**CHAPTER 45: ROGUES**

Claire looked up at Sebastian with a dazed smile, still feeling high from the climax she had just had under his skillful fingers. Even when she was drugged, she could still feel his every touch searing into her body, making her beg for more. She would have claimed it was the drug's effects, but she knew very well that it was all him.

"Thank you," she said, but her words ended in a whisper as her eyelids drooped and she fainted, making Sebastian catch her reflexively. He looked down at her with worry and, seeing her breathing calmly, a small smile adorning her face, he relaxed. She was just worn out and fell asleep. Silly woman, he thought with a smile as he caressed her face with a smile.

Slowly, he adjusted her clothing and picked her up. Seeing that it was already evening, he started walking towards the packhouse, mindful to stay out of anyone's sight. After all, he couldn't let anyone see his mate when she was in such a vulnerable state.

Once he reached her room, Sebastian placed Claire on her bed and sat near her. He looked down at her face as she slept, a small smile on his face as he saw the slight smile that was still left on her face. His angel...

Sebastian bit his lip, remembering what happened after he found Claire in their secret place. How vehemently she denied his offer to get Liam for her. And the way she melted under his touch as he brought her relief. She certainly didn't love Liam like he once thought, because there was not even a trace of guilt as she came undone in his arms. No woman who loved a man could act that relaxed with another man touching her. Did that mean he still had a chance with her? What if he could still get his mate in his life where she belonged?

Sebastian sighed, knowing he wouldn't find any answers to these questions now. Only Claire could give the answer to these questions and since she was in no state to answer anything right now, he will just have to wait until she wakes up. Then he will have to bring up the matter of Liam and find out what exactly she felt for him. If his instincts were right and she didn't love Liam, then maybe he could reveal that she was his mate.

Sebastian sighed, shaking off the thoughts that ran wild in his head and tried to focus on the more important matter. Claire was drugged. The Alpha's daughter was drugged inside her own packhouse. Who would dare to do such a thing?! And more importantly, where was Liam, her supposed love, when she was going through all this? Why did he never show up or even try to find her?

This was all so confusing. He couldn't just let this matter go like that. His mate's life was at risk and he will never forgive the bastards who dared to drug her right under his nose. Her safety was his top priority, and he needed to ensure that no one could pull such a stunt ever again. He needed to investigate this matter further and find out who orchestrated the drugging. And then he will make sure that they will regret ever coming up with such a nefarious plan. This was a vow that he intended to carry out at all costs.  1

Sebastian stalked towards her desk, his gaze falling on the paper where she had jotted all the theories about Eunice's rapist. With a sigh, he folded the paper carefully and kept it safe before turning, only to pause. His gaze fell on the glass, which still held some water, and he furrowed his brows. Biting his lips, he carefully brought it up and took a sniff. His eyes widened when he recognised the scent of the aphrodisiac. It was so mild that even he, an alpha with acute senses, would have missed it if he hadn't been looking for it. Claire was drugged inside her own room! Who

had the audacity to do such a daring thing?!

Sebastian set the glass down before glaring down at it vehemently, as if it had offended him somehow. Then he took a deep breath and closed his eyes.

'Micah,' he mind linked one of the trackers who accompanied him to the pack.

'Yes, Alpha,' the reply was instant.

'Come meet me in front of the garden behind the packhouse now.'

'Sure, Alpha.'

Cutting the mind link, he looked back at Claire, who was still sleeping peacefully. He will never let that peaceful look leave her face. He will never let her live in fear...

Sebastian left the room before stalking towards the garden with the offending glass in his hands. Seeing the brown-haired guy with keen black eyes waiting for him there already, he stopped in front of him.

"Good evening Alpha. What may I do for you?" Micah greeted him, and Sebastian looked down at the glass in his hand.

"This glass contains a drug, a type of aphrodisiac whose scent is barely discernible even when looking for it. I need you to investigate the drug and find out who has it."

