

Chapter 23

It was as if someone plunged a dagger straight through his heart. That's

what Simon was feeling when he saw Cole hugging her.

Turning around, he hid behind the pillar, not understanding how to stop this gnawing feeling in his heart.

Just as he was about to come to terms with his wolf's feelings and starting to give up on his resolution of hating her, Athena had to go around

betraying his trust like that. Simon gritted his teeth.

Honestly, if it had been any other person than Cole, Simon wouldn't have

minded at all because he understands that she has male friends, who

support her through thick and thin, and he was grateful for that, but how

could she?

Didn't Athena hate Cole? So what the hell was going on here? Has she

forgiven him? Or is it that they are having a relationship without anyone's

knowledge and only pretend to hate each other? Simon scoffed before

closing his eyes, letting his emotions cloud his judgment for a minute to

embrace his feelings.

It's just as he had thought. Rogues can't be trusted. And Athena proved him right. She proved to him that his wariness for her was right and that he

shouldn't have felt anything for her. Rejection is the only option now.

Opening his eyes abruptly, he was about to leave when he paused, hearing Athena's words.

"What the hell, Cole? Do you have a death wish?" Athena's shout was no

joke, and Simon widened his eyes for a second when he felt the authority in her voice.

Turning around, he looked back at the scene, raising his eyebrows when he saw Cole on the ground while Athena seethed angrily.

Did he judge the situation wrong?

Wait. Does that mean Cole was harassing her for real? But why?

Simon stayed hidden to know what the matter was really all about. As far as he has known Athena, she isn't someone to reveal secrets so easily. She can hide things from the people who live with her. He was nothing

compared to them "Why? Why are you angry, Athena? Shouldn't I be the one who should do the yelling?" Cole dusted his pants before standing, and Athena raised her

brows. *www.novelsworld.com*

"What are you so angry about, Cole? I don't get it. You chose her over me.

You betrayed me, and for some reason, I am at fault? Athena crossed her arms over her chest.

"Don't you know? You were my best friend, Athena. I liked and loved you.

You and I know that the only reason I chose Bianca is that she is the

daughter of an alpha, despite the illegitimacy." Cole's words made Athena

scoff.

"Yeah? I thought it was because she provided good sex. But then again, we never even kissed, so how could you know? My bad," Athena's words made Simon bite the inside of his cheeks to stop his snicker.

She was deliberately provoking Cole now.

"If you really wanted to end things properly, you wouldn't have stooped so

low. You could've told me everything before getting on the bed with Bianca. Why are you here harassing me anyway?" Athena was getting a headache from repeating all the useless talk.

"That's because you cheated me. Why didn't you tell me you were an

Alpha's daughter? You always knew my father asked your father to have

you around me so that you could protect me, no? Why didn't you tell me

these things before?" Cole's words shocked Simon, who took another look at Athena.

Was she an Alpha's daughter? Then why the hell was she called a Gama? And why the hell did she bear so many things?

"Well? Do you think I knew these things myself? Alpha Brian told me this

just yesterday. Besides, what difference would it have made? Seeing how

you are only greedy for power, even if you hadn't rejected me, I have done it," Athena's words shocked Cole.

"What do you mean? Say that again! Don't you love me? You said"

"My love for you died on the day you looked down on me and took away the most precious things from me. My trust in my mate bond, my ability to love again, my allowance to meet my parents, and my happiness. I suffered

many more things, but you don't deserve to know. You said you loved me? If that's what we call love, Cole, I am happy that no one loves me anymore," Athena's voice trembled at the end, and for the first time in his life, Simon felt ashamed of him.

Was he any better than Cole? From the moment he met her, he has given

her nothing but pain. His pack member bullied her in a way that his heart

aches when he remembers her expression of that day. Simon sighed.

Things were really not going in his favor. His resolution of hatred and

dislike towards her was already dissolving slowly because of his wolf. But now that the truth about her alpha blood has come out, if he approaches

her, Athena would think he is doing this because she was an alpha and

might hate him forever. So what should he do any more?

"You can't leave me like this, Athena. I take back the rejection. You are only mine. Think about all the times we were together. Does emotional

attachment mean nothing to you? You had promised to be with me through thick and thin. How can you think of leaving me now?" Cole asked before

taking a deep breath.

"I don't want you as my second woman. I will make you the Luna of the

pack. The pack where your parents' graves are. You would want to be

closer to them, right?" Cole's words made Athena scoff before she took a

step closer to him.

