Fated out Chapter 64

64 The turn...

Ramsey

Two years later. 1

The Pack Hospital's light shone brightly on me where I sat motionless in the reception area, my legs spread out in front of me, staring blankly at the floor.

My clothes were stained with blood, and dark red streaks that had long since dried but still smelled fresh in the air around me. My fingers wrapped tightly around a necklace which I clutched like a lifeline its pendant warming against my palm, a stark difference to the cold that had settled in my chest.

Around me, Pack Doctors and Nurses including Healers rushed in and out of the operating rooms, their faces tensed with fear... I couldn't blame them, they had two lives to save.

Two operations were happening at the same time. Two lives hanging by a thread. Alpha Logan, Alpha of the Blue Ridge Pack was in one of the rooms fighting for his life. And in the other room, my grandfather, Elder Eldric, was the only family I had left. When I held him in my arms after the attack, I thought he was dead. 1 $\mathbf{W} \le \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{W} =$

He'd been motionless, with blood gushing out from one side of his throat. I grew up with my

grandfather, we didn't agree on a lot of things but I love him. He was the man who shaped me into whom I am today. He had swallowed his pain and fought hard after losing his mate, so I wouldn't be alone anymore.

He was the same man who pushed me out of the way, hours ago, and had taken the Feral's bite it

should be me on that operating table and not him.

We were on our way back from the Annual Moon Goddess Worshipping Ceremony at Golden Moon

Pack and were just outside the borders of the White Moon Mountain region when a dozen Feral

Wolves suddenly sprung out from the forest and attacked. \mathcal{W} w $\hat{\mathbb{W}}.nove$ lwór $\mathbb{M}.c_e$ \mathbb{m}

They had easily overpowered the hundred warriors that had gone with us, and injured three Alphas renowned for their fighting skills, including Alpha Logan who was a top–skilled Alpha

Warrior.

I had watched as the warriors dropped dead, how six elders, have been killed with such swiftness

that I didn't see. I had almost died, too, if my grandfather had not pushed me out of the way and taken the bite for me.

Alpha Logan had jumped in to save him from the Ferals and had equally been defeated. The Ferals,

after that, didn't attack me... they all regrouped, and stared at me for a few minutes before they

headed back to the bushes from where they had emerged.

I glanced up briefly, my gaze drifting to Alpha Logan's wife, Luna Vanessa and her daughter,

Clarissa. They sat huddled at one corner of the reception, their eyes red and swollen, tears

Sitting there not knowing what to do hour to help and if your mate would ever make it back

The loss of a mate was not the worst thing that can happen to anyone – it is being helpless.

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alive.

streaming silently down their faces.

I watched as they clutched each other as if they were the only thing keeping each other from shattering completely. My heart clenched at the sight – I had failed them. I had failed to protect the

people who served me.

"Alpha Ramsey," Lenny hovered nearby, his face full of concern. "You need to go home and get cleaned up. You can't stay here like this, if the people see you in this state, they'll worry. It's already

enough that the entire country is in fear... this will not help," he said softly. Trying for the third time to get me to leave.

"I'll stay here and tell you as soon as they finish with the operation, he added.

"It's easy to console me, Lenny when you're not in my shoes," I said quietly. "I have failed. everyone... a hundred warriors killed, six elders dead and three Alphas wounded. Alpha Logan is

barely alive and if anything should happen to him... they will never forgive me. This is my fault." "It is not, Alpha!" Lenny sighed drawing closer to me. "No one had anticipated the Ferals. The last time we saw one was four years ago."

"We were supposed to return a day after, Lenny. Do you think maybe that would have made the difference? From all the other packs who travelled two days after the ceremony, they all arrived at

"Just clean up and offer a word of comfort to the bereaved – the families of the warriors who died. It could go a long way.

"And who will comfort me, Lenny!" I raised my head to look at him. "I too, I'm hurting... let's just hurt

today... or at least until I know that my grandfather and Alpha Logan are fine, then maybe, I'll be

their packs safely. I have made a lot of children fatherless, Lenny..." I sighed. "So, I cannot leave.

able to offer comfort."

Despite Lenny's insistence that I should go, I ignored him. I hadn't moved in hours and had no intention of leaving now. My muscles were stiff from sitting for so long but I barely felt the discomfort.

my feet for the first time, my heart pounding violently in my chest as the doctor walked out, his face was pale, his eyes were downcast and I knew from his expression before he even spoke.

seen that look too many times before.

It was well past midnight when the doors to Alpha Logan's operating room finally opened. I rose to

"I'm sorry, the pack doctor said quietly, his voice filled with regret. "Alpha Logan didn't make it." Luna

I couldn't leave. Not until I knew. Not until they told me.

felt the grief wash over me but it didn't settle. It couldn't. My mind was too broken, my emotions were all over the place.

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The pack doctor looked at me, pausing as if waiting for some response but I just nodded slowly.

There were no words I could offer that would matter now.

As if on cue, another pack doctor emerged from the second operating room. There was a tired

Vanessa's cries filled the room as she collapsed to the ground in sobs, her daughter clinging to her. I

smile on his face.

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"Elder Eldric is stable," he informed me. "The surgery was successful though recovery will take time but he's fine now."

air.

The moment the doors closed behind me, I changed into my wolf and broke into a run.

I nodded again – then without a word, I turned and walked out of the hospital into the cold night

whipped against my fur, and the world around me blurred as my feet pounded against the earth.

started back to the pack house still clutching the necklace. Waiting for me at the entrance of the

I ran, pushing my body past its limits, trying to outpace the guilt that clawed at my heart. The wind

burned. It was

I ran until the moon rose high in the sky and my muscles screamed and my morning when I finally

duties.

pack house were several clders, including Elder Mira, all wearing sombre expressions. She stepped forward, her face lined with sadness.

Moon Goddess for preserving your grandfather.

"And what did Alpha Logan do to her for her not to be merciful to him?" I retorted, glaring at her. "We understand that you're still in shock but it's hardly anyone's fault. Accidents like this happen all the time."

"Right!" I scoffed. "Starting from this moment, there'll be no Annual Moon Goddess Worshipping

Ceremony to start with. When the council gathers, you'll pass it into law. We cannot keep spending

"Alpha Ramsey," she began gently. 'We're deeply sorry for what happened and we're grateful to the

"Alpha, I know you're hurt but..."

"State your business, Elder Mira!" I interrupted her. "I need to freshen up and carry on with

She drew in a deep breath and then sighed. "It's about Blue Ridge Pack. Now that they've lost their

Alpha, they need a new one to prevent chaos and protect her pack members from those who would take advantage of this moment of weakness."

family plan the burial."

Alpha Heir.

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resources over frivolitics like that."

My jaws clenched. I knew where this was going. www.no\VeLwOrm.čo(m)

"We were told that the Alpha heir is locked up in the holding cells. Given the circumstances, it's time to release him. He's Alpha Logan's legitimate successor and with his help, he can help the Alpha's

"We can have the Beta take over certain duties for now. I still have a lot of scores to settle with the

"Not when there's an Heir. He has trained all his life to take over at times like this. You have kept him for four years... whatever he had done, I'm sure we could look for better ways to resolve it. If you do not release him, the Alpha council will revolt." Another elder chimed in.

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"You cannot keep him locked up indefinitely," Alpha Mira bristled. "The Pack needs an Alpha. They

need someone to lead them and make decisions. You cannot deny them that much. Whatever

"I heard what you said... you've been telling me the Alpha council will revolt for years and yet

I rolled my eyes. "Fine, I'll release him."