

Chapter 13 - The Rejected Goddess

Alpha Eric POV

Emma is a goddess; I did not expect that. After five years of nothing, then all of a sudden I see her again when we are in the middle of a fight between us and the rogues. The way she took out the rogues with just a wave of her hand scared me and from the looks of it everyone else too.

Never before have I ever seen power like that, and then when she released the aura too, so naturally as well. What the hell is going on with this woman? My mate may be more incredible than I gave her credit for.

This is not the Emma I knew. And I love it. Finally, she is strong and someone I can be proud of to show off as my Luna. I will make her submit to me, no matter what. But the aura that she released after Melanie asked her a question would be problematic, I will have to order her not to use that on my pack when I mate and mark her.

The bond we have, even though broken, will come back once I get her to love me. And I can make her love me. What she does not realise is, that when her body was buried, she had to be brought back into the pack and made into a member to be buried in her family plot. Meaning my orders are absolute.

I literally have a goddess under my control. I laugh at the thought. You are not as strong as you think Emma, no matter what you will be mine again.

I still remember how she felt the first time, so tight and innocent. That night I took her innocence I knew that she was a virgin. Not that I cared, I had just wanted her, and to be her first made it all the more sweeter. So, it turned out Melanie had lied about a lot on things, her sister's innocence being the main one. Had I of known when I rejected that she was a virgin then I never would have rejected her.

I know I might have some work ahead of me, especially after the other packs heard that I had killed my mate but I could easily explain that. Melanie wanted Emma dead and Emma agreed to go into hiding until we could work out why Melanie felt that way. Yes, that could work.

All I have to do is work my magic and she will be mine again. Then I will be able to achieve everything I want and more. Afterall, she is a freaking goddess, and I am an alpha. The possibilities are endless for us.

When Emma threw me away, it hurt my ego but knowing that I am mated to such a powerful being will make up for everything that Emma has ever done towards me. I will punish her for that little indiscretion when I get her to accept me, but until then I will play by her rules. Until I get the chance to make her mine again.

Her earthly body may be gone, but her celestial body is still mine for the taking and whether she consents or not to me mating and marking her I don't care. She will be mated to me again, whether she wants to or not.

I watch as two of my warriors step out to her and I am surprised that not only does she talk to them but she accepts James' pledge of loyalty. The pain of them leaving is minimal to the pain of hearing her hatred towards me and how she was happy to watch my pack fall.

I would be lying if I said that those words did not hurt when they left her mouth, why would she think like that? She is my mate after all.

Ex-mate, you rejected her remember? Pipes up Dee.

Well now I have changed my mind.

Something tells me that wont matter to her. She will not take your back.

But you could talk to her wolf for me.

No, I can't.

Yes, you can I growl at Dee.

No, I can't, she no longer has her wolf. Since you killed her, her wolf has also died.

But I thought...

Only her human side was brought back and ascended, her wolf side died.

So, she is no longer one of us?

Yes and no, her biological makeup is still werewolf, but she is now also deity level. Basically, she will never take us back. You made sure of that.

I just stand there with my thoughts, if what Dee is telling me is true then it means making Emma mine is going to be both easier and harder. I may not be able to use the bond with her wolf like I wanted, which means I cannot use emotions, but I could use brute strength against Emma like I did before. If I could overpower her and mark her then she would not be able to reject me or the bond.

I am brought out of my thoughts by Melanie running into my arms, I catch the last part of their conversation and I do not like how Emma is talking to her sister and my Luna.

“Emma! That is enough. Now fall in line and apologise to your Luna.” I snarl at her.

Emma looks at me and then she flicks her wrist, I go flying back a few feet with Melanie. I quickly tighten my grip around Melanie, and we land in a heap on the floor. Emma walks towards us but her words sends chills down my spine.

“You may be the Alpha to this pack, but I am a bloody Goddess which means I out rank you mutt. Learn your place, that is at my feet if you haven’t figured it out already. Isn’t karma a bitch?” Emma turns and walks away with James following her.

James has a very smug look on his face, and I do not like it. I will have to have a word with him about that later. No one warrior comes to my aid, or to help me. They all get up and walk away, following Emma as she heads into the pack grounds.

The next day I am walking through the pack towards the guard station to talk over new defence plans when I see Emma and James talking and looking incredibly close. How can two people become so close in only a few hours? It’s just not possible unless there is something more to their meeting?

I can’t even let them walk by as my anger is too much and I walk right up to them.

“What do you think you are doing? Bet his was who you were with before we were mates! No wonder you could accept my rejection so easily, you were having it away with him!” I say loudly, pointing at James and drawing a crowd. But to my shock Emma just calmly turns to me.

“Is that really what you think? Wow, your mind is one twisted place. Let me remind you that you took my innocence, remember? So how could I have been having it away with James? And we were simply talking about where we will be based and how exactly this is going to work out as I never expected to belong to a pack again, after my experiences here I didn’t want to.” Emma replies stone faced; this causes people around us to start snickering.

“What I think is that you are flaunting him in front of me deliberately. And I will not tolerate it.” I reply sternly.

“What are you going to do? Throw me in the dungeons? That didn’t work out too well for you last time, now did it?” Emma taunts me.

“Look what happened five years ago is in the past, we need to focus on the future, and you are my mate. You will never be Luna to this pack as Melanie is my chosen mate, but you will mate with me and give me an heir. One that is strong and powerful.” I tell Emma, she has to understand that she is mine.

“Wow you really are delusional Alpha Eric, you treat Emma deplorably and then instead of trying to apologise for your actions you instead try to lay claim to her when you see her again.” James says to me, butting into our conversation.

“Shut up James, I wasn’t talking to you. And stay the hell away from my mate.” I growl, but instead of responding they both look at each other and walk away.

“Where the hell do you think you’re going?” I shout at them.

“As far from you as possible.” Emma replies, not even glancing back.

I stand there fuming; how dare they treat me that way? I am their alpha; I rule here and they have to submit to me. Whether James has left my pack or not, I do not care. While they are on my territory, they must obey me.

What is so wrong with having my heir?

Because she doesn’t want to have your heir you idiot. Dee pipes up.

Why not? I’m her mate, the one she was waiting for.

Remember the last time she was going to have your heir? How you treated her?

So what? She is defying me because I won’t make her Luna?

It is just as much her birth right as the Alpha title is yours...

But Melanie is my Luna, she is the one I chose.

But you chose wrong, Dee growls at me.

I know, and no matter what Melanie won’t leave me. But Emma has to give me an heir.

Why? You rejected her, you wanted nothing to do with her.

I WANT HER POWER! I scream at him, but he quickly recedes back into my mind and reinstates the block.

I look around and notice that people are looking at me with disgust, did I just say that out loud?

Yes Dee quickly replies before disappearing again. How dare he trick me?!

“Get back to what you were doing.” I growl at them, stomping away and heading towards the warrior station building.

When I reach the building there is no one there to greet me, which is unusual as usually they greet me with a smile and a wave. But today there is no one except for the receptionist who simply points me towards the briefing room without even a word to me. What is going on?

Inside the room sounds like laughter from the warriors, clearly they have all gathered for the meeting on time which is unusual. They normally hate meetings and always arrive late.

When I walk into the room, I am shocked to see Emma and James laughing with each other, and the jealousy from earlier rises again.

“Your mine.” I growl, causing everyone in the room to turn and look at me in confusion.

“I do not know what you mean Eric.” My mate says to me, playing the innocent role.

“That is Alpha Eric to you Emma.” I growl.

“It is Goddess to you Eric. Unless you want to be taught a lesson on manners, but I must warn you, you won’t like the lesson I have for you.” She says confidently to me. Where has she got all this confidence from?

“You are in my pack, that means you answer to me.” I growl.

“That’s fine, I’ll just leave and take my power and strength with me. Shall I?”

“Why must you defy me? I am your alpha, your mate and your superior.” Eric growls.

