

Chapter 17

Pictures of Charlotte filled the box. Most of them were when she was younger. Even toddler age but some where of her when she was in New York. He had found her and was following her this entire time. There was some of Nora and them eating lunch together. Surveillance photos. If he knew where she was this whole time, then why didn't he pick her up? Why let her continue to live a life? Why that why Nora's ex-boyfriend kept finding her?

We all knew we couldn't take the pictures and if we took pictures of the pictures then he would see the flash go off. With a final grunt, she screamed loudly and then silence. Patrick replaced the lid on the box and put it back up there with whatever was on top of it.

"What are you doing?" He asked her.

"Getting comfortable?" She sounded confused.

"No, you aren't staying here tonight. I have a big day tomorrow and I need some good rest."

"Bu-" SLAP!

"Leave!" We could hear her soft cries as she gathered her stuff and left. Holding our breaths, we could hear his footsteps. They got closer and closer to the closet. It was all we could do to hide behind the door, behind clothes and

even a chair. The door opened as we steadied our hearts. The smell of alcohol and cigars filled the room as he staggered in. Reaching up, he grabbed the box and fell over as he was trying to pull it down. Hitting his head, he laid there motionless.

Holy fuck! What do we do? Couldn't call anyone as that would give us away. However, if he died, that would be a great help to me. One by one, we stepped out and walked out into the bedroom. On the floor was a recent picture of Charlotte eating at a cafe. Grabbing it, I left the room too.

Making it back to Patrick's room, a huge sigh of relief filled me. "That was too fucking close."

"I can't believe we had to sit there and listen to that." Axel shook his head.

"You will have to give me time to look at everything and put it together. I am going to upload these on an external hard drive and then delete it. That way if I am searched, there won't be any record."

"Can't you just email it to us?" I asked.

"No. They have a system that reads all outgoing mail and one of that size will send a flag." Patrick sat down and immediately started working.

"Anything we can do to help?" Axel asked.

"No. Go get some sleep. Tomorrow is indeed a big day."

Patrick waved us off as he typed away.

Making sure we looked like we just gone with the dance, we left his room. No one was in sight and even our walk back to our rooms was insignificant. Axel nodded as he went into his room and I went into mine. Jasmine was right where we left her and I didn't even try to move her. After getting dressed in a t-shirt and shorts, I laid down on the couch and fell asleep.

My alarm went off way too soon but knowing what kind of day I had ahead of me, helped me get up and take a shower. Jasmine was still passed out but I didn't take any chances as I locked the bathroom door. I was thankful I did because about ten minutes later, Jasmine was screaming from the outside of it.

After taking my time, I got dressed and walked out of the bathroom. Jasmine was sitting on a chair, still in her gown with a very pissed off look to her face. "It's about time!" She jumped up and ran in there, slamming the door closed.

Not even waiting for her to get ready, I finished getting dressed and left before she came out. We had about an hour before the actual arraignment so I went down to the kitchen to see if there was anything to eat.

I wasn't surprised to see it swimming with people. The cafeteria style dining area was filled with people from last night and even people I didn't recognize. My eyes immediately spotted Lilith but I knew I couldn't speak with

her. Instead, I walked to the coffee bar, grabbed one of the black coffees they had just poured and made my way over to the hot bar. Sausage, egg, bacon, waffles, toast, oatmeal, and so many other choices. Grabbing a plate, I wasn't even paying attention to what I was grabbing, just filled it.

Turning, I saw Axel waving his hand at me from the far side. Making my way over, I sat down. "Hungry?" Axel asked.

"Not really. Just trying to stay busy." My nerves were actually pretty high right now. There has been some random feelings I have gotten from Charlotte but not much. Mainly annoyance, anger and acceptance.

"Where is Jasmine?" In the shower I think."

"You think?"

"I dunno man, I just took my shower and left. She had got up and was pissed I locked the door."

"I haven't been able to find the way to the cells." He said in my mind.

"How long have you been up?" I asked, surprised.

"Few hours. Not important. What I do know is that they believe this will be a cake walk. Reject bail and set trial for next week and have the execution for the week after."

Shoving a bite of sausage in my mouth, Axel sipped on his coffee. If you were looking at us, it looked like we were sitting in silence enjoying our breakfast. "Our time is limited.

How will we get her out?"

"I've been working on a plan. Just keep Jasmine busy."

"What are you going to do?" I asked, not liking the sound of that. Axel was built for stealth missions but this was probably the biggest one he will ever pull off.

"Less you know the better." Axel only told me that if it was dangerous enough that he needed to protect the pack from any of his actions.

"Don't get caught. I can't find a new beta and I'm sure Nora would be pissed too." 1

Axel and Nora's relationship started off bad and they haven't made up yet. Though, we haven't exactly had quiet time for them to do that. If he got caught, I don't see how they would ever be able to make it work.

