

## The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 96

I should have destroyed this pack from the beginning. I should never have let their disrespect and brazenness mount to the point where they thought they could defy me once, twice, and then start an insurgency.

Redville did not matter until I took over the pack.

They would not have lasted another fifty years as a pack without going bankrupt or succumbing to rogue attacks considering the two idiots they had in line as Beta and Alpha. I saved Redville because it became mine but Xavier and his men had no honor. I would teach them.

“He is somewhere around here,” the warrior who alerted me to Xavier’s presence on pack lands said, pointing to a dark alley. I could indeed scent Xavier. I did not need him to be pointed out. He carried the stench of one who would soon turn rogue. The scent pricked my nostrils and made my wolf edgy.

What the warrior beside me didn’t know was that I was not born the previous day. I could scent an ambush from miles away. Did he think I had no nose to smell the over twenty men who were also in the alley with Xavier? Did he think they would be able to take me?

I felt cold hands on my bicep and my skin crawled. I turned with rage burning in my chest to see who touched me. Clover heaved a breath, her hand on my bicep. I shrugged her off with enough force to have her stumble back.

Valens -

“I have told you that you are the least of my concerns at this point. Do not touch me, do not follow me, and if you value your head, you would hide from me.” Zino intervened, pushing forward with a snarl.

The fact that I was about to put down so many people and I had this bitch still pestering me did not seat well with my wolf. I was angry and exhausted and didn't need any more nonsense on my plate.

You are walking into an ambush I left her with her sentence unfinished. There were warriors stationed around this alley. My warriors.

As expected, the minute I walked into the dark alley, men started to fall out from different corners. Some strolled forward like thugs while others jumped out of vehicles and some sat back and watched. The backup, eh?

Adrenaline filled my veins. It had been so long.

Too long. My mate's touch had calmed me, taken away the itch to wander and conquer but the euphoria of domination was not something I would ever forget. I could taste it on the tip of my tongue. I almost spread my arms to embrace it but I didn't. I walked forward, tracking Zavier's Scent.

‘Be careful. You are no longer invincible!’ My mate's voice rang in my ears.

I will,' I muttered under my breath. 'But I am still very much invincible.'

"Who are you talking to, cursed thing?" Xavier walked out from a corner, flanked by five men.

The other men started to advance, forming a circle around me. I paid them no mind. They would fall with their leader and he would fall in five moves.

You should have left when you had the chance to," I said then I shifted. Zino smirked at the surprises on their faces. I had mastered fast shifts long before they were conceived. Xavier was not so lucky. I pounced on him before he completed a shift.

I pulled a chunk off his face as it changed to that of a wolf. He screamed and pushed me off with sudden force. His third move was delivered by one of his henchmen as the lot gathered me, shifting as they came. I slashed at one's jugular, blood splattering around us.

They all came at me but I had a target. When he stepped forward, the others fell back. I was his kill after all but he would be mine. I think a part of him knew that already. He'd erred for the last time. He had long claws and a strong grip but I had the muscles he lacked; the strength and experience that came with a hundred years curse.

When he slashed my chest with his overgrown claws, I cringed.

The injury stung, it made me blank for a second and a second was all he needed to flip our positions and get on top of me. His wolf's eyes turned red like a rogue's, glowing in my face while I processed being injured.

Years. I'd had years to forget the pain of an injury. I'd been cursed to wander, to search, suffer, and live miserably. Physical pain was not part of my suffering. I healed before my brain registered most injuries. But not that day. Not when I had Aysel, my curse breaker.

'Don't forget you are no longer invincible, Valens.'

Her words rang in my head again.

You are wrong, Sagira." I thought. Xavier had one move and it was one I was willing to let him have. I could not kill him. I had far worse in stock for him.

He aimed his claws at my jugular, trying to do to me what I had done to his minion without much difficulty. I threw him off me and pinned him to the ground. My wolf wanted to bite down on his neck and be done with it but I needed him weakened, wrecked in front of all these people that revered him. Let them see what a weakling he was. Let them see what a true Alpha looked like and how he made his kill.