“I am my own person. You are my ex-Alpha and thank the heavens my ex-mate, what part of ex are you not getting? It means we are no more. And I am no longer part of this pack. I am a goddess, so I am above you. Why must you be so stupid?” I ask exasperatedly.

“Alpha, please can we just start the meeting?” A warrior asks, clearly not wanting the conversation between me and his alpha to escalate.

“Not until James takes a step away from her!” I say, but Emma’s next words have me floored.

“Beta James is more than welcome to be close to me, after all we are creating a new pack together.”

“What...Beta? Since when has a warrior become a beta?” I ask.

“Since when has someone competent at doing a job been prevented from doing so? Oh yeah, when they were part of your pack.”

The warriors in the room snicker, clearly finding what Emma said funny until I turn and glare at them.

“Anyway, we are here to talk about new defence plans rather than us. Aren’t we Eric?” Emma asks innocently.

“That we are, but this conversation is not over.” I say to Emma.

I turn to address the warriors.

“Thank you all for all of your valiant work yesterday in the attack, if it wasn’t for you then we would not have been able to hold the rogues back for as long as we did.” I say to them, smiling at them to show that I really do appreciate all of their efforts.

“Thank you, Goddess Emma, for coming to save us.” A few of them said, and they all bowed to her. My anger quickly arises as they haven’t shown me this kind of respect for a long time but I quickly push the anger down.

“You are all more than welcome, I am just sorry that I didn’t know sooner otherwise I would have been able to help more of you.” Emma replies, smiling at the room.

“Yes, thank you Emma for helping us. Now those who have been injured will get full pay and those who sadly did not survive will be honoured and those they left behind will be taken good care of.” I say.

All of the warriors just nod their heads and smile sadly, clearly thinking of those they lost yesterday.

“Did any of the rogues survive?” I ask.

“Sadly no, my bad. Although we could always ask your ally packs if they managed to capture any alive.” Emma suggests, to which I want to reject but then upon quick reflection I can see merit in her idea.

“That’s a good idea, there may be more to these attacks than we first realised. If we could speak to one then we may just get somewhere, even if its not far and only one step ahead it would be better than where we are now.” I reply.

“Next time something like this happens, or we see a rogue instead of attacking to kill I want you to attack to capture. Kill if you have too but, if possible, it would be nice to get one of them alive so we could interrogate them.” I address the warriors who all nod in agreement.

“What are our new defence plans?” One asks me.

“The ones I am going to give you are temporary because half of you are still in the hospital but I want three shifts, all doing eight hour shifts and focusing on our western and eastern boarders equally. That means that you would then be evenly placed if an attack occurs. While the low numbers are to our disadvantage, being prepared and well-spaced may become our advantage.

Even if only temporary. Obviously as the other warriors heal then we will revisit the plans and alter them.” I say to the warriors.

“Why not station anyone on the northern and southern borders?” One asks me.

“The Blue Moon pack on our northern border are going to help us maintain that one and Alpha Inga has agreed to temporarily place some of his warriors at our southern border to help us until we can get our wounded back on their feet.” I explain.

Chapter 14- The Meeting Part 1

Chapter 14 - The Rejected Goddess

Emma POV

“Why would Alpha Inga offer such assistance? Last we knew he wanted nothing to do with us.” Says one of the warriors, Kearon I believe his name is.

“Well that’s a long story, but he is due to visit us today as well to see how he can help us.” Eric explains.

I look at James who looks back at me just as curious and unsure, there must be more to this than what Eric is telling us.

The meeting continues for a while longer as the warriors and Eric hammer out the new plans and make any amendments that are needed to help them go smoothly until they are all back on their feet.

“Emma, I think we should talk in my office.” Eric says to me as James, and I leave the building.

I sigh, as much as I want to punch the hell out of Eric and Melanie for what they did to me, I also promised Selena that I would help this pack and I never go back on a promise. I turn and look at Eric.

“Ok, when?” I ask. Just because I have to help, it does not mean that I have to be pleasant to him.

“Say in an two hours? Alpha Inga is due in half an hour so want to meet him first if that is ok?” Eric says to me.

“Of course.” I reply, James and I then turn and continue walking towards the training field.

The warriors building and the training field are only a few feet apart from each other so getting there takes only a few minutes.

“Alpha, are we really going to go see Alpha Eric in his office?” James asks me.

“Of course, we are here to help after all. And please, just call me Emma.” I say for the umpteenth time.

“Emma, what about Alpha Inga?” James asks.

“Well, we will meet him at the pack house in half an hour also. After all, it would be nice to see him again. He may not remember me, but he was kind to me on my last day of freedom and offered me salvation before then without even knowing me. For that I wish to thank him.” I say, smiling at the memory.

“That makes sense. I am so sorry I was unable to help you five years ago.” James says to me, bowing his head in submission. The warriors building and the training field are only a few feet apart from each other so getting there took only a few minutes.

“Us too.” I look up in surprise as the whole of the training field have stopped and are bowing towards me.

I quickly wave my hands at them, “Please raise your heads. You should never bow except for your alpha, and it is fine. The past is in the past; besides you were all told lies about what had happened between us. And I could never expect any of you to go against your alpha.” I say.

Many of them raise their heads and smile at me, but some take a bit longer.

Once everyone had gotten back to what they were doing, I decided to take part in the training for a while. I am pleased to discover that over the five years the pack has grown stronger, and they have picked up new techniques. I really am pleased.

It felt weird being there though, as many of them now looked and treated me differently. It is obvious that me being a goddess has changed the dynamic, and I must admit it does not bother me. I have been on my own for so long now that flying solo comes naturally. That is why I was surprised that I accepted James’ pledge of loyalty, I have followers and those I help but no one that I am actually tied down to.

I bet Selena is smiling from her realm at me, for the last three years he has been bugging me to take my followers and create bonds with them, but I have always stubbornly refused.

“Are you going to go see your father and brother?” James asks me as we head off to the pack house, both of us smiling like Cheshire cats after the mini work out, of which I mostly just messed around with the pups.

“Later, at the moment I want to find out what is going on here and whether Eric has something planned in regards to Alpha Inga.”

“You think something is going on there?” James asks me.

“There has to be, last time I saw an interaction between them it was very intense. Unless they became close in the last five years?” I ask James.

“No, he never came to our pack again until today.”

“Huh, something is definitely up then.” I say, thinking about what it could be but drawing a blank at the moment.

“Looks like Luna Melanie is off somewhere.” James says to me, pointing to Melanie and her friends heading towards the exit of the territory.

“Most likely off out for the day.”

“Rumour is it she didn’t want to see Alpha Inga, so she has gone shopping.” James says to me.

“Shame.” I simply reply, slightly distracted as the packhouse comes into sight and I can see people crowding the entrance.

As James and I walk towards the pack house front door I notice that Alpha Inga has already arrived, and he is speaking with Eric. But the conversation does not seem to be a happy one.

“Where is Your Luna Alpha Eric?” I hear Alpha Inga ask Eric.

Eric just sighs, I can tell he is about to give one hell of an answer, but I decide to put a spanner in his plans.

“She decided to go on a shopping trip with some friends.” I reply as everyone turns to see me and James arrived, also causing Eric to glare at me as he was going to lie.

“So, your pack in under attack and your mate is out shopping? While your ex-mate is here helping you?” Alpha Inga asks, clearly not happy with learning the type of leaders this pack has.

“Mate? Is that what you’ve been telling everyone?” I ask.

“Me and Melanie are second chance mates.” Eric says to me.

“You are chosen mates; Melanie has never found her mate.” I simply reply.

“And how would you know that?”

“I have been keeping tabs on what has been going on, just kept my distance as never cared for the two of you.” I simply say.

“I cannot say I blame you goddess.” Alpha Inga says, bowing slightly at me. Why does he keep bowing to me?

