

Betrayed Luna's Second Chance Alphas

Read – Chapter 71-80

– Chapter 71

-Riley-

I recognized him instantly. A few gray hair, but he was the same. Father dearest. What was he doing here and why was he going to save mommy dearest?

“f**k. Your family is problematic.”

“I know.”

“Why do you want to save her?” I hissed and he shook his head as he threw a shirt to me.

Really?

I put it on as my mates stood in front of a bleeding Nadia, essentially stopping my dad from getting to her.

“After everything she did, you want to help her?”

“No, I don’t want to help her. I want to help you,” he said as he looked at me with a sigh. What the hell did he mean?

I had thought of meeting him, and I had imagined it would be like one of those amazing reunion scenes you would see in movies. Tears, laughter, hesitation, yes, but also happiness. Now, I was snarling at him, covered in his mate’s b***d and he was spouting some nonsense.

“How are you helping me by keeping her alive? She would keep coming for me, and I couldn’t-” I stopped when I saw Dee walking in with Reid. Reid looked tired, and Dee looked fierce as she walked next to me. She kicked Nadia on her side and Nadia winced. She was slowly healing though, and the oozing b***d had stopped now.

“That is for hurting my best friend,” Dee said with a growl and kicked her on her leg again. “That is for hurting my man. Now, you, I assume you are my best friend’s father. Why the hell would we want to keep this b***h alive?”

My father looked at Dee, his eyes assessing. “You are a human.”

"I am, and I am not scared of wolves, or Lycans. Go on, now Dad wolf."

My dad looked befuddled, but he cleared his throat and looked at Dee. "Because she is a scientist, and she knows about the creature inside Riley more than anyone. The doctor is dead, and she is the only one who can help me help Riley. Are you satisfied with the answer, human?"

"Hmm, you do make sense," Dee said with a huff.

"She won't help you or me. She is evil and she is still trying to use me to advance her research," I said with a frown.

"Who said we are giving her a choice? She has no other option. She WILL help us, Riley, and she will help if she doesn't want to go through pain. I have spent years, alone, and I have made some drugs that will break even the most powerful royal Panther." My father looked ruthless as he motioned to my mates who were still standing there. "Move."

Karl growled while Adrian shook his head.

"Don't be stubborn. I know you want to help Riley, and that friend of yours... and she can help," my dad said. "And, wolf, do not snarl at me. I am my daughter's father, and that makes me your father."

Karl shuddered and then slowly, but hesitantly moved. I chuckled a little. He looked a little pissed off, but he had no other choice.

"Do I have to tell you separately?"

Adrian grunted as he gave me a sullen look.

"Get her up, and give her something to wear," my dad said as he motioned us to get inside the car. Dee grabbed a dress from the backpack she had and threw it at Nadia. The two Lycans stood ready to catch her if she ran.

She didn't run. She wore her dress and got inside the van.

"You will regret this, Marcus," she said in a cold voice as he pushed her inside. "You will regret not killing me here."

"Oh, don't worry. We are killing you after I get what I want," Marcus said as he motioned me. "Your mates can come too. The human friend, too."

"Where are we going?" I blinked as I looked at Adrian and Roman. He had already shifted back, and was wearing trousers that was a size too small, but he was still so f*****g handsome.

“To Red Watchers’ building. That where the creatures are, right?”

“How do you know all of this?” Adrian asked. “You were hiding.”

“I was hiding, but I had my ways,” he said as he started the car. “I had to stay away, because I didn’t want them to find you through me before you were ready, before we were ready. But now you have loyal, strong people by your side.”

“You still took your sweet time to come find me,” I said and my voice sounded kind of accusatory and childish. I met Dee’s eyes and she mouthed savage.

“Yes. You should have come.”

“I have to wait for the right time.”

“And this is the right time?” Roman said with a frown. I was sure my mates didn’t trust him. I had a feeling that he wasn’t telling us everything.

“We will keep an eye on him,” Gem said. “We do need his help.”

Rene was quiet.

“You alright, Rene?”

“Yes,” she whispered. “The last time I met him, we were running away from mother, away from the lab. He told me I had to do this to help you and then... he... just...”

He buried her in my mind.

“That is to protect Riley too, Rene. The moment you shifted, Nadia could sense you and she came for you. But now Riley was stronger, and she could defend herself. She couldn’t have done that when she was a little girl.”

“I know, and I understand, but...”

“It is still hard,” I said with a nod.

The rest of the ride was filled with tensed silence. Nadia kept glaring at Marcus, and he ignore her look. I looked at Roman and he was looking at me, his eyes worried. And so was Adrian.

I shook my head and they both shared a look with each other. I was sure they were mind-linking. We finally reached the Red Watchers’ building and walked in. My father took a few minutes to grab something from his car before he walked in.

Dustin was waiting with a few other Red Watchers.

“Get her in to the dungeon,” Roman said. “And make sure to lock her in the special cell. She is a royal Panther, so she has some power.”

Dustin nodded as three men grabbed Nadia. She growled and roared. “Do silve hurt the panthers?” One of them asked.

Marcus shook his head. “No. It won’t. But foxglove and aconitum works just as good as they work on wolves,” my father said as he pulled out a syringe from the big box he was carrying. He pulled out a vial with light violet liquid. After the syringe was full, he stuck the needle into her neck. She g*****d. “There. The cat will stay docile for a while.”

“I will hurt you for this, Marcus,” she kept shouting it as they dragged her away.

Roman looked at me, wide eyed. “Damn.”

“Yes, damn.”

After my father settled in with doctor Tim and the other doctors, talking about the creatures, Reid looked at the two creatures in the cage.

“That is Mirabel’s father and Hiran’s mate, right?”

We all winced as I nodded.

They growling creatures stopped when they heard the names. I still couldn’t believe that they were once like us, and that I had something like that inside me, as well.

“You two should go back to Nightshade, and take some rest. It is going to be your marking ceremony in a few hours and you two need rest,” I said to Dee as she yawned and leaned against Reid. Reid nodded.

“Yes, she is right. You look like you are going to faint. I can’t have my mate fainting during the ceremony.”

I didn’t miss how he called her mate. Not wife, or partner. Mate. As far as Reid was concerned, Dee was his mate. It made me immensely happy that two of my friends found this with each other. They were amazing people and they deserved this.

“Yes, I am tired. Keller has been overseeing everything with the Queen,” Dee whispered. “I just can’t thank her enough. She is amazing.”

“I know. She is incredible.”

“Okay, come back soon, Riley. You know you are my maid of honor,” Dee whispered and sighed. “I know Bella won’t be coming.”

“Yes,” I said. I felt bad just thinking about Dean. Even though I never knew him, I somehow knew him, too. He went through what I did, too, and that made me somehow connected to him.

As Dee and Reid walked away, I turned to doctor Tim. “Where is Dean, doctor Tim? My father could help him in some way?” I said and doctor Tim nodded. “He is in the other room.”

We walked to the spacious room where Dean was. Bella was sitting there on the chair. Ash stood next to her, with Finn. She jumped up and ran to Adrian when she saw him. He pulled her into a hug and held her close. My heart felt weird to see her like that. I had only known her for a few days, and she had only ever been distant with me, but... she still didn’t deserve this.

“Will he wake up, Ad?”

“I promised we will find him. We did. And we will find a way to help him.”

“I am so scared, Adrian,” she whispered as she clung to him.

“I know, baby, I know, but it is going to be alright. The one with doctor Tim, he is Riley’s father and he is a scientist. He might be able to help Dean. He went through the same experiment as Dean...”

“So... does he have the creature- you know like the ones in the lab?”

My father looked at her and shook his head. “No. The creatures were the failed experiment. Riley was something we never expected. The real experiment had always been about one thing – to use wolves as an incubator to carry vampire b***d and the drugs that bind the vampire gene with the wolf gene. And then use the b***d to help humans live longer.”

“HUMANS? f*****g humans?” Bella hissed as she punched the walls. “All of this was to make humans immortal?”

“Not immortal. That can’t be done. But live a few hundred years more than they normally would, yes,” my father said. “It is science and research.”

“And who did that to you?”

“I did that. Me and my mate. We were quite ambitious. I was just as bad as her. Or even more so. But then Riley came, and she first changed when she was just three and I

realized how wrong I was to use other wolves to- to do this. But I couldn't get away. We were in too deep."

"Who is the head of that project? The one who funded it? Ramsay?" Roman asked with a growl and my father shook his head.

My father shook his head "Not Ramsay. He was like us. Greedy and ambitious."

"So who did?"

"Nobody knows. Only the doctor knows who it was who first kickstarted the project, but he never shared it with us. We always had money right on time. We got whatever we wanted and now that we think about it, we were simply cogs in a bigger machine."

"You don't know who it was?" I asked with a frown. "What about Nadia?"

"She might have known in the past years when I wasn't there. But back then, nobody else knew other than the doctor."

"And he is f*****g dead," Bella said. "I killed him. I shouldn't have- but, but can you save Dean."

"Yes, I think can. He is still alive, but the pain of the drug and vampire blood had made his body to shut down. It will take a few hours to days, but I will try."

Bella looked up at my father, her eyes blurred. "Thank you so much."

"Of course. I will do whatever I can."

After a while, we walked out. My father said he would stay right here, and doctor Tim was more than happy to accommodate to his every need.

I walked out with Adrian and Roman. It was a long f*****g day, and I just wanted to sleep.

"You want to go home, Red?" Adrian said as Roman pulled me towards him.

I sighed. "Where is home?"

"Wherever you are, that is my home," Adrian said and Roman poked his tongue out, and shook his head.

"Who is writing this poetry?"

"My a*s," Adrian said as he pulled me away from Roman and Roman grumbled in displeasure. "What? I almost died today. I needed to get better."

“No way in hell you are using it to steal her away.”

I chuckled. “Don’t pout, Roman. You can both stay with me in my room, and maybe...” I winked and Roman gasped.

“What are you saying, you dirty, evil Kitten?”

“I am saying that maybe the Kitten wants to purr so bad...”

“Did you just say that?” Gem said with a huff and a roll of her eyes. “You are an idiot.” Rene just laughed.

Roman gasped as he pulled me by my waist and bit me softly on my cheek.

Adrian laughed and shook his head.

“Damn Red, you never fails to suprise me, but yes. I will make your p*ssy purr.”

“The f*ck?” Gem said with a snort. “Goddess...”

I m****d softly as Adrian ran his hand down my breasts.

“Let’s get the hell out of here. I want to use your body in everyway,” Roman mumbled.

“And I will worship you like you have never been worshipped before.”

“Yes. I think I want that, I need that.”

-Feyona-

“Where are we going?” I wondered if I had once again made a stupid decision to trust him. I was kind of blinded by the knowledge that he did what he did for me, but now the unsurety was pinging inside, again.

“Somewhere no one will find us. We will lay down for a while and come back once all of this settle.”

“Do you think you can come back, after all this?” I asked Ramsay and he shrugged.

“They all will die sometime, and forget me.”

“Oh yes. You are immortal, but I- do I want to live in the shadows, Ramsay?” I whispered and his eyes became wide.

“I am sorry I didn’t ask. If you don’t want to come with me-“

Who the hell was he?

He had always been good to me, but he was also a bad man. Maybe I was selfish. Maybe I didn’t care. I always only thought we were convinient, but I never thought he loved me. But now I believed he did love me.

This time, I was not going to destory it like I did the first time. Roman had moved on. I had thrown Roman’s love away, but I wouldn’t do it the second time.

I had never properly learned to love. Growing up in a broken home would do that to you.

But maybe with Ramsay, I would learn to love. Maybe. I wanted to know.

“I want to come with you.”

!!!

– Chapter 72

-Riley-

(S*x. If you want to skip, do not open – but there’s Dee’s marking ceremony)

My heart thundered in anticipation as Adrian drove his car to where we stood. My body was already buzzing. Despite the day I had, we had, I wanted to be with them. I missed them so much. It had been a long, terrible day and I was sure we all needed to touch and feel and be there for each other. We almost lost each other.

Adrian drove the car and I knew he was going back to his apartment. Roman and he must have been mind-linking.

Roman took my palm in his and rubbed small circles with his thumb, eliciting a g***n from me. My body trembled.

“I’m not going to lie... I want to fu.ck your brains out,” Roman growled next to my ears, his hot breath teasing me, turning me on even more than I already was. My p*ssy clenched in need as I looked at him, and his dirty brown eyes that would make me lose my common sense. “I want to do bad, bad things to you, Kitten.”

Adrian m****d from the front seat. I could hear his heart thundering as the car sped up. He was aroused, now, thinking about me with Roman. It felt strangely inappropriate, but hell, everything about us was inappropriate and I didn't mind it, not even one bit. I squeezed my thighs together, but Roman's dark gaze made me push them apart. I was only wearing a long t-shirt that was fashioned into a dress, and no underwear.

"Wider," Roman grunted and Adrian cursed under his breath as the car jerked and swerved. "Concentrate on your driving," Roman ordered him before he turned to me. "Open your legs wider, Kitten. You still haven't."

I did as he asked and gasped when cold air teased my hot, slick p*ssy drenched in my arousal. Roman growled.

"That is my good Kitten. Now... touch yourself."

"WHAT?" Adrian g*****d and I saw his hands going to his e*****n. I m****d, and he gave me a look before he turned towards the road.

"Still not touching yourself," Roman said in a dark tone, his eyes dangerously arousing. I didn't know if it was possible to come when no one was touching, but I felt like I would if he continued to talk like this.

"Touch yourself, Red, and scream our names," Adrian said. "Scream louder."

"We are in a fu.cking car in the middle of a road," I whispered, but with a start, I realized my fingers were already trailing up my thighs. Roman nodded appreciatively.

"So?" Adrian's voice was completely disinterested.

"Adrian," I m****d softly as I touched my wetness and trembled. Roman chuckled as his eyes stalked me. His eyes were enough to make me come.

"Push your fingers inside, Kitten."

I did and then started to move against my fingers. My g****s were louder, and if I was who I was before, I would have died of embarrassment, but now, Roman's every look and Adrian's every m**n only turned me on even more. Unable to control anymore, I turned to Roman. "Touch me, Roman," I breathed out as I pulled my t-shirt up, until he could see me, see me touching myself.

His growl was wilder, louder.

Roman pounced on me like a hungry animal, and a soft growl left my lips as he kissed me like he didn't have enough time in the world. Craving. Greedy. When we pulled back, he turned me to the sides, and sucked on my sensitive skin, making me writhe

under his lips, his teeth. His stubbles scratched softly on my already sensitive skin and my lusty m**n softly filled the car like music.

