

I'll Tell You, for a Price

Chapter 19

Unknown POV

"I'm telling you, Candice, it was her, the girl you've been looking for. I even took a picture of her while they were all arguing. I'd bet my life on it," I told my cousin.

"Send it to me," Candice replied. "Is she still up on the wanted boards?"

"Yes, she's still up there, but her picture is old, and there was no proof of attack. No pictures or evidence, so according to the bosses, it's all hearsay. She's of low importance to the Council, so I had to argue to keep it up there. I won't be able to do it next time. I downplayed the attack, Melina, the Luna who got attacked at Still Waters. So, I won't be able to do that next time for you. But, on the positive, I can tell you where she is," I told her.

"It does look like her. Well? Where is she?" Candice asked.

"I need two hundred thousand dollars to tell you that," I said with a smile on my face. I knew it carried through the call.

She might be my cousin, but nobody gets information for free. I need funds to live on. I'm at the bottom of the Council, and my pay is nothing. Those men at the top, the top three, are keeping the big bucks for themselves. There are seven of us total, but the top dogs get the best stuff. They've been doing it for a long time. Fifteen years ago, the Werewolf Council was disbanded and renamed. It was because of the same stuff they're doing now. The rest of us are barely scraping by, but there's nothing we can do about it.

One day it will be our turn, but for now, the top three men receive sixty percent of all proceeds. The cost of operations for the attorneys, the building, and security gets the next twenty percent. That leaves the four of us to get ve percent each, with the last twenty percent. As I mentioned, it barely meets our needs. I have to make deals on the side all the time to make ends meet. So, I feel no shame at all in asking her for money. I've done a lot for her, plus, she has plenty of money. She can afford it. I won't tell her a damn thing, until she gives me the money.

"Are you trying to shake me down?" Candice asked, her tone sharp.

"No, I'm getting paid to give you information you don't have. I don't have to tell you. I'm providing a service so your chosen one doesn't nd her rst. I can promise you this, Candice. Allen will be my next call. I'll sit back and watch as he throws you away like trash for not bearing him a child and takes the one he's wanted for so long. It's up to you. I'm just trying to conduct business. Don't take it personally," I told her.

I knew she was going to fold; she always does. She's scared to death that young woman is going to usurp her place in the Darkness pack. Plus, she owes me. That girl never hurt her, but I signed the report as a witness to her injuries. The alleged pictures I took got lost, but there were never any pictures. Candice was never injured. She just needed to make this girl disappear. It should never have taken this long to catch up with them. We got the she-wolf that helped her escape, but no one has seen the girl since, not until today.

I wanted this s**t over with as much as Candice does. If anyone ever found out I lied on a legal document for the Council, I would lose my position and potentially my life. They take this job very seriously. If they discover that I forged documents, they will take immediate action against me. They don't want to look bad in front of their peers. They couldn't allow it, because then the whole house of cards would come crashing down. They couldn't survive the scrutiny. They didn't want anyone looking closer at what they're doing. So they would have a quick trial and kill me. That won't work for me.

Candice needs to get the girl. She needs to say whatever it is she needs to, to ensure this problem is resolved. Only then can I be safe again. I can le it closed, and it will never come back to haunt me. I won't be doing favors for family ever again. This situation has been incredibly stressful for me—just my regular gigs from now on.

"Fine, you little weasel, but this information better be accurate. You know better than to cross me. Don't even think about contacting Allen after I pay you. I swear if you do, they won't nd enough pieces of you to convict me," Candice's ice-cold threat gave me a chill.

"I'm only telling you, cousin. I have your back," I replied.

"Where is she?" Candice's angry voice came through the phone.

"Pay me rst, Candice. I'm not an i****t. You think you can strong-arm me, but I know the value of this information. Like I told you. If you don't want it, I know someone who does. But I'm not going to tell you for free, Candice. No matter what you say," I serenely replied. She might be mad, but I was happy knowing that in minutes, I would have my bills paid for the next year and a half. I was pleased to have that security. I bet I can get Allen for a quarter of a million. It would be worth reconsidering whether to tell her.

