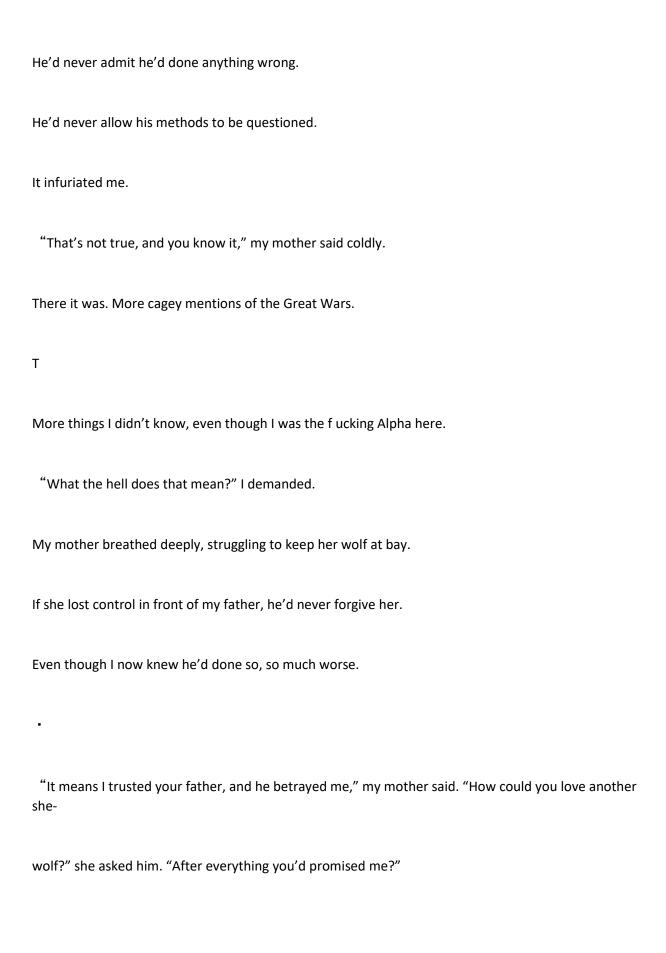
His Beta 78
Chapter 78
Xander
The tension in the air was so thick it practically choked me.
I was an only child.
That's what I'd thought my whole life.
Mason is your brother.
Why had no one ever told me about him?
"I thought you only had one mate," I finally said, not breaking eye contact with my father.
I was still compelling him. I needed the whole truth.
"He did as far as I knew," my mother answered instead, her voice shaky and her face pale.
Zane's shock radiated through me, mixing with my own like a megawatt jolt to the system.
So this was news to my mother, too.
Good to know I wasn't the only one without a fucking clue that I had a secret brother.
My mother continued. "In our time, Alphas didn't have to participate in mating ceremonies. Orion chose

me, and I chose him. I thought that bond was sacred."
Her voice broke, and my heart shattered along with
How dare my father keep this from her, from all of us, for all these years?
"Why d
did you do this?" I demanded, my eyes boring into my father's soul.
"I loved her," he said plainly. "During the Great Wars, the other side found out I was having an affair.
They threatened me, so I gave in to their demands."
"That's enough!"
My mother rushed between my father and me, breaking our gaze.
My father shook his head like he was coming out of a dream.
The compulsion was broken, but the damage had been done.
"You ended the war to save your own as s?!" A cry of anguish tore from her lips. "You allowed us to go
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back to our old, disgusting waysall because you didn't want anyone to know you're a cheater?"
I'd never seen my mother come apart like this, and it scared me.

Normally she was the glue that held this pack and our family together, but now that glue was cracking.
"Gabriela, you know what the consequences are for infidelity."
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Banishment to rogue territory at best. Death at worst.
"Not even Alphas are immune to it," my father said through gritted teeth. "Did you want me to rip our
family apart? Did you want me to leave you alone with a child?"
He gestured at me, and my whole body flamed with raging anger.
"Don't use me as an excuse!" I roared.
"Don't talk about things you don't understand!" he roared back.
Zane's hands fell heavy on my shoulders, holding me back from pushing past my mother and
strangling that lying mo therf ucker.
I wanted to shake him off, but I knew getting angry would only make my father more defensive.
It was always a vicious cycle with us.
"The negotiations I made to end the war benefitted everyone," he said, puffing his chest out.





"She died that same day? The day I was born?"
My father nodded solemnly.
"What time was Mason born?" my mother asked.
The eldest son was the heir to the Alpha title.
It was one of the most basic, longstanding rules of our pack-of any pack, for that matter.
"I don't know," my father said. "I've tried to find out, but without his mother, it's impossible."
"Then that means" I said, the realization hitting me like a silver dagger to the heart.
"I might not be the true Alpha."