Adrian growled. "S.hit. If you don't stop moaning, I will come."

I mewled. I just had no words in my head to respond to him. The car finally came to a screeching halt.

Roman pressed a thumb against my tightening n**ples and it became a hard peak. He teased it over and over, pulling, rolling between his fingers until I was a warm, shuddering mess.

Adrian opened the door and threw the keys at Roman. "Park. And call Finn."

"Why the hell do I want to call Finn now?"

"Did you f*****g forget?" Adrian said as he helped me out of the car. "Ask about Ramsay."

"Ramsay could wait."

"Well, that is the problem. He won't," Adrian said before turning to me. "Come, Red. Let me taste that sweet juice that seems to be flowing out of you."

I bit my lips as Roman squeezed my a*s before he walked back to the car. Adrian and I entered the elevator and even before the door closed, he was on his knees.

My legs trembled. It was like my senses were flooding with pleasure and I just didn't know how much I could take it. My whole body was shaking. And then I felt him slowly tracing his lips from my clit to my p*ssy and I g*****d.

"My Goddess... I am dead," Gem said. "Close your eyes, Rene."

Rene shook her head. "No, I want his tongue on me, too."

"f**k. She has grown up!"

I ignored the animals. They could talk with themselves. I had no desire to talk right now. Only feel all of this.

"Adrian... inside me," I said and he thrust his tongue inside me, and I almost exploded from that single touch.

I squeezed my thighs tight around his head, needing to feel his tongue deeper inside me.

I gripped his hair tightly in my palms and dug my nails into his scalp, pulling him towards me, as he sucked and licked.

"I am going to c*m," I hissed as he thrust his tongue.

He pushed his tongue deep again, and then licked it up and down along my tingling p*ssy, and up to my stiff clit, before sucking on it.

"You like it when I touch you like this?" Adrian's voice was muffled.

"Yes. Don't stop." I begged.

He held me open with long fingers and I pushed against his face, until I could feel his tongue reach far into me, lapping at me. He did it until I couldn't hold anymore.

My stomach clenched and then I let out a scream, bucking over him. I heard him chuckle.

My o****m was so consuming.

He cleaned me with his tongue before he stood up when the lift came to his apartment with a ding. We ran to his room and he slammed the door behind him and pushed me against the wall. He started kissing me, and I could almost taste myself on his lips. f**k.

I rubbed my palm against his arousal when the door banged open and Roman walked in.

He turned me around before he pulled me into a k**s as Adrian slowly rubbed himself against my back.

"It is going to be weird," Roman said when he pulled back and pulled my dress off. I shuddered when the cold breeze gently caressed my skin.

"It is not like I haven't seen your dic.k," Adrian shrugged with a smirk as he squeezed my a*s and then m****d.

Roman kissed me down my neck and chest.

I gasped when he suckled my breast. My head fell back on Adrian's shoulder as Roman played with my n.ipples.

He moved off my nip.ple and gently touched his lips to mine again, kissing me slowly at first, then sucking on my lower l*p until it was swollen. His tongue swirled around inside my mouth and I opened wider, allowing him deeper access. Our tongues danced together as our breathing increased, filling the air with passion, as Adrian's finger studied my curves and my body, and tingles danced along my skin.

“Let me take you to the room.”

“Do you want something to drink, Red?” Adrian whispered as he pulled away reluctantly.

“Water,” I panted and he chuckled as Roman and I walked into Adrian’s room.

“He said his bed was bigger.”

“Did you call Finn?” I asked as Roman gently lay me down on the bed and just stood there staring. “Strip.” I ordered.

“Finn said he will deal with Ramsay,” he said as he pulled his shirt off and then removed his pants. My heart thundered, and my throat went dry when I saw him in his boxers. His boxers was already dented.

“Remove that and let me see you. Let me take you.”

He g*****d.

“It is alright if you don’t want to,” I whispered. “Do you not want to-“

He shook his head before he pushed his boxers down and I g*****d when his c*ck sprung forward. Adrian walked in with water and handed it to me as he lay next to me and started kissing the side of my breast as his fingers slowly trailed up and down my abdomen.

“Just don’t look at me,” Roman hissed, and Adrian laughed.

“Goddess, you think I want to look at that? Purposefully? Heck no. I would rather look at her sweet, sweet p*ssy,” Adrian said as Roman crawled over me and I could feel his c*ck softly sliding against my wet p*ssy.

“Do you want me?”

“Of course. I want you. I always want you.”

“Now?”

“NOW,” I hissed and then screamed when he turned us around. I sat on top of him and took him inside. I felt him fill me and I g*****d as I moved up and down on him.

Adrian stood up, and slowly stripped, his gray eyes turning dark. My eyes never left him as he kicked off his boxers, while I moved and felt Roman’s hardness along every sensitive nerve inside me.

I licked my lips.

"I want to taste you, Adrian."

"Turn around," he said and I pulled myself out, turned. Roman grunted and gripped my h**s tighter as he pulled me down on him once again with a loud grunt.

I looked at Adrian and he gave me a smile.

"If you are not comfortable, I can--"

"I want to." I wanted to taste him. I could already see the drop of pre-c*m at the tip of his c*ck and my mouth watered.

He softly traced my cheek as I opened my mouth and licked his c*ck. He jerked back with my first touch. I concentrated on the feel of their weight inside me, the feel of their skin... the feel Roman's c**k inside my p*ssy and Adrian's between my lips. It made me delirious. Everything felt like it was being multiplied by a million. Pleasure rocked my body, and my nerves were tingling. Roman squeezed my a*s, while Adrian's fingers rubbed against my sensitive ni*pples.

My eyes rolled into my head from the intense sensation as I started to move faster.

Roman growled and g*****d, and Adrian's m**n filled the room.

I moved up and down on Roman, and I could already feel myself losing the game. I would c*m anytime soon. Hi hands touched my burning skin, soothing it.

I felt like if the fire burned any greater, I would burn to ashes.

Adrian moved between my lips, his h**s slow and steady.

My heart thundered loudly inside my chest as I touched Adrian with a hand, and rubbed Roman's thigh with another.

"This is hot as f*ck, Red." Adrian said as he gripped my hair. "You are every one of my dirty dream."

"I love you, Kitten."

"I love you, Red."

"And please, please, mark us and make us yours."

I came hard, and I could feel Roman filling me up. I felt his hot c*m inside me. My eyes rolled inside my head for a second before colors burst behind my eyes. So many colors. I exploded all over again.

Roman screamed my name and stilled. I didn't move as I continued to work Adrian.

"Oh Red. I am going to c*m."

"C*m for me, Adrian. I want to taste you," I said before I took him again. My tongue swirled around him before he started to move faster. Roman slapped against my a*s and I g*****d.

"I am..." Adrian screamed before he orgasmed, too.

When we finally pulled away, we looked flushed, sweaty and I was completely satisfied.

How could I have ever lived without having an o****m, and having these two guys?

"About the mark..." Adrian said as he pulled on his pants. Roman walked to the kitchen before he came back in with three glasses of wine. He put it down on the bedside table and sat next to me. "Can we do it sooner rather than later, Red?" Adrian whispered. "I don't want to wait anymore. I don't want to lose you..." He looked desperate. I kissed him on his cheek. I could see the fear in his eyes, and it frightened me to think that he almost died today.

"Do I not get a ring?"

"You get a million rings..." Roman said. "But I can see why he was so desperate."

"Yes."

"I know. He is the romantic one," I said with a wink, and Roman jumped on top of me and tickled.

"What are you saying? I am the king of romance."

"You are the king of grunting and growling... not romance," Adrian said much to Roman's displeasure, and we all laughed.

It was a happy feeling.

-Deidre-

My stomach twisted nervously as I tugged at my blonde hair. Riley slapped my hand away.

"You are beautiful, and he loves you so damn much."

"I know," I whispered as I ran my hand along my bodice. The door banged open and I was surprised to see Ashelene and Bella there. Bella looked a bit better than how she looked yesterday.

"You came," Riley said. "How was Dean? I talked with my father in the morning and he said he was trying."

"I think Dean is strong and he will get better soon. He doesn't look so pale anymore," Bella said with a grateful look.. "I am so grateful for your father, Riley. I just can't even think what I would have done if he wasn't there. You asked him to help Dean..."

"Of course. I may not know Dean, but I know how important he is to you and Adrian and Roman and Finn," Riley said before she turned to me. Mirabel, Claire, Ryan and the other pups walked in decked in colorful gowns and suits. The Queen handed them a basket full of flowers.

"Just throw them everywhere."

Riley lifted Mirabel and hugged her. My chest still hurt whenever I saw Mirabel. The memory of her father... was too cruel. Mirabel giggled as she tugged at Riley's dress.

"Drian? No see?"

"You want to see Adrian?" Riley laughed and Mirabel nodded. "He is in the ballroom. You can meet him later, okay, little pup?"

She nodded.

"Okay, it is time," the queen said and Riley and Keller walked me towards the aisle. I looked at them and Keller had tears in his eyes and Riley was blinking so hard.

I felt like crying too.

Reid looked handsome. He was the perfect fantasy. My fantasy. Every dream I had... I told myself it was insanity. I told myself that wanting him could never go anywhere. He was a f*****g wolf, and I was a human.

But...

He chose me in the end.

Nothing else mattered.

My heart felt free, my soul danced. He took my hand in his as the witch who was officiating smiled at me.

“Let’s start the ceremony. In the name of Selene, the daughter of Hyperion and Theia, this bond chosen out of love, out of respect and kindness and generosity and passion... it will bind you, for eternity and some. It is stronger, too “

She used a dagger to make a small cut on Reid’s palm and mine.

“Join your hands and speak your love,” she said as we held hands together. She began to chant in the background as Reid told me why he couldn’t live without me.

She chanted some words of magic.

“Now you are officially bonded by b***d. It is time for your marking ceremony.”

“YOU ARE MINE,” the wolf growled softly. I looked into Liam’s eyes and sighed. “Do you want my mark?”

“YES.”

– Chapter 73

-Riley-

It almost felt normal. Wearing a beautiful dress. Dancing with my mates. Laughing. We all needed this break from everything that had been happening in our lives.

Deidre looked perfect and happy. She was glowing. Reid made his mark the usual way, and the witch helped Dee to make her own mark on Reid. It was beautiful to see her claiming what was hers.

“I can’t wait to claim the sexiest man alive,” Rene said and my eyes widened. Gem snorted.

“Look at this bitch... My man is the sexiest, but yes, Rome comes close second,” Gem said with a haughty look in her eyes.

“Rene... are you the one talking? I still can’t believe it,” I said to my Panther and she gave me a dainty nod. She was slowly coming out of her shell, and Roman and Adrian’s love was helping her. She still looked sad whenever mother was mentioned, but she was getting better.

"You look beautiful, my Riley," Roman said as he handed me a glass of wine. I took it from him with a smile.

"Thank you, Rome. Wait, your mom is calling me," I said to him and he pouted.

"You are spending more time with my mom today than with me," he complained, looking adorable as hell, and I laughed.

"Oh, come on, Rome. Are you really pouting about that?" Adrian said with a smirk as he took Roman's hand. "Come on, I will dance with you, Grumpy."

"Who the hell wants to dance with you, dumbhead? Have you seen yourself in the mirror?"

I met these two men in a bar and decided to make a fool out of myself because Dee said I had to take revenge on Hiran. Now, here I was... and I couldn't have asked for better men to be my partners. They were both amazing, and somehow they complimented each other too.

"I am handsome as hell," Adrian said as he turned to look at me. "Am I not, Red?"

I traced his stubble with a chuckle. "You are, Ad, you really are..."

"She is lying to not hurt your feelings," Roman grumbled as they both walked away. I walked towards where Alexia was standing with the king. The king gave me a bright smile.

"He looks happy. I had missed that side of him, after Feyona."

"Talking about Feyona..." Finn sidled next to us and his father looked at him with an inquisitive look.

"Yes, did they find Ramsay?"

"Nope. The Red Watchers and I went to his club, searched the whole property. It looked abandoned. We went to the underground club, too. The supernatural council wasn't very pleased with what we did without their permission, but I think they had been thinking of changing Lord Ebenezer from the council already, so they didn't bother too much about it. But we still don't know who called Ramsay, and warned him."

"You know what this means, don't you?" The Queen asked as she looked at Finn. He nodded.

"We have a mole, and we have to find who the hell it is," he said with a worried look on his face. "But let's not spoil the mood thinking about all of it today. We will find Ramsay and bring him to justice. Riley's father is working with doctor Tim to cure Dean, and I

could see it is already helping. He didn't look so pale anymore. So, come on, Riley, let's dance." Finn gave me his hand with a bow and I took it with a smile.

He spun me with gusto and I laughed. He didn't look so sad anymore. Maybe my father really was helping.

"So... what do you think about being the next Queen?" I stopped and stepped on his legs and he yelped.

"Damn, my foot. Goddess, woman..."

"You can't just throw that word around like it is something normal. I don't think-"

"What? Have you not thought about that? Rome is the heir."

"I don't know. We haven't talked about that. But I also think your mom and dad are not yet ready to retire. Do you think they are?" My eyes widened as I nervously looked at Finn and Finn laughed as he twirled me around before he pulled me towards him.

"What do you think?" He pointed to the direction where the queen was now dancing with Ryan and the king was dancing with Claire and Mirabel. They looked like they were having the time of their lives with the kids. "They are already ready for grandchildren." Finn winked and I flushed red.

I was ready, but... I nervously searched for Roman and saw Roman and Adrian were talking with Reid, while Dee was talking with Adrian's mother.

"Sorry, sorry. I didn't mean to say all of that and scare you. I just thought you had already talked about all of that," he said. I shook my head.

"No, it is okay. We haven't talked about it. There was so much going on and we almost forgot.

"Of course. The whole month has been one thing after the other."

"So did you save the wolves from Ramsay's club? How are they doing?"

"Yes, we did help as many as we could, and we sent the ones who didn't know their pack to a small pack in Idaho. My father is a close friend of the previous Alpha and they are all really good people and we know they will help the wounded wolves. There were some still in Red Watchers' hospital, being treated. I think a few were from your pack, I mean, the old one."

"You sure?"

"I think so. Dustin talked with them, and one of them said he was from Crystal Park, and his wife was unconscious."

"Oh, I have to meet them tomorrow," I said with a sad smile. "If they are from Crystal Park, they will go back to Crystal Park. Reid will take care of them."

