

My Hockey Alpha #Chapter 141 The Antidote - Read My Hockey Alpha Chapter 141 The Antidote

Chapter 141 The Antidote

Nina

“Three... Two... One!”

On the count of one, Matt and I yanked the supply closet doors open. The rogue leaped out, but Enzo was ready in his wolf form, and tackled it to the ground. In a flash, Tiffany ran to the rogue’s side and jabbed the needle into its neck.

The rogue shrieked and wriggled harder against Enzo’s weight. Matt and I shot each other wary looks, but Tiffany seemed enthusiastic about her antidote.

And she was right.

The antidote seemed to be working. The rogue slowly faded back into a normal boy. Enzo hesitantly released his grip on the boy at Tiffany’s request before shifting back once more and instinctively putting himself between the boy and I again. Watching him be so protective over me made my heart skip.

“There,” Tiffany said, stepping back and looking down at the boy, who was slowly coming back to consciousness with a confused look on his face. “Now, we just need to figure out how to administer this to anyone else who’s been bitten — but I’m not sure if I have enough just yet.” She bent down as he tried to sit up and helped him, speaking to him gently in hushed tones.

Meanwhile, the doors that we barricaded began to rattle once more.

“I think we should get out of here,” Matt said warily, taking a few steps backwards away from the door. “I’m not sure how much longer that barricade is gonna hold.” As he spoke, one of the chairs that was piled on the top of the barricade clattered to the floor. Tiffany nodded and stood, helping the boy.

“We can get through to my office from here,” she said, nodding her head toward a service corridor at the back of the arena. “You guys get the others and bring them over. I’ll go ahead and gather the rest of

the antidote I have, and any other supplies we might need. We’re gonna have to go in the tunnels, I think.”

At the mention of the tunnels, I felt my stomach drop. Enzo and Matt ran off to the locker rooms and began to usher the students out while Tiffany ran ahead to gather her supplies; meanwhile, I could only stand there, frozen in fear.

Suddenly, another chair fell off of the barricade, causing the door to slide open a bit. I could hear the sound of the rogues snarling through the crack in the door. Their animalistic sniffing and growling made me sick to my stomach, but at the very least it snapped me out of my fear and allowed me to help Matt and Enzo.

"This way!" I said, gesturing for the group to follow as they filed out of the locker rooms. "Quickly."

The door slid open a little more. Matt and Enzo got the rest of the students out of the locker rooms and ushered them along at the back of the group. I ran over to the door that Tiffany disappeared through and opened it, keeping track of every single person who went through while the barricade began to break apart from the rogues on the other side. As I worked, I pushed the thought of going into the tunnels in the back of my mind; I had to stay sane for everyone's sake.

Suddenly, the barricade broke down the rest of the way and the first rogue burst in, skittering across the floor and looking around wildly until its yellow eyes finally locked on us. The last student ran through the doorway with Enzo and Matt on her heels, but just before we closed the door, I realized something as I stared frantically into the rogue's eyes.

I knew those eyes.

It was Justin. He had turned again.

His nostrils flared as he barreled toward the door. I felt myself freeze in the doorway, stuck in a state of disbelief. My eyes widened as he approached, his yellowed, sharp teeth bared. There was blood on his muzzle, and although I knew he intended to bite or even kill me, I couldn't move. I was frozen to the spot.

When a pair of strong arms wrapped around me and carried me away, I hardly even noticed until Matt slammed the door shut and slid the deadbolt across, blocking the rogues from coming through just before Justin slammed into the door from the other side, denting it.

Enzo carried me into Tiffany's office, where the panic-stricken students sobbed and huddled. He set me down, then grabbed me by both shoulders. "What was that about?" he asked, breathing heavily. "Didn't you hear me calling for you?"

"T-That was—" I couldn't get the name out, but I knew that Enzo understood. From the look in his eyes, I knew that he recognized Justin, too. But we didn't have time. Through the windows of Tiffany's office, we could see that the campus was crawling with rogues

— and the rogues saw us, too. They began to gather at the windows, watching and pacing.

Tiffany was too busy gathering supplies to notice the girl walking toward the windows, entranced.

“Get away from there,” I said, stumbling away from Enzo toward her. But it was too late. Enzo grabbed me, cursing under his breath, as she walked up to the window and put her hand on the glass.

“H-Henry?” she whimpered, recognizing one of the rogues.

For a long, palpable moment, the room was silent. The rogue — Henry, I supposed his name was — stared at the girl through the glass, sniffing.

Then...

He slammed into the glass.

Glass shards went flying everywhere. People screamed; there was an insurmountable panic. I heard Tiffany shout something. It was all nothing but a blur; I felt a hand grip mine and yank me away from the windows, but my eyes were fixed on the girl as she fell to the ground, limp. The rogue spit out her arm before locking eyes with me and beginning to snarl, licking its lips hungrily as its gaze slid down to my leg. When I followed its gaze, I saw a big shard of glass embedded in my thigh, and the leg of my jeans was slowly turning red, but I didn't feel it.

“Come on!” a voice yelled, yanking me further away. “Hurry!”

More rogues began to scramble in. Two, three, four... I couldn't even count them at that point. It was as though they smelled my blood. Somehow, I knew they were coming for me.

“Matt! What are you doing?!” Enzo's voice yelled from behind me.

“I have to find the others!” Matt replied. “Go! I'll hold them back!” I broke my gaze from the rogues to see Matt shifting; a rogue pounced on him, knocking him aside.

The last thing I saw before I was pulled into the dark tunnels and the heavy metal doors were slammed shut was the image of Matt fighting for his life. Everything went dark and quiet after that. For a moment, I thought that I had passed out from the glass sticking out of my leg, but then I heard murmuring. Someone flicked on their phone flashlight and cast the dark tunnel in a bluish tinge.

“Your leg,” Enzo said, crouching down to look at the wound.

I shook my head, feeling the tears streaming down my cheeks as I thought about Justin, Matt, Lori and Jessica, James... What would their fate be? How could I be concerned about a piece of glass in my leg when my friends could very well all be dead

Chapter 142 Back in the Tunnels

Nina

In the blink of an eye, Tiffany shoved her way up to me and slammed her medical bag down on the floor. In one swift motion, she yanked the glass out of my leg, dumped a bunch of alcohol on it that made me cry out in pain, then wrapped it tightly with gauze and a bandage.

"Sorry," she muttered when she was finished, standing and closing her medical bag. "Better to get it over with quickly."

I nodded, still biting my lip from the burn of the alcohol, but I knew that we had to get moving; I also knew that my leg would heal on its own rather quickly.

"Let's move," Enzo said to the group, then turned to me with a concerned expression on his face as Tiffany began to lead the group of scared students further into the tunnels. "Can you walk?"

I nodded again, then attempted to hobble forward and felt a shooting pain travel up my leg that made me wince and stagger back against the wall. Without a word, Enzo sighed and turned around, crouching in front of me. "Hop on."

"I'll be fine," I replied.

Enzo shook his head. "That wasn't a question. I'm carrying you."

At Enzo's firm request, I felt my face get a little hot. But, at the same time, the group was getting ahead of us now and we couldn't be sure how long we would have before the rogues burst through the doors. So, I climbed onto his back and wrapped my arms around his neck. He stood and looped his arms under my legs, then began to follow the group.

"Do you think Matt is okay?" I asked quietly, my voice quivering.

"I don't know," Enzo replied. "Maybe, if he didn't try to fight and just got away instead."

