Chapter 27

KADE

It would be absolute torture to keep my thoughts off my mate while she dealt justice because I had no doubt that it would be sexy as hell.

Each step closer to the packhouse was only amplifying her excitement which was making it hard for me not to think back to our mating. Our mating was incredible. It was the best experience of my life, and I could not wait to continue what we started earlier. Her pussy was truly exquisite, and I wanted nothing more than to dive myself deep into her again and again. Her body was my very own wonderland.

'I swear to all, you better taper it the fuck down, asshole. Explain to me what the hell happened to Tyre's aura because it's really fucking with my gift,' Apollo hissed at me.

I felt Tyre consciously reign it back in. Tyre had to work on reigning it in once we took over as Alpha since it amplified his aura like it always did to Alphas. However, he would have to work on it again. He was fine with that because he thoroughly appreciated and felt honored for Selene to have blessed him. He was also pretty damn smug that he was one of her favorite wolf spirits.

It would take time for Apollo to get used to it again. He had been used to its original strength since our wolves both awoke and learned to block it from affecting his gift. Tyre's aura was always stronger than a typical Alpha aura. Therefore, it amplified all of my emotions and forced Apollo to work on accommodating it. It was not easy, but it was worth the time put into it. It helped Apollo gain control over his gift as a whole.

'The Goddess blessed him and expanded his aura quite a bit. Just so you're also aware, our mating unlocked Elle's power which amplified her intuition and my gift. Now I'll also be able to sense if magic or a gift is being used on someone. Apparently, it should help with our pack's interrogation tonight according to Faye.'

He whistled through the link. I flashed him a smirk. We both appreciated the gifts that we had but had always wished we could do more to protect our people. Now we could. My mate was a blessing both to me and to our pack. I could not imagine a better Luna for our people.

"We have everyone in the ballroom," Gabriel said, clasping my mate on the shoulder.

"Good. Oh, get the knife that Kade used. Pretty please," she said sweetly.

His fist pumped the air as he went to retrieve it. His reaction had me insanely curious about what I was about to witness. He was not even this giddy when I did it. Color me intrigued.

"Do we need popcorn too?" I teased her.

"Gabe probably already popped some," she said seriously.

"You know me well," he chimed in as he pushed a cart filled with popcorn and some torture implements on it towards us.

Apollo and I exchanged the same exact look. We were both eager for the show. The Council all chuckled and led us into the room.

My eyes scanned the room and was amused as I took in the depressing looks on all of their faces. This was not everyone that was being held accountable, but it did include the main perpetrators. There were at least fifty people handcuffed and sitting against the walls. On the stage was the Alpha family, the Beta, and the dead warrior. They all paled when they saw my mate walk in.

The warriors along the walls all growled at her to let her know exactly what they thought. She just ignored them and picked up some popcorn from the cart. A piece went up in the air and was caught it in her mouth as she looked at each and every one of them. Once the last kernel was consumed, she walked over to me before giving me a kiss on the lips and winking at me.

"What are the rules right now?" she asked the Council.

"Whatever you make them, Luna Elle. Torture, death, it doesn't really matter. We support anything you want. Our warriors are at your disposal," Thompson said loudly so that everyone was clear.

The growling ceased immediately once they realized that she was the judge, jury, and executioner if she so chose to be. Their lives were literally in her hands. I felt intense amusement with the irony of that. They literally made her into their own destruction.

I wondered if any of the fuckers actually considered that they would have to answer for their actions one day or if they thought that they were untouchable? Part of me wondered how many of them touched my mate. Each that had would die a slow and painful death.

My eyes scanned the entire room, trying to see if I picked anything about enhancements, but they all appeared to be regular wolves. I was very pleased with the amplification of my gift. It would definitely improve our security. Not every gifted wolf was innocent. Some chose to use their gifts in less than honorable ways, so being able to tell if that was the case would be very helpful.

"We'll get to you all in just a bit," she promised the warriors before she grabbed my hand and led me up onto the stage. She asked for Apollo, Gabriel, and the Council to join us.

She dropped her bag on the stage loudly before she knelt down to dig out the binder, ignoring the angry sneers being tossed her way by the lot of them. They honestly did not bother her, and she was the one in charge right now. Being in charge seriously suited her. You could tell that she was born to lead and had within the confines of the Omegas. I had no doubt that she would succeed as Luna and help us thrive.

