

Chapter 12

KADE

Elle's eyes looked around at her people, and it looked like she was overwhelmed with their choice to come out and search for Jesse. However, I also saw the hesitancy in her eyes.

"I appreciate the fact that you guys want to help, but I refuse risk you out there. Dulaney's the one who's responsible. Please just stay here," she begged them.

There were fifteen of them, and each of them shook their head to her request. Their decision was absolute and would not change. There was determination in their eyes that said she would not win this fight.

"Elle, we all love you and would do anything for you. That's why we're going. You saved us from him time and again, taking all of those punishments onto yourself even when we begged you not to. We're not letting you go without us," one of the guys said adamantly.

My eyes shot to Gabriel in question. I was starting to understand why Elle, him, and Paula had their reactions to this Dulaney guy. I was not entirely certain if I wanted to find him or not. The Council would frown upon me ripping the dude's throat out, and I did not know how much restraint I would have in front of him. 1

'Vince said that the guy targeted Mate but won't say why since it's her story to tell. He did say that Mate would offer to take their punishments since they didn't deserve them. The guy gladly allowed it because he enjoyed it,' Tyre growled.

That cleared up my uncertainty. I wanted to find him and rip his throat out regardless of whether it was frowned upon. It would just be self-defense that I would argue. I highly doubted that the Council would care too much when we explained all about this little pack.

My incredible mate was selfless from what I had seen thus far. I had only known her for such a brief time, but that did not matter. There could never have been a better mate for me than her. I was glad that I stuck to my guns and refused a chosen. Elle protected her people no matter what. She was their saving grace. There was no doubt in my mind that she could stand toe-to-toe with any foe and come out the victor.

"Okay. Just please be careful and no dumb shit," she said, grumbling about bossy wolves.

I slid my arm around her waist and kissed the top of her head. She fit perfectly into my side. This was where she was born to be. She relaxed into my body, and I loved the sparks that were dancing across my skin. I never realized they would feel so incredible.

"You're also kind of bossy too from what I've seen," I teased her.

"Truth," Gabriel agreed. She flipped him off but could not keep the smile off her face. They reminded me of my relationship with Apollo.

We got outside of the house and noticed a bunch of warriors. The Omegas froze, worried about being caught outside. It was a knee-jerk reaction that would take time for them to overcome once we left here. I would talk to them later about it once we finished with all of this. It would be their choice whether they came or stayed, but I could not imagine anyone wanting to actually stay here if they had another alternative that did not include going rogue.

"Alpha Kade and Luna Elle, we're the Council's warriors who were told to stand guard while we await the tribunal. My name is Felix," he said, respectfully bowing his head to us.

Elle tensed a little bit when he called her Luna, but it was what she was now. She would have the official ceremony once we got back to the pack and she adjusted, but she became our future Luna the moment that I accepted her as my mate. Then she would become Luna once we marked each other. At that point, it would be official. The ceremony was traditional and linked her to the pack.


"Perfect. It's great that you're here. One of the Omegas is missing, and his mate believes he's injured. Luna Elle can

track him, but we would like for you to accompany us as well because the warriors here abuse the Omegas for fun, and the Council has put strict orders that they don't tolerate abuse," I told them for context.

The warriors exchanged looks that told us exactly what they thought about the abuse. I was glad that the Omegas would be able to see that the way they were treated in this pack was not how packs normally acted and was entirely unacceptable.

"The Council most certainly doesn't allow it. You'll have our full support however you need it," Felix said.

I looked around and saw six of the Council's warriors who all bowed their heads to us. Where Elle had tensed before when she was called Luna, this time she responded just as I did which was to incline the head.

Most Alphas and Lunas did not bow their head to anyone at all since they were considered the very top of the pack hierarchy. I did not necessarily uphold that because I bowed my head to those who deserved the recognition. For example, one teenager in our pack saved an injured warrior's life during a freak storm. That teenager deserved the recognition. The teenager went on to become my Gamma. He worked his ass off since he was a pup and proved that he deserved it over the years. He pushed himself to become the best form of himself, and he certainly never disappointed. 

"Like I told them inside, wolf form is going to be the best to travel in because the warriors utilize the fact that the woods don't have much in the way of light sources. The canopies block out the moonlight. So, there are partitions along the sides of the house for anyone who would prefer to change behind them." Elle looked around to make sure that everyone was on the same page before she nodded and headed to the partition.

I followed her out of the desire to make sure nobody was around. The fact that she came to a partition meant that she was not comfortable stripping in front of everyone. I appreciated that fact right now because the bond was so new that I was feeling a little overprotective. It would ease off in time. Nudity and shifters went hand-in-hand, and the pack would see her from time to time.

"Didn't picture you as a modest stripper," she teased me.

