

## Chapter 108

Something was wrong.

As Zeke's angry haze slowly disappeared, he watched how his mate sank to the ring mat. Her body started trembling, and her fear almost knocked him over.

But she wasn't scared of him, he could sense that. This was something else.

Why was she in his ring?

His gaze shifted to the people surrounding the ring and he growled at them, warning them to keep away from his mate. With Shadow's size, it only took moments to walk around, cataloguing everything and everyone's scents to try and see where the danger was. Everyone backed off, and the stench of their fear assaulted his nose. He would rip any of them apart if they had hurt Ava.

'Let's do it anyway. It's time we showed them she belongs to us,' Shadow said.

It was tempting. He'd been holding back so long that the urge to hunt down everyone who had hurt Ava since she had started at the academy was stronger than ever, But Ava's fear was getting progressively worse, pulling him back to where she sat Shadow inched closer, unsure what her reaction to his closeness would be.

This was the first time Ava had seen him, and he wasn't exactly a cute, cuddly wolf. Shadow was probably the ugliest fucker at the academy, and just the sight of him was enough to give anyone nightmares.

'Speak for yourself. I'm very handsome,' Shadow growled.

He ignored the wolf as they stopped in front of Ava. She was so small he felt like he would crush her under his paw if he made a wrong move. She looked so fragile as she looked up at him with big blue eyes. Though she was still scared, there was curiosity in her eyes, too.

No one had ever looked at Shadow like that, without a hint of fear of him. No one had ever been so fascinated by him. He had thought Ava would run and hide the first time she met Shadow, but she surprised him again.

The need to mark her on the spot grew. How was this little human going to handle him? How was he supposed to mate with her without breaking her?

"Miss Morgan, step out of the ring."

His thoughts were interrupted by the dean's voice. Ava flinched and moved closer to him as she turned to face Alpha Russell. That little act

warmed something in him. There had to be something in her that recognized that he would never hurt her.

He looked at the dean and saw him standing with a few academy security personnel. Was it the dean she was scared of? What did he want with her?

All around them, the arena was quickly emptying, the students being forced out by the security. He saw Derek and Myles being manhandled as they struggled to return to his side, but the security guards were specially trained by the Council And through the other doors, more security guards entered.

Now, that was overkill.

Okay, so he had almost killed Jared, but the coward was long gone now. Did they really need all these people to subdue him? He would have shifted bark, but now he felt like Shadow was the only thing stopping them from acting.

“Someone in playing with us,’ Shadow said,

He was right. Everyone knew they could never pair him up with Jared for anything. They had different classes and different training sessions, and for evaluations, they didn’t fight each other. It had been an unwritten rule for three years. But someone had set this match up and then trapped Jared in the ring with him. Someone was trying to make him fuck up.

“Miss Morgan!” the dean repeated.

He growled in warning and the dean took a step back.

“I didn’t mean to,” Ava whispered.

She had fully turned to the dean now, and her fear had returned to unbearable levels.

What did she mean? What had she done?

“Miss Morgan, you need to step out of the ring so we can deal with this first.”

Ava looked back at him pleadingly before she spoke to the dean again.

“He didn’t do anything wrong, Jared is fine.” Ava said.

“That’s true. But you still need to step away. We can’t continue the day with Alpha Michelson occupying the ring.”

Ava looked back at him. Her fear was now clearly written all over her face,

“I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to,” Ava whispered to him, and then she slowly rose from the mat.

He was still trying to understand what she meant when she slipped out of the ring, and the barrier immediately fell back over his ring.

He growled as he rushed forward and slammed against it. Ava stood on the other side, tears slipping down her cheeks. What the fuck was going

on? Why was she crying Tensions eased all around the arena as the security mobilized.

His ears picked up some whispered chanting, and when he tracked it, he saw three witches in a circle holding hands. He knew they were responsible for the barriers. Why did they trap him here? He hadn't broken any rules; there was no need to punish him.

“Miss Morgan, you know the rules. Follow those two-“

“But I had to! You were all just standing there like you wanted Jared to die,” Ava said. “If I hadn't done that, you would have been cleaning up a in the ring and then having to call his family to tell them an Alpha had died on your watch.”

“The rules are the rules, Miss Morgan. And we are perfectly capable of handling any situation that arises in our rings. Alpha Anderson was never in any real danger.”

He wanted to snort at that, but his heart pounded too hard as he waited to hear what the hell was going on.

“Dean-”

“Take her away,” the dean said to two guards. “One day in Isolation, Miss Morgan.”

What?

He shifted back, not caring that he was naked as he gripped the ropes.

“What do you mean Isolation?” he growled. “She hasn’t done anything wrong.”

“She yielded, Mr. Michelson, Rules are in place for a reason.”

He stepped back as the dean’s words hit him like a ton of bricks. Yielded? Shadow thrashed around in his mind as he struggled to get out. This had been a setup. Someone had put Jared in the ring with him to bring his rage out, and now Ava was paying for it. No one would have thought a little human would throw herself into a dangerous situation that everyone else knew to stay out of.

“Dean, you need to let her go.”

“You don’t get special treatment here, Mr. Michelson, no matter who you are,” the dean said coldly before turning away.

He swore and punched the barrier hard and thought for sure he had broken his knuckles. But that didn’t faze him as he continued to throw threats. Two guards held Ava’s arms on each side as they led her out of the arena. It was the look she threw him just before she walked out of the door that broke him.

His mind snapped as he shifted back into his demon, destroying everything he touched. His rage and bloodlust combined until he was driven by his most primal reactions.

They would pay. They would all pay.