

## Chapter 28

"No one's name. It's just the rogues who attacked us last time. Fabian

caught one of them, and he told us some names. We don't want to alert the person who might've helped them from anywhere near us, and that's why I don't want anyone to know of the names apart from us,"Simon handled the situation cleanly as Athena nodded in approval.

"What are you doing here?"Simon tucked her hair behind her ears, and

Athena sighed.

"I couldn't sleep. I am not used to sleeping in a house alone. Usually Jake sleeps with me when I-"Athena coughed when she realized how wrong her words sounded.

"It's okay. I know that Jake has been the biggest pillar in your life, who has supported you through thick and thin. You don't have to worry about me

being jealous of him,"Simon cupped her cheeks before kissing her

forehead.

"Can you find your way back? I will be there in a few minutes,"Simon's

words made Athena nod before she left.

"So where were we? What else-"Simon paused when he saw Fabian

looking at him with a weird look.

"What's wrong?"Simon asked.

"Nothing. I am just amazed at how soft you have become for Athena. Are you the same guy who used to hate her?"Fabian grinned, and Simon rolled his eyes.

"Can we concentrate on the matter?"

"Sure. So here's the thing. This is a list of the rogues that attacked you. You said those rogues already knew Athena and even threatened her, right?We can ask Jake if he can pinpoint their location or something we can use.He would be more than happy to help," Fabian suggested, and Simon nodded. "Sounds like a plan to me. We will send one of our spy team members to

keep a look at the rogue group and see if they can find anything about

Scarlett. It's important for us to find her hidden base. I don't know what's

going on in that girl's head. She didn't even contact me once. Did she never love me?"Simon's voice trembled at the end, and Fabian placed his hand on Simon's shoulder to comfort him.

"Don't think too much about it, Simon. We all know what happened back then. She felt betrayed, and that's why -

"That's even more reason why I feel so bad. She trusted others more than

she ever trusted me. She should've loved and cared for me rather than - Simon closed his eyes before taking a deep breath to depose the negative

emotions.

"Let me know if you find anything else. Also, I want you to ask someone to

keep an eye on Alpha Cole's activities. There is no way that guy won't try anything in the future. He even threatened that he would return. I don't know why this guy wants her back after rejecting her," Simon pinched the

bridge of his nose.

"He loves her,"Fabian said, and Simon gave him 'the look'.

"I know it's hard to believe, but that guy actually loves Athena, Simon.You

are both her mates, so it's hard to judge from your perspective, but as a third person, I can see that." Fabian sighed.

"Honestly, I know it might sound a bit harsh, but he loves her more than you

do right now because his love is like an obsession. You can't blame it on Athena's alpha blood. That guy was hovering around before he found that

out,"Fabian said before biting the inside of his cheeks.

"In fact, if anyone asks questions about love, your behavior is a bit more questionable since you started treating her well only after knowing of her

alpha blood and heat. Now you might refute it by saying you have past trauma, but I hope you understand what I am saying.[www.novlwoRm.com](#)

Don't let Athena think this way. She has borne the rejection pain once, the

second time won't be a hard case for her if she felt betrayed again,"Fabian

patted Simon's shoulder before he left, and Simon sighed.

Walking back to his house, he looked at the girl, fast asleep on the bed. He extended his hand before cupping her cheeks and kissing her forehead

again.

Fabian didn't need to tell him twice how badly things could turn out if he didn't tell her everything himself. Why did he start hating her in the first place, what was his fear behind it, why did he want to stay away from her,

who was Scarlett, and things like that? "You are here," Athena suddenly said.

"I am," Simon smiled.[www.NovlWoRm.com](#)

"Mmmmm,"Athena rubbed her nose on his chest, making him smile as his heart skipped a beat with love.

Looking at her beautiful smile as she smiled in her sleep, Simon didn't know what to do.

He wanted to talk to her and make her his luna and wife, but he had

promised Athena he would take things slowly.

Right now, he wanted to love her, but he also wanted to see her sleeping

happily like this.