Micah took the glass from Sebastian's outstretched hand and took a sniff before frowning.

"How strange. I wouldn't have noticed it if I hadn't known what I was

looking for. I have always thought aphrodisiacs have this sweet, very noticeable scent. Someone really made an effort to make this unnoticeable."

Sebastian nodded in agreement. Indeed, someone has gone all out to drug Claire. But why? What exactly did they gain?

"I will investigate the matter, Alpha. Anything more?"

"No. That's all. Keep me updated if you find anything. You may go."

Micah nodded before bowing and leaving the garden while Sebastian stood there, lost in his thoughts. His Claire had enemies who were going to lengths to cause her trouble. Someone who had the means to meddle with a drug and make it almost undetectable. Someone dangerous...

'Not on my watch!' Caleb piped up suddenly, making Sebastian roll his eyes.

'Where were you when I was busy trying to deal with our drugged mate? I could have used some help, you know?'

'I was busy,' Caleb answered in a tone that made it clear that even he didn't believe himself. The coward was just hiding, knowing that his mate was pissed off at him. What a baby!

'You were busy?' Sebastian asked in disbelief. How could a wolf who lived inside his head be busy? If he had to lie, at least he should make an effort to tell a convincing lie!

Caleb went radio silent after that. No sassy replies whatsoever. This shameless wolf! And he claims to be a mighty beast!

'Coward,' Sebastian teased, but Caleb ignored his comment. How rude!

Sebastian let out an indignant huff before walking towards Claire's room, wondering if she was still sleeping. She seemed pretty worn out, and he wouldn't be surprised if she slept for a day or two. Sebastian smiled proudly, remembering the way she had shattered in his arms, her face so unguarded and mesmerizing as she succumbed to the pleasure he had brought her.

Just as Sebastian reached Claire's room and went to open the door, he paused, hearing a loud scream from outside. What?!

He stood there, his ears perked up, listening and soon more screams followed, making him tense. Something was wrong. Really, really wrong.

Sebastian turned, his gaze falling on a group of warriors rushing outside from the other side of the corridor.

"Wait!" He called out, making the men pause and stare at him anxiously.

"Yes, Alpha," one of the men who seemed to be leading the group answered him and Sebastian stalked towards them, his eyes keen, his alpha aura taking over.

"What is happening?" He asked, a growl seeping into his voice as Caleb decided to join the fun.

"Rogues!" the man blurted out hearing the alpha tone and then seemed to catch himself. He cleared his throat before continuing.

"Rogues showed up near the pack territory and they have killed a few of our pack members already."

"What?" Sebastian asked in surprise. Rogues were lone wolves who stayed away from the radars of the packs. They were always careful to stay away from pack territories. Only feral rogues tended to ignore such

rules and wandered into pack territories, and usually they would be so insane and violent that they would be beyond reason. But they will always be alone and from what the man told him, this attack was from a group of rogues which was an unheard-of thing to begin with. What was going on here?

He shook his confusion off and stared at the men. Such things can be analyzed later. Now the important thing was to deal with the immediate crisis and stop the rogues.

Sebastian went into full alpha mode as he stared at the men.

"Where is the attack going on? And who is handling the counterattack?"

"They are at the southern border. The patrolling warriors are fighting them, but they need help. Alpha Gavin and the future Alpha Liam will lead the soldiers there to fight back the rogues and we are going to join them."

Sebastian nodded in approval of the plan. From the sounds of the fight, it didn't sound as if there were that many rogues to warrant an army to deal with them. A group of trained soldiers under the alpha himself would be more than enough to deal with a few unruly rogues.

"Alright. Carry on," he said and watched as the men went out of the packhouse hurriedly, the sounds of fighting and the occasional screams still heard from outside. 'It is nothing serious,' he told himself as he went back to Claire, but there was a nagging feeling inside that something was wrong. Utterly wrong...