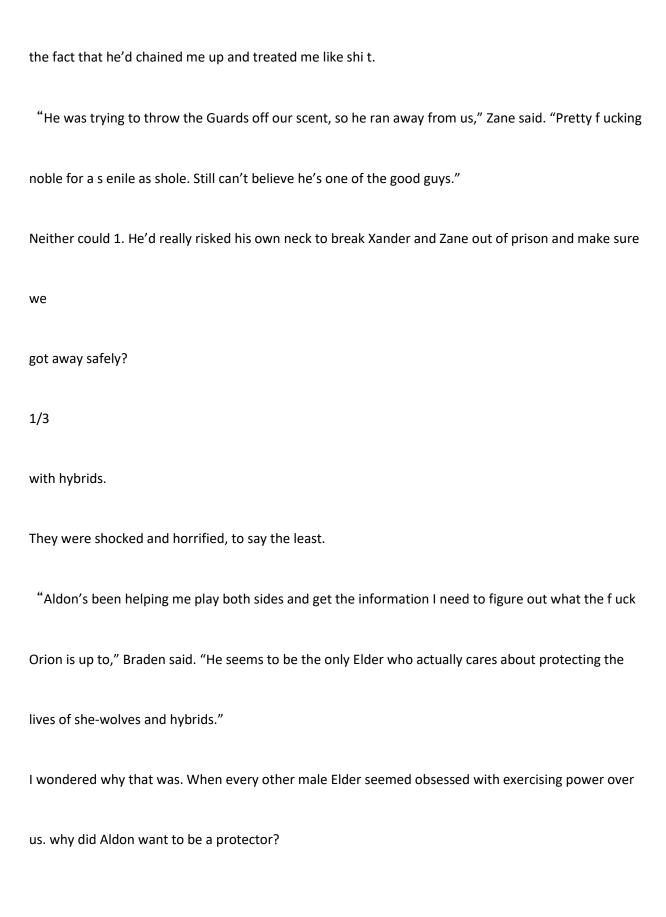
His Beta 165
Chapter 165
Lanie
Lame
"If we have no idea where we're going, then why are we all stuffed in this car together?" Xander asked
irritatedly.
I couldn't help but smirk. He was so annoying sometimes.
reduction their but simils. He was so annoying sometimes.
I So why had I run up to him and hugged him like that? I was grateful that he'd saved us, yes, but
honestly, I was also just happy to see him and Zane again, and so was Lily. She pranced around like
crazy as soon as they'd come running up to us.
<b>6</b>
This was going to be fun
I tried to catch Mason's eye after the hug, but he would hardly look at me. I didn't blame him. I knew he
hadn't been thrilled about returning to the mansion in the first place for this very reason he was worried
I'd run back into Xander and Zane's arms again.
i a ran back into Adhaer and Zane 3 arms again.
S hit, that was the first thing I'd done. A hot prickle of shame ran down my neck, and I rubbed it

self-consciously.

G ods, wherever we were going, I hoped it had enough space that Mason and I could be as far away
from Xander and Zane as possible. Otherwise, they'd kill each other before the Council even had the
chance.
"Because you can trust me," Braden answered. "I have good reason to want Lanie's safety, too, and it's
got nothing to do with wanting to get in her pants."
Heat crept to my cheeks. What did that mean?
"Thanks for that, Braden," I snapped.
"If this guy doesn't shut the f uck up, I'm gonna jump up there and make him," Xander mumbled. Mason
rolled his eyes next to me.
"Wait" Braden suddenly said, "Where'd Aldon run off to?"
Aldon??
"Oh g ods, don't tell me Aldon is your accomplice?" I asked, pinching the bridge of my nose with my
•
fingers.
The man who'd been so heartless to me for what he claimed were good reasons. That didn't change



It suddenly hit me that we were quickly speeding away from Constantine territory, and my heart
stopped.
"WAIT!" I cried. Braden skidded to a halt and pulled over. Everyone looked at me with expressions of
concern.
"Aren't we picking up my family first? "I asked desperately. "If Orion's been using Selena to gather
Information about me, then she and my mother are in danger."
Braden twisted around to face me in the back seat.
"I'm keeping an eye on them," he reassured me, pulling back onto the road. "They're safer not seeing
you. or knowing anything about where you've gone."
"But what if the Guards or the Elders torture them?" asked. The thought was unimaginable.
•
"Orion and any Guards will be able to tell whether or not your sister is lying to them," Braden said.
"They have no reason to hurt her as long as she stays in the dark."
I swallowed hard, fighting back tears. What could I say? I didn't want to put my sister through the

orture of having to meet with Orion, but I also couldn't put Stella in more danger. It was an impossible
ituation.

Plus, leaving them behind meant not seeing them for who knew how long again. And I'd already had to say goodbye to Mindy back at the mansion. I told her to go back to her family's place for the time being and take shelter there, but it was horrible leaving her behind.

It felt like I was constantly pushing away the people loved.

Mason laid his arm over my shoulder, pulling me closer even though we were already packed tightly together in the seat.

I closed my eyes and leaned my head against his chest. When would things be normal again?

Finally, Braden slowed down and pulled off onto a winding dirt path. He came to a stop in front of a tiny cabin tucked far away into the woods.

It looked like it couldn't be more than a couple of rooms. Guess having spaces of our own was wishful thinking...

As we all piled out of the car, I could tell the guys were worrying about the same thing,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Welcome to my enchanted abode," Braden said. "This is where you'll be hiding out."

"Uhhh how many bedrooms does this place have? Mason asked, co cking an eyebrow. 2/3

"Just the one," Braden said. "So you'll have to get creative."