“So your Luna is not even your second chance mate, your ex-mate is a goddess and your pack has no respect for you? How the mighty have fallen Alpha Eric.” Alpha Inga says to which James and a few others snicker.

“Then why are you here?” Eric growls at Alpha Inga, who simply cocks his hip and places his hand on his hip while looking at Eric with disdain.

“I got a call to come here.”

“Who?”

“No idea. The caller talked to my beta and pretty much begged us to come and help you, otherwise you were going to fall to the rogues and be taken back by goddess ex-mate. But something tells me that the ex-mate part of the story was inaccurate.” Alpha Inga says looking at me with interest.

Hearing what Alpha Inga just says has me thinking, the only person who would have worries such as them is Melanie, but she is not here today. What is she planning?

“That it was Alpha Inga, I have no intention to have my ex-mate back. I am only here as a favour to Selena; trust me I wouldn’t be here otherwise.” I simply reply.

“Please Goddess, just call me Inga after all you are higher than me. It is a pleasure to meet you Goddess Emma, I have heard so much about your exploits. I wasn’t too sure from the stories I heard but I wondered if it was you. And I must say I am happy to see that you are alive and well.” Alpha Inga holds out his hand and I take it to shake, we both smile at each other, and I am surprised that he remembers me.

“You remember me, Inga? I must admit I am surprised. And please, call me Emma.” I smile at Alpha Inga. He has not changed much in the past five years, hardly seems to have aged either. The same could not be said for Eric, he looks almost like a completely different person just with the same mess inside of him.

“How could I forget you? You were the first she-wolf that ever looked me in the face. My reputation tends to have them running for the hills.”

“I do not see why; you are a fair leader. Tough but fair, but then again if you weren’t then your pack wouldn’t have the respect, they have for you and they wouldn’t be as influential either.” I simply state.

“Why thank you, I appreciate the compliment. I think many see my tough side as ruthless, but I am not sure as to why.” Alpha Inga says looking a bit perplexed.

“Inga, I would appreciate it if you wouldn’t speak to my mate.” Eric says, butting into our conversation, causing myself and Alpha Inga to glare at him.

“It is Alpha to you Alpha Eric.” Alpha Inga growls.

“And it is ex-mate Eric, you made sure of that. How many times do I have to keep reminding you?” I ask exasperatedly.

“Why does she get to call you Inga but not I?” Eric asks indignantly.

“Because Emma is a goddess and if her exploits are anything to go by, she has earned the right to forgo formalities. You however have not.” Alpha Inga states with finality, to which Eric only humphs’ before turning around.

“Follow me, we shall continue in my office in private.” Eric does not wait; he simply starts walking right into the house.

But we don’t get to Eric’s office, instead we come to a stop in the pack house living room. There is a scene unfolding which is greatly entertaining.

Chapter 15- The Meeting part 2

Chapter 15 - The Rejected Goddess

Emma POV

Eric is standing in the doorway to the living room, his face getting redder and redder while a few members of his pack are making jokes about him. They have not realised he is there yet, but the jokes are quite good. Most of them being about how he was an idiot to reject a goddess for a whore.

“WHO ARE YOU CALLING A WHORE?” Eric bellows at the group.

“Clearly your Luna.” Alpha Inga replies, causing Eric to turn around so fast I am surprised he didn’t twist his ankle or break his spine.

“Melanie is not a whore.” Eric growls. I roll my eyes. Before she got with Eric, Melanie had a different male with her practically every week and she enjoyed bragging to mother about her exploits with them.

“And you’re such a good judge of character.” I state sarcastically.

“What?” He growls at me.

“Remember you gave me that title once, without even finding out if it is true.” I casually reply.

“And even I have heard of the exploits of your Luna. She even tried to seduce the other alphas at the last alpha meeting.” Alpha Inga says, looking Eric straight in the face. This would not surprise me if it is true, it does sound like something Melanie would do.

“Melanie would not do that, she is faithful. And what happened to you is in the past, why do you keep living in it?” Eric growls at us.

“Because you keep with the stupid notion that I am your mate. And it proves my point. You haven’t even asked your members why they are saying them things.” I counter.

“Why are you saying those things? You do know that you could be banished for defamation of your Luna, don’t you?” Alpha Inga asks the group.

A young she wolf scoffs.

“That woman is not our Luna. She is using Alpha Eric for her own gain, and he cannot see that. It is not just us that has this viewpoint, my friends at school from other packs view her the same way.” The young she wolf says.

“Many of my elder brothers’ friends have even been with her, if you know what I mean.” Says a male wolf, eliciting a growl from Eric.

“I don’t know why you’re surprised. She got with you before she met her mate, taking you from your fated mate.” I say to Eric.

“Luna also propositioned a few of my friends said she could turn them into men. But why would they? I mean she is our Luna, the one who is mated to our alpha.” One of the girls speaks up.

“Your chosen Luna cannot even stay faithful to you out of choice, yet you still want her as your Luna. I am worried about this pack Alpha Eric as I don’t think you are capable of leading it.” Alpha Inga says.

Silence descends upon the room, while a hundred and one emotions flutter across Eric’s face from anger to shock to pure rage.

“How dare you?! I rule this pack fairly and am looked favourably upon. None of my she wolves find it hard to look me in my face.” Eric shouts at Alpha Inga, getting into his face.

Alpha Inga simply pushes Eric away before he replies.

“Your father was looked upon favourably, you are not. From what I have heard pack members have been leaving and you and your Luna boasted about how you killed your fated mate and Luna. Tell me how that means you are a decent Alpha?” he asks Eric.

Eric looks around, clearly expecting someone to help him but everyone just avoids his eyes. The floor starts to look very interesting to the group who refuse to help.

A young wolf, no older than thirteen or fourteen steps around the group and comes up to me, breaking the awkwardness that has descended upon the room.

“Miss Goddess, please could you become our Luna? Then our pack would not be the laughingstock that it is. Please?” she asks me. I am surprised to hear someone so young to already have a grasp of outside matters, but then I remember my school days and they drilled into us the importance of appearances from the moment we started school.

“No, I am sorry, but that ship sailed long ago.” I reply to the young pup. I could have lied and said that I would think about it, but I would never go back. I don’t believe in looking into the past as your life is in the here and now and the future. Besides, I would never be able to be with a man like Eric and be happy.

“But why?” persists the pup.

“Because your Alpha and Luna did something that should never be done, they betrayed the mate bond and when this was discovered their actions were cruel and unnecessary. Instead of letting me live in peace or leave, instead they used the bond to their own end. No one, no matter their station or breed, should suffer like that.” I say, looking Eric right in the eyes so he could see how much I mean every word I say.

“But the mate bond is sacred.” The pup continues.

“Even something sacred can become twisted and hated.” I reply honestly.

“Emma, I think that is enough. You don’t have to tell everyone our business.” Eric says to me.

“Our business? I think you mean my business Eric, after all there is no us and there never will be.” I state with finality.

“Alpha Eric, why don’t you address her as Goddess? Don’t you think it’s cool your mated to her?” the pup asks Eric, who looks down at her and smiles.

“That I do Amy, she and I will be together you will see.”

“Will she be our Luna?” Amy asks, excitement clear in her voice. The fact that Eric is willing to use a pup to get to me is just plain awful, but it will not change my mind. While Amy may hate me at first, later on when she is older she might understand.

“No, Melanie is our Luna.”

“Why not Goddess Emma? It is her right.” Amy continues to argue.

Damn, if a pup can understand the mate bond better than their Alpha then it does not put much confidence in me for the future of this pack. I am beginning to see why Selena wants me to help them while also washing her hands of Eric and Melanie. They both want their cake and to eat it, disregarding those around them so long as they get what they want no matter how they get it.

“Because your alpha rejected me, which means that we are no longer mates. And while your Alpha may have a second chance mate out there, he decided to mate with Melanie who then became your Luna.” I explain before Eric can fill her head with any more silly nonsense.

