

Chapter 99: Settled

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Warren

It's been several months since we killed Brady and Dr. Stephens. It took a while, but the pack has settled into what I guess is a more normal routine. We spar, we run patrols, Charlie and I run the pack, Yara and Noelle run the hospital, Haynes and Laney train and manage the warriors.

Now that life has settled down, our pack is having a baby boom. I'm pretty sure every one of my mated she-wolves is pregnant and some who aren't mated are pregnant as well. Yara and I talked about that and we've agreed that if both parents are fine with remaining unmated, they can. The ones who don't agree, have to speak to both of us so we can come to a resolution. Thankfully, now that we're having pack gatherings with Alpha Harold and his pack, there are fewer unmated adult men and women in our pack. 1

Today, Yara is in the pack hospital making last minute preparations before our twins come. I'm watching Charlie and Haynes working with Carson. It's been a long, grueling road for him. He's struggled a lot with frustration and anger. It made things between him and Eva strained during her pregnancy and she ended up giving birth to their daughter a week earlier than planned. Yara said it was okay, that their baby was healthy, but that made Carson think through his actions. He had taken a break, worked to get his and his wolf's, Dillon's, frustrations under control. Since then, Dillon has been able to get into running patrols. He can't run a full schedule yet, but he's getting stronger and running farther every day. 5

"Come on, Carson, you're better than this," Laney says, coaching him through the training. He's able to hold his own now in a one-on-one situation, so they've started pushing him in a two-on-one battle. As I've watched, I've seen the frustration from before starting to come back. Charlie and Haynes are able to tag him one after the other. When he spins, his prosthetic leg not moving like his leg used to, he snarls in frustration.

"Carson..." Laney begins, but I hold up my hand and step in, walking over to him. He is panting with his frustration. I step in front of him and hold his gaze.

"Carson, first rule of battle, when your head isn't in the fight, you lose. Your head isn't in this battle. Your head is thinking about what you can't do and what your leg doesn't do anymore. Dillon, tell me I'm wrong," I say, talking to both Carson and his wolf.

When I don't get a response from either of them, I nod. "Take a break, get your head in the fight. You're smarter than this, a better fighter than this. You can do this."

I go back to where I was standing and watch as Carson puts his hands on his hips until he catches his breath. Then I watch as he paces, knowing that Carson and Dillon are talking, trying to get their head back where it should be, in the battle.

When he finally stops pacing and nods that he's ready, Laney gives the go ahead and Charlie and Haynes go at him again. This time, he does better. He still has a long road to recovery, but Charlie and Haynes aren't able to tag him as quickly as they had been before.

"Yes, Carson!" Laney encourages him.

I watch for a little bit longer then I get a mind link from Noelle.

'Alpha, I think you need to come to the pack hospital.'

I turn and begin walking as I respond. 'What's going on? Is everything alright? Is Yara alright?'

'I'm pretty sure she's in labor, Alpha, but she's not listening to any of us.'

'I'm on my way,' I say, and begin jogging quickly over to the hospital. I expected our twins to come early. They're large, and it's common for twins to come before their due date. I know Yara is feeling the pressure of being away from the hospital for a couple of weeks while we adjust to our little ones, but she can't stop our pups from coming, if that's what's happening.

When I walk in the door of the hospital, I can hear my mate mumbling.

"A couple more days. Just a couple more days."

When I see her, she's bent over a counter, her forehead resting on her hand as she rubs her stomach. I come up behind her and put my hands on her stomach.

"I don't think you have a couple more days, my love. Our pups are coming and no matter how much you're in charge of this hospital, you can't control when your body is ready. Let's get you into a room."

She growls at me, an uncharacteristic response from my mate. "Who

told you?"

Rather than answer her, I scoop her into my arms and begin carrying her. Noelle points to a room.

"I think the more important question, Yara, is why didn't I hear it from you?" I ask her, unperturbed by her anger.

She huffs. "I don't have time for this today."

"Then let's see if you're really in labor. I'm going to guess that if you thought there was any chance that you weren't that you'd have checked. Since you haven't, I'm betting my twins are coming and my mate is going to have to accept that," I say, laying her down on the bed.

