

## Chapter Four

I had woken up in a large trailer with over fifteen other women and the Gammas the North had sent to deliver their message.

Today was the day. The day the Alpha of the North would meet his spoils of battles, his trophies. I was one of the many women dragged from their packs and brought over to the North. The Alpha didn't send that letter to warn our pack, he sent that letter to make the other packs put their guards down, thinking he wouldn't make a move if they didn't.

I looked up at the scorching sun with blurry eyes; my skin ached from the burn but also somehow welcomed the feel of it; after all, this was the first time in a week I'd felt the sun on my skin.

The women behind me chattered endlessly as their eyes took in our surroundings, this wasn't what we expected after being told we were to be taken to the North.

This was far too warm, too green to be Crimson Snow pack.

Needless to say, they were all afraid of what would become of them. The majority were daughters of Alphas that I knew and wives of betas that were easily thrown to the Gammas of Crimson Snow just because they wanted to save their asses.

These women's lives were traded for their packs and me? I just happened to be the unlucky one who walked right into their grasp.

Funny to think seven days ago I was a Luna. The Luna of Black Mountain pack. The title seemed more like a faraway thought now...a stain.

I was a force to be reckoned with. We both were, together. But now, I'm here. After what Kane did...after what I saw, something broke inside me.

Something I couldn't understand.

After letting us out of the black trailer they'd kept us in, the Gammas observed our movements closely. They were two men, identical in every sense of the word. Sharp blue eyes, large muscles. The only difference between the men that towered over us was the difference in their hair lengths. The one who preferred walking around shirtless was bald, and the other with a mole had a buzz cut.

I couldn't tell if they were twins or just brothers who looked alike, but my wolf could sense the immense power that radiated from them.

She's been pacing and restless for a while, eager to shift and make a run for it.

But I decided against it.

The Alpha must be pretty confident in the strength of his pack seeing as he sent his two Gammas and no one else. Judging from the auras they let off, I had no doubt we'd be ripped to shreds easily if we tried to escape. If his Gammas are this powerful, then just how much strength does their Alpha possess?

There has to be a way out though. A loophole.

Because once we meet the Alpha of the North...that will be my end. I wasn't ready to die. Not after everything I've had to endure.

"You...should eat something," I heard a hesitant voice say from behind me, startling me out of my thoughts. My brows furrowed and I turned around to meet brown, worried eyes.

Alisha.

She's been sitting and sleeping next to me for the past week, a Beta's daughter from a neighboring pack who was taken without her father's knowledge. Her Alpha had lied she was his wife, giving her as a peace offering.

Rumor has it that the Alpha of the North has a thing for Eastern women...judging by the situation around us, those rumors weren't wrong.

Alisha is nice, very outspoken, and eager to make friends, even in such a situation. I, on the other hand...was no longer the friend-making type.

She had long black hair and was a delicate beauty who seemed to have never glimpsed the real world up until this moment. Her once vibrant pink dress was covered in dust and grime but she managed to maintain a certain air of elegance.

I can never trust another being. Not after what my husband did to me.

Turning around completely to meet her gaze, I noticed she had a loaf of bread and what seemed to be milk tea in her grasp. She was giving it to me?

My eyes narrowed in suspicion.

"I...know you don't talk much, I just..." She chewed on my bottom lip, an action I'd soon come to realize was a sign of her nervousness.

"I noticed you've barely eaten a thing in the past week...We should have our strength to face what's ahead, is it not?"

That's where she's wrong. They've all given up. Already assumed that their lives would forever belong to Crimson Snow but not me.

Which was why I refused to be complacent.

I could barely sense these women's wolves. The food was being tampered with. Either they haven't noticed something or they do but are just too hungry to care.

"Thank you, Alisha," I replied softly, "But I am not hungry,"

My voice sounded foreign to my own ears. I hadn't heard myself for days...since I left my home. Since I was reminded just how insignificant I was.

