

Chapter 92 - Denying the Alpha

Declan's POV

What are you still doing here? We need to go now!! Grayson is anxious, I can understand why. I am too.

I knew they didn't want Faith for good reasons. I was never that stupid. Okay, I was that stupid, I was down right brain dead, because I just assumed this in the end would go my way. I don't know why I ever helped them in the first place. I guess the saying is true, desperate times call for desperate measures, and so, like a fool, I took Ingrid's side. And now here I am on the ropes with my back against the wall once again, and like always it was entirely my own fucking fault.

Because if we run right at this minute, they will know something is up. We have to wait for the right time. Once the time is right, we will make a break for it. For once, I am going to think this through. If I didn't, Faith could die. It was my inability to think two seconds ahead that got Faith into this mess in the first place and for that, I'll never forgive myself. I should have accepted her as my mate from the day I scented her. I should have grabbed her, taken her to my room and ravaged her. She would never have met Kyle, I never would have met Ingrid and we would all be safe, I might even have had a pup on the way.

Listening to the witch, and realizing my apparently not really dead brother was involved made me painfully aware that I didn't really have a plan but they did, and it was all going their way. I had a lot of blood on my hands, I had taken my fair share of lives, as the next Alpha it had been my job, my responsibility to keep my pack safe, and killing honestly didn't bother me. But not Faith's, I couldn't be the reason she died, I just couldn't. Unlike the others, she was innocent.

Why are we running coward? We need to save her!!!! Go to her now, get her out of that barbaric cage!!! Grayson roared as he tried to tear my mind apart from the inside in a rage. As he did so, he pushed image after image of Faith, cold and broken, covered in her vomit and pee as she lay chained to the floor, her clothes tattered, torn and, worst of all, moldy from the constant moisture. She was losing weight fast and looked sickly. If she herself wasn't getting enough nutrition, then her baby certainly wasn't. I know Faith and how deeply she loves. She was the only person I knew who had seen even the Omegas as her equals. She would kill me herself if she lives and her baby dies. Her heart was so

pure, I hope this awful experience won't change that. She has always persevered. I hope she can be as resilient now as she has always been.

Because you idiot. I say shoving those images away. They hurt too much to look at, and if I kept thinking about this I would crumble. I need to be at my best to save her. Ingrid is a deceitful, manipulative bitch, she may have more help than just Connor, and even if it is just the two of them, they both have magic and we aren't sure just what they are capable of, but we do know that Faith is in poor condition. She can't defend herself, and she could very well be killed in the process. No, we need help, we need as much back up as we can get. We're going to Kyle, we're getting Mitchel, and any other wolf we can to help. I'll call in our pack too. They love Faith, she grew up with them, and they want to do everything they can to save her.

I want to believe that I can make this work. I have to make this work. Once she's safe, I vow to leave her alone. All I did was cause her pain. What was the point in saving her now if all I did was continue to bring her misery and pain?

And if they don't want to help us save her? She left the pack; they may not feel she is worth their loyalty. Grayson argues, but I can tell he is really just afraid for his mate.

Then we tell mom dad about Connor. No way dad won't stage a rescue attempt, not when there is a chance that he is still alive. Mom would never forgive him for it, and besides Connor has power, nothing is more important to dad than power. I affirm knowing that I'm right.

I waited for what felt like a lifetime. Every minute that passed was more excruciating than the last.

But Ingrid eventually left, the sun was coming up, and orange was streaking along the vast sky. She must have gone back to Kyles. So that David wouldn't know that she was missing. It wasn't perfect, since it meant she might catch me before he did and this was all for nothing, but that was just going to have to be a bridge that I crossed when I came to it. Now all I had to do was make sure that Connor didn't notice me sneaking off.

Can you sense him? I asked Grayson for the umpteenth time. Ingrid had been careful to make sure I never came into contact with any of her help. I really had no idea where Connor slept, or if he was even still in bed, all I could do was hope that, that was to my advantage. Hopefully, he will continue avoiding me.

No. The house is silent. He growls lowly. He hated not being able to sense Connor.

He is a danger to mate. He grumbles in his defense.

Alright buddy, let's risk it. It's now or never. If I waited too long Ingrid might come back and I didn't want to miss my window.

I walked to my room and shut myself in. If I was being watched then they would hopefully just assume I had gone back to bed. I did spend most of the time in my room anyway. I only ever come out for food or a quick visit to Faith when I thought no one would notice, so it wasn't like me hiding away in here was suspicious.

The window from my room is a bit of a drop. I'm sure Ingrid did that on purpose to try and deter me from such a move, but I was a lot stronger than that old hag was giving me credit for and nothing would stop me from trying to save Faith now.

Hurry up. Grayson complains. He still thinks this plan is a load of bull. If he had it his way, he'd be tearing his way into that dungeon and fight his way back out, but Faith was in too fragile of a state to take such a risk.

The girl wouldn't have the strength to stand. I couldn't fight another Alpha wolf like Connor and cradle her at the same time, it had to be this way, despite how much I hated leaving her here, it was what needed to be done.

Alright, I'm going to jump, we will shift midair, you will land better than I can and then we won't stop running until we are at Kyles border, got it?

Well then jump. Grayson shouts.

I lock the door quickly, it won't stop them, but even if it buys me a single second later, then it was worth it.

I slid the window open,

Wait. Grayson demanded. Take your clothes off.

Why? I asked, feeling slightly confused.