"Gentlemen! I'm so happy you found the kitchen! Are you coming to the arraignment still?" King Thomas was standing behind us.

"We are. Figured we would watch it and then head out." I said politely.

"There you are! How da-" Jasmine came stomping in. She had her hair braided down her back with a simple but elegant pant suit on. Once she noticed King Thomas, her attitude changed. "Oh, Good morning King Thomas!"

"Good morning. I trust you slept good?"

“Like a log.” Jasmine plastered on a fake smile.

“Good, good. I am going to head down there. Some last minute paperwork I need to sign.” King Thomas waved goodbye before he left.

“What the hell? Why didn’t you wait for me?” Jasmine pinched my arm as she sat down. My eyes instantly went black as I got extremely close to her face.

“Ever pinch me again and I will kill you where you stand. Don’t ever talk to me like that.” The threat sent chills down her spine as I felt a sharp pain in my elbow.

“Don’t forget what I have on you too.” She whispered knowing full aware I could hear her. Standing up, I grabbed her arm a little tighter than needed. It was going to leave a bruise but I didn’t give a fuck.

“We must be going. Can’t be late for the arraignment.” I said as Axel stood up. Jasmine was trying to play off the pain in her arm but I wasn’t sure how it was working out.

My pressure didn’t let up until we were on the outside of the court room. Tears were in her eyes as I let go and straightened up my shirt. “Dry your eyes before we go in there.” I demanded. Axel hadn’t followed us so I wasn’t sure what he was up to.

Nodding at a few people as they walked by, Jasmine finally was ready to go in. Holding her head up high, we walked in

and sat down in the middle of the room. No reason to bring attention to myself. Jasmine wanted to sit up front but I didn't let her. No reason to bring Charlotte more pain.

Lilith came storming in a few seconds later, extremely pissed off about something. That made my stomach fall as she slammed her brief case down. After removing some papers, the royal lawyer came out and sat in his spot. I didn't recognize him or know his name. His cool manner irritated me.

The side doors opened and two guards brought Charlotte out. She looked like she was allowed a five minute cold shower. Her hair wasn't fully brushed, no makeup so her bruising was very evident. She walked with a limp in her gray jumpsuit and was holding her arm gentle. When the guards forced her to sit next to Lilith, she had to clench her jaw from screaming out in pain. Pain I could feel more so that I was in the same room as her. We weren't mated but I tried to draw some of the pain out from her. If anything, I could give your some temporary relief.

"All rise for the Honorable Judge Janelle." I was surprised to see a woman up on the stand but as soon as she spoke, I knew why.

"You all may be seated." I had heard her speak at the ball last night but she was the mystery girl in King Thomas's bed last night. He was sleeping with the judge. I mean, he was the judge but if he had her in his bed, he didn't need to sit

behind the bench.

"Your honor, I would like to begin with a few complaints!" Lilith stood up and immediately went on the defense.

"Objection!"

"On what grounds?" Lilith rounded on him. "I haven't even stated why I am complaining about? Maybe not get so gun heavy there sparky. Try listening first before you jump the gun or go back to law school."

"Jeremiah, sit down." Judge Janelle rolled her eyes at him.

"Thank you, your honor. I would like to start with the basic needs that are not being met for my client and the physical abuse she has received while being under the protection of the palace. I understand her charges but is that reasonable that she is punched, kicked and abused on a daily basis? She was literally knocked out last night after we had our meeting!" Judge Janelle studied Charlotte's face. "

Furthermore, it highly represents the palace in a negative manner when this is going to be such a highly publicized case! She is being charged with the murder of her mother and father! The whole country will be watching this."

"I must say I agree. Any comment on this?" Judge Janelle asked Jeremiah.

"We were unaware that this was an issue. Appropriate action will take place to ensure Hailey is receiving humane care." It was weird to hear her being called Hailey. It was

even more annoying to hear him spout off crap that he didn't mean to follow through with.

"Your honor, after the condition that Ms. Hailey is in, I believe it is best that she does not stay here but stays in a government safe place on house arrest."

"Absolutely not! She has evaded the royal guards for how many years now? She is a proven flight risk. What's to say she doesn't escape again?"

"Do you not have faith in your guards that you believe she can escape from them? She was nine years old when she ran away. She had just witnessed her parents being murdered and the killer was after her. What child wouldn't run away?"

"She killed her parents and ran away from the consequences! She is a murderer and cannot be set free or we will never see her again!" Jeremiah argued.

"Okay, I have heard enough." Judge Janelle started.



Mrs. Smith Author

" Thank you all for being so patient with me! I am back to posting regularly here. Everyday but Sundays! "

