

Taming The Alpha's Daughter

Chapter 18

Casen POV

Tension rolls through me as I near the pack border. The place hasn't changed much since I was here, it smelt like home. It saddened me that for so long it wasn't. Walking around the bend, the training grounds come into view and I slow, hearing the running steps of the border patrol. Within seconds they surround me growling at me. I place my hands up in the air, dropping to my knees when a huge mated wolf, his fur graying at the end steps out of formation. He is the biggest wolf out of all of them and I glance at him when he suddenly shifts back. The snapping of bones forces my attention to him and he stumbles toward me as my eyes take him.

"Casen?" he murmurs and the other wolves growl, he holds up a hand and they quiet.

"Malik." I smile getting to my feet and he moves closer, instantly embracing me before holding me at arm's length. Malik I hadn't seen in years, Rose having cut off all communication with the pack. This man practically raised me and Vince when the pack fell victim to a rogue attack so seeing him after four long years becomes overwhelming.

"You're back?" he states, glancing over his shoulder toward the pack.

"If Rose will have me back," I tell him.

Malik glances over my shoulder and his eyes dart around. "Eziah?" He questions.

"Heading to his sister's," I answer. Yet his next words startle me. "You shouldn't have come here, at least not without seeing Kat or speaking to Andrei first," he tells me. My brows furrow in confusion.

"Well, I am. So I want to see my mate." Malik shakes his head and nudges me toward the road.

"No, go Casen. It's not a good idea for you to be here. You shouldn't have come back." I stare at the man that was like a father to me. How easily he could shun me all over again.

"Malik, step aside, I will speak with Andrei before going to see her."

"T can't let you do that, not after what you did." I press my lips in a line and shove past him, the wolves surrounding us instantly stepping into my path.

"Tell them to stand down, Malik, or I will go through em!" I snarl, and Zyan presses forward, my skin ripples at the challenge when Malik speaks behind me.

"She doesn't want you, Casen, she's moved on. You need to too," he says and my entire body tenses, I swallow turning to face him.

"I'm not leaving without speaking with her," I tell him. If she tells me to go I will but until then Tam not leaving. Turning back I move toward the training grounds only to be blocked off once again.

"We know it wasn't Vince," Malik states, and my hands fist at my sides.

"Is that what Rose said?" I ask him. I knew she hated me, I don't blame her, I hate myself for what I did. "You lied to me. When I asked what happened between you and Vince, I asked and you lied." I grit my teeth. How long were they going to hold this over me, I admitted it to Rose. I told her, I tried to make up for my mistakes, but she wouldn't let me

"You go in there, I won't intervene, you'll be on your own," Malik tells me. I nod once. "Let him through, I've alerted Andrei already," Malik tells them and I take a step forward.

"She lives in the same house," Malik tells me and the other pack members step aside, snarling and growling but I pay them no mind. Walking across the training grounds, the houses come into view as I reach the crest of the hill.

Home.

Although a few minor changes, there are more houses now, a park built out the front of the packhouse, Alpha Andrei shared with his mate Luna Sage. However, my eyes move to the house at the far end where Rose moved into after she and her mother had a falling out when she was seventeen. It wasn't long after her 17th Birthday and for a while, I lived there with her. Kept watch over her until everything turned to shit. I never should have told her. Yet the guilt would not leave, it gnawed at me.

However, as I move past the packhouse, nervous glances are cast at me and I hear the packhouse doors open. I glance at them and curse when I see Andrei step out of the house. It was more like a forte, huge industrial looking. Rose hated it, it's why even after she took over after her father, she never moved into the packhouse choosing this place. She said it was like living in a prison.

Andrei storms out of the house and his aura hits me, but so used to Eziah's I find it has barely any effect on me at all. Sage is quickly behind him and I pause before I reach her porch steps. Glancing around I see pack members stepping out of their homes, faces I haven't seen in years.

"You need to leave, you're not welcome here!" Andrei snarls storming toward me. I place my hands in the air stepping back.

"I just want to see Rose, I am not here to cause any trouble, Andrei. I just want to see my mate." I tell him.

"No, you leave!" he bellows at me and I glance at the house and grit my teeth. Zyan shoves forward and a furious growl escapes me as pack members murmur and move closer to see if I will challenge my old Alpha. When I hear a child's voice come rushing out behind Sage. "Poppy, poppy," the little girl says and I see Sage gasp, rushing toward her but the little girl ducks. I blink at her, staring at the child, her long blonde hair hanging to her shoulders and she reminds me of Rose when she was a child.

"Casey, inside now!" Andrei bellows, turning on his granddaughter while all I can do is gape at her. She stops looking at him in shock and Sage tushes to grab her hand when she looks at me. She appears to be about three to four years old and it takes me only a second to realize she is mine.

"Daddy?" the little girl squeals, rushing toward me. Andrei moves to intervene but I scoop her up, only when I do she pulls away from me.

"Where is mommy? Is she back from greenery?" she asks me and I look at Andrei who has his hands held out for her. "Give me Casey," Andrei snarls but I pull away. All I can do is stare at the angelic child in my arms. Rose was pregnant when I left?