"Valens, are you okay!?" I heard someone exclaim.

I turned in surprised to see Clover and lost my prey. He pushed away from me and jumped to his feet, taking the coward's way out. His wolf flew through the alley but I gave

chase. I was faster, Zino flying with grace, marking the scent of his prey whose blood we could smell.

I caught up with Xavier as he shifted, blood pouring out of his human nose, his legs wobbly.

“It’s – It is dishonorable to attack me as a human!”

Zino skidded to a halt at the exclamation. Indeed, only a dishonorable wolf battled a man in his human form.

“If you kill me, will you kill your bitch too!?” He exploded, backing away as I advanced on him still in my wolf form, contemplating whether or not to shift. “Will you kill your mistress for aiding us!? She sent the man to steal your b!tch and she finished him off too.” His words were meaningless, a desperate attempt to stall his damnation.

“Adam, was it? Or was it Andrew!” He exclaimed right as I pounced on him and knocked him off his feet. “You will never have the loyalty I have,” he choked out, my weight on his chest “You will forever be betrayed because no one likes -” His words broke as he coughed violently.

Behind us, a battle had started. My warriors had come for the tyrants that backed up Xavier.

“You – you -“ he still tried to speak even though I had the upper hand. Whatever he wanted to say, he never got to say it as he passed out. I stood, shifting back.

A warrior brought me clothes. I got dressed and turned to leave the scene after instructing warriors from Red Moon to

take Xavier's unconscious body back to the dungeons. He would likely wake in several hours. He would not die until I said so.

Aysel wanted him publicly punished the way he did her parents and she would have what she wanted. She would have her revenge.

As I turned, I saw a man raise a weapon at me.

He watched me from the distance, aimed, and then fired.

"Fvck." I failed to dodge the bullet, forgetting I was no longer immune to silver. The bullet sank into my chest and pain blinded me, worse than I had felt in a century. I felt the poison of the silver bullet start its work immediately, spreading rapidly. It felt uncomfortable at first, then it started to feel like vines with vice grips yanking at everything in its part as it spread.

"Fvck," I muttered again, watching as a warrior tackled my shooter while I went down.

## **The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 97**

Artemis wasn't bluffing when she said the magic was stronger when we shifted. I hadn't shifted in a while so I hadn't noticed but the minute I changed from human to wolf, I felt like an entirely different person.

Artemis was stronger. The little training we'd received was certain to make a difference in confronting Skylar but the

magic we now had was everything we needed and so much more.

When she moved, she moved with better grace ,than ever before.

Skylar's wolf and Artemis met midair, rolling off to the ground but not before Skylar smacked the edge of Valens' desk. I was atop her when we went down, my claws digging into her brown wolf.

She tried to wiggle out of my grip, tried to get my claws dislodged from her neck but Artemis had a far superior grip than she expected; it was evident in the surprise in the wolf's eyes.

I wasn't the timid girl she used to know. I was not where I wanted to be, having barely hit half of my full potential, but I was far, far away from the person she used to know.

Images of the past flashed through my mind as if to remind me I was not angry enough. But I remembered the days she had bullied me, humiliated me, beat me, and made me feel worthless and sorry for myself. I was angry for things she had stolen from me, the life she had ruined, and for Lucien. She'd ruined him and a part of me, a small part, grieved the friend I had lost.

The wolf underneath me clawed at my face frantically, getting the upper hand as I ducked to avoid having my eyes gouged out. My weight away, she managed to push me off her. She backed away from me, snarling as she did, her eyes filled with rage, blood darkening her fur.

She circled, or tried to; a desk stood between the two of us. The man on the floor groaned but she didn't care. She had her eyes on her prey and nothing else mattered to her at that point.

The brown wolf snarled and charged at me with every inch of her covered with murder intent.

She slammed me to the ground as she pounced on me, her teeth going straight for my neck. I pushed her off me with enough force that she landed many feet away, her claws scratching the ground.