"Yes. I know these people are saved now, but there are still many like them, and the only way to help everyone is to stop the whole racketeering ring, is to identify all the Alphas and wolves who are involved in this... it has always been a struggle, to completely stop this, but we will find a way." He looked optimistic and fierce. "It isn't the doctor, or your mom, or Ramsay... So who is it?"

I sighed as the song ended and he let me go. "I kept thinking about it, too. My dad said it was a human right. So who is this person? Where is he? This started when I was young. Is he old now, and almost dying? That is why he is so desperate for this experiment to be a success? To live a long life?"

"A lot of questions... that need to be answered."

I nodded as I walked away and found Dee. "How are you bestie? I am so sad you have to leave tomorrow," I said as I grabbed her hand in mine and she sighed.

"Yes, I don't want to leave. I want to live here forever," she said with a nervous smile. "I can't – can you believe it. I am a Luna."

"You are a Luna. You are THE LUNA, Dee. There is just no one like you," I said with a smile as we danced.

"You are only saying it because I am your best friend, but how can I help them, Ri, when I don't have a wolf?"

"You know, not that you are mated to Reid, it automatically connects you to the pack on some deeper level. And they will be loyal to you, and they will respect you. It doesn't matter if you don't have a wolf. It has never mattered. You saved me from the rogues. You helped me defeat Hiran. You were the one who was always getting me out of trouble, Dee, and you never needed a wolf for that. You will save them the same way."

"And Finn just told me a few of the wolves the Red Watchers saved were from Crystal Park. Reid and you should visit them before you leave tomorrow."

"Definitely. They will be going to Crystal Park with us, then..." she said. "So are we taking the pups back?" I looked at the kids and now they were all laughing with the king and the queen, but...

"I don't know. I want to keep them with me. I have to talk about it with the king and the queen. Do you want to come with me?"

“Of course.”

We went to where the king and the queen were and Alex looked up at me with a questioning look.

“You look troubled. Why?”

“I-“

I stopped when Adrian and Roman joined us. Ash, Keller and Reid joined us when Dee motioned them. Bella had already left once the ceremony was over, to be back with Dean.

“We can feel you are sad about something. What is it?” Adrian asked.

“You know Dee is leaving tomorrow, and the kids...”

Adrian looked at the kids and shook his head. The queen looked sad, so was the king. They had become so fond of them in the short time.

“Do they really have to go?” the queen asked.

“It was their home, and we took them away. I think they do need stability. Roza and Linda will take care of them, but...” I knew I didn’t want to let them go. I wanted to keep them with me.

“Drian...” A sweet voice called. I looked down to see Mirabel lifting her hand up, motioning Adrian to pick her up. He picked her up and she smiled at him. They have shared a special kind of bond since the first time they met. Adrian picked her up and she giggled and wiped the frosting on his cheek. “Drian dirty,” she said. Adrian growled playfully.

“I am going to get you back for that, Mirabel. I am so going to get you.”

She laughed and shook her head. “Noooo. Mirabel, good girl.”

“No, bad, bad girl.”

They looked so happy in their own world, and all of the pups were mine in some way, but Mirabel and I... I have known her from when she was so little. I sat with her through the night when she wouldn’t sleep. I watched her grow up. I was there when she took her first step, said her first word. And Ethan was still here.

“Riley...” Adrian whispered as he looked at me, and motioned me to the side. I somehow knew what he wanted to tell me.

“What?”

“Mirabel... can we keep her?”

“Yes, she will stay with us,” I said with a sigh.

“And everyone else too,” the queen said as she pointed to the ten kids standing around. “We are a big pack and we can take care of them. I mean, if they want to say. If they want to go, they can go back with Linda and Roza back to their home.”

I smiled at her. She was the best person in the whole world.

“So kids, tomorrow Alpha Reid and Linda and Roza and Dee will be leaving. If you want to go with them, you can go with them. If you want to stay here...”

Mirabel clung to Adrian’s neck. “Drian. I stay. Lee and you and me...”

I smiled at her and nodded.

Four of the older kids wanted to go back with Linda and Roza. They had friends back at the pack, and they loved Reid.

Claire looked at Finn who was dancing with a woman, and shook her head.

“Will Finn be there back at Crystal Park?”

“No, this is Finn’s home.”

“I stay.”

Ryan huffed. “I am staying with Claire.”

Bailey asked, “what about school? I need to study.”

“Nerdy Bee,” Ryan said with a smile as he always called her that. “They have schools here.”

“Then I stay with Ryan and Claire.”

Six kids decided they wanted to stay with us, and, of course, I was happy as hell.

The four decided they would go back with Roza and Linda.

“I will miss you guys,” I said as I looked at them. “But Luna Dee will take the best care of you.”

“Yes, I will.”

-Ramsay-

“No, I am not doing it. I am done,” I said as I glared at the phone. The voice on the other end didn’t sound too pleased to hear my reply.

“You know... it doesn’t work like that? You think you can run away and hide and I would let you live in peace? NO. I will find you.”

I had never been scared of anything in my life. But something in his voice made me want to run fast and far away.

“What will you do? You are just a human and we are-“

His laughter cut me off. “JUST HUMAN? JUST? You have been working for this just human half your life, Ramsay. I paid for your underground club, I paid for your strange hobbies. You promised me the drug, and you are going to get me that or that pretty girl you keep next to you, the one with the colorful hair... yeah, her... she will not live.”

“Who the f**k are you? If you touch her, I will wipe your entire generation from the face of the Earth.”

He laughed again.

“You don’t need to know who I am, but you need to understand that I am not letting this go. Let’s talk right after you find a way to get Hiran out of the cell he was in, Ramsay, and then you will get me the specimen.”

“Specimen?”

“The girl with three animals inside her. Yes, her.”

—

OKAY. I need some good comments to cheer me up. I feel so down. So help me?

– Chapter 74

-Riley-

I walked inside the Red Watcher building with Reid and Dee. Roman and Adrian went with Finn, and they were searching for Ramsay.

My father smiled when we walked inside the lab. He gave Dee a nod and a pat on her shoulder. "Human, congratulations on your marking ceremony."

"Thank you, Dad Wolf."

"And Riley told me you are the one who saved her from the rogues. Thank you for that."

"Of course. How is Dean doing?" she asked, and my dad nodded.

"He is still unconscious, but his vitals are good, and he is responding to my treatment. I am hoping he will wake up in a day or two, maybe."

"That is so good to hear, dad. We are here to look at the wolves. You know the one that was admitted here yesterday."

"The ones from the illegal fighting club, right? They are on the floor above."

We gave a nod and went up the stairs. Reid looked worried and I saw Dee grabbing his hand in hers. They were the most amazing people, and they deserved each other.

"Hiran did this," Reid said with a growl. "Each time I find out about things he had done, I wanted to kill him more, and he is still alive. That is cruel," Reid said as I softly knocked on the door. A young doctor came out.

"You are the one doctor Tim talked about," she said with a wide-eyed look and cleared her throat. "Umm, what do you need?"

"We need to see the wolves that were rescued from the underground club. We heard some of them were from Crystal Park."

"A few are unconscious still. They had severe head trauma from the fight. The ones who are conscious are delirious and feverish. Yes, one did claim he was from Crystal Park, but we don't know if he is telling the truth or sharing someone else's memories."

"He is the new Alpha of Crystal Park, and he knows everyone from there."

"Of course, Alpha," she said as she opened the door. I felt my heart twisting when I saw the state the wolves were in. They were banged up, so banged up even their wolf couldn't heal them completely. They looked weak, half of what they once were.

Reid and I studied their faces, trying to see them beyond the wounds.

"Beta Reid," a guy g*****d and we all turned around. "Beta Reid, is it really you?"

“Goddess,” Reid said, and I could hear his breath shudder. “Hanson?”

The man nodded. “Help us, Beta Reid,”

“He will, and he is the Alpha now,” I said as he looked at me curiously. He didn’t know me, of course.

“How is my girl? And Ramon?” he said. “Are they fine?”

“Riley... he is Bailey’s father. And Ramon’s uncle.”

“How is my Bailey? Is she still buried in her books?”

“That fu.cking a*s.hole, Hiran...” Gem growled. “I want to bash his teeth in and then rip his intestines out.”

“I want that, too.”

I wiped my eyes as I looked at him. “She is great. She is right here. When you get better, you can take her back home,” I said and my voice broke. He sobbed, but he was also smiling.

“Oh, I can’t wait to see my baby, but don’t bring her here. She doesn’t like b***d, and I don’t want her to see her mom and dad like this.”

“Do you know what happened to Ramon’s mom?”

“She is dead,” he said. “My sister is dead.” He whimpered softly. My heart broke for this man I had never met before. Hiran was the reason for all of this. My anger burned once again.

“Riley is the one who took care of Bailey and Ramon and every kid who has no one to look after themselves.”

“Not really. Linda and Roza did,” I said with a sad smile.

“Thank you,” Hanson looked at me with a grateful look in his eyes.

“Do you know if anyone else from Crystal Park is here?”

“My wife, and then there is one more. Her name is, Treena.”

“I know Treena,” Reid said. “She is Ryan’s mom.”

I gasped. “Our Ryan?”

“Yes, our Ryan.”

“Where is she?”

Hanson pointed to a woman who was murmuring something under her breath. When she saw us, her bright eyes became wide. She looked red, feverish.

“My little boy... my little Ryan...”

My eyes blurred.

She didn’t even realize we were there. She just kept saying Ryan’s name over and over. I touched her shoulder and she jerked back and growled. “No, let me go. NO. I need to go to my son.”

The young doctor sighed. “They are all traumatized by what happened. Even though she is here, her mind is still in that place where death was the only way out of the ring.” The doctor touched Treena’s back and she shuddered and hugged herself, rocking back and forth. “It will take some time for her to come back to the real world, and she will need a lot of therapy. Every one of them will need therapy.”

“And they will get it,” Reid said with a determined look.

We talked with the rest of the doctors, and talked with the wolves who were awake. Some were from packs from different countries. It was so horrible. To be pulled away from their family, their lives...

“Ramsay has to answer for all of this. He can’t run away... He can’t escape,” I said under my breath as we walked away.

Reid and Dee had to leave for the airport.

Dee hugged me tight. “I don’t want to leave you here. I want to bring you back with me and hide you away from all of this,” she said. She has always been my strength, my unwavering support.

“I know, I know, but you taught me how to live life without hiding from anything, and you know... when everything with Hiran happened, you are the only reason I stood tall and strong. I am going to stay here, and not hide.”

“I know,” she said as she pulled away, wiping her tears. “I will see you soon? You know, on your marking ceremony?”

“You will. Promise to call me every day?”

I hugged Reid and said goodbye. It felt like goodbye. Even though I knew Dee would always be a part of my life, she would be far away. I couldn't hold her, see her laugh, drink with her whenever I wanted.

I watched as they drove away in the car. The kids were going straight to the airport with Linda and Roza. The Queen was accompanying them, too.

The rest of them would be staying in Nightshade. The queen promised she would arrange a bigger space for them. Ashelene and two others from Nightshade were babysitting them right now.

"She is something else, isn't she?" my father asked and I nodded with a watery smile.

"Oh Riley," he said as he looked at me. When we talked about Dean, or about the creatures, it didn't feel awkward, but now... I could feel the tension. "I am sorry, you know, for all of this. I am one of the few reasons this happened."

"Do you really not know about the one pulling the strings?"

"You think I will keep it to myself after all of this if I know his name?"

"Have you talked with Nadia?"

My father's face twisted. "Yes."

"Did she agree to help you?"

He shook his head. "Of course not. But she will..."

"How are you so sure?"

He shook his head. "Want to go see her?"

"Why? I feel only anger when I look at her. She is- she is nothing to me. She doesn't care about me. She only used me."

My dad sighed. "I am sorry. Riley?" My father touched my hand. "Do you want to go to dinner with me? Some day, when we are not so busy?" He looked nervous. His eyes were flickering.

I smiled. "Of course. When all of this is over."

"Yes. When all of this is over."

-Roman-

"I tried Feyona's number again," I said with a growl. We had searched places we thought Ramsay might be, but we couldn't find him. We had already arrested Ramsay's brother, Armond, but Ramsay and Feyona were gone. Armond said he hadn't heard from Ramsay.

"Trusting her was stupid," Adrian said with a grunt.

"But she didn't really... betray us. If she had, I think Ramsay would have become alert even before all of this. He didn't. We saved Dean."

Adrian nodded thoughtfully. "You are right. But I don't know why she has changed her mind now. Well, she has always been unpredictable."

"The asshole couldn't just leave, after putting Dean through all of that," Finn said with a growl. "I will find him even if he is in space." Finn looked determined as hell, and I knew him. When he puts his mind on something, he always succeeds.

"I am too tired, and I miss Riley," Adrian said. "Can we do this tomorrow? It is already evening, and I can't wait to show her... the gift," he said, looking excited. He was practically bouncing in the car seat.

"I miss her, too, but calm that fucker down. He looks like he is high on something," Karl said with a snort and I shook my head.

"Karl... STOP!"

"What? I am not lying. Just look at him... and Clay is a braindead butthead!"

I shook my head. "You love Adrian."

"Okay, Adrian is not bad. It is Clay... I don't like."

"YOU LOVE CLAY, too. Now shut the fuck up."

"You are very rude, Roman. Wait. I will tell Riley that you were being mean to me."

"What a fucking tattletale," I said with a grin and my wolf huffed indignantly.

When we reached Nightshade, Adrian and I went to Riley's room. She opened before we could even knock. She kissed Adrian and then pulled me into a k**s.

"I really need to stop this," she said.

"Stop what?"

"Being obsessed with you two. I don't want to be clingy, but I don't know why I miss you the moment you go away."

"Oh, you can cling to me all the time," Adrian said with a smile, and I had to agree to that.

"I don't care, because I am just as obsessed with you, Kitten," I said. "And we have a gift for you. Come with us."

"What? Come on, tell me. I don't like surprises."

"For someone who doesn't like surprises, your life is full of them, Red," Adrian said as he pulled her out and wrapped an arm around her waist.

I locked the door before I put my arm on her shoulder and we walked out. There were some looks, but everyone already knew why Riley had two mates. They were still bewildered, of course, but what the hell... we didn't care. As long as we were all happy, I didn't care what anyone thought about her or us.

"Tell me where we are going?"

"Hush, Red," Adrian said. "Patience."

