

Chapter 40

"Fabian, send me the data of the packs with their beta's faces specifically. Though a few packs didn't arrive, I am sure it's not hard for you to find."

Athena messaged Fabian, and he looked at the closed door with a sigh.

"Are you not going to come out? I think you and Simon need to talk," Fabian typed back.

"We will see that later. First, do as I say," Athena said, and it wasn't long

before Fabian sent her the database file.

Meanwhile, Athena turned on her laptop to see the faces precisely.

Athena knew Simon was hurting. Finding out that the only living member of your family is plotting the downfall of everyone around you wasn't easy to bear.

Even Athena was hurt and angered that Cole was partnering with Scarlett when she didn't have a direct relationship with him anymore. She can't

imagine what Simon must be going through. Athena sighed before she

started scrolling through the names of the packs and the faces of the beta and Gamma to see if she could recognize anyone.

When she didn't find anyone even after an hour, she closed her eyes before walking to the balcony.

"This is way more exhausting than I had guessed. I haven't even gone

through 40% of the list. This is so nerve-wracking that it feels like everyone looked almost the same, Athena groaned before taking a deep breath.

"Wait. Their target was me. The pack members mentioned Cole, no? Why would they mention him if it was only about Simon? It happened right after the drama with Cole after the 'alphas meet'. No? How many packs are

linked with Cole or are allies of the White Moon pack?" Athena racked her brains before she remembered something.

Rushing to the laptop, Athena scrolled down the alphabetically arranged

list.

Stopping at the name of a particular pack, she took a deep breath before

she scrolled down the faces of the important members.

Pausing her cursor on a particular face, Athena gritted her teeth when the realization dawned upon her.

Hearing the sound of the door unlocking, everyone looked towards the

room with anticipation as they saw Athena walking out.

Though Simon was in pain and shock, he was conscious of his

surroundings.

"Athena," Simon whispered, and she walked to him before ruffling his hair. "Are you willing to talk now?" She asked, sitting on her knees in front of him, and he pulled her in for a hug.

"Don't let go," Simon whispered, and to Athena, it sounded like a cry for

help.

"I will never," Athena nuzzled her face in his neck before kissing his mark. "I will always be here fighting whoever tries to harm us. This isn't the first time, but let me repeat it. I will protect us," Athena looked into Simon's eyes sincerely, and though in normal times Simon would've laughed at her

words, for the first time, he nodded.

"Protect us," Simon placed his head on her shoulders.

This was the first time Fabian saw Simon being outspoken about his pain after Scarlett left. Athena was indeed perfect for him.

After what felt like an eternity but was only a few minutes, Celine confirmed that Onyx was stable and Simon was cooperating better. Athena's gaze

immediately turned from comforting to angry.

"I have found out about the pack members who had come to harm me with those rogues," Athena's words caught everyone's attention.

"Who are they? What pack did they belong to?" Andrew was the first to rush to her, and Simon sat straight, waiting for her answer.

"It's the Howl pack," Athena sighed.

"Howl pack? Why does it sound so familiar?" Jake tried to think about it,

and Athena thinned her lips.

"That's because the alpha is Bianca's father," Athena said, and Simon's

gaze turned darker.

"This Cole and his woman are hellbent on turning us against them, aren't they?" Simon snarled, and Athena placed her hand on his chest to calm

him.

"Don't get angry. We don't have to deal with Bianca or her father," Athena

smirked, and Jake didn't like how her expression changed. [Ww.NovE\(\)W@\(\)m.C@\(\)](#)

It meant nothing good.

"Let's call it a day and rest for the night, yeah? We will discuss things later," Athena asked, not revealing anything.

"As much as I want to know what's going on inside her head, I think she is right. We all can use some rest now," Andrew commented.

"You guys can crash here or go back to the pack. Whatever suits you,"

Andrew walked to the kitchen, and Simon looked at Athena.

"Come back with me to the pack?" Simon asked, and Athena nodded. She wanted his comfort as much as he needed her.

