

Chapter 82

J-Jake?"Athena's lips trembled, and she felt the hair on her neck rising when she saw the horrifying state he was in.

He was beaten black and blue, and blood was still oozing from his wounds. They had tied him to the wall through chains, and blood dripped down his toenails like water dripping from a shelter after the rain stopped.

"Athena?"Jake opened his eyes painfully slowly.

He was right. He indeed smelt Athena's presence near somewhere.

Jake looked at the girl in front of him from his swollen eyes, and even though the image was blurry, he would recognize her in a crowd of millions.

"Jake, how did you get here? What is happening? How did these people get to you? You weren't even with me in the first place. I asked Andrew why you didn't contact me after the war or that day we last talked, and he said you found your mate and went on the honeymoon. So why the hell are you here like a hostage?"Athena

pulled her hair in frustration as nothing made sense to her anymore.

"Besides, with what I have against her, she won't make such a grave mistake of

running away or even trying,

"You will stay here yourself,

"You care about loved ones and won't want to see them hurt;

"You won't cry if one of them dies as we planned, right?"

Cyrus's and Colton's voices echoed in her head, and she clenched her fists before she turned around, losing her mind as everything became messy and all her plans turned futile.

"Get a grip, Athena. You can't lose yourself right now, Celine reminded her.

"How can I not, Celine? Look what those monsters did to him, Athena turned to look at Jake.

"What about your mate?" Athena asked, hoping nothing happened to Olivia or she would never be able to forgive herself after today.

"They tried to r"pe her; the helplessness in Jake's eyes made Athena want to pick a dagger and plunge straight into the chests of everyone who hurt this man who

was always with her.

"Tell me everything," Athena asked, the anger inside her rising.

"We indeed went to the honeymoon after telling Simon about it. There was no

news or war for another two weeks, so we didn't see why we shouldn't go. I knew you would be recuperating after mating. That's why we didn't disturb you,Jake

inhaled the air with difficulty. "We were enjoying our time when we heard about the war, and since Olivia is a

pack fighter, she wanted to rush back. I wanted to be there for you in this hard

time, so we decided to return to the pack," Jake blinked twice at the hard

memories.

They were so happy together. In such a short period, they instantly clicked, and

Jake was grateful to Athena for letting him stay so close to her throughout

everything, or he doesn't know if he had been able to meet Olivia.

The girl was beautiful inside and out. Olivia was everything he could ask for in a mate. His love and wait for his mate were justified by looking at her beautiful

smile, and he was grateful that he never confessed his attraction to Athena and

ruined his friendship since the moon goddess had better plans for him.

"However, before we could reach there, a rogue group attacked us. It was so

sudden that everything became messy. One moment we were forming strategies, and the next moment, we were running for our life. We could've taken them

down if there were 10-20, but the two of us were useless in front of around 50

rogues."Jake gulped.

"It was the rogue head who wanted us. His pathetic men wanted to r"pe Olivia

because she was freshly mated and looked enchanting. She wanted to be there to protect me, but I knew I would never be able to live with myself if something

happened to her," Athena could see the pain and suffering in his eyes.

She can't even imagine what he must've gone through and how painful and

horrifying it must've been to see his mate getting beaten and almost violated in

front of him.

"With great difficulty, we made a run, and I helped her run away, but I got caught.. From what I heard from one of their men, Harry, they are still finding her to use against you," Jake said.

"For me," Athena whispered before she chuckled darkly as a rogue tear fell down her eyes.

"They did all of this to you because of me. They wanted to use you and your mate as leverage against me. So that I perform the ritual and give my blood myself to make the rogue head strong and give up my Luna position to become his

woman,"Athena chuckled, her heart aching terribly as she tried to suppress her

emotions.

"I am sorry, Jake. Please forgive me-"

"Are you out of your mind? Don't you fucking dare do anything they are saying! Everything I suffered in these two days and my mate is going through will go in

vain if you surrender now," Jake snarled before wincing when it hurt his ribs.

He coughed more blood, his chains dangling, and Athena looked at him with

sympathy.

"How can I not, Jake? They will kill you," Athena gulped before she held the silver bars.

Jake could see how they were burning her skin, and he felt tears welling in his

eyes.

No one knew her better than him, and he could see that Athena had made up her mind to sacrifice herself for him and his mate. There was nothing he could say or do to stop her anymore.

"I beg you," Jake's lips whimpered as a few tears rolled down his cheeks when he

saw Athena hurting herself by holding those bars.