"You were already picturing me. I'm flattered. I'm not a modest stripper, but I noticed you coming over here which I assumed was because you didn't want to strip in front of everyone. So, I wanted to come over here to make sure nobody else came," I explained.

She looked at me for a moment without saying anything. Her eyes were swimming with appreciation. She leaned up and placed a kiss to my cheek.

"Thank you. I can't even begin to express how much that

means to me.” Her voice was soft but filled with emotion.

She spent nearly her entire life in a pack that took everything they wanted and spat on her bloodied and beaten form afterwards. I did not think she needed me to protect her because she surely did not. Elle protected herself.

It seemed that she was beginning to see what a mate really was supposed to be like. I would not be a perfect mate because I was human, and humanity was riddled with flaws. However, I would never give up having her back. I would never stop showing her how precious she was to me. My mind thought back to what Thompson said earlier. Our bond was incredibly strong already. It would only continue strengthening the longer that we nourished it.

I turned my back to her, trying to give her privacy as I slipped my shorts off and let Tyre surge forward. The air shimmered as my bones rearranged into Tyre’s form. It was not painful and happened quicker than most other people’s shifts did. He shook his fur out, relishing being in his form. He and I worked very well together. He was patient when I had to do human shit, so I gave him time to do wolf shit as much as possible. I liked to give him time to run every day if at all possible. Perhaps Faye would like to join in on that.

We listened as our mate transformed. We were both very eager to see what she looked like in person instead of through a painting.

Faye nipped Tyre’s tail, so he spun around, growling playfully

at her. That growl died out immediately when he saw her. Faye was exquisite. The white fur was the purest white I had ever seen before. There was an ethereal glow to it that was reminiscent of the white aura around Elle. Her form was as big as Tyre which was very surprising. We had never seen a she-wolf this size. Pure power radiated throughout her form. This was why they could never let the others see her. It was completely unmistakable.

'You're the most gorgeous wolf I've ever seen. It's great to meet you, Mate. I'm Tyre,' he said, flashing her a wolfy grin.

Faye nuzzled his neck, purring. She was a shameless flirt, and he loved it. I could already see it now that those two would get into a lot of trouble. Wolves were more driven by their animalistic instincts, so they were typically more sexualized than the human counterpart. That was not always the case, but it happened more often than not. Alphas had even higher libidos than average shifters. So, it would be interesting to see where that ended up leading when the right time came.

'My Alpha mate is sexy and oh so powerful. I told Elle that I would thoroughly scent you the moment I saw you, but we don't have time right now. Later though,' she said as she nipped his neck and ran out from the partition to meet back up with everyone.

The Council warriors were shocked when they saw Faye. They bowed low to her which was an odd reaction to say

the least. Faye did not look surprised though. She inclined her head to them in response. That conversation later would explain this, and I was dying to find out what was going on. I hated being out of the loop, but our night did not go as planned whatsoever. Whatever this explanation was would be absolutely incredible. There was no doubt about that.

'We need to head North. We'll track him from there. Ready?' she asked.

Everyone nodded in understanding. Wolves could send out a mindlink to another wolf. However, only the Alpha and Luna could send out a mindlink to multiple people but only if they were part of their pack. Faye just accomplished a feat that should have been impossible. It had to be one of those gifts that she mentioned. This would have been ammo in Alpha Andrew's hands. It was extremely wise of her to never show herself. There was no denying how special she was.

Faye took the lead with me and Gabriel on either side of her. Apollo was on the other side of me. The rest of my pack and the Council's warriors took the outside of the formation with the Omegas on the inside.

Faye's paws barely kissed the ground each time they reconnected. She was fast and lithe as she made her way North. It was mesmerizing watching her run and made it look like an artform. Tyre could not wait to race her in the safety of our pack. He wanted to hunt with her too, showing her how he could provide for her. Elle said that Omegas

were not allowed to hunt, so Tyre could not wait to take his Luna out and teach her to hunt. It would be a great bonding experience. It was the wolf equivalent of making a meal together.


A couple of the Blue Crest's warriors snarled at us, trying to scare us. They obviously realized who we were, and these warriors were pissed off about their bullshit getting brought to light. Perhaps they should have thought about that before they acted like vile monsters. They brought this onto themselves.

'Stand down,' Faye said as she broke formation and padded towards them.

Vince and Tyre joined her because we could not tell if these wolves would throw the Council's warnings to the wind and just attack her. The wolf pulled his lips back over his teeth in challenge, snarling at her. Part of me was glad that we did not know what they were saying or else I was certain that I would not be able to control myself.

She told Vince and Tyre to stand on either side of her, making sure to press against her. They did so even though they had no idea what was going on. However, I was certain that it would be something similar to what Elle did with me and Paula.

'I'm the wolf in charge right now, and I said stand down,' she growled with so much power that they fell to the ground with their necks bared in submission to her.

 +15 BONUS

What in the actual fuck just happened?

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