" Was he serious? Out of all the names in the universe, why would he call me by her name? She's the one woman that has always had his heart. She's the one woman that has kept him from me. Why would he call me by her name? Was he that freaking clueless? What the hell was wrong with him? "f**k!" He hissed. "You're getting on my f*****g nerves like she always did. I'm sorry I called you that, but I don't exactly have a name for you. Do I? It was not intentional." "Ha," I say. "Are you kidding me right now? You call me Maya, and that's all you have to say to me? That I'm getting on your nerves as she does. Tell me, Kane, I have her voice, I smell like her, I act like her, and

now I get on your nerves just as she did in the past. What about me, who isn't like her then? This entire time the only reason you've ever showed me any attention was that I remind you of her. This entire time I was stupid for hoping there was a small chance that you liked me for me." "That's not true." He growls. "You know that's not true. This entire time I've been fighting my feelings for you. I've told you that already. I can't stay away from you no matter how f*****g hard I try. What do you want from me?" "What do I want from you?" I repeat his question. "Yes," he whispers. "What do you want from me? I've been trying to be good to Maya all this time. I've told you countless times what I did to her in the past. All I wanted was the chance to make it up to her. I wanted to treat her the way I should have from the beginning. Tell me, what am I supposed to do? What would you do in my situation? I owe Maya my life, and I've loved her since the beginning. I almost lost her, but somehow I got her back. Despite everything she's been through, I failed her by wanting you. Do you not understand how confusing all of this is for me? I'm not intentionally trying to hurt you. I'm just trying to do the right thing." I roll my eyes, "let me go." His hands tighten around my body, refusing to do as I'm asking. "I'm not going to. I told you that already." "If you don't let me go. I will hit you." I threaten. His eyes look playful at my threat, "you're going to hit me?" He asks curiously. "If that's what you want to do, you're more than welcome to do it. I deserve it anyway." "You know what. You and that Maya deserve each other!" I shout. "That's the kind of woman you are meant to be with. Someone like me has to end up with someone like Griffin. A man who knows what he wants and is willing to do everything to get it. You're so confused about everything in your life. It's like you can't make up your mind on anything at all." His eyes spark dangerously, and I know I've just hit a nerve. I'm happy that I did. He wasn't the only one that had the power to do this. If he wanted to mess with me, I could do the same to him as well. He grabs a handful of my hair and pulls my head down. He bends over me so that he's staring directly into my eyes when he says, "you're mine." "Mine." He roars and then softly, "mine. You're only mine. Not Griffin's. Not any other man in this universe. No one but mine. You're made just for me, only for me. Do you understand that?" I slap him hard across his cheek, and Kane looks startled by my reaction. "If I'm yours, why do you treat me like an option?" I demand. "If I'm yours, why can't you see who I am to you! Why haven't you figured out that the new Maya is a damn fake? Haven't you realized by now that you have zero connection with her? Haven't you realized now that we are f*****g mates, Kane? How can I see it, but you can't?" He swallows, and I can see his mind spinning with all of the questions I'm asking him at once. I don't understand how he can be so clueless even now. He just admitted that I was his; doesn't he realize that only mates react this way? "I've loved you all this time!" I shout as I hit his chest angrily. "I've loved you since the first time I saw you. I had a

connection with you even before we touched. I felt something strong for you, and I never changed my mind about it. I stuck with it from the beginning. You're the one that keeps changing your damn mind. I understand that you hurt Maya; I understand that you love her. I'm not asking you not to love her. I'm asking you to realize that the Maya in your life right now is not the one from the past. I'm asking you to accept that I'm more than just some woman you are attracted to. I'm more than someone you run to when things are not going your way. I want you to realize what we have is real, and I want you to stop treating it less than what it is." I'm breathing hard, and so is he, but there's something about his expression that makes me realize something else. He knew all along, didn't he? He knew all this time but kept on denying it. He knew! He freaking knew! "All this time. You knew she couldn't be the real Maya." I gasp. "Didn't you, Kane? You knew she was an imposter, but you refused to believe it. I always knew that it was impossible for someone not to know his mate. All of the signs were there. Your heart and body were already telling you she couldn't be your Maya, but you ignored it because you were scared of what that meant for the real Maya. All this time. You freaking knew, and still, you made me endure all this pain because of that bloody fake Maya!" "I wasn't sure," he whispers. "I had an idea, but I didn't know how to prove it. I was going to, but then she said she would walk away if I didn't start acting right. I've been so scared of losing Maya that I let her get her way because of it. My intention was never to hurt you. I never want to hurt you." "It may not have been your intention, but you hurt me," I whisper. "Even now, I'm in emotional pain because of you, Kane. You keep running from your problems. You keep pushing it aside and hoping that it will go away. You can't keep doing that. It's time you faced it head-on. It's time you accept that you don't know where the real Maya is. It's time to accept that you may never see her again. It's time to accept that woman is an imposter, and it's also time to accept that I'm your mate finally. This is the last chance I'll ever give you, Kane. If you don't take it, I'm leaving, and I will never look back. I will find a new life for myself and my babies. One where we wouldn't have ever to see your face again." He doesn't say anything. Instead, his hand finally loosens on my body. My heart breaks. Was this him rejecting me? Was he telling me that it was okay for me to leave? That it was okay for me to find a life without him in it. I shook my head in disappointment. "Goodbye, Kane." I grab my dress and begin to move away from him. I had to find my way back to the house, and when I did, I would find a way to get back home. I didn't want anyone to leave the party because of me, but the only way out was on the yacht. I would have to speak to Griffin, and hopefully, he would be able to find a way to help me leave. I knew that once I asked him, he would willingly help me. My heart was in pain. I couldn't believe Kane was letting me go. After everything, I'd just said to him. I thought I was finally getting through to him, but I was wrong. I would never see

him again after this. It will be the end for us, and no one could change that, not even him. I don't know why I had to love him so much. Why couldn't I have loved someone with less baggage? I chose one of the most ruined men to fall in love with. He was so messed up in the past that he locked himself away from the people that actually loved and cared for him. I take one step further when I feel his presence behind me. I stop moving, and he does too. I don't turn around to look at him. I gasp when he hugs my body and buries his face against my neck, "please don't leave me. I'm so sorry for everything. I don't know what I would do if you left me. I've already lost my Maya; I don't want to lose you. I've told you countless times how much I love her. And while that is true, I should have spent that time telling you how much I love you too. I didn't think I could ever love again after Maya, but somehow you changed that for me. I fell madly in love with you the second I saw you for the first time. I only fell deeper the more I got to know you. You were the only thing keeping me going. If I didn't have you by my side, I don't think I would have survived without Maya. But you made that possible. I'm begging you not to leave me." I am left speechless. I wasn't expecting those words from him. My breath hitches when he leaves a soft kiss on my neck. "Please," he begs as he kisses my ear. "Don't leave me. Ever." I slowly turn around so that we are facing each other. "You love me?" I ask hesitantly. Kane touches his forehead to mine, "I love you more than you'll ever know. More than I let you see. I've hidden it all along, and while it was torture, I can't hide it any longer. I love you too much. Just the thought of losing you is enough to drive me over the edge." I can't stop the tears this time. This is all I've wanted to hear from him since the beginning. I can't explain how happy my heart feels to hear him say that he loves me, to listen to him say that he doesn't want to let me go, that he's never going to let me go. Kane kisses my tears away, and I wrap my arms around his neck and hold on for my life. If he had chosen to keep his true feelings to himself, this would have been the end for us. The fact that he chose me meant everything to my thrilled heart. I lift my face to look at him. There is one more thing that I've wanted since the beginning, and I didn't want to wait for another second for it. I lean in and breathe him in; I love how close we are. His scent has always left me with an ache for more than he could offer. Kane shudders, and I know now that it's because of me. This is the kind of effect I have on him. And it makes me happy to know of my power. I have no control when I plead, "Please touch me, Kane." His eyes light up with an intense hunger at my words. I've wanted him to be mine for so long. Hearing him tell me that he loved me from the beginning is enough for me to know I need him right now. I need all of him. "Where?" He asked gently as he caressed my cheek, "where do you want me to touch you? I'll touch anywhere you ask me to. Anywhere." I take his hand and guide it to my breast. I cry out when he gently flicks my n****e before leaning down and sucking on it. Kane was so

gentle as he sucked that it made everything feel much more intense. He stays there for a long time, and it's a while before he lifts his face towards me, breaking away. "What else do you want?" He says in a hoarse whisper. I guide his hands down my belly and to my aching core. "Here," I cry. "I want you here. I need you here." Kane shudders once more, and he seems to have lost all control when his finger slips inside of me. His eyes close of their own will, and his chest rises. I cry out when he pulls his finger out and pushes two inside of me right after. His eyes grow hazy as my wetness intensifies. "so f*****g responsive, and only for me." "Only for you," I whisper. "And it will always be that way. I promise." Kane's eyes shone with a brightness that was blinding. He was happy that I would always be his and his alone. And this was always what I wanted, to see him this happy. Kane removes his finger and brings it to his nose. "I can smell you." He growls. "So f*****g sweet. Your scent has always driven me crazy. I could never get enough of you. Every night I dream of this." Kane picks me up into his arms and walks with me. He doesn't stop until my back is pressed against a tree. "I've been f*****g dying to be inside of you." He growls. "I've wanted to be inside your sweet p***y for so long it was killing me slowly. Nothing was as painful for me as staying away from you. It was f*****g difficult fighting all of my feelings for you." I gasp when he positions our bodies. "Ah fuckkk—," he groans as his d**k touches my wet p***y. It looks almost painful for him like he's trying to hold back for me. "I'm going to f*****g lose my mind before I even get inside of you. I've wanted it so long that my mind does not believe I finally have you." "I want this just as much as you," I whisper as I wrap my arms around his neck and pull our bodies closer. "I've wanted you for so long. I'm happy that I finally have you. In every way possible. I don't want any distance between us any longer, Kane." He kisses my forehead and stays that way for a few seconds before his body begins to move along with mine. I cry out when he slams into my p***y. He groans and buries his face against my neck. "It shouldn't feel this good. It shouldn't be powerful enough to make me forget everything else." Kane's forehead is creased, and even though he's with me now and feeling every emotion as strongly as I did, I still felt like something was bothering him. It felt like there was something he wanted to say to me but was holding it back. I soon forget that as he pulls out of me, only to thrust back harder than before. Kane's thrusts are more desperate now. And we're both searching for release. My nails dug into his back as he increased his speed, slamming into me faster than before. I felt something stir in my heart as he continues to move, and a distant memory is trying to come back to me. I try to hold onto it, I think it's from my past, and I don't want to lose it. 'Mark me' What did those words mean? I was sure it was a memory from my past. I was telling someone to mark me and begging them. But that's all that I can remember. I don't get the chance to dig deeper, not when Kane is sucking on my n****e. His mouth opens wide, and he takes