"I am falling for you so hard that staying away from you even for a second hurts me, Athena. What kind of magic do you possess?"Simon placed his forehead on hers, and Athena groaned again, making him retreat so he

wouldn't wake her up.

All night, he let her hug him like a teddy bear while he looked and smiled at her innocent face.

When she was in heat, he couldn't see this innocence on her face because his focus was on keeping his hormones and urges in check, but now that he was looking at the beautiful view, he didn't know if he would be able to live without it.

Closing his eyes, Simon placed his hands on her shoulders as he hugged her, tucking her face under his neck, near his heart which was beating only for her right now.

Morning came faster than Simon had expected, and as Athena opened her brown eyes before stretching her limbs like a cat, Simon smiled before

pressing his lips to hers.

"I have been waiting to do this the whole night," Simon moved his lips to

hers.

"What happened to take it slow?"Athena mused.

"Should I start with your vertical lips then? Slow and steady?"Simon's

slightly amber eyes shining brightly under the morning light, made Athena blush when she realized the meaning behind his words.

"Hey, you are not supposed to tease me like that. It was what the situation demanded at that time," Athena pouted, remembering when Simon ate her

to help her through the heat waves, and Simon rubbed his thumb over her lips.

"I am teasing you so that you get aroused and give me that opportunity again,"Simon dipped before kissing her abdomen.

"One day, our babies will grow here,"Simon's words made Athena's heart thump as it melted at the soft look in his eyes.

"Simon, do you love me already?"Athena asked, and Simon paused in his actions.

"I don't know. Honestly, I have no idea what love is to Athena. All I know is that living a life without you has started to appear impossible. I can't even imagine it. I know you don't feel the same towards me right now, and I

understand the reason behind it. My pack members and I haven't been the

best people to trust," Simon sat seriously.

"All I know is that I am ready to do anything to make you mine. I can wait if that's what you want. But if someone tells me you and I won't be possible, I

don't think I can handle that. If I am to be sent to heaven, I want that heaven

with you. Even if someone sends me to hell, hell with you will be more

beautiful than heaven. So if this inability to live without someone is called love, yes, I am in love with you, Athena Mathews," Simon said.

Hearing his heartfelt words, Athena nodded before shuffling and sitting on

his lap so that she was straddling him now.

"In that case, why are you hiding things from me?"Athena's sudden

question caught Simon off-guard.

"Hiding?"

"Your expression says it all, Simon. It feels like you have so much burden in

your heart. You want to share, scream, cry, and let it out, but you have been

holding yourself back. If you can't even trust me with your emotions, how will you trust me with your life? Is it because I am still a rogue?"Athena asked.

The last sentence Athena spoke pierced Simon's heart like a sharp arrow, and Simon looked into her eyes which had so many questions in them. "Can you give me a little bit of trust? I have a past that I haven't come to terms with. I will tell you everything, I swear. I want to do it now too, but I don't know where to start, how to speak about it, and how to

Seeing Simon struggling with words as his eyes looked so conflicted with a whirlpool of emotions, Athena cupped his face, forcing him to look at her. "I want to know everything right now, in this position. You can cry on my shoulders or take out your anger, but it has to be today. You said you want to share it now but don't know how to speak, right? Why don't you just start things from wherever you can? Any good memories that you think of? I can see you are hurting right now, and I don't allow my mate to struggle alone. Tell me everything slowly. I won't pressure you into urgency. Just know, I am not

leaving you because of it," Athena said.

"Okay. I will try," Simon nodded before closing his eyes.

"We had a happy family, Athena. My mom, dad, my elder sister, and I.We used to live like any normal family out there. This house, which remains empty now, used to be filled with laughter and giggles all the time. The

smell of my mom's home-cooked cookies and food used to take away all our frustrations and linger in every corner," Simon smiled at the memory. "The banters between mom and dad used to be so sweet that I always

envied them. I always wanted to have that kind of bond with my mate.

Everything was so happening that it looks like a far-fetched dream now. A couple of years ago, there was a brutal rogue attack on the pack,"Athena could see his lips trembling, and she hugged Simon tightly.