This time, I went at her. She was bleeding still, losing her strength. If I engaged her for longer, she would have no choice but to surrender. Or she could pass out like her mate over at the corner. I swiped at her face, leaving deep claw marks. To my surprise, a dark gooey substance started to leak from the wound.

The wolf stumbled backwards, the fur on her skin starting to recede. Unfortunately, she was stuck between shifts. She kept flickering from wolf to man, never fully there, while I stood, confused.

What is this?' I asked my wolf who was as perplexed as I was.

It's poison, Artemis replied in a quiet voice, looking down at her paws.

I felt my chest tighten, becoming unbearably hot.



The only time I ever felt like this was when I unknowingly ate a too-spicy meal.

With the feeling of discomfort, bordering on pain, in my chest spreading to my stomach, I took a step back on wobbly feet. Skylar seemed to be getting a grasp of herself although she looked terrified, like she would flee any moment from now.

‘No, A voice whispered in my head. It was an unfamiliar voice. You go nowhere,’ the voice came again as Artemis advanced. It did sound a bit like my wolf but not quite. I felt I could recognize it but I could not.

Before I knew it, Artemis was rising to her hind legs, her front paws raised at Skylar.

‘Rest well,’ I heard the strange voice in my head before an invisible force slammed into Skylar right as she decided it was best to run. It slammed her to the ground, picked her up, and whipped her back down. Then repeated the motion several times until a shelf collapsed atop the wolf.

Artemis went back on all fours, snarling at the rubble Skylar was buried underneath. She was pawing at the rubble when the door opened to let in Jabari and two warriors, Gavin included.

“What the – You are bleeding.” He picked me up and carried me from the room while I was stuck in my wolf form. We got to the car and he ordered the men downstairs to join those upstairs in retrieving Skylar and her mate. They were going straight to the dungeons.

“She’s injured,” Jabari sounded frantic as he explained to the nurse who directed us to a ward.

“And it seems she is unable to shift.”

“She is in shock. It is a normal occurrence for wolves in shock to have trouble with shifting,”

Jabari put me on the bed, letting the nurse attend to me. “I will clean her injuries before the doctor arrives,” the nurse smiled at him. I could feel the anxiousness wafting off him and it made me anxious too.

“Do you know who this is?” He pointed at me, glaring at the nurse while he paced a bit. This is your Luna,” he almost snarled. “Fvck, Valens’ going to have my neck when he wakes up.”

When he what?’ My wolf snarled.

“Beta, please help me get a doctor,” the nurse said when she noticed my anxiousness. Jabari left with a grumble. He was just out the door when I shifted.

“Where is my mate?” I looked around frantically as if expecting him to be seated somewhere in the ward. I pushed out of the bed.

“Ay- Luna, at least put on some clothes!” The nurse flung a hospital gown at me before I rushed out of the room.

She – I ran into Jabari and the doctor he went to get”She has shifted. Aysel, what are you doing?

Your face is injured!” I touched my face and it was indeed bleeding. Skylar had scratched me and it wasn’t healing up fast enough and my shifting back must have worsened the injury.

“Where is Valens?” I interrupted him.

The Alpha got shot but is –

“You were not supposed to tell her that!” Jabari exclaimed at the doctor.

“What!?” I yelled at the same time as Jabari. “He got what? Where is he?”

“We took out the bullet. He is-“

“Where is he!” I yelled at the poor doctor. I would apologize later but then, my adrenaline was running high.

“If – if you would follow me, he is this way. I treated him myself and I followed the doctor and he led me to another end of the hospital. I rushed into the room to see my mate laid out on a bed, still as the dead and without any colour.

He looked terrible, hooked up with so many tubes.

“What happened?” I asked the doctor who Jabari was glaring at.

“He was shot by some punk. We have him in custody,” Jabari answered.

“He – he doesn’t look good.” I took his hands and they were cold. He didn’t move. His chest was hardly moving, making me wonder if he was truly alive.

“He had a bit of silver poisoning but we were quick to suck it out after taking out the bullet.

The Alpha is a strong man. His wolf has done much of the work, making him recover faster than anyone else I have ever treated with a silver bullet in their chest.”

