

Chapter 130: Oskar

Tereshan

I haven't had enough time to strengthen my pack, not the way I want to, not the way Claire did when she was Alpha. But I have something she didn't, years and years of experience fighting.

As soon as Magnor shifts and races out of the packhouse, I begin tearing into every wolf I don't know. You're a friend or foe, there is no in between.

I see Dane and Jesiah racing out from different directions, running into the fight. I'm thankful that I have good warriors, good fighters, but I'm still worried about Claire and the other omegas. Jacoby has become good at throwing his weapons, but I wish we'd had longer to prepare.

I see Greasy Eason fighting against my warriors and Magnor begins to race over to him.

'Watch out for Oskar. You know he likes to blindside us.' I tell Magnor, just as he tunes in, and we hear the pounding of paws beside us. Magnor hits the ground just as Oskar leaps, flying over top of us. Magnor is on his feet and lunging toward Oskar who takes a second too long to get back up, having planned for the impact

against Magnor's body that didn't occur. Magnor's teeth snap, grabbing hold of Oskar's flank and ripping a chunk of flesh away.

Oskar roars his anger and pain, turning and snapping at Magnor's face, but Magnor dances away from him. The two wolves circle each other, looking for an opening. Oskar lunges first, snapping at Magnor's front leg, but Magnor grabs a hold of his neck, just missing his spine. Magnor shakes his head viciously from side to side, tearing another chunk of flesh out of Oskar.

As Magnor is spitting the flesh from his mouth, Oskar leaps on top of him, snapping, trying to get hold of his neck or spine. Magnor throws himself on his side, sending Oskar rolling off of him. Both are on their feet quickly, although Magnor is on his feet faster, lunging again. This time, Magnor grabs his front leg, biting down and hearing the bone snap.

Oskar howls in pain, and when Magnor releases him, he limps back, still ready to fight, but severely injured. This time, he stands still as Magnor circles him. Oskar must know that he's going to die, there's no way that he can win this fight.

I'm about to go in for the kill when I hear Claire's cry.

"Nooooo!"

Magnor whips around, just in time for me to see Claire throwing a knife. It whizzes past me, sinking into a

smaller wolf that was sneaking up on me. I recognize it as Ivy's wolf as she falls to the ground. In the moment of distraction, Oskar takes his opportunity, and leaps, latching on to the side of Magnor's neck. While his teeth puncture our neck, sending blood flooding down our throat and into our stomach, he doesn't crush my windpipe.

Somehow, he is able to pin Magnor underneath him, holding him to the ground. Magnor begins slicing at him with his back paws, scratching huge wounds into his stomach and chest, but still Oskar doesn't let go.

His growl of anger and fury is right beside our face, and I make eyes contact with him. Because of that, I see when his eye turns from anger to surprise a moment before I see the blade at his throat.

"Tell the Moon Goddess that Magnor and Damara send their regards," my mate says, before slicing his throat open, sending a spray of blood all over Magnor and onto herself.

As he collapses, dead beside me, I shift back, pulling Claire into my arms.

"Are you okay, are you hurt?" I ask her.

"I should be asking you that," she says as I hear the howl of retreat.

The wolves around us begin to race off of our pack

lands. I force myself to my feet, Claire at my side, and I see him. That fucking bastard Roman. Just like in the last timeline, he stops at the border and turns to me, pointing two fingers at his eyes and then one at me. He's watching me.

I snarl a warning at him and he smirks before taking off.

"How did he get out?" Claire asks me.

"Someone let him out. I'm guessing it was our mole." I say, coughing up blood.

"You need to sit down. The battle is won for today. You need to give Magnor some time to heal you," Claire says to me.

"I'll be fine, especially when I have you near me," I say, sitting and pulling her into my lap.

Dane comes running up. "Alpha, are you okay?"

"Yeah, I just need to heal. We need to get rid of the bodies. Franco's and Ivy's." I say, looking to where Claire killed Ivy's wolf, but when I look, I see that her wolf is gone.

Ivy got away again.

Oskar POV

I jolt awake, ready to fight, but instead, I'm in a beautiful field with flowers and sunshine. I can see butterflies

floating on the breeze and hear the sounds of small critters moving around in the grass.

I stand up, looking around. Wasn't I just in a battle, a battle I was losing?

I take a few steps and realize that I have no pain. I look at my flank where Magnor just ripped my flesh away. My leg is whole. I look down, gently putting my broken leg on the ground and realizing that it is no longer broken.

"You're healed, Oskar. You won't have any pain here."

I look up and see a woman, dressed in white robes, shrouded in light.

"Mother," I say, bowing my head to the mother of all werewolves.

Her hand comes to my head, her fingers running through my fur.

"Oskar, you were one of my strongest wolves, my fiercest fighters. Unfortunately, you were paired with a greedy human that only wanted money and power."

While I know she's right, I feel obligated to defend my human. "Franco wasn't always that way," I say.

"No, he wasn't, but he has been for a very long time. Longer than even you know," she says.

"What do you mean?"

"It's a long story, but I gave Magnor a choice, a choice to choose his mate over his human. To make his human an omega for a year so he could see what it was like to live under his rule. A year later, I gave Damara a choice to continue in her death or give her mate bond with Magnor another chance. In both instances, the wolves chose their mate over their human. And in both of those instances, your human killed or was directly responsible for their deaths."

"I don't understand," I tell her.

"Magnor and Damara are in their third lifetime, living this same year. It's their last chance, and I hope that they will make it this time, that they will finally come together as they were meant to be," she says.

I bow my head. "I never found my mate."

"No, you didn't. And that was because of your human. Your mate has always been close to you, but your human set things in motion that kept you from finding her. In Magnor and Damara's first timeline, she died because of your mate. In the second, she lived, but you and she died before you could find her. If I'm being honest with you, I would have expected your human to reject her anyway, wanting someone stronger than an omega for a mate."

I growl, angry that I was never given the chance to meet my mate, never to lay eyes on her.

"Even though your human's heart is tainted, yours has always remained pure, Oskar. So, I'm willing to give you the same choice that I gave Magnor and Damara. You can choose your human or your mate. However, in your instance, you will be paired with a new human, someone you don't know."

"But how will that work? Don't they have their own wolf?"

"They did, but when their mate was killed, at the hands of your human no less, the wolf chose to leave his human, wanting to leave the worldly life and stay here with me and his mate. That was his choice."

"But won't the human remember his wolf?"

"No, but you will remember. You will know. You will keep your Alpha genes, but you will not be in the body of an Alpha human. You will have to decide if choosing your mate is worth losing your Alpha status."

She looks at me, her hand stroking down my face. "Of course, as an Alpha wolf, who knows what you could achieve with the right human pairing. In the end, Oskar, it is your decision. If you want to stay here with me, I am happy to have you. But if you want a chance to meet your mate, to have a life with her, I will give you that chance."

I look around. "What about Franco?"

"Franco will go where humans with no wolves go. He will not be here, and I will not give him access to my lands."

"I would never see him again?"

"If you choose the new human, you will never see Franco again, not even in the afterlife. It is a big decision, Oskar. You are welcome to take your time and decide."

I think about it. All I ever wanted was my mate. I loved Franco for a long time, but the Moon Goddess is right, his mind and his heart turned. He didn't care about me, or anyone else. All he cared about was money and power."

I turn, looking up at the Mother of us all.

"I choose my mate."

"A good choice, my child," she says, and her hand passes over my eyes, sending me into darkness.