

Chapter 82 Cold Shoulder

Umayza

I linked Axel the moment I walked out of the Council’s Chamber and ten minutes later my entire team walks into my room in our Quarters, I am putting my last things into my bag as I tell them about the assignment. Blaze addresses the elephant in the room, “Why are we coming along?”

“Just in case my family finds out about me or already knows about me and because I am going to need people around that I trust with my life.” I say as I walk into my bathroom to get my toiletries. “I also need you all to be a buffer between me and my Mates.”

I hear growls coming from my bedroom and a smile crosses my face as hear Tarja threaten to kick their asses, while Boris offers to dig their graves. “Alexia, can you get our SUV out front, I have no intention of riding with any of them.” I ask and a moment later I hear the door of our Quarters slam shut.

Axel asks me if I am going to be fine working with Evander and Conri and I tell him that as long as they stay close to me I will be fine. “I need to do this for Princess Taliyah, she deserves answers only I can get for her and I need all of you to watch my back.

We know there was no way I would be able to avoid them for the rest of my life, but I will make sure I keep as much distance as possible between us and you are the ones that know what happens when I re-life a memory. Lets see how they will handle being ignored when I am this close.” I say as I zip my bag.

The moment we get of the elevator Axel puts his arm around my shoulder and we all know exactly why he is doing it. I decide that he can have this moment, but I will put him straight in the SUV and make sure he doesn’t make this worse than it already is.

“Boris, did you pack some snacks for the road or do we have to make a stop along the way?” I ask him, knowing that most of my team have snacks with them and the only stops we might have to make are for those that need to pee. “I have bottles of water, different kinds of fruits and a variety of sweets, I think I will be fine.” He mumbles as he looks through his backpack.

“Captain Armand, we are ready to leave if you are. Alexia will be out front in a second.” I say and I hear her cussing and swearing in my head, “What is it, Alexia?” Blaze asks her. “I can only park the SUV on the sidewalk or at the front of all the other SUVs.” She responds.

“Park in front of all the SUVs, I doubt they knew we would be joining them. You can take the lead down there or one of them can overtake you to lead the way, it won’t make a difference.” I tell her. I walk past Evander as I talk to Blaze about the snacks in my backpack.

“Umayza.” Captain Armand calls out. “Can you introduce everyone to me? Just so I know what name to call instead of calling out You with the ponytail.” Blaze starts laughing as Yonatan looks at him and Boris says, “Do that and we will all respond.”

“Alexia is outside in our SUV, this nuisance is called Boris.” I say as I point at Boris. “Yonatan is to your left with Blaze right next to him and to your right is Tarja, right next to me is Axel. This is Captain Armand and his Royal Squad.” I say, but I don’t introduce the others individually to my team.

I don’t have to as they know exactly who is who and I don’t feel the need to look at Evander or Conri. Axel guides me towards the front door and I can hear low growls coming from my Mates, but I don’t respond to it in anyway. I hear my team chuckle through our mind-link and Axell pulls me even closer.

Everyone follows me and Axel out of the lobby and I see Alexia lean against an SUV that isn’t ours. She has her eyes on her phone and it looks as if she is unaware of us approaching her, but I know she is very much aware of the fact that we stepped out of the building.

“Umayza, you can join me and Conri in our SUV and your team can be divided over the other two SUVs.” Evander says and I hear Alexia mumble. I turn around to face my Mate and ask him if there is something wrong with his hearing.

He shakes his head as he has a confused look in his eyes, “I believe I told Captain Armand that Alexia was outside in our SUV, I believe that would indicate that none of us needs to be in one of your SUVs. Or would want to be in one of your SUVs.” I say before I turn on my heel and walk towards our own SUV.

Alexia opens the trunk for us and we all place our bags inside, before we get inside in the order we always do. Yonatan and Tarja in the back row, Blaze gets in the middle row first and then I get in before Axel gets in last. Boris gets into the passenger seat and Alexia behind the wheel as she always does.

Yonatan was the one to point out that this way I was surrounded at all times and this is how we have been traveling for the past two years, at first I was not to happy with the arrangement, that was until Boris found a few Warriors prepared to show me this was the best way for us to travel.

Evander

I smelled her before I saw her, but when my eyes landed on her I wanted to rip the male next to her to pieces. She knew we were Mates even though we never saw one and other on the days of the Full Moon and still she let another male touch her.

“Keep a lid on it.” Callan growls through our mind-link and I know Theron will be the first to put me back in my place with Callan right by his side. Conri looks as if he is in pain and I believe in a way he actually is in pain, but I guess we only have ourselves to blame for this.