“I understand, but I wish you were our Luna.” Amy sulks, causing Alpha Inga and I to chuckle at her antics.

“Unfortunately, we cannot choose our Lunas, only fate and the Alphas can.” Alpha Inga says, ruffling Amy’s hair which elicited a giggle from her.

Eric looks at me with an unfathomable expression.

“What?” I ask him.

“You will be mine Emma. You are my mate, and you were made for me. You will fall in line.” Eric growls.

“I will do no such thing.” I growl back. I cannot believe we are even having this conversation.

“Over five years ago you rejected me, tortured me and then killed me because of the stupid mate bond. What the hell changed? Is it because I am now a Goddess?” I ask.

“No, in the intervening years I have felt like something was missing and when I saw you again yesterday, I realised that it was you. Melanie may be my Luna, but you are my mate, and we are supposed to be together.” Eric says to me.

“Are you for real? You thought that what? You say those words to me, and I’d jump into your arms? That will never happen Eric. Never.” I say with finality.

“I know you long for our bond Emma.” Eric says to me.

“No, I do not. I might have years ago but you killed that part of me, all I feel towards you now is disgust and hate.” I inform him.

“Then why are you here? Talking to me? Helping me?”

“Because Selena asked me to. Remember?” I simply reply.

“I do not believe that, I do not believe that at all. There has to be a part of you that wants to be here, no matter how small.”

“I am only here on the request of Selena and to help protect and save my brother and father. This pack ask well. But as far as you go, I am not and will never be here for you.”

Eric's face contorts into one of pure anger, but then he surprises me. He takes a deep breath and

“I will say the four words you have always wanted to hear, then you will be mine and you will belong to me and my pack for eternity.”

“You really think that? What are you going to do, cast some silly magic chant?” I retort.

“Mate, I love you.” Eric says smirking at me.

I stand there and blink, the words taking a few seconds to register in my mind. Did Eric just say he loves me? The words I longed to hear all those years ago?

I feel flushed and all giddy as if something has changed and taken over my body. My body responds to his words and I walk over to him.

Eric holds his arms out to embrace me, his fangs at the ready to mark me and nothing could make me happier. I smile and nod my head at Eric, all of my dreams have finally come true.

Finally, I have the mate and love I have always wanted, even if Melanie is still by his side as his Luna. He loves me, my mate wants me and he has said the words I have longed to hear, even without realising how much I wanted to hear them words from his mouth.

I walk into his embrace.

Chapter 16- Let's Get One Thing Straight

Chapter 16 - The Rejected Goddess

Emma POV

I walk closer to Eric; he is almost within reaching distance.

Just as Eric reaches for me I bring my arm up and I slap him hard across the face. Did he seriously think that would work on me?

“HOW DARE YOU! YOU THINK THAT YOU COULD SAY THOSE WORDS TO ME AND I’D FALL AT YOUR FEET? YOU’RE PATHETIC!” I shout.

Eric growls at me and lunges forward, seizing me by the throat. Shocked gasps fill the room.

“Put her down!” Shouts someone, the person has only just entered the room. They must have been intrigued by the commotion going on between Eric and I. The others in the room appear to be frozen in shock.

“Stay out of this Elder Tom.” Eric growls before turning his attention back to me.

“You will be mine, whether you like it or not.” Eric growls, bring me closer to him and preparing his fangs again. Has he forgotten who and what I am?

Quicker than anyone can blink I wave my arm and I am transported a few feet away from Eric.

“I may have been your mate once, but you abused and killed me. Then you have the audacity to stand there and declare in front of everyone that we are mates. What the hell did you think would happen? That I’d swoon and fall into your arms? Are you kidding me?” I scream at Eric. I am done being calm and patient with this man. I am about to lose it, and I honestly do not care.

“You are my mate Emma, and you will obey me.” Eric growls, stalking forward before Alpha Inga and elder Tom block his path.

I sigh and look at him. “This is not some fairy tale where you get what you want simply by saying those words. They hold no magic; they are merely words you use as tools to get others to do your bidding. And I will not be included in those ranks.”

“YOU ARE MY MATE!”

“WAS! I WAS YOUR MATE BEFORE YOU KILLED ME.” I scream.

Sounds of shocked gasps fill the air, I look around and everyone is looking at Eric and I in horror.

It then clicks that Eric mustn’t have told them. I smirk at him. “Guessing that slipped your mind when you told them. You want to tell them or shall I?” I ask.

“There is nothing to tell them Emma, what happened is private and between us. Now just accept me and my pack.”

“But I think they need to know how you kept me locked in the dungeons and beaten everyday for months after you found out that we were mates. How you would visit and try to impregnate me just so you could have an heir in the last few months of my life. Then when I finally did conceive how you rejected me again, beat me and then killed me by slitting my throat simply because my

sister asked you too, before finally having an executioner chop my head off with an axe.” I say, my voice rising as I relive what they did to me.

“Is this true?” Elder Tom asks.

“No.” Eric says.

“Yes. All because Melanie claimed that I was not pure and deserved nothing less than what she and you did to me. How or why, you had that mentality and attitude I do not know.” I reply.

“I am who I am Emma, and you will learn to live with it.” Eric growls.

“You rejected me, tortured me then killed me and my child all because of another she wolf. Then you want to mate with me but let my biological sister keep my birth right. Have I missed anything?”

“Other than that’s your job and you have to be by my side. Afterall, the moon goddess decrees it.” Eric says smugly.

“But the bond is not there anymore. Haven’t you noticed? You killed it.” I retort.

“Elder Tom, I wish to raise an issue with you. My mate is refusing to adhere to me.” Eric turns to elder Tom, although what eh is expecting Elder Tom to do I do not know.

Gasps fill the air again. “Is this all-true alpha Eric?” Asks elder Tom.

“No.” Eric growls.

“Yes, I mean you have been having sex with my sister for years, even after you killed me. Hell, you even had sex with her today. Her stench is all over you.” I interject.

“How could you defile the mate bond in such a heinous way?” Asks Tom angrily.

“It gets better, those months I was in jail they would have the guards drag me into their room and chain me to a chair using silver chains and force me to watch them have sex. They got off on seeing me scream and cry in agony. Begging them to stop the pain.”

“That’s heinous, that’s unhinged. How could you?” Exclaims Alpha Inga, anger and disgust clear on his face.

“She is and was my mate, I can do anything I like to her and there is nothing any of you can do.” Eric shouts.

“That is where you are wrong.” Elder Tom informs Eric, who’s face quickly loses all of its colour.

“What?” Eric questions.

What Eric does not realise is that once a mate bond is rejected by both parties it no longer exists, and the elders have no right to interfere with anyone’s mate bond. That is just a baseless rumour. I should know, I have worked with the elders over the years on other issues.

“A mate bond has nothing to do with us, we cannot force anyone to do anything against their will. Besides, the bond between the two of you has gone which means that you are no longer mates. This most likely happened when Goddess Emma rejected you.” Elder Tom explains.

“But that cant be. She is my mate; I still feel the sparks.” Eric stutters.

Now I see what his plan is, if he could get me to mate with him then he was going to use the elders by claiming that he is feeling the sparks between us.

“Then I am afraid to say that I think you may be lying alpha Eric, there is no way that you would be feeling sparks especially since Emma was reincarnated into a completely new body.” Elder Tom explains further.

“That means that no matter how much you protest, this body is not the one that you had the bond with and my soul no longer recognises you as my mate. Afterall, it was my wolf side that had the bond and you made sure that side of me died.” I continue where Elder Tom stopped.

“But...” Eric stutters.

“But what we might need to have a look at is your leadership, Alpha Eric. If what Goddess Emma says is true, and something tells me that it is, then we may have to discuss you and Luna Melanie stepping down. Afterall, you told us that Goddess Emma had tried to harm Luna Melanie and that he was your fated mate. That Goddess Emma had made everything up, but from what I have heard just now that is not the case. Not only did you behave abhorrently but you also lied to us and everyone else. You and your Luna.” Elder Tom informs Eric.

