

Chapter 21

"I can't believe it."

"Is Alpha Andrew out of his mind?"

"How can he pull something like this?"

"She is his childhood friend,"

"Yeah, let's not forget she is the daughter of Thomas. If Cole hadn't rejected her, she would've become Luna."

"Damn, she looks beautiful,"

Simon heard whispers around him going off, and he turned around to see what the commotion was all about, and to say he was shocked would be

an understatement.

Standing in front of him was Athena, dressed in a royal blue dress, looking nothing less than a princess as she descended the stairs with Andrew.

With a vibrant-confident smile, she was looking around as if everyone

present there were nothing less than peasants, and he wouldn't agree

more. They were peasants in front of her beauty.

How can a 17-year-old girl execute this beauty and presence to stop the

strongest alphas from speaking? Simon wondered when he saw one of the alphas walking towards her.

Simon was ready to take a step and defend her if things went down when to his shock, Alpha Brian hugged her before patting her head gently like an elder or a father.

Athena was just an everyday rogue who was a Gama in her previous pack, right? Why was everyone looking at her as if she was some guest? What

the hell was he missing here? Simon thought, not making a move to

observe the situation.

"Poor girl. She didn't deserve this. Everyone remembers how Thomas was. He wanted only the best for his kid," one of the ladies said.

"What can we say? I am sure that kid Cole would go wild when he would

know about her identity. I heard he rejected her in terms of her being a

Gama. Can a judgemental alpha like this run a pack decently? Thomas

would be ashamed to know this." "Well, what can we say? Thomas was partially at fault too. Even if his pack was destroyed by the rogues, he shouldn't have joined another pack as

Gama. He entrusted the white moon pack a bit too much," the lady beside her said, and Simon felt like there was more to Athena's story than he

knew.

And Simon wasn't the only one who thought that. Cole was no better.

Coming to a party meant only for alphas was an act of bravery on Athena's side, but to be able to pull this off so nicely and have everyone's favor was another thing.

"Alpha Andrew, what were you thinking bringing a rogue into this meeting? Don't you know that this meeting is especially to discuss how to deal with the rogues?" One of the younger alphas like Simon and Cole, who didn't

know anything about Athena or her family, scoffed, and Andrew looked at others with an apologetic smile.

"I am sorry if my choice of partner made anyone uncomfortable here. I am sure no rogues-related things would be discussed at this party. It happens in the morning meeting. I didn't have a partner and everyone knows my

mate has rejected me because she didn't want to be in a pack," Andrew

smiled bitterly, and Athena widened her eyes in shock.

It was news to her. She was so stuck in her drama that she never cared to ask her friend what has been going on in his life. The last time when she mentioned his mate, Andrew had changed the topic and said it was a talk for another time, but they never discussed it again.

Is this why he feels and relates to her? Because he is going through the same pain? Athena's grip on his hand tightened, and Andrew smiled before shaking his head to tell her he was alright.

"Since my childhood friend returned here to study and I wanted to bring her here. Besides, most of the elder alphas here know her already, don't they? She has attended ample alpha meets before. There was no such rule to not bring a rogue to this party. I thought-"

"You thought that you could make other alphas uncomfortable?" The same alpha asked, and the elder alphas didn't like the tone he was using.

However, before anyone else could intervene, Athena smiled and stepped forward. "I am sorry, Alpha."

"Samuel," the alpha said.

"Alpha Samuel. I am sorry you felt uncomfortable with me. As Andrew said, we had no such intentions, but if you feel threatened by my presence, I can leave," Athena's way of speaking made everyone smile as everyone knew what she was trying to do.

If Samuel asked her to leave now, it would mean he indeed felt threatened, so letting her stay and not objecting was the only option left.

"You can stay. Just don't cross paths with me," Samuel snarled before

leaving, and Simon felt proud of her before scrunching his brows.

Damn it. He is not supposed to feel anything for her. Why is he acting like a mate who is happy with his woman's fierceness? Simon told himself before going on the stage and attending to the guests.

"Athena, you have been standing for sometime now. You are still not well, remember? Why don't you sit and relax? Let me bring some juice for you," Andrew helped her onto a chair before leaving, and she closed her eyes to relax for a second when she felt Cole's presence near her, a little too close than she would prefer.

Opening her eyes abruptly, she almost fell backward from the shock if not for Cole's hand on the chair.

"What the hell do you think you are doing?" It wasn't Athena that spoke.

It was Alpha Simon, who observed everything.

"Alpha Simon, why don't you attend to your guests rather than always

hovering around her? It doesn't look good, you know," Cole gritted his teeth. "I can say the same about you, Alpha Cole. Why don't you go to your chosen mate than hovering around your ex-pack member? It doesn't look good

when you are the one because of whom she is in such controversies. She is a rogue under my protection, so I would obviously be here. What about you?" Simon threw back, barely controlling his anger, and Cole left with a scoff when he noticed Athena's disgusted expression.

His plans didn't work right now, but he would have to ensure he does what he is planning before leaving, or things won't work his way. Cole sighed

before walking to where Bianca was interacting with some Lunas. "Thanks, for saving me another headache just now," Athena smiled before placing her hand on her head when she started feeling hot again.

