

## Chapter 15

KADE

"Thompson we have a problem. Someone used a missing and attacked Omega to lure all of us out to the woods, knowing that Elle wouldn't leave him there. They utilized many rogues as a distraction to get to her. They knocked her out with wolfsbane and disappeared with her before we realized what even happened. They used scent blockers to cover their scent as well as hers. We tried to find her trail but couldn't," I explained.

I heard him let out a few profanities and heard a door slam shut in the background. It was silent on his end until the other Alphas were also brought into the call.

How much did I tell them about who she was, her destiny, and her lack of memories?

'All of it,' the Goddess responded to my thoughts.

So, I told them everything from start to finish what Gabriel shared with me tonight. They listened carefully and did not interrupt. Then I also added in everything else this pack was allowed to do. I aired out the Alpha's dirty laundry, and Gabriel added in many things that I had not known.

Omegas were not allowed formal education. Everyone here took turns teaching the pups and continued on up until the

parents felt they were properly educated. The books that Elle had in her room were confiscated from the library before it was demolished. They apparently made a library room here in the house for everyone.

Another thing was that each warrior was initiated into their position by being assigned an Omega to torment in order to show their dedication to the purity of the pack hierarchy. The Council asked if there were certain Omegas who were targeted. Gabriel went quiet, so I had my suspicion as to who.

"When did they begin using Elle for initiation?" I asked pointedly.

"The year I met her. She was eight. It was just tormenting and physical beatings for a few years which then escalated the day that she turned eleven," he said.

A haunted look lingered in his eyes. I knew what he meant without even needing him to say it. However, I needed to know who did it. They would pay dearly. The Council also needed to know because they would demand justice for what went on in this pack.

"Who?" I asked.

My precious mate had only been eleven years old when her childhood and innocence was ripped from her. I could not even begin to imagine what that type of thing would do to someone, let alone a pup. Who could be so vile and

monstrous that they would do it? The answer would be only someone who was truly fucked up in the mind and soul. That was who. Someone whose humanity and morality were so twisted up and gnarled that they lost themselves long ago. They were not lost souls though. There was not a single thing that was redeemable about them. They could not be saved. There was only one fate for them, and that was death.

“The rat bastard known as Dulaney raped her the morning of her eleventh birthday. That’s why he always allowed her to take everyone’s punishments even though they begged her not to. She knew the bastard that he was and didn’t want anyone else to suffer because of him. She refused to let them face his depravity. He targeted her because she put up a fight. He swore that he’d destroy that fight one way or another,” Gabriel explained quietly. 1

He looked at me with such remorse in his eyes that I knew he blamed himself for not being able to protect her. He did protect her over the years though and took amazing care of my mate. He was the catalyst that helped her to keep fighting and helped her to keep surviving.

I put my hand on the top of his clenched fist and gave it a squeeze to show him that I did not blame him, and neither should he.

“She’ll kick your ass if she finds out that you’re blaming yourself,” I gently teased him which caused him to crack a small smile. “Did anyone in the Alpha family ever do it

themselves?"

"The bastard ex-mate of hers did on three different occasions. The last one was about six months ago. He always tormented her and made it his personal mission to make her life as miserable as possible. Elle and I think that Alpha Andrew was trying to break the power free which was why he always encouraged people to target her. If he knew that she held the power to make her pack the strongest as well as being unstoppable, then he would do whatever it took. The man has no moral boundaries."

My eyes blazed gold, and Tyre almost took control of my body to destroy him. I pushed him back as hard as I could because that would be a terrible mistake at the moment. We needed to focus on finding our darling mate. The rest could come afterwards.

'Trust me that I want to kill him too, but Elle should be the one to get the justice. These things were done to her. She deserves to take control back into her hands before he dies. He should die by her hands if she wants it,' I told Tyre.

He nodded and laid down. His mourning matched my own. We mourned for all that she had been through. Despite all of that, she still chose to open up to us and trust us. We would never take that for granted.

"We'll be there in fifteen minutes because we've been driving this entire time. We're also bringing all of our warriors with us. The warriors who are currently there will

guard the Omegas. Make sure everyone understands what's going on. Tell them to remain in their house. See if you can get volunteers from your pack to come help find her in case we can't get the location out of these fuckers. Tell them to be ready in thirty minutes because our personal jet will be picking up anyone who wants to help out. The jet only holds two hundred so keep that in mind. Once we secure the Alpha family, we'll send for you two and your Beta," Thompson said.

The three of us thanked him before hanging up. We sat in silence for a couple of minutes, stuck in the whirlwind of our own thoughts.

