

My Hockey Alpha #Chapter 161 At the Last Moment - Read My Hockey Alpha Chapter 161 At the Last Moment

Chapter 161 At the Last Moment

Nina

Somehow, I managed to sneak into the rogues' den, creep past dozens of sleeping rogues, and pinpoint which rogues were my friends. And, thanks to Tiffany's brilliance in creating the antidote, I was able to cure Lori and Jessica.

But now I had to get my friends to safety, and the rogues would be waking up at any minute.

We had to move quickly, but quietly. As a trio, Lori, Jessica and I all stood as slowly and quietly as possible. I grabbed Tiffany's medical bag off of the floor with one hand, then took Jessica's hand with the other. Jessica, in turn, held Lori's hand with her other one. Together, we walked in a single-file line toward the exit.

Since I came through here before, I was at least a little more familiar with the layout. I knew where the larger piles of rogues were sleeping, as well as which route to take that had the least amount of rogues.

Quietly, Lori, Jessica and I stepped over the sleeping rogues with the utmost caution. We never let go of each other's hands; I refused to run the risk of losing my friends again if anything went awry. I already felt guilty enough for leaving them on the night of the last hockey game, just minutes before the attack began. I couldn't let anything happen to them ever again.

When we got out of here, I had to admit that I didn't know what we would do. Night was falling, and we were stuck in the forest. The entire place would be completely crawling with rogues and Crescents, and we were just three defenseless girls. Lori and Jessica were still in a bit of a stupor from losing days of their memories due to being rogues for that entire time. Not only that, but my leg was bleeding more than ever now and each step was agony. A throbbing numbness was slowly working its way up my leg, making it hard to move, but I had to keep going. I couldn't let my friends down again, and I had to get out of here safely so I could find a way to go back for Enzo in order to save the town together.

Soon, the end of the tunnel came into view. I could sense that the rogues were slowly starting to stir in their sleep, so I picked up the pace as I pulled my scared friends along behind me. As the ladder came closer and closer, I felt my heart leaping into my throat with a combination of joy and fear.

Finally, we were only a few feet away from the ladder. I would climb up and open the hatch, then help my friends through; hopefully, from there, we would have just enough time to find a place to hide for the night before the rogues and the Crescents came out.

It seemed, however, that the universe wouldn't let it be so simple.

When we were just within reaching distance of the ladder, I heard a quiet gasp behind me and turned around slowly. My eyes widened as I saw Jessica frozen in fear with her foot wedged beneath a rogue's massive paw. The rogue was waking up, its muddy yellow eyes focusing and its fangs baring as it came to the realization that there was a human in its den.

"Run."

That was the only word I could manage. Lori, Jessica and I bolted for the ladder. I sent Lori up first, who opened the hatch and scrambled out. Jessica came up behind her, sobbing uncontrollably with fear as Lori's hands reached down for her. By now, the rogues were all waking up, alerted to the sound of our running and the first rogue's angry growls.

Jessica scrambled up the ladder just as the rogue climbed to its feet.

"Come on!" she yelled.

"Take this!" I grunted as I threw the medical bag up to them. Jessica caught it, handing it to Lori, then reached out for me as I began to climb the ladder. My leg, however, was almost entirely numb now and I could hardly move it enough to get up the rungs.

Jessica, seeing this, gritted her teeth and grabbed me by one hand just as I heard a keening howl from behind me in the tunnel. The rogues were alerting each other to our presence, and all I could picture was my leg being snapped in half between their jaws as I dangled there.

"Lori! Help!" Jessica said. Lori ran over and grabbed my other hand, then together they hauled me up and out of the hatch just as the rogues made a lunge for my legs. Their teeth caught on my jeans, ripping them, but narrowly missed my flesh.

But we weren't free.

The rogues' howl alerted not only more rogues in the surrounding area to our presence, but also nearby Crescents. As I painfully scrambled to my feet with Lori and Jessica and we began to run, I could hear the distinct howls of not rogues, but Crescents coming from behind us.

My leg made me slow. I winced with every step as hot tears squeezed out of my eyes.

“Go without me,” I said, sobbing as I realized that I was only holding my friends back.

Lori and Jessica shot each other the briefest of glances before shaking their heads in unison. They both grabbed me from either side, Lori still holding the medical bag in her free hand, and looped my arms around their shoulders to help me run. I felt incredibly grateful for their help, but also felt an enormous amount of guilt as I looked over my shoulder and saw a rogue careening straight for us through the woods. If it wasn't for me, my friends could get away.

