

Ava

Chapter 197

Ava felt so sick to her stomach that she couldn't eat breakfast.

They had it in the basement so they could finalize the plans. The soldiers and the three council members would stand between them and Mr. Hansson, but if they managed to defeat the Head of the Council, his hold on the others would break.

At least, that was the theory.

They were going on so much guesswork, and she didn't like that when her father's life was at stake.

"Ava."

She looked up at Mr. Patrick and saw the regret on his face.

"I'm sorry they got your father, but I know he'll expect you to go ahead with the plan," Mr. Patrick said.

Her anger at him rose again, but she just nodded and looked away. He hadn't been able to protect her father, but he thought he could protect them. How? They should never have started any of this in the first place.

"There are faculty members on our side, willing to join the fight when the time comes. We can do this, Ava. Your father wants you..."

"Don't talk to me about my father," she snapped. "You don't know what he wants."

She stood and picked up her still-full breakfast plate before heading to the stairs

"If we're done here. I'll see you later," she said.

She was terrified of what they would do to her father; she couldn't hide that. But there was a comforting presence within her today. She had felt it from the moment she'd opened her eyes. It was Nyx. Though the wolf had not said a word, she was there, not hiding from her like she used to.

She threw her food in the trash and put the plate in the sink before leaning against the counter, her thoughts on what she had to do in a few short hours. Should she call her brothers first? In case they were going to lose two people that day?

Her heart squeezed, but something else was burning in her chest. Determination. It seemed her wolf believed in them.

She sensed Zeke approaching and looked up before he appeared in the doorway. Their connection was stronger now, she felt him as if he was a

part of her soul When their gazes met, she understood everything she saw in his eyes without him opening his mouth. Zeke Michelson was her air. Her life.

And they were going to go down in a blaze of glory together in their quest to rid the world of a madman and free her father and Mr. Patrick. They were going to die. Together.

“I love you. Ava Morgan,” Zeke said.

“I love you, too,” she whispered

“Now let us go get the day over and done with.” Zeke said, holding his hand out.

She went to him without hesitation, and he led her to the door, Derek and Myles came out of the lounge with all their bags as if they were just going for a regular school day. She could feel their nerves, too, but they seemed more confident than she was.

The ride to their classes was silent until Zeke parked the car.

“A special meeting has been called after lunch to replace today’s training,” Derek said as he scrolled his tablet.

After lunch. That was when the world would end.

Zeke turned to his packmates and said, “You didn’t find anything at all in the library? It could be an ornament, maybe even a book. Miss

Donovan said they have special things in there, and Mr. Patrick said that's why the forest was made stronger here in the first place."

She whipped her head to look at Zeke in a panic. Why was he discussing this out loud and so close to everyone? The guards standing close to them would have heard that.

"What the hell?" she hissed at him, then looked at the guards to see their reaction.

"What? What happened?" Zeke asked.

She looked back at him and then his friends, who were also looking at her as if they didn't know what Zeke had done wrong.

"I'm sure there are some conversations that you can just mind-link to each other instead of telling the whole world," she whispered.

But she knew even a whisper would carry to the guards. She shook her head and picked up her fully loaded bag before meeting Zeke's gaze again.

"I did" Zeke said.

Without his lips moving.

Her eyes widened as they moved from his lips to his eyes and back again.

Holy...

Was that the change she felt? She could mentally connect with him now?

“You can hear me,” Zeke stated, and then a slow smile formed on his lips.

How was she supposed to answer him? Just think of her reply the way she had done with her wolf?

‘Can you hear me?’ another voice said in her head, and she turned to Derek, wide-eyed.

She knew she was supposed to be able to mind-link with Zeke because he was her mate, but not with Derek. They didn’t belong to the same pack. She hadn’t sworn her fealty to their Alpha, which she knew she would never do after she defeated him. She wasn’t part of their pack link, so how could she hear him?

‘What’s happening?’

They all looked at her as if she had grown another head. They could all hear her.

“I’m not sure,” Zeke answered with a frown. I think last night...”

Her cheeks colored as she thought about what she had done to him. What her wolf had done to him. She couldn’t stop playing it in her head,

“Eww. Okay, figure it out,” Myles said as he rushed out of the car. Derek laughed and followed.

Had he seen that, too! Goddess... Embarrassment made her whole face heat up as she looked away from Zeke.

‘You will figure it out Nyx will help you,’ Zeke mind-linked with a smile as he leaned over and caught her lips.

Would it matter? They only had a few hours left.

“I’ll see you at lunchtime,” Zeke said “Everything will be fine.”

She couldn’t help feeling down because of their impending doom as she walked across the quad to her first class, She was no longer confined in one building like the rest of the Omegas. She looked back at the first-year block and saw some of them already seated and ready to start their lessons. Andrei wanted her to pick any one of them and be done with it.

But in her heart, she was still one of them

“Hey.”

Dexter was waiting at the entrance as she approached her first class.

“When you didn’t come back to the library. I put all your stuff in your bag and took it with me,” he said as he held out her school bag.

His eyes shot to the bag she had on her back that was weighing heavily on her conscience.

“I guess you got yourself another one. Do you want me to help you carry...”

“I’m fine.” she said quickly, taking the bag from him. “Thank you.”

If he thought she was acting oddly, he didn’t comment. And neither did any of the teachers when they saw her pay no attention to them. The morning flew by too fast for her liking, and before she was ready, she was going to meet Zeke for lunch.

It was almost go-time.

Which way would the dice fall?