

## Chapter 44

"Is this right?" Athena asked Simon, and he looked at her worksheet before shaking his head.

"I don't think this is the name of the bacteria. Also, if you want to earn extra points, you should use their species name. It impresses these teachers a lot," Simon shifted closer to Athena. **Www.NaVeIwÓrM.cóM**

Andrew and Fabian looked at the two students, who were studying so

diligently when they had an upcoming war to attend.

"They are not serious, are they?" Fabian walked out of the library with

Andrew hot on his tail.

"This has been going on for forty minutes now. Was Athena always this

serious about studies?" Fabian enquired before he took a coke from the

vending machine.

"What are you guys talking about?" Jake joined them, and Andrew was

about to answer him when he heard his beta calling him outside of the

University urgently.

"Guys, I will catch up with you later. Something urgent came up," Andrew

rushed out of the corridor.

"What is it, Cooper? What was so important that it couldn't wait for another second?" Andrew reached his beta, and the latter just thinned his lips.

"It would be better if you saw this yourself, alpha," Cooper said, and Andrew turned towards the laptop, his expression freezing in its place. He

involuntarily crushed the can in his hand, making the juice spill on his hand. "When?" Andrew asked.

"This afternoon, sir," Drake, his gama answered, and Andrew looked at the scene with mixed emotions swirling in his eyes.

"Any suspect, evidence, or clue about who can do this?" Andrew looked at Cooper, who shook his head again.

"Inform all the pack security to gather at the pack. Send the yellow alert to security," Andrew ran his hand through his hair before sighing.

In front of him on the laptop screen was the live scene of the north side of his pack, where four dead bodies lay on the ground in completely disoriented condition.

It was hard to recognize who they were since their heads were not on their bodies or anywhere in the area, but it was clear that they were pack

members. Cooper already reported no rogue scent from them. And they

reeked of familiarity.

"Cooper, to recognize their bodies, the pack members must see and judge their scent. It will be hard on everyone. No one deserves to see a

traumatizing thing like this. Even if these people don't belong to their

families, the pack members would be disheveled and heartbroken," Andrew clenched his fists in frustration.

"Ask Fenrick to check every family in the pack, and see if they are missing someone or someone hasn't returned. Only those families should be

allowed near the corpses. Ask our spy team if they can relate the smell of the families to corpses before showing them the bodies. The less they see, the better," Andrew looked at Drake, whose eyes were tearing.

Something was wrong. Did Drake have a family member in them too?

Andrew's eyes softened, and he looked at Copper for answers.

"The girl he was training these days because she was persistent about

becoming like him is one of the corpses. Drake recognizes the wound

marks and tattoo on her body," Cooper said once Drake left, and Andrew

thinned his lips.

"This is a hard time for all of us. This is not the job of one person only. Let's find out clues before deciding how to punish these cruel beings. Ask

someone to find the heads of the dead bodies too. Let's go," Andrew said

before he turned around to leave for his pack.

Simon and Athena in the library paused after some time before looking at each other.

"Should we take a break?" Simon suggested, and Athena was about to nod when her phone rang with an incoming call from Andrew.

Why was he calling her? He was just here a few minutes ago, wasn't he?

She walked out of the library before picking up the call. **(w)Ww.NoVeIwÓrM.cóM**

"Why are you -

"Hear me out, Athena," Andrew interrupted her.

Athena caught the seriousness in his voice and knew something was wrong.

"Something happened to our pack, and I am going there to investigate. I

may not be available to talk for a while now. My team and I will be busy

investigating this matter. I wanted to tell you because I left without saying anything. Have a good day," Andrew hung the call, and Athena looked at it

weirdly.

Dialing Andrew's number again, she waited for him to pick her up.

"What's the matter?" She asked.

"It doesn't concern you. So you stay out of it. Whatever it is, this is our

pack's deal, and we will -

"I am asking as your best friend. I can feel the strain in your voice and know something big has happened. You can share it with me, you know," Athena tried to comfort him, and Andrew sighed before giving her a vague

explanation of what he heard and saw.

The news came out as a shock to Athena, and she widened her eyes before tightening her hold on the phone as her fingers trembled slightly.

Who could have done this gruesome thing?

"Why did the pack borders not smell anything? Whoever the group was,

they can't just come and go at their wish without making a sound or leaving their scent," Athena said, and Andrew pinched the bridge of his nose.

"That's what concerns me too. If those people who hurt the pack members this time can come this close to the pack and leave unrecognized or

unfounded, they pose a greater risk to the security of the pack, Andrew

said. **wvw.NoVeIwÓrM.cóM**

Athena hummed at his words before she remembered something.

"You know when I was in heat-

"Athena, I respect you, but I am in no position to hear any story," Andrew felt a little frustrated.

"This is not a story, Andrew. Maybe this would be of little help,

"Okay, please speak faster,"

"I was saying when I was in my heat phase, Simon had prepared a five-layer women's security force for me so that no men could enter and hurt me.

However, Cole was still able to get through the security without them knowing about his presence. He was not only able to suppress his scent, but his alpha vibes too. I couldn't even sense him inside the house until he appeared right in front of me," Athena said.

"And?" Andrew asked, wanting to know how she related Cole to all this.