"Andrew, we will be leaving," Athena hugged him before leaving, and Simon glared at Andrew, who rolled his eyes before pouring some wine.

"Simon, I know you are hurt. Though we doubted Scarlett's involvement,

nothing was sure until today, but I hope you know Athena is a sensitive girl. The involvement of your family and Cole has shocked her too. I hope you

know what I mean," Andrew reminded Simon, and the latter nodded before leaving.

"Simon, are you alright? This must've come as a piece of shocking news to you," Fabian said after Athena walked inside the house, and Simon looked at her back before smiling.

"I am alright. Don't worry. Now I know why a mate is so important in your

life. I don't think I would've been okay if Athena wasn't there to handle me. It indeed came out as a shock, but let's face it. We all had our doubts about Scarlett. She was a strong fighter. She won't go down without a fight."

Simon sighed, and Fabian nodded.

"I know we had doubts, but it's still hard to believe she is the lady boss

behind all our miseries recently. Even that badard Cole is partnering with

her," Fabian gritted his teeth before ordering Timothy to ask the pack

control crew to gather up at the borders for the meeting.

"Everyone is targeting Athena. Scarlett wants to take Athena away from me so that I feel the same pain as her, and Cole wants Athena for himself. We already witnessed what happened today. I didn't want to do that earlier, but

now I think we need to supervise Athena's movements,"

Simon looked towards the balcony of his room before they talked about the few measures they needed to take.

Entering the home, he went to the kitchen to prepare something for them. "I have ordered some Chinese food with a Pizza," Athena walked down the stairs, and Simon looked at her.

"Come here," Simon curled his finger and signaled her to move over to the couch.

Athena sat beside him, and Simon immediately pulled her legs before

placing them on his lap and laying back.

"I am sorry," Simon said, and Athena raised her brows at him.

"What are you sorry for? It's not your fault that all this is happening," Athena cupped his cheeks, looking at him with a smile to channel her emotions of love and care to him.

Tilting his head, she grabbed his chin before pulling him close. As Simon

leaned into her further to kiss her, she pushed him away and smiled.

"The food is here," Athena grinned mischievously, and Simon looked at her amused. She was definitely a player.

After eating dinner, Athena looked at Simon before pouting.

"What is it?" He asked.

"Take me to eat ice cream," she looked at him earnestly, and though Simon had other plans for the night, he couldn't deny the look on her face.

"Fabian, let's postpone the meeting for tomorrow. I am taking Athena out

for a walk. Simon mind-linked before nodding at Athena.

"Is it just about ice cream?" Simon asked.

"No. I want to go out and see if the rogues are still keeping a gaze at us,

and if yes, then to what extent," Athena answered.

"Come on. I am joking. Can I not crave something? If you are going to act

like this, I am not allowing you to impregnate me," Athena said when she

felt him getting suspicious, and Simon paused to look at her.

Did she really mean what she said? This was the first time she mentioned something about the future of their relationship. Has she started to think

about their future together? That was a good sign, no? Simon rushed to her side before intertwining his fingers with hers.

"I will bring the world to your feet if you ask me to. I just wanted to know if you didn't have anything in your mind you wanted to share or talk about," Simon shrugged, and Athena hummed before looking around.

Though she was joking earlier, the idea wasn't looking unappealing

anymore. She will have to see these things with Andrew and Jake. Simon already has many things on his plate.

"I think this is the right time to shock Cole," Athena looked at Simon after they started walking back to their house.

"What do you mean?" Simon didn't like how she mentioned Cole when they were out to improve their already worsened mood.

"Let me play a bit," Athena grinned as they entered the house.

"Are you sure this is the right time?" Simon asked, and Athena nodded.

She was contemplating whether to try this method, but now that she has thought enough, it was really interesting.

"Uhuh," Athena sat on the couch before shifting towards him to sit on his lap, and Simon inhaled her scent to keep his cool.