My mind wandered to Lori and Jessica then. I reached into my jacket pocket and pulled out my phone again, but when I tried to dial Jessica's number, I had no phone service in the tunnels. A small curse escaped my mouth.

“They’ll be okay,” Enzo said softly as he walked. “The Crescents are only biting people... Not killing them. And with Tiffany’s antidote—”

“We don’t know that for sure,” I replied. I felt a tear roll down my cheek, and I didn’t bother to wipe it away. The tunnel began to slope downward. Ahead of us, the group walked solemnly with Tiffany guiding them at the front. I wondered how long it would be before the two students who I managed to shift back would turn back into rogues. Now that I knew that Justin was still a rogue even after I’d shifted him back in the woods all those nights ago, there was no doubt in my mind that my newfound power wasn’t permanent.

Finally, the tunnels began to twist and turn. With each step, I felt as though my body was being compressed in all directions, and soon I would explode.

Suddenly, as though Enzo sensed this, he spoke. “Don’t worry. I’m here with you.” His voice was soft and gentle, a far cry from what one would expect from someone who just witnessed the horrors that the Crescents caused. Even though we were making our descent back into the tunnels where we were trapped and tortured for days, Enzo was as level headed as ever.

Eventually, the tunnel widened a bit. The group stopped ahead as Tiffany pushed open a door to a room. I felt a lump rise in my throat as I wondered if that room was the same room that Edward had me locked in, but it wasn’t. It was empty and dark.

“Let’s rest here,” Tiffany said, waving the students through. Enzo walked up to the door and allowed me to slide down from his back. Already, my leg was feeling a little better and I could put more weight on it

now. Tiffany shot us both a weak smile as the students gathered in the room and huddled, then pulled a walkie-talkie out of her bag and flicked it on.

I watched as she turned the dials on the walkie-talkie for a few moments before she found the right channel.

“Hello?” she said into it. “Cynthia? Are you there?”

There was a long silence. I pictured the dean laying dead in her office, or even roaming the campus as a rogue. Tiffany’s shoulders slumped with disappointment the longer the silence went on. Eventually, she seemed to give up and went to put the walkie-talkie away, only for a staticky voice to come through.

“Tiffany? Is that you? Where are you?”

Tiffany, Enzo and I let out a collective sigh of relief.

“I’m in the tunnels,” she replied. “I have students with me. Over.”

“Good. Stay there as long as you can. The campus is crawling with rogues — it’s not safe. Over.”

“What’s the plan? Over.”

The dean paused before answering. “I don’t know exactly. I’ve just contacted the Fullmoons. They’re sending help, but it’ll be hours before they get here. You have the antidote, right? Over.”

“Yes,” Tiffany replied. “I took everything I had. It’s not much, but it’s something. Over.”

There was another long silence, even longer now than the first one. I felt my heart sink as the dean didn’t answer.

“Cynthia?” Tiffany said. “Are you there?”

Still no response.

“Shit,” Tiffany muttered. “I think we lost connection.”

It was a relief to know that the Fullmoons were at least coming to help, but the fact that it would be hours at the very least was no consolation. We were stuck down here, in these dark tunnels, with no food or water aside from the few things Tiffany was able to grab from her office. The students started to murmur worriedly.

“It’s okay, everyone,” Tiffany said calmly. “Help is on the way. We’re safe down here. Let’s just all get some rest.”

“I’ll keep watch,” Enzo said quietly. Tiffany nodded, then looked at me.

“I’m staying with Enzo,” I said.

Enzo shot me a slight frown, but didn’t protest any further. Tiffany turned and retreated into the room with the students to tend to any injuries; when she was gone, I turned to Enzo as a thought popped into my head.

“Do you think Edward had any supplies down here?” I asked. “Food? Water?”

“It’s possible,” Enzo replied. He glanced into the room to check on Tiffany and the students, then gestured for me to follow and began walking down the hallway. “Let’s check really quick.”

I followed, noticing that my leg felt mostly fine by now aside from a slight pain. As we walked, we pushed open various doors to different rooms, but most of them were empty. But then, the hallway started to look familiar, and I suddenly stopped in my tracks.

"I can't go any further," I said, my eyes wide. "Our cells are just up there."

Enzo paused, looking where I was pointing. I heard him let out a shaky breath before he turned back to face me — then, in the darkness, I felt his hand intertwine with mine. "I'm here," he said. "It'll be okay."

I gulped. My heart began to race, but I felt stronger with Enzo's hand in mine and solemnly began to follow him again. We passed by the doors of our cells; his was still wide open with the door laying crumpled on the floor from Edward's impact. I shut my eyes tightly as we passed so I wouldn't have to look.

"Enzo," I said as we walked, just wanting to fill the silence, "can I ask you something?"

"Hm?"

"What did Ronan really say to you after your fight?"

He suddenly stopped in his tracks, frozen to the spot. I felt his hand tighten around mine. "It's not important," he began quietly, but I shook my head vehemently and turned to face him.

"I think I deserve to know."

Enzo was quiet for a long time. Even in the darkness, I could see him clenching and unclenching his jaw until he finally answered. When he did, his voice was grim and low.

"He told me that he's going to take you from me," he whispered. "Once he wins, he's going to take you."

I felt my heart drop into my stomach. "He wasn't talking about winning the tournament, was he?" I asked quietly.

Enzo shook his head. "No. I know that now. He was talking about winning a battle."

Chapter 143 No Way Out

Nina

"No," Enzo said soberly. "I know that now. He was talking about winning a battle."

A knot formed in the very depths of my stomach. I should have known; of course Ronan was still after me. But this entire attack couldn't possibly be completely centered around me, right? I lowered my head and kept walking, biting my lip as I thought about the possibilities.

"Is this all my fault, then?" I asked quietly as we walked.

Enzo stopped suddenly and grabbed me by my shoulders, turning me so that I was facing him. My skin raised into goosebumps at his touch, sending a slight chill down my spine. "Of course not," he said softly. "Ultimately, this is between the Fullmoons and the Crescents. Although, I do think that he saw this distraction as the perfect opportunity to try and kidnap you, but I won't let that happen. I promise."

"What if something happens and you can't protect me?" I whispered. "What if Ronan takes me?" I was afraid, more afraid now than I had ever been in my life. Not only was my campus, my home, in peril, but so was my life. Not just my life, but my friends' lives. For all I knew, Lori and Jessica, James and Matt, Luke and Justin... For all I knew, they were all dead or changed forever now. Even if we did come out of this victorious and Tiffany's antidote was able to save everyone, the scars were still there. The rogue that Enzo killed to protect me was still dead. And, without a doubt, Ronan would get away.

If I gave myself up, would my friends be safe? Could things go back to normal for them if I was no longer in the picture?

I felt a tear roll down my cheek. Enzo sighed and gently pulled me closer, wrapping his strong arms around me. His warmth emanated throughout my body, and for the briefest of moments, I felt genuinely safe. As long as Enzo was with me, I knew that everything would be okay. In that moment, the looming

arranged marriage no longer existed, and as his scent filled my senses, I knew that we would get through this.

I opened my mouth to speak, but before anything could come out, Enzo and I were alerted by the sound of crashing above. Something shook the ceiling above us, raining a thin smattering of dirt and dust down on our heads.

The rogues were coming.

Enzo and I pulled apart then stared at each other for a few moments as the understanding of the situation relayed between us. Tension filled the air; there was another silence, then another crash, and more dirt and dust rained down on us.

