

Chapter 79

Zeke showered and changed in his dressing room before he made his way to the beginners' training room.

He'd almost marked her on a desk in a public library. Without a care, like an idiot,

He could have killed her.

The whole reason he had taken her to one of the soundproofed study rooms was so he could ask her what happened with the Council members, but she'd been panicking, and one thing had led to another.

Instead of asking if she was going to get carted off for whatever part she had played in Claire's disappearance, he'd been thinking with his dick.

And now he'd spend hours torturing himself, not just because of his fears of the Council's next move but because he could still feel her all over him. Even though he had showered. What had his little mate done that Sunday? The dean said Claire and her friends had gone into town, but he had explicitly told Ava to wait for him. Had she actually gone to town, too?

He had tried to keep her name out of his head, but the Council had asked for her, anyway. What did they know? Were they about to drop a bombshell on his head?

The room quietened down considerably when he walked in. He ignored them all as he walked to where the coach was torturing a couple of wolves sparring at the back of the room.

“So glad you could join us,” the coach said sarcastically

He used to like this man. He used to have a lot of respect for Coach Baxter, but his opinion had changed because of how he treated Ava, even before he accepted that his fate was linked with the human’s. Maybe the coach had noticed, or he was just being a prick because he knew he had been in isolation.

“What do you need me to do?”

The last thing he wanted to do right now was to babysit students who would likely never advance to the next level. The coach seemed to have thinned out the class considerably, which meant he had already graded and moved the ones he thought had potential.

“Take over these ones. Hand to hand and then weapons,” the coach said as he started walking away. “Mock evaluations are from this Friday, and this whole group is going to fail.”

The coach didn’t even care that they could all hear him. He knew he was a bastard at times, but even he understood the need for tact. Even if this

class didn't advance, they still had a part to play to make sure their packs, nests or covens survived.

He shook his head and turned his attention back to the wolves. And that was when he noticed the Omega that Ava had been angry with at breakfast.

The wolves had stopped sparring and were standing there with their heads down. Both Omegas. Their fear was elevated, but the wolf from breakfast seemed like she would actually shit her pants.

In eyes narrowed on her. What had she done to Ava to make her so scared of his retaliation She must have heard the message he had made sur would be passed around the school. Ava was off-limits, and they would all answer to him if they did anything at all to hurt her.

“What are you standing around like idiots for? Move!” the coach shouted,

The Omegas flinched and then carried on sparring. He kept his gaze on the one who had upset his mate. She was stiff and kept getting caught in moves that should have been able to dodge easily. He had worked with this one before; she wasn't a first-year student. Though she struggled to advance out of this class, she wasn't usually this bad.

He would have to make her talk

“Pick your weapons,” he growled at

The rest of the class was just as excruciating. How the Omegas didn't kill themselves with their ineptitude, he had no idea, but when the coach blew the final whistle to release everyone, he was itching to leave the room. He was strung up, waiting for the other shoe to drop from the Council. He had to know if they were still there and why they had needed to go to the library. He had other business to take care of first, though.

The coach left quickly, as if he also couldn't wait to leave the class. He remained standing at the front of the rooms while the students filed out. His eyes didn't leave his target, and she could sense that because she seemed frozen in her spot in the bleachers. And then, finally, there were only a few Omega in the room as they started cleaning.

"Everybody leave," he growled.

The Omega in the bleachers didn't try to run like the others did at his command. She sat there waiting, shaking like a leaf as he approached her,

"Talk," he growled. "What did you do to Ava?"

"Nothing. I..."

He could sense the lie. He growled, and Shadow made his presence known. He had no time for bullshit. The Omega whimpered, and her trembling increased.

"I swear. I didn't know," the Omega started. "I was just angry with her for being with Alpha Anderson, and I didn't think Claire would..."

“You didn’t think Claire would what? I don’t have all fucking day, Omega.”

“She ordered me to bring her to the village. I didn’t think she would try to kill her.”

That had him taking a step back. So he had been right; his human had been stupid and had left campus when a deranged wolf was trying to hurt her. So how had she come out of that one in one piece?

“And then what?”

“That’s all I know, I swear,”

Lies. The Omega knew something, and it had to be really bad if she was lying to an Alpha.

‘Make her talk,’ Shadow growled.

“Mr. Michelson.”

He looked away from the Omega to see the dean standing at the door.

“A word, please,” Alpha Russell said.

He didn’t look pleased. He gave the Omega one last look before he turned away from her to follow the dean out of the room. He would have to continue that conversation another time.

The dean turned to him the moment he stepped out.

“You need to tell me what you and that Omega are doing,” the dean growled. “We are hardly prepared to have the Council visit for the evaluations, but you have led them here even earlier than planned. You need to tell me what you know, Mr. Michelson, or I will tell them you are the culprit.”

He had never seen the dean look so unsettled. Then again, the Council had never visited for anything other than the end-of-term evaluations to judge the students’ progress themselves.

“Are they still here?” he asked.

“They’re still investigating the matter.”

Shit. How long was he supposed to watch his and Ava’s back?

“You do what you need to do, Alpha,” he said as he started walking out of the building.

Until the Council left, he would have to watch Ava closely. Especially now that he was sure she had done something to Claire.