more than just my n****e into it. Kane doesn't hide his hunger for me, making me wet for him. He growls; he can feel just how much his actions are affecting me. He's inside me; of course, he can feel it. Kane moves from my breast to my neck, and I gasp as another memory hits me. This time it's a memory of both pleasure and pain. Everything is so scattered that it's hard for me to understand it. Kane's hands move from me as he positions them on the tree behind us. He's using his body to pin me against it. My legs wrapped around his waist are helping to keep me balanced. He roars as his fingers dig into the tree. The force of his thrusts is shaking the tree now; it was how powerful this man was. Leaves are falling on both of us, but it doesn't do anything to stop either one of us. I'm matching each thrust of his with the same amount of energy. I want this just as much as he does, maybe even more. "Motherfuckerrr—," He roars as his seed springs out of him and fills my body. "Kane!" I scream as my climax follows after his. "Yes! Yes! Yes!" I held onto his body as tightly as I could, letting him bury every last drop. Kane wraps his arms around me and holds me against him even though he's finished. I sigh against his chest, placing my head on his shoulder. "I love you so much," he tells me. "I'm so sorry I took this long to tell you. I'm so sorry I hurt you all this time. I don't know how I'm blessed with this kind of love. I never deserved it, to begin with." I cup his cheeks in my hand, "don't say that. I hate when you say that. You deserve all the love this world can offer you, and I will show it to you for the rest of your life." I kiss his neck, "I mean it; I'll do everything to make you happy because you deserve it." I ran my hand down his chest and felt his d**k stir back to life. I smile as he positions me once more. I'm ready for him as well. I'll always be ready for him. It's the next day. Kane is still naked and pressed up against my body. We've been a bit busy the entire night, making love over and over again. I'd never been as happy as I was now. I finally have the man I've wanted all along. He was finally mine, and it felt even more amazing than I always knew it would feel like. Having him like this was like a dream come true. And I would treasure these moments till the day I die. Knowing he loved me just as much as I loved him was everything I ever needed to know. I run my finger down his cheek, and he smiles, a real smile that melts my heart. Kane's smile was the most beautiful thing ever, and I hoped to see it more often than this. I wanted to see him smile every second of every day. "Good morning," he says. Kane's sleepy voice is incredibly sexy. If he keeps talking, we might end up making love yet another time. I'm sure he wouldn't mind it, and I wouldn't either. I couldn't get enough of him. The more I had, the more I wanted. "Morning," I respond as I kiss his lips. He groans and rolls us over so that he's now on top of me. "You're going to make me take you once more." He threatens. That wasn't a threat to me; I was more than ready for it. "Is it bad that I want you to?" I ask him. He chuckles and kisses my neck, "no," he growls. "I think it's f****g sexy. If we didn't have to find the others, I would do

it again." I sighed; we had to go back to reality soon. I had to expose the fake Maya. Everyone had to know what she did to me. I didn't care that there would be people that wouldn't believe me anymore. What she did was dangerous; the longer I kept this secret, the others would also be in danger. Kane helps me to my feet. The sun was out and blazing; thanks to that, my dress was finally dry again. He helps me get dressed before getting dressed himself. I was scared of what would happen when we were reunited with everyone else, but I was ready to face anything as long as I had him by my side. We didn't need anyone else but each other. Once I had him, I could survive anything that life threw my way. "It's not going to be easy to convince everyone of our love. They expect me to be with Maya. Maya's brothers already hate my guts. If they know what I've been up to, things may get a little crazy. I need you to promise me that you will stay out of it if it comes to that. I don't want you to get hurt while I'm trying to explain what's been happening between us." He tells me. I'm immediately disagreeing with it. There was no way I was staying out of this. I was done staying out of things. I step closer to him, "I'm not going to let you do it alone, Kane. You've done too many things alone. I want to be with you when you tell them. I need to be there. We need to tell them everything we know so they can understand." I wouldn't let him do this alone, from what I've heard. Kane was almost killed by Maya's family the last time; I wouldn't risk them hurting him this badly again. I would stop it before it comes to that. They just need to see for themselves that this Maya was not honest. Kane leans down and kisses my lips one last time. I wrapped my arms around his neck and held onto him. I don't know what the near future has planned for us, but at least we have each other. Kane deepens the kiss, and I open my mouth to him. I gasp as desire sparks in my belly. It suddenly doesn't feel like enough, but I know we didn't have time for this. Not now. We pull apart when we hear someone clapping. Who was that? I look around us, following the direction of the sound. My eyes widen when I see Austin; he's not alone; behind him are James and Lucas. Maya's brothers. They were all here. And they all had a murderous look on their faces. I can't imagine what was going through their heads as they watched us kiss a few seconds ago. I know how awful this might look to them. They didn't know the entire story. They didn't know anything at all. All they thought they knew was that Kane was cheating on Maya with me. This is the exact thing that I was scared of happening, and somehow it was unfolding before my eyes. How on earth am I supposed to stop a fight from breaking out between them? What the hell was I supposed to do? Kane pushes me behind him; he attempts to protect me from what is about to happen. I couldn't let him take the fall for me again. I couldn't let them hurt him! "You promised never to hurt Maya again," Austin says in a deadly calm voice. "You promised that you loved her. That things were different. But where is my sister now? She's not the one that was in your arms." "Where is

my sister?' It was another memory. A memory of Austin shouting that question. I held my head in pain as I was hit with another one. The memories are coming faster now, hitting me one after the next. 'The longer you hold onto me, the angrier my brothers will become. You need to let me go now.' I hear myself say in my memories. 'Let me go, Kane; let me go before you get seriously hurt.' 'I'm never letting you go. Your brothers will have to kill me to take you away from me.' It's his voice. Kane's. All part of my lost memory. And then it hits me. It hits me so freaking hard that I nearly tumble onto the sand. I gasp as another one jams straight into me, almost breaking my heart. Memories of my brothers beating Kane. I cover my mouth with my hand. This could only mean one thing. There could only be one reason those memories would be in my head. There could only be one reason I just referred to them as my brothers. I'm Maya. Oh, My God. I'm Maya! I'm Kane's Maya!

Chapter 111 All this time, I was in emotional distress because I felt like Kane was in love with Maya and not me. I spent so many days being jealous of her. I spent so many days feeling angry that he always chose her over me. And this whole time, I was her. I am Maya. This entire time I've been jealous of myself. I don't know whether to cry or laugh at this new information. Everything she had I wanted, and I had it all along. I held my heart as my mind raced with memories from my past. They were all coming back, one after the next. I was trying to cope, but it was too much for me to stand. I glimpse at my brothers and Kane. They're walking toward each other, and their hands have tightened into fists. They were preparing for a fight. My heart aches with fear at the sight. These were the people I loved the most, and here they were about to hurt each other over me. And it wasn't the first time this had happened. My memories were proof of that. I want to call out to them, but I can't find my voice. I want to beg them to stop, I'm trying to force my body to move faster, but nothing is happening. It refuses to listen to me. It's too much of a shock from finally regaining my memories. And they were still coming at me. There was so much. So much of my life that I had forgotten, but it was all returning. How could my body adjust to all of this at once? How could I make myself move faster to prevent them from hurting each other in front of me? They aren't looking at me. They're too busy glaring at each other to realize I'm in pain. I don't think they realize yet that something is wrong with me. But would my brothers even care? They didn't recognize me in this form. They didn't care about me when they thought I was another woman. Kane didn't recognize me either, but he still loved me. Even in another form, Kane was able to love me. My mouth opens, and once more, nothing comes out of it. My nails dig into the sand as I try to fight my own body. This was not the time for me to be helpless. They were about to harm each other. I had to find my strength before things got out of hand. The last

time this happened, I almost lost Kane. I couldn't let anything happen to him. I didn't think it was possible, but I loved Kane even more than I loved him then. My love for him had been restricted because of his actions, but that was all gone now; I knew him more than I did in the past; he had my entire heart now. I was able to fall for him more because of the vulnerable side he showed to me when he didn't know I was Maya. It was another side to Kane that shocks me now that I learned so much of our past. I loved him more than my little heart could take. It felt like it would overflow with all my emotions for him. And I would happily let it this time. He had suffered enough for his wrongdoings; it was time for him to forgive himself and be happy. "You're a f*****g disappointment to all males," Austin growls. "Maya always deserved better than you." Lucas hissed. "I thought you had changed. I hoped you did. She's not the only one you've let down. And this time, we're not giving you any more chances." "Your lucky days are over." James roars. Kane is quiet. Why isn't he telling them? Why isn't he shouting to them the things he's said to me? How will they know I'm Maya if he doesn't explain to them that I remind him so much of her? It's like he wants them to hurt him just like he wanted them to in the past. I knew he must still feel guilty for loving me when he didn't realize I was Maya. But that doesn't mean he shouldn't fight back! And why isn't anyone looking at me lying on the sand, fighting to breathe? If they looked away for a second, they would realize I needed help! I gasp when another memory hits me. It's an image of Austin and me when we were children. I feel tears forming in my eyes. Everything makes so much sense to me now. I know now why I felt such a strong connection to him; I understand why my heart hurt when I saw Lucas. I know why I hated the fake Maya so much. She was making a fool of the people I cared about. This is why I always felt a stir in my heart whenever I returned home with them. The reason was simple; that was my home, to begin with; I didn't know it then, but I do now. I had so many beautiful memories there. My family. I knew them even though my memories were lost. My love for them never left my heart. I already knew, even though I wasn't letting myself believe the truth. My heart knew it from the time I saw them. It's crazy how the heart remembers when the mind is unable to. "I'm sorry," Kane apologizes, and I can hear the sincerity in his voice. He still thinks that he's betraying me; he still thinks he's betraying his Maya. "I never deserved Maya; that is true. I tried my best to be the person that she deserved me to be. In the end, I failed to love her the way I was supposed to in the beginning. I fought my feelings for someone I knew I shouldn't love, but the more I pushed her away, the more I fell in love. As you can see, I've failed in even that. I loved another woman when my heart was always only supposed to belong to Maya. I know I should let you kill me, but I'm afraid I won't be able to do that without a fight. Because now I have someone to live for, someone I don't plan on leaving. Ever. So let's get this over with because, as I said, I'm not backing down

this time. I will fight for her, and I can only hope that Maya forgives me." His words have angered my brothers even more than before. And I don't know why he's bothering to tell them this. Of course, they won't understand or feel any pity for him. They think that he's hurting their sister once more. Doesn't he realize that it's useless to make them understand anything? He has a better chance if he tells them I reminded him of their sister. What is wrong with me? Why can't I fight back? All I need to do is open my mouth and speak. It's the only way to get this madness to stop. But the memories aren't stopping. And I don't want them to either. I'm happy that they're coming back to me. I'm so glad to know what my childhood was like. I was a lucky girl since the day I was born. I was always protected and loved, not to mention spoiled. I got everything I ever wanted since the start. My family tried their best never to make me cry, and if anyone ever did, my brothers made sure to make them pay. They were my protective shields, and even now, they're trying to protect me without knowing they were protecting an imposter. And who was that imposter? Was it really that blasted witch that caused this entire thing, to begin with? She asked me if I hadn't remembered anything. It must be her. Who else would bother causing so much trouble? And she clearly knew that I was the real Maya. She wouldn't go through all this trouble if she thought I was any other person. When I find her, I will bloody murder her for everything she's put the people I love through and me. She will pay. I will make sure of it. My head snaps upwards when I hear a roar. It's Austin. I watch helplessly as he grabs Kane by his neck. I gasp in distress. Get up, Maya! Lucas punches Kane straight on his nose. Kane growls and grabs onto Austin's throat as well. They're both hurting each other at this point. There is so much hatred between them; it's tearing my heart apart. I hate to see it. I hate to see the people I care about the most harming each other like this. Why is this happening again? Why am I even more helpless than the last time? Lucas and James join in then. I can hear Kane's roar as he fights against them. It isn't like the last time they fought. Kane is fighting back this time. He's fighting for me. I know that he is. He thinks they would hurt me, but he doesn't know yet that I'm Maya. None of them know the truth. That damn witch turned me into another woman. The people closest to me didn't recognize me even though I had been by their side for so long. I try to scream their names, but I'm still unable to speak. The tears are flowing now. I'm crying. I'm crying because I have to watch them hurt each other over me. 'You're my little sister,' I hear Austin say in another memory. 'I will always protect you. Anyone that dares lay a hand on you will wish that they'd never been born.' 'Troublemaker.' I hear Lucas next. 'He's right. We will protect you even though you annoy the s**t out of me.' 'We promise.' James adds. I remember this day. It was the day a guy had made the mistake of trying to hit me when I had turned him down. His screams echoed throughout the forest. They made sure that he would never try to hit another girl again in his life. It's one of

