## Chapter 78

A soft voice cchoed in the silent room, and Colton, who had been appointed the job of

keeping a hawk-like gaze on Athena, looked up from his phone towards the girl.

Athena finally gained a little consciousness since they used the formula on her. It had

been two hours since they drugged her, and it was about time she returned to her senses.

He sighhed at the girl. What kind of fate has she been born with? Since Colton was

responsible for gathering all the information he could find about this rogue warrior. he

read everything.

Sympathy. That's all Colton felt for Athena. Her life story was good enough to turn her

into a potential villain against the world.wWw.novElw@R@.com

"Wa -water," Athena murmured again. Her mind was slowly gaining full consciousness as she slipped from the imaginary world to her reality, filled with miseries.

Everything was blank for her. She didn't know where she was. How much time has passed since she left the council or what happened after- $\hat{W} \otimes w.Nov(e) \otimes r\mathcal{M}.com$ 

The images of things that happened back at the council, her walking out of the council heartbroken, getting hit by that weird nib, started rushing to her like a large wave of

## tsunami.

Colton, who watched her brows knitting again even when her eyes were closed, sighed before standing from his place.

He filled the glass with water before he walked into her isolation room.

"Here. Water," Colton said, but Athena didn't move.

Were her limbs still unable to move? Technically the effects of the drug they used to

render her unconscious should wear out by now. Did Cyrus use a heavy dose despite his warning? Colton thought before he bent to her facc level.

He was about to place the glass towards her lips to help her drink some water when

someone held his hand mid-action, and his whole body turned stiff.

"What do you think you are doing?" Cyrus's voice was void of emotions, and Colton

squared his jaw before releasing a sigh.

The emotions in his eyes immediately went neutral, and he straightened before turning around.

"She kept murmuring water. I figured she was finally gaining consciousness. We'll have to start performing tests soon to see if the drugs have left her system before we can start

collecting her blood, and the major part of it involves her conscious state,"Colton

explained professionally. Cyrus looked at him for a brief time before he nodded.

"You did well. I am glad I gave this responsibility to you because of how good you are at it. However, let me renind you again. This girl here is my property. Your job was to call me as soon as she woke up. Giving her water, food, or nothing at all is my job. Are we

clear?" Cyrus took the glass from Colton's hand. and the latter nodded. "I understand. sir. Piease forgive me for my negligence: Colton bowed

Cyrus looked at Colton from the corner of hiseye and nodded with a hum' You can

leave now If Athena is gaining consciousness. let me handle it from here I am sure she

will havr hundreds of queshons when she opens her cyes. and I want to be there to $\mathbb{W}w\mathbb{W}.\mathfrak{n}(\circ)\mathcal{V}@\mathbb{I}\hat{\mathbb{W}}@r@.\mathbb{C}\mathbf{o}m$ 

answer each one of them properly:

Cyrus looked at Athena with a loving gaze before he turned to Colton "I want you to

gather more rogues Just a one and a half distance from the council won't give us enough lecway I heard the council head has closed all the outgoing routes from the state. Even

the airports have stopped letting rogues in. This is not a good situation .:

"It's obvious they have realized Athena is missing. and they have started searching for her Will it be okay to keep her here. sir? I mean. as you've said. a one and half-hour distance from the council would get us caught soon. Shouldn't we think of alternatives? Probably

switch places" Colton asked, not liking how the council and Alpha Simon were already

blocking all their way out.

Until and unless they get the capabilities of summoning a witch. which I am sure they

don't have. I am sure they would never be able to find this hidden underground base.

Why are you even asking me that question? You have had people create this base yourself. The one out of which no one can smell us, hear us, nothing. Believe in your capabilities. will you?" Cyrus said. and Colton thinned his lips.

"It's not completely unbeatable, sir. If vampires, witches. or other skinwalkers came with higher keen senses or even those Alphas came and smelt her presence. and

"Do you even hear yourself. Colton? Vampires, witches. skinwalkers? Since when do

species start to come together? And for whom? Stop overthinking and spread our men

near all the entries for this forest so they can alert us even when someone passes through here. Okay? If those alphas arrive, I will handle them. I believe in you. Nothing will go

wrong: Cyrus said before he looked at Athena and placed his hand around her neck.

"Judging from her pulse, it's a matter of a few more minutes before the drug will leave

her system completely. We can start our process of extracting her blood immediately. I

will ask Larry to run the tests. You handle things outside. Cyrus pulled a chair and sat

.right in front of Athena.

Colton left shortly after hearing Cyrus's words. His worrying about their life was not

wrong. Despite Cyrus's confidence, it was the first time Colton was actually questioning

Cyrus's decision.

Maybe they were too quick to abduct Athhena. They needed a much better plan and base for this purpose. Everything felt too rushed out, and he was afraid any single mistake or thing they might have overlooked would not only become a hindrance but might end

their game for once and all.

Even that girl sitting inside the chair was only down until she was under the drug's effects. What if she suddenly gains the upper hand, attacks, and runs out of here? Though the

drug was spelled by lilithh to stop Athena's wolf and cut the wolf from her so they

wouldn't be able to communicate, things were yery unclear and uncertain. And he didn't like any bit of it.

Colton shook his head when he saw Cyrus looking at the girl with the same obsession as he had seen when he had received her photo from that traitor; Scarlett, who had

promised Athena's blood.