We ran.

We ran as fast as we could down the hallway. I didn't even feel the pain in my leg anymore, although whether that was due to my natural healing abilities or simply due to the adrenaline in my system was a mystery to me. It didn't matter, though. We had to move the students.

When we arrived back at the room and skidded to a halt in the doorway, the students were huddled in the corner with Tiffany at the front of the group, looking around wildly as she tried to contact the dean with her walkie-talkie again to no avail.

“Cynthia?!” she shouted frantically. “Are you there? Please! We can’t stay in the tunnels!”

But there was no response.

When Tiffany saw us, her frightened eyes widened. The room fell silent for a moment that felt like an eternity. Not even the air moved, and for a second, I thought that maybe the rogues had moved on, not realizing that we were down here.

But I knew that that was only a pipe dream when the ceiling rattled again.

No one needed to speak; everyone seemed to be of the same understanding that we needed to get out before the rogues came, and that feeling only intensified when we heard the sound of something large slamming into the steel doors at the main entrance of the tunnels.

Our only other way out was through the forest.

“Come on!” I said, ushering the frightened students through the doorway while Enzo led them further into the tunnels, toward the forest entrance. Once everyone was out, Tiffany and I followed at the back of the group, looking over our shoulders constantly as we ran. I felt her hand intertwine with mine, which was a comfort on this day filled with terror and gave me the strength to push my legs to carry me faster through the dark tunnels. While we ran, I felt my wolf’s power surge through me again just as it had when I ran through the forest, only now I felt my eyes focus in the dark. Everything began to brighten, giving me the sight I needed to guide myself and Tiffany through the tunnels.

Just then, we heard a final crash followed by a loud, booming howl echoing down the tunnels.

The rogues were inside.

We ran faster. Some of the students began to lag behind, but Tiffany and I pushed them forward, urging them to just keep running. These tunnels weren’t as long as I remembered; soon, we would reach the end. I hadn’t been through that way like Enzo had, but I trusted him to guide us, and he did just that.

The sounds of the rogues came closer. It was a deafening, grating sound that filled the walls of the tunnels and made my ears ring. I could hear their sharp claws scraping against metal, their guttural snarls, I could even smell their rank musk as they closed the distance between us. There had to be several. All I could imagine was the image of their bodies pressing together as they lurched through the

tunnels, following our scents and coming straight for us. And when I glanced over my shoulder with my newfound night vision, I swore I could see them chasing us far down the tunnel.

Finally, we came to the end. I watched ahead as Enzo clambered up a ladder. He pushed on something above his head, then the tunnel filled with light. The hatch was open. He climbed back down and ushered the students forward, helping them up the ladder one by one and shouting for them to run until only Tiffany and I were left.

“Go to the cabins,” Enzo said, helping Tiffany up the ladder and tossing her medical bag up to her. “I’ll meet you all there.”

“You’ll meet us?” I asked, my heart racing. Enzo only gritted his teeth and pushed me up onto the ladder, but I wouldn’t budge. “Enzo, you can’t stay!”

“They’ll only keep following us,” he insisted. “I have to hold them back. Don’t worry; I’ll apprehend them. I promise I’ll meet you soon.”

I felt tears begin to stream uncontrollably down my cheeks. “Let me help you, then,” I whimpered.

Enzo shook his head. There was a pain in his eyes that I knew he was trying to hide, but I could see right through it.

He knew that he might die down there.

“Go, Nina,” he said. “I promise I’ll meet you at the cabins.”

The sound of the rogues echoed closer. Enzo gave me one final shove up the ladder; I had no choice. I climbed up the rest of the way and crawled out onto the forest floor, sobbing as Enzo reached up and yanked the hatch shut behind me

Chapter 144 One Against Many

Enzo

“Go, Nina,” I said. “I promise I’ll meet you at the cabins.”

Nina shot me a pained, exasperated look. I knew that she didn’t want me to stay and she wanted me to go with her. I wanted to go with her, too. But, I had to stay because I knew that if I didn’t do something and stop the rogues, then they would only keep chasing us and eventually corner us. There were only a few and I knew I could take them.

I swallowed the fear in my stomach and gave Nina one last shove up the ladder. She was reluctant at first, but she gave in when she realized the true urgency of the situation and that she would only put everyone in more danger if she kept hesitating. Once she was safely out of the tunnels, I slammed the hatch shut, turned around, and faced the group of rogues that were coming for me. I pushed the sounds of her sobbing and

pleading out of my mind and shifted, feeling my wolf's power surge through me, and lowered my stance to prepare to attack.

The first Rogue ran at me. It leaped at me, snarling and spitting, and as it flew through the air I came up beneath it and brought my paw up to slash under its belly. It fell behind me, whimpering.

I knew that these were our classmates. It pained me to hurt them, but what could I do? If I could at least injure them and force them to shift back, then they wouldn't be able to hurt anyone else. With Tiffany's medical skills and Nina's healing abilities, I knew that no one would die today. One rogue had already been killed in the hockey arena by my own doing, and I was determined not to let that happen.

Another rogue leaped at me. I dodged, sliding out of the way as best as I could in the narrow tunnel, just barely managing to get out from under it before it slammed into me. As it landed behind me, I bolted forward and burst through one of the doors into a nearby room to give myself some more space.

The rogue scrambled to follow me. I watched as it skittered in through the open doorway, drooling all over the floor and growling at me with its sickly yellow eyes focused on me.

"Go on," I thought. "Attack me."

And it did. It lunged at me again, but I was prepared, and I leaped over it. As I did, I swung myself around and clamped my jaws around the scruff of its neck. When I bit down, hard, blood splattering everywhere, I heard it whimper and felt it become weak underneath me, almost as though it was cowering.

Then, it began to shift. It slowly turned back into a human, and as it did, I released my grip and stepped away.

My eyes widened as the girl who was revealed was someone who I knew very well.

Lori.

She was unconscious. Her neck wound wasn't terrible, and with her own natural healing powers caused from becoming a rogue, she would heal in time — but that didn't make me feel any less guilty for what I did.

But I didn't have time to stay. I heard more rogues coming down the hall, and I'd have to deal with them.

As I fought, all I thought about was Nina. I didn't care about anything else; not the Crescents, not the Fullmoons, not my mate or my father. I only thought about Nina, picturing her soft face with tears streaming down her cheeks as I pushed her up through

the hatch. I thought about how her lips felt on mine earlier when she had to run to find Tiffany, and how I had waited anxiously by the door the entire time, prepared to go out there and look for her if she didn't return soon. I thought about how brave she'd been through all of this. Even during the darkest of times, her kind spirit never faltered. She was

like an angel in my eyes, and I knew that I had to keep my promise to return to her, just as she had kept her promise to return to me when she ran to find Tiffany.

I loved her, and when all of this was over, I was going to back out of the arranged marriage no matter what my father said. I would run away with Nina if I had to, because I only wanted to be with her. It no longer mattered whether I met my fated mate or not; if Nina's wolf truly was going to emerge soon, then we could mark each other, and it wouldn't make a difference anymore.

That love kept me going. I fought tooth and nail against the onslaught of rogues, slowly working my way through each and every one until I eventually found myself standing amongst piles of unconscious students as they shifted back into their human forms for the time being.