many memories I had of my brothers protecting me. My heart rate increases when Kane bites down on Lucas's wrist. He roars, and Austin pulls his head off. James grabs Kane by his neck and shoves him down on the sand. I watch in horror as Austin places his knees on his back, and it looks like Lucas is about to rip his head off his body. My grip tightens on the sand, and I push my head back and scream at the top of my lungs. It was the first time that I was able to make any sound since I'd gotten my memories back. I was grateful to have it before, but I'm not sure it will be enough to save Kane from them. How did I convince them that I was their sister? What did I have to do to make them believe me when I looked nothing like I used to? It doesn't help that someone is pretending to be me. It will make it much harder for me to convince them, and that's the last thing I need right now. My gaze connects with Kane's. His head is still pressed against the sand, but he's looking at me now. It reminds me so much of the past. He feels guilty; I know that he thinks he's somehow failed me again. Except, he doesn't know what I do. Maybe he does. He's said multiple times how much I reminded him of Maya. His heart already knew it was me; his mind was refusing to accept it. He's not the only one looking at me now. My brothers are also staring at me. That's expected since my scream must have rocked the forest. It was deafening, no doubt. I don't know where I got the strength from, but I'm standing on my feet now. I'm no longer begging for help from the sand beneath me. They're no longer trying to kill each other, and I think that at least is a good sign. Kane wasn't safe from danger yet. None of them were. "I need you to let him go, Austin," I tell him, and I know I've used this tone with him in the past. His eyes look puzzled for a second, and I know he's heard my voice; I know he remembers it. But he quickly pushes whatever thought was on his mind away. I know because his eyes are ice cold once more. He's trying to hate me because he thinks I'm the woman that is trying to destroy his sister's life. He doesn't know how wrong he is. And Austin has always been extremely stubborn. If he believed something, he stuck with it until it reached a point where he had no choice but to look at the other option. His knee pushes down harder on Kane's back, it angers me. "I said to let him go!" I shout; there is no hiding the authority in my voice. He looks at me as though I've lost my mind. It's almost like he's asking who I am to order him around. "Let him go?" Austin growls as his hands tighten into fists. "He deserves this. He played Maya multiple times; he f*****g hurt her. He promised to protect her and love her. And when we all finally believed and trusted him around her, he turned around and betrayed her with you! Why should I listen to the woman that had an affair with my sister's mate? Why the hell should I listen to you?" "Lucas!" I hiss when I see him move closer to Kane. "If you touch him, I swear I will never forgive you. You as well, James. I will never forgive any of you if you hurt the man that I love." They're all looking at me like I'm crazy now. I know what they are thinking, but I do not care how I look to them.

I'm thinking of a way to get them to believe me. I don't know how to break the news to them, and I'm trying to buy myself some time. But telling them that I was their sister was the only way for me to save Kane. Or it may make things worse. They may think that I'm lying. They will never believe me without any proof. But if they loved me as much as I loved them, there may be one way for me to get them to hear me out. There was something I had with me now that I didn't have before, something that the imposter would not have. And that was every single memory I had with them. When we were children and when we'd grown into adults. I had everything with me now. Everything that could get my brothers to believe the truth. And they would be stupid not to believe me. "Why would we care if you don't forgive us?" Austin demands. "You're the reason my sister is in tears. Both of you are the reason for her sadness. The last thing any of us would ever care about is your feelings." "Are you sure about that?" I ask him. "Are you sure you don't want to protect me right now instead of that fake Maya?" All of their bodies go rigid at my question. "Fake Maya?" Lucas asks. "What are you talking about?" "Pretend that you don't see me right now." I say, "and listen to me. Listen to my voice. Listen to the words that I say to you. Feel the connection between us. And then tell me you still don't know what I'm talking about." Austin looks at me and then at Lucas and James. They're all puzzled by my words, and maybe that's a good thing. It was taking their attention away from Kane. They weren't the only ones confused; he was as well. I'm unsure what his reaction will be when I tell my brothers who I am. He's been searching for me, and all this time, I've been right by his side. It's funny the way life works sometimes. "I think she's just trying to distract us," James growls. "I don't like being played with. Let's finish him and get this over with before anyone tries to stop us. By now, Gabriella must be close to finding them. She will surely try to stop us from killing her brother. And I don't want to hurt her to get to him. Definitely not while she's pregnant." Kane's fingers dug into the sand at the mention of Gabriella. And I saw it then, the love he already has for her. He's been hiding it this entire time. He was fighting their sibling connection, but he couldn't hide it this time. I saw straight through him. He would hate for anything to happen to his sister. If only Gabriella could see him now. She would be so happy. "I'm not trying to distract you, James!" I shout. "I'm trying to make you see the truth that's been in front of you this entire time! I'm trying to show all of you that you've been around an imposter this whole time. I want you to see that she isn't the real Maya. How could you three be so dumb not to realize she isn't your sister? How could you fall for her lies? I would think by now; you would each know better than that. It's not the first time you've been fooled by a witch or someone associated with one. Yet you keep letting others make you look like fools!" Lucas quirks a brow, "why does it seem like she's said words like this to us before? Why does she seem so familiar?" "Because I

have, you dumbass! And I can't believe you're taking so long to figure out who I am, Lucas!" I shout. He's always easily gotten on my nerves, and nothing has changed. Austin finally lifts his knee off Kane to stare at me. This time he's taking his slow time to examine me. I'm not sure what he's thinking. "Are you trying to tell me that she isn't Maya?" He asks. "That's hard to believe since she looks exactly like my sister. I think I would know what my sister looks like. I think her brothers would be able to pick her out of a crowd. And I would refrain from the name calling if I were you. It will not work in your favor when you're strangers to us." I laugh, "stranger?" "Yes," Austin growls. "Are you going to keep talking in circles, or will you finally open your mouth and say what's on your mind? We don't have all day for this." I run a hand through my hair and roll my eyes at them, "I can't believe it's taking my brothers so freaking long to see that I'm standing right in front of them!" Everything gets utterly silent from my latest confession. All I could hear was the crashing of the rough waves, the wind against the trees, and the sound of nature accepting it all. "Your brothers?" James asks. "What are you trying to say?" "Isn't it obvious, James?" I demand. "I know you've always been slow but come on, I'm spelling things out for you guys now." "Are you out of your damn mind?" Austin asks. "Do you hear yourself? Are you expecting us to believe that you are somehow our sister? Did you hit your head?" I cross my arms over my chest, "I am Maya. Your sister. Nothing you say or do can change that."

Chapter 112 They're not taking my words lightly. And I was right before, they do not believe me. They don't believe that I'm their sister. I felt like shouting at them the way I've done so many times in the past. How can my brothers not recognize me? "Do you take us for f****g fools?" Austin roars. "When Maya was taken from us, it felt like our lives were over. When we found her back, it felt like we were given a chance to breathe again. Are you trying to tell me that all this time, we've been calling the wrong woman our sister? Do you hear how absurd that sounds? You want us to believe that you are Maya when you look nothing like her. And why do you choose now to tell us who you are? You've had all the time in the world to tell us that you are our sister, yet you choose today out of all the days to confess. The same day that we are in the process of killing the man you are in love with. It feels rather convenient to me. I think you should save yourself the trouble and stop digging a deeper hole for yourself." I cross my arms over my chest and narrow my eyes, "don't you dare take that tone with me, Austin Lance Vinci. Just because I don't look like her doesn't mean you have to act so foolishly, shouldn't you open your damn mind and realize that I'm just like her? Because I am her! If you know me at all, you should be able to tell by now." He isn't happy at all with me. I can tell because I know when Austin is pissed. And right now he is. He thinks I'm trying

to make him look like a fool. He should know that he didn't need my help for that. "We are done listening to your f*****g lies!" Austin roars suddenly as he grabs hold of Kane's hair. He was done trying to listen to me. My eyes widen when they all position themselves like before. This time, however, it looks like Austin would be the one to finish him off. I wasn't getting through to them. Arguing with them was not working. That worked better with Kane than it did with my brothers. I had to act now if I wanted to save Kane. "Stay back!" Kane shouts at me when he sees me begin to move towards them. "They will hurt you! Don't you dare f*****g come near us!" He should know by now that I don't ever listen to him. Does he think I'll just stand back and let my brothers kill him? It looks like he also believes that I'm lying to Austin in hopes of getting him to release him. "STOP!" I shout. My feet are moving quickly, desperate to stop this madness from happening in front of my eyes. I would not let them take Kane away from me. Not now. Not ever. And this would be the last time my brothers would ever hurt him. I would make sure of it. I grab onto Austin's arms, "don't do this!" I scream. "Don't you dare hurt him, Austin! I swear to you that you will regret it if you do." Austin grabs my arm to push me away. "Don't you f*****g lay a hand on her!" Kane growls on the ground. Even though they pin him to the sand, he threatens them for my sake. He is still protecting me. I try not to become overwhelmed with emotions. I had the rest of my life to love and reunite with him. To tell him how happy I am to know that I'm his Maya. I didn't have to compete with anyone else anymore; he's always only loved me. "I'm your sister Austin!" I scream. "I'm your sister! Not her! I'm the one that played with you as a child. I'm the one who you ran to take care of whenever I got a bruise. Remember the one time I fell off my bike? Remember who came rushing to my side? It was you. You were the one there for me. You were always more like a father to me than a brother. Look at me. Look at me and see for yourself. And James. You've always protected me from making the wrong decisions. You've always taught me that my actions would always have repercussions. Remember when I tried to sneak out, and you caught me? Instead of telling mom and getting me in trouble, you gave me a chance and told me how many problems my one action could have caused. I may not look like Maya now, but I have all her memories. I'm your sister. That bloody witch wiped my memories and turned me into this. But I'm the same Maya that you love. I remember everything now. Everything. You must believe that I'm telling the truth. Please believe me. I am Maya." Austin and James have both frozen on their spots. I grab Lucas by his ear and pull him forward, "do you believe now that I'm your sister, you ass?" I've done this a million times in the past. Lucas and I always got on each other's nerves. It was a routine between us. And that wouldn't change anytime soon. Their eyes are on me; this time, I know it's different. They didn't believe me before, but after my actions and everything I've told them about our past, they realize that it's impossible

for me not to be their sister. This was exactly what I needed to happen. I was finally getting through to them. I couldn't begin to explain the sense of relief that washed over my body at that fact. I was so scared that they would never accept me. I'm happy that they were smart enough to know I'm telling the truth, even though it took them longer than it should have. "Maya?" Austin whispers. There is disbelief in his eyes. "Is it you?" James ask. "Are you our sister?" I pull Lucas's ear harder than before, "ow!" He groans. "f**k what she looks like. I'll know this pain from anywhere. She's Maya. She's her." Austin takes a step towards me and then another until he's inches away from me. He's staring into my eyes, searching for something. I'm not sure what he sees, but the tension in his body quickly goes away. I know the moment when he finally accepts me for who I am. Before I can react, he pulls me into his arms, "how did I not recognize you before?" He whispers. "All this time. You were right there in front of us. I can't believe this. I always felt this urge to protect and tell you that I love you. Not once did I think it was because you were our Maya." I return his hug, "it's okay," I assure him. "It's not your fault. That damn witch made me look like a completely different woman. She fooled everyone. Even though I couldn't remember who I was, I don't expect you guys to know either. And even if you had an idea, it would be impossible to confirm that I was her when I had lost my memory. Or, in this case, my memory was wiped completely, I didn't lose it, she took it from me. But I am upset it took you this long to believe me when it was clear I was telling the truth." James pulls me into a hug next, "you put us through hell, Maya. Losing you was one of the hardest things our family has ever had to go through. After today, we are never letting you go again. I will not allow another person to steal you from us. We love you so much. Everyone would be so happy to know that the real you is here with us once more." Lucas nods and grins, "you have a new face now?" He asks. "I have to say; you're better looking now. You should remain like this." He teases. I roll my eyes and hit his shoulder. "I didn't pull your ear hard enough. Come let me do it again! Clearly you need to be taught a lesson if you're back to your stupid jokes." "Hell no! Stay away from me with that deadly grip of yours." He warns. And then I notice him. Kane. He's frozen on the ground. He hasn't moved at all. He's still in the same position my brothers had left him in. The look on his face makes my body turn to stone. I can't move either. Not when he's looking at me like that. I didn't realize before this that telling my brothers I was Maya would also break the news to him. I didn't want to say this to him. I wanted it to be perfect, but it's too late. He knows now. And I can't tell what he's thinking. I can see his mind racing along with his heart with this new information. I can't read his mind, but I can examine his eyes. He looks like a man whose entire world has just brightened in front of him. He looks at me like I'm someone out of this universe, someone that doesn't exist. My heart melts; I'm supposed to hate him with the memories that returned of us from the