"Is not her strong suit." I laughed at Riley and she glared at me.

"Now you guys are ganging up on me?" She pouted and I quickly leaned in and kissed her on her pout.

"Well... It is bros before..." Riley snarled at Adrian and he raised his hand. "No, I wasn't going to say hoes, I promise."

"Sometimes you don't know when to shut up, Ad," I said with a wince as Riley bared her teeth at him.

"No, no, it is always you before everyone else, my Red," Adrian said.

"Too late," Riley said with a grunt. "Gem is not pleased. She is going to deal with you later."

We stopped in front of a building which was closer to Nightshade.

"Where are we?"

"Close your eyes," Adrian said as he put an arm around her.

"Goddess... where are we, guys?"

I opened the door and the wind chime tinkled. The sound was pleasant.

“NOW. Open your eyes, Kitten.”

“Welcome to your new shop.”

“MY WHAT?” She squeaked.

“And here,” Adrian handed her the key and the admission papers. “This is your shop, but before this, you need this.”

“This is an application form to the Culinary Institute of America?” she gasped. “It is one of the most popular institutes in NY that offer baking programs...”

I chuckled. “Yes. We know you wanted to train with Maria, and can’t because of all of this.”

She blinked and looked up at us, her eyes shining. “And you remembered that?”

“Yes. We knew you were excited about that. So now, you will have your own shop, once you are ready to that. Here is the deed to the shop. It is in your name, and you can do whatever you want to do with it.”

“Did I say I love you, so damn much?” She wiped her eyes and I pulled her into a hug.

“Don’t cry, Kitten. You should never cry, not for anything, not after this.”

“I love you, I can’t imagine a life without both of you.”

“And it is the same for us, Red.”

-Riley-

“This is mine...”

I looked around. It was bare, except for a counter, but I could already imagine what I wanted to do with the place. A glass-top counter for the desserts, hissing machines spewing out froth and coffee and milk... quaint tables covered in beautiful tablecloths.

But the application form... now that made me nervous.

“But can I...” I waved at the form and Adrian nodded.

“Yes, you can, Red.”

"But... Finn said that I have to be the- Que-" I couldn't even say the word Queen. I knew I wasn't ready for that, and I didn't know if I would ever be ready for that.

"My parents had years to be the king and the queen, and I don't- I don't even know if I want to be the King. I prefer my life as a Red Watcher, but ... I want to be the Alpha of my pack, but without being the king."

"You will make an amazing king, but I don't think I will be a good Queen."

"Well, I can be his Queen," Adrian said without batting an eye, and Roman glared.
"What? You don't want me to be your Queen?"

"I***t," Roman grumbled as he smacked Adrian on his head. "Shut up."

I laughed. "He will make a great Queen."

"See, I told you." Adrian laughed at Roman.

As I stared at them laughing and joking... I knew... Whatever came, wherever we will be in the future, we would be together, and happy, and fighting...

"Thank you, Goddess..."

-Finn-

"What the hell are you saying? How is that even possible?"

I took the elevator and it stopped on the floor where the King's court was.

The guards rushed towards me, and they looked panicked.

"We don't know... what exactly happened. We were guarding the cell where Hiran was... and then smoke filled the corridor and when we woke up, the prison door was broken and he wasn't-"

"S**t," I cursed as I marched in. The air still smelled like smoke, and beneath it, I could smell aconitum and something else. No wonder they all fainted. I growled under my breath. It was a mistake keeping this a*s.hole alive. I knew my father made a decision based on how he would help us in the future, but...

I growled as I took a sniff.

"Vampires and humans.... and... someone else."

I dialled Roman's number. He picked up in the third ring. He really sounded happy, and I hate to do this now. I knew they were showing Riley her new store.

"Hiran escaped. Someone did a prison break for him."

"FU.CK."

!!!

– Chapter 75

-Riley-

"F**K." A loud, chilling growl left my mate's lips as he punched against the wall.

Roman's smile was completely gone and his face twisted into one of rage. If he was someone other than Roman, the look in his eyes alone would have scared me, but this was MY Roman, and I knew he would never do anything to hurt me, or anyone innocent. He hissed something into the phone before he hung up.

"What? What did Finn say?" Adrian asked with a grunt.

"Hiran... escaped."

I stumbled back. It felt like someone had hit me in the chest.

"How the hell did he escape? Nightshade is a fort," Adrian said with a frown.

"Looks like we need to strengthen that f*****g fort. We were all distracted, and we forgot Hiran."

"Who the hell even wanted to save him? What is the use? He was a sleazy a*****e," I grumbled with a frown. After seeing what our pack members, some of us who were the parents of my pups, the ones he threatened, I realized he was worse than the worst. He was a bottom feeder. A s**t eating worm. There was nothing redeeming about him.

"I told them..." Roman growled as we walked out. Adrian quickly locked the shop. "I told them that we didn't need his f*****g testimony or whatever. I am so sorry, Riley," he said with a growl as he took me in his arms, as if he was trying to protect me from the world of harm.

"Hiran can't hurt me anymore, Roman. Don't worry. If he even looks in my direction, I know you both will smite him." I said with a chuckle, but I did feel a bit of a nervous twitch. It felt like that this was coming to an end, whatever this was.

My spidey senses were tingling.

Gem laughed and shook her head. "This isn't a joke, Riley. He is... when he comes at you, he won't hesitate to kill you this time."

"I am aware," I said with a nod.

Roman's arms around me tightened further.

"You are suffocating her," Adrian said and Roman let me go with a guilty smile.

"I am sorry, Riley. I don't know what to do."

"You don't have to do all of this alone, you know that, right? It is not your fault. It is not the King's fault. He did what he had to do."

"I feel... like it is my father's fault," Roman said with a frown. "Let's go back to Nightshade," he said as we all piled up inside Adrian's car, Onyx.

When we reached Nightshade, the whole place was guarded by warrior wolves and police, alike. Finn ran to us as soon as he saw us.

"Goddamn, Finn, how did this happen? How the hell did he escape from this place?"

"Some kind of smoke bomb, filled with aconitum and something else. No one would have stood a chance," Finn said with a dark grunt. "Someone from the outside wanted Hiran, and they got him."

"I think it is the human. The one Riley's father told us about," Roman said with a grunt as he looked around. "Did you get a scent? Did you track it?"

"Vampires. I tracked their scent behind Nightshade, but they must have used something else to hide the scent," Finn said. "I couldn't track them beyond the woods."

"First we need to f*****g find who the mole in the Red Watcher is."

"Dustin and Bella were already working on it."

"And don't let anyone else know. It should stay between us."

"Do you really trust Dusing?" I asked.

"Dustin is one of us. He won't ever betray us," Adrian said with a sigh. "It is someone else. But we are going to find them, and we are going to f.ucking end them."

"The cops helped, too. We can't find anything," the King said as he reached us. Roman grunted, and didn't say anything. I twitched nervously as Finn let out a loud breath. "I am sorry, Rome. I know you are angry with me."

"I am," Roman said. "I told you, Dad. I told you that this might happen. Now he is out in the wild and he will come for Riley. I know that much."

Adrian put a hand on Roman's shoulder. "Rome, stop."

He shook him off with a grunt. "Do you not agree?"

"I do, but it is not your dad's fault. His hands were tied. He has to do this according to the procedure, or everything will become chaos. Nobody wants that now, do we?"

Roman shook his head. "I am sorry, Dad. I know... I know it is not your fault. I am just-so frustrated and so, so angry."

"Roman, come on. We are stronger than we were before and we will get through this," I said as I grabbed his hand in mine.

"She is right, Rome."

"I don't know. I just hate thinking that the fu.cker is not rotting inside the prison. He belongs there. Or he should have been dead."

I leaned against Rome, knowing I would calm him down.

"We need to go back..." Finn said. "I am worried."

"About?" Adrian asked.

"Dean. If this is all coming to an end... and there is a mole in the Red Watchers, and Dean is right there."

Roman nodded with a thoughtful frown. "No."

"What do you mean no?"

"He will be alright for now. Just do what we are doing here."

-Hiran-

"Thank you, Ramsay." I said as the car stopped in an abandoned building way outside the city. I looked around, and grunted. It was no five-star hotel, but even this was better than the jail I was locked up in.

"Why the hell does he want to save you? You are a sly as.shole and you are nothing." Ramsay's face twisted in derision. I didn't care about it. Of course, I didn't like the way he talked about me, but heck, he just saved me. So he could say whatever he wanted, for now.

"I don't even know who he is, but I know why he wants to save me. We both want Riley, and he knows I will get her, no matter what. That b***h is going to die one way or the other for everything she has done to me."

"My job is done here."

"No, it isn't, not until I say so," a commanding voice said. I looked up to see a tall man walking in, with a mop of gray hair. He looked so ordinary, but I knew. This was him. The one who was orchestrating all of it. A woman followed him. I knew her. I saw her at my trial. One of the heads of the Red Watchers.

"Ivanna Thompson, but why?" I whispered to myself as I looked at the tall woman. She looked as serious as she had looked during my trial, but now she was following the man like he was her master.

"It is always greed," Jin said with a scoff. "But I don't fuc.king care why. I am out of that cage and now I am going to hunt Riley down. That b***h doesn't deserve to live with two men who aren't us."

"How the f**k did she get two men?" I still couldn't believe it.

"You are the one who called me that day," Ramsay said as he looked at Ivanna.

"Yes. They left even when I explicitly ordered them to stay. So I could only warn you at the last minute. I am sorry you lost Dean, sir," she said as she looked at the man.

He gave her a curt nod, and his mouth twisted. He was human, but something about him was not human.

"Doctor Kaspar is dead. Dean is gone. Nadia is imprisoned. Marcus is helping the wrong side," the man said. His voice was kind of gravelly when he talked. "The only way I am getting what I want is from Riley. She already has everything I want inside her."

"And you will have her," I said to him. "But who are you? Why are you doing this? Is this all for... just living longer?"

“You don’t need to know.” He cut me off. “Now, your first job is to trail Riley and grab her when she is alone, or vulnerable. As soon as you grab her, inject this into her bloodstream.”

“The f*****g drugs don’t work on her. Ramsay gave me one to make her listen to me, and instead she became something else and almost killed me,” I said with a shudder. I still remembered that day. How she punched me over and over until all I could see was b***d and all I could hear was my own scream. Sometimes, when I closed my eyes, I saw Riley’s glowing eyes.

“Yeah, this isn’t like that. Ramsay didn’t know what she was. This drug will subdue all the things inside her, including the creature.”

I sighed. “I hope you are right. I am not ready to die again in that b***h’s hand.”

“I really need to go,” Ramsay said. “My mate is-“

I scoffed. It irritated me that he still called that wolf MATE. She was a fu.cking wolf, and he wasn’t her mate.

“Your mate is safe. Don’t worry about her for now. They are already hunting you, and you know I can keep you safe.”

Ramsay sighed. “She doesn’t want me to-“

“She doesn’t have to know, Ramsay. You know you love the thrill of this. She is still a wolf, and she still can’t live longer. So we can both benefit from it.”

Ramsay’s eyes flashed. The man was convincing, and I knew Ramsay was back in this again.

Ramsay nodded. “Yes. But will you promise to help me keep Feyona safe? And nothing should happen to her.”

“I know. I already appointed two men to her protection detail and she is safe. She will be safe. So are you in?”

Ivanna smiled at Ramsay.

“Come on.”

Ramsay nodded. “I am in.”

The man turned to look at me. “Now, don’t mess this up, and bring me the specimen.”

“Where are we staying? They know all our old places.”

"I have a place. No one will suspect that one."

"Where?"

"It was the one where the Red Watchers started. It is now abandoned, since we moved to a new building. It is a perfect place. No one will suspect us."

"Then that is where we will go. Hiran, take that car," he pointed to a tinted car, that looked really discrete. "Do not get caught."

"Not this time."

"And Ivanna, you know what you should do..." The man looked at Ivanna Thompson. She took in a deep breath and shook her head.

"But the wing is heavily guarded and Bella... doesn't leave his side."

"Bella should have been in that lab with Dean. The doctor messed up," the man said. I had no idea who this Bella was, but she must be something important.

"But...sir..."

"I don't need excuses, Ivanna. You know what happens if he wakes up. He knows you are a part of all of this."

Ivanna looked worried as she gave him a look. "I know."

"So, either get him back. And if that is hard, finish him off. If Bella is there, end her, too. We don't need too many Lycans poking their noses in our business. And the creatures, kill them off too."

"I can't do it all alone. If I get caught..."

"Don't get caught then, Ivanna. If you get caught, I will kill you myself. And him... Take him with you," the man said as he pointed to me.

"But I have a b***h to deal with."

"My first priority – Dean. He should not wake up."

-Ivanna-

The darkness was bleeding into the room. There was no light. I preferred it that way. It was a hunt, and I needed the safety of the dark. The girl wasn't there. It would have been a bigger mess if Bella had been there.

"I am sorry, Dean." He was a good soldier, but he was always fighting for the wrong side of the army. I knew who would win this war. THE HUMAN! He had always won, and I knew how to pick sides.

The prey was within my reach. This time, there would be no stopping me. I would take his life.

It is him or me, and I would choose me. All the time. I couldn't die, just so that he could live. I have so many more years to live and grow and thrive.

The soft beeps of machines filled the room. The roars of the creatures disrupted the rhythm of the wind. Everything was as I wanted it to be.

The needle glinted in the night. I preferred it this way. Clean, clinical, without a single drop of b***d. I assumed that my brain had developed over time. Once upon a time, I would have chosen bloody, messy.

The needle was filled with a concentrated dose of aconitum and Belladonna. Just that one would have been enough, but... he was always a perfectionist. Maybe that was how he was alive for years. The second syringe was filled with Arsenic. He wouldn't wake up even if the Moon Goddess wanted to bring him back.

I plunged the injection into him. His skin sucked in the needle with a soft, supple sound. His body trembled once.

I took it out and then inserted the arsenic injection.

The faint beep from the heart monitor stopped. It was a flat line now.

"Goodbye, Dean..."

– Chapter 76

-Roman-

"Follow Ivanna," I mind-linked Finn, as I stared at Ivanna Thompson. The trap worked perfectly. The darkness was the cover we needed.

"Don't you want to catch her now?' Adrian mind-linked me.

“No. Following her might bring us the one she is working with.”

“So we should just stay here and watch?” Adrian grumbled. I could see he was frustrated, but he knew we had to do this. This time, I wasn’t going to rush this. She had walked willingly into my trap, and while every nerve in my body wanted to rip her heart out, I knew I couldn’t do that. NOT YET.

