

Taming The Alpha's Daughter

Chapter 7

“No!” I scream and claw to come forward, not wanting to be back in the dark. If we are escaping I want to see. Yet Nova’s newfound zest for freedom keeps me secure in our mind, trapped in the abyss only to listen to the thumping of her heartbeat, and feel the pain she ignores from shifting. Yet the thunderous sounds of a chase that is echoing around us she can’t block out. Yet my mind wanders back to Shadow who is still trapped back there in her cage, a cage I know she won’t escape for a long while since we have run, one we will be locked in if we are caught, that’s if he doesn’t kill us this time.

“Nova please!” I plead, unable to handle the darkness after what feels like forever of her running.

Knowing what she is attempting to do, was almost more tortuous than imagining the things my brother has let happen to our unwilling body. Hours could pass, seconds, years in this confinement and I would not know otherwise; trapped in here time becomes irrelevant, lost in the nothingness of my thoughts, lost in the all-consuming worry of if this will be the last time I breathe, feel, lost in thought of wondering will this darkness be the last thing I see.

Nova grunts, her speed picks up and she howls loudly. “Nova what is it?” I yell at her.

“I tripped one of their boogie traps,” “What sort?”

“Wolfsbane, I’m fine. I can keep going.” she says, shoving me back out.

But when I feel her start to weaken I know something has gone horribly wrong especially when I am suddenly given glimpses of our scenery.

Nova groans and her pain rattles through me, her back leg throbbing to its own beats and she snarls angrily. Greenery makes its way through the veil that separates us although I can tell it luminescent and I shove with all my might, finding very little resistance when suddenly my bones start snapping as we are forced to shift back.

“You need to run, I can’t keep going. I’m sorry. We never should have risked it.” Nova murmurs when the smell of damp soil hits my nose, before literally hitting my nose when I faceplant the ground. Nova is forced to shift mid run and I find myself ass up and face down in the dirt.

Lifting my head, I blink trying to take in where we are. I claw at the soil, trying to push off with hands that feel like putty, my vision blurs as I lose my ability to see in the dark without Nova’s enhanced vision, which makes me realize she must have made some distance because it wasn’t dark when we left.

Pain radiates up my leg. With a groan I peer around and find myself in the forest. Forest that is so dense I can’t see between the gaps of the trees and the lack of light doesn’t help. Gone is the greenery and now all I see is shadows and outlines.

“Get up! We are running out of time. I made it only ten minutes once they shot me,” Nova yells at me. I clutch my thigh, the burning pain worsening only for my fingers to come into contact with a dart. No! I choke.

“Quick find somewhere to hide, you need to cover your scent or we need to get to the road, it’s our only chance.” Nova urges, but what is the point, she is down and I won’t last very long with wolfsbane in my system myself, or be able to defend myself when they catch us.

“We have to try, we are as good as dead anyway now. Just keep heading down,” Nova urges as the sounds of running and rustling reaches my dulling hearing. Plucking the dart from my leg, I grip a nearby tree trying to haul myself up. I stagger from the vertigo that sweeps over me and I stumble forward. With those few short steps a gasp leaves my lips when I find myself falling.

My body seems to propel forward when I find myself rolling down a huge embankment. Sticks and rocks pummel my body as I try in vain to stop myself smashing and rolling down the steep hill. By the time I reach the bottom I am bloody and covered in cuts from rolling through the lantana bush that covered the entire mountain side. Finally coming to a stop as I hit a tree. Howls ring out loudly and I peer around into the darkness. Getting up seems impossible and I

don’t want to, yet once again Nova pushes me,

urging me to at least try despite it being

pointless. So reluctantly I crawl out of the huge

prickly bush and get to my feet.

“It’s not pointless, we are nearly at the

backroads, we just need to keep going down. The lantana will be hard to get through with

their fur, we can do this, we aren’t caught

“They’ll catch us, you know they will.” I t Stumbling blindly, I keep walking, using trees to hold me up. The howls grow lou

before suddenly a new scent, one I am not

yet.”

overly familiar with overwhelms my senses, the

smell of an exhaust in the distance pollutes the

air. Blindly my hands reach out seeking

he next tree as I try to pull myself up the small hill when the sound of an engine in the distance reaches my ears.

