

11 - Entangled With The Savage Alpha - Berrybloom

11

Rhys

I couldn't get the image of her cradling an unconscious pup while wrapped in that blanket out of my head. Neither could I stop stalking her even now.

I'd been in the dungeons interrogating one of the rogues. A lot of them had been straying into my territory recently and it made me antsy.

My gut told me that something was wrong. Something was coming and it had to do with Devon's death.

What did I need to do to let the world know that I wasn't interested in becoming Alpha Prime? I didn't want anything to do with that position. Yet someone out there was sending spies into my territory.

It was obvious that they had already started hunting for the Crest, even before the new Alpha of Creekside was crowned. And those greedy people suspected me most of all because they believed that I wanted it the most.

I didn't blame them. In public, my relationship with the Old Alpha looked horrible. When he was still fit, we argued and almost always fought.

I accused him of everything under the sun, he did the same. He banned me from the council of Alpha's a million times and I always returned.

I did all that to make myself seem unruly. I fueled these rumors about me so that they would get off my back. Yet someone was still suspecting something.

Devon was right about one thing. Things were about to fall apart. Trouble loomed in the air. I could feel it. Blood was going to be shed, people were going to stab each other in the back. And even after the true Alpha Prime was bestowed with the mantle, there would still be no peace.

Other Alphas would openly challenge him. He was going to be due for sneak attacks and betrayals until he did something that shook the world...

I didn't want any of that. I'd already been through enough in my life to want all that. They just needed to let me exist in my mountain with my pack.

However, they needed to know how far I was willing to go to protect my peace and my people.

Rogues were difficult to interrogate. They had lost everything and didn't care about anything. Pain was their friend. Before I could get anything worthwhile from them, I had to dig deep and scratch the surface of their humanity. So I normally took them to the caves within the mountain where no one would hear them plead and I allowed myself to manifest the beast in me.

It was why I took time to rush out when Kaden and the pack alerted me of the danger. When I finally made it out, everyone was running into the forest exclaiming about how Dawn had done something out of the ordinary.

When I finally arrived at the spot where she held the child, I couldn't believe my eyes. She looked so fierce and yet so innocent. I was still trying to understand what happened when she collapsed. She'd been foolish enough to save the boy and poison herself.

The past two days were terrifying. While the pack was raving about how fast and impressive she was, I was scared shitless. She wasn't responding to any treatment and seemed to be in a coma. But then, Dr. Kelly was certain that she wasn't in a Coma.

I was going crazy and I didn't understand it. Why did seeing her like that affect me so badly? I took her to my room and remained by her side while threatening to kill everyone if anything happened to her.

Now that it was all over, the most surprising thing was realizing that I meant everything I said when I threatened Kaden and everyone present. Of course, I'd made them swear that they'll never tell her. But I didn't understand what it meant for me. Or why I stalked her, after declaring that I never wanted to see her again.

I overheard when Dawn requested to go in search of more nightshades. My first instinct was to rebuke her, then I remembered that I wasn't supposed to be paying any attention to her in the first place. I hoped that Kaden would be the leader that he was for once and keep her away from the nightshades but the fool informed her of my decree to get rid of all of them in the suburbs and residential areas and even offered to accompany her to go and find some in the forest.

They were a few yards ahead of me talking about utter rubbish.

“Man, you're so fast.” Princess chirped, “Yet you look like you cannot lift a finger.”

“The only person that can match that speed is Rhys, but you'll give him a run for his money,” Kaden added

I grunted internally. I was yet to witness how fast she was, but I was certain that nobody could match me.

“We should train together.” Layla and Kayla said simultaneously.

Dawn stopped and glanced at them, “Are you serious?” She said carefully.

“Definitely,” Tayla responded.

Kaden cleared his throat, “Nope. She's not to do anything that can stress her.”

I was proud of him for the first time in a long time. I didn't want Dawn sweating and training with anyone that wasn't me. I'd be too worried to concentrate on anything. She had the thinnest skin, she could easily get injured.

“Why?” Princess butted in, “You were the one that told me that Rhys asked you to keep her engaged with anything of her choice.”

“How about we let her heal completely and learn about the pack before she begins to hang around with the dangerous three.” He shot back.

They arrived at a thicket of Nightshades and fell silent.

“They're beautiful.” Princess broke the silence. “ I cannot believe that something this beautiful was so deadly.”

“They're not deadly,” Dawn corrected her, slapping on a face mask and gloves. “They have good qualities too. Now take three steps back.”

They all obeyed her while she stepped forward, knelt, and gently uprooted a few of the plants. With a pair of shears, she snipped off their roots and threw them into a sack that she was carrying.

They all studied her silently and almost reverently. In less than 10 minutes she uprooted and detached a good amount then got to her feet.

“What next?” Princess whispered.