'Why is Mate so sexy?' Tyre asked with a low growl.

'Because she's perfect,' I responded without removing my eyes from her form.

She flipped through the pages as she looked at each person

in turn. This was all a powerplay, and I could not be any prouder of her in this moment. They would see that they never should have fucked with her in the first place. They had nobody to blame but themselves.

She set the binder down before skipping back to me, clasping her arms around my neck, and smiling widely.

"Who do you think we should start with?" she asked.

"You could always start with the two bastards I promised would have to deal with you." I turned her around. I placed my arms around her waist, pulling her flush against my body, and whispering in her ear, "the ones that look like they're about to piss themselves."

Her head cocked to the side as she contemplated that. I was certain that she had considered what this would be like for many years, so there were probably many ways she thought about confronting them. I was curious to see what she would do now. This was her show.

"That sounds reasonable," she said, nodding. "I'll save the best for last."

Her eyes slid over to Alpha Andrew who looked like he actually did piss himself a little. He needed to be downright terrified for him not to even consider refusing the deal we would offer. She did not even hesitate to choose once she learned about Gabriel's mate. I figured that she was also curious about where she came from and the potential for her family being there. I could not imagine myself in her position.

Elle wanted to start with Dulaney first, so she had me grab him for her and bring him over to the wall. She ripped the curtain away to show the restraints that were already there. I did not have to be told how she knew they were there or what they were used for.

I held him by his neck while Gabriel and Apollo fastened him in tightly. They stepped back, but I took my knee to his groin as hard as I could. He would have fallen over had he not been restrained. His howl of pain was very satisfying.

"Thank you, baby. Do you want to be my helper?" Elle purred at me.

"With pleasure," I replied without removing my eyes from the piece of filth before me.

She placed an arm around my waist and led me back towards the Council because she was about to explain a few things to us all.

"This very stage is used for a few reasons. The assholes in the Alpha family like to call one of them training sessions. It's to train Omegas on how to be good slaves and take what is given to them with nothing but appreciation. It's sometimes public and sometimes not. The most recent example of this was the punishment they deemed fit for me because I embarrassed the now human asshole on his birthday because the little bitch couldn't handle some pain from a rejection that he chose to initiate."

My eyes slid over to the asshole himself, and he was throwing nasty daggers at my mate for calling him out like that. It was the truth after all. Not our fault that he could not handle the truth.

Elle picked up the binder and flipped until she found a specific page. She turned it around and handed it to Thompson.

"That goes back eight years and details each instance of this. The current number is 432 separate accounts. The following three pages lists the name of the Omega as well as the culprit or culprits who initiated the punishment. There is an asterisk by the name of the Omega if they are no longer with us through either disappearance or death," she explained.

Gabriel placed his hand on my shoulder and shook his head the moment that I went to take a look as well. That was enough for me to know that my mate was in there more times than most.

I looked at the Council who were flipping through the pages with barely contained fury. If this experience taught us anything then it was that we needed to find a way that shit like this would not fly under the radar again. Elle and Gabriel could help us figure something out because this was unacceptable.

She gestured for the binder back and flipped to another section entirely before passing it back to them.

"This section is dedicated to Dulaney specifically. Just so everyone in this room is aware, the Omegas that you've treated so poorly have been building cases against each and every one of you. This entire binder is filled with all of your dirty secrets including the ones you thought nobody would dig up," she said loudly so that everyone heard her.

"What about the other packs that came here?" I asked, looking directly at Alpha Andrew when I said it.

She flipped to another page and handed it to me. My blood ran cold when I saw some of the pack's names. I moved between Apollo and Thompson to show them because they would understand my reaction.

'This isn't fucking good at all,' Apollo said.

We both recognized some of the packs that we had contacts with. Not alliances per say, but contacts. If our mole was dealing with any of these then we were fucked. Elle felt my panic and came over to me. I pointed out three packs in particular to her.

'We have contacts with these packs. How long ago were they last here?' I asked her.

'The Ashton pack was here last month. Crevice Cove and Blood Moore came at the same time about a week before you showed up here.'