I watched in horror as the rogue came closer, spittle flying out of its mouth and its yellow eyes focused on us. We ran as fast as we could, but it wasn't fast enough; the rogue was right on our heels, so close I could smell it and feel its hot, stinking breath on my back. Lori, Jessica and I picked up our pace as we ran, none of us saying a word. All I could do was focus on the ground ahead of us, urging my injured leg to push me faster, praying that someone, anyone, would come to our rescue.

As we ran, I kept picturing Enzo's face in my mind. All I could see was how pained his expression was as Selena pushed me through the portal. Now, more than ever, I needed him here. I needed him to save us, and in a last ditch attempt, I called out in my mind as loud as I could.

“Enzo! Help!”

I doubted it worked, what with my wolf missing. But all I could do was pray that it did, or at least let that hope that it worked and that Enzo was coming to save us push me to run faster, to get my friends out of danger.

And then, suddenly, as though my call was answered...

Two werewolves leaped out of the woods, knocking the rogue to its side and surrounding us protectively.

A black wolf and a silver wolf

Chapter 162 Saviors

Nina

The two werewolves jumped out of the woods. The black werewolf knocked the rogue out of the way just before it was about to get us and went tumbling across the forest floor as they fought. Meanwhile, the silver wolf circled around us protectively.

Lori, Jessica and I stopped in our tracks.

I knew instantly that the silver wolf was Enzo. A pained, choked gasp escaped my throat and I stumbled toward him, limping on my injured leg as tears streamed down my cheeks. I held my hands out, then began to fall as my leg gave out underneath me.

Enzo quickly moved forward and crouched down, catching me. I felt myself fall into him and wrapped my arms around his neck, tangling my fingers in his fur as I sobbed uncontrollably. He didn't shift back, but instead nuzzled me with his massive head as a low, happy rumble echoed in his throat.

But we weren't safe. The black wolf, who I now recognized as Matt from the night that we all ran through the woods, finally beat the rogue off and returned to us. I watched as Enzo and Matt nodded silently to each other. Matt trotted up to the scared Lori and Jessica and crouched down beside them, indicating for them to climb onto his back.

"It's okay," I said as I saw the frightened looks on their faces. "It's Matt and Enzo."

Still too shocked to even speak, Lori and Jessica clambered up onto Matt's back while I hobbled around to Enzo's side and did the same. I laid down, relaxing into him as I wrapped my arms around his neck. He stood, then in a flash we took off into the woods just as the sounds of rogues crashing through the underbrush and howling came closer.

For a long time, we just ran. I was beginning to lose consciousness from the blood loss, so I wasn't sure exactly how long we ran for. All I knew was that I was safe now, and Enzo had returned for me. Everything would be okay with Enzo here. It was as though my cry for help was answered, as though our bond was so strong that I could summon him. I knew it was a silly notion, of course, but I felt so connected to him as he carried me to safety that it seemed plausible in that moment.

I never looked up to see whether we were being followed, as I had lost what little strength I had left to do anything more than hold onto Enzo's back as we ran. But I could hear the sound of the rogues and the Crescents behind us, so I knew that they were in hot pursuit. Matt and Enzo weaved through the forest, evading the rogues and the Crescents.

At one point, as Matt ran alongside Enzo and I, I looked up to see Lori and Jessica on his back. Lori was sitting in the front, her fingers tangled in Matt's fur with a determined look on her face, while Jessica had her arms wrapped around Lori's waist. I was so relieved to finally have my friends back, and despite our circumstances, I could feel a slight smile beginning to twitch at the corners of my lips as I watched them. Once more, I couldn't help but wonder if the euphoria I was feeling was caused by my blood loss.

Finally, we somehow lost the rogues and the Crescents. Matt and Enzo carried us to an alley between two buildings, then set us down and shifted back into their human forms. I immediately collapsed into Enzo's arms again from the weakness in my leg, but the feeling of the warmth emanating from his body and his strong arms wrapped around me gave me a little bit of strength.

"Come on," he whispered, nodding toward Matt, Lori, and Jessica, who were beginning to make their way through the alley. "Let's get to safety. I'll explain everything then."

I nodded and took his hand, but I was unable to walk with my leg. Enzo let out a worried sigh and scooped me up, carrying me as he shimmied his large body through the alleyway.

"I knew you would come back," I whispered.

Enzo only clenched his jaw and stared ahead, alert for any danger.

When we came out on the other side of the alley, Matt motioned for us to stop. Enzo's touch seemed to heal me a little, so I felt comfortable enough to walk a little on my own and he set me down. Once Matt looked all around and was certain that we could get across the quad, which stood between where we stood and the front door of Enzo's dorm building, Matt darted ahead. Lori and Jessica followed, and then Enzo and I did the same, never letting go of each other's hands.