past. But I don't. I got to see a side of Kane in these past few weeks that made me fall for him a thousand times more. He didn't know that I was Maya, and each day I got to see how my disappearance destroyed his world. Each day I got to see how much I meant to him. Each day I saw that he regretted everything he did in his past. And that's all I ever wanted, for Kane to realize his mistake and try to fix it. In the past, it felt like nothing he did would ever make things better between us. But now I knew that I was wrong. Seeing Kane from another point of view was all I needed to be able to trust him again. To be able to love him despite our past. Kane's eyes soften, and I think he's going to say something. . . Finally. His silence was killing me. Did he also need convincing that I was his Maya? Would I have to do the same thing I did with my brothers? I didn't think I would have to go that far with him. From everything he's said to me in the past, he already felt the connection. He knew that many things about me reminded him of his mate. He knew but fought it because of the fake Maya. Ultimately, he still chose me, even before he knew who I was. Another reason why I knew I could trust him now. Even with a different face and body, Kane still chose me. "Wait," Austin says suddenly before Kane can say what is on his mind. The tone of Austin's voice forced me to turn away from my mate and look at him instead. My brother's face is ghost white. Whatever is on his mind is making him terrified. What was wrong? "If you're our sister. If you're our Maya. Then who the f**k was the woman pretending to be you?" He asks. The million dollar question. There was only one person I could think of. And I was sticking with that theory. I didn't know who else would go through all this trouble than the witch who started it. She also asked me if I didn't remember before she pushed me off the yacht. I assume that she was asking if I didn't recognize her. "I think it has to be the witch. I can't think of anyone else that it could be. It has to be her." I answer him. "She's the one that would know I was Maya. She's the one that would want to cause the most pain to our family." Austin's face has only gotten worse with my words. "Roman," he gasps, and it looks like he's about to lose his balance. "My son. She has him. I left him with her thinking that she was you." "Roman?" I ask in disbelief. His words send shockwaves throughout my body. Is she that heartless to hurt an innocent baby? "She told me she would take him to Lucy." He growls. "How could I have been so stupid? She has my son! My son!"

Chapter 113 "f**k!" James growls. "I can't believe we fell for her f*****g trap." "We're going to get him back!" I promise Austin. "She isn't going to get away with this. There is no way she can escape from us." Austin doesn't seem to be hearing anything that anyone is saying to him. We're all trying to console him while trying to think of what to do next. "ROMAN!" Austin shouts before shifting into his wolf in front of us. He rocks his head back and the sound he makes next made my pores raise. Austin's howl of pain ripples

through the atmosphere. He's calling out to Lucy. He's telling her that their baby was in danger. It takes a second before another howl echoes throughout the island, responding to his cry. And then there is another, and another. They're all coming. Everyone that we love and care about are on their way to us. They know that a disaster has just taken place. We can't waste any time. Every second that is wasted, our precious Roman's life is put in more danger. I can only pray that he's still with us and that nothing terrible has happened to him. In a few minutes, we are visited by Lucy's wolf. She shifts into her human form and runs into Austin's waiting arms. "Where is he?" She screams. "Where is my baby?" Hunter and Isabella are behind her, and then Eden joins us next. She goes straight to James who tries to calm her. Gabriella and Arthur are the last to join. She spots me first and runs to my side. I wrap my arms around her. "What's wrong?" She asks. "What's happening? Why is everyone so tensed?" "The fake Maya took Roman." I explain while trying not to cry. "We don't know where she's taken him. We have limited time to get him back before she tries to hurt him." "The fake Maya?" Lucy asks as she looks at Austin for an explanation. "What does she mean by that? Was that woman not Maya this entire time?" "It turns out that she was an imposter all this time," Austin explains. "Maya was around us this whole time; she wasn't the woman we thought she was." "What is he talking about?" Gabriella asks. I smile despite the pain in my heart, "I'm Maya. I regained my memories. The witch wiped my memories and changed my features so no one could recognize me. I think she disguised herself as me and returned to cause more trouble. Maybe this was her plan this entire time; everything went exactly as she wanted. While everyone was out looking for me, she was planning her escape with Roman. She was the one that pushed me out of the yacht. I can only imagine what she said to my brothers to make them try and kill Kane. It's only because I regained my memories that I was able to stop them before anything bad happened. And I'm so happy that I did. That's when Austin realized that he had given Roman to her thinking that she would give him to Lucy but she never did." "No!" Lucy cries out. A desperate cry of a mother. It shocks all of us. We can all feel her pain from that one word. "I want my baby Austin! I want my baby! We have to get him back! We have to!" Austin hugs her tightly against his body, "nothing will happen to him. We're going to get him back, and he will be safe. I promise you." Even though he's trying to comfort her, I can see the devastation in my brother's eyes. I press my lips together; I'm not going to let her get away with this. She's messed with our lives too much already. It was time she suffered the same faith as her sister. They both chose death when they decided to hurt our family. One was gone. It was time for the next one to leave this earth also. "We need to get moving," Hunter shouts. "She can be anywhere on this island. And she has Roman with her. We can't waste a second. We need to rip her head off her body and burn it to the ground before she can hurt anyone else. A witch like

that should not be alive." "The women can stay back here," Austin tells us. "We don't need anyone else getting hurt. We will take care of this. We will take her down. Trust us. We have done plenty like this before. We can do this also." "No!" Lucy shouts, there is not a hint of fear in her voice when she says that one word. "My baby is in danger, Austin. Our baby. I'm not going to sit back and do nothing. I'm coming! And if you try and stop me, I swear to you that I will never forgive you." "She's right." I step in. "Roman means everything to each of us here. We all want to bring him back home safely. No matter what happens, we're bringing him back to us. And the men cannot do this without us. To bring him home, we all need to work together. It's not the time to fight over this." "I'm afraid all of you can't go together," a new voice says. I look towards the sound and am surprised to see Atticus Fawn. He has a letter in his hand. "We heard that something had happened. I thought you would have wanted me to give this letter to you. The imposter left it. Maya. Or the fake Maya. Whoever she is, she left this behind for you." I hadn't realized that he had joined us. He must have heard the entire conversation. Austin grabs the letter from him and reads through it as we all look on impatiently. The look on his face only gets worse. Whatever it was, it wasn't good. His hand tightens on the paper, and I can tell we had even more trouble up ahead. "What does it say?" Lucy demands. "She has taken Roman away from the island. They're no longer on this island." He says in a broken voice. "And it's not all. She says she will harm him unless everyone on this list shows up. She wants to hold them captive in return for his safe return to us. And she doesn't plan on accepting anyone else in place of them." "Who does she ask for?" I demand. "Tell us," Isabella adds. "We're ready to do anything for Roman." "She asks for all of the women. Lucy, Maya, Isabella, Eden, Gabriella, and Freya. She wants to hold all of you captive for his safe return. She says that we can find her in the same abandoned castle we went searching for Maya." "f**k no," Hunter growls. "Isabella is not going anywhere near that blasted witch." "Nor is Gabriella," Arthur growls. James hugs Eden to him; his actions already say he doesn't want her to go either. "Maya isn't going anywhere near her either. She's hurt her too f*****g much already. I'm not letting her get close to her again." Kane steps in. "If she wants, she can have me, but not my mate." It's the first time he's spoken since learning of who I was. My heart skips a beat. We had plenty to talk about after we rescued Roman. For now, I couldn't think about those things. I had to focus on my nephew. "Lucy," Austin whispers. "I love you with all my heart, sweetheart, but I can't lose you too. I can't let her have you too. I've promised to protect both of you with my life. I can't give you to her like that without a fight." "This is not time for this nonsense!" Lucy shouts. "My baby's life is in danger. I don't care what happens to me; I want him to be safe. If she wants me there, I'm f*****g going. I don't care what you or anyone else says, Austin. I'm getting my baby back." "She's right," Isabella adds. "We

don't have time to decide who's going and who's not. She asked for us, and we're going. This is more than any of us here; this is about a baby we love dearly. And as a mother, I'm not going to let anyone hurt that child." "I'm going," I shout. "No one is going to hurt him. We're not going to let it happen. We can handle ourselves. You need to trust us. We're going there together, and we're going to come out alive with him. For once, let us do what we have to without your intervention." "You don't have to stay far," Gabriella adds. "You can be guarding the outside while we're inside. I'm sure she has many tricks up her sleeve. We need to be prepared for whatever it is she has planned. If anyone tries attacking from the outside, you will be there to stop it. In the meantime, we will handle everything on the inside." All of the men look like they're on edge. That is expected. They're used to protect their women; they're used to keep them from all danger. This was the first time they would be willingly allowing us to walk into trouble. They didn't look happy we were planning to disobey them. But they know they can't stop us when Roman is involved. Atticus pinched his nose, "I think this is most likely a trap. She knows that you're not going to send your mates alone. She's going to have something planned for both genders. While she's trying to get rid of the women, there are bound to be others ready to hurt the men." Arthur growls, "I can't believe this is f*****g happening again. We should have dealt with her when we realized she wasn't the real Maya." Austin turns to him, "you knew all this time, and you didn't think to tell us something?" "Don't blame him." I interfere. "We had no proof. Without any proof, you were not going to believe us." Hunter steps forward with a paper in his hand, "we need to draw out a plan. If I'm sending my mate in there, this plan needs to be done perfectly. There can't be a single thing wrong with it. Her life and everyone important to us depends on this being done correctly." "You can come up with the plan in our helicopter; it will get you back faster," Atticus offers. "I know that a baby is involved. I won't sit back and not help." "Thank you so much," Lucy tells him. "We will remember your help," Austin adds. "We need to get there now." Everyone begins to shift in front of us. Choosing the fastest way to get to the helicopter. Kane grabs me by my waist and wraps my legs around his body. I gasped; it was the last thing I expected him to do. At least not at a time like this. Not when we've barely spoken anything to each other after the truth about my identity was revealed. "We can get there faster like this," he whispers against my ear. I nod and wrap my arms around his neck. I don't hesitate as I place my head against his chest. I would use any excuse to be close to him like this. My heart explodes when his arms tighten around me. Keep a straight head, Maya. There will be time for all of this. It didn't take long to reach the helicopter after following Atticus's directions, especially since everyone was moving as fast as their bodies would let them. We've had many terrible incidents, but this was the first time a baby was involved. It was the first time that we were this desperate. He

couldn't protect himself. He was a baby. He needed us, every single one of us. Roman was loved by everyone here. It meant that we would move oceans to get him back.