They have your scent on them, the more scent we leave behind the better, they will still think that we are in here. Besides, they'll just shred when we shift anyway, so why not? My wolf explains.

It wasn't the greatest idea. I'm sure the scent would fade from my clothing almost as quickly as it would from this room, but there was no harm in trying. Following Grayson's instructions, I quickly pulled my shirt over my head and placed it by the door where it would be scented the strongest, then I dropped my pants, leaving myself naked as the day I was born. I ran back to the window, only pausing briefly to examine the area below the window jumped, I trusted Grayson to handle the rest.

I always loved shifting like this, like a pro Grayson landed straight on his feet. The moment his front paws hit the ground; he was already running. He did not even pause to look back at the house. I was especially proud of him for not making a single sound. The last thing we needed was to draw that kind of attention ourselves.

Think she has any traps laid out? Grayson surprised me by asking.

Crap! I hadn't thought of that. Maybe? Just keep your eyes peeled, and pray that she was too arrogant to think we would betray her. Last thing I wanted was to make things even worse for Faith, and I was sure they would take my betrayal out on her. Even if she had no knowledge of it.

Grayson and I push ourselves harder than we ever have before, and trust me, we have moved at speeds the human eye couldn't see, but somehow, we managed to go faster than that even. All we could think was. We have to reach Kyle before Ingrid realizes I'm gone. Unfortunately, there was no clock. She could realize I was gone in five minutes or even five hours, it all depended on whether Connor realized I was missing or not, or worse, she returned suddenly.

We would feel it if she was gone! We would know! She was our mate. Grayson had been saying this since we jumped from the window. I wanted to believe it, but I was an idiot who rejected Faith, and I betrayed the bond in the worst of ways. I'm not sure the moon goddess has left me any ties to Faith. Why would she? I would like to believe Grayson was right and there was still some tether of a bond that we could feel our mate through, even if it hurt, but I can't hang my hopes on it. Still, I keep this from Grayson. It seemed wrong to dash him of his last hope.

How long have we been running? I asked him instead.

Let me check my watch, oh wait! He grumbles sarcastically.

Oh, come on, you know what I mean. Do you think we're getting close? It's a good thing Grayson is so good at following his senses, and was the best I have ever seen when it came to directions. I would be lost as a human on my own. I hadn't left Ingrid's since I arrived and as she transported us using her magic while I cradled faith, it's not like I got any sense of where we were.

Still hours. He grunts. He wasn't willing to come right out and say it, but he was my other half. I could sense how much fear that instilled in him.

Fuck. That is all I can say. I knew we were both thinking the very same thing. If it took us hours to get to Kyle, it would take us just as long to get back to faith. Ingrid just needed to snap her fingers.

If we see her, we kill her immediately. It's the only way. Grayson says resolutely.

What if they don't, but Grayson cuts us off.

What if they don't believe us and take us prisoner or kill us? So, what, at least we can say we tried. Grayson's willingness to lay his life down for Faith, no questions asked, slammed into me and before I knew I was rag dolling through the dirt, sticks cut at me and my head hit a large rock so hard that if I were a mere human, it would have knocked me out if it had not killed me.

What are you doing? Why did you try and stop? Grayson growled as he smacked hard into a tree and finally came to a halt.

Grayson I. Not for the first time I ask myself, what have I done? I wrecked us all.

Shut up! Wallow later. We have to keep moving. Grayson roars, cutting me off and snapping me from my self-deprecating thoughts.

I forget sometimes that I didn't just reject faith, but that I took your mate from you too. I say, wholeheartedly.

Great you're feeling again. Who cares, you'll be back to your usual selfish prick self in no time, but before that happens, let's save Faith.

I realize now is not the time for this and decide that Grayson is right. I have been down this faith a few times before; I can worry about all this later.

I get back up on my legs, my muscles ache from the impact, but it's nothing I can't handle.

I wiped the blood from my face and shot the rock a dirty look before sprinting headlong into the vast wilderness.

It was nearing dark now. I hoped David would find a way to keep Ingrid from going to bed. If she came home and I wasn't there, I was sure she would kill Faith immediately and get rid of the evidence. Then it would be my word against hers, and no one had any reason to trust me.

Not to worry, we are almost there! Grayson said finally. He had been quiet and distant since we fell. I could not blame him.

Relief washed through me like a tidal wave. We have made it. Once I started picking up the faint scents of Kyle's territory, I began to howl and holler. So, what if they heard? I needed them to catch me anyway, and it felt good to know I was one step closer to getting Faith out alive.

Four wolves bounded from the trees. I was an Alpha, so there was no way I was going to submit to a bunch of warriors, but I didn't want to fight them either. I needed Kyle to trust me, and the more wolves he could spare, the better. It would be stupid and counter-productive to hurt them. So, I just shifted instead. I put my hands up, so they could see I had no weapons and meant no harm.

Their eyes went far away for a moment, and I could tell they were mind-linking someone. Good, I thought. Now Kyle knows that I am here. All I have to do now is convince him that I am telling the truth.

"There is something important that I'm afraid you have to insist on. Tell your Alpha, his beta must not come or his Luna dies." I had to make that clear, otherwise David could tell Ingrid that I was here.

All four wolves began to growl and snap and I knew why, in their minds, I was threatening their Luna.

"I am not threatening your Luna. I'm trying to save her. But my warning is very real. David must not know." I said calmly, still trying to show them that I came in peace.