"Cole, I don't want to be the Luna of a pack whose members were watching the scene of someone getting harassed to that point. I was humiliated in

front of the whole pack. What gives you the idea I would want to go there

again? I don't stay at places where I am not respected," Athena turned

around, ready to leave when Cole suddenly attacked her from behind,

holding her hands behind her back as he tried to kiss her.

Seeing the scene in front of him, Simon's eyes shot blood red, and Onyx

growled from inside him, asking him to go and save their mate.

"You have lost your mind, Cole! What are you doing?!" Athena shouted

before she ducked and clawed his hands, landing a hard slap on his face. "You better watch out, Cole. You know I can't be easily beaten until I allow it. Now you also know what's the reason behind it," Athena said, and Simon

made his presence known.

"I didn't expect something like that from you, Alpha Cole. You have made

enough of a fool of yourself. Don't you think so?" Simon asked before he stood in front of Athena, hiding her behind him.

"For an alpha who hates rogues, don't you think you are too protective of

her, Alpha Simon?" Cole asked, and Simon raised his brows.

"Yeah? Maybe I am. What are you going to do about it? I will protect her, fall in love with her or even date her. What does it have to do with you? You let go of her when you had the chance. Now anyone can make efforts to court her, no?" Simon took a step forward before looking Cole up and down.

"Alpha Cole, we might be of the same age, but I don't think I need to remind you who is the strongest here. I am called a dangerous alpha that even

elders feel wary of for a reason. Please don't make me show you why,

yeah?" Simon said, and Cole looked between Athena and Simon.

"You are making a big mistake, Simon. This might hurt our bond as alphas and allies," Cole threatened.

"That's okay, Alpha Cole. I don't deal with alphas who don't know their

boundaries and try to hurt innocent people. You have hurt Athena more

than enough, and now she is under my care.

So if you are going to hurt my people and disrespect me, I don't think the

deal can stay either," Simon's words were making Athena's heartbeat

fasten its pace, and since all of them were werewolves with good hearing, it wasn't hard to hear it.

"Athena, do you like-" Cole couldn't complete his words when out of

nowhere someone landed a punch on his face, making him stagger

sideways, his sides hitting the pole.

"How dare you show up at my apartment building? I warned you to stay

away from her, didn't I?" Andrew asked, and being tall from Cole, he hovered over him with black eyes that were a clear indication his wolf was itching to take over.

"Are you okay?" Jake asked before bringing Athena from behind Simon and looking her over to see she wasn't wounded. *www.novelsworld.com*

"Andrew, don't," Athena said, and Andrew turned to her before he saw the look in her eyes.

"Do you see that, Cole? Even after what you did, she is thinking about you. You have no idea what you lost," Andrew turned around, and Cole spat the blood. "I have the whole idea of what I lost. That's why I am here, begging her to

come back to me. I will make her the Luna, take back my rejection, and do everything. Athena, I swear this has nothing to do with your identity," Cole

wiped his lips. *www.novelsworld.com*

"I didn't know anything about it, but I was still hovering around you for the

past two days, wasn't I? That's because I can't get over you. I know I was a jerk for treating you like that, but I thought you would beg me to keep you if I did that. I never expected you to actually leave. You know me better than

anyone else. I can be a bit egotistic at times, but that's it. I have always

loved you and still do," Cole gritted his teeth as his feelings poured out,

shocking everyone.

Seeing Athena's gaze softening at Cole, Simon felt a bit uneasy. That's

right. She knows him the best and has been with him almost all her life.

What if her heart softens and she chooses him? Simon thought.

"Maybe I loved you a bit too early, and you are loving me a bit too late. I

killed all my emotions for you with my bare hands. So even if I returned to

the pack, there would be nothing left between us. I can't love or be your

Luna anymore. It's not just about the past anymore. It's about me. I can't do this to myself," Athena said before she swayed on her legs.

Wincing in pain when the heat she had been feeling intensified because of which she came to rest, she grumbled when Jake touched her.

"Don't touch me! ...I feel so hot," Athena hissed, pulling on her collar, and

Andrew widened his eyes.

Jake had a hurt look before he mimicked Andrew's expression,

understanding what was happening.

"Athena, are you going in your first heat? Andrew's words were barely a

whisper before he looked at Cole with a murderous look. *www.novelsworld.com*