

## Chapter 14

"I don't want an apology," Athena looked at Simon and Savannah with

scrunched brows.

"Please don't get me wrong, but all I wanted from day one was for you guys to let us live in peace and not bother us. Treat us like plaque, hate us, or

probably ignore us, that would be the best," Athena said, and Simon's heart ached at the bare minimum she needed for survival and how he ruined it all for her.

"Woah. Who are you to put on some air? Do you think I am interested in

apologizing to you? I would apologize to you over my dead body," Savannah scoffed, and everyone looked between Athena and Savannah, expecting another fight to break out.

"Well, I don't think that would be a problem, but how would you apologize after being dead?" Simon's dead-serious voice echoed in the silent canteen, and it shocked everyone.

What was going on? Did Savannah offend Simon? He never talks to her like this. Everyone thought.

"Simon, are you -" Savannah's eyes brimmed with tears, and Athena looked at Simon with disgust.

"It was really rude of you to talk to her like that when you know she loves you. It's not like she is like this herself. You are equally responsible for her behavior. Don't act like suddenly you are the good guy. You lead her on and give her hope. That's why she does all this," Athena pressed her lips into a thin line, and Simon tilted his head before looking at her.

"And I don't remember when I asked you for your opinion, rogue," Simon

spouted before he could control his mind, and Athena immediately realized she crossed her line. She needs to control her mouth if she wants to

survive in this pack, or she would find herself in trouble. Athena told

herself.

However, Athena's respect increased in Savannah's eyes.

Even after everything she made her go through, Athena was still siding with her and talking back to the alpha for Savannah just because she thought it was wrong. Maybe, that's why, even after getting bullied, Athena was

resolute to stay here for her friend. Savannah felt guilty for what she did

with her, especially that photo frame incident.

"I am sorry for everything," Savannah said, and Athena, who thought she was doing it under Simon's pressure, bit her bottom lip, gaining Simon's

attention involuntarily.

Meanwhile, in the Computer Science department, Jake was working on his assignment to concentrate on the Olympiad preparation when *some w.ÑovELŴó(r)m.ð0m*

students entered the lab, talking loudly.

"No shit Sherlock. This Savannah girl really had this rogue bad. Honestly, I pity these rogues who go through such kind of bullying," Jake heard, his

fingers clenching around his pen.

Well, rogues don't want anyone's pity. If the pack members could act more humanly with them and stop treating them like a piece of trash they can

walk over, their life would become bearable. Jake thought.

"Hey, stop it," the boy who smelt Jake in the room said, and the other boys looked at Jake's stiff back before sighing.

"Just close this already. I can't see this anymore. The girl is crying pitifully, begging for her parents' photo frame. I can't even imagine what she

must've gone through, being looked down on and laughed at. I didn't know that department was full of jerks. No one came out to help. So what if she is a rogue?" One boy said.

"Well, the fear of Alpha is real," The other one said.

"Hey, can you rewind a little? Her face looks familiar," One of the guys said before looking at Jake in the farthest corner.

"Hey, uh, Jake, have you seen the video on the University's forum?" The boy walked to him, and Jake ended his assignment before looking up.

"I didn't get the time. What is it?" Jake asked, confused, just like the other boys in the room.

"If I remember correctly, you live with your female friend, who is also a

rogue, right? The one in the biotechnology department?" The boy asked. "What is this all about?" Jake asked, standing from his place.

"You should check the forum. That's all I can say. Didn't you check up on her lately? If she was fine?" The boy asked, but Jake couldn't concentrate

on his words anymore as he logged into the University's 'only Wolves'

forum

"Here, this one," the boy clicked the video, and as soon as the video started, Jake's blood ran cold as his heart skipped a beat, looking at the girl on the ground on her knees, begging the other girl to stop.

He didn't need to look at the face of the person to know who she was, and

the more he watched, the more his eyes brimmed with tears.

Wiping the rogue tear that fell from his eyes, Jake winced when the photo

frame broke into pieces, not even imagining what Athena must've felt at

that time as she crawled to it.

Seeing Jake in so much pain, the boy realized that he didn't know about

anything, and he nodded at others, who left the class as he followed

shortly, wanting to give him some privacy.

"Hey, is everything okay? You look a bit pale?" Jake remembered asking this last night.

"Pale? You mean beautiful?" She countered, and he had dismissed the

matter.

Now that he thinks about it, she was limping and wincing quite a lot, and

when he asked about it, she said she trained hard. It was normal for her to train until her ligaments were at their limits before tearing up, so he didn't

think much.

It doesn't take a fool to know why she took their bullying when she had

easily taken down that girl. She was doing it for him, for his happiness. She was suffering so much and masking it behind her smile, and like a fool, he thought she was happy too.