Finally, the last roge was apprehended. I shifted back, panting, and leaned against the wall of the tunnel as sweat dripped down my forehead and the back of my neck. Everything was quiet now; with each bite, I had released a little bit of my dazing ability, allowing me to put each and every one of the students in a temporary sleep. It weakened me greatly, but at least now I would have time to find Tiffany again and come back to administer the antidote.

When I finally caught my breath, I slowly stepped over the unconscious bodies of my classmates. I recognized many of them — Justin was amongst them as well, just as Nina had implied earlier — and averted my eyes from those I did know, especially Lori. When I reached the ladder and found the first rogue that I'd injured, I realized that it was Jessica.

At least we knew where they were now. I was certain that Nina would be overjoyed to find her friends, although I still didn't know where Luke had gotten off to, and I was also certain that she would no doubt be asking about that little weasel, James. I hadn't seen him since we found his letter from his father that day; maybe he was too busy now having a field day killing werewolves, since the campus was

crawling with them. Or maybe, just maybe, he also wound up getting turned into a rogue in some sort of twisted, Kafkaesque way.

I gently moved Jessica out of the way, setting her down next to Lori, then climbed up the ladder and pushed the hatch open.

But as I did, the smell of something all too familiar came to my senses.

Blood.

I frowned, pulling myself out the rest of the way and looked around. Nina, Tiffany, and the students were nowhere to be found. Perhaps they made it to the cabins, after all. I sighed, standing and dusting myself off, before heading toward the cabins to meet them and get the antidote from Tiffany to cure the sleeping students below...

Until I realized where the smell of blood was coming from: the fresh blood trail that was leading in the opposite direction

Chapter 145 Sacrifice

Nina

The sound of the rogues echoed closer. Enzo gave me one final shove up the ladder; I had no choice. I climbed up the rest of the way and crawled out onto the forest floor, sobbing as Enzo reached up and yanked the hatch shut behind me. The last thing I heard as the hatch shut was the sound of the rogues advancing on Enzo and the low, deep growl that rumbled in his throat as he shifted.

That sound was immediately replaced by the sound of frightened gasps, shrieks, and running footsteps through the woods.

I looked up to see that the students had scattered, because we were surrounded.

Ronan and Lisa stood in front of me. On either side, they were flanked by their werewolf minions in their wolf forms; Ronan's hockey team.

"Hello, Nina," Ronan said with a grin, approaching me.

Suddenly, Tiffany jumped in front of me, arms outstretched. "You stay away from her," she snarled protectively.

Ronan merely rolled his eyes and snapped his fingers. In the blink of an eye, two werewolves pounced on Tiffany. I watched in horror as she was knocked to the side. My view of her was blocked, but I heard a scream, a sickening crunch, and then silence.

There wasn't even enough time for a sob to escape my throat before Ronan stormed toward me and grabbed me by my arm, yanking me to my feet.

"Why are you doing this?" I begged. Meanwhile, Lisa only stood behind him with a grim smirk on her face. "Lisa, you knew Tiffany!" I screamed, struggling against Ronan's grip to no avail. "She was your school doctor! How could you let this happen?!"

Lisa didn't answer.

Before I could struggle anymore, Ronan let out an exasperated groan and dragged me away from the hatch, through which I could hear Enzo still fighting the rogues. “Go chase down those students,” he said to his minions. “Lisa and I will handle this one.”

“Let me go!” I shrieked, digging my heels into the forest floor and struggling with all my might to get away from Ronan. I managed to wrench myself free somehow and sprinted back toward the hatch, lunging for it with the hopes of opening it so Enzo could at least see that something was wrong, but I suddenly felt something slam into my back and throw me to the ground. Ronan grumbled something behind me that I couldn’t quite make out, and then I felt him pick me up and throw me over his shoulder. He began to walk with Lisa trailing behind him, both of them ignoring my pleas for them to let me go. Even as I pounded my fists against Ronan’s back and kicked my legs as hard as I could, he didn’t budge. All I could do was scream as loud as I could in the hopes that Enzo would hear me, but the hatch never opened.

As Ronan carried me away, I lifted my head and blinked through my hot tears, watching the lifeless form of Tiffany’s body being dragged away by a werewolf and the hatch, along with the sounds of Enzo fighting, faded into the distance.

I wasn’t sure how long they carried me for. To me, it could have been hours or minutes. I eventually stopped struggling as I realized that Ronan wasn’t letting me go.

Finally, we stopped. Ronan tossed me off of his shoulder and onto the ground like a sack of flour, causing me to groan in pain and wheeze from the sudden force.

“There you are,” an all too familiar voice said.

It felt as though my heart stopped. My throat constricted, leaving me unable to scream or even speak. All I could do was stare up with wide eyes as a tall, dark figure walked into view and crouched next to

me.

Edward.

He reached out, smiling, and brushed a bit of hair out of my eyes.

“You’ve been very naughty,” he murmured. “But it’s okay. It’s over now.”

I gulped. “Are you going to kill me?” I choked out. Behind Edward, I heard Lisa’s abrasive, cackling laughter along with Ronan’s low chuckle, but Edward only smiled and shook his head.

“Of course not,” he said gently. He slid a hand under my back and helped me sit up. I flinched away from his touch, scrambling to my feet and taking a few steps backwards — but Ronan stepped into the way before I could leave.

"What do you want from me?" I asked.

"I think you know already," Edward replied, stepping toward me again now that I had nowhere to go. "The choice is simple. Come with me willingly, and the assault on your dear campus will end. If you don't come willingly... Well, you'll still be coming with me, but everyone here will die. So, the choice is yours: life or death for your precious friends?"

"How do I know you're telling the truth?" I snarled. "You already killed Tiffany. She loved you, you know."

Edward chuckled, then waved to someone behind a tree. I looked to where he was gesturing, my eyes widening as I saw one of Ronan's hockey players step out from behind the tree with the dean. They had her wrists bound and her mouth gagged, and her eyes were frantic.

"I know that Tiffany had a bit of a crush on me since college," Edward said nonchalantly as the hockey player brought the dean over. "It's a shame. She was such a pretty girl, but... Not my type, as you well

know." He paused, then gestured to the hockey player again. The hockey player released his grip on the dean and allowed her to run over to me. I immediately reached out and untied her wrists, then pulled the gag out of her mouth. Edward and the others just... let me do it.

"Nina," the dean whispered, her voice shaking, "don't listen to him. Don't—"

Edward sighed. Ronan swiftly grabbed the dean. His eyes flashed yellow, and then she fell limp, unconscious, into his arms.

"If I was truly a monster, I would've had her killed already," Edward said. "I promise I'm telling the truth. Come with us, and this whole thing will be a lot easier. Your friends' lives can go back to normal. No one will remember a thing."

I didn't want to believe him. But either way, it seemed that I had no choice but to go with him.

"What about Enzo?" I asked.

Edward chuckled again. Behind me, I heard Lisa let out a small, annoyed growl.

"Your sweetheart will be fine," Edward replied. "In fact, he's looking for you now. If he finds you, I will have to kill him... Understand?"

I glanced over my shoulder, praying deep down that Enzo would come running now and rescue me — but if it really would only put him in danger, along with the rest of the campus, then I had no choice.

“Fine,” I whispered. “I’ll go.”

A sly smile spread across Edward’s face. He snapped his fingers, and a purple, swirling portal grew behind him — just like the one from the night that K tried to kidnap me. I gulped again as Edward

stepped up to me and took my hand. His demeanor was calm and gentle, but his grip was so strong it hurt.

