

## Chapter 39

"Fabian, regarding the rogue with the mini camera on him. Have we found something worthy? It's a device, which can run out of battery or have a

technical fault. It won't be long before the camera gets caught. We have to find something before anything happens," Simon looked at Fabian, who

sighed.

"I am sorry, Alpha. Our team has been trying to locate even the tiniest thing shown in the video. They are constantly writing the names of any rogue

that person interacts with. Even small things like the location of his house and the surrounding environment are getting recorded," Fabian said before he took his phone from the collection box.

"You know what? I think we should let Athena see the video too. They were rogues and roamed between their previous pack to our pack, no? It's quite a long distance. What if she recognizes something they might've

encountered on their way? They can't tell us the rogues' locations

themselves, but they can recognize the areas, right?" Simon suggested.

"That's a good idea. You should talk to Athena today. We should pace up

our-" Fabian paused mid-sentence when he unlocked his phone and saw

the first message.

"What is it?" Simon turned around to see why Fabian stopped.

Reading the message, Fabian looked at Simon before sighing out loud.

"It's Athena," Fabian placed the phone in Simon's hand, and he read it before gritting his teeth.

"I swear, sometimes I feel like I am not dealing with a mature Luna but a

naughty kid. Why the hell is she so impatient and mischievous all the time?" Simon didn't waste a second before he contacted all the border security to send the pack force to the forests.

"She said she has gone to meet some rogues and confront them about the truth. But how did they contact her? Does Athena or Jake talk to any

rogue?" Fabian asked Simon as they walked speedily towards the

university's back door.

"I don't think so. Athena once gave me her phone, and though it was *wW@.NovelW@rM.cOm*

shameless of me, I scrolled through her contact list to see how many guys

she talks to or if she had a rogue's number that we could trace, but she

didn't have any. She only has seven numbers in her contact list," Simon

sighed before pausing.

"Letters," Simon thought.

"She had been receiving letters before that fresher's party. She received

one that day too. Maybe the rogues called her out through a letter. They

always use a human for this to do the job cleanly without getting caught," Simon said.

"And you never thought about investigating them? Aren't you being a bit too lenient with Athena? I understand that she is strong, powerful, and can take care of herself, but she is your to-be wife, Simon," Fabian sighed.

"All the letters said to stay away from me. I figured the rogues wanted her to stay away from the pack stuff. At that time, the alphas meet was

conducted, then the drama with Cole and her heat phase. All of this kept

me occupied. Besides, she didn't receive a letter after that, as far as I

know," Simon's words made Fabian nod in understanding.

As they reached the forest, Simon stopped abruptly.

"What is it, alpha?" *wur.noé()warM.cOm*

"Blood. The wind smells like blood," Simon was quick to pick the scent

because of his alpha senses, and all of them followed in the direction

where Simon was pointing.

As they reached the area, they noticed a lot of others on the ground. Though it would've been hard for any other wolf to easily pick on the scent of others over this domineering scent of blood, Simon could sense the presence of

another pack along with rogues.

But the main question was, where was Athena? Some of the blood *(w)W@.n0@©Lw0rm.co©*

belonged to her. Simon could smell her distinguished scent of blood

because of the mate bond.

"Simon, did they take her away with-

"No!" Simon growled at Fabian's suggestion.

"This is Athena we are talking about. Nothing has happened to her. The

rogues ran away alone. Athena's scent is leading toward the University. I

will follow the scent and find her. Send a few pack members to ensure the

rogues aren't staying in the forest," Simon ordered before he changed into

his wolf.

After trailing the scent that was becoming fainter with the wind, Simon

stopped near the end of the forest leading to the area where Andrew's

apartment was. He changed back into his human form before wearing his pants and shirt.

Rushing to Andrew's apartment, Simon would've knocked down the door if Athena hadn't opened it at the right time.

"Athena," Simon breathed as he looked at her, raking his gaze all over her

body before it stopped on her hand that was wounded.

"Thank god you are safe," He cupped her cheeks before placing his

forehead on hers.

"Are you fucking out of your mind?" Simon growled before hugging her from behind, his wolf finally starting to relax.

His words and growls shook her slightly, but Athena knew this was coming when she got hurt. However, now wasn't the time to panic. She needs to

keep his anger down.

"Listen to me before you react, please?" Athena asked, and Simon ground his teeth before he sat on the couch angrily.

"Speak," Simon said, forcing her to sit on his lap so that he could feel her

heartbeat close to his.

"I received a letter," Athena started, and just like Simon had guessed,

everything happened just like that.

"The pack members ran away before the rogues, and I got angry and

attacked one of them, which resulted in a little fight, and this happened. I

am sorry for worrying you. I had no idea that I would be seeing pack

members there. It came as a shock to me too," Athena said at the same

time when Andrew, Jake, Fabian, and Timothy rushed into the apartment.

"You will seriously be the death of me, Athena. How many times do I have to tell you that you are not the heroine of a fictional book? Your naughtiness can lead you into deep trouble," Jake shouted at Athena, and she bit the

inside of her cheeks, knowing well that now wasn't the time to talk back to anyone.

"Did you find something?" Simon looked at Fabian, hiding Athena's face in

his chest when he felt her discomfort.

"Nothing that can be used to our benefit. The trail of the rogue's blood led

us to the other side of the forest, but that's it. They must've parked their

cars on that side," Fabian said, looking at Athena worried.

"Are you okay?" He asked, and Athena hummed.