“Quick, that’s a car.”

“What if it is Satish or one of his men?” I groan tasting blood on my tongue, my entire body aches.

“We have to try!” Nova pleads, she lends me what little energy she has at me when a surge of adrenaline hits me and I start racing to climb the embankment to the other side where I hear the

car about to continue down the mountain side.

Just as I claw my way to the top the howls that follow us disappear which makes me more nervous. Seconds pass when a car zips past at blinding speed. Seeing I am too late, I nearly give up when Nova shoves forward with me, with another surge of adrenaline.

“There has to be another road” she says, forcing my unwilling body to cross the road and climb the barrier, the moment I step one foot over it, I find air beneath my feet. Once again I am somersaulting down another steep hill. I feel every bump, hit, and graze and I am sure this fall will kill us as I come to a stop at the bottom with a hard thud. My head bounces off the ground making my teeth rattle as pain explodes through my skull and steals my vision temporarily.

Even Nova is giving up her fight after that fall, she can feel me weakening, the wolfsbane slowly burning through my system and she is incapable of shifting to take over, yet also too weak to fully control my body. With a groan, I get to my hands and feet to find I am on flat ground. I staggered blindly through the trees and once again hear the car.

Determined to either get it to stop or let it run me down, I use the last of my energy to run, my legs have finally lost all feeling, my body feeling foreign as I will it to keep going when I feel gravel beneath my dragging feet, lifting my head I see no car and a whimper escapes my lips when lights suddenly cast my shadow in the gravel road.

Sluggishly my brain tries to figure out what that means, when I hear a horn blare and the sounds of tires screeching, dust burns my eyes as I turn to find a car racing straight toward me. Death is heading right toward me when I hear her. “Move damn it!” Shadow screams at me. My heart thuds harder as I look for her, she escaped! She got out too.

“Move Temperance!” she screams as my eyes widen as the car slides across the road, spinning out of control.

“Help her Shadow, she’s in shock!” Nova whimpers in my head, too weak to come forward. Shadow? But where is she? I wonder when I feel a shove, my body lurches to the side and I look for Shadow who shoved me just in time to see the hood of the car.

The pain of the car colliding with my body is horrific but not painful as my body being skinned on the gravel road when I am flung backward.

Everything hurts, and I feel like I have been skinned alive and chucked onto an ant’s nest. The burning pain is horrendous and all I can focus on. The sound of car doors opening and slamming makes me open my eyes to see the car about twenty meters away, its lights burning my retinas.

“She came out of nowhere! Where did she come from? Fuck, Eziah I didn’t see her, can you save her?” I hear a loud frantic voice ask.

“Nova?” I murmur but get no answer, I try to focus on breathing, content with death taking me at this point. I could accept death now if only it takes the pain away.

“Eziah?” the same voice says as their footsteps grow closer and my vision begins to fade, while

my heartbeat grows louder in my ears.

“Eziah?” The man repeats but my mind is slipping away like the dust in the cool breeze.

“We found her?” another voice speaks into the darkness that is taking me.

“What are you doing, help her!” Silence follows when I feel hands grab me, and sparks dance across my skin. Then I feel the motion of being rolled over. I want to open my eyes, force them to open to find the delightful source that is erasing the pain and making my skin tingle.

“Wait, what did you say?” The first man who spoke speaks again. “It’s her, it’s Temperance.” At the mention of my name, my blood runs ice cold while I try to figure out how he knows my name, and which pack member I know back home by the name of Eziah. However, the name doesn’t ring a bell. If only I could see his face, maybe I would know which monster is holding me because his voice I do not recognize or his scent that makes my nose tickle.

“Shh, I got you Temperance, you’re safe with

me.” Lies I think to myself, he is one of Satish’s men, I know all too well those words and

promises of safety are anything but. I know I’m dying and can feel death stealing my life source, but what about Shadow, maybe, maybe he’ll help her.

“Wait, that’s her. I hit your mate?” comes that frantic voice when warmth engulfs me and the pain fades and I suddenly lose not only my sight but my hearing. In a last-ditch effort, I try to tell him to save her, that he must have hit her too.

“Shadow...” her name leaves my lips with my last breath as oblivion sucks me under.