

Chapter 14

Jared had led her through hallways that were a mix of old and modern architecture. He was walking so fast that she had to half-jog to keep up while also remembering not to make eye contact with anyone in case they turned out to be psycho wolves. It would have been funny if she still wasn't trying to calm herself. This Academy had all the species, but it seemed it was still the wolves she would have to watch out for.

Jared took her up a wide staircase to the second floor, where she saw doors labelled for the directors and associates of the different faculties. Then, finally, he stopped at a door that said 'Dean Alexander Russell.

"I'm going to have to leave you here." Jared said when she finally caught up. "I don't think Alpha Russell wants to see my face right now.

He didn't seem as happy as he had been when they had made that stupid entrance. If it weren't for the fact that she would probably be leaving, she would have asked what the deal was with the evaluations that had made him so tense.

"Thank you again. I don't think I will see you again after this, but I appreciate you helping me out," she said.

Jared gave her a lazy side smirk that transformed his whole face, If she'd had her phone, she would have asked to take a picture so she could always remember that she once talked to someone so insanely good-looking.

“Oh, I think I'll be seeing you around. Later, Little Red,” he said before he walked back in the direction they had come from

Jared didn't know what he was talking about. He'd mentioned he wanted to leave, but he was a wolf, an Alpha, so it was mandatory for him to complete his four years. But she was human; there was no question that a mistake had been made, no matter what Mrs. Benton had said.

She knocked on the door, and a woman called for her to enter. The room was spacious, with a waiting area that showed the amount of money this academy had at its disposal. She could have been walking in to see the CEO of some billion-dollar company. Again, old and new had been blended so well in the fixtures and fittings that she couldn't help looking around in awe as she walked towards the woman sitting behind a desk. Her anxiety was momentarily forgotten.

She would probably have loved this place if she had been a wolf

“May I help you?”

“May I see the dean, please?”

The woman was looking at her computer. Ava took a moment to study her. With her pale complexion and the ring on her finger that looked like the charmed rings she had read about, she guessed she was speaking to a

vampire. What they said. about them was true. There was an aura around the woman that made Ava want to stay there and do whatever this woman said. Throughout history, before the Council had been formed, vampires' allure had led many to their doom.

“Have you got an appointment?” the woman asked.

The tag on her desk said Penelope. No last name. She wanted to be Penelope's friend. She shook herself out of it when she realized Penelope had spoken. This was the first vampire she had ever seen. If she weren't about to leave, she would have loved to learn how to be in their presence without being affected

“No, but it's an emergency, she answered.

“Make an appointment and come back when it's your turn.”

She looked around the empty room and then back at Penelope with a frown. The woman was still working on her computer.

What was it with everyone being so rude here?

“I'm the only one here,” she pointed out.

Without an appointment. Fill out that request form and I will process it as soon as possible. The dean is a busy man.”

Ava looked at the paperwork Penelope had indicated.

“You don't understand. I shouldn't be here, Ma'am. I'm human.

That made Penelope stop what she was doing and look at her as she took a deep breath.

Take a seat, Penelope said.

Ava let out a breath as she did as she was told. Finally, someone had believed her. She would be back home in her bed by tomorrow if the return journey was as long as the one that had brought her to the academy.

The door opened, and the man who had spoken at the assembly walked in. He paused briefly when he saw her, and his eyes narrowed. In her hurry to be heard, she had forgotten that she had probably unwittingly pissed him off in the assembly. She looked down at her shoes.

“What’s the meaning of this? Your orientation has already started, and tardiness is against the rules.”

She swallowed when she realized he was talking to her.

“I’m sorry. I think there was a mistake made somewhere because I don’t belong here.”

“There are no mistakes,” the dean said.

“I’m human, sir. That much is quite obvious, so there is no way the invitation from the Council was meant for me,” she said urgently.

“And yet you were able to read the message, follow the instructions and pass through our gates,” Alpha said. “The Council doesn’t make mistakes, Miss Morgan.”

She glanced up quickly in surprise. He knew her name, too? Was it because of the stunt Jared had pulled earlier? Had she already been put on the ‘troublesome list for something she hadn’t even done?

“Know your place, Omega,” the dean growled.

Ava quickly looked back to the floor and her heart started pounding again. This wasn’t going to be as easy as she first thought.

“As this is your first day, I’m going to let you off for the infractions you have already committed today. Read the rules, Phoenix Academy is not like the backwater pack you came from our rules keep us civilized. Disobeying me has consequences.”

From that statement alone, she knew she was dealing with an ignorant, snobby bastard and would not get any help here. She remained silent as she let that sink in. She was doomed.

“Get to your First Year block and join the orientation. Don’t disrespect the Council again with your accusations.”

“Yes, sir,” she whispered as she stood.

She didn’t turn back as she walked out of the office and followed the exit signs until she was out of the building. Blinking back some tears, she pulled the map out of her bag.

The psycho wolf's words rang through her mind again.

They would smell her fear.

They would rip her apart.