Everyone hates Cole for what he did, but he can't be accused without

evidence. Besides, no matter what, an alpha of the other pack won't harm the members of the two most powerful packs like this. This was beyond

anyone's expectations.

"I think a bunch of rogues helped him in it. I am not sure, but there is a drug or something on the market, which can suppress someone's scent and

vibes. If you can look into the dark market and track their supplier-" Athena didn't continue, and Andrew raised his brows.

She was right.

If what Athena said was true, the drug or that thing was still new in the

market since it wasn't reported to the packs, and there must be only limited suppliers. He can ask his investigating team to look into this too.

"Athena, something has happened to Simon's pack," Jake rushed to Athena, and Athena looked inside the library, noticing Simon wasn't anywhere to be seen.

"Andrew, I will talk to you later. Keep me updated if you find something or

need my help," Athena was about to end the call when Andrew stopped her. "No, let me hear it too. Put the phone on the speaker," Andrew said, and

Athena did as he said.

"Jake, what is it?" Andrew said, and Jake looked at Athena before taking a deep breath.

"I am not too sure about the news, but I heard from Fabian that they found four heads hanging by the trees a kilometer away from the pack," Jake

said, and Athena raised her brows in shock.

"Athena? What is it? Why do you look so scared?" Jake asked. He didn't

want to scare Athena, but he felt she should know.

"It means-"

"Copper, turn the car towards the Black Scar pack," Andrew immediately

ordered, and Athena leaned on the wall before ending the call. "Hey? Why do you and Andrew look so strained?" Jake asked.

"Because probably the bodies of those four heads are the headless bodies that Andrew's pack found a few meters away from their pack," Athena

answered, and Jake gulped before looking out of the large window towards the ground.

"Whoever is doing this, I am not sure if they are in the right state of mind," Jake commented.

"There is a reason the rogues are hated, Jake. This hatred among packs isn't inborn. It is created by rogues like these, and people like us suffer

most of the time. Whoever this is, his purpose is to mess with me. Or

should I say, to mess with people related to me to scare us?" Athena's

words made Jake look at her.

"Why would you say something like that?" Jake asked, and Athena shook her head.

"I am going to see how things are in the Black Scar pack and see if Andrew needs some support too. This is tough for both of them," Athena sighed. "Can I come with you?" Jake followed her out.

"It would be better if you do not. I am sure most of the pack members who must've heard or seen would be enraged, and seeing a rogue there would be the last thing they would want. Things are different for me because I am

Simon's mate," Athena commented, and Jake thinned his lips.

"Actually, I had something to discuss with you regarding this. I was hoping to join a pack," Jake said, and Athena looked him up and down.

"We will discuss this later," Athena said before walking out.

"What's happening? Do we have any Intel?" Athena asked as soon as she reached the pack, and Simon walked to her before hugging her close to his heart, making her pat his shoulder.

"Simon, Athena, where are the heads?" Andrew reached the borders at the same time, and Simon brought them to the place.

"Athena, it's better you don't see it," Simon interjected.

"I have seen worse things, Simon. Don't worry," Athena said before walking to the heads. **wvw.NoVeIwÓrM.cóM**

Seeing the gruesome sight in front of her, Athena felt like puking. From how the heads were, they weren't just sliced. They were literally pulled out of

those bodies. The uneven texture of the brain and eyes that almost looked like they were about to pop out was too much of a sight.

"Two belong to our pack. Do you recognize the other two?" Simon looked at Andrew, and Athena kept looking at the dead eyes of the face of a blonde

girl who barely looked 16.

This girl must've been beautiful when alive. Athena thought. Her dead eyes looked like they were pleading with her to save her. As if they were asking her what she did that she had to get killed like this?

All this mess and bloodbath only to keep Athena away. It can't be a

coincidence. If there were separate attacks on the two packs, Athena

would have thought it was purely coincidental and that the rogues were

taking advantage of their distractions, but this wasn't it.

The rogues deliberately split their bodies like this. The heads were placed on the borders of the Black Scar pack, and the bodies were placed on the

borders of the Blue Stone pack.

This wasn't just nothing. It was a clear warning to two unrelated packs with one connection. Athena Matthews.

"Athena, are you alright? Athena. What's going on? Athena!" Athena heard voices in the background like a ringing buzz. She couldn't hear or feel

anything. Her head felt hot. She felt like she was losing her mind from

overthinking. Her fingers were trembling from shock.

"Celine; Athena whispered for her help, and Celine immediately took over,

turning her body into a wolf as she ran deeper into the forest to let her brain calm down and not shut out.

"Athena?" Athena heard after a few minutes passed, and she opened her

eyes, only to find herself back at the borders of the Black Scar pack.

Her wolf must've brought her back.

"Celine?"

"You don't need to run away and make it harder for yourself, Athena. Stop

blaming yourself for everything. Why do you think this rogue attack was

related to you and not Simon, whose sister is the mastermind behind

everything?" Celine scoffed before turning her to human form, and Athena's body was immediately scooped up. Opening her eyes softly, she gazed into Andrew's concerned eyes, looking back at her with a whirlpool of emotions.

"It's not your fault," Andrew whispered to her before pressing his lips to her forehead as her eyes closed.