Alisha's eyes widened in surprise and there was a twinkle in them that I didn't understand."You...You have a beautiful voice, Celine,"

I'd heard that a million times in my lifetime, but I still couldn't hear it.

The beauty they all speak of.

"Eat," I simply said before turning back around to face the sun.

She looks no older than nineteen. Barely an adult and forced into this kind of life.

I wasn't sure who was more disgusting, the alpha of the North who has staged these attacks or my husband...who I found fucking my mother.

Perhaps I was still in shock. I couldn't bring myself to feel anything. Not even after the Gammas had told us we would never see our family again.

The others were devastated but...I couldn't lie to myself. Nothing was waiting for me at Black Mountain Pack.

Not anymore.

"Form a line! Form a line!" The Gammas ordered in their loud, stern voices as they began to round us up.

We were about fifteen women; a few were pregnant, a few were recovering from being rejected, and the rest?

All weakened by the drugged food.

I was hungry, but not weak. I'd gone longer without a proper meal, this was practically child's play.

"The Alpha is arriving!" I heard one of the girls gasp, pointing at a black SUV that approached us. The Gammas had managed to get us to line up, I was the last on the line.

They all went stiff, I knew it was because they could sense their Alpha's presence. My eyes darted around hurriedly, looking for a way to slip away without being noticed.

But I knew it would be a bad idea...not when there were three more cars behind the SUV.

He wasn't alone.

When the cars finally pulled to a stop, the bald Gamma walked over to the back door of the first car and held it open. His once stern expression cracked and was replaced by an amused smirk.

"Look who decided to leave his mountain," He spoke teasingly.

My brows furrowed as I tried to catch a glimpse of who he was speaking to but failed as the other cars emptied and powerful after powerful men stepped down.

It was a gift I had that no one knew about. I could tell the status of each wolf I met without them ever telling me.

Beta. Warrior. A few of them actually.

Why though, do their wolves give off such violent aura? The sheer power that radiated off them was enough to unsettle all of the women, including me. The majority had their heads bowed in fear and submission.

I knew the North was powerful...but to be this intimidating? Kane wouldn't last an hour if he decided to wage war against them alone.

I caught a glimpse of white hair as the bald Gamma finally stepped away from the SUV.

The second he stood and I saw his figure, I knew immediately it was him.

The Alpha.

He towered over the bald Gamma whose height was already quite impressive. His eyes were the brightest shade of golden eyes I'd ever seen; his left eye seemed to glow with power, and the other was dim.

He had a scar that ran down from the top of his head down to that eye and then lower to his chin but, goddess. That did nothing to disrupt the sheer beauty that the man carried. He had a perfectly sculpted nose, full dark pink lips, and a jawline that was carved to perfection. His thick brows were white, pulled together into what seemed to be a disapproving frown.

His eyes though...seemed familiar.

He wore a black T-shirt that hugged every inch of his muscular form perfectly and dark-washed jeans. He looked like a god's poor attempt to blend in with mortals and his strength...I could feel his strength from where I stood and it was...unlike anything I'd ever sensed. I could practically taste it.

He had a presence unlike anyone I'd ever met, dangerous, enigmatic, strangely compelling. And he was headed straight for me...us, the women.

I held my breath and watched as his eyes dangerously swept over the trembling women. He passed by each one, and I could have sworn I saw disappointment swirl in those golden depths, but when I looked again, there was nothing in those eyes.

They were empty. Like he felt nothing.

My heart dropped to my stomach and a chill seemed to surround me like thorns.

Then it was my turn and those golden eyes finally met mine. I inhaled sharply.

His feet halted and his eyes narrowed. He leaned in, slowly.

"Her," He declared loud enough for everyone to hear."I want her,"

I shook my head, my world seemed to spin as horror consumed me.

"And the rest?" The bald Gamma asked.

"Kill them all." The Alpha said, those empty eyes never leaving mine.

A monster, I realized.

He was a fucking monster.