She was only a part of the machine. The power that operated the machine as a whole was someone else. Someone who had been hiding in the shadows for so long, taking the cover of the darkness. If he didn’t come out now, he wouldn’t come out ever.

“Yes. For now. Just watch,” I said. The moment I realized Hiran was out, I knew something like this might happen. If this was a chess piece, they had already saved their pawns, and now they would want to take out anything that might bring the king, or at least, the Queen down.

Ivanna was the Queen.

And she was down now. We needed the king.

Now, we had to play this perfectly, or they would be the one shouting check mate.

She walked out of the room, staring once more at the machine. The door closed softly behind her, and I waited. I waited. She thought this was her hunt. She was wrong. This was ours.

“Is she alone?” I mind-linked Adrian. “Ask Bella.” Since Bella was from a different pack, I couldn’t really mind-link her directly.

“Bella says she doesn’t notice anyone else,” Adrian mind-linked back. “She seemed to have come alone. What now?”

“Everything is already set in place. Dustin and Finn will discretely follow her for now. We will spy on her, as she has spied on us. I am ready for it, all of it. I can’t wait to take that asshole down,” I said as I pulled out the sheet covering Dean.

He was still unconscious, but the faint pulse in his throat gave us all hope. Riley’s dad had already done a lot to help Dean, and I could see some changes. I grabbed the armor-like coat that covered her from head to toe, including his face. It almost felt and looked like skin, but was made in such a way that even a bullet couldn’t pass through it. Once again, thanks to Riley’s dad. He had done a lot in his years of hiding.

I sighed as the door opened and Bella walked in. “How is he?”

“He is doing good, considering one of our own people just tried to assassinate him,” I said.

“Are we calling Erwing?” she asked as she sat down and grabbed Dean’s hand in hers. I wished I could do something to help her, anything. I had never felt so helpless in my life.

“Not yet. She needs to believe that she is in the clear. She has to stop being careful.”

I stopped when I heard a loud roar.

“What the f**k was-” My eyes widened and I shifted without a second’s thought. I knew the sound. It was the creatures. Was Ivanna so stupid to let them out of their cells? What the f**k was she thinking?

“She will know now,” Bella said with a desperate look in her eyes.

I sighed and nodded. “Stay in and lock the door.”

But I knew if the creatures wanted to come in, they would.

I ran out and saw that one of the cell doors was bent into two. Ethan was still inside the cell, but there was no sign of Ivanna.

Hiran’s mate was smashing against a big table. It collapsed with a single hit. “Who let her out?”

“No one,” Adrian said as he shifted, too. “Something is wrong. She just- she just ripped the door right off the hinges. Something made her go batshit crazy. She wasn’t like that before. She looked even more furious, if that was possible.”

“Where is Riley? Ad, where is she?”

“She was with her dad,” Adrian replied.

Karl shook his head with a roar.

“No. His scent was hidden, but I knew it. Hiran was here with Ivanna.”

“F.uck it. Riley...” I started to run. “Where is Riley?”

“Where the hell are you going, Karl? I can’t deal with her alone,” Clay growled as the creature threw the chair against the ceiling. My heart raced as my power crackled around me.

No. Hiran couldn’t have taken Riley away.

“I asked you to stay with Riley.”

"I came only after I heard the sound."

"It is a distraction, Adrian. They must have messed up with the door to make it easier for her to rip it out," I said. "Find a way to bring her back into the cage. Do something."

"How the hell should I do that?"

"Marcus," I growled out as I took two steps at a time and reached the top floor. I looked at the things scattered around. "Marcus?"

I walked inside the room and growled when I saw Marcus lying on the floor, unconscious.

"Riley isn't here," I mind-linked Adrian. "I am going to find him and then I am going to--"

"Oh fu.ck," Adrian growled out.

"What?"

"She jumped right out of the freaking window. What the hell am I supposed to do now? We can't keep this quiet anymore, not with the ruckus she was making. Damn, she just pulled a street light right out of the ground."

"Just tell everyone about the creature, but not Ivanna. Not yet. I am going to hunt Hiran down and finish him for once and all."

"All the best," Adrian said. "I am calling Weston and Evans. f**k. I am calling all the guys," Adrian said as Karl took a deep sniff.

"Follow Riley's scent."

-Riley-

I saw a woman walking outside the Red Watchers' building with my mother. Ivanna. She saved my mother. My mother gave me a cold look and turned away.

Hiran gave her a nod as he grabbed me by my hair and I winced when his claws dug into my scalp. I couldn't shift. That was the only reason he was alive right now. He injected me with something, and I felt my animals scream in pain... and then there was silence.

I knew that should scare me... the not shifting part, but maybe the shock was too much to feel anything. Right now, I only felt repulsion and anger.

"I will drive her. You take her," Hiran said and Ivanna nodded.

"You injected her, right?"

"Of course," he said as he dragged me by my hair. I looked at my mother. She kept looking at her nails, a disinterested look on her face. This was my mother. The perfect b***h. I hated her more than I had hated her before. This woman was a cold, frozen block of ice. There was no warmth in her. Everything was science and money. There was no space for feelings.

And... Hiran would never change. There was no humanity left in him for the changes to happen.

My wolf's voice, my panther's voice... none of it was in my head. I felt truly alone right now, but I knew I was not. It was only a matter of time...

"Whatever your plan is, you will not succeed. I know that much, you fu.cking as.shole."

"You talk too much, Riley. Once upon a time, you were so obedient. Just the way I loved it."

"My mates will find you... and you will die a very painful death. I promise you that," I said as he pushed me inside the jeep. I heard a roar and shuddered. "What did you do?"

He started the jeep and drove off, until the voice faded and there was only the sound of my angry breath.

"I just messed up the door. It is so easy. When they start to look for you, we will already be gone."

"You think it is going to be that easy? Think again."

I hissed when he tugged at my hair. "I said shut the f.uck up."

"Go fu.ck yourself, you dickl.ess a*s," I said with a growl. Something about him always made me want to poke his eyes out of his f*****g skull. "You are a waste of my time and everyone else's, you fuc.king toxic waste."

He growled. "I am going to show you how to shut up, you fuc.king bitch."

"Or I will permanently shut you up."

"You will die, Riley, but before that I am going to take my sweet time with you for everything you have done."

I turned back and the second car followed us. My mother and Ivanna Thompson, the rat.

“Or not...” I said as my eyes widened. The creature jumped out of nowhere, and landed on the hood of the jeep. The impact made a metallic sound. Hiran cursed and swerved as she watched him. Did she follow his scent? “Hey Hiran, do you remember your mate’s name?” I said with a taunting smirk.

The bastard didn’t know who she was when he messed up with her cage.

She must have recognized his scent, or him... and she followed us all the way back here. I hope she was here for her revenge and not because she felt anything for him. If that was the case.... I shuddered.

“Why the hell do you need that right now? Shut up.” He looked panicked as he tried to get her off the car, but somehow, she was still standing.

“Just tell me.”

“Eliese,” he grunted and cursed again. “What the fu.ck is this thing? How did this follow us all the way here?”

“Not us. YOU. She followed you. Hey Hiran... say his to Eliese,” I said.

“What the hell are you say-” His eyes widened when he finally understood what I was saying. He gasped and shook his head. “No, that is impossible. This isn’t-“

“It is. Hello Eliese. Did you miss Hiran?”

She snarled in response as her red eyes tracked him. I had a feeling she was only looking at him.

I hit hard on the brake as Hiran tried desperately to speed up. The jeep shuddered and shook violently before it came to a halt. I jumped out. She didn’t mind me. She kept looking at Hiran, her incisors gleaming...

“No, Riley... f**k, get this thing away.”

“She isn’t going away, Hiran. You can’t run anymore. There is only one way out for you. Death. And she is the one who will kill you for every injustice you have done to her.”

“Riley please...”

As I stood there on the side and watched, she pushed her hands through the windshield and pulled him right out of the jeep. He howled in pain as the glasses cut his skin and

b***d oozed out. He didn't even try to shift. He knew there was no use. She was fast, she was animalistic.

"Please, let me go. I am your mate."

He was pathetic. She snarled closer to his face as she shook her bald, patchy head.

"Eleise."

She let out a loud roar and then a grunt. She pulled him up by his shirt and shook him, like he was a ragdoll. Her eyes, red, bloodthirsty, gleamed. She wanted b***d. His b***d.

"You made a mistake when you messed up her cage door," I said as she threw him down. He hit the ground with a shout. She crouched down and studied him. Her eyes burned as her claws... that looked like they were made of metals... cut into his cheeks. His scream filled the air. Even I winced. But I couldn't look away.

tw: Torture

Every thing he had done to me flashed in front of me, as I watched her.

She was taking her sweet time.

I knew. This was revenge. She knew him. She hated him.

How could she not... after everything he had done to her?

What he did to me paled in comparison to what he did to her, his own mate. The one he was supposed to love and cherish, and protect. He was the reason she was like this.

"I am sorry. I am-"

Her growl was like a... f**k you.

And then she pulled him up and let him go.

"What are you-"

He started to run, and within a single jump, she stood in front of him.

She was... playing him.

Fu.ck. Intrigued, I watched it.

She grabbed his hand in hers and snapped it in two. Bones poked out of his skin as he screamed in agony. She looked like she was smiling.

“End him, Eliese. He had lived long enough.”

If she didn't, I would. Because... I knew he would come back, again, if he walked out of here, alive.

She looked at him, and nodded. Did she understand me?

And then I heard it. The sickening sound of bones breaking.

Snap. Snap. Snap. Legs. Hands. Fingers.

She did it diligently. Every snap was followed by a scream. She watched it, relished it and then another snap. When she was done, Hiran was a sobbing, whimpering mess. He didn't even have the strength to scream.

“Riley, save me. Please...”

“You and Jin deserve this for what you did to her. They say Karma is a bitch... well... your karma is... a bit more than a basic bitch.”

I didn't even feel a smidgen of remorse.

I only felt cold satisfaction as I watched Eleise pushing her claws straight into his throat. Now he couldn't even scream. He was still alive, though.

Somehow she knew how to hurt him and not kill him, just yet.

The car where my mother was came to a halt and Ivanna jumped out. She growled as she grabbed her gun. It didn't look like a norma gun. She begin shooting at Eleise. Eleise roared, but she didn't let go of Hiran.

I grabbbbed a big stone by the roadside and threw it at Ivanna. She turned to me and shot at me.

“What the f**k are you doing?” my mother hissed.

“What? You suddenly feel maternal love, Nadia?”

It looked like the two women already knew each other.

“No, but we need her alive.”

Yeah, that! I didn't, even for one second, believe that she cared for my safety.

I slammed against Ivanna, and her gun fell.

“FINISH HIM, ELEISE.”

She howled. Whatever was in the bullet was hurting her.

“f**k. What was in that bullet?”

“Something that will permanently put her to sleep,” Ivanna stood up and grabbed me by my arm. “They will both die. Let’s take you back to where you belong, Emorilee.”

“f**k, you aren’t taking me anywhere.” I kicked Ivanna in her stomach, but of course, without my animals, it was only like a weak punch. She snarled.

I heard a loud roar and turned to see Eleise throwing down Hiran’s tattered body. He looked like torn paper. Skin and bones and b***d... There was no resemblance to a human...

And then Eleise fell down next to him, and a whimper left her lips before I saw her skin peeling off, and for a second, I could see her real skin, before she turned blue, and I knew...

I didn’t have to see her to know she was gone.

A tear rolled down my eyes as Ivanna hit me on the head with her pistol. I stumbled back, and shook my head. She wasn’t taking me anywhere.

“Stop. You have no animal, and no one to help you. Come with us like a good fu.cking girl,” Ivanna growled out. Her eyes flashed with the hint of her wolf.

I heard a snarl, and surprised, I turned to look at my mother. She glowed. Her yellow eyes met me, and for the first time... I saw something in her eyes...

“She still has me.”

And she shifted, pounced with her claws pointed straight at Ivanna and ripped her intestines straight out of her stomach. It fell to the ground with a soft squelch.

“Riley...” I turned to look at Karl. He was in his Lycan form. I ran to him and hugged him. I knew Roman wanted to catch the one at the top...

“I am sorry. She is dead. Mother killed her.”

MOTHER KILLED HER???

– Chapter 77

-Riley-

I pulled away from Karl's furry, warm embrace and looked at Nadia.

Mother?

What did she just do, and why did she do it? After everything she had put me through, why did she help me?

"Why?" I whispered and the Panther shook her head. "Shift, Nadia."

She looked reluctant.

I wondered what Rene would think right now, but unfortunately, I couldn't ask her, or talk with Gem. I hoped that this was only temporary.

"You are not going to run away, are you?" I walked to the car Ivanna drove and found a backpack. Every shifter had a backpack full of spare clothes, always with them. It was cool to shift, but one disadvantage was to replace all the clothes when you had to shift.

My mother could have done something to experiment on THAT!

I pulled out a long dress and threw it in front of the panther. "Shift. We need to talk."

The Panther left out a long suffering sigh before she shifted and wore the dress. Nadia looked at me with a sigh.

"What?"

"Why do you kill her? Why did you save me?"

"Well. They were planning to... you know, hurt you?"

"You had done it, too, over and over again. How is this any different?" I said. My body was shaking. Who the f**k was she? Why couldn't I understand this woman?

"I didn't want you dead, and that is what this person will do to you if he catches you."

"So you just want to use me for your experiment? Yeah, how is that any better, MOTHER?" I snarled. Karl put his hand on my shoulder and pulled me closer to him, trying to comfort me, but I felt like I would explode.

Maybe my father was right. I did need closure. I mean, this was still affecting me.

"Riley, Kitten..." Karl whispered softly.

“Tell me,” I said, and in the silence, my voice was like booming thunder. She looked nervous as she bit her lips.

“No, not always. I just want to find out everything about you and maybe help others.”

“Help? Are you f*****g kidding me now, Nadia? Help?” I scoffed. My body burned in anger and repulsion. What the f**k was she talking about?

“Riley, you are a miracle, and the thing in you, it makes you stronger, and I just want to find out what is-“

I shook my head with a sigh. I had heard enough.

“No, you are selfish. You just wanted the money and the fame. Well, it is useless, anyway. Talking. Take her back to the prison, Karl,” I said as I turned away from her.

“Not yet. I can’t go to prison yet. There is still someone else to catch.”

