

Damon POV

My wolf burst out of me like wildfire. It's as if he detonates out of me when I call him. He looks back at Poppy and motions her to climb him. She seemed shocked, seeing my wolf. Onyx was taller than Poppy's height. She reached my chest in my human form, so you can imagine her shock.

All at once I heard a loud bang. Hunters. Fuck it. Poppy shrieked, covering her ears as she ducked.

Someone on the train must have called the hunters. 'Quick!' I tried to convey this to her. But Poppy was so shocked when she heard the gunshot that she froze in her place. Onyx nudged her to climb her. He could hear the metal and the whirring of engines. I nudged Poppy again. She started to cry. Her lips quivered and her body shook.

"Run away!" she yelled at me. She wanted to save me. "Run away," she yelled and pushed me. "I will take care of them!"

We couldn't take my eyes from my little wolf who was trying to save my wolf from hunters with guns by putting herself in the line of fire.

The moment, two ATVs burst from the thicket of trees on the right with two hunters. One of them aimed his guns at

us. My wolf lunged in the air and landed on the man with the gun, knocking him on his back. The ATV reared back and flipped like a toy, dashing with a tree and bursting into flames. In his rage, Onyx sinks his fangs in the neck of the man with the gun, killing him on the spot.

“Ahhhhhh!” I heard Poppy shrieking. When I turned my face, I saw the second man running after her with a taser in his hand. Panic and Rage exploded inside me. ‘Go get him!’ I command Onyx. He didn’t even need the command because he was already airborne. He landed right behind the man with the taser. He grabbed his leg and brought him down. The man grunted out of pain and tried to put his taser on my wolf, but Onyx was lightning fast. He sank his fangs in the man’s thighs. The man dropped the taser on chest, the electric barbs sinking into his skin. Shock jarred his bones and the next moment, Onyx ripped his head off, sending it flying in the air. It fell right in front of Poppy’s feet like an offering.

Poppy froze, seeing the head of the man who attacked us. Onyx approached her with caution as his fangs dripped with blood and some of his fur covered with blood and dust. She stayed still like the head on her feet. Onyx prodded her thigh with his snout.

Move. He rumbled. I could sense her fear of me, but she managed to drag herself and walk a bit. She stabbed her hands in her hair and looked up at the sky, at the gibbous moon. “Why me, Moon Goddess, why?”

My wolf growled in a menacing tone as he urged her to climb me now and stop her dramatics. Poppy was slow, probably too shaken from the last encounter. If at all her wolf came out, I wondered if it would be quarter the size of mine and probably pink. The last time I checked her satchel, she had everything pink, including the chargers for her phones.

She staggered a little. Onyx lowered himself to the ground for her climb on him. She climbed him and caught my ears. I could sense that she was very weak because she was shaking. When Onyx turned my face to look at her, he found her eyes drifting close. With a deep frustrated rumble, he pawed the ground with my hind leg, kicking dust in the air and then ran at full speed into the dark, thick forest, barely bothered about the sticks or the roots or the thorns in my paws. Onyx wanted to take her away from her and back into the safety of the academy.

And as we ran, I could feel the bristly warmth of Poppy's body on mine. She had clutched my sides tightly. I could hear her heartbeat and sense her terror. It was good that she was terrorized because it kept her awake. Onyx jumped over the boulders and fallen logs as he navigated his way back to the academy. She clasped my fur, half conscious as I dashed through the streams, up the rocky inclines and zigzagged his way through the dense forest. I knew she was huddled up on me, feeling cold and scared and helpless.

Onyx reached the academy before the sunrise. I didn't want to take her from the front gates, knowing that there would

be guards. So I entered the premises through the woods at the back of the academy. I went straight to my apartment. As soon as I was at the door, Killian opened it. I had sent him a message via mind link that I would be arriving in a few minutes. He was in his boxers with Eliza standing at his back. They watched me with shock, with gaping mouths as I entered my apartment with Poppy on my back.

'Pick her up,' I ordered Killian.

As if snapping out of his shock, he picked her and I shifted into my human form.

"Where the hell was, she?" he asked, his eyes wide with surprise. "And how did you manage to find her?" His gaze skittered down to my naked body and instantly he shoved Eliza behind his back.

Without answering him, with a low menacing growl, I took Poppy from his hands and took her to my bedroom on the first floor. Her eyes were closed. When I reached up, I set her on the bed carefully, covered her with a thick blanket and then took a deep sigh of relief. For once my wolf was silent and satisfied. But me— I rubbed my face with my hands as exhaustion set in me. I dragged my feet to the bathroom. As I stood under the hot steaming water, I wondered what I did in the last few hours. Everything was irrational.

I came out with a white towel draped around my hips. Poppy was still asleep. I went to lie on the far side of the bed so as

Getting her back

not to disturb her. Even though I was hell tired, I couldn't blink an eye as I watched her sleep.