“Ooohhh” fills the room as everyone becomes intrigued in the drama, and none of them look the least bit upset at the prospect of losing Eric and their Alpha.

Alpha Inga POV

Watching the drama unfold between Emma and Eric is highly entertaining. I can see that Eric truly believes that he has every right to have Emma as his mate still, even though they both rejected each other, and he killed her.

I cannot believe that Emma is fighting him so hard and keeps putting him into his place. I really need to talk to her about why she is here helping him anyway. But then she said something about helping Selena and doing a favour to her. Did she mean the moon goddess?

Elder Tom surprises me when he says that he is going to speak to the others about Eric and Melanie's actions and whether they should remain in power. I would have thought that nothing was going to be done about it. After all, when I brought Emma's case before them over five years ago they ignored me and told me to keep my nose out of it.

When the story that Emma had tried to harm Melanie and lied that she was mated to Alpha Eric to try to get the Luna position was first spread I did not believe it. The kind girl I met that night at the party did not look like she could do something like that, while looks may be deceiving her eyes held a sincerity that cannot be faked. The fact that I was there when she approached Alpha Eric seemed to have slipped his mind, and when I did try to speak out about it even more shade was thrown at Emma, so I stayed silent.

When I was informed that Emma had been killed I was shocked, I tried to find out what happened but no one was talking. Until I heard the rumour that Luna Melanie had ordered her own sister's execution for reasons unknown.

When Emma began to make herself known again after being dead and it came out that she was now a Goddess I have wanted to meet her, but she always kept what she was doing and where she was a secret. The only thing everyone knew universally was that no matter what, the Solar Eclipse pack was never to be told of her presence unless she told them herself. And no one ever did tell them. After all, who in their right mind would go against a goddess... other than the idiot in front of me.

"I am the Alpha of this pack Elder Tom; it is my birth right. You have no right to take it from me." Alpha Eric growls.

I roll my eyes. "The elders have every right alpha Eric, after all it is their job to make sure that the packs are being lead fairly and without any undue harm coming to their members. Not only did you harm one of your pack members, but that member was also your mate. That fact that she is standing here alive and well now has no bearing on that fact of your actions years ago." I argue.

"Stay out of this Alpha Inga, please. I need to talk to you to find out what you want here, I do not want a war with you because you kept butting in." Eric growls.

I hold my hands up and step back, just enjoying the argument between Alpha Eric and Elder Tom. Even Emma has taken a step back, but from her face and the groups faces they are enjoying the show.

All of a sudden, a wonderful scent of grass and honey dew reaches my nose and I know instantly that I need to find the source of the scent. I sniff the air and discover that the scent originates past the front door, but it is getting stronger, almost as if some one is walking towards the pack house.

"Mate." I growl before walking out of the living room and heading towards the front door.

Chapter 17 - The Rejected Goddess

Melanie POV

I cannot believe that Emma actually agreed to help us and is staying here. When she left the field with James, I thought that would be it and she would be gone, but when we got back to the pack house she was there with James discussing some stuff with some of the injured warriors.

All of the warriors seemed happy to see her again, and they were filling her in with everything that had happened since her death five years ago. Even Eric surprised me as he didn't seem to mind that she was back, I thought that he would be angry or upset and try to reassure me but instead, he just blanked me for the rest of the day.

He didn't even come to bed last night. I do not know what he is up to but I had better find out soon as I don't want him going back to her. And something tells me that if he gets the chance then he will have her as his mate again.

James and Emma then disappeared, no one could find them and no one saw them until this morning. When I asked no one was able to tell me where they had been and their rooms had not been slept in. what is also strange is that James didn't return home to his house last night according to his neighbours, and Emma had brought nothing with her but she is wearing different clothes today.

Yesterday, once everything had settled down and Emma had gone for the night, I called Alpha Inga's pack. I was not allowed to speak to him as he was in an important meeting, but I did speak to his Beta Jeff.

Jeff wondered why I had called and not Alpha Eric but I explained that Eric's ex-mate had returned during the fight and that he was besotted with her, and the fight had taken a lot out of the pack so he was also focusing on that.

When asked, I said that Alpha Eric was not aware that I was calling as I wanted to make it look like they reached out as a good will gesture and that I had a hand in that. Then Eric would not look at his ex-mate but at me. I said that his ex-mate was already worming her way into the pack. I made sure to leave out that Emma was his mate and that she had returned. All anyone outside knows is that she is dead and that is how I want it to stay.

After a bit of convincing Jeff said that he would talk to his alpha and they might visit today, but this surprised me as it felt like I didn't really need that much of an argument. Not that I cared, all I wanted was them to come here and Emma gone or under my control.

While Alpha Inga is at our pack, it means that my grandmother would have heard what I done and then she might reach out to me. After what happened five years ago at first, she was on my side, but then father told her what happened, and she has avoided me ever since. Even her wolf is unreachable.

Earlier today I panicked when Alpha Inga came to visit, I called him and spoke to his Beta, but I didn't expect him to actually turn up. So, I did the only thing I could think of- I went shopping with some friends of mine. That was a few hours ago and now we are heading back to the pack.

All day Stinger has been acting strange, but I cannot figure out why. She has been giddy and excited but refuses to tell me the reason why.

At the mall all she wanted to do was return home, which is unusual as she never wants to go home.

After about two hours I have had enough, and I tell my friends that I want to head home due to a headache that is coming on and that Stinger is not feeling too good. At first, they didn't want to but then they agreed once the guards agreed with me and said they should leave the mall and be back at the pack while another alpha is on the grounds.

As soon as we pull into the pack grounds Stinger starts to dance and purr happily.

Why are you purring? You're not a cat. I growl to her.

Something is about to happen, something good. What is it? I don't know, but I think I know what I might be. And what is that? I ask, getting annoyed at her,

I think our mate might be here. She preens.

Great, I think to myself. Stinger wants her mate, she even fought me against mating and marking Eric but I eventually just made her comply. But I do not want a mate, I am happy being Luna and I do not want to be mated to anyone lower than the rank of alpha, that is why I went after Eric.

The fact that Eric was Emma's mate just made the conquest that much sweeter. I have always hated her, and finding out that she was mated to Eric almost drove me insane but I was able to manipulate him into hating her.

Many would wonder how I knew, but the signs were there. Whenever she was in the room or close to him he would smile, and his wolf was always kinder to her. When he came of age it became obvious when he saw her for the first time and then avoided her. I was able to make him think that she was not pure so easily, all it took was a bit of harmless poison in his drinks to cause stomach pains that replicated the mate not being faithful. Even though Emma did not know that they were mates, once Eric saw her and recognised the bond then anything she does he would feel. But she wouldn't feel us until she was of age.

It was months in the making and I am glad that it worked, but now Stinger is telling me that my mate might be here. I cannot have that, it could ruin everything I have worked so hard for, and I am not willing to lose my position just for my sister to take it.

Please, give mate a chance. It might surprise us who he is. Whoever it is, they are from Alpha Inga's pack otherwise we would have recognised them by now. There is no way that I am going to give my title of Luna just for the mate bond. But it is sacred. Stinger whines.

But then an idea crosses my mind, maybe I could have my cake and eat it as the saying goes. If my mate is of lower level, which they will be, then I could order them to stay with me in this pack and I can mate with them but not mark them. That way my wolf is happy as she has her mate and I can stay with Eric and my Luna position.

But you are only with him for the position, why is that more important than mate? Because I worked so hard for it, and that thing is not going to get it. Just because trash is back it does not mean that she will have what I have taken from her.

Emma might be back, but she is still the same little sister that I will manipulate and control. The fact that she is a goddess does not matter to me, I will have her under my control and then I can take everything from her again. After all, she never should have been born. Even mother regrets giving birth to her, why my father and brother cannot see that I do not know.

