

Chapter 50

Ava didn't wait to finish her breakfast. She asked Emily if they could go straight away, and before she knew it, they had visited Mrs. Benton's office in the main building and acquired two passes. The Welfare Coordinator didn't even bat an eyelid or look away from her screen when she made the passes appear on her desk and even when she stamped them.

"Don't you need anything from your room first Emily asked as they walked down to a side of the campus she had never been to. "I already have my purse."

It seemed darker here, somehow, even though the buildings looked the same as the others. The air felt different, almost as if it was colder, making a shiver go down her spine.

"No, I just want to walk around a bit," she answered.

Besides, she didn't want to see Jared or Ezekiel She'd had her breakfast earlier than usual, so hopefully, Ezekiel hadn't come to pick her up yet like he had threatened to do.

“How do you know Claire is gone?” she asked as they approached a gate smaller and less grand than the one she had come through on her first day,

The forest was on the other side but felt less oppressive here.

“I’m one of their resident Omegas,” Emily sighed.

What? She had figured out that the Alphas had Omegas catering to them from the comments they said in the kitchen the other day, but she hadn’t thought the other wolves would have Omegas, too. They made Omegas everyone’s servants. This academy was something else.

“There was so much screaming and cursing when Claire came back injured and passed out in the lobby. Her friends took her to the infirmary, and then the next thing we knew, her things were being packed up,” Emily said. “The Council gets involved when there’s something so serious.” Why hadn’t anyone come to ask for her side of the story? Or were her words worthless because she was an Omega?

“So she’s never coming back?” Emily nodded.

“None of her siblings will be allowed to attend now, either. She’s disgraced her family.”

That was ridiculous. Why should anyone else have to suffer for the actions of any individual? But that was the Council all over again. She was in the same position. If she managed to escape, they would destroy her family, and her other brothers would not be able to attend.

Maybe that was a good thing. Phoenix Academy seemed to breed psychopaths.

A guard in a little guardhouse next to the gate was fast asleep. She mentally noted the things around them and checked for cameras. If she didn't find a chance to escape right now, she could try again another time.

Emily knocked on the glass partition, waking the guard. He looked immediately alert, and when he stood to come to the window, he seemed to fill the whole cabin up. He was huge! She made a note to at least find a weapon in case things went wrong. He would be hard to defeat without one.

He checked their passes and then pressed a button. The gates slid open to reveal several cars lined up along the road and the most amazing greenery she had ever seen. She had seen it first on the other side as her taxi had come out of the forest, but now it seemed so much better after being cooped up in the academy for what seemed like an eternity.

“We have to catch a taxi. It's quite a walk; you'd get tired before we got there,” Emily said.

She didn't protest. The quicker they got to town, the better.

“Are there always taxis here,” she asked.

Yes. Whatever the weather.”

The taxi didn't take long to drive into a little village that looked so perfect it could have been on a postcard. Neat houses in rows, tidy streets, a few people walking around as their day started. There were no street signs or anything else that could tell her where she was, so she realized that was done on purpose. It didn't matter. She would find a way out of here anyway.

They walked slowly as Emily showed her favorite spots. They window-shopped and went into a few shops. Emily bought her an ice cream from a quaint little corner shop and insisted on buying her a few clothes. The village was bigger than she had imagined, and no one had sniffed her or looked at her coldly since she had arrived. They seemed to be surrounded by the forest, so she could understand why Emily had said it was "sort of" out of campus. But if there was such a healthy trade, it meant goods and services had to come from other places. She would find out how that happened.

They turned down a narrow alleyway between two old buildings and headed towards Emily's favorite coffee shop. She had walked a few steps when she realized Emily had stopped. She turned to her with a frown and noted the expression on her face. The Omega looked away from her and then turned back the way they had come.

"Emily?"

"I'm sorry, Ava," Emily said.

She saw the wolves standing at the end of the alley, a big group of them, and one or two patted Emily on the back when she reached them

Was she being backstabbed again?

The wolves smirked at her as more of them appeared. Emily was nowhere to be seen.

She had known she couldn't trust Emily. How stupid was she to be taken in by the same person twice?

"There are no rules out here, human," one of the wolves chuckled.

She didn't recognize him, she didn't even know what year he was in. Instead of stopping to ask what she had done to him, she turned to try to get to the other end of the alleyway in one piece.

But that side had been blocked off, too. And standing right in the middle of that group of wolves: Claire. She looked perfectly fine, completely healed, as she snarled and started to walk towards her, Emily had lied about that too.

The pressure started building in her head as she took several steps back. She knew she had to think and remember her years of training. But no matter how good she thought she was, she was no match against at least ten wolves. Eleven if you counted the backstabbing one.

"Zeke can't hear you scream from here," Claire snarled, "so go ahead and scream. I want to hear you beg for your life before I snuff it out. You should never have come here, human"