Chapter 114 ~KANE~ Maya is in my arms. My Maya. My mate. The woman I've been looking for since the day I lost her. Everything makes so much f*****g sense now. I never connected with the witch because she was disguised as Maya. This entire time she was playing all of us for damn fools. And we all fell straight into her trap. If Maya hadn't remembered who she was, would I have never known I had her with me all along? I was fighting myself, fighting my feelings, and I didn't need to. If I had just listened to my heart, I would have made the right decision and had her in my life. I did choose her in the end, but I took too long to do it. All of the signs were there. Everything about her always reminded me of Maya. It always made everything so damn complex. And now I knew why. Now I knew why I couldn't let her go. She still didn't look like her, but now that I knew she was my mate, my love, I couldn't believe how stupid I had been this entire time. She loved me even though she couldn't remember who I was, she chose me every step of the way, and it took me forever to do the same. Every time I keep thinking that I can't disappoint myself any more than I'd already done and each time I find a way to prove myself wrong. I look down at her, and I can't believe how f*****g lucky I am to be blessed with a mate like her. She will always be too damn good for me. Always. I'll never deserve her, but I'm never letting her f*****g go again. She will always be mine. Only mine. And I will kill anyone that tried to separate us again. I was done letting her slip through my fingers. I was never letting it happen again. My eyes fall to her tummy, and everything inside of me freezes. This meant. . . I can hardly breathe. Was it true? Was it really possible? Were they also still in my life? My babies were alive. Alive? They have also been with me this entire time. Twins. My mate was pregnant with twins. I wasn't about to have just one baby in my life, Maya was blessing me with two. The joy I felt at that realization was something that could never be put into words. I couldn't wait to pull her aside and tell her everything I needed to. Everything I've wanted to say to her since the beginning. Everything that I've kept inside of me all this time. And now I had even more to say after finding out the truth. She wasn't saying anything to me. She hadn't said anything at all. Only because her brothers were trying to kill me did I find out she was Maya. I'm not sure when she knew this for herself. I'm not sure when she was ever planning on telling me. I'm just happy that I know now. I wouldn't blame her for keeping the truth from me. I could never give myself entirely to her as Giselle's maid because I always thought I was betraying Maya. Now that I knew she was indeed Maya, I didn't have to worry about that anymore. I could give her my entire heart without any regrets or

fear of hurting anyone. I could finally love her the way I've always wanted to. And this was such a big blessing. It felt like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. We're now inside the helicopter, and I gently place her down even though I want to keep her close to me. I knew she was too worried about Roman to think about anything else. I didn't want to interrupt her even though I was dying to kiss her and hug her tightly. Dying to love her the correct way. And now that I knew I had to let her go again, I was close to losing it. I didn't want her to go. I didn't want her anywhere near that witch. Everyone is in a mess. The tension in the atmosphere was intense, and it would remain this way until the baby was brought back home safely. I didn't want to think about Maya entering that abandoned castle and facing that dreadful woman. She'd hurt her too much already. But I knew that none of us could stop these women. Their motherly instincts had kicked in now that Roman's life was in danger; nothing and no one would be able to prevent them from doing this. They would be prepared even to fight their mates to get to him. And no matter how much we hated the idea of putting our mates in danger, none of us would stop them from doing this. "Atticus have informed my brothers that we need their help," Arthur tells us. "They will examine the area before our mates are sent in. We will have an idea of how much we must fight against." "Our brothers have also been informed already," Isabella tells Lucy and Eden. "They will also come to help." "The packs will meet us there," Austin says. He's trying to remain calm, but no one can stay sane when their child's life is in danger. I knew that if my babies were in trouble, I would be losing my f*****g mind trying to get to them. They were trying to stay positive, but no one could confirm whether Roman was still alive or not. That witch didn't have a heart, our chances were not looking very high. "Paige Snow will be there," Isabella adds. "She's helped us defeat one witch before; she's willing to help us again." Paige Snow. She was the witch that had helped defeat Marianne, the sister of the witch that was trying to destroy our lives. It was good that they were bringing Paige. We needed another witch there. It was always difficult to kill a witch without the presence of another. At least, a witch that was as powerful as this one. If she were alone, it would have been easier to get rid of her, but I knew it wouldn't be that easy. She wasn't stupid. She'd been smart this entire time; everything went according to her plans from beginning to end. She wouldn't make this an easy fight for us. She was desperate to get her revenge. I knew what it felt like to be blinded by your thirst for revenge. I was like that once before. But I don't think I would ever have put a baby's life in danger to get what I wanted. "We will be landing soon," Atticus informs us. His wife, Autumn, is beside him. He didn't want her to come with us, but she insisted that she wanted to be there when Roman was brought home safely. This was supposed to be their honeymoon party, but they were also with us. I was just grateful that Griffin wasn't here. The man got on my last nerves. He pissed me off. I almost lost my mind when I saw him

with Maya. I expected him to fight me for her, but now I wasn't sure he'd wanted her. Was Maya behind it? She gave him so much attention, and maybe that was to push me over the edge. And if it was her plan, I'm happy that she did it. I needed that extra push to realize that I could never live without her. Never. ~MAYA~ We'd just landed. There was no more time to discuss any plans. The vehicles were waiting for us. We would park near and then walk towards the abandoned castle. We would meet Arthur's brothers there. They would inform us how many men were waiting to harm us. So far, everything was going how we wanted it to. But we were becoming restless. I could see that each second away from Roman was slowly killing both my brother and Lucy on the inside. "Ermanno!" Lucy shouts as she runs to her brother. He hugs her to him. "We're going to get him back." He promises her. "No one is going to hurt my boy." The rest of her brothers take turns hugging her and assuring her that everything will be okay. I remember wishing to have a family that loved me when I couldn't remember my past. This entire time I had one, and they were still protecting me without knowing it. Along the way, I even made new friends who were already like family to me. Gabriella was one of them. I owe her plenty. I was lucky. I always thought Maya was blessed to have people that loved her so much when I didn't know that I was her. I will never take them for granted. I would love them even more than they love me. Lucy's father walks towards us next. She breaks down when he hugs her. Behind him is Paige. She walks with a radiant power that is difficult to ignore. "Do you think she will harm my baby?" Lucy asks her. "You have visions. You see the future. Can't you tell me if he's safe?" She gives her a sad smile, "I'm sorry. I cannot answer that question." She apologizes. "Morgan, as we call her, is a powerful witch like her sister Marianne was. And as you can see, she is also very clever. You have to do as she says. Exactly as she says to ensure that she doesn't harm him. She plans to kill everyone involved in her sister's death, including me. She knows getting Roman involved would have all of us there; everyone that she wants to get killed. She has plenty of friends who are witches, vampires, and werewolves. We must be prepared for anything." Lucy looks distraught. I hug her to me. She was always there for me when I needed her, even when she didn't know I was Maya. "We are going to get him back, Lucy. I promise you we are." I assure her. I don't care what we had to do to get him back. We would. "When I get my hands on that witch, she's going to wish she never lived!" Austin roars. "Make sure you give me a chance to make her pay as well," Kane growls. "I think we all want our revenge." Isabella hissed. "She messed with the wrong family," Lucas adds with fire in his eyes. This is the most dangerous I've ever seen them look. We all jump into our vehicles next and are on our way. Our hearts are racing; it's loud and pounding. We are thirsty for revenge. She's messed with us too much. Anyone that spent this much time plotting to harm us always got what they deserved in

the end. This time would not be any different. I'm very aware of Kane looking at me. He hasn't stopped looking at me since he discovered I was Maya. I know that there is plenty he wants to say to me. And there is also a lot that I want to tell him. It doesn't take us long to reach Arthur's brothers. "How bad is it looking?" Austin asks them. "f*****g terrible." Ace answers. "That place is a death trap. There are at least six witches surrounding the place. If they're anything like Morgan, we're in for a dangerous fight. Are you sure sending your mates in there is the right thing to do?" "This isn't open for any discussion." Lucy snaps. "We're all going." I nod, "we are." Ace sighs; the men are even more tensed than they were before. "She has an army out there. Both vampires and werewolves. Enemies. Plenty of them. Keep your guards up at all times. The moment one of you slips, everyone will fall. There isn't room for any mistakes." "We will walk from here," Lucy says to the men. "We don't need you to follow us. If you do, it's putting my baby's life in danger. For his sake, please keep your distance unless we call for help." I can see that they are reluctant to let us go, but they eventually nod their heads. I gasp when Kane pulls me in for a kiss that weakens my knees, "come back without any scratches. I need you to be safe." I nod and walk away before I lose my will to leave. I want nothing more than to stay in his arms. I kept reminding myself that it was only a matter of time before I got my wish. "Are you girls ready?" Isabella asks us as we near the castle. "I'm ready to kick some spell casting ass." I shook my head at her words. But we were more than ready. "Let's get my baby back," Lucy shouts. One by one, we all walk inside the castle. The door was already open and waiting for us. Surprisingly there wasn't anyone outside, but it was probably a trick set up to fool us. "There is no need for us to be quiet or slow," Gabriella says. "She's already expecting us." "Should we race to the top then?" Eden asks. "I don't hear a baby's cry. It could be a good sign or a bad." It was true. The good being that Roman wasn't being harmed. The bad being that the worst had already happened. From her words, we're no longer walking but now running. Our desperation has increased incredibly. "Roman!" Lucy screams as she runs. "Romannnn!" All of us stop moving when a baby's cry rocks us from where we stood. It was Roman. He was alive! "ROMAN!" We all shout at the top of our lungs as we follow the sound of his continuous gut-wrenching cries. I slam a door open and rush inside with everyone behind me. And then we see him. The blasted witch is holding him. But she isn't the only one in the room. There are at least six other witches and one person that stands out to me. Anna! My knuckles tighten into fists. Did she have a part to play in all of this? I've always hated her since the beginning. Nothing would stop this woman from digging her own grave. Kane should have never spared her life. She lived to make all of our lives miserable. "Are you surprised to see me?" She asks me with a wicked smile. "I've been by Kane's side all this time. Making him want me instead of you." "What the hell are you talking about?" I

demand from her. "Who do you think was the fake Maya all this time?" She asks. "It was me. And I enjoyed every moment of it. Being loved and protected by your entire family, including Kane. He even shouted at you because of me. That must have hurt. Your mate couldn't recognize you without your face. And your brothers, who you love more than anything else in this world, practically chose me over you. It's a pity. Your life is such a joke, Maya. It shows that anyone could have taken your place at any time, and no one would notice the difference." My blood runs cold at her words. This entire time we were wrong; it wasn't the witch. She had sent Anna to do her dirty work for her. And who better than Anna? The girl was already obsessed with Kane; she would do the job well. Is she that paranoid to believe that Kane didn't choose me in the end? He was only conflicted because she looked just like me. He couldn't stay away from me even though I looked nothing like his mate. She's just trying to get under my skin; I couldn't let her words affect me this much. I knew the truth, and that was all that mattered. "GIVE ME MY SON!" Lucy shouts at Morgan. Roman turns to look at us after hearing his mother's voice. My heart breaks when his cries get louder, and he stretches his arms towards her. We were relieved that he was still alive and appeared unharmed, but his life was still in danger. We would only feel at ease when we have him out of this castle. The plan was to give him to Gabriella. She would take him and escape while the rest of us stayed back and fought. Since she was a hybrid, it would be easier for her to get away. "He may look okay on the outside," Morgan says with wickedness in the depths of her eyes. "But he is not on the inside. I've put one last spell on your family, him, to be exact. No matter what, your son will never be able to recognize his mate. She would be in front of him, and he will not know it. Because of that, he will never be happy when he's reached the age to have a mate. He will be miserable for the rest of his life." Lucy screams at her words and, within seconds, shifts into her snow-white wolf. Isabella and Eden are behind her, protecting her from the other witches. Lucy bites down on the witch's hand, who in turn screams. Roman is released from her hold, and Gabriella moves swiftly to catch him. Before anyone can react, she's already out of the room. Now that he was out of here, we could fight more freely. Lucy pushes her head back and howls to alert the men that Roman is out of the castle. Freya and I are the next to shift into our wolves. And I know who I'm going for. Anna's time was finally over. I will not sit back and let her hurt Kane or me anymore than she'd already done. She screams when I lunge for her neck. I wasn't wasting any more time. I wanted her out of our lives for good, and I wanted it now. I bite down harder on her skin, ready to rip her head off her body. What I'm not prepared for is the sharp pain that enters my head. My wolf pushes her head back and cries in pain. I'm not the only one; we all are. They're hurting us. And it's not one of them. All of the witches are focusing their power on each of us. I've experienced this before, from

Marianne. This time it was much worse. There were plenty of them; it wasn't just one witch attacking us. It meant that we were in trouble. I'm trying to fight it. I have to fight it. For the sake of my babies, for Kane, for everyone that I loved, I had to do this.