She flipped the page over and pointed out the names of the Alphas or guests that came with them. My mate was a genius with digging up information. I scanned the list and recognized some of the names, primarily the Alphas, since it was common practice for Alphas to know other Alphas by name. It was our duty to know those in charge.

'Are you sure that Elwyn Easton came with Alpha Bashir of

the Ashton pack? Do you remember what he looked like?'

She closed her eyes as she thought of an image and pushed it out through the link. I growled out loud when I saw. It was the same shoulder length brown hair, pointy chin, and pompous expression that he always wore. The telltale sign was that his right eye was brown and left eye was green. There was no mistaking who it was.

'The idiots put me in charge of the packhouse which meant I was privy to all of their dealings,' she explained.

'We found our mole. That's Elder Elwyn. Good job, darling. I'm proud of what you've accomplished here. You started keeping our pack safe long before you even knew we existed,' I told her sincerely before placing a kiss to her lips to steady myself.

I shared the news with Apollo and Gabriel while Tyre shared it with Thompson's wolf who then shared it with the rest of the Council. Their heads all snapped to me before looking at my mate with a mixture of awe and pride.

At least we knew who the traitorous Elder was now. I could not believe that he was the rat bastard who betrayed our pack. His father had been an Elder for my father. Elder Elwyn came from a long line of noble Elders who worked tirelessly to empower our pack. How did he turn out the way that he did? I could not believe we had not noticed. What all had he done to betray our pack? He played us, but it would not go unpunished.

'Did he do anything while he was here?' I asked her. Her silence was enough to clue me in. 'Did it include you?' She nodded slowly. Her teeth were firmly biting into her lip, and I was afraid that she was about to puncture it with how hard she was doing it.

'Did he touch you?' I asked, trying to reign in my rising anger.

Shame flowed through the bond, and that was all the confirmation that I needed. I wrapped my arms around her tightly, trying to provide her comfort while also trying to reign my own anger so that I would not just go detach him from life myself before he ever showed up tonight.

My own Elder took advantage of my mate. I did not know what he did, but that did not matter. He already signed his death warrant, but he would wish for death long before he would ever granted it. My pack knew me well enough to understand that I took the safety and prosperity of our pack very seriously. They also knew that I had no qualms in exacting whatever means were necessary to do just that. Likewise, there would be nothing that I would not do for my own mate.

'Don't you dare feel ashamed for what he did. I'm so sorry, darling,' I whispered through the link, choked up on the reality of this revelation. The words were woefully inadequate a sentiment. My own pack Elder touched her against her will.

'It's not your fault. The blame solely rests on him. He's the one that chose to do it.'

Nobody bothered us and gave us both a few minutes to collect ourselves. Oh, the asshole would be in for quite the

surprise when he showed up tonight. He would be held accountable to all of us, including the Council, the rest of the Elders, my mate who happened to be our future Luna, and me. Death would be too good for him, so I would ensure that he was treated properly first.

'Call the Elders in. Put some bullshit story together about needing their guidance on what to do. Elwyn will end up dying for what's done,' I told Apollo.

Apollo nodded before heading out to make the phone call. He did not even question my decision. He was my Beta for a reason. He was the best Beta I could have ever worked alongside. The appointment did not come because he was my best friend. No, it was because he was created for this. His affinity for this role was seen all throughout adolescence. There would not ever have been a better Beta than him. That was why he was mine.

I pressed a kiss to her head as she pulled herself out of my embrace. Gratitude shone brightly in her eyes when she looked up at me. It matched her emotions, and I was glad that I could help her even if I felt like I was not able to do anything.

Elle gave a small smile to Gabriel to help reassure him that she was okay as well. He had been there for her during all of this, and I could never adequately convey my deep gratitude for that. Nothing I could say or do would ever be enough to do so.

Elle walked back over to Dulaney and stared him down until he squirmed and broke eye contact first. He was the only weak one between him and her, and now she could finally show everyone that fact without fear of someone getting caught in the crosshairs. She had the binder opened up in front of her.

"Dulaney, you are formerly being accused of one hundred and two counts of rape, twenty-three of those were with pups, over three hundred counts of torture and physical abuse which includes adults as well as pups, ten counts of murder, and three attempts of a forced mate-bond of an underage pup. What say you?" Elle asked.