“I think you’ve made an excellent choice,” he said with a smile. “After you.”

I swallowed, my heart racing uncontrollably... then took a deep breath and stepped into the portal

Chapter 146 Gullible

Enzo

As I began to walk toward the cabins, something sinister caught my eye. Suddenly, I stopped in my tracks as I realized where the smell of blood had been coming from. I felt my heart sink when I saw it: a fresh blood trail. It was leading in the opposite direction of the cabins; had something happened to the group before they made it?

I decided to follow the trail. It didn’t go far — ten, twenty yards at the most — and eventually ended behind a small grouping of trees. When I saw what laid at the end of the trail, however, I wished that I hadn’t.

It was Tiffany.

Her body was bloody and mangled. Something had cut through her neck; something sharp, like teeth. I could smell the musky scent of another male wolf all over her, and I instantly knew that it was no mere rogue who did this to her, but rather another werewolf.

I fell to my knees. A guttural sound escaped my lips, something that I’d never heard come out of my own mouth before. Pure, unbridled grief. I slammed my fists on the forest floor, gritting my teeth and seething. Whoever had done this to Tiffany would pay... I could feel my eyes beginning to glow as I thought about how I would rip whoever did this to shreds when I found them.

But I couldn't stay for long. I had to find Nina and the others; something equally as sinister may have happened to them, and I couldn't live with myself if they were all dead as well... Especially Nina.

I stood, curling my hands into fists, prepared to fight and kill whoever did this when I found them.

It seemed, however, that someone was waiting for me already. I felt a sharp blow to the back of my neck, and then everything went dark.

...

I woke up some time later in a dark place that smelled oddly like damp dirt and rusted metal. As soon as my eyes opened, I jerked my head up and looked around frantically. It seemed that I was in some sort of run-down barn, and through the huge sliding doors at the back, I could just barely see a sliver of light. I was sitting on a chair, but my wrists were tied behind it and my ankles were tied to the legs so I couldn't move. No matter how hard I struggled, the ties wouldn't come loose.

Suddenly, a lightbulb flickered to life overhead. It swung slightly from the ceiling, creating eerie, moving shadows across the room, until it finally illuminated none other than Ronan and Lisa standing in front of me. Between them was a camera on a tripod.

"What the fuck are you two doing?" I snarled as I struggled against the ropes.

Lisa let out a deep, irritated sigh, but didn't respond. I watched as she sauntered haughtily up to me; even now, in the midst of a campus-wide battle and freezing cold weather, she was wearing a short skirt and a skimpy jacket, just as she always did. Frankly, I wasn't surprised. She hiked the skirt up even further, exposing the bottom of her panties, as she walked up to me, then sat down on my lap and straddled me. With a flick of her hair, she wrapped her arms around my neck and planted a wet kiss on my lips. I jerked my head back, but she blocked me from getting away with her hands, and only kissed me harder.

Finally, she pulled away. I spit on the ground at her feet as she climbed off of my lap.

"Don't mind me," she said, twirling a bit of hair around her finger as she turned on her heel and sauntered back over to the camera. "Just a little farewell kiss."

"Farewell? What are you talking about?" I asked. "Where's Nina?"

Ronan chuckled. "It's always about Nina, isn't it?" he asked. "She's been taken care of; don't worry. Besides, it won't matter anymore because you're not walking out of here alive." As he spoke, he walked over to a nearby table and grabbed a pistol. I watched in horror as he meticulously loaded it, then cocked it. Meanwhile, Lisa angled the camera,

squinting as though she was trying to get the perfect shot of what was about to be my murder.

“You’re seriously gonna kill me on camera?” I asked, letting out a wry, disbelieving scoff at the situation. Were the Crescents really going so far as to kill the Fullmoon Alpha’s son on camera?

Ronan simply shrugged and spun around to face me with the gun in his hand. “If it were up to me, I’d do it with a little more pizzazz,” he said, walking up to me. “But... My dad wants it his way. Quick and clean, but a clear message nonetheless.”

I couldn’t believe it. I couldn’t die in here — not like this, and especially not when Nina was still out there somewhere, and she needed me.

“Since I’m a dead man anyway,” I said, stalling for time as I covertly looked around for some sort of advantage to help me get out of here, “tell me... What sort of message are you referring to?”

“Isn’t it obvious?” Ronan said, gesturing with the gun as though he wasn’t holding a lethal weapon in his hand. “The tournament was never meant to be anything except for a distraction, and distract you it did. You see, you and your dad think you’re so different, but you’re still cut from the same cloth. You’re both gullible losers who can’t see a loaded gun in your face, even when the barrel is still hot.”

“Gullible, huh?” I asked, cocking my head.

It almost made me laugh — because, while Ronan was talking and Lisa was focusing on the camera, the door behind them cracked open. Luke’s head popped in, and I shot him the briefest glance that told him all he needed to know. The door opened just a tiny bit wider. Luke squeezed in, scampering into

the shadows behind a run-down car that seemed to have been sitting there for decades. Behind him, the rest of my team filed in and did the same. I found it laughable that, while Ronan was standing here and calling me gullible, my entire team was coming to my rescue right under his nose.

“Yeah,” Ronan continued, raising the gun to my head. “Gullible.”

“Talk about gullible, jackass,” Luke’s voice said from the shadows. Ronan whipped around, and in that moment, Luke leaped out and walloped him on the head with a baseball bat, knocking him out instantly before he had so much as a chance to react. The gun went sliding across the floor, thankfully without going off. Lisa shrieked and lunged for it, but it was too late; Matt and Bryce had her restrained, struggling and screaming obscenities beneath their grip.

While Matt and Bryce held Lisa, Luke ran over to me and began to untie me.

"Do you know where Nina is?" I asked frantically, jumping up out of my chair as soon as my restraints were undone.

Luke frowned and shook his head. "No... I thought she was with you."

Chapter 147 Through the Veil

Nina

With one last, deep breath, I stepped through the portal with Edward. For a fleeting moment, I felt as though my body was weightless, almost as though I didn't even exist. I didn't know where my flesh ended and the vacuum around me began; I felt like everything and nothing at the same time.

Then, it was over in a flash.

We came out on the other side of the portal, and everything was quiet. As I looked around, felt a wave of confusion wash over me; the forest around me was exactly the same as before, but almost like a mirror image. Lisa, Ronan, and the dean were gone. It was only me and Edward.

"Strange, isn't it?" Edward asked with a chuckle, breaking my train of thought and snapping me back to this strange new reality. "Exactly the same, but entirely different all at once. Don't worry; you'll get used to it."

"Just take me wherever you were planning on taking me," I growled. I wrenched my hand free from Edward's and curled my hands up into fists at my sides as I stared ahead solemnly. If I was going to die today, I just wanted to get it over with.

"So be it," Edward replied. "Follow me."

We walked through the woods in silence for a little while. It really was strange, walking in a place that I knew well, but at the same time, didn't know at all. Either way, I kept my head down and followed Edward. There was nothing else to do at this point. If this would save my friends and my campus, then I would let whatever was about to happen... happen.

Finally, after a while of walking, we came out to a road. On that road sat a black car. I felt the knot in my stomach grow larger, but as Edward walked up to it and opened the back door, I swallowed my fear

and climbed inside. He shut the door behind me.

"Finally," a female voice said. I looked over to see what looked like a young woman with her face hidden by a black veil. She was sitting still in the seat next to me with her legs crossed and her hands folded in her lap. "You've been quite the little troublemaker."