“His chest?” The more the doctor spoke, the more I lost my mind. Things just kept getting worse the more he talked.

“He – how long has he been like this?”

“He got here a few hours ago. We were –

“Rather than gossip, you should be treating her injury!” Jabari snapped at the doctor who he did not like.

“It seems to be healing quite nicely,” the doctor said. Whatever thing he saw in Jabari’s eyes made him change his mind. “But of course, we don’t want the injury to get infected. I shall get a nurse.” The doctor left without further ado.

“I am sorry. I have failed you once again,” Jabari bowed his head. “I got a call that Valens was shot right as you left and I forget my priorities yet again. I deeply apologize.”

“I am fine. Is he really okay?” I directed the attention back to my mate.

“He is. Can you do me a favor though?” I looked up at him.  
“Can we not tell him what happened.

“I am going to fvcking kill you.” We heard a quiet rasp interrupt us.

Valens!” I turned to my mate, eyes wide. “you are alive!” He was and he looked about ready to end his Beta.

“Still invincible,” he muttered, trying to seat up.

“But you are not – I pushed him back down as he winced, trying to seat despite his injury.

It felt as if a weight had been lifted off my shoulders upon seeing him awake but yet – yet something lingered, a kind of guilt that I had carried with me all along, a truth I had hidden that made me feel like a fraud in this relationship.

I knew who he was but he – he had no idea who I was. Was I ready to take that secret with me to the grave? Would I ever forgive myself if I lost him without him ever knowing about me?

“I have something to tell you,” I said to my mate, looking down at my hands. I would chicken out again if I did not say it that instant. “Can you excuse us, Jabari?” I turned to the Beta, using the opportunity to wipe my eyes.

## **The Cursed Alpha’s Mate Chapter 98**

“I don’t care what happens to the rest of them. I want Xavier hanged. He will be an example to this pack of what

happens when people challenge me,” Valens was saying to the Elder who was to conduct the trial of Zavier, Skylar, and all who aided them in invading Redville.

So the trial started.

It took two weeks for us to work up from those who were minor parties in the insurgence before we made it up to the trial for Skylar and her father. They would all be tried on the same day , and their verdict was already settled.

I sat in the front row with Valens beside me. In the past two weeks, things had been strained with him. I wanted to pretend it was because we had so much to do, getting the pack together after the invasion and preparing for trials every day, but I knew I was wrong. I told him everything the moon goddess told me about my mother and since then, things changed. He had simply said he’d suspected after I got my magic, but nothing more than that.

“The Alpha will pronounce the verdict,” I zoned back into the trial when Valens left my side. He climbed up to the stand and looked at everyone in the room, his eyes lingering on me.

“Skylar Zavier, you are guilty of aiding and abating an insurgence, kidnapping, murder, and treason. I, Alpha Valens, sentence you to death by hanging.” The whole room went up in murmurs after that.

So far, everyone involved in the revolt had either been banished or gotten a prison sentence.

The teenagers involved in vandalism were tasked with restoring the pack lands to their former state. Even the three other packs that had been hit didn't sentence anyone to death.

Beta Strauss and his mate who had been the champions of the attack on Levana's pack were going to be locked away forever. Elder Bane, Maxwell, and James who were the heads of the dissenting elders were stripped of their titles, their wealth confiscated and their families banished from the pack.

"Alpha Zavier, for aiding and abating an insurgence, disregarding the code of Alphas, and evading justice, you too will face death by hanging. That is my judgement." He got off the stand and the whole room went from murmuring right into an uproar.

He walked out of the room without a backwards glance, leaving me behind. I could not help the pang in my chest. Did he hate me now? We came in together without him saying a word to me now he left as if I did not exist.

Jabari and some men formed a human shield around me as they escorted me out. I turned to Jabari when we got to the car. "Where is he going?"

I didn't have to say much more. He knew who I was talking about.

"Clover," he explained but I did not understand.

"She did not stand trial for a reason."