Closing his eyes, Jake snarled at himself angrily before he closed the

laptop and rushed out of the room, making the boys look at him in shock,

and they ran behind him, knowing all too well where he was going. *w.w.Ŵ.ñ.v8(1)Ŵ@rm.c0M*

"Well, if I were you, I wouldn't be biting my lips, trying to gain male attention," Simon walked closer to Athena before rubbing his thumb over her lips,

making her release her lip from between her teeth with wide eyes as his

proximity didn't settle well with her.

However, it was as if his touch was some kind of magnet that she didn't want to step back even after knowing it was wrong. He was everything she didn't want and hated, and for some reason, he was making her heart beat at a pace she didn't think was possible.

Or was it because of the lack of affection in her life that her body was

trying to take it from anyone she was meeting?

First, it was Jake. Then it shifted to Andrew, and now Simon too?

Was she close to becoming a h'e? Athena widened her eyes at the *w@W.no@eŴw.rtm.c0M*

realization, but Simon, who was enjoying the change of expression on her face, couldn't help but smile slightly, shocking Fabian.

'Our mate is beautiful, Onix said from inside Simon's mind, and Simon

hummed.

'She is, Simon whispered before he realized what he was doing.

Seeing her shocked expression, he was about to step back when someone walked toward them and pushed him away from Athena, standing in front of her like a shield.

"If I were you, I wouldn't touch a strand of her hair after what your pack

members did to her," Andrew said, and Simon's wolf growled at the thought of any other man protecting his mate from himself.

'Mate! Onix growled, but Simon took a deep breath to control his wolf.

"Just to clarify, I wasn't trying to harm her. Athena, Simon looked at Athena with a meaningful expression, and Athena, who felt magnetized earlier,

nodded.

"He was being weird," Athena's words amused Andrew, and Simon raised his brows.

"What do you mean, little Thea?" Andrew mused.

"He was asking Savannah to apologize to me and make it look like it was

only her fault. He thinks an apology will suddenly heal all the wounds I

suffered because of his pack members," Athena said, and Simon scoffed inside his mind.

Why is he not surprised? He didn't expect anything better after everything. but hearing it from Athena's mouth made him sigh a little.

"I can see why you feel like that. If a wolf suddenly starts acting like a

sheep, it indeed becomes suspicious," Andrew smirked, and Simon walked closer to him.

"Well, if your interrogation is done, I was here to have a peaceful lunch,"

Simon said, his gaze lingering on Athena, who felt a little bit uncomfortable under his gaze.

Wait. What is this? Athena raised her head to take a deep breath.

Suddenly feeling uneasy as Jake's scent neared her as her wolf picked on his anger, Athena turned to the entrance of the canteen, widening her eyes when she saw Jake going directly for Alpha Simon.

Judging from the anger on his face, it's clear he has found something he

wasn't supposed to.

"Jake!" Athena growled, standing in front of Alpha Simon protectively, and Jake, who was about to punch Simon straight in the face, stopped abruptly, his fist only an inch away from Athena's face, shocking Simon and Andrew. "Athena! Are you stupid? What if I hadn't stopped?" Jake asked, shaking her angrily, and Athena closed her eyes before taking a deep breath.

"Then I guess you would've punched me, and I had to beat your ass. What makes you so angry?" Athena asked.

"Are you seriously asking me that? Why didn't you tell these people they

were bullying you? And here I thought you were happy like me. I wanted to settle in a place, but it wasn't at the stake of your happiness," Jake snarled before cupping her cheeks.

"I am so sorry, Athena. I am a fool who couldn't see how much you were

suffering. We came here because we were assured that rogues could

study here. If I had known anything about it, I would've never left you alone," Jake said before placing his forehead on Athena's, and it took everything in Simon to not react.

"Let's go," Jake said, and Athena scrunched her brows.

"Where? I still have lectures after lunch," Athena asked, confused.

"You don't need to take any of those lectures now. We won't be studying or staying here. These alphas and pack members would never accept us,

rogues. All their acceptance is a facade," Jake held her hand, pulling her

away, but before they could even move a few steps, Athena's other hand

was grabbed by three men. Seeing Simon and Fabian holding Athena's hand, Andrew quirked his

brows, making them leave her hand. *w.w.ÑovELw0rm.C0M*

"She isn't going anywhere. The Athena I knew wasn't a coward," Andrew

said, and Jake turned, his eyes turning completely amber.

"The Athena you knew wasn't a rejected rogue either. And if you really care about her that much, she hadn't suffered all of this at your watch," Jake

pulled her out of the canteen, and Simon stood there with a smile.

"Simon, Athena is -" Fabian couldn't complete his sentence.

How is he supposed to tell him that he wanted Simon to stop her?