Chapter 115 ~KANE~ "They're in trouble." Hunter roars. "I can feel Isabella's pain." He was right. I could feel Maya's pain as well. It was ripping me apart inside. If we didn't get to our mates soon, we would lose our freaking minds. Scratch that, I was already losing my mind. I was desperate to get back to her. To bring her to safety. And then I spot my sister. She has Roman in her arms. A loud howl rocks the forest and sends a message to us. It was Lucy. Our bodies run cold. Multiple other cries follow, reminding us that they needed us. Austin grabs Roman from Gabriella and kisses his forehead for a few seconds before giving him back to her. He doesn't have time to hold him even though I know he wants to. I know that I would if I was him. "Let's get moving!" Austin shouts. "Paige, our wives need you. We need to get you to them, and we need to do it now. That's the most important mission at this point." "It isn't going to be that easy." She says. "They're coming." "Who's coming?" I demand. We were running out of time. They needed us. Maya needed me, and I wasn't about to let her down again. My question doesn't take long to get answered because I see them. I know what she's talking about. A f*****g army heading to us. Vampires and wolves that I've never seen before. How did she get these many people on her side? What did she promise them to convince them to attack us? Only those wishing for a death wish would try and cross this family. Just like I was in the past. But this wasn't just Austin and his pack. James's pack was here as well. And Hunter's. Arthur's brothers. The Cross brothers. We were a powerful force on our own. They didn't stand a chance, but they could hold us back. And maybe that's what Morgan is counting on. She knows she can't kill us all when we're this powerful together. So she's trying to stall us so that she could destroy our mates instead. f**k. Hunter roars and attacks the first vampire that rushes to our side. Austin takes the next one. The packs join into one, getting ready to take down the others. My heart burns as I continue to feel Maya's pain. I roar and attack another one of the vampires. I had to find a way to get to her. "Get Roman to safety!" Austin shouts to Gabriella. Arthur is in front of her, protecting her from any harm. She shouldn't be here while she was pregnant. It was too dangerous. But where could she go? At this point, everywhere was too dangerous. I push my way towards them, standing to the side of her. She looked surprised that I was trying to protect her from harm. I've avoided accepting her as my sister, but that was long gone. I was done hiding from the truth. I was done pretending that I didn't care. She was my sister. And I will always love and protect her; it doesn't matter that I didn't know her for

most of my life. That didn't change a single thing between us. Gabriella smiles at me, "thank you." I return her smile, "just make sure you don't get hurt." She nods, "you don't need to worry about me. Roman is my main concern right now." I'm surprised that he isn't crying. His eyes are taking in the fight around him. It's insane that a baby has to see something as crazy as this. But this was the life he would have to get accustomed to. Unfortunately, there would always be people out to hurt this group. There were many enemies. But luckily for us, even more allies. Autumn and Atticus join us. "This is worse than I was expecting it to be." Atticus points out. "You always have to expect the worst around us," Gabriella says. Arthur chuckles, "I'll believe her when she says that. It's nothing but the truth." I grab another vampire by his neck and sink my teeth into his skin before ripping his head from his body. Arthur kills another one beside me. Atticus does as well. "I'm so happy that you got Roman out of there," Autumn tells Gabriella. "And I'm happy that he's safe." A vampire launches at Autumn suddenly, and she surprises everyone when she kills him before he can harm her. "I didn't know you could fight," Gabriella says in shock. "I'm impressed." Atticus didn't say anything, but he also looked surprised. How much did he not know about his wife? "We won't be able to make it back fast enough," I shout above all the noise. "This was her plan all along." I'm beginning to panic. If I can't get to Maya, what will happen to her and my babies? What else could I do to try and reach her? "There are multiple witches inside the castle," Gabriella informs us. "There is no telling what kind of spells they're using against them. We have to find a way to get back there. If I didn't have to protect Roman I would be rushing back to get to them." Her words have shocked me even more than before. Multiple witches? Weren't the witches supposed to be out here with the others? When did they change their plan to all be inside the castle with our mates? They must have known Arthur's brothers were keeping an eye on them. They'd just set us up. Once again, we fell for another trap.
..... ~MAYA~ I could barely think clearly with the loud ringing in my ear. My wolf cries out, and I can feel Kane's panic as he hears my cry. I know that he can sense that I'm in trouble. Our wolfs cries are getting louder. I don't want to panic the men; none of us want that, but it's not something that we can control. This was our chance to prove that we could fight on our own. These witches were powerful, but so were we. I push for mind control, trying to overpower the attack inside my head. And I'm trying to connect with the women. I need them to fight back with me. We had a family to protect, a family to live for. The fact that the men weren't here as yet meant they were also in danger. We couldn't wait for them to save us this time. It was our fight, and we decided to save Roman; now, it was time to save ourselves. I narrow my eyes and let out a nasty growl; I could feel myself growing stronger as my claws scrape the wooden floor. I focused on Morgan; she was my main target. She isn't looking at me; that's good. I need to catch her

off-guard. I'm hoping when I break the link between the witches, it will be easier on Lucy and the rest. I position my wolf, ignoring the pain inside of me. I need to do this, or we will all die here today. I've fought death too much to lose my life this way. When I know it's the right time, I lunge forward and bite her shoulders with my teeth. Her screams pierce the room, and it's like music to my ear. The force of my attack sends us both crashing through a window. My wolf lands on its feet with her body below. That's it, Maya. Finish her. Finish her for everything she's put you through. Finish her for everything she's put your family through. Finish her for hurting Roman, for taking you from Kane. She tries to use more of her spells on me, but my mind is too strong for her to control at this point. I growl as I sink my teeth into her neck. She screams even louder than before, but it doesn't stop me from ripping her head off her body. There is blood everywhere when I'm finished with her. Before I can take in my surroundings, more screams rock the forest, and I see Lucy's wolf next to me with another witch's head in her mouth. I'm proud to see Isabella's wolf with one beneath her and the head of another in her mouth. She gets rid of it and finishes off the other. There are still screams at the top of the castle. Freya and Eden were still inside, and there should be three more witches, as well as Anna. She was mine. Lucy leaves to return to Roman; I know she is still worried about him. It was now just Isabella and me. We nod at each other and race up the stairs to help the others and finish what we started. I find Anna trying to escape down the stairs. I block her exit. I should have finished her off a long time ago. Whenever we gave anyone a chance, they always took advantage of it. She was an excellent example of that. It was never good to leave our enemies with more opportunities to harm us. Isabella rushes past me to help the others; the two of us are left. I growl aggressively, and there is unmistakable fear in her eyes. She tries to run, but I grab her by her leg and spin her until she hits the wall. "Please," she cries, "I'm so sorry for everything. I swear I will never mess with you or Kane again. He is yours; he only loves you. I will not do anything to hurt you again. Please leave me alone. Let me live." I narrowed my eyes, this may have worked on Kane, but it was not about to work with me. There was not a single good bone in her body. She was not a good person. If I let her live, she would continue to hurt people; if not me or my family, there would be others she would cause trouble for. She screams when I lunge for her throat. It only gets louder and more desperate as she tries to shove me away. I don't stop until she stops moving beneath me. This is what she gets for messing with my family. The biggest mistake they made was trying to hurt Roman to get to us. It's why they were all dead. At least I hoped they were. I rush to the others, relieved to see the other witches are all dead. We drag their bodies to the others on the ground and slowly shift back into our human forms. Isabella hands us clothes, and we finish the witches off with a fire. The flames became too much for us, and we stepped back. We

didn't leave until we were sure there was no returning for them. We didn't want them alive to terrorize another family. "Let's get back to the others," Isabella shouts. "I can feel how restless Hunter is." She was right. Our mates will be restless. They wouldn't be able to focus on the fight if they still thought we were in danger. We race through the woods until we see them. They were deep into battle. There was blood everywhere, along with bodies. Thankfully, none of the dead bodies belonged to anyone we couldn't live without. A few of our pack members were hurt, but as long as we could get them out of there quickly enough, we will be able to save them. I spot Kane guarding Gabriella and Lucy, who's holding her baby. I smiled; I was happy to see him protecting his sister. And I knew that this little gesture would also make her incredibly happy. Kane spots me then, and our gazes lock. I can see the relief and happiness in his face to see that I'm alive and well. I can also see the pride in him. But the joy on his face quickly darkens into fear. I don't have time to prepare as he rushes to my side and pulls me in front of him. He gasps and stops moving behind me. I slowly turn around and feel the blood drain from my face with fear of what just happened. Everything moves in slow motion after that. "Kane?" I whisper, there is no hiding the terror in my voice. I'm terrified. I can barely move. My hands are trembling as I touch his cheek. His eyes are wide open with shock, and my heart drops when I see the stake through his heart. It's there, big and scary, staring at me. He's bleeding. "KANEEEE!" I scream as blood begins to pour out of his mouth. My heart is pounding against my chest, and I can barely find any words. I'm scared, terrified, losing my mind with fear. He clutches the stake with his hand and pulls it out. But it only makes him bleed more. From both his mouth and chest. I try to hold him up, but I'm not fast enough as he drops to the ground in front of me. He's trying to talk to me, but nothing is coming out of his mouth. It's causing me to panic even more. "Please," I beg. "Please don't leave me. PLEASE, KANE!" Gabriella hears my scream and rushes to my side. I listen to her piercing scream as she sees her brother bleeding to death on the ground beneath us. I can't focus on her pain when I can barely control my own. I cover his wound with my hand as I try to find the strength to do something, anything. But what could I do? How could I save him? He was a hybrid, and he just got a stake through the heart, the most popular way to get rid of one. Gabriella screams louder this time and moves with incredible speed to catch the person that did this to him. She kills the vampire before he has a chance to even say a word. I can't pay attention to them. I'm in too much shock. I still can't believe that this just happened. It happened so quickly that my body is not reacting well to it. This wasn't happening to us. We've been through too much for me to lose him like this. I can't. I refuse to let Kane die in front of me like this. He still had to see our babies. They needed him. I needed him. "I love you," I cry as my tears drop onto his body. "I love you so much. Our babies love you. We can't live without you, Kane. You

can't leave us." Lucy drops to the ground beside me when I begin to scream uncontrollably as Kane's body becomes unresponsive beneath mine. The fight is still happening around us, but I don't care. I don't care about anything else but Kane on the ground. Roman begins to cry as if he understands my pain. He reaches for me, but I'm in too much pain to take him in my arms. He screams louder and pushes away from his mother to get closer to me. I eventually give in and take him into my arms. I'm in shock when he pushes toward Kane. I lean him closer so that he can touch him; Roman surprises us all when he places his hand on the wound on his chest. It's almost as though he knows what he's doing. Which is impossible for a baby. "What is he doing?" I ask. "I don't know," Lucy whispers. His body begins to glow but not a bright yellow; it's a shocking dazzling blue. "Roman?" Lucy gasps. Gabriella, Lucy, and I stare in amazement as the wound begins to close until all that's left is a small scar. "Did he just heal him?" Gabriella whispers with hopeful eyes. Arthur joins her side and holds hers close to him. He must have been fighting to get to her all this time. We all wait, praying that by some miracle, Roman just did the impossible. He wasn't a healer, and I've never heard of a child whose parents are werewolves saving someone's life in this manner. It was very unusual, but we couldn't deny what we saw. My hope intensifies when Kane turns his face and slowly opens his eyes. He looks at Gabriella, then at Arthur before his eyes fall on me. My heart skips a beat when he smiles, "why are you crying, my love? I'm right here. I'm never leaving you again. Don't you know that?" "Kane!" I shout as I wrap my arms around his neck. "I love you; I love you so much." My body is still shaking from what just happened. I could barely process it all. I thought I had lost him. I thought everything was over for us. How did this happen? What was Roman? Why was it possible for him to save Kane? My mate chuckles and sits up, wrapping his arms around me and holding onto me tightly, "I love you more, Maya. My Maya. My sweet love." I don't want to let go. I'm scarred from almost losing him. "He's right," Gabriella says suddenly. "You look like your normal self. Why did it take me so long to realize that?" "It happened after she killed the witch," Isabella informs us as she approaches us with Hunter behind her. "Killing her must have broken the spell completely." "Just when I was getting used to seeing you as another person," Lucas teases. "Back to the unpleasant sister." I roll my eyes, "don't let me come up there for you." "The packs have the rest of the fight from here," Hunter informs us. "Most of the threat is gone. We can go home now." "What happened here?" Austin asks as he pulls Lucy to his side and kisses her. Roman cries for his father, and he takes him into his arms and hugs him to his body. Austin hadn't seen the miracle his son had just performed. He was too busy in battle. But he must have realized that Kane almost lost his life. My screams were very loud. Anyone would know what was happening even if they were deep in battle. "My son," he cries.