"You have done enough to prove how good of a friend you are. Now it's my turn, Jake. Thank you for being there with me when no one was. Even when both of u"r"wW.N\O(v)éLWOr+M.coM

my mates betrayed me, thank you for being there as my true friend,"Athena's

words shocked Jake.

Both of her mates betrayed her? What did it mean? Did Simon do something too? What did he do for Athena to look so broken? Jake's gaze quivered as he saw the

pain in her eyes.

Her hands trembled on the bars. The silver burned her skin, but it wasn't harsh to her like it was on other wolves. It was just like Wolfsbane. They were ineffective

and affected her only if consumed in large amounts.

"I love you as my one honest best friend. If we get to live after this and meet again, let's catch up, yeah?" Athena smiled, and before Jake could utter anything, Athena turned around and left.

"Athenal Come back! Damn it! Athena! You can't do this to yourself! You can't do this to me-Jake's words turned to whisper as his throat burned from pain.

Can someone really do so much for anyone as she was doing for him? What did she say? Has he done enough? If he had done enough, he had taken her away the moment he had realized she was getting bullied. He thought Simon was a good

man and would care for Athena, but Jake struggled against the chains, feeling

helpless.

Turning around the corner, Athena saw Colton leaning on the wall with his eyes closed.

As soon as Colton felt Athena nearing him, he opened his eyes and looked at her with the same calm expression, and Athena smiled in self-mockery.

"Nice game you guys played here. It took me totally off-guard," Athena whispered. "I hope no one does this to you or your family that you guys are doing to me,"

Athena smiled, and Colton saw the pain in her eyes, only indicating that she met Jake and had a good talk with him already.

"That's okay. No one would do anything like this to my family. My family was

killed by those pack wolves long ago. They didn't even spare my 7-month-old

daughter and didn't think twice before blasting the whole base. So don't worry. I won't have to go through that pain again."

Colton's words shocked Athena, but her pain was more than anything right now

to feel someone else's pain.

"Are you ready now?" Colton asked, and Athena chuckled with tears in her eyes.

"Does it look like I have a choice in this matter? Can I say no and save my friend

at the same time? Can I return to my previous life unscathed with everyone being

safe and sound?" Athena scoffed before she walked back to the place where Lilith

and Cyrus's men were already ready with the equipment to draw her blood. She lay down on the hospital bed-like thing, and one of the men immediately started injecting the IV and plastic bags to draw her blood.

Athena blinked twice before and counted as long as she could before closing her

eyes as darkness took over her.

"Are you sure? It sounds a bit unreal. Shouldn't I be praising you for creating this

base: The council and others went right over it without knowing of our presence

here. This is amazing!"Cyrus patted Colton's back, and the latter's eyes moved towardw.W.NOVÉLWorM.com

Athena, who was lying on the bed like a wooden log, moving at all.

"Did you give her a drug again? You know we shouldn't."

"She is just sleeping. Maybe all those silver chains and everything made her tired

with this blood draw. It's been only ten minutes, and she is already fast asleep. By

the way, don't you think it's a little weird that she agreed to this process without

fighting back? I thought we would have to use Jake, but she was pretty docile," Cyrus looked at Athena suspiciously, and Colton, who knew the truth, thinned his

lips, not saying anything nonetheless.

Her life was already miserable. He didn't want to add more to it by revealing the

truth.

Athena, on the other hand, opened her eyes when she heard Cyrus's voice.

"Is the blood drawn out? Are we ready for the ritual?"Athena asked, and Cyrus smiled before nodding at Lilith.

She brought out a dagger and cut the middle of Athena's palm before Cyrus cut

his palm in the same bowl to mix their fresh blood, and Athena felt dark spots inw.W.NOVÉLWorM.com

her vision because of weakness.

"I know it's hard, but I promise I will try to make it as less painful as possible," Cyrus said, and Athena smiled.

"That's okay. I want you to make it as painful as it can be," Athena's eyes were resolute, and Cyrus looked at Colton, a little confused.

"This way. I would remember to inflict the same pain on the people who betrayed

me,"Athena added, and Cyrus smiled, thinking she was talking about Simon. "Sure," Cyrus said before he took the long needle-like steel from Lilith's hand and inserted it in her shoulder, making her wince.

"Aaa,"Athena groaned with closed eyes as Lilith started chanting the spells

required for the ritual, and Colton walked out.

Athena smiled at her miseries as the pain started to numb out in the background because of how used to it she was becoming.

"Pain. That's what you will remember for the rest of your life after today, Cyrus,; Athena promised herself before letting darkness take over her again.

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Because just like that, a happy life was never a choice. It was a battle only the strongest warriors could fight.w.W.NOVÉLWorM.com