“You know? Do you know who is doing all of this?” I asked as I stared at her. We still had bigger fish to catch.

“I don’t know who he is, but the address she entered into her GPS, that is where Ivanna is going to take me, and Hiran is going to take you. Some kind of temporary lab they built or something. She had been rambling. But the b***h never said his name. That is why I have to go along with her plan. I knew both of us could defeat Ivanna and the others if it comes to that. But then this happened!” Nadia sighed as she pointed to the bloody mess around us.

I still felt sad when I looked at Hiran’s mate lying next to him. At least, she got her revenge.

“Let’s go then?” I said as I looked at Karl. He shifted and my mother looked away.

“Find me something to wear? I was in too much of a rush,” he said and I knew it was inappropriate right now, with the mess around us and with my evil mother standing just a few feet away from us, but when Rome was naked, I couldn’t help myself. I licked my lips and Roman shook his head as he mouthed, “Dirty Kitten.”

I shrugged as I looked at his c*ck and it jerked. I winked and Roman shook his head.

“Any moment now, Riley?” he said with a taunting look in my direction. I smirked before walking to Hiran’s jeep and grabbed pants from the backseat. I gave it to Roman and traced my finger down his abdomen.

“When all this s**t is over, I am going to lock you and Adrian in a room for days and just have my way with you.”

I heard my mother chuckle, and Roman cleared his throat as he pulled on his pants.

"You are unbelievable, Kitten. I want to bite that indecent mouth of yours, but not with my mother in law standing right there. Even though she is evil, she is still your mother."

"She is not my mother," I grunted as we walked towards Ivanna's car.

Nadia took in a deep breath as she opened the back door.

"We aren't going there yet. We need to have a backup. We can't just rush in," Roman said. "Do you have a phone?"

"No, that f*****g asshole broke it when he grabbed me from the Red Watchers' building."

"Here," Nadia handed a phone to him. "It must be Ivanna's second phone."

Roman quickly dialled a number, and put it on speaker. "Rome, did you find Riley?" He sounded scared.

"Yes, Ad. I am fine. Rome found me."

"Thank the goddess. I am so sorry baby. I shouldn't have left you."

"You have to go. You only left because of the creature."

"Yeah, talking about the creature, I lost her. But she made a mess here."

"She came tracking Hiran's scent, and she- she killed him," Roman said. "And Nadia-"

"That evil witch-" Adrian snarled. "If I see her again-"

"She is here," I said and Adrian gasped and cleared his throat. "She killed Ivanna. She helped us."

"Yeah? Maybe I won't punch her in the nose, then," Adrian said, and I chuckled.

"Yes. And I am going to send you the GPS location. Call Finn and Dustin. Maybe Weston and Sharon, too. Just call everyone who is available and take them to the location. Yes? We think that human might be there."

"Really? I will be there soon. And you guys, stay safe."

He hung up, and Roman drove the car. We finally reached what looked like an old garage.

“Are you sure this is the place?”

“I don’t know. I just saw her entering the address, and then she said we would be going directly to meet the boss.”

“Okay. Nadia, you need to go in with Riley, first. Check out the place, the person behind all of this,” Rome said.

“But he would be waiting for Ivanna. What am I supposed to-“

Before she could say anything more, the door opened.

“Ramsay...” Roman growled out.

“Ivanna, did you find Nadia?” He asked and Nadia got out of the car as she walked to Ramsay. He smiled at her. He actually, really smiled. It was how a friend would smile.

“Oh God, you are alright.”

Nadia nodded and Ramsay smiled again.

“They look like friends,” I whispered as I stared at them. “Like good friends. They are both evil. So it works.”

“Is your daughter-” Ramsay hesitated and Nadia gave him a look. “I didn’t really want to. I mean... I know you will not want her dead.”

Nadia wrinkled her brows. “Why are you doing this now? You said you are getting out of the country with Feyona, and now you are here?”

Ramsay actually looked nervous.

“He threatened Feyona, and I can’t-“

“Is he here? Who the hell is he? Who is doing all of this?” Nadia asked as Roman pushed the door open with a growl.

“What the hell did you do, Nadia?” He growled out as Roman jumped out of the car.

“Roman Night. F**k... what is he doing here, Nadia? You- you did this? You know it is- it is stupid. Just leave. All of you. Before he comes back.” I followed Roman out, my step hesitant. His eyes widened when he saw me there. “And you are an i***t to bring her here.”

“Bring the f*****g human-“

"You are making a big mistake. Just leave, Roman. This isn't a fight you want to be in right now."

"Ivanna is dead. So is Hiran and no one else is getting their dirty hand on my mate."

"I warned you."

"Roman... he sounds serious. Let's go."

"If we leave now, Riley, we will have to forever live wondering when he will come back. I don't want you to live in fear."

"But--"

"But... you are not going anywhere. It is nice to finally meet you, Riley Lowe."

I whirled around and saw a man walking towards us and a few men followed him with guns, probably filled with drugs and silver bullets.

They all looked like humans, but something about them was off. They looked... robotic. As if they were being controlled.

"You ... it is you."

Roman's body shook hard. His body started to glow in his power as he took a step towards that man.

The man didn't even look at Roman. He was looking at me and I felt like a million worms were crawling all along my body.

"So you brought her here? You are good, Nadia. Now, start prepping her. I have waited enough for--"

"Nobody is touching my daughter." Nadia growled out. She looked really fierce, and I shook my head. I still didn't know how to feel about this. I knew she was not good. I knew she had hurt me over years, and I would never forgive her or forget any of that.

But this change of heart was making me confused.

"Oh, OH!" the man said in a sing-song voice. "Suddenly you developed motherly love? How funny?! Nadia, I am going to get what was promised to me. Years and years. I paid for everything, and I am going to get me returns for my investment."

"No," Roman growled as he protectively stood in front of me, ready to shift. Nadia snarled and her yellow energy twisted around her as her eyes flashed yellow.

“Attack them, and do not hurt the girl. The rest of them, I don’t care. Kill them. Or feed them to dogs.”

Bullets whizzed past my head, narrowly missing my ear. I saw as Nadia and Roman shifted. I couldn’t even shift. I hated it.

The six men with the human had now doubled. No tripled. They kept coming with their machine guns.

Roman and Nadia were quite outnumbered. I prayed with all my heart that Adrian would come before it was too late.

Two men grabbed me by my hand. I kicked one in his nuts and as he collapsed to the floor, I whirled towards the second one and slammed the base of my palm against his nose, hard. He screamed and cursed as b***d dripped down his nose.

“Do NOT touch me without my permission,” I said as I kicked the first one who was still cupping his f*****g balls in his back. His face hit the concrete floor and he screamed in pain.

“What are you looking at Ramsay? Grab her. Feyona still has her bodyguards.”

Ramsay hesitated for a second before he ran at me on full speed. I side-stepped, but he was faster, and without my animals, my speed wasn’t as it would have been with them.

“I told you to go back,” he hissed softly as he grabbed me by my shoulder. I punched him, but he didn’t even flinch. He felt like a f*****g granite under my fist.

“Into the car. Take her to the car.”

Ramsay dragged me to the car. Karl tried to break away from the men, but he was surrounded. They had so many guns and when he was distracted, trying to get to me, one of the humans shot at him. He howled in pain.

“Get your filthy hand off of her,” I heard Adrian growl as he pulled me away from Ramsay and kicked him in his stomach. Ramsay stumbled back. “Nobody touches my mate without her permission.”

“That is exactly what I said,” I said to Adrian with a tired smile as I looked at Karl. He was still fighting, but he looked weak.

I could hear the rumbling of the engine. “You came with backup.”

“Yes. Enough to kill all these assholes right here,” Adrian said with dark growl as more cars rushed in.

Dustin and another guy ran towards Karl. I let out a breath of relief. I knew Rome and Karl were stronger, but I was still worried about that bullet. I didn't know where it hit him and it made me worry.

The man started to run towards his car, his steps desperate. He knew he was surrounded. His eyes swivelled around as he looked for a way out.

"He is getting away," I said to Adrian with a frown as I saw the man opening his car door. Adrian didn't even make a move to pull away from me. His arms were around me as he sighed. "Ad, move. He is going to leave." I was worried. Adrian scoffed and shook his head. "Yeah, no."

"No, he is not," Finn said as he jumped out of a moving car. He landed smoothly next to the human, and kicked the car door shut. "Not so fast, Chief Matthews."

"Chief Matthews?"

I recognized that name.

"Isn't he the one – the NYPD chief who helped you guys to find-"

Adrian nodded with a loud growl. "Him, alright. That f*cking a*****e..."

!!!

Read – Chapter 78

– Chapter 78

-Finn-

WHY? Everything in me wanted to scream that one word over and over again. I had worked with him as long as I could remember. I considered him kind of my mentor. He was someone I had looked up to, and to see him like this was making me furious. My lycan growled inside my head.

"How did this human outsmart all of us?" Kai was enraged.

How was he the one behind all of this madness?

Chief Matthews already knew who attacked the humans and left them for dead — it was a part of his experiment, and yet he had the guts to show us the pictures and pretend like a good guy. We were running in circles all the while he was sitting in the middle, laughing at us.

I made me so angry. I growled at him and gripped his shirt tighter as I pulled closer to him.

"You are done hiding. You are done making a fool of us."

"I did make a fool out of you all," he said, unphased by everything that was happening around him.

"You are not going anywhere. The only place you are going is jail," I said as I grabbed him by his collar and pulled him towards me and growled, my anger radiating off of me in waves.

He gave me a look that was just too haughty. Even after all of this... he looked like he was the one who had the upper hand. What was he planning?

"Okay," he said.

I opened the back door and pushed him inside. I entered along with him and motioned to Weston to joined me, with Iva. They were all part of the Red Watchers. "Drive the car," I said to West. "Go straight to Red Watchers building. Don't stop for anything."

"Wait, let me find a few more guys. I don't think we should transport him by ourselves," Iva said as she jumped out of the car. It was more like a police transport vehicle than a car, anyway. It was secure.

"He is just a human," Weston said with narrowed eyes. "What can he do to us?"

"No, West, Iva is right. He has been playing this for a long time, and he almost won. He could have too..." I said with a deep sigh as Iva walked back with a bunch of guys. "They will follow us in a car behind and before us."

"Like real prison transportation," Chief Matthews said with a chuckle. "I am impressed by your smartness and your ability to work diligently. Most wolves always rush into things first and then think later," he said. "You do make good cops. I would have loved to have you on my side. But this is war, and you are not on my side."

"Obviously," Weston said. "We are never going to be on your f*****g side." He started the jeep/car. I mind-linked Roman who was still busy fighting off some men.

"You will be okay here?"

"Yes, don't worry. I will take care of these little assholes. Just get him out of there and call dad," Roman said.

"You are hurt. Are you okay?"

“Closer to my feet. It is aconitum, but I can take it. Now take the a*****e back, and you know what, stay right there.”

West started the vehicle and I stared at the man looking there with a stern look in his eyes.

“Why help us, though?” I said finally, unable to stop myself. I was really curious to know that. He had been helpful, every damn time. Why?

“Did I really help you though?” he said with a shrug. “I helped you in a way that it won’t bother my experiment in any way,” he said with a nod. “I really needed this, and I still do. You know... a desperate man will go to any length to get what he wants. I am desperate.”

“Why? To live longer? Why do you have to?”

“Can you tell me how old I am?” he asked, quirking his brows.

“60? I don’t know what games we are playing here?”

“You will never know. None of you will, because it is my game, and I will always win. And you are wrong.”

“Wrong?”

“I am not 60. I am 105.”

My eyes widened. “Nobody said your experiment was a success,” I said as Iva turned around with a gasp.

“Before Dean and Marcus, I had a semi-successful wolf host. But it was only a beginning. You think you have succeeded by capturing me? No.”

“Yeah? Shut the f**k up. You are handcuffed in a car and you will not be going anywhere.”

Chief Matthews just leaned back and smiled.

“Yes.”

-Riley-

“So this man is a cop?” I asked Adrian as we ran towards Roman. Guys from the Red Watchers were already fighting with the humans. They still looked robotic, programmed.

Were they under the influence of the drugs Hiran tried to use on me? The one which makes a person really compliant?

The look in their eyes... I knew it. It was the same way Hiran looked when I gave him the drug, after he failed to control me. They were trying to resist, but... they couldn't.

But who was giving them the order? No one was around?

"Karl, don't kill them," I shouted as I kicked one of the humans down. "They are under the influence of a drug. You know the one Hiran tried on me..."

Karl growled and shook his head in anger.

"But who is controlling them?"

"f**k. Look at their ears," Adrian said as he grabbed one of the humans and pulled a small device out of his ear. "It is a record of someone ordering them to fight and kill."

"But they are stronger. How are they stronger? How can they fight against Karl and still stand?" Adrian said with a frown as he grabbed another man by his hair and removed his device.

"This whole fuckery is more science than supernatural or magic, Adrian. Do you even want to know? They have drugs for every f*****g thing," I said with a grunt.

The one Adrian removed the ear device from looked confused as he looked around.

"What is going on? Where am I?"

"Do you see that white and red van. Go sit there. We will take you to a hospital soon," I said to him and he nodded and walked with the second man towards the van.

Adrian told the others to remove the device they were wearing. Once it was removed, we herded them all into a van. It was chaos, and loud, but the drug still in the system made them obey to our orders, and they did as they were asked.

"The drug...actually wanes on its own. For now, we just need to keep them under observation, but I think they will be fine?" I said as I looked at Roman. He had finally shifted back. He was limping. I looked at his leg, and saw the wound was still bleeding.

"Yeah, you are right. Dustin and Richard will take them back. And Nadia, you did help us this time, but you are going back to your cell with them."

I looked at my mother as she gave him a nod. She looked edgy and I had a feeling she was thinking of bolting.

"Do not run," I said. "We will catch you."

"I am not going to run anymore, Riley. I am so tired of running," she said as she gave me a soft smile. "I just wish..." she trailed off and shook her head.

"Can I ask you one last thing? I do need closure. Dad said I do. And I trust him. Why? Why did you do all of this? Why did you hurt me? Was it all for money? Fame? Making history? Why was all of that more important to you than me, or Marcus?" It was still a kick in my heart to know that I wasn't important.

She loved Rene, in her own twisted way, but I was... always only a means to an end, and that stung. I didn't want to feel the sting in my heart, but it didn't go away.

"I- this was not an excuse. But before Marcus, before everything... I had a daughter. I adopted her. She is human, she is 14 when she died. She had congenital heart disease and... she had leukemia. It was... her death was brutal. I couldn't- it changed me."