Zavier and Skylar confessed Clover had aided them in kidnapping me. She'd lied to Andrew that there was a surprise for me and Valens which he had to drive me to. The poor man believed her. Why wouldn't he? Clover was a sneaky b!tch who even managed to get Valens to believe she could do no evil. Skylar did not trust Clover to deliver me to them so she sent her father and brother. Clover was the one that killed Andrew in his hospital bed.

For unknown reasons, Valens hadn't wanted her to stand trial. I didn't know where she was or if he had let her go like he first did but apparently she was still on pack lands.

"Take me there," I said to Jabari. He looked skeptical as if he would refuse. "Take me there, that's an order," I snapped at him. He looked surprised and I felt guilty but I was tired of him treating me like a child.

I could not do anything except Valens said it was okay for me to. I was asked to testify against Skylar but Valens had declared there was no need for me to so that ended there. I wouldn't let them shut me out and shut me up ever again.

Jabari took the car keys and drove to the oracle's shrine. I'd started to doze off in sleep, thinking he was driving in circles to tire me out. We arrived at the shrine and a chill washed over me.

The new voice in my head which I had experienced while dealing with Skylar whispered in my ear, 'Calm down.'

The voice was Artemis' voice. My wolf had a better understanding of our magic without even having to try. The



new voice' was the way she spoke when our magic was triggered or when I was the most rested.

“What is she doing here?” I asked Jabari who shrugged.

“He took her here to pray for forgiveness,” Jabari was speaking when two men came out, both holding Clover’s bicep. Even in her state of wretchedness, she still managed to look stunning.

She’d lost weight, her skin had gotten paler and her collarbones jutted out but she was still the prettiest person I had ever seen. She looked frail and helpless as she was dragged out. She raised her head before she passed me. Her dull eyes lit on fire as she looked at me. Suddenly, she spat on my face.

My body froze as I recoiled. My arms went stiff, my body vibrating with a familiar burst of magic.

I had mastered a spell that burnt things and it was on the tip of my tongue but I held myself.

“I should have killed you myself,” she looked enraged as she spoke. Mad. “I should have killed you from the start, you thief! Valens is I slapped her across the face. The sound of the slap resonated around the quiet entrance to the shrine. I slapped her again.

“Whatever sins you have prayed away will not be forgiven. If Valens does not do away with you today, I will. Your ashes will be thrown into the gutters after I am done with you, Clover, as you are nothing but a worthless piece of sh!t

desperate to hold on to relevance which you never had!” My voice raised, bouncing off the walls of the shrine.

I pulled out a handkerchief and wiped her saliva from my cheek as Valens walked out of the shrine. He had been distracted while coming out but he paused when he saw me.

“What is going on here?” He asked. I turned and glared at him.

Your whore spat at your Luna. Thank you for the room and audacity you allowed her!” I snapped at him.

I went back to the car, Clover’s dry laughter following after me. My eyes burned as I got into the car and closed it. Tears trickled down my cheeks when I remembered I couldn’t drive so I was stuck there. I pressed my palms into my eyes to stop myself from crying when I heard the car door open. My eyes opened when the person got into the backseat with me. I knew it was Valens before I even turned to look at him.

“Why are you crying?” He asked, his eyes blank as he looked at me.

“Why am I crying?” I demanded. “Why am I crying, Valens!?” She spat on my face and laughed.

Do you – She did that to me because of you!” I poked a finger into his chest.

“I am sorry,” he said in a flat voice, “I should have ended her sooner.”

Yes, you -” my words died in my throat. “What?

Are you – Are you -“

I lost my child because of them. Do you really think I would let Clover go? Do you think she is that special to me?” I looked at his eyes as he spoke and they scared me. Murder gleamed in his eyes.

“Are you I shivered. The look on his face scared me.

“She deceived me and I hate to be deceived.

Whatever favours I owe her have been repaid in full. Now, she owes me.” I had nothing to say after that. He had obviously made up his mind and there was no going back. “Do not cry. I will see you at the execution.” He pressed a kiss to my cheek and opened the car door.

“Where- where are they taking her?” I asked.

“The graveyard.” I did not want to know anything after that.