

8. It was time.

Kali POV

I am twenty years of age. I have long reddish auburn colored hair and green eyes. I am ve foot ve and of athletic build. I am the gamma female of the Evergreen pack. I wasn't originally from this pack. I moved here about two years ago when I met Caleb, my fated mate. We were at a club in a nearby human town when we literally bumped into each other. It was true love at rst sight. The pull of the mate bond only intensified it further. We have been pretty much inseparable since.

We have enjoyed our time here together in the Evergreen pack. Everyone was so welcoming to me, especially Aleksa. We bonded instantly. We actually came to this pack around the same time. It's funny how things work out.

When Caleb explained to me the drastic turn of events between Alpha Lachlan and Aleksa, to say I was shocked, was putting it mildly. I had learned recently that he hadn't been faithful to the mate bond. I had seen the increasing pain Aleksa had been in and I had gured something wasn't right, although it wasn't my place to say anything and imagine if I had made an accusation and got it wrong. Caleb had told me to let it go for now. He had hoped Lachlan would come to his senses - but that hadn't happened. When Caleb had told me of Lachlan throwing Aleksa in the dungeons I was livid. I wanted to go down to the dungeons immediately and let her out, but Caleb and I both knew that would not end so well for all of us. When he came home and told me of his conversation with Aleksa, I was relieved. I was anxious initially, but I was more glad that we would be doing something to right this wrong. Don't get me wrong, Lachlan was nothing but polite to me, but I was not okay with how he was treating Aleksa. That just did not sit right with me. Aleksa was one of my best friends. Eva was too, but I could never look at her the same now. She had broken a sacred bond between two mates, not to mention betraying her own mate, Sam. My heart broke for Sam, but he could take care of himself when the time came. Our mission was to get Aleksa and the twins out of here safe and sound and as soon as possible. That was, after all, our sacred role as Gammas to our Luna.

I had a vital part to play in this plan. Because I was training to become an Early Childhood Teacher at our pack daycare, I was in the unique position where I could access the twins without raising any suspicion. I had thought about this a lot over the past few days and I would move the twins to the training grounds after lunch while my colleagues were taking their tea breaks. I would say that I was settling the twins for their afternoon nap and escape through the window with them. Thank goodness the nursery was on the rst oor, I thought to myself. I would leave their stroller outside the window, strap them in, then walk them quickly to the training grounds. No one would think twice about a teacher and pack gamma pushing the twins in a stroller.

I was just about to leave the house, I took a look back and said goodbye to the place I had called home. And I reminded myself that home is where the heart is. I was doing a noble thing. I was helping to free my best friend and her pups from a bad situation. Their lives will never be the same again after the fallout of all of that has transpired here at Evergreen.

I grabbed my backpack. All my belongings would be left behind, but that was all material. We would start fresh at my cousin's pack.

Being that we are Gammas in this pack, my cousin has invited us to join the warrior squad in his pack, which will be an honor for us. It really was a kind offer, especially considering we are seeking refuge there.

I am adamant that we won't be tracked there, as Lachlan has no knowledge of my cousin, Alpha Callum, and his pack, the Crimson Moon Pack.

I closed the door behind me and I set off to the pack daycare. I don't feel anxious, I feel determined. As I jump into my car I take one last look at the place we called home and I turn the keys in the ignition. I look ahead and prepare myself for the mission.

Caleb POV

I am twenty years old and I am mated to the beautiful Kali. I am 6'3 and of muscular athletic build. I had a light tan and dark brown, short hair. I am the Gamma male of the Evergreen pack.

I have known Lachlan my whole life. Lachlan, Sam and I were always close as pups. We grew up together as our parents were part of the pack hierarchy. We were trained from a young age, and we always knew what was expected of us, as well as what was ahead of us, as we prepared to take over our parents' roles and do what generations before us had done.

