

Chapter 107

Awa went to the arena early and sat in her section before anyone else started arriving. She was sure this day would see more injuries than the other two combined.

“I don’t know why you’re feeling so calm today, but I need you to stay alert.”

She looked at the tense Alpha who had followed her into the Arena and sat beside her.

“I’m always alert.”

“You exceeded my expectations the first two days, but today is the most dangerous. Even a weak Omega would be a formidable opponent when they shift.”

“I know that Don’t worry about me. I’ll be going home to make a big breakfast in less than an hour.”

Zeke turned his head to catch her gaze. He seemed to understand what she meant because she saw him relax his shoulders as he released a breath.

“Okay, Okay, that’s good. Make yourself at home, stay inside, and I’ll see you at lunchtime.”

Of course, an Alpha like Zeke couldn’t tap out and leave early. He would never be able to hold his head high again.

“When do we get to know the results of this useless exercise?” she asked.

“In the morning. They have already been judging our performances, and after the last matches tonight, they’ll check if everyone has been placed at the right level because this is where they’ll have to stay for the rest of the semester. By the time the real evaluations start, every day will be like today, and the matches are over a week. We even get to team up in some matches.”

How he explained things to her showed how much tension he had been holding before. Had he really been that scared for her! So far, besides Deter, everyone had been fighting fairly, and it hadn’t been the complete bloodbath that she had assumed. No one had died.

Sunday. You can call your family when you get home,” he continued. “I’m sure they’ll be relieved to know you did well in your evaluations.”

Her dad would be the first to say he wasn’t surprised even though he was probably worrying himself sick every day that she was here.

“Thank you.”

“You should probably tell them about me now. I don’t want anyone to be surprised when they visit.”

That would be a difficult conversation. The wolves in her pack didn’t date humans anyway, but that could largely have been due to her dad and brother. She was their little girl, even to her younger brothers.

Maybe she would move back to the dorms for the weekend.

“I want to take you somewhere we can talk tonight,” Zeke said

Like a date? Her heart fluttered for a moment before she forced herself to calm down. Maybe he was taking her somewhere so that they wouldn’t be overheard. She had noticed that he never pushed her for answers when his pack members were around. Maybe he didn’t want them to know what he had done.

Slowly, the Arena started to fill up.

“You should go and sit in your section,” she told him.

“It’s pointless trying to hide anything now. I can hear their whispers, they already know you belong to me.”

“Stop saying that,” she hissed.

Zeke looked down at her, and his eyes flashed red briefly as his gaze landed on her neck.

“I’ll stop saying it and start slowing it instead,” he said quietly.

Heat flooded her body And with those words that may as well have been the dirtiest, most sensual words she had ever heard. Zeke finally stood and walked away.

Did anyone else hear him?

She looked around at the students and teachers, and her heart sank when she saw Mr. Patrick seated in the bleachers on the other side of the beginner's ring. He had heard everything. Her first reaction was to get angry with him, but she realized she needed his help anyway. She needed to arrange somewhere to meet.

'I'm rapping out in my first match. Meet me at Alpha Ezekiel's house,' she thought. Was she projecting loud enough? Would he hear complete sentences like the wolves did when mind-linking, or did he just get jumbled words and impressions?

When Mr. Patrick nodded, she let out a breath of relief and waited impatiently for the day's evaluations to begin.

When the coach walked in, the level of coldness in his eyes seemed to have reached new heights. He didn't have a sneer on his face, and it reminded her of Dexter's face before their match. Was the coach planning something for today, too? How pissed off would he be when he realized. she didn't intend to participate?

When things finally got underway, her first opponent was Robert, the vampire she had fought on the first day. He smiled at her as he stood across the ring with no weapon in his hand at all. Was he very confident

in his skills as a vampire? He could move so fast around her that she could be out before she knew it.

As the rest of the fighters paired up in their rings and the barriers were raised, she heard loud murmurs among the students. For a change, they all had their attention on a different ring.

“What’s going on?” she asked Robert.

Robert had a frown on his face as he looked over at the other rings.

“Alpha Ezekiel is fighting first,” he answered. “He’s fighting Alpha Jared.”

She gasped as she tried to see the fighters in the last ring, but they were too far away. All she could feel was anger, and she knew, somehow, that it was Ezekiel. The last time they had been in a room together, he had almost killed Jared. Would he be able to hold himself back?

The whistle blew, but she couldn’t bring herself to turn back to Robert. The match in the intermediate ring next to hers made it even more difficult to see over it.

Some students screamed and shouted, and for the first time since she started, she saw panic on the coach’s face as he started to rush towards the other side of the arena.

“Robert, what happened?”

She could feel her panic rising as she pressed against the unyielding magical barrier and, along with it, fury like she had never felt before. That had to be Zeke. How could she feel that?

“Alpha Ezekiel shifted. He’s... He’s going to kill him.”

Her breath hitched. If Zeke killed anyone, they would take him away. The Council would have their hands on him, and his life would be over. She didn’t want that. Her heart ached at the thought of never seeing him again. She had to stop him.

“I yield! I yield!”

By the time the barrier dropped, and she ran across the arena, the most gigantic black wolf she had ever seen had a smaller grey one by the neck, ignoring its whimpers as blood seeped onto the ring mat. Though the barrier was down, no one dared to approach to stop it because coming between a wolf and his prey was a death wish. But she put no thought to this as she slipped into the ring.

“Zeke!”

Red eyes shifted to her, and nostrils flared. She felt no fear even though Zeke’s wolf’s jaws were so massive he could easily fit her head in his mouth. “Please... Please don’t hurt him.”

It took a moment, but the beast loosened his jaws and released the whimpering wolf, Jared wasted no time slipping out of the ring, leaving her with the beast who had risked it all to follow her into the forest. The beast who had committed so many atrocities in her name.

It was only then that she realized what she had done.

She had yielded.