"Don't ever scare your father like that again. He's never getting out of my f*****g sight ever again." Lucy agrees, "this is the first time I agree with you." We help Kane to his feet, "what happened?" he asks. "How did I survive? I swear my life flashed before my eyes in those few seconds. I thought that was the end for me. I thought I would never see Maya or our babies again." "Roman saved you," I whisper. "He's an angel sent to protect us; there is no way he's a normal baby." "Is that true?" Austin asks in disbelief. "It is!" I exclaim as I kiss Roman's cheek. He giggles and makes cute baby noises. "It is true," Lucy confirms as well. "You should have seen it, Austin! He was so amazing. It felt like a dream. Our baby is a healer!" Paige joins us next. "Did you know he would be this powerful?" Lucy asks her. I know what she's talking about; Paige was the one that prophesied so many things about our lives. She must have already known that Roman would be a powerful child. "The prophecy is slowly revealing to all of you." She tells us. "There are many more to come. You must protect Roman at all costs. He's just as important as any of you. Many will want to get their hands on him for their greedy desires. You must make sure that he never falls into the wrong hands." We had to hope that news of what happened today didn't spread. No one must know what Roman was capable of doing. I wasn't even sure if he could do it again after today. This could have been a one-time miracle for all we knew. "Morgan placed a spell on him," Lucy informs her. "Is there anything you can do to reverse it?" "A spell?" Austin demands as his face turns red with anger. "What f*****g spell did that which put on my child?" "How heartless must she be to put a spell on an innocent baby?" Hunter growls. "I hope she's f*****g dead." "She is," I inform him. "We ensured that she never returns to hurt anyone else. And I also got rid of Anna. It turns out she was the one pretending to be me this entire time. She has always been obsessed with Kane. Not as much as Giselle but she wanted revenge when he kicked her out because she tried to hurt me. She got her revenge but I also got mine." "Anna?" Kane growls. "Why did I ever let that f*****g woman live?" "It's okay sweetheart." I tell him. "She's gone now. I finished her. There is no returning for her." "But if Morgan is dead, shouldn't that mean the spell is broken?" I ask. "When she died, I was able to return to myself; shouldn't it be the same for Roman?" "Your spell was already broken when you remembered who you were, Maya," Paige informs me. "It just took a little longer for you to return to normal. It had nothing to do with her death. There is nothing that can be done for him. I can't reverse the spell." "There must be something that you can do." Lucy's father demands. "He's just a baby. I won't let my grandson suffer such a horrible fate." "It's a spell that prevents him from recognizing his mate." She notes without us having to tell her. "I can weaken the spell so that when his mate is revealed at the correct age, she will have the power to break the spell. Once she does it, he will recognize her." "Anything that helps, we will be grateful

for it," Lucy says. "As werewolves, our mates are everything to us. I don't want to take that away from him." Paige nods and takes Roman into her arms; she whispers a few words we don't understand. Roman remains entirely still, almost like he understands she's trying to help him. When it's over, she hands him back to Austin. "I'm sorry I wasn't able to help you," Paige apologizes. "As it turns out, you didn't need me. Morgan and her friends got what they deserved in the end." I looked around us; almost everyone was dead or seriously injured. That's what happened when they messed with my family. I hope that others would look at this and think twice before they try to hurt another one of us again. "News will spread like wildfire," Atticus says as he looks around. "Your family lives up to their name." He tells Austin. Austin shakes his hand, "we are thankful for your help today. You and your wife have shown your loyalty. If you need us for anything, I promise we will be there." Ermanno lifts Roman into his arms, "it's so good to see you safe and sound little one." He truly was loved by everyone present. And I loved him even more now that he saved the love of my life; the father of my children, my life. Austin turns to me now that Roman is busy giggling with Lucy's brothers. He takes me in for a few seconds before he breaks into a grin, "it's so good to see you back to your normal self." I smile as he pulls me in for another hug, "our reunion was cut short before, but now I'm ready to host a big party for your return." James hugs me after, "our parents will be so happy to see you. They have barely slept since you went missing. We can all finally breathe peacefully now that you're safe." "And we have no reason to kill your mate now that we know he has loved you even though he couldn't recognize you," Austin adds. "I was worried we couldn't trust him, but I think he has finally proven his love." He did just almost die for me. I knew he loved me; there was no question in my mind about Kane's love. He loved me just as much as I loved him. Our past was behind us; there was no use in bringing it up again after today. "But if you mess up again. . ." James warns. I roll my eyes at my brother, "there is no use for any of that. It's time you men try to bond with each other. My brothers must get along with my mate. I won't have it any other way. If you love me, you will learn to love him also." Lucas twists his face at my words, and I pull his ear, "we have plenty to settle between us. And I need a proper introduction to your wife now that I remember who I am." His face looks uncomfortable at my words, and I wonder if I shouldn't have said anything. "Freya." He calls her, and she comes forward. I noticed that she looked upset about something, but I'm not sure what it was. "This is my sister, Maya. My real sister." Freya smiles; she looks beautiful, especially when she smiles, "it's nice to meet you, Maya, finally. Lucas has been miserable since he learned of your disappearance. He loves you plenty." I smile, "he does, doesn't he? He loves to harass me. I'm happy that you were there for him during these challenging times. My brother is lucky to have you." "He is fortunate," Arthur says behind us. "I hope he

always remembers that." "And I hope you always remember how lucky you are to have my sister as a mate." Kane joins in. Gabriella grins and hugs him, "aren't I lucky to have such a caring brother?" I smile at them both. "And even luckier to have me as your sister-in-law." I tease. She grins, "you're more a sister than anything else." "Let's head back home," Austin says suddenly. "I don't want anymore surprise attacks." We thank Arthur's brothers and Lucy's family for their help. We invited them to the party Austin was set to hold tonight, but they had to leave. Atticus and Autumn, however, can attend. "Have you noticed that Freya looks unhappy?" I ask Lucy. "There is plenty you don't know about their relationship," Lucy informs me. "She was in a good mood before, but when she returned from fighting, she saw Lucas protecting her sister. Since Lucas and Avery are mates, it must have been hard for her to see it when her life was also in danger." "Oh no," I whisper. "I know my brother. He would not intentionally hurt her. They look like they have been fighting." Lucy nods, "I know he will never be unfaithful to her. But I don't know if he could give her his heart while Avery remains his mate. Only time will tell. I can only hope that everything works out eventually for them both." We don't talk about it anymore as Lucas joins us in the vehicle. It doesn't take us long to return home. Not with the way everyone was driving; I could swear they were racing with each other to get home. I wouldn't blame them. I was happy to be home as well. This time it was different because I remembered who I was. I rush inside the house without waiting for anyone else. I couldn't wait to see my parents. All this time, they thought I was someone else. I was sure they were already informed that they had the fake Maya all this time. "Mom!" I shout. "Dad!" I'm running to their room when I spot them running towards me. I grin and throw myself into their open arms. "Oh, Maya," my mother whispers as she rubs my hair. "It's so good to have the real you back with us, sweetheart, finally. Home has not been the same without you." "Don't you dare ever leave us like that again, Maya!" My father tells me, "my fragile heart won't be able to take it." "I won't, father," I promise him. "You're stuck with me from now on. You're all stuck with me. No one is ever taking me away again." My mother places her hand on my stomach, "you're pregnant. With twins?" I nod, "you look smaller than you should look." She tells me. "Her mate is a hybrid," my father explains to her. "It will be different for her. Give it some time; she's going to be huge." I didn't want to think about that. While I couldn't wait to hold my babies in my arms, I was terrified of giving birth. Was Lucy like this as well? I would have to ask her more about her pregnancy whenever we could talk about it. "She beat us to you," Austin says as he walks over with Roman. "Oh my goodness," my mother says as she runs toward them, "I'm so happy that my grandchild is safe." I let them have their reunion as I see Kane leaning up against the wall looking at me. I almost lost him today. I never wanted to be scared like that ever again. I couldn't wait to have

him to myself. To tell him everything I've wanted to say since the start. This was our chance for that. It was finally our time, and we had the rest of our lives to make up for our past. I couldn't wait for that.

Chapter 116 ~KANE~ I'm staring at Maya. My mate. She looks like her, smells like her, acts like her; there are no spells, nothing separating us anymore. She's in front of me and there are no barriers. I don't have to worry about Anna or Giselle, Morgan, or anyone else that threatened our love in the past. They're all gone. Our love had won the many battles it was faced with. It wasn't an easy fight but I was glad that neither one of us gave up. If we did, we wouldn't have gotten the chance to experience this kind of happiness that only happens once in a lifetime. She looks beautiful, just like she always has since the first time I was lucky enough to set my eyes on her. The most beautiful woman in the world. She looked attractive to me even when she had another woman's face. I love her. I loved her, and it didn't matter what she looked like. I would always love her. I still couldn't believe that she was Giselle's maid all this time. But I was happy that she was. I was happy that I fell in love all over again with the same woman. I never wanted to love anyone else but her. It was always her since the start, and I wouldn't have wanted it to be any other way. No one could ever hold a place in my heart the way Maya does. There is no other person I can ever see myself being with. Now I knew that even if she looked like someone else, even if she had another woman's face, it would not change anything for us. I would fall for her just as hard as I did at the start of our relationship. I almost lost my life today, and in those last few seconds, before I closed my eyes, all I could think about was never getting to see her beautiful face again or seeing my babies faces for the first time—my twins. I was dying to see them. I wish there were a way we could have them in our arms right this second. Maya always gave me more than I deserved. I should have known it was her when I found out she was pregnant with twins. I should have known because her blessings were always tremendous. She always outdid herself in ways that left me in pleasurable shock. I was a f*****g lucky man, and I would remind myself of that every single second of every day. I will wake up praising her and giving her everything she will ever hope and dream for. I will not let our children ever suffer either; they will be the happiest babies in this world; I will make sure of it. I will live to see them smile, live each breath, giving them the best lives because, damn it, they deserved it. I look at Maya again, and the look on her face makes me want her so f*****g much. I want her more than anything else in this world. If I had a chance to get anything, I would always choose to spend the rest of my life with her. She is my happiness; she took my dull, pathetic life and turned it into something I could have only dreamed of. I didn't