We finally pull up in the garage of the pack house, where a few omegas are awaiting our return. I keep moaning at Eric to get a door installed in the garage that connects it to the pack house, but he refuses, saying something about security and all of that. Instead, we have to walk around the side of the pack house to the front or back door.

GO IN! GO IN NOW! Stinger shouts.

I grip my head and shut my eyes, the pain from Stinger shouting ricocheting around my head.

Ok, ok. Please just wait a minute. I say as I get out of the car.

"Omega! Please could you carry the bags from the car into my bedroom?" I ask the nearest omega.

"Yes Luna." The omega bows to me and smiles, heading off to get the bags.

"Thank you." I say. Now I can go and investigate the heavenly scent that has been filling my nose since coming home.

I walk to the pack house and the scent is getting stronger, its strongest behind the closed door.

I open the front door and the scent hits me like a ton of bricks. It smells like melted chocolate and it makes me drool while Stinger is dancing around in my head.

“Mate.” I growl as I walk straight into the leanest and most toned body I have ever seen.

I look up and I am shocked at who the moon goddess has paired me with.

Oh, hell yes! I think to myself.

Chapter 18- Melanie’s Rejection

Chapter 18 - The Rejected Goddess

Melanie POV

“Alpha Inga?” I ask incredulously. My mate is the notorious Alpha Inga? Stinger is dancing around in my head as she has finally met her mate.

“Mate.” He growls at me, rushing forward and embracing me in a bone crushing hug. The excitement and happiness radiating from him in droves.

I cannot believe that I am mated to an alpha, and a powerful one at that! Now I can have him and Alpha Eric by my side, meaning I will be more powerful than even Emma at her Goddess level as I will have two packs under my control.

Alpha Inga puts me down and looks at me. I look at him and I cannot see why people say that he is a ruthless alpha, all I can see is kind-hearted man who looks like he couldn’t harm anyone.

The sparks flowing between us are heavenly, and I suddenly realise what people mean when they say nothing compares to the mate bond. It truly is magical and all of a sudden, I do not even want to be mated to Eric anymore. The very thought of Eric touching me suddenly seems repulsive, and I coil away from the mental image. Which is funny when only last night I was craving his attention.

“Where have you been? I have been here for a while but only just now caught your scent.” Alpha Inga says to me, nuzzling my neck. His breath hits my mark from Eric and it makes me shiver, but Alpha Inga appears not to have noticed the mark.

“I was out but only just got back to the pack house. But my wolf has been going crazy all day and now I know why.” I say, smiling up at him. He towers over me, and I have to look up at him.

I am surprised that I never noticed him when I met him briefly five years ago or at any of the Alpha meetings, but then I have always been covered in Eric’s scent and Stinger has always had

her block up. Therefore, it is only now that I was able to recognise him, and I am guessing that he kept his distance from me, and his wolf was not yet of age to find his mate five years ago.

But whatever the reason, I am glad that I now able to recognise him as my mate. I have a powerful alpha and pack that I will be able to lead with him. And this excites me, the wealth and the connections I can make just being by his side are even greater than the ones I am to have now with Eric.

But combining the two will mean that I will be almost untouchable, I smile at the thought. Not even Emma would be able to touch me, but I would be able to force her into submission and use her and her powers for my benefit. Then when I am done with her I can just have her killed again.

“What are you smiling so intently about mate?” I am pulled out of my thoughts by Alpha Inga.

“Oh, just thinking about finding you and finally being able to be with my mate.” I say, smiling at him. All I have to do is play him and Eric and I will have everything I have ever wanted and worked for.

“Come on then. Let’s go and tell the others our wonderful news.” Alpha Inga says, smiling widely with happiness dancing in his eyes.

Alpha Inga extends his arm, and we head into the living room where a bit of a commotion seems to be happening.

Alpha Inga POV

I walk into the living room with my mate in my arms and I have never been happier than I am now. All I want to do is shout from the roof tops that I have finally found her.

My wolf is howling and celebrating in my head, and I am joining him. I never thought that I would meet my mate here, this is the last place I thought she would be. But then the moon goddess does work in mysterious ways.

Why I have not smelt her earlier today I am unsure of, especially if she does live here but then she has the scent of other male wolves on her so I am guessing that the scent was too faint when we arrived for me to notice. But I am so glad to have finally found my mate. Maybe this journey was not a complete waste of time, I got to meet Goddess Emma and I also found my mate.

We walk into the living room with me on cloud 9 and an argument going on between Eric and Elder Tom. But everything goes quiet the moment we walk in.

“Melanie, why are you on the arm of another?” Eric growls, gaining my attention.

I look around the room to see who he is referring to, but they are all the same people as before. It is then that I realise that he is looking at my mate. I stand there shocked for a second, before I remove my arm from her embrace.

“Wait, your Melanie? Luna Melanie, the chosen mate of Alpha Eric?” I ask her. While I have heard of her, I have never seen her clearly as I was not interested when she was seducing Alphas at the last meeting and she never approached me. When I take a good look at her I realise that she was the one on Eric's arm five years ago when I first met Emma, but I was not of age for my wolf to recognise my mate and I am guessing neither was she. That or she and her wolf are just that disconnected, even back then.

I am shocked at this revelation; this is the woman who killed her own sister? The one who brought a Goddess to her knees with her cruelty? Who boasted about killing and torturing her sister?

“Yes baby, the one and the same. But my heart beats only for you now. I am ready to commit myself to you.” Melanie says, smiling sweetly at me but all I can see is her sickly mind turning. It is as if after finding out who she is the magic cast by the mate bond has been lifted and I am seeing her in her true light and I can see that she is up to something.

“No, I can't do this. I refuse to be mated to such a cruel and evil she wolf.” I say, pushing Melanie away.

“Baby, what are you doing?” Melanie asks, sadness in her eyes while she reaches out for me, but I just step further away from her reach.

“I, Alpha Inga Wright, of the Silver Moon Pack hereby reject Luna Melanie Locke of the Solar Eclipse Pack as my mate and Luna. We are no longer mates, and for that I am grateful.” I say, the pain that fills me is unbearable, but I refuse to let anyone see how much this rejection is hurting me.

My wolf is howling inside my head, but he is in agreement with me.

I am so sorry Dean.

There is nothing to be sorry about, while this pain hurts something tells me that more would have been in our future had we accepted Melanie.

How is Melanie's wolf handling it?

Stinger is upset but she is going to force Melanie to accept the rejection. This is for the best. Dean says sadly.

“But why? You are my mate.” Melanie shrieks, tears flowing down her face as she falls to her knees in pain. I feel bad for causing her this pain, but at the same time I will not take back my rejection.

“I have seen the way you behave, and it is unbecoming of someone who would go on to represent my pack. I will not allow anyone to tarnish my packs reputation and standing. You will accept the rejection Melanie, after all you already have a chosen mate.” I say to her.

“But I love you.” Melanie claims, stopping Alpha Eric in his tracks who had been heading over to her.

“What?” he growls.

“I love you Eric but I also love my mate, I want my mate.” Melanie cries, and I feel heartless because all of a sudden, I feel nothing.

“You are mated to Alpha Eric, how could I even have you if I wanted to? You made your choice Melanie, and this is the consequence.” I say to her as softly as I can. My heart is breaking at the loss of my mate but I will not have a mate like her.

“But I was young and naive and Eric took advantage of that.” She cries.

Shocks fill the room, but none of them leap to Melanie’s defence.

“How could you say that Melanie? You pursued me, you seduced me and made me reject my mate which I greatly regret. You are the cause of this, and now you are trying to play the victim?” Eric says, his voice sounding hollow.

“Now, accept my rejection.” I say, stunning the room with the authority I lace my voice with.

Melanie looks to Emma for help.