"You shouldn't let your guard down like this. You are like a sheep among

wolves. Is everything okay?" Simon asked when he saw her holding her

head in pain, and Athena hummed before smiling, looking around to see if she could find where Andrew went.

"You are quite bearable when you aren't finding fault or trying to annoy me," Athena commented, and Simon didn't know whether to laugh or cry at that. "Can I ask you something?" Simon's words caught Athena's attention, and she nodded faintly.

"Why do all the elder alphas look at you like that? Like sympathy, pride, and a mixture of empathy? What do they know, and the younger alphas like us don't know?" Simon asked, and Athena smiled.

"I would've told you the answer if I knew anything about it. It has always

been like that. When I used to attend alphas meet with our pack's previous Alpha because my dad was a Gama, everyone used to talk to my dad more of the time than the alpha," Athena smiled at the memory.

"My dad was popular in his time. Even though he was a Gama, he was

well-respected by the alphas," Athena said.

"So it's because of your father," Simon mumbled.

"Anyway, enjoy your time here, and if you need anything, you can

ask one of the-

Was it just him, or did she really smell too divine today? Well, in that case, he should stay away from her. Simon quickly stood before leaving when

Andrew returned.

"What did he want from you?" Andrew asked, and Athena shook her head. "He just helped me from getting another headache by Cole,"

"Really? Doesn't look like the good guy types to me," Andrew commented

before helping Athena when he noticed her getting dizzy again.

After dining and dancing for a while, most of the alphas went to guest

rooms, and Athena and Andrew were also about to leave when Alpha Brian called them.

"Athena, little child, can I talk to you for a moment?" Alpha Brian asked, and Andrew and Simon looked at each other, not understanding why an alpha from another country wanted to talk to Athena.

However, thinking it might be because of her dad that she mentioned

earlier, Simon shrugged and left while Andrew followed Brian and Athena. "You wanted to talk to me, Uncle," Athena addressed Alpha Brian like she

used to, and the latter chuckled before nodding.

"My son was busy with some stuff, and I had to come to his place for this meeting. However, I can't help but feel grateful that I came here and met

you," Brian started before his smile faltered.

"I heard what happened to your dad. And to say you are now one of the

things, a rogue, that killed your whole family and turned your life upside

down, I can't even imagine what kind of pain you must be going through

every day. To be called a thing that ruined you," Brian placed his hands on

hers, and Athena smiled.

"I guess this is what the moon goddess decided for me. She could've paired me with any other Gama or beta to keep my life happy after taking

everything from me, but she had to pair me with an alpha who rejected me because I am the Gama's daughter," Athena chuckled sarcastically, and

Brian could see the girl was trying her best to hide her pain.

"Well, that's because he doesn't know the truth about your identity. I bet any new generation alpha knows about it. There was a reason everyone

respected your father even when he was the Gama of the White moon

pack," Brian said.

"Uncle, I would love to hear more about my dad. Why was he so respected? I always asked him this question, but he used to say he would tell me when I would be capable enough," Athena said, and Brian chuckled.

"That's Thomas's thing. He wanted to protect you from all the hardships in life. I am sure he had never guessed you would suffer like this after his

death. Regarding why he was always appreciated by everyone, it's because he was the former alpha of the Blood river pack," Alpha Brian's words made Athena drop the glass she was holding.

".. I am sorry. Maybe I heard you wrong. Can you please repeat it?" Athena asked, and her wolf, Celine, scoffed inside her head.

"You heard it right, sweetheart. Your father was the alpha of the Blood river pack, the pack of warriors. They protected the great pack circle by devoting their life when the massive rogue attack took place 17 years ago. It was the same attack when you were born, and your mother died protecting you,"

Alpha Brian's words were too much for Athena to understand in a single

go.

What Alpha Brian was trying to tell was that all her life has been a lie. They were Gammas and treated like ones when they were on par with the alpha? It doesn't make sense. Why would the alpha of a pack choose to be

someone's Gama? And why did her dad hide it from her?

As if understanding the storm brewing in her mind, Brian sighed.

"Your father hid it from you because he wanted a responsibility-free life for you. Alpha Cole's father, the former alpha of the White Moon pack, was

your father's best friend.

Thus even when so many packs offered him the beta's position in their

pack, he chose to be a Gama in the White Moon pack. If it hadn't been for the Sacrifice of the Blood river pack warriors that broke the pack, the great packs would not have survived like this," Alpha Brian's words made

Athena's head a bit hazy.

Andrew, who had been hearing the story since Brian started talking, could only look at her friend with regret, knowing all too well what a turmoil of

emotions must be going through her head.

"Alpha Brian, I should take her home. It's too much information for her to w

process in a night," Alpha Andrew's suggestion made Brian nod.

"We will be staying here for two more days. I hope to catch up later

some time," Brian said before nodding and walking back to his room, while Athena just stood there, her hand gripping Andrew's in a tight hold as if she didn't trust herself to stay calm right now.

However, she did not know that Cole, who wanted to try his plan, heard all the conversation and stood there in shock.