

Chapter 136

Zeke sensed his father and a few surprising allies approaching the house. And if he wasn't mistaken, others were also coming from the woods.

His father knew Shadow could rip them all apart if he wanted to. So what had given him the balls to come after him now?

“Who was he talking to about Ava?” he asked Myles.

“He went over to the witch residences,” Myles said,

So maybe Alpha Ezra had something he could use against him. He turned to Alpha Morgan, who didn't look the least bit panicked that his child was going to be put in the middle of all of this bullshit. Alpha Ezra knew he was weaker than Shadow, but he was still an Alpha and had an ego the size of the continent. Things could get ugly.

It would ruin his escape plan. He was going to use the rogue problem at home as a reason to be allowed access through the forest, but if his father took a stand against him now and things went sideways, then that excuse would be worthless. The academy would know if he was no longer part of the pack.

“I’m taking my daughter out of here. You and your father can measure each other’s dicks all you want after we’re gone,” Alpha Morgan said as he started going up the stairs without invitation.

“No! Ava stays with me.” he growled. “She’s my mate. I’ll keep her safe.”

Alpha Morgan tensed but didn’t lower his gaze, though it was Shadow who’d made that command.

She’s my daught…”

“She is mine to protect,” he growled.

“Then go and do it. Why are you still standing there?” the Alpha growled back, but then he turned and continued up the stairs, probably to get his daughter anyway.

He watched Alpha Morgan only for a moment before he turned his attention outside again. This was no time to fight over Ava, and the Alpha had to know what being a true mate entailed. For better or worse, demon or not. Ava was stuck with him.

He rolled his shoulders before he walked to the door.

“Where do you want us?” Derek asked.

“Nowhere. Stay here. Don’t take sides; he’s still your Alpha,” he answered as he opened the door.

He could sense some magic in the air as his father's car came up the driveway, confirming that he had indeed got something from the witches. And behind that were three other cars, including King Frederick's. Gideon's father. That was a move he had not expected. He'd made a lot of promises and assurances to Gideon, with the promise that King Frederick was on board with their alliance. Maybe hearing that they were on the Council's radar had changed things.

His father came out of the car with Beta Lawrence, Gamma Jeffries, and the woman who would have been his mate.

"Ezekiel, you've gone too fucking far, Alpha Ezra growled as he marched towards him.

"Not far enough, apparently," he said as the rest of the cars emptied.

More Alphas, some witches, and beside the Vampire King stood the prince he had made a deal with. He didn't like to think that had all been for nothing, but Gideon's eyes gave nothing away.

"You've actually claimed the human?" Alpha Ezra said as he tried to come up the steps.

He blocked his father's path, forcing him back down. Since he had become taller than him, his father preferred to take the higher ground when talking to him. Ezra snarled as he backed down, but this close, the magic on him was undeniable. What potion had he used? Whoever had given it to him was not as good as Mr. Patrick because he could smell this one, unlike the one that had almost killed Ava.

“Why are you here, father? If I had known you wanted a party, I would have been more prepared,” he drawled. “And I see you’ve brought the allies I made for you instead of giving you the prince’s head on a platter like you asked. Hello, King Frederick.”

There were no expressions on the vampires’ faces, so he still couldn’t tell which side they were on. As the Alpha, it was Ezra they were supposed to align with.

“I would never ask you to break the Council’s rules,” Alpha Ezra lied with a growl.

“Uh–huh. So what can I do for you all?”

Derek’s and Myles father’s stood uneasily behind their Alpha. They were the only reason Shadow hadn’t yet demanded blood. He had more respect for those men than the wolf who had raised him.

He could sense wolves in his yard now. Way too close to Ava. But it was better this way. He’d assumed his father would attack behind his back like the coward he was. But even the wolves that were approaching from the back were cautious. No one really knew what Shadow was capable of yet, but they knew they were still in danger.

“Your father said he had something to show us, and after that, he will let bygones be bygones,” the vampire king said.

He was standing nowhere near the undead king, but he could feel his strength and aura rolling over his skin. He was surprised Alpha Ezra could even stand so close to him.

“And the rest of you?” he asked the wolves who had come in the other cars. He recognized one of them as the one who’d knocked himself unconscious when he’d attacked Ava. Shadow snarled but now wasn’t the time. The threat that was coming was bigger than the one he was facing now. They had to think things through.

“The human laid her hands on me,” the Alpha said as he came forward. He didn’t sound as confident as when he had threatened his mate.

“Surely you can see that she needs to be punished. The Council has rules in place for this”

The Alpha lowered his gaze before he had even finished speaking. Ava claimed his son was a coward; he could see where that had come from.

He catalogued all the people on his driveway and those surrounding the house before he looked at the woman he was supposed to have mated. He’d already forgotten her name.

“And you? What brings you out on such a fine night?”

“I was told to come and witness the human’s punishment,” she answered.

“Step aside, Ezekiel I can smell her hiding in there. I’ll take her to the dean, and all of this will be over,” his father said.

And then he chanted something. He caught the Latin words so clearly as if Alpha Ezra was shouting them in his ear. A strengthening spell? Or

one to make him more dominant? He could feel the magic whirling around his father as it worked

“I said step aside,” his father repeated as he came up the steps again and pushed him out of the way.

Or at least he tried. He didn't budge even though his father did indeed feel stronger.

He looked at his father and saw the moment realized that his plan would not work. He needed stronger shit than that to defeat a demon born in darkness.

His father stepped back.

There would be no bloodshed today. No, today he would just...as Ava's father put it, show everyone who had the bigger dick.

Shadow unfurled and took over. His father took further steps back when he looked into the beast's red eyes

“I told you not to give me ultimatums.”

His father's gaze lowered immediately.

“My mate isn't hiding. Go home.”

He didn't need to raise his voice or show any aggression. The Alpha command was clear in each word. He sensed the shock in the air and then fear as everybody watched his father turn to his car. The rest of the

wolves quickly retreated, but the Vampires remained in their spot. The king had a huge smile on his face.

“You were right, son. Let’s go home.”

They both nodded at him before they disappeared into the night

But as his father drove away, he knew he had just made things much more dangerous for Ava. Alpha Ezra would not take kindly to being humiliated in front of all the people he had brought there to show off to.

It was time to plan how to get out of the academy.