“Please, talk some sense into him. Please sister.” She begs her.

Chapter 19- I Am NOT Your Sister

Chapter 19 - The Rejected Goddess

Emma POV

Watching the scene between Alpha Inga and Melanie was hard, it reminded me of my rejection to Eric, but I was surprised when Alpha Inga rejected Melanie. Mate bonds are sacred things and rejecting your fated mate is frowned upon under most circumstances, though in this instance I don’t think people will mind so much given that Alpha Inga’s fated mate is the chosen mate of another.

It was well known within the werewolf community that while Alpha Inga is ruthless, he has patiently been waiting to find his mate so to see him reject her without a second thought is surprising. But I also feel like it is karma at work, she took my mate and life and now she cannot have hers.

I feel sad for Alpha Inga, he deserved a better mate but at the same time I am surprised that Melanie was mated to him. He might be a bit rough around the edges but anyone can see the kind heat he tries to hide if they looked hard enough.

I am brought out of my thoughts by Melanie. She turns to me and walks forward but half way she falls to her knees, whether it is the pain that is the cause or something else I do not know but I have the feeling that I will not be waiting long to find out the answer.

“Please sister, help me.” Melanie begs, crawling to me on her knees but I just look at her with contempt.

Years ago this sight would have broken my heart, I would have ran to her and helped her any way I can. But now? Now all I want to do is leave this place.

“You have been given your options Melanie, either accept the rejection and be with Eric or don’t accept and be writing in pain for the rest of your life with no one beside you. They are your options; I do not understand how I can help you with those? This is your decision to make.” I simply reply.

“But you are a Goddess, use your powers to make Inga want me and Eric to accept it. Please.” Melanie cries, tears flooding down her face.

“I may be a goddess but that does not mean that I abuse my position. And the fact that you would even consider that I would go to show just how little you really know me.” I respond emotionally.

I cannot bring myself to feel sorry for Melanie, after all she took my mate from me with no remorse and then went on to inflict even more harm. I am guessing that this is a small way that Selena is getting revenge for me. I feel sorry for Alpha Inga though, he really does deserve a better mate than Melanie.

“Please sister, we are related by blood surely this is hurting you.” Melanie continues.

“You are not my sister Melanie, you stopped being that the day you killed me. Just like Eric stopped being my mate the day I finally managed to accept his rejection. After everything that you did to me, don’t you think you have done enough? Now make your decision Melanie.” I respond, walking away from her crying form and over to stand next to James.

“How could you be so cruel to me? If anyone would know what I am going through I thought, it would be you.” Melanie cries, trying to make the others in the room feel sorry for her.

“The only difference is that my mate left me because of you. Yet even then I could not bring myself to hate you, not until my last breath. But even now I would not wish this on anyone Melanie, not even on you. If there had been a way of avoiding this for you then I would have hoped there would have been, but I am guessing this is happening for a reason.” I simply reply.

“Please, sister please.”

“I am NOT your sister Melanie; you made your bed and now you must lie in it. This has nothing to do with me or any of us. Only you, Inga and Eric. Your mate, remember?” I prompt her, trying to get her to see that she must make a choice.

Melanie jumps to her feet, the expression on her face shifting between anger, sadness and one I cannot decipher.

“Accept his rejection Melanie, or we are over, and I will mate with Emma.” Eric tells Melanie with finality, clearly he has seen and heard enough deciding to now speak up.

Melanie just stands there gobsmacked; she has lost her fated mate and her fated Luna position and her current one is being threatened by her chosen mate.

I really should step in and shut Eric down on the whole mating me thing, but this is not my argument, and I will be staying out of it as much as I can. I have now said my piece and I am happy to just leave them to it.

“Melanie, how could you want to be with him? We are chosen mates.” Eric says, sadness coating each word.

“But he is my fated mate, I want to be with my fated mate Eric. The bond is just so strong.” Melanie says with no remorse.

“But I rejected my mate for you.” Eric replies, sadness covering his face that I feel sorry for him for a second. But it quickly vanishes.

“And I rejected you, we are not mates Melanie. And we never will be.” Alpha Inga say, hatred is clear in his voice.

“But why? Why when you was all over me as soon as I entered the house.” Melanie asks Inga, clearly this coming out of the blue has taken her by surprise.

Hearing this surprises me, but then I think about it, and I conclude that maybe Inga did not recognise Melanie at first. His next words confirm this thought.

“When I first saw you I did not know who you were, other than my mate. I had only ever seen you from a far once or twice and even then only for a few seconds. Years ago when we met for the first time here my wolf was dormant due to reasons I will not relay here. But all you need ot know is that I refuse to be mated to such a cruel person.” Alpha Inga replies.

“Cruel? How am I cruel?” Melanie asks.

“You think what you did to your own sister never got out? Hell all we had to do was ask her, she never hid anything. We have all known what you and Eric did to her own fated mate and your own sister. And all because all you wanted was the Luna position, now you have it and I hope you are happy.” Alpha Inga says before turning on his heel and heading out of the room.

I hear him and his Beta leave the house and get into their cars. Once a rejection is done, the rejecting party does not need to be present for the other to accept. I was unable to reject Eric in this way because of his alpha order on me at the time.

“I, Melanie Locke, hereby accept your rejection Alpha Inga Wright. We are no longer mates.” Melanie whispers into the silent room, before falling to the floor again.

I look around the room and no one is looking at her with sympathy or pity, only disgust and indifference. I am guessing they are not a fan of having Melanie for their Luna.

Eric walks over to Melanie and helps her to her feet.

“Thank you Eric.” Melanie says smiling at Eric while she puts most of her weight on him.

I feel a pang of sadness seeing Melanie in this situation and pain, while I may be emotionless towards her and Eric, I still remember how much it hurt when Eric and I rejected each other. I would not wish that pain on anyone, not even her. Maybe that makes me soft or weird I don't care, to me it just means I have a heart, somewhere inside me anyway.

I turn around and walk out of the living room and away from the drama, now that it is over, I cannot bare being in such close proximity to them two for as long as I have.

James follows me as I walk from the pack house and out into the territory.

I walk on auto pilot, knowing exactly where I am going and letting my feet take me.

While Alpha Inga has left, obviously to go back to his pack, I might call him later either today or tomorrow and discuss an alliance between us. I will not include Eric and Melanie in the alliance, but I will try to work it so that it benefits both Alpha Inga and the pack members here. After all, why should they suffer just because of their Alpha and Luna?

Melanie got what she deserved today and a taste of her own medicine might change her a bit, but I doubt it. I get the feeling that is what Selena was hoping for when she partnered them together, but I know Melanie well enough to know that she will view this situation as her being the victim and everyone else being in the wrong.

Not that I can say I blame her fully, but then she has been cruel both inside and outside of the pack which would have been spread around the werewolf community, maybe even further. So her mate rejecting her was not that much of a surprise, just more of who her mate was that

surprised me. I feel sorry for alpha Inga, but I am sure that Selena has something else planned for him that will make up for today.

I do wonder why he came here today though, but I guess I can ask him when I contact him soon. After all of the drama, what ever alpha Inga came here for is still outstanding so I am sure he might be back if he wants to.

“Where are we going?” James asks me, finally breaking the comfortable silence.

“Now that the drama is done, I am going to go and see my family.” I reply, smiling a bit as I make my way towards my father’s house.

Chapter 20- Family Reunion(ish)

Chapter 20 - The Rejected Goddess

Emma POV

I walk towards my father’s house and a smile spreads across my face. Nothing has changed I think to myself, this thought making me happy.

I walk up the garden path and knock on the old blue door that has not been changed since my childhood. This surprises me as the door was barely functioning then and looks to be in worse condition now.

While I have kept in contact with my father and brother over the last five years, this is the first time I have been to my childhood home.

The door opens and before anyone can say anything, I am engulfed in a bone crushing hug.

