

Chapter 112

Zeke put Ava down and took her hand to lead her out of the building. The other students gave them way, but he could sense that what they had just witnessed was something they did not welcome.

But he didn't give a shit. He was done hiding.

He'd been sure Isolation would break Ava and he wouldn't get a chance to tell her how he felt. He'd been sure her end would be the end of him. Of everyone at the academy.

But there she was, exceeding his expectations again.

She had saved herself from the Council's invasive magic, which was the only reason he'd regained his sanity and not killed everyone. So maybe she had been able to keep them out of her head after all when they had questioned her.

Was that the reason they were coming back? Was it Ava they wanted? They had been curious about him, but was it the human that had captured their attention more! Did they know she was the one who'd had Claire's blood all over her?

He looked back at her as they walked down the steps. She looked pale and tired, but she was not bruised. It looked like the Council hadn't managed to do anything to her at all.

But she was still very much human. There was no hint of wolf, witch, or anything else on her.

He didn't say a word as he opened the passenger door of his car, which he had randomly parked in front of the building. And once he started driving, he held his hand out to her.

Ava didn't hesitate to put her little hand in his. It was ice cold, but the contact still sent jolts of electricity through his body.

“Did they hurt you?” she asked.

She was the one who had been carted off to Isolation, but she was asking if they'd hurt him? He turned his attention from the road briefly to look at her. Her big blue eyes were full of worry, and that brought an emotion he couldn't place coursing through him. He felt fuzzy and warm.

When had anyone ever worried about him? Even his mother, the woman who had known the full depths of the darkness in his soul and had loved him anyway, had never worried about him a day in her life.

“No,” he answered quietly. “They let me out when I calmed down.”

He gently squeezed her hand and gave his full attention to the road. He didn't want to ask if they had hurt her because if they had, he would have to turn around to go and fix that. And that would be no good for

anyone. His mate needed to be taken care of right now, he wouldn't be able to do that if it was his turn in Isolation.

The moment he parked in their driveway, the front door opened, and Derek and Myles came out. Derek opened the car door for his future Luna and offered his hand to help her out,

Ava gave him a questioning frown before turning to Derek and putting her hand in his.

“Welcome home, Ava,” Myles said. “The Omegas have cooked a feast and are currently running you a bath. They didn't know what you'd want to do first.”

Zeke watched as his Beta and Gamma led her into the house without even looking at him. He silently chuckled before he followed behind them. There was a lot of respect in Myles' eyes as he addressed Ava; it looked like he was a convert now, too.

For two days, he'd stayed in his room to make sure he could be there for Ava in Isolation as she had been for him while his Gamma and Beta had taken over his duties. The moment he'd checked the time and realized Ava would be released any minute, he'd driven down immediately without a word to anyone. But Myles was right; the Omegas must have been preparing for her return for a while. They must have been confident that she would be okay.

“They're doing that for me?” Ava asked, surprise clear in her voice. “You should have told them to rest. I don't need them to run around after me.”

“Or you can just say thank you and eat the food. I can hear your stomach growling.” Derek said to her with a chuckle.

“I’m starving,” Ava admitted. “I’ll go and freshen up quickly so I can eat. I’ll leave the bath for after”

He watched Ava smile at his Beta before she unlinked her arm from his and ran up the stairs. The moment she disappeared at the top, the two of them turned to face him.

“She’s not human, Zeke. A human’s mud would have fractured within minutes in that room,” Myles stated. “A human wouldn’t have dominated an Omega or defeated a future Alpha.”

“A human wouldn’t have tamed your beast,” Derek added. “She may be the reason we had to chain you with silver, but she’s also the reason you’re at peace right now Claim her before your father comes. Worry about the rest later.”

As a future Alpha, his role was to put the needs of his whole pack above his own. Did they realize what a shitstorm he would throw all of them into the moment he put his mark on her?

He caught a scent and the air and turned back to the door without answering them. The others caught the scent moments later and joined him at the front steps.

‘They’ve been trying to speak to you for two days,’ Derek mind linked just before three vampires appeared at the bottom of his driveway.

It was the vampire prince's second, Samuel, and two others who looked like they were high-ranked as well.

"Alpha Michelson, may I approach?" Samuel asked.

He nodded and then watched as the vampire used his human speed to come up the driveway. The other wolves in the neighborhood would have caught their scents, too, but whatever conversation he had with the vampires had to remain private.

The vampire nodded in respect before lowering his voice to a bare whisper,

"Prince Gideon is still holding the vampire who yielded. He won't talk. He's asking for your assistance, or he will have to let the vampire go. He can't be bound for much longer."

He turned his head back to listen to Ava's movements in the house. All he wanted to do was take care of her right now and not worry about who was trying to kill them or get them to break the rules. But finding out who told that vampire to yield would give him more answers than he had right now. He would be able to solve that mystery before he got Ava out of the academy,

And Shadow was quite good at getting answers.

'Make sure she eats,' he linked his pack. 'I'll be back as soon as I can.'

Ava had been responsive from the moment she had come out. It felt like she had finally accepted him and their feelings for each other. Tonight,

after she rested, they would have that talk, and he would finally put his mark on her. Tonight, she would be his in every single sense of the word.