“Who are you?” I asked shakily, just wanting to cut straight to the chase.

The girl chuckled. “You’ll find out soon enough,” she said. The car began to drive.

“Are you going to kill me?”

Now, instead of a chuckle, the girl threw her head back and laughed. It was eerie hearing her laugh without being able to see her face. “Not necessarily,” she said. “I haven’t quite decided yet. But for now, I’m going to take you somewhere very special...”

She reached out, and before I could flinch away, she placed her index finger right in the middle of my forehead.

“Sleep.”

...

I woke up some time later, although how long I was asleep for was a mystery to me. It felt as though I blinked for just a few moments after the veiled girl touched my forehead, but at the same time, my body felt as though it had been days.

I groaned and sat up, looking around the dark room I was in. It smelled like wood and pine trees, and thankfully, I was free to move around. I turned my head to see a window to my left that led out to the forest around me, and suddenly, I realized that I was in some sort of small, one-room cabin. There was a little wood stove and a table with a single chair beneath the window, and a bookshelf on the far wall.

For all intents and purposes, it was surprisingly cozy, and it made me wonder if I’d fallen asleep in one of the cabins outside the campus and simply dreamed up all of the atrocities that happened.

Quietly and warily, I stood and walked over to the door. I listened for a moment, waiting to hear if anyone was there, but I heard nothing — so I opened it and stepped out. I wasn’t at the cabins outside the campus; I was alone. There was nothing nearby aside from a small pond and dark pine trees. The sky was dark, like a rainstorm at dusk, but there was no rain or wind. It was entirely still and quiet. Was I dreaming?

Suddenly, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I spun around, holding my fists up, then stumbled backwards as I saw the veiled girl standing there.

“Like it?” she said, gesturing around. “I tried to make it cozy enough for you. Something familiar.”

“W-Why?” I asked.

The girl shrugged, then walked over to a stump with an ax sticking out of it. I expected her to grab the ax and attack me with it, but she only ran her finger absentmindedly along the handle.

"I don't want you to be completely miserable," she said thoughtfully. "Only out of the way."

I frowned. "Out of the way of what?"

"Of my mate, of course," she said.

"You mean..."

"Bingo!" the girl said, spinning on her heel to face me, although her face was still hidden by the veil. "You are as smart as they say." She paused then, and folded her arms across her chest as she walked

up to me. "I'm going to marry Enzo," she murmured. "I know you're only going to get in the way, so I decided to take matters into my own hands, sister."

Suddenly, my eyes widened. "Sister?" I asked.

Just then, the girl raised her hand and slowly lifted the veil. I felt my heart drop and my head begin to reel as she slowly exposed her face. Her chin, her lips, her nose, her eyes... They were all mine. She looked exactly like me. "No," I stammered, taking a few steps back. "I don't have a sister. This can't be real."

"Oh, but you do," she said, following me. "No one ever told you? Well, I suppose they thought it was for the best— but I knew about you all along. My twin sister, separated at birth. Ripped from her crib by Crescent assassins. I always thought you were dead... I would've preferred it that way, honestly. But then, to find out that you were in fact alive, and were trying to steal my fated mate away... I couldn't have that."

At the girl's words, everything began to make sense... The strange photograph, the way that I was just dropped on my mother's doorstep...

"So that's what all of this was about?" I asked. "Taking over an entire school because you're worried that someone else might steal your mate? And why work with the Crescents if you plan on marrying a Fullmoon Alpha?"

"Let me be clear," the girl replied, frowning. "I had nothing to do with that attack. You can blame the Crescents for that. I only wanted you brought to me, and it turns out that there are a few Crescents who were willing to get the job done for the right amount of money. When I heard that the Crescent Leader was planning an attack to take over the Fullmoons, I knew it would be the perfect time to do it. Amidst all of the chaos, no one would think that your disappearance was anything but an accident."

I scoffed, folding my own arms across my chest now. "So," I said, feeling incredulous at the situation, "now that you've got me, what do you plan on doing with me?"

The girl shrugged. "I don't plan on doing much. You'll discover soon enough that you can't leave here; I've made sure of that. You'll live here comfortably, but you'll be alone until the day you die."

"Why not just kill me, then?"

Now, the girl grinned. "Because that would be too merciful."

Chapter 148 A Fresh Trail

Enzo

Luke frowned and shook his head. "No... I thought she was with you."

I felt my heart sink. Had something horrible happened to Nina, or had she gotten away somehow? If Tiffany was dead... What if Nina was dead, too?

"I have to find her," I said as I tried to keep my head clear despite my pounding heart. "Sh-She could be hurt—"

Suddenly, Lisa chuckled. "She's not hurt," she snarled. I felt my hands curl up into fists as I slowly turned to face Lisa, who was still being held by Matt and Bryce, and I stormed up to her and grabbed her around the neck.

"Where is she?" I growled. "What did you do with her?"

"It's not necessarily what I did with her," she said, grinning slyly. "I was just a little helper. Edward, on the other hand..."

My eyes widened. "Edward took her?"

Lisa nodded slowly. "You're too late, though. He's in the werewolf realm. She's probably with The Sister now, anyway." She looked so pleased with herself it made me want to throttle her, but I didn't. I controlled myself and released my grip around her neck, stepping back and passing a hand over my face. I would have to find a way to open a portal, but... I didn't know how. I'd never done it before.

"Luke," I said suddenly, spinning to face him. "Can you open a portal?"

He stood, pursing his lips. "I can. It'll sap a lot of my energy, and it'll probably turn me back into a skeleton, but... I'll do anything for Nina."

I watched gratefully as Luke began to open the portal. Meanwhile, I called over my shoulder to the others. "Make sure these two don't go anywhere," I said. "I promise I'll be back as soon as I can."

"Take all the time you need," Matt said, holding the wriggling Lisa like she was nothing in his arms. "Just bring our Nina back safely."

I nodded, managing a weak smile. Luke finished opening the portal, and we stepped through.

...

When we came out the other side, we were still standing in the abandoned barn, but only without the others here. Luke came with me, closing the portal behind us. When I looked over at him, I saw that he had returned to his old skeletal self — which was a shock after getting used to seeing him with flesh recently.

"I'm really sorry," I said. "I'll find you another witch."

Luke shook his head. "Don't worry about it. Finding Nina is more important."

Thankfully, as we walked out of the barn and began to head back to the area where I'd last seen Nina, I was able to pick up her faint scent. It was much stronger now, which was strange, but it didn't matter; all that mattered was that I would find her soon, and would hopefully find her before it was too late. I needed to find this 'Sister' too and be done with whoever she was for good.

The longer we followed the trail, however, the more I began to realize that there was something slightly different about this scent. I couldn't quite place my finger on it, but I decided to keep going anyway. Soon enough I was bound to find some sort of clue as to Nina's location. We came to the spot where the tunnels normally would have been, then followed the faint scent from there until finally, we came out to a road.

"Shh. Wait." Luke suddenly stopped in his tracks and put his bony finger to where his lips would normally be, then fell silent. I stopped as well, straining my ears...

And then an all too familiar scent overwhelmed my senses. It wasn't Nina, but rather... It was Edward. He stepped out of the bushes, silent as a wraith, with an evil grin on his face.

"Long time no see, Mr. Rivers," he said from a distance. I felt my heart pulsate angrily. My vision blurred for a moment as I pictured myself charging at him and killing him for everything horrible he'd done, but I restrained myself because he was the only link I had right now to where Nina was.