“Emma darling, it is so lovely to see you again. And you have finally come home, this makes an old man so happy.” My father utters, his breath fanning my neck and making me shiver in the heat.

“Hi dad, it’s been too long.” I reply, patting his back as my arms are pinned to my sides above the elbows.

“Come on in, both of you.” My dad says smiling at James.

James holds his hands up, “Thank you sir but I will take my leave. See you later... do I call you Goddess or Alpha?” James asks me.

“Emma at the moment until we work things out.” I reply. While James is technically now my beta, I do not feel comfortable being referred to as Alpha just yet, mainly because if it just us then it does not matter.

“See you later Emma.” James turns on his heel and walks away back towards the training grounds, guess I know where to find him if needed.

I turn back towards my dad and follow him in into the living. As we walk down the hallway and into the living room, I notice that there are no photographs of mother and Melanie.

“How come there’s no photos of mother and Melanie? Did mother pass away?” I ask curiously, while she may be my mother when Selena offered me the chance when I ascended to have my bond with her reinstated, I refused.

“Your mother is still alive, as is Melanie as you saw. I rejected them from being my mate and daughter and severed all ties to them, Matthew did as well so we do not consider them family anymore.” My dad replies so matter of factly.

I take a sharp intake of breath at his words. While he may have said the words so matter of factly, the sadness in his eyes tells me that there are still raw emotions behind his decision. This is the first time I have heard that he and Matthew rejected Melanie and mother, when I’ve spoken to them before we have avoided this topic for many reasons.

“What happened?” I ask.

“It happened on the day Melanie killed you. She gathered me, your mother and Matthew together and told us to come to the dungeons, that there was something we needed to see in regards to you. I think your mother knew because she couldn’t get there fast enough, a sadistic smile on her face. I had never seen such a smile on her features before and it gave me very cold chills. When you were killed in front of us, I saw for myself just how cruel Melanie had become. What your mother had made her into. Although Melanie deserves some credit for her evilness. When it happened, some may say it was the grief, but I cut all ties with Melanie and your mother. My wolf was in agreement, so the broken bonds still stand to this day. Melanie is no longer a Locke; she is just Melanie. As it your mother.”

In wolfen society if a female is mated and marked, she takes the males last name. If a rejection then occurs for any reason the female loses their last name, they do not get their old last name gone as they have technically left that family behind. Therefore, they just become known by their first name. The rule does not apply to Melanie as she is the daughter, but fathers have the right to strip them of their last names, so they can only use it when they either accept or reject their mates and that’s it.

“I see, but you cant let what happened to me ruin your mate bond. I would never want that to happen. What happened was because of my ex-mate and ex-sister, I do not want others suffering because of it.” I reply honestly, while I may lay blame at Melanie, Eric and mother it does not mean that I expect others to.

“I know, but that day I saw a side to them that frightened me. Me! A pack warrior was freighted of his own mate and daughter. The evilness has since creeped into this pack in the form of the Alpha and Luna.”

“Then why didn’t you leave?” I ask.

“Your body and memories were here, then when you returned to me I stayed here to wait for you to come home to me.” My dad replies, sadness and happiness mixing together on his face. I take a seat opposite him on the sofa, he still has the same old armchair from my childhood. This makes me smile.

“Let’s forget about that past, after all there is a reason why the past is behind us. We overcame it and moved on.” I say.

“Which brings me to my question.” Now my dad has piqued my curiosity.

“What question?” I ask, narrowing my eyes at him, a hint of suspicion in my voice.

“You made a bond with James and will most likely go on to create a pack now, would you consider adding this old man to your future pack?” The question catches me off guard. My Goddess duties have me busy enough without having to lead a pack. A part of me does not even like the idea, after all I enjoy being free and going and doing what I want, when I want. But another part of me smiles that my dad has been thinking of his and my future and then there is a possibility of me settling down someday, even if just for a few decades.

“You know you will always be welcome wherever I am and whatever I do. No matter what there is always room in my life for you, Matt and Shelley.” I say.

As if the fates were smiling then, the doorbell rings and I look at my dad who gets up to get the door.

“I wonder who that is.” Dad says, but his acting is so poor. I saw him mind link just after I arrived, and I have a rough idea who it was too.

“Hmm... I wonder who it is too.” I reply, a smile creeping into my voice and on my face. I have the feeling we both know exactly who it is.

“Hey brother, and Shelley. It is lovely to see you again. How far along are you?” I ask as soon as my brother and his mate walk through the door.

Both stop in surprise at seeing me in the living room with father, for the last five years they have tried to get me to come and visit but I have always met them off territory or took them to my realm. Even though it is known I am back in the pack for a while, I am guessing this is the last place they thought I would be.

“EMMA!” Shelley shouts before rushing forward and throwing herself at me. Luckily, I am still on the sofa so she has a cushioned fall, but Matt still growls at her recklessness. Shelley just rolled her eyes while she got comfortable next to me.

“Now I know why father mind linked us to come over immediately.” Matt smiles while heading towards us as dad returns to his armchair sporting a megawatt smile of his own.

“So, why are you here? How are you? I hear you were incredible in the fight. Are you back permanently? How have you been?” Shelley bombards me with so many questions.

I hold my hand up to silence her, which she does. “I am visiting my family, which includes you Shelley.” I say smiling at her. “I am well, been busy the last few months dealing with an issue abroad which is why I have not been in contact for a while. I finally got some down time when Matt mind linked me asking for help. I am only here temporarily to help this pack before I will be off again either helping someone somewhere or maybe actually having some free time to myself for the first time in a while.” I reply, hoping that I have covered everything.

Matt comes over and gives me a hug before he sits on the other side of Shelley, who has simply been nodding her head all the while I was talking.

“It is good to have you back sister, even if it is only temporary. You know we have missed you.” Matt says smiling at me.

“Missed me or my antics?” I ask, remembering how wild I used to be.

“Every single day. It has been a lot quieter around here without you, and that is not a good thing.” Shelley says, smiling and the memories of my wild days I am guessing.

“Well things are bound to get interesting now that you are back Em, of that, I am sure. I have already heard that Alpha Eric has declared that you are his mate and to be treated as such.” Matt says to me.

That surprises me, I have not heard that at all around the pack but then again, I have not exactly hidden my distaste for my ex-mate and ex-sister.

“I think he missed the ex out of that sentence. But let’s not talk about him, we can deal with him another day. Let’s not spoil the fun atmosphere here.” I say, smiling at them so they can see I am serious. I don’t want to talk about Eric, being back here is hard enough and with him demanding that I be his mate every time he sees me. I just want to forget for a while, even if I have to stay here until whatever Selena foresaw occurs.

“I don’t think that is how Alpha Eric sees things.” Matt says to me, making me moan under my breath.

“He has Melanie, I don’t see his problem.”

“He wants you, a literal Goddess.” Shelley replies.

“He never had me, he and Melanie made sure of that. And I will make sure it stays that way.” I reply with finality. Bringing that conversation to a close.

I stay with my family and keep chatting with them for hours, until the sun goes down and dusk hits. I then leave their home and instead of returning to the pack house I decide to go to my realm for a bit to be away from the pack for a few days and see what I can do behind the scenes. As well as pick up some of the work that has been piling up, I know it has.

I shut the front door and just as I open the portal to my realm I see Eric walking towards me, his steps quicken when he sees the portal but I just step through and close it behind me.

I sigh and look around my home, even though I was here last night, and James stayed in the guest room nothing beats the feeling of coming home to an empty place that’s just all yours. I walk into the living and start a roaring fire before heading into the kitchen and preparing some food.

The benefits of magic is I can make anything appear, but when I get the chance I prefer to go out and do my own shopping. But that will not be happening tonight, I make the ingredients for a homemade spaghetti Bolognese with a lot of onions and mushrooms appear and get to work preparing everything before heading back into the living room with the finished product and sinking into my sofa, where I will not be leaving for the next few hours at least.