"So you decided that you would just use me and not love me? You have never loved me like the way you loved this daughter of yours..."

For a second, I was jealous of this girl that she had loved more than her own b***d. I didn't want it to sting, but it did.

When I just thought she was evil, it didn't make me feel hollow and broken, but to find out that a ghost of a human girl had pushed my mother to do everything she did, it was really a kick in my heart. I hated that it affected me so much, but it did.

Nadia took in a deep breath and sighed. "I- I didn't know how to love after that. A part of me just died along with... her, and no, I didn't say this as an excuse. I did what I did, knowing very well it was immoral, that it was unfair to you. And I did it anyway. I am sorry... it is all I can say right now, Riley. I understand that you will never forgive me, but just know that it isn't you. I- I am too broken to love someone. But you have these two amazing men."

"You helped us today and saved Riley and we will forever be grateful for that, but that doesn't make any of the things you have done less evil," Roman said as he handcuffed her.

"You didn't deserve an amazing daughter like Riley. Whatever that was, that wasn't an excuse," Adrian said as he called for Dustin. "Take her back to her cell."

She gave me a soft look. "I hope you will always be happy with them, Riley."

"I know I will," I said. She gave me a nod and walked with Dustin.

“And you need to check your wound, Roman? Come on, let’s go back to Nightshade,” I said to him and he shook his head.

“I am alright, don’t worry about me, Riley. But where the f**k is Ramsay?”

“Oh, that weasel might have slipped right out from under our noses. But he won’t run too far. We will find him,” Adrian said. “And Riley is right. We need to cut that bullet out of your damn leg. For now, just use your magic to take some of the pain off?”

“Yeah, he is right,” I said to Roman and he shook his head.

“No, I am okay.”

“Shut the f**k up, Rome. You are not okay. You are limping. We will catch him, and he will go back to prison, where he belongs. But now, my only concern is you, and I want you to stop fighting me about this.”

“Oh Kitten, you look really sexy when you growl,” Roman said with a smirk and I slapped him against his shoulder.

“You are an i***t, Roman Night. Come on.”

We walked towards Adrian’s car. Adrian gasped and then touched the car with a sigh, his eyes sad. “My poor baby. Does it hurt, Onyx?”

“I am going to kick you in the a*s, Adrian. Is it time to talk with your car?”

“What? She is hurt too. I can see three bullet holes,” Adrian said with a long sigh before he got inside the car and he drove to Nightshade. I leaned against Roman’s shoulder and took his hand in mine.

“Hey Rome...”

“Yes?”

“This is over, isn’t it?” I asked with a frown. “I can’t wait to go to the Culinary institute and start my shop. This is really over, right?”

“I think it is, but even if it is not, you will go to the culinary institute and do whatever you dream of doing, Riley, because life stops for nothing. Ad and I will be your bodyguards.”

“Hmm... I don’t want to take you to college, because I am sure college girls will want to seduce you...” I said with a wink and he poked me in my forehead.

“Well, they can try, but no one can seduce us, except you, Red. Just a look from you is enough to stop my world and it started new again, at that moment when my eyes met yours.”

“Our world,” Roman said as he kissed me in my cheek. “And Riley, you know, before we were interrupted at the shop...”

“Yes?”

“Kitten, we will be honored, if you let us mark you and-“

“Make you ours, and for you to mark us, and makes us yours, Red.”

I looked at the two guys and blinked my tears away. So what if I had a mother who didn't love me enough? I had people in my life who would give their lives for me, like these two guys.

Maybe the moon goddess gave me two men who loved me with everything in them, who cherished me, to fill the emptiness I had in my life for a long time.

“YES. I want nothing more than to mark you and let the whole world know you are mine,” I said as I looked at them. “And will you love me like this, always? Will you promise that there won't ever come a day where you will replace me for something, someone-“

“NEVER,” Adrian said. “You are not going to get rid of us that easily.”

“What he said, Riley, because there is just no one else in this world for us, except YOU.”

!!!

– Chapter 79

-Finn-

My heart was boiling. I hated sitting next to this man and not being able to do anything to him. Kai was roaring from inside my head. He wanted b***d. He wanted justice.

“Why are we sitting here, being diplomatic about all of this? He used a kid, and then he played us. He pretended to help us while -“

I sighed. "You know why we have to, Kai. We don't want war. We co-exist with humans and-"

"And this person almost threatened all our lives, our peace. Killing him will make it better, not worse."

I understood what Kai was saying, but I knew I couldn't kill him, yet, even if all my primal senses were screaming at me to end this man.

We reached the Red Watcher building. I kept staring at Chief Matthews. Somehow I still couldn't believe that this man was... the reason for every bad thing that had happened.

Dustin and I grabbed Chief Matthews. He shook his shoulder and pushed Dustin away. I growled.

"Do not test my patience, Chief Matthews. I am already hanging by a thin thread."

"This will not work in your favor, Finnick Night. You will see that," he hissed as he whirled around. "You think you can take me here, lock me inside a cell and everything will be over? You know nothing, boy."

I snarled as I gripped his shoulder until my claws dug into him. He didn't even flinch. If he was just another human, he would have at least winced.

He shook me away. Dustin grabbed him and we walked him to the prison, while Iva took Nadia. Pushing him inside a cell with a growl, I slammed the door shut.

"Do not test your strength against me. You might not be all human... but you are still human," I hissed under my breath as I sat down next to his cell. He glared at me before he sat down on the wooden chair inside the cold cell.

"How long will you sit there, Finnick?"

"For eternity, if I have to, but don't worry. It won't be so long."

"We will see, boy, we will see."

I ignored him as I leaned against the wall. It was going to be a long day for me. I was not going anywhere, though. I didn't trust him. My instinct had always been right and something told me that he was planning something elaborate. I didn't know what it was, but I would find out.

When my father came with doctor Tim and Riley's father, it was around midnight, or very early in the morning. Marcus looked at him with a frown.

"It is you who did all of this?"

Chief Matthews smiled. "Hello, Marcus. It is nice to see you again. How long have you been hiding?"

I turned to my father. "What are we going to do with him, father?"

"I called Commissioner Jakob. He said to keep this- this man here until he talks with the cops and decides what he wants to do with this man."

"And then what? What happens after he talks with the other cops?" I asked with a frown. I didn't trust to leave Chief Matthews out of my eyesight. I knew he was human— or half of it anyway, and he was cunning and sly and he had played the game without revealing himself for a long time. I wouldn't underestimate him. Not now.

I knew he shouldn't get out of this cell. It would be so easy for him to get out and escape if he was in an actual prison. "We had already made a mistake with Hiran. We have to conduct his trial, too, dad, because he is not really human, not anymore. And you know... he deserves a death sentence for everything he has done. Because of him, the creatures killed humans, too."

"I know, Finn, I know all of that. You think I am not worried about all of this?" my dad said with a sigh. "I will send the summons to all the Alphas. We will conduct his trial as soon as possible and punish him for his crimes," my dad said as he turned to the chief and shook his head, looking really agitated before he walked away.

"Is it true Nadia helped Riley?" Marcus asked as he looked at me. I gave him a nod. There was just a second of vulnerability before it was gone. "Stay with him. Don't trust anyone else, and just stay. We don't know who else he is working with..."

"I know. I am not moving an inch from this place until the trial."

Marcus walked away, and with a sigh I leaned against the door. This was going to be long days, until that f*****g trial, but I wasn't going to let this man out of my sight.

"I think this is nice. We always got along well."

-Roman-

I fell on the bed and Riley followed me. Adrian sat on the couch with a sigh.

"I am so tired. I want to sleep for a month straight," Adrian said, leaning against the couch with a yawn.

Riley turned towards me and curled around me. I took in a deep breath, letting her scent calm me down. I didn't know what would have happened if the creature hadn't escaped and killed Hiran and if Nadia hadn't killed Ivanna, but I didn't want to even imagine that.

For just a minute, I felt extremely grateful for what Nadia did. She was still evil. She hurt Riley, but finally she saved Riley's life, too.

"You okay, Kitten?" I said to her.

"She looks so tired. Goddess, I want to destroy that man," Karl snarled out in anger. "How can one a*shole be that... cruel."

Riley yawned. "Go to sleep," I said.

She put her hand on my chest and sighed. "Good night. Oh, it is already morning now," she said. "I still couldn't believe everything that had happened. Hey Rome, have you talked with my father? How is Dean?"

"Dean is still unconscious, but your father said his b***d tests are becoming more and more positive, and he also told me that he would talk with your mothe- Nadia... Finn is guarding Chief Matthews and we will have a trial for him. My dad also called the higher officials and they will deal with all of this."

She yawned again.

"You are really sleepy. We can talk about all of this later," I said and stood up. I grabbed a blanket and put it over her and she sighed.

"Do not go anywhere," she said with a sigh. "I don't want to be alone."

"We will be right here," Adrian said as he bent down and kissed her on her forehead. "Now sleep, my Red."

"His Red? She is my Kitten first. I had her first. I loved her first."

"Not this again, Karl. This is getting irritating," I said to my wolf and he bared his teeth at me, looking not very amused.

"What is the i***t saying?" Adrian blinked as he sat down next to Riley and winked at me. I shook my head. "That she is his first?"

Karl bristled and bared his teeth.

"You know what, I can't deal with this right now," I said with a sigh as I grabbed the whiskey and poured a glass for me.

"One for me, too," Adrian said. I handed my glass to him and poured one for myself. "So Rome, is this really done? Can we stop running and start living with our mate? I am so tired of all of this."

"What? You enjoy the rush, don't you?"

"I did. I think I am getting old. I want to stay at him. I mean, Riley will soon start her own shop, and you earn. You both will take care of me, right?"

"You are an absolute i***t," I said as I punched him on his shoulder. "For Goddess's sake, you are Adrian Mercer. You don't need money."

"That is my parents' money. I can't ask them."

"But you will ask me!" I grunted with a shake of my head and he laughed.

"See... I told you. He is such a crazy a*****e. His wolf is crazier."

"Did you forget that he almost sacrificed his own mate for us?"

Karl sighed. "She is MY mate, too. But no, I will never forget that." His eyes became sincere. "He did something for us that no one else would, and that is why... I will complain about him, but you know that I don't really hate him."

"Say it, then," I said with a laugh. Karl shook his head.

"I would rather lick my balls than say it."

"You do it already..."

"You are an a*****e."

"Thank you."

"Of course," Adrian said with a chuckle. "Only you."

-Riley-

The bar reminded me of the time I first met Adrian and Roman. It was bigger, and the ambiance was better, but it smelled like alcohol, s*x and sin,

I smiled a little as I thought about the first night I met them. The bartender pushed my drink towards me with a smile.

A woman sitting at the bar gave me a wave. "Those two men have been staring at you for a while," she said. "They are hot as hell." I turned around and winked at them. Roman shook his head.

"They are hot," I said with a smile. "I am Riley."

"I am Sammi, and I am bored. My friends should have been here ten minutes ago. So are you going to go there and say hello?"

She must not have seen me come with my two mates. I shrugged and smiled as she took a sip of her drink.

"Hmm... let me think about it?" I said and she huffed.

"Oh come on... Look at them." Yeah, I had been looking at them for a long time, naked, and dressed, too. "If you don't want to say hi, maybe I will."

Hold on.

"Hell no, they are mine," Gem said with a roll of her eyes and Rene quickly agreed. They were back a few hours ago, and I was extremely happy they were. The drug must have subdued them for a while.

In the chaos of the day, I hadn't even worried about losing them forever, but thank the goddess I hadn't.

"She should keep her claws to herself," Rene said with a huff. I laughed. They were both possessive jerks. Most of the time, I was, too, but what the heck... I needed some entertainment.

"No. You can say hi. I mean, don't let me stop you," I said with a smirk. "Sammi, isn't it? Which one do you want? We can both go there and say hi." She gave me a bright smile before she walked towards the guys. Roman looked at me with a confused look while Adrian smirked. Adrian was good at this game.

"I want that... one." She pointed at Roman and I huffed.

"Okay, I will take the other one. How about we grab a drink for them?"

We walked back to the table where Roman and Adrian were. They both gave me a look. Roman looked confused when Sammi sat next to him. "Hey handsome. I ordered a drink for you."

Roman's startled eyes met mine over her head.

“And I got one for you, sexy,” I said to Adrian with a wink. Adrian laughed while Roman, still looking bewildered, glared at me. I poked my tongue out.

Adrian leaned closer to me. “He asked me to tell you that he will punish you later for that,” Adrian whispered before he bit my earlobe. “You are going to get it love...”

“It tastes good,” Roman said reluctantly.

“So, what is this called?” Adrian asked as he took a sip of the drink.

“s*x on the grass. Wanna do it?” I said, making both of them choke on their drinks. The woman looked at me and shook her head, her eyes twinkling. She looked like she finally caught up with my game, too.

“You already know them, don’t you?”

I smiled and nodded. “Yeah, they are my friends,” I said with a shrug. I couldn’t just go around telling me they were both my mates.

“This is embarrassing,” she said as she stood up. “And my friends are here. Oh, why the hell did I-“

“No, I am sorry. I was just-“

“Oh, f**k no. This is still fun, but I think I am going to get the hell out now, and drown my humiliation with another s*x on the grass.” She gave me a playful smile. “And girl, you think I am blind? I know they are not your friends.”

Okay, she was good.

She waved at me and walked away, waving to her friends. After a few minutes, all of her friends turned and looked at my two men and smiled and turned away.

“You are going to pay for that, Kitten,” Roman growled. “I was wondering why you were being weird.”

I shrugged as I leaned my head against Adrian’s. “I needed this. I also need... Lick her right,” I said as I trailed my hand up Adrian’s thigh and his breath hissed.

“Oh, I will lick you just right,” Adrian hissed.

“Oh, I was talking about the drink,” I said as I showed him my glass and he sighed.

“Who the hell name these drinks?”

“Some kind of thirsty pervert,” I whispered. “Like me.”

Roman's toe touched my leg before he pushed it up, until he was pressing his leg against the inside of my thighs. I m****d as my eyes met his.

Adrian grabbed my hand in his and put it on his bulge.

I stared at Roman as my fingers played with Adrian's stiff c*ck. Goddess. He was so hard.

"You are already wet," Roman said as he took his leg away and I g*****d in protest. He slid the chair closer to me until he was pressing against me. I looked around. Shit... was I really doing this?