"Warren, there's still so much to do..."

I take her face in my hands as Noelle and Piper come in and begin getting things set up. "Your right Yara, there is a lot for you to do. Delivering pups is no easy task and you have two to deliver. Stop worrying about the hospital. If the others need anything, they can ask you. You're not going anywhere, you just won't be working for a couple of weeks," I tell her, keeping my voice calm even though I feel anything but.

My pups are coming. My pups are coming!!

"I'm here!" a breathless and very pregnant Savannah says, pushing through the door. From just outside the room, I see Franklin. He must have driven her over here.

Yara growls again. "They called you, too?"

"Oh quit your snarling. I'm pregnant too and feel like I have a fucking watermelon in my stomach. I don't need your attitude, Luna," Savannah says and I have to fight, really hard, to not laugh out loud. I notice that both Noelle and Piper have to turn away so Yara doesn't see their smiles. Both of them are pregnant as well, but neither of them is as far along as Savannah.

"Just wait until it's your turn and you're not ready for me to be there," Yara snaps.

Savannah gets in her face. "I'll try to have a better attitude than you do right now, Luna. Look at you, snapping at everyone around you. How every unbecoming of a Luna," Savannah says, giving it right back.

When the monitors start beeping, Savannah looks at them and then turns to Yara, raising an eyebrow. "How long were you going to wait, Luna? Until you were crowning? Let's get you undressed and into a gown."

Savannah turns and looks at me. "What are you smiling at, Alpha?" she grumbles.

"You make a damn good, Beta, Savannah."

"Thank you. My pack says the same," she says with a hint of a smile.

"What can I do to help?" I ask.

"Stay out of my way and help your mate to stay calm and breathe.

"We're going to be here for a while."

She wasn't wrong. It was well into the night when Savannah told Yara that she could start pushing. It was another hour after that before my first child, my son, was born. I got to look at him a moment while I was cutting the cord. He's beautiful, perfect.

While Piper went to clean him off, Yara had to start pushing again.

"Okay, Luna, we're almost done. You can do this," Savannah says.

I look at my mate. "Of course she can. My mate is the most incredible woman I've ever met in my life. You've already given me one beautiful baby boy. Now you just have to deliver our daughter and you're done, my love."

"I don't feel very incredible," she says. I can see and feel the exhaustion in her.

"But you are. You're almost there, and then we can hold our babies in our arms and begin the next phase of our lives together."

My daughter comes much faster than my son, thankfully, and I have a moment to see her and cut her cord before Noelle takes her to clean her off. I've just turned back when Piper returns with our son. She lays him in Yara's arms, and she immediately begins crying. I feel my own eyes burn with tears as I lean over, kissing the side of my mate's head and wrapping my arms around the two of them as Arric pushes forward and we both look over our son.

"Did you decide on a name?" I ask her. We've narrowed down our list of names for both our son and daughter, but we hadn't actually

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decided. Yara said she wanted to see them first so we could decide which name fit them best.

She's just told me our son's name when Noelle brings over our daughter. "Alpha, do you want to hold your little girl?"

I take her in my arms and for the first time in my life, I lose the battle with my tears. She's perfect. I wipe my tears from her chubby little cheeks, watching as her mouth turns toward my finger. Savannah helps Yara to begin nursing our son and when she's settled, she looks over at me. I haven't been able to tear my eyes away from my little girl. She started to fuss, but Arric was quick to begin purring at her and it calmed her back to sleep.

"Have you decided on a name for her?" Yara asks me.

I tell her my choice, and after Yara has nursed both pups, and fallen to sleep, Noelle lets me know that the entire pack is in the waiting room, wanting to meet their Alpha heir and Alpha princess.

I carry my sleeping babies, one in each arm out into the waiting room. It's the middle of the night so many pack members are holding their own sleeping pups in their arms. When I step into the room, everyone goes quiet.

"Everyone, I'd like you to meet my pups, Alpha Connor, and his sister, Alpha Kennedy." 