know anyone could ever be this happy, but she made that possible; she gave me a reason to live again. I hate that she's not alone right now. I hate that she's surrounded by so many people that also want to be near her. I know that I'm not the only one that missed her this entire time. I know that I was the lucky one to have her by my side, even though I didn't think it was her for a long time. But damn it, I can't help but be greedy when it comes to that woman. She is my reason to breathe, and I want her to myself. I listen carefully when she tells Lucy she's going to her room to change for the party tonight. Everything was already being set up downstairs even before we arrived. This wasn't going to be a simple get-together. It was about to be huge. I understood why; Maya's family was thrilled to have her back, and they wanted to show it in whatever way they could. I watch her leave, and I swear my heart skips a f*****g beat when she gives me a look that tells me to come after her. This was my chance. I've been waiting for the opportunity to be alone with her since I found out that she was my Maya. I'm about to follow her when Austin stops me. I'm irritated by the disruption, but I try to remain calm. This is her brother, and she wants us to have a better relationship. I would have to do that for her since I promised myself to do everything in my power to make her happy from now on. "I wanted to talk to you for just a second," Austin says to me. "I know you want to spend some alone time with Maya; this wouldn't take long." I was positive that he was about to tell me never to hurt his sister again or he would kick my ass. I was okay with that because I knew that breaking Maya was the last thing I would ever do again. We were long past that. Austin scratches the back of his head, and it looks like he is nervous. It is weird to see him act this way when I've never seen that side of him before. He was always angry around me. "I wanted to apologize for trying to kill you more than once," he says. "I know I accused you of having something to do with my sister's disappearance. I should have had solid evidence before assuming that you were the one behind it. I should have trusted Maya when she believed in you. I should have never gone against her wishes. She's always wanted to protect you. And we both know there were times you didn't deserve it. But there were also times that you did. I would also like to apologize for the past and for killing the people that meant the world to you. But I hope you understand that it was the only option for us. They betrayed me; it would have never ended that way if they had been honest with me from the start and didn't have bad intentions toward my family." I'm stunned by his words. Not once did I ever think that Austin would ever try to apologize to me for the things he's done in the past. He didn't have to apologize for killing the people I thought were my family. "If you didn't kill them, they would have hurt Maya. In the end, you did me a favor. I know the entire story. They were wrong. I'm sorry for hurting Maya so many times. I was blinded by rage, and I couldn't see that I was destroying my own life by pushing her away. I've learned from my mistakes, and I promise never to hurt her

again. She is my life. She is the only woman I will ever love like this. I swear that I will do everything in my power to make her happy." Austin nods, "I'm glad we had this conversation. Do me a favor and mention it to Maya so she gets off my back about it. And if you know my sister, you know she always gets her way." I chuckle and shake his hand. "Will do." ~MAYA~ I expected Kane to come running after me, but I was disappointed when a few minutes passed, and he didn't show up. I'm sure that he noticed that I wanted him to follow me. I didn't hide that I needed him. I showed him my genuine emotions. He should be here by now. I sigh and remove my clothes. I should get on with the shower. I also had to find a dress for tonight. I hear the door open while I'm seated in the bathtub. I look up and find my mate staring at me with so much love in his eyes that I almost sink in the bloody water. He picks me up from the bathtub without saying anything and puts us both under the shower. I watch as the water begins to fall on his hair and travel down his clothes. We're both staring into each other's eyes; there are so many unspoken words between us. There were so many things I wanted to say to him after learning that I was Maya, and now that I had the chance, I didn't know how to find the correct words. His hand gently cups my cheek, and I close my eyes at the contact. This is how I've always wanted to be touched by him, with nothing but love between us. There wasn't a need for either one of us to hold back anymore. Nothing was separating us. I've never felt this alive before. This must be what every girl dreams of when she hopes for a love that rocks her world and sweeps her off her feet. I finally had it. And it was terrific. I wouldn't trade this for anything else in this world. "Maya," he whispers, and I feel goosebumps on my skin at the tone he uses. I can hear the love in his voice alone. Nothing is hiding it anymore. These are his raw emotions towards me. Before I know it, Kane is on me. His lips are on my hair, my cheeks, my nose, my jaw, my neck. He's kissing me for all the times he's spent hurting and missing me. He's doing what he's wanted since the day I went missing. I let him kiss me. I want to enjoy this. I allow him to savor me because I want to do the same to him. I gasp when his hand rests on my belly, "mine?" He whispers with tears in his eyes. "My babies?" I smile, I know he knows it's his, but he's in so much shock after thinking he'd lost them. He thought they were dead because of the witch, but now he knows they are alive and well. I watch as he leans down in front of me and kisses my tummy, "you make me the happiest man alive, Maya. I felt like a big part of me went missing when I lost you. And after learning that you were pregnant, I couldn't forgive myself for not treating you better. And then I met you as Giselle's maid. I didn't know that this entire time you were by my side. I was craving your presence, and all along, you hadn't left me. I hate myself for not recognizing you sooner. All of the signs were already there. I should have known it was you." I place a hand on his hand, still touching my belly, "there was no way for you to know it, Kane. Please

don't blame yourself for it. If I couldn't remember who I was, how can you expect yourself to know it? My brothers, who love me so much, couldn't recognize me. You are not to blame." He shakes his head at me, "I should have known Maya. I'm your mate. My heart beats for you. From the beginning, when I thought I hated you, my heart still beat for you. There are no excuses. I could smell you, taste you, hear you, and each time I knew that it had to be you. I knew it. But I let myself stray from the truth in front of my eyes. And for that, I'm incredibly sorry, sweetheart. It should have never ended up the way that it did. You shouldn't have remembered who you were before I could recognize you. I'm so sorry, Maya. For hurting you in the beginning, for being dumb and foolish. I'm sorry for not telling you I loved you sooner. Because baby, I love you more than anything in this f*****g world, and no one can change my mind about it. Loving you was the best thing I've ever experienced. Thank you for showing me, true love. Thank you for saving my life over and over again. Thank you for giving me so many chances when we both know I didn't deserve it." I wipe the tears from his cheeks with my fingers before leaning down and kissing them away, with the water still falling on the both of us. "I love you, Kane. I love you so much. When I didn't know you were my mate, when I didn't know who you were to me, I recognized my feelings for you. It never went away with my memories. I loved you even then. I'm sure that you could tell. I didn't hide my feelings well while being Giselle's maid. I couldn't hide it. I wanted you to be mine, and all along, you were. I was so jealous of myself. And now I realize how stupid I was all this time for praying that you would be mine because you belonged to me already. I hoped that my babies, by some miracle, would be yours; I hoped that you would be their father, and it turns out that you truly were. And that makes me so happy. I can't think of a better man than you to start my family with." He turns his head so that his ear is pressed against my tummy, "I promise to love you," he whispers to them. "I promise to give my life for you if I have to. When I thought something had happened to you, I felt like a piece of my heart went missing; knowing that I have you now; I intend to show you how much you mean to me. You have the world's most amazing mother. You must already know this, but I will remind myself and you every day of how lucky we are to have her. I can't wait to hold you both in my arms. To kiss you. To stifle you with love. So come quickly; your father can't wait to see you." Kane lifts himself off the ground and kisses me in a possessive kiss filled with love. I held onto him, enjoying the way his mouth moved against mine. "It feels so good to kiss you," he whispers, "it feels so good to hold you and know that it's you. I never want to lose you again, Maya. I wouldn't be able to survive losing you again. So please, for my sake, don't ever leave me again. I need you. I need you, Maya." I smile against his kisses, "I promise I'm not going anywhere again. You'll see so much of me that you'll beg me to leave you alone." "Never," he growls. "I

am desperate for any time with you. I'll never get tired of having you next to me. That I can promise you." I gasp when his fingers grip my n****e and gently twist it, "I want you. I want to feel what it's like to be inside you again. I'm dying for it. I'm dying for you. I can never be close enough." I pull away from him and walk back into the room. I climbed onto the bed and spread my legs wide open. Kane's eyes darken into a dangerous shade as he sees what I'm offering to him. He rips his clothes off his body and comes to me with incredible speed. I gasp when he pushes his way inside me without warning, "Kane!" I cry out when he begins to move. "I'm sorry I couldn't wait, my love," he apologizes as he pounds into me. "I lost control. If you want me to stop, tell me." I dig into his shoulders with my nails, "never. Never stop." Kane growls as he moves faster. I close my eyes and let him bring me to great waves of pleasure. I don't know how long we stay like that—making love. It's late when we finally stop and get dressed. Thankfully, no one interrupted us. I think they understood that we needed that time for each other. Now it was finally time to meet the others again. I wanted to spend the entire night with Kane, but I knew my family also needed me. And it was confirmed that I had the rest of my life to make up for lost time with my mate. Kane holds my hand as we walk into the ballroom, where everyone is already waiting for me. There are loud cheers as soon as their eyes land on me. Lucy kisses my cheek. "It's so good to have you back, Maya. We all love you so much." I smile and hug her, "I'm happy to be back. I've missed this so much. Having a family, having the people I love more than anything else in the world close to me where I can hug them how many times I wish to, it's the greatest blessing ever. I'll never take these little moments for granted ever again." Roman grabs my finger, and I laugh, "how is he such an angel? He's won over my heart in less than a second." "He is a miracle, baby," Kane says as he holds him up in the air; Roman giggles with happiness, "thank you for saving me. You've allowed me to be with my mate and my unborn babies. I will protect you with my life from today onwards." It brings joy to my heart to see Kane with Roman like this. He told me that Austin had apologized, and things were good between them now. I knew that it was not long before James accepted him. And Lucas, he was my sweet brother; he would readily accept Kane seeing how happy he makes me. I lean into Kane as he kisses my forehead. "I don't know what I ever did to deserve someone like you, Maya, but I promise to cherish you for the rest of my life." I smile up at him, but before I can respond, I notice Atticus and Autumn arguing a short distance away. Kane sees it too. And so do Lucy and Gabriella. "Should we go help them?" I ask Gabriella. She nods, "it might be serious. Maybe it's something we can help them with." We're close enough now to listen to what they were saying. "Anya needs me, Autumn," Atticus growls. "I'm leaving now with or without you." Autumn looks distraught at his words. She folds her arms stubbornly and glares at him, "then go. I'm

staying here for the party. Since I'm not the one you care about, I'll find my way back home on my own." Atticus narrows his eyes, "okay, if that's what you want. So be it." We watch as he leaves; Autumn turns and sees us. "I'm so sorry you had to see that." She apologizes. "Are you okay?" I ask her. "We're here for you if you need anything. I'm still grateful that you came to help us today." She sighs, "I'm fine. This is something I'll have to get used to; Atticus running to Anya even though he's married to me. I'm not surprised. She is his mate. After all." I can feel her pain. I know that couldn't possibly be easy. He is her husband, after all. "You don't need him," Gabriella tells her. "Come with us; we can show you how to party the right way. And we will find a way to get you home afterward." Autumn smiles and agrees. I watch them walk away, and then my eyes are drawn to Kane and Roman. He's still playing with him. Now he's rocking him back and forth in his arms. Very soon, he will be doing the same with our babies. I rub my stomach and feel my eyes water with the rush of happiness that flows into my body. This is the happiest I've ever been, and I owe it all to the people inside this room. I'm one lucky woman. To be loved like this. These people are my life, and I love them so much. I knew that life wouldn't be easy for us, not with our many enemies, but I would be okay. How could I not be when I'm surrounded by the best people in the entire world? Kane looks at me and smiles. He mouths, 'I love you, and I blow him a kiss. I love you, Kane. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you by my side. I smile as I think of the many memories we will make together. I couldn't wait for them. I couldn't wait for us to build our family and home together. Life was perfect with him by my side. Perfect. ~THE END~