Just when I thought she was going to change her mind, she caved. My phone pinged with a notification for my account. Thank you, Goddess, for blessing me. "She was with the vampires who eradicate the rogues for the Council. They kill both vampires and werewolves who cause the pack's diculty. She went back to Black Adder with them." I told her.

"Are you f*****g kidding me? You little cockroach. How in the hell am I supposed to get to her while she's there? You knew I wouldn't be able to get to her. I want my money back. It's worthless information, as that place is like a fortress. Plus all those vampires, you're a real freaking jerk. You better give me my money back or I'll make you sorry. You tricked me," Candice's voice shrieked through the phone.

"I told you I knew where she was, and the amount I wanted in order to tell you. I didn't take her there personally. Oh, and I'd give it a minute. Alpha Jaxon got mad because we didn't back them up. So he's probably going to be on edge for the next month. If you move on her, I'd do it later, rather than sooner. What? You're a cunning woman. I've seen you operate. You'll gure out a way to get to her soon enough. I have faith in you, Candice," I replied. I went to hang up the phone when I heard her threat.

"I'll tell the High Council what you did. I might get in a little trouble, but I promise you that you'll get in much more trouble than I would. You know no one can get to her there. What you did is despicable. Give me my money back," Candice's clipped tone came through the phone.

"Candice, don't make me sorry I called you. I have proof that you weren't injured. That you led a false report. We will both go down together. I have a recording from that day where you admitted that you and Jill were going to kill an innocent fteen-year-old she-wolf because your mate found her attractive. Even if you're a Luna, murder still isn't legal. You need to rein in your attitude and gure out a way to make the information work for you. Do you want to get rid of her, or not? Because you immediately just gave up. Ask to see their obstacle course, tell them you're considering creating one at your pack. Do I have to do everything, Candice? Stop being a whiny child and use your brain. They love showing off that stupid obstacle course. You can provide them with incorrect information. Like another name, and pack. How the hell are they going to nd you?" I snapped at her.

Does this b***h think she can threaten me and get a pass? I might not be rich, but at least I have some Goddess-given common sense. I hope they gure out why she came there before she gets her hands on the girl. Even better, I hope the girl sees Candice rst and tells Alpha Jaxon who she is and what she did. No one's gonna miss Candice, especially not Allen. He can't stand her. If that girl manages to tell on her, I'm sure Candice is going to suffer before she's killed. It couldn't happen to a nicer person, and I won't feel bad for her.

"I'll think about it, but you know Black Adder isn't a pack people mess with. So don't act so surprised that I'm pissed off at being tricked. You knew I wouldn't be able to touch her there, yet you still conned me out of my money," Candice replied.

"I was just selling you the information on where she was. It's up to you what you do with it. Yes, it will be dicult to get to her, but not impossible. You need to come up with a good idea. I thought you would want to know, Candice. If it comes up again, I will pass over you and sell it to Allen. At least with him I won't be threatened, or insulted," I answered her.

"No, don't sell it to Allen. I'm sorry. I got mad because I'd hoped to take care of this easily. I don't want her coming back again. It's bad enough that Allen still dreams of nding her. He cares for her more than he cares for me. After ten years, he should have fallen in love with me. It's just not right," Candice whined like a petulant child.

"Candice, I know you. I don't believe this pitiful act. I don't know anyone who is more cunning than you. If you put your mind to it, I'm sure you'll come up with something. Don't just knee-jerk, put your mind to it. I know in that devious brain of yours you'll think of a way to get rid of her," I said.

"Do you know why she is with them?" Candice asked.

"From what I overheard, your girl saved the Luna of Still Waters from being killed. It's a mess; the Lun rejected her mate and left after making him take his side-piece as his new Luna. She probably took the girl back with her to Black Adder as a reward for saving her. I'm sure after being hunted for the last six years, she's looking forward to having a safe place to live. I can't be involved i this at all, or they'll know I told you. I have to cover my tracks, so don't look to me for help if you get caught. Jaxon's already pissed at us. I can't stick my neck out further. You're going to have to deal with it yourself," I replied.

"I've got it from here," Candice said before hanging up. I know she can do it, but the trick is to make sure Allen doesn't nd out about the girl before Candice can deal with her.