“I need to crush the roots to pulp and distill its sap so we can give those poor kids.” She said, “But we're all done here for now.”

“Shouldn't we get rid of everything here?” Layla asked.

“Nope. They're going to be of good use someday.” Dawn said fiercely.

Why was I even following her? Wasn't I supposed to be in a council meeting or doing something else?

Marcus just arrived. Lex's voice rang in my head. That's all I needed to cut me off from whatever pull Dawn held on me. All my anger and frustration turned to him.

Immediately I dashed back to the Pack house. He and I were going to have a long conversation and throw punches if need be.

I found him sipping some sort of herbal tea.

"Rhys." He grunted, raising his mug in greeting.

"It's Alpha to you." I spat.

He raised a brow and then took another sip. I disliked how calm he could be when he did something to piss me off.

"What the hell, Marcus?" I gritted out.

He took another sip then shut his eyes and let the steam warm his face. Frustrated, I began pacing.

"What is what, Rhys?" He finally responded.

"Why are you trying to set me up?" I growled. "You're ruining everything I worked for!"

He took another sip, then leaned back and sighed.

"You're about to throw another tantrum aren't you?"

"Tantrum?" I growled, my fists clenched in anger and frustration.

He shrugged, took the last sip, and set the mug down.

"What the hell do you think you're doing, meddling in my life like this?" I barked.

Marcus, still lounging in his chair with a calm demeanor, raised an eyebrow. "I'm looking out for you and the Pack's interests," he replied casually, unfazed by my outburst.

"That's not your job!" I snapped, pacing back and forth. "I can take care of myself. I don't need you sticking your nose where it doesn't belong."

He chuckled softly, leaning back in his chair. "You may think so, but sometimes we need a guiding hand, especially when we're too stubborn to see the bigger picture."

I scoffed, feeling my anger boil over. "Stubborn? You're the stubborn one, thinking you know what's best for me without even asking!"

His expression remained placid. "I've been around longer than you, seen more than you can imagine. Trust me, I know what I'm doing."

"Trust you?" I exclaimed, throwing my hands up in frustration. "Why should I trust you when all you do is interfere and disregard my choices?"

He leaned forward, his voice calm yet firm. "Because I'm family, and family looks out for each other. You may not see it now, but one day you'll thank me for this."

I clenched my jaw, struggling to contain my anger. His nonchalant attitude only fueled my frustration further. "I doubt it," I muttered through gritted teeth.

"You doubt everything, Rhys." He said with ease.

I wanted to do something.

"That doesn't give you the right to fucking get me a wife." I bellowed.

"Oh, so you want to end up like the Old Alpha? Look what's about to happen because he was either too proud to get a mate or a coward. Everyone's preparing for bloodshed. The werewolf population is going to be cut in half before things get stable again."

I pressed my lips together. He hit below the belt. I'd placed Devon in very high regard and he had just trifled it.

"I'm definitely not letting you go down the same route. Golden Crest needs to be established properly. It's what your parents would have wanted. The Old Alpha felt the same way too." He added.

I fumed. I felt betrayed by him and Devon.

"So you pick a random female to prove your point?"

"Random?" He chuckled, "Is that truly what you think of her?"

I swallowed and looked away. There was nothing Random about Dawn. She was etched in my mind like a carving on stone. Everything about her heightened my senses. I'd been acting out of character from the moment I laid eyes on her.

Didn't I burn down her family house to avenge her? But I wasn't about to let whatever it was I felt sway me. I wasn't going to let Marcus win.

"There's nothing random about that girl." He said as if he read my mind. "Coincidences rarely happen."

"She's not fit for anything." I spat, "Look at how pale and scrawny she is."

“Well,” Marcus sighed, “The fact that you noticed is a good thing isn't it?”

“You realize that she requires a lot of attention right?”

Marcus got to his feet and stretched. “That has nothing to do with me. She's your wife. She's in your care now.”

I laughed scornfully. “You're either joking or have finally lost it. Why'd you think I brought you here? You married her, you'll take care of her.

He furrowed his brows, “You're wrong, Son. She's your wife. I'm only here because I'm obligated to. I will not be interfering in whatever you have going on. How you treat her is your business. I'm not the one whose position is at stake until 3 months are completed. She's your responsibility.”

I grunted and plopped on the nearest chair. There was no winning with Marcus.

“Now if you'll excuse me Alpha,” He saluted, “I need to start making plans to sabotage your union. I can already imagine myself as Alpha and from the way you're talking, it'll be happening sooner or later.”

“Do you not care that she'll be put to death?” I flared.

He chuckled on his way out. “No. I don't. As a matter of fact, I suggested killing her to the council. If she doesn't make it here, she's not fit to survive anywhere else. Besides, without my intrusion, she would already be dead.”