"Where is she?" I asked brusquely.

Edward raised an eyebrow. "Who?"

"Don't play stupid with me, asshole," I growled. "Where's Nina?"

"Ah! Her!" Edward replied. His nonchalance made me want to choke him. "She's gone now. The Sister has her. But you'll never find her, and I certainly won't let you try." As he spoke, he began to shift. I took a step back, curling my hands into fists as I watched his human form fade away, replaced with the big, black wolf form from my nightmares. As he shifted, my mind flickered back to how he'd almost killed Nina in the tunnels, but I shook my head to get those images out as he raised his hackles and growled menacingly.

"Go," Luke murmured, stepping in front of me. "I'll handle him. Just go and find Nina."

"You can't take him on your own," I said. "He'll rip you to shreds."

Luke only shook his head. "I said, go. Now!"

Before I could protest, Edward leaped into the air for me. But Luke was quick and he whispered some sort of incantation that pushed Edward back and slammed him to the ground with an invisible force. I wanted to stay and fight, but I knew that he was right; I had to find Nina before it was too late. As Edward stood and attempted to charge at Luke again, only to be blasted backwards once more from the force of another spell, I raced away as fast as I could in the direction of Nina's scent.

The last thing I heard as I ran away was a lone howl escaping Edward's throat.

I wasn't sure how long I ran for. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me, following the scent all the while, until I was certain that I had put enough distance between myself and Edward. I prayed that Luke came out victorious, but neither he nor Edward caught up to me. Finally, I slowed down to catch my breath and leaned against a tree, feeling my chest heave from the exertion as my lungs struggled to take in air.

As I leaned with my eyes shut, the forest was quiet... Too quiet, in my opinion, but I didn't have time to wonder at it and took one last deep breath before picking up my pace again. The scent was getting stronger now — I was sure of it. Soon, I was certain that I would find Nina and take her home safely, but I couldn't deny the horrific images of what might have happened to her that lingered at the back of my mind.

As I began to walk again, however, I was alerted by the first sound I'd heard in a while. It wasn't the sound of wind, or any forest animal.

It was the sound of a portal opening behind me.

I spun around, my eyes wide as I prepared to fight Edward — but it wasn't him. It was my father.

“Dad?” I said.

He only offered a grim look in response that made my stomach drop.

“Come with me, Enzo.

Chapter 149 Fated Mate & Missing Love

Enzo

“Come with me, Enzo,” my father said after stepping out of the portal.

I frowned, taking a step back. How did he even find me? “I’m not going anywhere until I find out where Nina is,” I said.

My father looked concerned, but said nothing about Nina. Instead, he only sighed and said, “Everything will be alright. Just come with me. Please. You’ve been summoned.”

“Summoned by who?”

“The Alpha King.”

I felt my eyes widen. The Alpha King summoned me already? Why now? “But the campus—”

“The campus will be taken care of,” my father said. “Our men are preparing to clean it up as we speak. With the Alpha King’s men, I’m confident that we’ll have the campus back to normal in no time.” He gestured then for me to follow, and I did; not because I particularly trusted wherever he was leading me to, but instead because something seemed to be telling me that this would lead me to Nina. Fio seemed to be certain of it. We walked through the woods for a few minutes in silence, which was only broken by the sound of the leaves and twigs crunching under our feet, before my father led me to another road. A black car that I didn’t recognize was waiting for us there. He opened the door and got in, then I got in behind him after a few moments of nervous hesitation.

“Ronan—” I began, thinking back to Ronan and Lisa’s plan to execute me on camera as the car started to drive away.

“I know,” he interrupted solemnly. “Your friends did well in apprehending him and the girl, and we’ve taken them both into our custody. I knew that his father would pull something like this; I just didn’t think

it would be so soon. I thought that he would at least give the tournament a chance first, but I was wrong about him once again. I was naive to think he’d changed somehow.”

"You knew him in college," I said quietly. "Tiffany told me about the Peacekeepers, about you, Ronan's dad, the dean... And Nina's mother."

Once again, my father nodded grimly. He seemed to tense at the mention of Nina's mother. "I did some research after you mentioned a curse on Nina's brother," he said finally after a minute of silence. "I believe it was Ronan's father who inflicted the curse on his own illegitimate son."

"But... Why?"

He shrugged. "An unwanted child, perhaps. Or a threat to his bloodline. The boy is a halfblood with no wolf — it's possible he saw that as a means of sully his lineage, and he thought the boy would die from the curse."

I frowned as I thought about it. To think that young love could result in something so heinous... It made me sick. "As for Nina?" I asked then, rather angrily, pressing him once more for information. "Don't you know where she is?"

"I'm afraid I'm not quite sure," my father replied so nonchalantly it made me sick. "I'm sure she's fine. I'll send some of our men to look for her so she can go home safely with her friends, if it means that much to you."

My father's words were a slight comfort, but it wasn't enough to ease my anxieties. The road twisted and turned, and eventually, we came upon the enormous mansion estate where the Alpha King lived with the Luna. Here, I would meet their daughter, I assumed, but all I could think about was whether Nina was within those walls... Because as the mansion came closer, I could smell not one, but two very similar scents. One was strong. The other was incredibly faint, but it was there, and I knew it was Nina's scent.

"Why did he summon me now?" I asked.

"Enzo, I'm afraid that the Crescent attack has grave consequences on not only our pack, but the entire world. This is just the first attack of many; if they take control of Mountainview, they'll only continue to spread. Soon, the world will be overrun with rogues."

"So the alliance is going to happen now," I replied.

"The alliance, yes. The marriage will still wait, but the Alpha King wanted you to meet his daughter now. He wants to make sure that you are indeed his daughter's mate before he allows the alliance. I know it's sudden, but..."

"I know. We don't have another choice," I said. I still only cared about finding Nina, but if this was my link to finding her, then so be it. Even if I would have to mark the Alpha King's daughter before I could find Nina, I would do it if it meant bringing her to safety.

As we pulled up the long, winding driveway to the mansion, I felt a pit form in my stomach. The two scents grew a little stronger — but why were they so similar?

The driver pulled us up to the front, where several guards were waiting. “Fix your hair,” my father said. I sighed and checked my hair in the rearview mirror before getting out and smoothing my bloody, dirty shirt down. Then, I followed my father and the guards up the massive marble stairs to the mansion and walked through the enormous front doors.

We entered into a large throne room with a long corridor that led down to the throne where the Alpha King sat ahead of us. Next to him stood a girl; her face was covered, but I could smell her scent from here, and I knew it was my mate. Fio responded strongly inside of me, but I quelled his excitement. I had to keep a level head because, above all else, I had to find Nina... And I knew, somehow, that I would find clues here.

The throne room was silent as my father and I walked down the aisle. We stopped in front of the throne; I felt my heart start to pound as I felt the princess’s eyes staring at me through her veil. My father dropped to one knee in front of the Alpha King, as did I.

“Rise,” the Alpha King said nonchalantly. My father and I stood. The Alpha King was silent for a moment, then stood and slowly walked down the steps to meet us while his daughter stood motionless beside the throne. The King was tall and thin, with salt-and-pepper hair and a well-groomed beard. He wore a pristine suit and tie.

“So,” the Alpha King said. “You’re my daughter’s fated mate.” He looked me up and down, taking in my appearance.