I still don’t believe there is something wrong with the note I wrote and maybe I should ask Zaza to read it to find out if we really screwed up, I know she will tell us the truth if I did something wrong with this note. Conri looks murderous as we follow Umayza and Axel outside.

My heart sinks when I hear her reply to my suggestion and I hear Conri growl as Axel gets into the seat next to her. I am glad Conri and I will be traveling alone as it will give us time to talk about what we just found out about our little Mate.

We are barely in our SUV when Alexia pulls away from the curb, I hear Theron mutter some obscenities through our mind-link and we all know that Alexia will get an earful during our first stop. Theron always leads the way wherever we go and he hates it when someone else tries to take the lead.

“What are we going to do, Evander?” Conri asks and for a moment I don’t know how to answer him, “Apparently we screwed up, Conri. I am not sure what to do, but I know I am not willing to give up on her. I am more concerned about her Grandmother, we both know her reputation and when she learns of Umayza’s existence she will come for her.

I want to know how her team intents to protect her and I will make sure one of us is near her at all times. Calliope will not get her hands on Umayza as long as I am breathing.” I growl as we follow Callan away from the Academy. For a long time we drive in silence, both of us caught up in our own thoughts.

Last time we saw Umayza she had been laying in an infirmary bed and she had looked so fragile, but we hadn’t been there when she woke up. To this day I still hate that we had to go on assignment and weren’t there to see her after she woke up.

Even though he never gave us much information Gray would always tell us that she was doing fine, that her studies and training were progressing better than anyone had expected, but that all changed after we sent her our first invitation.

Conri and I had talked about it the first time he was reluctant to answer any questions about Umayza, we figured he had mentioned it to her and it had freaked her out or something like that. Now, I realize he had probably known the truth.

Conri

Seeing her walking towards us was an image I will not soon forget, not just because some male had his arm wrapped around her, no it was the sight of her that I will never forget. I still remember what she looked like in that little red dress, but seeing her in black, high-waisted skinny jeans with a black tank-top was even worse.

She looked gorgeous with her hair in a high braid down her back and the little make-up she was wearing. I had once seen a picture of Wenonah, her Aunt, and I have to admit that they look almost similar, making me feel relieved she is on our side.

Evander is right, I will protect her with my life if Calliope is coming for her and I am glad she has a protection detail. Thinking back on the first time we saw them train puzzle pieces fall into place.

After two hours driving Alexia pulls over at a gas station and even though Umayza steps out of the SUV she stays near it, not looking at us. Evander takes a few steps towards her and I hear him softly growl as she gets back into the SUV, before he can reach her.

The moment we walk back to our own SUV she gets out again and I see her stretching as Blaze is whispering into her ear. Kane growls in my head as he sees what she is doing and he is cussing and swearing at me in my head, blaming me for Umayza ignoring him.

“You are a part of me and that means she is ignoring us both, just like she is ignoring Evander and Mylo. You can’t blame me for this, we all did this. Even though I have no idea what this is.” I say to Kane and as always when we are arguing about Umayza he retreats to the back of my head.

Callan is talking to Boris and Yonatan, while Theron is talking to Alexia and I hear her laughing at him, “You hate following someone else, don’t you?” Alexia and I hear her stuck behind another driver.

That is why he usually travels alone as he always complains about another’s way of driving out loud, calling them every name he can think of. At first you might think it is funny, but after hearing him almost twenty four seven you get bored and that is why none of us wants to be in an SUV with him.

I walk towards the gas station to take a leak myself before we have to get on the road again, but Axel steps in my way and as I am about to ask him about it Umayza walks out of the gas station. I shove him out of my way and walk past Umayza to the door as I say, “Hello, Umayza.”

I know it isn’t much of a greeting, but I needed to say something. If I hadn’t said anything she probably would have used it against me and I will do my best to make sure there is nothing else she can hold against me. Not that I know what I did wrong in the first place, but I won’t add to it.

I can tell it startled her as I feel her eyes on my back, but I don’t look over my shoulder and I quickly made my way over to the restroom. Evander is waiting for me the moment I step outside again and he has a small smile on his face, “You distracted her enough with your greeting for me to grab her before she could fall.” He says.

Evander tells me through the mind-link what happened as we walk back to our SUV and I am glad at least one of us had a rather normal interaction with her. We both know that we will be around her for the next few days, but if she keeps acting this way I am afraid that Mylo or Kane might explode.