Elle had been worried that I might not want her after I learned about her past. Gabriel was correct though when he told her that those are their sins and not hers. Their actions did not detract from her beauty and heart. They did not destroy Elle no matter how much they wanted to. No matter how much Dulaney wanted to break her. He never did and never could. Someone like Elle was unbreakable because of the absolute hell that her life had been. She still fought and still survived despite everything that was thrown at her. Never once did she give up, succumbing to it all.

I had not even realized that I was crying until I felt Gabriel's hand and Apollo's hands on my shoulders. I looked at them both and realized that they were very close to the same thing as well.

"Is that why you're as strong as you are and why you both can fight with like trained warriors?" I asked quietly.

"Yes. One day she was late for supper which was very irregular. I found her bloodied and bruised with her clothes ripped off, but I caught him just before the warrior took it further. She was eleven at the time. It was a few months after her birthday. I severely injured him even though I was aiming to kill him instead. They whipped me in front of the pack to make a point and forced her to watch it all, claiming that each of the thirty lashes were her fault. She tried to get me to leave her alone to protect myself, but I refused. I got stronger to protect her even though I never told her that was why. But I figured that she guessed it. She got stronger to protect herself. Vince taught Faye how to fight like she did tonight. I taught Elle how to fight the same way."

I pulled him into a hug and thanked him and Vince on both mine and Tyre's behalf. He returned the hug and promised that he would always do it. He said that was why the Goddess created such a strong bond between them and blessed it. It also helped to connect them enough to know when the other person was in trouble.

I had been appreciative of him Ever since the moment that he stepped up to the bitch in protection of my mate. That appreciation steadily grew as the hours passed. He did not have to protect her all these years, but he did it because it was the right thing to do. I believed that the Moon Goddess

knew that they would need each other and began that bond immediately from the first time that they met.

“Let me explain why there’s an air of mystery about our pack. The Goddess bestowed me with a special gift on the day I became Alpha six years ago. It allows me to pinpoint gifted wolves. Our pack is a sanctuary for those wolves actually. I work with the Council when it comes to gifted wolves in need of a safe place to go. Not everyone in our pack is gifted, but a good forty-five percent are. Apollo is actually gifted as well, which is why he’ll be sitting in on the interrogations with us. He’s an Empath, so he’ll be able to tell when we strike a nerve and when someone’s lying,” I explained.

He smirked at Apollo as if he was our hidden weapon which he really was. Nobody outside of the pack leadership and the Council knew about Apollo’s gift. They had utilized his aid a few times when they were unable to get certain criminals to crack. He succeeded every single time too as he was extremely adept at interrogations because of his gift.

We called the Elders and let them know what was going on. They were ecstatic that our pack finally had a Luna and a fated one at that. We did not tell them about Elle’s legacy because that was something we would discuss as mates to find out who should know and when they should know. The Council needed to know, and the Goddess told me to tell them everything. Hopefully, Elle would understand once we found her and would not be pissed off that I said anything.



"Why did remind twice that only volunteers were to come?" Gabriel asked curiously once I hung up.

"Because every person decides whether they choose to fight or not. Also, we don't require people to use their gifts to benefit the pack. Most choose to but not all. That's entirely their choice because it's their gift, and only they should decide how and when to use it. We do help them hone their gifts though just so they know how to utilize them properly," I explained.

My explanation caused him to smile. It was easy to see that he was shocked with the tidbit of choice but happy, nonetheless. Our pack worked differently than any of them ever knew. It would be an adjustment, but I was certain that they would all appreciate the gift of choice.

It actually made me think back to what Gabriel shared about what the Goddess told Elle about her power and destiny. It was to make her pack unstoppable and would benefit our kind. That was why she bestowed that very special gift to me, knowing that Elle would become my mate. I was incredibly humbled by this revelation. Our pack would benefit our kind. That made Tyre and me inwardly howl in appreciation.

There was a knock on the door. I opened it to reveal one of the Council's warriors that escorted us back here after we left the woods.



"Alpha Kade, Beta Apollo, and Mr. Gabriel, the Council wishes for me to bring you to the packhouse," he said, bowing his head to us.

"Thank you. What's your name?" I asked him, as we followed him outside.

"My name is Cole, Alpha Kade," he said.

Instead of the pack's warriors lined up outside the packhouse, it was the Council's warriors who all bowed their heads to us as we passed. The three of us inclined our heads back.

We had not been prepared for what we saw when we walked into the dining room. The Alpha family were all seated on the floor with their wrists and ankles cuffed in silver shackles as well as a silver collar around their necks. It made it impossible to send out mindlinks and suppressed their wolves. It was a smart tactic to employ especially since we did not know who had her.

The three of them glared daggers at me as if this was all my fault. Just like their son was told, they needed to take responsibility for their own damn selves.