Lachlan wasn't always like this, in our younger years, he was looking forward to meeting his fated mate one day, and having a Luna to nurture the pack. He had never saved himself for his mate, and sure he was a bit of a player in his teenage years, but we all just thought that once he had met his Luna he would leave all that behind. And he had appeared to for the most part. Sure, I have seen irtations but nothing overly concerning. Lachlan and Eva had this thing going just before Sam had turned eighteen and realised they were mates, but as far as I knew, that had ended once Sam knew Eva was his mate, and Aleksa had arrived.

It wasn't until Aleksa started getting unexplained pain that I started to wonder what might be going on. And then I saw it with my own eyes. I couldn't believe it. He and Eva were going at it in his oce one morning. The pack house was pretty quiet, and if I didn't have a pressing matter for him to attend to I would have been none the wiser.

I had seen Sam struggling a bit over the past year too. The thing with Sam was that he was already suspicious that Eva might have been cheating on him, and had asked someone to follow her, but nothing had come of it as of yet. I wonder if Eva caught on and bribed or threatened the omega he enlisted to help. I wouldn't put it past Eva or Lachlan to do that. Eva was a very good liar and always managed to convince Sam otherwise, and he had no concrete proof, so he didn't press it.

I couldn't tell Aleksa what I knew, even though I wanted to desperately. I had sworn to protect her from harm and I struggled to do so almost every day. I had failed Liam and Layla too. Lachlan had put me under an alpha command and I was unable to ght it. Hence, not being able to tell Aleksa what was going on.

In a way, I was glad that she knew, but I was fearful for her. She is not in a good position right now. I had no idea Lachlan would turn like this and lock her in the dungeon. Aleksa is such a strong and feisty woman. How he thought she would be okay with this was beyond me.

I knew I had no choice other than to help her escape. I couldn't help her before, but I can surely help her now. And when I told Kali about everything that had happened, she was determined to help me. I really lucked out in the mate department.

Kali was everything I had dreamed of and more. She was so kind and thoughtful. She was feisty and sexy. She was such a loyal friend and she was so strong. Kali and Aleksa are the best of friends, so I knew she would want to help.

It's going to be a big change for us. After this, we will have to leave Evergreen too. We can't stay here after we betray Lachlan by helping his mate and pups ee. But we have a plan. We will be going to Kali's cousin's pack.

Kali's cousin Callum is Alpha of the Crimson Moon pack, which is a few states away from Evergreen, so hopefully we can get some distance between us before they start to track us down.

Kali's previous pack was a witch-friendly pack. Witches are usually common enemies of werewolves, but hundreds of years ago her pack had made a treaty with a nearby coven and they agreed to live on their own lands but share neutral territory. Over time, both sides made more of an effort to be on friendlier terms. Kali's Aunt Meadow is a witch, and when Kali reached out to her she agreed to help us by making a potion that would hide our scents. Which will make it hard for us to be tracked. That should buy us some more time. We will also be sharing this potion with Aleksa and the others, as Aunt Meadow has made a big batch for us all to share.

As I walked towards the packhouse I looked around and took it all in. I never dreamed that I would be leaving this pack. It has been all I've ever known. I grew up here. Generations of my family grew up here. I had hoped one day my children would grow up here also and one day take on the Gamma role within the pack.

I don't regret what I am doing. I am fulling my sacred vow to protect my Luna. And I knew as long as I was with Kali it didn't really matter where we were. But it would be hard leaving the people we love behind.

I tell myself that I don't have time to entertain these thoughts right now. I need to go on with my day and be sure not to arouse suspicion. I walked into the packhouse to have breakfast. I am alone today as Kali has already started to make her way to the daycare centre for her placement. I will get some breakfast then continue with my usual daily duties.

Time ies by pretty quickly and before I know it, it's lunchtime. I'm not hungry today. We need to be able to move quickly, so it's best I skip lunch and eat light. A mind-link comes through and it's Alpha Lachlan telling everyone to report to the large dining hall for the pack meeting.

I turned and started to head to the large dining hall. I wouldn't be staying long, but I needed to make an appearance. Then I quickly sent a private mind-link to Aleksa and Kali, letting them know that it was time.