

Chapter 70

Zeke stood on his pool deck and cracked his neck as he sensed his woods. It didn't matter that the boundary of his territory didn't extend to the woods Shadow had still marked his territory, and everyone knew this.

There were six of them their—six of Jared's pack—and they had been watching Ava. They had already started retreating, but it didn't matter. It had been a long time since he had gone on a hunt.

Shadow was already tracking them, ready to be let loose.

'Kill them,' Shadow growled

'Don't be fucking ridiculous,' he answered as he started to jog.

And then he shifted. It took him only an instant when it took other wolves longer. Shadow's huge paws thundered on the ground, and then he ran toward their chosen prey. They ignored the little animals they would have normally hunted as they tracked the wolves. If he wasn't mistaken, that scent belonged to Jared's Beta. He was getting fucking answers from him today: What the hell did Jared want with Ava, and had he realized the truth about their bond?

‘If we kill them all, we won’t have to worry about that anymore.’

Shadows thoughts didn’t scare him now. After all, that demon was the other half of him. These were his thoughts, unfiltered, unburdened with the rules and restrictions of his world. He would kill them all if he could. He and Shadow were one and the same.

The wolves went in different directions, but he easily kept on the Beta’s tail. He wasn’t even running fast, just toying with them. Even a distance away from them, he could sense their fear. Not fear. Terror. The wolves were terrified. Rightfully so.

His paws easily navigated the fallen trees and roots, the bushes and rocks in his way. These were his woods, even if the Academy forbade them from carving out their own spaces. The woods were extensive, but because the cursed forest lay on the other side of them, there was only so much space for all the wolves at the academy to run. And there was only so much space for them to run away from him. There was nowhere they could go that Shadow wouldn’t find them.

A big brown wolf came into his view, leaping over bushes and tree trunks to get away from him.

‘I grow tired of this game,’ Shadow declared as he sped up.

And then he had the Beta’s hind leg in his jaws. The whines, whimpers, and howls did nothing to faze him as he shook the wolf from side to side and then threw him against a tree trunk. The wolf was obviously stupid

because he got up and tried to run again. He had him by his other leg and gave it the same treatment.

This time, the whining wolf didn't get up, but he rolled over and showed his stomach. He didn't try to fight back because he knew it was a death wish. Shadow was twice his size and much stronger; a challenge would be fatal.

He knew Jared's pack could hear their Beta's cries, and he was probably calling for help in the pack link. But Jared had played dirty, and these were the consequences. That coward would have known he would retaliate for being sent to Isolation.

The Beta shifted and kept his eyes down.

"Please... Don't kill me."

'See? He's expecting me to kill him. Let's do it,' Shadow said

He had been pretty calm since their time in the dark and having Ava under their roof. Before this, Shadow would never have discussed this; he would have gone straight for the throat.

He shifted and walked to stand in front of the wolf. His pack were already circling him as if they thought there was something they could do to stop this.

"Why were you watching the human?" he growled.

"We weren't. We were on a run," the wolf answered shakily.

“Did your cowardly really thing that excuse would work?” he snorted. “I will ask you one more time, and if you lie to me again, I won’t show any mercy.”

“Please... I will be exiled.”

“Or you will be dead. Choose,” he said calmly. “See, maybe your Alpha thinks I can’t touch you because he sent me to Isolation. But I’m not afraid of the dark. So, decide now and stop wasting my time. There are several other wolves I can hunt to get answers from,”

The wolf pissed himself.

How the fuck was this wolf a Beta? Sure, Shadow was terrifying and insane, but a Beta had to have a bigger balls than this. It wasn’t like he could actually kill him, not here, not until he graduated from this hell hole.

“Alpha Jared wants us to keep an eye on her. He thinks you killed Claire, and the human is next.”

Huh. Okay, he didn’t expect that one. He’d thought they wanted to take her and use her against him. But why would they and anyone else think. Claire was dead? That she-wolf was acting up because he had discarded her, but she wasn’t dead. She was probably watching all the attention she was getting and loving it.

“Why does he care what happens to the human?” he asked suspiciously.

“I don’t know. I swear I don’t know,” the wolf answered.

“So he sent you to, what? Stop me?”

“To save her.”

Okay, now this was getting ridiculous. How could they save anyone when they’d all scurried away from him like mice?

“Tell your Alpha that if I catch you in my woods again, I will retaliate. The human is not his concern, and she’s under the protection of the Moon Pack now. Tell your friends. Spread the good news. If anyone even looks at her, they will answer to me.”

He turned away and shifted again. The wolves who had circled them and eavesdropped on the conversation scurried away again. If there was a pack that should never have even been a blip on his radar, it was Jared’s pack. Mismatched misfits and cowards from different packs all forced together; easy pickings for even a small pack. They were no match for a pack as big as his. But it was the same cowards who had killed his mother, and they would all pay. Soon.

He saw Derek and Myles waiting for him a distance away and changed his direction. Ava had probably told them what he was doing. It was against park and academy rules to fight, but he had a clear focus now. His mind was calm. There were no more bullshit excuses he could hide behind because it was true—Ava had been given to him for a reason. Who else could calm him like this? If anyone tried to take that away from him, they would pay.

“Go and protect Ava,” he said through the link.

And then he increased his speed and let Shadow do what he did best. He had confined the wolf for too long, this was a treat for both of them. He ran as long as he could in the forest he ruled, all alone as he preferred. And then, finally, he hunted because, like the rest of them, the wildlife was also trapped there. He let Shadow hunt until his bloodlust was satiated before he finally made his way back to Ava. Back to his mate. The human who was going to make his father collapse with anger.

And that thought didn't even scare the shit out of him anymore.