The way that she held herself was not someone who was avenging their own suffering. She was doing it diplomatically instead even though nobody would think poorly of her if she were to just slit his throat for what he did. My respect for her kept growing each time I saw a new piece of who she was.

"You think you are tough shit. Don't you? You're nothing but a whiny bitch that I should've killed long ago," he snarled at her.

"What say you?" she asked again, undeterred by his words.

"I say that you're a fucking piece of trash that can't take care of me her damn self. You hide behind the power and of others because you're nothing but weak."

Those words flooded her with satisfaction and excitement. I could already guess what she was thinking because Elle had an Alpha personality even if she was not technically an Alpha. I would prove how wrong he was if it had been me that he challenged.

"Gabe, would you mind running to grab me one of my training outfits?" she asked without removing her eyes from Dulaney.

"Absolutely," he said, flashing me a smirk before heading out the door in a run.

"Can someone please take the asshole off the wall and take him outside? I'm going to show him how very wrong he is so that when I kick his ass, he'll know that I hide behind nobody."

I started chuckling with that. Diego and Thompson went to remove him with just as much amusement that we all were feeling. I had no doubt whatsoever that Elle could take him. I was not thrilled with him being anywhere near her, but she needed this for more than just the challenge that he initiated. This was about her taking back control.

I turned her around and pulled her into me before nuzzling her neck. Her scent invaded my nose, relaxing me from the emotions running throughout me right now. She ran her fingers through my hair as if realizing how much I enjoyed it. The combination of her scent and her touch worked wonders on me.

"Do I need to ask who the forced marking was?"

"You know the answer, baby." Then she switched to mindlink as to not be overheard. 'Faye was given to me when I was ten but didn't fully awaken or present herself until I was thirteen. She protected me from the mark taking when I was eleven then again when I was thirteen and again when I was

fourteen. She swore to me that the only mark that would ever take would be from my true mate. She apparently knew that Eric was not my true mate but has always been cryptic with details that I couldn't know.'

I tipped her chin up and captured her lips with mine. I did not care that we were in a room full of people right now. What mattered was the woman in my arms. She had been through such unimaginable hell that never broke her. I truly could not even fathom strength like that, and it would help our pack tremendously as she helped lead it beside me.

"Did you want a round with him when I'm done?" she asked once we broke the kiss.

"If I said no then what would you do with him?"

"I had a few thoughts on how we could deliver justice. I feel that the Omegas should also get to take back some of the control they stole from them. None of the warriors should be able to live after what they've done to them. Public whippings before execution would give them some of that control back while they helped to deliver the blows," she suggested.

My eyes scanned the faces of those who were listening which was all of them. They looked terrified, and it pleased Tyre and me immensely. These assholes should have to suffer for what they did, and a simple death sentence was too much of a kindness. I also appreciated the fact that she wanted those who suffered to get that control back.

"I think that's a very wise choice, darling. By the way, we need to come up with a better term for them because our pack doesn't have Omegas," I told her as I threw my arm around her shoulder and led her from the stage.

"Really? Wow. What would their roles be there?" she asked curiously.

"It'll be up to them what their roles are. We have many different ventures and will help them as they learn to navigate the pack. You know them best, so I'm sure you can also help. Our warriors go through a grueling process, but the entire pack is free to try. Everyone that is able to is encouraged to attend training. We also offer apprenticeships around the pack. Everyone is compensated for the work that they do and have full authority on how it gets spent. There's also schooling for everyone who wants to attend. The younger ones have mandatory schooling through twelfth grade. There's also a university in the pack over from us that is open to our members if they want to attend. Some choose to attend online instead. It's all their own preference," I explained.

She stopped walking and turned to me being surprised. Her emotions were fluctuating so much that it was hard to get a grasp on them. She opened her mouth but closed it before trying again.

"You're being serious," she stated as if not able to fully comprehend what I said. "Kade I ..." she trailed off.

A few tears fell from her eyes, so I wiped them away with my thumbs.

My mate was overwhelmed with the fact that the people she fought so hard to protect were not only getting to leave this

hellhole but would also be getting to create a life that they were in charge of. They would get to dictate what path they wanted while getting to live the life they always deserved from the beginning.

"Your people are now my people, darling. They are now part of my family, and I'll protect them at all costs, treating them with the respect and dignity that they should've been given all along. This is my vow to you," I promised her.