"Daddy did you—"

"Casey, enough, you'll were told to stay inside." Andrei scolds her once again trying to take her from me.

"Give me my granddaughter," Andrei warns.

"You all didn't think to fucking tell me I have a daughter?" I snarl furiously.

"Rose didn't want you to know." Sage buts in and I scoff, glaring at her when I hear Rose's familiar voice echo behind me.

"What in the hell is going on?" she demands and I turn to face her. Rose looks just as beautiful as I remember when she steps out of the trees, furious. She storms toward me, and her Aura is magnificent, she truly did become an alpha.

However,

he moment she spots me, she freezes

in her tracks, and her eyes go to our daughter in

my arms.

"Casey, come here," Rose calls out and she turns her little blonde head to look at her mother.

"Mommy,"

she squeals, kicking her legs,

wanting to be put down. I let her go, and I

watch as s|

he raced toward her mother.

Rose is quick to snatch her up, ordering her to

go inside.

"But daddy promised." the little girl

whines and my brows furrow. She took a mate. Rose whispers something to her and nods for her mother. Sage instantly rushes in after her granddaughter.

"You need to leave, you're not welcome here." Rose snarls, pointing an accusing finger at me.

"You kept her from me." I snap at her and she snarls at my challenge when I see the mark on her neck. My heart skips a beat as I take it in, and I swallow down the urge to hunt him down and kill him. Zyan howls in anguish in my head.

"Leave, now!" Rose demands.

"Just hear me out, I am not the only one that has explaining to do, but you." I point at her house.

"You kept my daughter from me."

"She's not yours, she doesn't know, you weren't here."

"I would have been had I known!" I scream at her. She shakes her head and I notice how the pack moves in around her, boxing us in and Rose rubs her temples.

"T don't want to hear excuses, Casen. It is unforgivable what you did, and then to lie about it. To all of us!" she screams back at me.

Tears well in her eyes. "I loved you, loved Vince!" she screams.

"But you ruined everything," she shakes her head. "I can't trust you, not anymore, and certainly not with our daughter." she snarls and her words hurt like she carved out my chest and ripped my heart out.

Hearing voices, everyone looks to the tree line and so does Rose. A panicked look on her face and I don't miss the gasp that escapes her. The mark on her neck infuriated me even more. "Is that your new mate?" I snarl at her hearing the voice grow nearer. She says nothing and I growl moving Zyan shove forward furiously. He is outraged she claimed another. That she let another man raise our daughter. I shove past her feeling toward the sound where men are talking to what they're walking into.

Hands suddenly grab me and Zyan reacts turning on his heel and hitting them, Andrei stumbles back clutching his face, and Rose shrieks and Andrei growls menacingly. His body ripples as he starts to shift. Rose, however, is quick to get between us.

When I hear her mate call out to her and the sound of footsteps growing closer. "Rose?" the voice says and I try to remember which pack member the voice reminds me of.

"What's going on?" people start murmuring and glancing behind me. I turn a vicious snarl tearing out of me when I come face to face with her new mate.

I stagger back horrified at what I am seeing when Casey squeals excitedly. Once again escaping Sage's watch.

"Daddy, daddy," she squeals and he turns to face her.

"Back inside Case, go on," she pauses, glancing between me and him. Yet I can't seem to wrap my head around it, can't fathom what I am seeing. Goosebumps rush over my skin and it suddenly makes sense why Malik is angry, why all of them hate me.

Casey looks up at me curiously and the man she has called father for years. "Rose take her," he orders and I take a step forward looking at my own mirror reflection.

"Vince?" I murmur, and my heart races in my chest. I shake my head.

"No, you... you're dead!"

"If you had your way I would have been." He snarls as I look at the man, he is a mirror image of me, yet also different. It is like seeing a ghost, one from my past. Bile rises up my throat, yet relief that he's alive fills me. I take a step toward him, sure my eyes are deceiving me.

"Don't... Casen. Not after what you did, and then to point the blame at me." he shakes his head and I swallow guiltily.

"T made a mistake," I tell him.

"A mistake? You fucking killed me! If it wasn't for Kat, I'd be dead!" he screams, taking a step toward me. Rose places a hand on his chest and he stops, my eyes go to her hand.

"Vince," she whispers, glancing back at her house where Casey stands on the porch. Sage trying to get her in the house.

"No, Rose. Go, go inside," he nods toward the house. Rose gives me one last parting glance, and I move to stop her, but Vince steps in my path and growls.

"Move, Vince."

"Or what? You'll throw me off another cliff. All because you couldn't handle that I was her mate too?" Zyan growls.

"What lies will you tell this time, Casen?" "For years I watched from the shadows, trapped that way. Fucking years!" he screams at me. His words confuse me and I glance around at everyone. "All because I tried to stop you from marking her, yet you told everyone it was me that kidnapped her when it was you. The only thing I did wrong was trying to protect her from you," he snarls, and within seconds, Zyan shoves forward at his challenge and shifts.