He swears if Alpha Simon's team came here to save Athena, the first person he would

attack and want dead would be that b\*tch Scarlett.

the observation cubicle, stiffened.

"I forgot my phone, sir," Colton dashed out immediately, and Cyrus looked back at the

girl.

"So beautiful, innocent, like a fairy. Your legs must be hurting a lot, no? Forgive me,

anore mio. I had to use this drug that stopped your healing too. Here. I brought some

ointments for you, Cyrus smiled before he put a little ointment on his finger, looking at the cuts on her beautiful olive legs.

The legs that were made to be wrapped around his torso to make it easier for him to f\*ck the senses-

Concentrate, Cyrus. You can't be thinking of these things. There is some time in that.

Stop imagining things, will you? Athena is in your arms. She will be yours soon. First,

deal with matters at hand.

Cyrus blushed at his thoughts before placing his hand on Athena's knees, and Athena,

who had been gaining consciousness slowly, jerked her leg at the discomfort of his cold

hand.

"W-water," Athena murmured again, and Cyrus turned to pick up the glass.

"Here, amore mio," Cyrus's gaze was filled with nothing but love as he brought the glass

close to her lips.

Athena opened her lips slightly and took a few sips of water, finally feeling better.

For the past twenty minutes, her mind felt like it was in a constant battle with itself.

Athena heard everything that Cyrus and Colton talked about, but the images of the past running in her head made it hard to justify what was real and what was not.

Even with her eyes closed, she was constantly feeling dizzy. Like she was falling from

'somewhere into a deep never-ending pothole. Her head was pounding, and her heart was drumming. Anything and everything was messed up for Athena.

With great difficulty, Athena tilted her head and finally opened her eyes slowly, blinking a few times to get a clcar vision of the person sitting in front of her.

She shook her head slighuly before blinking again.

Seeing the person sitting in front of her, the last memory of what happened after that nib hit her crashed through her brain, and her eyes narrowed slightly.

Cyrus saw Athena looking at him as if she was trying to figure out something, and he

didn't want to rush things. Once the drug's effect wears out, things will become clearer for her. and that's the same time they have to extract her blood for sampling and testing.

"W- why?" She murmured after some time, and Cyrus smiled.

"Why what. amore mio?" Cyrus asked back, and hearing the same word that Athena used to back at the pack when she used to think Simon was playing with her. Athena's eyes

widened slightly.

"What did you call me?"Athena asked.

"My love, let's stop acting like you heard this for the first time, yeah? I know what you are thinking about, and let's save each other sometimes. Yes, it was me. I used to sneak into your bedroom at night when Simon used to be on patrol borders, sit on your bed, watch you sleep, caress your hair, and kiss your forehead with love. That was all done by me," Cyrus smiled, and Athena felt creeps run down her spine.

She always thought it was weird that Simon would come to her and leave before she

would turn around. When one of the nights she asked him about it, Simon said he didn't want to disturb her, and shc had hummed. Maybe they were talking about different times and contexts, and no one realized anything? And why would they? Who would think a

rogue was sneaking into their house unnoticed?

"And to answer your most unimportant question, no, the mall wasn't the first time I saw or met you. In fact, let me tell you a secret. That was all planned and created by me to get

close to you and win your trust. I thought if I approached you like this, you would fall

into my trap easily, but you were quick-witted, no?

You started getting suspicious of me, and I could see it in your eyes. If you hadn't become suspicious of me, I wouldn't have to resort to such extreme and painful measures, I

swear,"Cyrus grabbed Athena's neck, and Athena gasped at the pain.

Her hands were bound with silver chains and were constantly burning her skin, making her wince as she felt pain all over her body.

"Don't worry. These chains won't scar," Cyrus smiled as if the burn marks were the only issues she was concerned with.

"W-why did you do it?" Athena asked, and Cyrus smiled.

"Can't you see? Because I love you," Cyrus's smile didn't reach his eyes, and he pressed the intercom.

"Larry, come inside with the setup,"Cyrus said, and immediately a few men walked

inside with some kind of tray in their hands, and Athena's eyes narrowed.

"What are you doing?"Athena looked at the needles and test tubes in horror as she saw a lady walking inside, wearing a black cloak.

"Y-you, I have seen you," Athena said.

"In the supernatural carnival," Athena remembered because she had bumped into this

woman. And rather than apologizing, she was the only one who hissed at Athena in the carnival before leaving as if her tails were on fire when she saw her face.

Cyrus saw Lilith pausing, and he rolled his eyes.

"I will answer all her questions. So just get the work done. We have so much to catch up on, no?"Cyrus stood before he went behind Athena, and she turned her head with great difficulty to-look at him, afraid he would try something, struggling against the chains

## burning her skin.

"No! What the hell are you guys doing to me? No! Please! Stone, you said you love me! What are you doing?! What kind of love is this?!" Athena screamed when the men held her limbs on the chair and pressed her down. unpulo

Athena's words made Cyrus release a dark chuckle.

"The kind of love that would make me strong and help you forget about your painful

past. You will belong to me and only me after I am done with you," Cyrus smiled before the lady drew some blood, making Athena widen her eyes.

"No! I swear if Please! What are you doing?! You can't mess with God's choice like this. I am Simon's mate. Aaaaaaaaaa," Athena screamed in agony when the lady pinched

another needle inside her body.WW(w). $noVe\ell woRm$ . $(\circ)M$ 

"Shhh. It will be over in a few hours. I promise Cyrus placed his finger over her lips.