"Many people died in that attack, including the alpha and luna of the pack. My sister and I were left alone after that. We had to pick up the broken

pieces of our pack and hold them together again. Everything started getting

back together with my sister supporting me. However, when she turned eighteen, things started to get doomed again. She found her mate. It was the Gama of our pack," Simon gulped.

"To strengthen our pack, we recruited members who wanted to change. It was a win-win situation for us. We were getting strong pack members, and they were getting a home to rely on. That Gama was one of the recruits. My sister was in love, and who wouldn't be? But after that -"Simon scoffed before taking a deep breath.

"You can stop now," Athena said with a smile.

"No, I want to continue. I don't think I would be able to gather this courage again and again. Don't let go. Please," Simon held her tighter as his voice trembled.

"My sister started sharing every single detail with that Gama, and though she was part of the alpha family, I was against it. I didn't want anyone from the pack, especially the recruits to know every detail. It was the question of the pack's security. This thing started to sow discord between us, and she left the house to live with him,"

"Later, one day, Fabian was on a walk with his mate and saw Gama

exchanging information with someone outside the pack. That Gama was on border duty. That's why no one else saw him doing it. That Gama said Fabian was accusing him and that he never approved of him and used

past fights as references. My sister also believed him," Simon gritted his teeth.

"One day, he invited all of us to dinner in the name of amending things.[www.novlwoRm.com](#)

Fabian's mate was pregnant at that time. That Gama had added wolfsbane to our food to kill all of us. Luckily, a pregnant lady's senses are extremely high because of their mother's instinct, and she was immediately able to tell as soon as she tasted the food. It was the same day when the rogues attacked us again. It was all pre-planned, but he hadn't guessed that it

would fail like this."

"Since he got caught, he tried to attack me directly. When I was fighting him, he lunged at Fabian's mate to kill her since his plans were ruined

because of her, and in a fit of protecting her, I killed my sister's mate. My sister went berserk after that,"Simon sniffled, and Athena sat on her knees before hugging him tightly.

She could see how much he was struggling with the memory, and as much as she wanted him to stop, taking out his emotions was more important for

him to forgive himself.

"She accused me of her miseries. She believed I couldn't see her happy and

that I was the worst brother and alpha in the world. That day, she cursed me that I would never be able to find true love with my mate, and just like her mate died, my mate would die too,"Simon sniffled.

"And that's the main reason you wanted to keep me away? You thought being near you would kill me?"Athena asked, and the silence she got in return was enough of an answer.

"Many people died that day. Even Fabian's mate was sacrificed. After everything calmed down, we looked for my sister everywhere. I thought she died, but we never found her corpse. She ran away and left me alone. I

know she is alive with all the hatred for me," Simon said.

"She would come again to avenge her mate's death, and that's why I didn't want to harm you, but I am selfish too. That's why I wanted to keep you as my mate till you turn 18. I wanted to keep you away from me to keep you safe. However, you still got involved when you saved my life from those

rogues. I have never done a single good thing in my life, Athena. I might be the scariest alpha, but I was never able to protect the people I loved. First, my mom and dad, then my beta's mate, my friends, my pack members, my sister-"Simon pressed his face into Athena's abdomen to control his

walling.

"I am afraid I won't be able to protect you too, and her curse-"Simon shook his head before he ran out of the house, leaving Athena feeling guilty as she was the one who forced him to share his burden.

Hearing a distant howl of pain, Athena gritted her teeth before she closed her eyes.

"Celine!"She ordered, and Celine didn't waste a second in giving Athena the wolf powers in her human form as Athena jumped out of the window.

Hearing the painful cries of his alpha, Fabian, who was eating breakfast, dropped his spoon on the table in shock as his hands trembled, feeling

Simon's pain through the mind link.[www.NovlWoRm.com](#)

What exactly happened for Simon to howl like this? Fabian looked at

Timothy and the others, who nodded and stood from their places to see the matter themselves.