"Do you think this is the work of the same lady boss targeting us? We can't exactly rule out that thing," Andrew asked, but Athena shook her head.

"I don't think so. The letter I received was different from the past letters.

Simon has seen them too, no? All the previous letters talked about staying away from Simon, but this was the first time Cole's name was mentioned," Athena said before wincing, and Simon patted her shoulders before kissing her temple.

"I am sorry that I didn't reach there in time," Simon sighed, and Athena

looked into his eyes before shaking her head.

"It was never your fault, to begin with. Jake is right. I need to start living

more carefully now. I have been too reckless in the past, but now I need to understand that my mischievousness would risk many lives linked with

mine," Athena pressed her lips into a thin line, and Jake turned to her before walking to them, feeling guilty.

"Athena, I hope you know I only mean well. I am not angry at you, but I hope you understand you are the center of our happiness. Just because you

have found your mate doesn't mean I don't have any responsibilities

against you. You are still my best friend I would protect with my life, but can you stop going into danger deliberately?" Jake asked, and Athena smiled.

"I am grateful for your care and support. Always," Athena cupped Jake's

cheeks before smiling.

"Cough" ~cough" *wW.noV@()w()rM.cOm*

Athena heard Fabian coughing forcefully, and she looked at him, who

signaled towards Simon, and she noticed how he was getting angry now.

"I am thankful for having such a wonderful mate too, who cares for me like this. I am the luckiest girl," Athena quickly added, and everyone felt the

tension subsiding, making them smile at Simon acting like a spoiled kid,

craving Athena's attention and appreciation.

"Wait. You said you felt like there was a beta rank holder in the pack

members?" Simon suddenly asked, and Athena nodded. Chapter 39

"Yes. I couldn't recognize the beta, but I have seen him before. He felt so familiar and unfamiliar at the same time," Athena answered.

"Well, if that's the case, finding out about the pack shouldn't be a problem. When the betas and alphas arrived for the alphas' meet, we collected their data. We should have the data of almost all the people," Simon looked at Fabian, who widened his eyes before calling the data handling branch of their pack.

"Simon, you should see this. The rogues," Timothy's words immediately gained everyone's attention. Timothy was the leader of the group responsible for continuously

monitoring the rogue with the mini camera.

"I think they are going near the camp where we can find more about the lady boss," Timothy told Simon, and Jake immediately opened the laptop before logging into the software and placing it on the table for everyone to see.

"This place. I have seen this before," Fabian whispered.

"Of course, you have seen this. Isn't this near Silver Pearl Beach? We used to play near these forests all the time. If my intuition is correct, this is the same place. These could be any other forests too," Simon added at the end

when he saw some different things he hadn't seen before.

"Let's keep watching for now," Athena ordered.

They could see the car stopping at the entrance before the rogue with the camera got down.

"You are not allowed to bring your phones," one of the guards said, and the rogues gave their phones to the guards before they started walking further inside the forest.

"Are you nervous? This is the first time we will be seeing the lady boss," one of the rogues said, and the other one scoffed.

"You are stupid if you think the woman hiding her name to protect her

identity would come in front of measly rogues like us just to punish us. If she would, it means we are going to die," the rogue said, and Athena looked at Simon, who placed his hand on hers.

"Don't worry. We will find out the truth today," Simon said, and as the rogues neared the camp, the video started to get distorted.

"Jake? What is happening?" Athena asked, worried.

"I don't know. It was just a prototype. Maybe the battery is down. It's been quite some time since it has been working. It could be because of the

signal problems. They might have some devices to distort electronic

devices," Jake asked, and Athena shook her head.

"I don't really think the rogues would use such high technologies. The

battery might be the case," Athena bit her lips, and they tried to look more observantly to see if they could make something out of the blurred video. "Lady boss, we have brought the rogues who met that rogue girl that Simon

is interested in. I don't think she is his mate. There was no mark on her

neck even after so many days," one of the rogues said, and Simon looked at

Athena, whose palms were clenched on her lap.

"They are not mates? It's unlikely for Simon to interact with a rogue like

this," Simon heard the distorted voice, and his eyes widened in shock, his face becoming pale. Even if it had been just a whisper, he would've

recognized the voice anywhere.

Scarlett? Simon thought before he took the laptop to see her face. However,

he could see she was wearing a mask through the blurred images.

"Wait. Is that is that Cole?" Athena asked as the rogue turned to the man walking towards the camp.

"Just like you had asked, I have come here to help you. You and I have the same targets. Athena Matthews," Athena heard his words clearly, and Jake

looked at Athena, worried.

"Athena, are you -

"She's your sister, isn't she?" Athena looked at Simon's shocked face and trembling lips before she looked at her hands.

"Your sister is partnering with Cole to take me away. I have been their

target from day one," Athena whispered, and her words shocked everyone in the room.

Standing from her place, Athena walked to her room quicker than anyone could react, and Fabian looked at Simon.

He wanted Simon to go and comfort Athena, but could he really?

Fabian knows best how much Simon must be hurt right now.

Simon has been wondering if his sister was alive or how she was living

these past years. Who would've thought when he would hear her voice

after so long, it would be like this?

As the video turned off completely, Jake looked at Andrew, wondering if

they should go to Athena.

Everyone in the room was silent. No one knew what to say or how to react to the news.

It was obvious both Simon and Athena needed time right now. But would they be really okay like this? Athena's shock was greater than Simon's, but Simon's pain was greater than hers.