

Chapter 71

Ava hid in her room for the rest of the weekend,

She had waited in her room, watching from her window to see if Ezekiel and his friends would come back okay. Why had the wolves been watching her? Had Claire sent them? Was it Jared? His threats were still clear in her mind. She had not chosen any side, but it was clear she was now involved in whatever issues these packs had.

She'd heard howling and then silence. Ezekiel's friends had returned alone, but she hadn't seen him until much later. She'd waited by her window the entire time and still couldn't understand why she had been so scared for him. But the moment she saw him, she stepped back from her window with her heart in her mouth. Ezekiel had strolled casually out of the woods, naked and with blood all over him.

Blood.

It was the beginning of another school week, and she still felt the icy fear rolling down her spine. This was the man she had almost mindlessly given herself to. A dangerous man. A murderer?

What had he done to the other wolves?

Had he done the same to Claire?

She couldn't get this thought out of her mind as she snuck out of the house early on Monday morning

She was halfway to the dining hall when Ezekiel's car slowed beside her. The window rolled down, and she met those dangerous amber eyes. He wasn't pleased. She looked away from him quickly and continued walking. She had challenged him too many times before, she could have been the unlucky one on the receiving end of his wrath at any time.

"Get in." he growled.

"I... I wanted some air. It's okay, I'm almost there," she stammered.

"I wasn't asking. Ava."

A little bit of anger bubbled up inside her. He was an Alpha, so she was supposed to automatically do as he said. It would always be this way in this place. This wasn't like her home where everyone was treated equally, even her, though most of the pack didn't like that.

"I can manage walking to my lessons by myself," she tried again.

"Yes, because you can defend yourself against a wolf," Ezekiel said sarcastically.

She could. This place had messed her up with all the rules she had to follow, and being scared and anxious all the time, but she had always

managed to defend herself before. It pissed her off that Ezekiel didn't think so.

“Get in. Ava, before I stop the car and strap you in myself.”

She didn't want to challenge him any further so she stopped walking and went to open the back door of the car. Ezekiel's friends were in the back, and they were both looking at her as if she was pissing them off. She sighed as she closed the door and got into the passenger side instead. If anyone saw her getting out of Ezekiel's car, the whole school would talk about it all day.

“You skipped breakfast,” Ezekiel said as he started driving.

“I'm going to the dining hall,” she muttered.

“I guess that's where we're all going, then.”

Would he expect her to sit with them, too? She had sat with Jared several times, but she had a feeling that sitting with Ezekiel would be something entirely different.

“Alpha Michaelson...”

“Zeke,” he cut in.

“I can't call you that.”

She had broken enough rules already she had to play it smart now until she found a way out of this place.

She didn't say anymore as he drove into the parking lot and parked the car. As she had expected, the place was swarming with students, and they all turned to watch Ezekiel's car. She couldn't be seen coming out of his car and then sitting with them as well.

"Thank you for the lift," she said as she unbuckled herself and quickly got out of the car.

The other students gave her a wide berth as she rushed past them. Always whispering, always staring at her. She kept her head down as she walked into the dining hall. She would have skipped breakfast altogether but was ravenous. All the lost time she'd had the past week was causing this, but she couldn't seem to eat enough.

She filled a tray up and then looked around for an empty table somewhere in the back, away from where she had come to learn was the Alpha section. Emily was sitting with a group of Omegas. The backstabber put her gaze down the moment she saw her. She couldn't understand that they were both Omegas: Emily knew she couldn't do anything to her, but no one would care if she did. No one ever listened to anything they had to say. But looking at her former friend brought all her anger up again. She wanted to punch the wolf in the face. She wanted to hurt Emily like she had been hurt in the village.

But this school wouldn't allow that. She would always have to suppress her urge to defend herself.

Several Omegas from her class were sitting where Emily was, so she guessed that was the Omega section. She made her way there, her eyes

Emily the whole time until she found an empty table behind her. Maybe Emily had been ordered to do what she did because she was an Omega, but was she that mindless that she could do something so heartless without thought? Was she so weak? She could have stopped what had happened if she had just said something.

She roughly stuck a fork into her sausages as if they were Emily's neck, and the sound made Emily flinch.

“What did she do to you?”

She had been so engrossed in watching Emily that she hadn't seen the three wolves walk to her table with their trays. Her eyes widened as she looked around the room and then directly at the Alpha. And then they widened further when she realized what she was doing in front of witnesses.

“Nothing,” she mumbled,

“So why do you look like you want to kill her?” Ezekiel asked.

Emily flinched again at his words. Maybe that was what she was scared of, after all—that a dangerous wolf would come after her for her part in this. Emily had already disappeared when Zeke had come to save her; he wouldn't know her part in it.

She didn't answer him. The Alpha sighed and then sat beside her while the other two sat opposite. She could feel everyone's eyes burning into them, and a few of the Omegas stood to leave. She had ruined their

breakfast. She didn't need to be a wolf to know they were scared of Ezekiel.

But how was she supposed to tell a wolf who had come back home with blood all over him to stay away from her? Was she supposed to keep quiet and accept everything just because she was so scared of making him angry?

“Eat,” Forkel said.

So she picked up her cutlery and started eating just because she didn't have the guts to tell him to piss off. She had to find another way out of the academy quickly.