“So I’ve been told,” I replied. “I’m sorry for my appearance—”

The Alpha King raised his hand for me to stop. “No worries. I understand that your campus was attacked earlier today.”

“Yes, sir.”

“I also understand that you fought valiantly to protect your fellow students.”

“I tried. I’m afraid I wound up losing them,” I said. There was a pause. I wanted so badly to ask where Nina was, what had been done with her, but I couldn’t. Somehow, I had a bad feeling about all of this, and I was worried that mentioning Nina wouldn’t be a good idea. I was completely alone in this.

The Alpha King was silent for a moment, but he didn’t seem unkind. Finally, he turned and waved for his daughter to come forward. She lifted up her long skirt and slowly walked down the steps, finally coming to a stop in front of me. Her scent overwhelmed me and I felt my head begin to spin, but I gritted my teeth and tried to keep a level head. I just had to find Nina; that was all that mattered.

Finally, the girl lifted her veil.

My eyes widened and my heart leaped into my throat.

She looked... Exactly like Nina. I almost jumped for joy, thinking that it was her at first, but at a second glance I knew she wasn't. There were subtle differences in their appearances. The princess lacked the freckles that dotted Nina's nose, and her eyes were gray, not brown. And... I could also sense a more faint, similar scent on her skin. She had a trace of Nina's scent on her. I was sure of it, and it made my blood boil. Had she done something to Nina? Had my father had something to do with it? I wouldn't be surprised if they had her locked up somewhere, hidden from the rest of the world—

"Well, my darling Selena?" the Alpha King asked, breaking my train of worried thought. "Is he all you hoped for?"

Selena looked me up and down. Then, a coy smile spread across her attractive, familiar face.

"Yes, daddy," she said. "He's perfect."

Chapter 150 The Lost Twin

Enzo

"Yes, daddy," Selena said. "He's perfect."

As she spoke, the voice of my fated mate was like music to my ears. But somehow, there was something sharp and grating about it at the same time. I could smell Nina's faint scent on her; surely she had some sort of knowledge as to where Nina was. Not only that, but Selena looked just like Nina with only a couple of small differences, and it was eerie to say the least. Was Selena the 'Sister' that Edward, Ronan, and Lisa wanted to deliver Nina to. Was Nina secretly Selena's twin?

"Good," the Alpha King said with a warm smile. "You can show him to his room. We'll meet again for dinner later to discuss our plans."

Before I could protest, the princess suddenly grabbed me by the arm with a grin and pulled me out of the room. I glanced over my shoulder as I trailed behind her to see my father looking at me solemnly. He knew all along; I was sure of it. Somehow, he knew that this princess was somehow linked to Nina. That must have been why he wanted Nina out of the picture... But why? If she was Selena's twin, why would she be hidden?

The door closed behind us and Selena led me through a long hallway. She intertwined her thin fingers with mine and flicked her hair over her shoulder, looking up at me with a grin.

"I'm so happy to finally meet you," she said in a sing-song voice. "Did you like my scarf?"

"I... Um..."

Selena laughed. "It's alright. I'm sure you've had a very long day, and you're very tired." She led me to the end of the hallway, then up a flight of stairs. The hallway on the second floor widened. Our footsteps echoed on the shiny marble floors, and I couldn't help but gaze at her long, dark hair as she

walked in front of me. It was as if she really was Nina... But she wasn't. And although her scent overwhelmed me and aroused me, I couldn't deny the fact that Nina's scent was lingering on her skin, too.

Finally, she led me to my bedroom. It was a large room with a fireplace and an enormous window that overlooked the forest below. She showed me around the room; there was an equally large bathroom attached to it with a tub in the center. I had always thought that my father's expensive house was luxurious, but this was on another level. Under any other circumstances, I would've been excited to experience the amenities, but I only had one thing on my mind.

"Can I get you anything else?" Selena asked once she finished her tour. She cocked her head as she looked at me, giving her a cute look that, once again, would have aroused me even more under normal circumstances.

"Um... No, thanks," I said. Selena nodded and turned on her heel. She walked over to the door, but as she opened it and stepped out, I couldn't contain my curiosity any further. "Wait!" I said, stopping her. She turned and looked back at me with a smile, but there was also something dark behind her eyes that I couldn't quite place my finger on. It was unsettling, to say the least.

"Yes?" she said.

"Um... Do you... You don't..."

"Spit it out, silly!" she interjected with a laugh.

I felt my face get hot. "Do you have a twin?" I asked.

Selena's sweet face suddenly fell, the darkness hidden behind her eyes coming out and taking over her entire visage. She slowly stepped back into the room and shut the door behind her. I felt my heart pulse as I realized that I must have struck a chord with her.

"What makes you say that?" she growled.

"You just... You look like someone I know," I said. "Her name is Nina. She's missing. Someone took her to deliver her to someone known as—"

"The Sister," she replied. I nodded, and Selena rolled her eyes and sighed. Her sweetness had completely faded now, entirely replaced by a sinister feeling that I couldn't shake. I felt as though her true self came out now. "Fine," she said, crossing over to the bed and sitting down. "Since you're going to be my husband, I suppose we shouldn't have any secrets... But you have to swear not to tell my father."

"I won't say a word," I said. "I just want to know where she is, and that she's safe."

Selena waved her hand dismissively and looked down her nose at me. "She's fine. I've made sure she's quite comfortable. I've put her in a nice little prison that she can live out her days in, where no one will ever find her."

"You... Imprisoned Nina?" I asked. I felt rage begin to bubble up inside of me, and my hands curled up into fists at my sides.

"Oh, relax," she said, checking her nails nonchalantly. "She's fine. I'm not a monster. But you see, she poses too much of a threat... Not only to our marriage, but my status as the sole heir to the throne. I'm daddy's favorite. I'm the Luna's favorite. If she were to suddenly show up, it would only throw a wrench into things."

I frowned and shook my head. All of this over a mate and a royal status? I knew that Nina would never want to be a princess anyway — why not leave her be? Was this princess really that frightened of Nina, or was she just spoiled?

"So she is your twin," I said. "But... The Alpha King only has one daughter."

Selena shrugged. "Only one living daughter; or so they thought. You see, when I was a baby, there was an attack on the royal family. It was right after my mother died during childbirth. Crescent assassins broke into the palace when my daddy was in mourning, and they tried to kill us — but they failed. Their poison didn't work, and they were caught trying to kidnap myself and Nina. The guards only managed to catch one of the assassins. The one that was carrying me."

"And the one that was carrying Nina..."

"He got away," Selena replied. "Everyone thought that Nina was dead. I grew up being the only princess, and I like being the only princess. So, when I found out that Nina wasn't dead, but that one of the assassins had taken pity on her and dumped her off at a human's home, I decided that I couldn't run the risk of her ruining everything."

So... Selena truly was just a spoiled little girl who couldn't handle the thought of sharing the spotlight.

Selena opened her mouth to say more, but I'd had enough. "If you want me to marry you, I want you to release her," I demanded, storming up to her. Selena looked up at me with wide eyes as I towered over her. "Nina won't bother anyone. Just let her go home."

"And what if I don't?" she snarled, standing. "The deal's already been made. The fate of your pack depends on this, and... I could easily tell my daddy not to help you."

"Just let her go," I whispered. I reached out my hand and cupped Selena's face. She bit her lip, her eyelids fluttering as she looked up at me. "If you let her go, I promise I'll love you and only you forever."