Dialing Cole's number, Athena waited for the person to pick up.

"Athena?" Cole asked, shocked, on the other side.

He was in the middle of a meeting with his beta and other warriors.

However, as soon as he saw this number, he rushed to his office to talk in peace.

How could he not remember this number? This number used to be his

reason for happiness all his life. There had been countless times when he tried to call her, but since she had blocked him, he couldn't.

In fact, she doesn't even pick up calls from an unknown number, making

things even harder for him to contact her.

"Do you want me to die badly?" Athena whispered like someone deeply hurt, and Simon raised his brows at the sudden change in her voice and aura.

"What do you mean? I can't even think about something like this in my

wildest dreams. Is someone traducing you? Who is it? Is it Alpha Simon?" Cole asked, and Simon hid a deep urge to scoff, but he didn't want to

interrupt whatever Athena was doing.

"Do I need someone to instigate when I see the evidence myself? I... I was attacked by some rogues and pack members, Cole," Athena took a deep

breath to make her act more believable.

"Attacked? Are you okay? Who did this to you? What the hell was Simon

doing at that time? Is he only talks and doesn't know how to-"

"They called me out through a letter. I have been receiving it for some days. So today, I wanted to see who it was. If you hated me so much, why did you try to ignite feelings for you in my heart? How can you be so cruel?" Athena whimpered, and Cole gulped, his heart aching at the sound of Athena talking like this.

Something was definitely wrong. Someone has hurt her. The question was, why was she calling him if some pack bullied her? Why didn't she go to

Simon? Does that mean she has started to realize that he is a better mate than Simon? Cole thought before taking a deep breath.

"Stop crying, Athena. Tell me exactly what happened,"

"Stop trying to act as if you care about me when you are the reason I am so miserable," Athena whimpered before smirking inside her head.

This was her final attack. She had created enough suspense and drama to drop the bomb now.

"You never loved me, Cole, did you? All of your feelings have been nothing

but lies. First, you made me fall in love, and then, you betrayed me and our bond. If that was not enough, you banned me from the pack and threw me away from my parents," Athens sniffled for real, remembering her parents' grave.

Seeing her like this, Simon clenched his fists, and it took every ounce of

patience inside him to not end this call that made her cry like this. [Ww.No\(v\)el\(worm\).com](#)

"Athena, I am sorry about the past, but tell me what happened today. Who

attacked you and -

"Was making me suffer so much not enough for you that you had to take

help from your girlfriend's father and ask them to attack me in hiding
like [Ww.No\(v\)el\(worm\).com](#)

this? If you want to fight me or kill me, why are you acting like a coward?

Just come and fight me. Let's end this humiliation for once and all. I won't

have to suffer daily like this," Athena added.

"Bianca's father? What are you talking about, Athena? I never asked anyone

to do anything," Cole stood from his place, confused.

"Okay. If you want to deny it. Go ahead. Just remember that after what

happened today, I have lost all the respect I had for you. The little emotions my heart had developed after seeing you act so manly to take me from

here have completely dissipated. Thank you for this," Athena said.

"Wait. Athena, there must be some misunderstanding. Why would Bianca do something like this? Cole's words made Athena scoff.

"How would I know that? Why don't you ask your girlfriend? Are you still

taking your girlfriend's side? I see. Well, good luck with your love life, Cole. It's goodbye from my side. Just remember, I didn't expect this from you.

How did you change like this? Clipping my wings was not enough that you have to personally ensure I am broke too?" Athena sighed and ended the call, and Cole looked at his phone with disbelief.

Was what Athena said true? Did Bianca really ask her father to attack [Ww.No\(v\)el\(worm\).com](#)

Athena? How dare she?! Cole's eyes turned amber as anger took over him. "How was-that? Athena asked, and Simon looked at her, amazed.

"You are so cruel. Remind me to not cross you ever," Simon raised his

brows, and Athena grinned, leaning into Simon's chest, enjoying the feeling of his hand drawing circles on her stomach.