

Chapter 8: Liam

I carry my mate to the alpha floor. I've been the only person living on this floor since my mother died when I was 6 years old. My father wouldn't set foot up here again after her death and moved into a dwelling away from the packhouse. He gave me the choice and I stayed here, preferring to live in familiar surroundings to living with my grieving father.

I've mind linked the pack doctor to meet me here and I make my way to the room across the hall from mine. I don't know if she will recognize me as her mate, so I want her to have her own space until she is healed and we can talk.

I lay her down on the bed as Dr. Phillips knocks. "Alpha?"

"Dr. Phillips, come in." She comes over to the bed and takes in the state of my mate. She immediately begins setting up her medical supplies. "Alpha, can you take off her jacket and any other clothes she's wearing while I get set up?"

I see Dustin hovering in the doorway and I growl at him. "No males on this floor until I say so."

He backs away and Dr. Phillips looks at me curiously.

I take off the jacket and see that she's not wearing anything else underneath. A vicious snarl rips from my mouth when I see the state of her body. She is covered in bite marks. I hear the doctor gasp behind me and turn to her. "Are those...?" I ask.

She nods. "vampire bites." She walks slowly to the bed, taking in the multiple scars and punctures in various stages of healing. They are everywhere. "Oh this poor woman. Where did you find her?"

"She stumbled across our border and passed out."

She looks at me. "Do we know of any active vampire covens in the area?"

I shake my head. As she begins her initial exam, I mind link Dustin. "

Find out everything you know about vampires in a hundred mile radius."

"Yes Alpha." I cut the mind link as the doctor looks at me. "Help me roll her over."

I snarl again when I see that her back is no better than her front. Cyran is thrashing in my head that someone would do this to our mate.

Dr. Phillips puts an IV into her arm and begins giving her fluids. She takes blood and looks at me. "I need to test her blood and see if it can tell us anything. On examination, I can tell you she's dehydrated, malnourished and I would guess anemic and low on blood platelets."

She looks at my mate and then at me. "Do we know if she has a wolf?"

"Cyran said her wolf is dormant." I answer her without taking my eyes off this frail girl. How can this small woman be my fated mate. She looks like she will break if I touch her.

"Is she...?" Dr. Phillips asks, wanting to know if she's my mate. I nod my head before looking at her. "Yes, but only a few people know that, and I want to keep it that way."

"Yes, Alpha." She says before packing up her things. "I'll take her blood, test it and be back when I have results and will check her again then. Contact me if anything changes in the meantime."

I nod and pull up a chair. I'll be staying here tonight, keeping watch over my girl. As she leaves, Dr. Phillips turns to look at me. "Congratulations Alpha."

"Let's wait to congratulate me until we save her." I tell the doctor. Looking at her, I'm not sure this woman will survive the night.

As I settle in to keep vigil over my fragile mate, Dustin mind links me. "Alpha."

"What did you find out?" I ask, wanting to know how close the risk is to our pack. If she escaped a coven, they may be looking for her and I want to be ready. Vampires and werewolves don't cross paths very often, but when we do, it usually ends in a bloody mess.

"There are some covens in a one-hundred-mile radius. I didn't hear anything in particular about them searching for a missing girl." I sigh, I was hoping for more. "However, I expanded the search and nearly 170 miles north of us, there was a coven that was raided by hunters about nine days ago. From what I hear, they were killing a lot of humans which put them on the hunter's radar. From the little I have gotten so far, it sounds like the coven prince had a favorite blood bag." He stops, I wait him out. "It sounds like this girl."

"Do we know the status of the coven and if this prince escaped the hunters?" I ask.

"Not yet, I just wanted to let you know what I found. Are you still going into the city tonight?" He asks me. I look at my mate. I won't be going into the city looking for someone to warm my bed ever again. I finally found her and no matter what I have to do, I'm going to make sure that she never leaves.

"No, I'll be staying here. If you find out anything else, link me."

After a couple of hours, the doctor returns. Her initial assessment was correct. "Alpha. We can give her blood but we've never had to do that

with a werewolf before. I don't know if she will accept it."

I shake my head. "Let's see what her body will do to heal her before we take those drastic measures."

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A week goes by, and my little mate hasn't opened her eyes. Dr. Phillips says that she is healing slowly. Having me by her side, even if she doesn't feel the mate bond, is helping her.

I've barely left her side. I've had Dustin bring me anything that needs my attention. I only allow him and Dr. Phillips on this floor. I still haven't decided what to tell the pack, but until she wakes up, I don't want anyone disturbing her.

When Dr. Phillips arrives for her morning check, I leave to shower and change clothes. I mind link Dustin asking if there is anything that needs my attention.

"What do you want us to do with Eli Gunnar?"

I haven't been back down to the dungeons since my mate arrived. I don't want to leave her right now. Her medical condition has been tenuous, and I wouldn't forgive myself if something happened while I was away from her.

"Let him sit for now. I need to focus on her. Make sure he's got enough food and water to stay alive, otherwise he can wait."

"Yes Alpha." He doesn't close the mind link, so I know there's something else.

"What is it, Dustin?"

"I got more information on the vampire coven up north. The vampire prince and some of his top men escaped the hunters. From what I've heard, he and his nest mates took over a weaker coven and that he is gaining in power."

He hesitates again and I growl at him through the link. "Get to the point."

"The word is that they are looking for two women. One is described as pale with white hair. The bounty on her safe return to the vampire prince is 5 million dollars."

I stop mid-step. Five million dollars? For a werewolf? Vampires don't even like our taste. They don't feed on us at all. I've heard they describe our taste as muddy garbage. So then, why is a vampire prince after my mate?

"Double the patrols. I want to know the instant anyone picks up a strange scent." I think about it. "Have you ever smelled a vampire before?" I ask my Beta.

"Just once, and it's not a smell you forget. It's a disgusting sickly sweet smell."

"Did you happen to smell it on my mate when we found her?"

"No offense Alpha, you didn't really let any of us get close enough to her, but I'll ask Xavier if he noticed anything off about her scent before we got there."

"Alert the patrol to be on the hunt for that scent. If they come across it anywhere near our territory or the human city, they are to inform you and I immediately."

"Yes Alpha."

The mind link closes, and I finish getting dressed, trying to figure out why a vampire would be so interested in my mate. What is it about her? Cyran can feel that she has a wolf, so her taste should be repugnant to the vampires.

My mind is filled with these thoughts as I return to her room, my nameless mate. Because I'm so deep in my thoughts, it takes me a moment to realize that her eyes are open and she's staring at me wide-eyed. As I watch, the fear I see is replaced with a look of dread and resolve. 1

**Cooper****Author**

Hello friends. I would love to know what you think of the book so far. Leave me a comment and tell me your thoughts about Liam and Angel.

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