

## Worthy

Jax POV:

"Jax..I've put you forward, you are the one truly worthy of being the Alpha King, along with Luna Nova as your Queen and Luna, sharing a bond of true power."

After saying those words Alex simply stands before me holding my gaze as my mind races at what's he's just told me. Alpha King was never something I expected or thought about, so to be told he'd already put me forward was a shock to say the least.

"Cat got your tongue?" Alex teases as he leans back on the desk crossing his legs casually as everyone in the room watches in shocked silence.

"Don't be a cocky bastard" I mutter to him narrowing my eyes.

Throwing his head back he laughs loudly before walking round to take his seat again. "Not many people would dare speak to my like that, me being the Alpha King" he smirks.

"Not many people would dare call me Jaxon" I counter with a pointed look in his direction making his smirk grow. "Have you really thought about this?"

"I have" Alex replies, "Ophelia and I have discussed it already."

At the mention of her name Luna Ophelia stands and moves to sit by her mate. "Do you mind discussing this in front of everyone in this room?"

"Perhaps that should have been something asked earlier by your mate. Does it look like he plans on leaving any time soon?" I ask pointing to where my Beta is wide eyed with excitement as he practically bounces in his seat.

"Sorry Alpha" he says sheepishly.

"It's ne" I chuckle. "You're free to speak in front of the others, I don't think I need to remind anyone to not repeat a word that is spoken" I say looking around as everyone nods in agreement immediately.

"I believe you're the perfect candidate Jax, you are an incredibly successful Alpha in your own right. You have a pack that respects you and trusts you more than any other I've seen. I could go into the qualities you possess but I don't want your arrogance to grow quite as much as my partners has" she says winking at Alex who scowls at the desk. "Being Alpha King is a great responsibility and I for one believe it is one you can handle. The way you conducted yourself and others throughout this dealing with Charles and Cedric was commendable."

"I had plenty of help" I point out.

"You did" she agrees with a small smile, "but help is necessary. You see becoming Alpha King is not just about yourself but who you have around you. I don't think it's necessary to talk about how wonderful Nova is, everybody already knows of her qualities. But having a Guardian Wolf as the Luna Queen would make a great difference. A Luna Queen is there to support, to offer advice and opinion, to offer a sense of comfort to the many along with kindness and reassurance. Together the King and Queen are strong role models and leaders, but very much a team. Not only that but Laurence here, although as excitable as he currently is, he is an incredible asset to you. You have Alpha blood yes?" She checks with him.

"I do Luna, yes, my mother was the daughter of an Alpha" he answers trying to calm his voice.

"So is my Beta, Beta Oliver" Alex explains. "I believe it's strengthened my time as leader. Your help and the way you have conducted yourself during our time here hasn't escaped our notice."

With those words I see Laurence's mouth open in shock as he appears lost for words at the praise he has received.

"You also have twin Gammas" Ophelia points out. "Although it's been seen before it is rare, and we've seen how yours handle themselves. They work in unison, yes they might tease one another as siblings, but in the role as Gammas they are a team and don't push for dominance. In the past twins in positions of authority have fought to get above one another in the hierarchy, I can't see this happening here."

"They have lost too much in the past to risk losing one another" Nova suddenly says quietly. "It's something I was always incredibly proud of when they were younger and I still am, they always work to help the other do better, not just themselves."

"Exactly" Ophelia says with a bright smile in Novas direction. "But ultimately Jax you are their leader, you are the voice of reason and what you say goes. We've discussed this before haven't we Alex?"

"We have" he admits. A dark look crosses his face before he continues, "when I lost my entire family I was in a bad place. What kept me going was my mate, my pack but also you Jax. It was the way you helped me with my men, your strategies which helped us succeed, the way you threw yourself into helping me defeat those vampires. I saw something in you 3 years ago and I see it even more now."

"As do i" Elder Martin suddenly says making my eyes ash to him. "Even more so after the very recent events. A change is coming..we need to embrace that."

"You've really thought about this?" I ask Alex as he holds my gaze steadily.

"I have" he replies condently. "Like I said, the process can take a while. There will be others who put themselves forward, there are always those tempted by power and greed. But no others have the mark of the crown, it's a sign by the Moon Goddess."

"Why was it on our mark?" Nova asks intrigued, "why not with the moon we received? To show our bond?"

"I can answer this part" Elder Martin interjects. "I spoke to Esmerelda, she is quite the fountain of knowledge."

"When she speaks freely" I say raising my brow.

"Well yes that's true" Elder Martin chuckles. "As you know she sees the many different paths we can take, all the different versions of the future. Your bond of true power only came into place when Kingsley unfortunately passed away, it was only then that Nova could welcome her true powers and ultimately share some of them with you Alpha Jax. However you both were always worthy for this role, it was something that has always been the same in every version Esmerelda has seen."

"Do you have the mark Luna?" I hear Nova ask Ophelia hesitantly as I realise I have never paid attention to her mark before.

"I do" she says moving her hair to show the crown at the bottom of her mark.

"If they're worthy to become the alpha King and Luna Queen why go through the procedure with the council?" Axton asks in confusion.

"Just because they're worthy doesn't mean they will end up in that role. Like we said, it's a procedure we have to follow, tradition" Elder Martin says.

"What is the procedure?" Luca asks still looking in shock at what has been discussed in this oce.

"It is a vote between council elders and the other Alphas" Alex begins explaining. "You have to go through stages which I will explain further once you've had chance to digest this. But if another Alpha has enough votes then he can become Alpha King."

"Despite Alpha Jax being worthy?" Luca checks.

"We tried to appeal it for Alex's father who also bore the mark of the worthy" Elder Martin sighs, "but other packs believe it's fair to offer the opportunity to anyone who is willing to work for the position. Alex's dad still won but not all Alpha Kings have had the mark, some generations there was none with it."

"So thats 21 packs in total?" Sophie checks. "I'm sorry I'm still learning about all the packs."

"Don't apologise Sophie, you're picking up the information incredibly quickly" Axton says as Luca nods at his Alpha in thanks.

"So there are 21 packs in the Northern Territory yes, but Alex isn't just the Alpha King of the northern territories. He's the King of both northern and southern, so it's a total of 47 packs" Elder Martin explains.

"That's a lot" Sophie comments. "But it will be 48 will it not?"

Seeing the proud look in Elder Martins eye he smiles widely as he answers, "it will."

"Alpha Bruno has a large inuence over the Southern Packs" I sigh as I see Axton tense from my words.

"He does" Elder Martin agrees slowly. Sitting for a moment I furrow my brows as a thought comes to mind.

"Elder Martin" I say sharply as my eyes nd his.

"Yes Alpha?" He asks his voice more cautious than it was a minute ago.

"Why are you not at the council buildings with Alpha Bruno right now?" I demand.