At least, our booth was a little hidden from the crowd, but still... I could see people laughing... talking... dancing...

He softly pushed my dress up and traced the inside of my thigh as I took another sip of my drink. Adrian m****d when my finger pressed into his arousal.

I almost yelped when I felt Roman's finger pushing my panties away. I was already too wet, and I could feel myself turning wetter when he rubbed a finger against my cl*t. I almost came then and there, and he was only barely touching me.

My lips parted. My heart jumped. I licked my lips.

"Do you want more, Kitten?"

I gave a nod and a m**n left my lips when Roman thrust his finger inside me and growled under his breath. His eyes darkened as he met mine.

"More?"

"MORE..."

"Beg me, Kitten," he whispered. I sneaked my hand inside Adrian's pants and cupped him through his boxers. His c*ck jerked under my palm. He arched closer.

"Please. More."

"You do it so well, pretty Kitten. Begging."

"I am going to kill you if you don't touch me right now, Roman," I whispered under my breath.

"Do it, a*shole, or she will break my c*ck. Red, darling, please... it is a c*ck. Not a stress relief ball. Come on."

I relaxed my hold on his c*ck when Roman finally plunged his finger back inside again and started to move.

I clenched my thighs together as Roman increased his pace.

"I am going to c*m," I hissed as I gritted my teeth. His fingers relentlessly pounded inside me before he curved his finger up, and rubbed my cl*t at the same time. The o****m hit me so hard, and I was gasping from the wave of pleasure rippling along my skin. Everything in me felt electric.

A soft m**n left all our lips, and it was like a deranged song. We were f*****g crazy, but I didn't regret it not for a second.

I could feel my c*m dripping down my thigh and I flushed as I looked around, wondering if anyone had seen me... s**t. I almost forgot... that I was in a crowded place.

Roman took his finger and then placed it between his lips. "For now, I will lick this... RIGHT."

!!!

Lol. Sammi, I used the drinks 😊

– Chapter 80

-Riley-

"You two will kill me."

"Oh, don't die yet," Adrian teased. "We have another stop to make."

"Where are we going?"

"Somewhere you will love," Roman said as he stood up and gave me his hand. I took it, because my legs were still trembling from what happened just a few seconds ago. As I walked past a table, I heard someone calling me. I turned around to see Sammi, and she waved at me.

"Enjoying your night?" her eyes sparkled and I shook my head with a smile.

"Have a great night."

"Well, I am going home alone tonight." She winked as she pointedly looked at Roman's arm around me and Adrian's hand on mine.

“Well, who knows,” I said before I walked outside. Adrian opened the door for me and I stumbled in. He took the driver side while Roman went to sit on the back.

After a while, the car came to a stop in front of the storefront Roman and Adrian had bought for me — for my future bakery. I felt a smile pulling in my lips as I stared at it. It was spacious, and I still couldn’t believe they had done it for me. After everything Hiran had done, finding them in the weirdest possible way, still baffled me, but here they were. They were amazing men, and their parents should be proud of them. They never took me for granted, not even for a minute.

Yes, there were some hiccups here and there, and we had to find ourselves and each other along the way, but I knew we were here. We had finally reached our destiny, the destination. We were going to be okay as long as we were together.

The place was decorated with golden ribbons, flowers, and candles everywhere. It glowed. There was a kind of magic in the very air that surrounded the shop.

In the middle, there was a table for three, filled with delicious food. I licked my lips with a sigh.

The air smelled like butter and flowers, and a song softly filled the background, its sweet melody adding to the romantic atmosphere of the moment.

Roman and Adrian took their chairs and motioned me to sit. Heart beating softly, I sat down. Their eyes shone with affection and excitement. Roman took my right hand in his, while Adrian grabbed my left hand, sending a rush of warmth through me. The anticipation of what was to come filled the air, making my heart flutter. Everything felt soft, and also intense. I wanted to memorize everything, but I knew nothing else mattered. Only the men sitting in front of me mattered.

“You know, Kitten, from the moment we met, I knew you were the one for me. You light up my life like the moon lights up the night sky. Life had been mechanical, ordinary before you, Emoriee Lowe, and then you came and made it extraordinary. I don’t want to go back to ordinary, not anymore. I love you. Will you marry me, and take our mark, and mark me?” Roman’s voice was trembling and his eyes shone with love and tears.

“He is so romantic,” Rene said with a sigh, her eyes hazy. “I- I feel like I have known him for a lifetime and some.”

Everything stilled and then the burst of feelings inside me made me feel like I would just rupture from it.

My heart melted as every word he said resonated deeply within me. He took my hand in theirs, and time froze.

“Riley, Red...” Adrian whispered as he pressed a k**s to the back of my hand. “You are smart, brave and the moment my eyes met yours, I knew you were going to shake my life, make it into something bigger and better, and you did. It was hard sometimes, and you kicked me in my heart a few times...”

I sighed and entwined my fingers with him. “I am sorry for that, Ad.” I really did hurt him, a lot, but he had always stayed by me, and proved to me how much I couldn’t live without him.

Roman’s love was like a storm, fierce and passionate, with emotions swirling like turbulent winds. When he loved, it was all-consuming, like a thunderous tempest that could leave you breathless and exhilarated, and I had enjoyed every moment of it, but Adrian...

Adrian’s love was like a gentle warmth of a crackling fire in the cold night. His love was subtle and comforting, like the soft glow of embers that illuminated the darkness with a sense of security and tranquility. He offered me comfort and solace when I really needed it. Adrian’s love was patient and steady, and still just as powerful.

While Roman’s love swept me off my feet in a whirlwind of emotions, Adrian’s love had a way of grounding me, providing stability and support.

And me, I was at the centre of this warmth and storm, and somehow they completed me in ways I couldn’t explain. And they completed each other too. Their love might not be passionate, but it was there, just as strong as their love for me. We made a set, and there was not one without the other. It took us time to come here, but here we are.

“I am kidding, love. I am sorry. No, don’t look so sad. I love you, Riley, and please, make me the luckiest Lycan on this side of the fores- city?”

“This guy is crazy, and he is mine!” Gem said with a proud smile. I had to agree with her.

I laughed and nodded to both of them. “YES. A million times and more.”

At that moment, it felt like the world had stopped spinning. All I could hear was the sound of my own heartbeat, and all I could see was the two men who meant the world to me, the people I wanted to spend my life with. A rush of emotion overwhelmed me, and I replied with tears of joy.

“Here...” They pushed a box towards me.

“For me?”

“Yes,” they said together. Fingers trembling, stomach fluttering, I opened it to find the most perfect ring.

It was black metal with ruby and emerald. Small leaves twisted around the stones.

“Black for Rene.”

“Red for Gem. Green for your eyes.”

“You have thought a lot about this,” I said, my voice soft with appreciation.

“Yes, because everything about you is important to us, Riley. You know that, right?”

“I know that. I feel that. And I love you.”

(Two weeks later)

It had been two long weeks. I spend every free hour planning the mating ceremony. I couldn't wait to carry their marks on my neck...

Dee h*p-checked me. “Here you are, once again lost in the cloud.”

Dee looked beautiful, glowing, happy. I knew everyone in the pack had already accepted her as their Luna. Of course, how could they not? She was perfect, she was everything a pack would want – strong, bold and kind. She would look after them like they were her own.

Some of the wolves from Crystal Park, including Ryan's mom, Treena and Bailey's dad, Hanson and her mom, were discharged. Treena still looked scared, but Reid had promised he would take good care of her, and the kids too. Ryan was happy to go with his mom, and so were Bailey and Ramon. I knew I would miss all of them.

Claire already did. So was Mirabel.

My father and Nadia were still trying to help Dean, but they had given up on Ethan.

My dad said it would be hard to make him who he was once.

“The only way to solve his pain, Riley, is to kill him. That was the most merciful thing we could do now. The pain, the suffering... it would only grow with each passing day. Keeping him locked in the cage is going to agitate him more and more, and- I don't want to say this or do this, but you know that is the only way out of this for him,” my dad had said the last time Roman, Adrian and I visited Dean and Ethan.

My heart still broke to think... that that was the only way out for Ethan. Sometimes, not everyone get the happy ending.

“And now you look sad. Come on, Riley, stop thinking too much.”

“I can’t stop thinking about Ethan. How can I ever- Mirabel is-” My heart twisted in guilt. I didn’t know how I would look at the girl knowing that we were planning her father’s death.

“Mirabel has you, and Adrian and Roman. The queen and Josephine spoil her and Claire like they are a princess.”

“But still... Ethan is her dad and because of Hiran-“

“We have lost a lot because of Hiran, Riley, but you need to stop blaming yourself for everything that has gone bad. Life was sometimes full of good and bad and the worst. Tonight is your night, best friend. You need to stop looking sullen and start thinking about your mates. Smile, Riley.”

“I am ready,” Bella came out, wearing the bridesmaid’s dress. “Ashelene... you are taking longer than the bride.”

Ash came out, looking perfect. I could still sometimes see the way her smile fell, but I knew time would heal everything.

“Oh, you look perfect. Weston will go crazy.”

“Weston? Why?”

“Ash thinks he is sexy and I am setting her up with him,” Bella said, looking excited. “And your dad sent me a message this morning. He told me for the first time, Dean blinked and his fingers moved. I am so happy.”

I hugged her with a laugh. “Oh, that is amazing, I am so happy.”

“Oh, my brother just mind-linked me. He promised me not to allow you to change your mind and run away,” Bella said with a chuckle and I shook my head.

“No way in hell I am running away. This is the moment I have been waiting for since forever. This time, I knew there won’t be anything but happiness.”

“Roman did too. He told me to stop hogging you and bring you to him already.”

Our mating ceremony was more of a wedding ceremony, than marking. Only our closest ones were invited. I told Roman and Adrian that I wanted the marking to be done when no one was looking. It was such an intimate moment and I wanted to enjoy it fully... and they agreed.

I looked at myself in the mirror for one last time before I stood up. My dress was beautiful. Eva had really outdone herself. It was not a traditional white, but it just made my heart thunder and I knew I wanted it, just as I knew I wanted Rome and Adrian that first night.

"You look beautiful. You look perfect," Gem said. My best friend. My trusted companion.

"Yes. You are marvellous, Riley, I am so glad to be a part of you."

"I am too. I am so glad you both are a part of me."

I grabbed my soft violet and white tulip bouquet and nervously looked at myself in the mirror once again.

"It is time," Dee said as she pressed a k**s to my cheek. "Come on. Your dad is waiting."

I felt a moment of pang... Nadia was not here, but... I sighed. Like Dee said, there were just too many things that would make me sad, but this night was the happiest night of my life, and I should only think about that. Sadness and problems could wait outside for just tonight.

"You are the most beautiful bride I have ever seen, Emorilee," my dad said as he hugged me. I could see the longing in his eyes and I knew he was thinking about Nadia right now.

The night was twinkling and full of magic that enveloped me in its warmth. As I walked towards the two men standing there, I could feel the soft and happy sighs wrapping me in their embrace. I looked up to see the king and the queen, Adrian's parents... Reid, Keller. Mirabel in a cute little dress, Claire in a pink gown. Dee, Bella, Ash and Finn. Linda and Roza and the kids had came back from Crystal Park, as well.

Everyone was here, everyone that mattered.

Roman met my eyes and motioned me to turn around. I gasped when I saw Nadia standing there with Dustin and Weston. She gave me a smile and sighed. The bridge between us would always be inaccessible. We had gone through a lot to ever really feel like a mother and a daughter, but... a part of me was happy that she was here. Maybe it was the part that Rene carried... with love and affection.

I blinked at them and they nodded. The world seemed to fade away, leaving only the two of them and I could feel the warmth of their love seeping along my skin.

Roman and Adrian wrapped their arm around me, and I found solace in the quiet embrace of the moment, cherishing the intimacy they had created together.

Our hearts beat as one, our breaths in sync, and I was the happiest shifter alive.

The world outside ceased to exist, and I was in a realm of my own, where time slowed down and our souls intertwined.

The witch chanted ancient words and I felt the words connecting us beyond the world.

Everything was a dance of emotions, an unspoken language of love.

I cried when she finally pronounced we were mated and married, too, legally. Human way and wolf way.

We partied, but I couldn't wait anymore. I wanted to feel their teeth sunken inside my throat, as their marks branded me as theirs. And I wanted them to be mine. I had waited a long, long time for it.

Adrian took my hand. "We want to talk with you," Roman said as he pulled me further away from the crowd. I was expecting a k**s or some horny teasing, but they both looked serious.

"Wha- what? Did something happened?" My heart was pounding. No. I didn't want this happiness to be corrupted by anything. Not yet. My night wasn't over yet.

"Oh, no, no," Adrian said quickly as he motioned to Roman.

"Wait for a minute," Roman said as he walked away, leaving me alone with Adrian.

"Hey Riley..." Adrian said as he pulled me into a hug. "I- we-" he stopped when Roman finally joined us with Mirabel on his arms. My eyes widened. "We want to adopt Mirabel, but only if you want to. I want to be her father, Riley. She is special to me and I- I want her to be mine. Yours and mine."

"Roman?"

"I agree with Adrian's decision. He wants her to be his, and I want what you both want. You do love all the kids, and we will always take care of them, but I know you feel something special for her."

I took Mirabel from Roman and she hugged my neck. "Lee-lee, beautiful."

"You are becoming a big girl, princess. Do you want to be my girl?" I whispered as tears trailed down my cheeks. I looked at Adrian and Roman and just a few second ago, when we said yes to each other, I thought I could never love them more. But I did. Now. More than that moment.

I couldn't express it in words. I kept sobbing and they both pulled me in a hug.

“Come on, you are scaring Mirabel,” Adrian said.

“My da, Drian?” Mirabel said and Adrian’s eyes filled with tears as he blinked. Roman handed him a tissue.

“And you?” Mirabel looked at Roman with suspicion.

“I can be your da, too, if you want.”

“Two DA?”

“Yes.”

She giggled and nodded.

We talked with her for a while, laughing and cheering.

“Now that that is over, let’s get the heck away,” Roman whispered next to me. “Mom said she will keep an eye on Claire and Mirabel as long as we want.”

“How long are you planning?” I asked with a giddy smile.

“Well. I don’t want to come out of the room at least for a week, Red,” Adrian said as he kissed Mirabel and handed her to the queen.

“What will you do for a week?”

“Touch every part of you, lick every inch of you, and make you c*m over and over again. Sounds amazing to me.”

“Oh, I am already hard. Let’s get the hell out.”