When Matt reached the door, he knocked on it in a pattern of three knocks in succession, followed by a pause, then two more knocks.

There was a moment of tense silence before the door swung open. Bryce stood inside, motioning for us to come in. We all filed in one after the other. Almost as soon as the door was closed and locked tightly, and the barricade was moved back in front of the door, we all let out an almost collective sigh of relief.

"We kinda took over your apartment, Enzo," Matt said, leading us up the stairs.

Enzo shrugged. "Ha. I'm not using it, so you might as well."

As Matt led us up the three flights of stairs to Enzo's apartment, it became clear to me just how empty the once-lively dorm was. Instead of the hallways being filled with students and the sound of music and chatter, they were now dead silent and dark. Not a single light was on and all of the windows were covered, with only the flashlight in Matt's hand to guide us. From what little I could make out, the inside of the building had been completely turned upside down in the frenzy from the attack. Backpacks, loose papers, cell phones, and even lost shoes were scattered around the floor. Thankfully, there were no bodies, but there was some blood from people likely being bitten.

"There were rogues in here at first," Matt said, almost as though he read my mind. "But this is the taller dorm building, so we knew it would be the best place to hide out. The team and I managed to clear it out and secured it pretty well."

"I wonder what happened to our dorm," Jessica said somberly, glancing over her shoulder at me as she held Lori's hand and walked ahead. "I hope it didn't get too destroyed."

"I'm sure it'll be fine," Lori said. Her voice was low, and if I listened closely enough, I could hear it shaking a little. "Everything will be fine."

Finally, we stopped outside of Enzo's apartment. Matt pushed the door open, then let us in. The rest of the hockey team was milling about in the makeshift safehouse with only a small crack in the window to keep watch out of — otherwise, the windows were completely covered, just as I expected.

But there was one thing that I didn't expect, however.

James was sitting in the corner, tied to a chair

Chapter 163 The Lost Princess

Nina

As I walked into Enzo's old apartment, which had been turned into a makeshift safehouse for the hockey team, my eyes widened and my face went pale as a sheet when I saw a familiar person staring back at me from the corner, tied to a chair.

"James?" I said. My throat suddenly felt dry and cracked. Whatever joy I had earned from curing my friends and being saved by Enzo and Matt was now gone.

"Nina." James stared at me through his eyebrows, his face darkened and twisted into an angry scowl. His nose was bloody and purple; it was obviously broken.

"How did you guys find him?" I asked, turning to look at Matt and Enzo. Enzo's eyes were narrowed as he glared angrily at James, and it was now that I realized that his arm was wrapped protectively around my shoulders. I was so shocked from seeing James sitting there that I somehow didn't even notice.

"Ask your boyfriend," James said, nodding his head toward Enzo.

"I should've killed you when I had the chance," Enzo replied. His voice was hardly more than a low growl. "I should kill you now for what you did to Nina."

"Go ahead," James snarled. He tilted his chin up to look down his broken nose at Enzo. "Kill me."

Enzo made a motion to walk toward James, but I put my hand on his chest and stopped him. He slowly looked down at me, his eyes wild with fury, but I only shook my head. He paused for several moments as though he was still considering killing James anyway, but finally conceded. Without a word, he took my hand and led me over to his bedroom and shut the door firmly behind us.

“Why do you keep protecting him?” he asked as he sat me down on his bed and crouched in front of me to get a good look at my leg. I winced as he peeled back the bloody bandage.

Truthfully, I didn’t have an answer for him. James seemed like a lost cause. He was hell bent on killing werewolves, and even shot me and left me for dead for supposedly ‘getting in the way’ of that.

Neither of us spoke for a few minutes. Enzo seemed to drop the subject, focused solely on my leg. It hadn’t healed at all on its own, and was even worse now than it was when I woke up in the back of that older couple’s pickup truck from all of the running I did. The wound was still open and bleeding because all of my movement stopped it from scabbing over.

“You didn’t heal?” he asked, raising his eyes to meet mine.

I slowly shook my head. “No. I can’t find my wolf.”

Enzo sighed, then reached out to put his hands on my leg. I instinctively flinched away, but relaxed as much as I could when he shot me a worried look. Once I was relaxed enough, he put his hands on my leg without quite touching the wound and shut his eyes.

Nothing happened at first, but soon I began to feel a tingling sensation in my leg. I watched as the wound slowly began to close up until there was hardly anything more than a red mound where the bullet hole was.

“You’re lucky it didn’t go all the way through, and it seemed to miss your bone,” he said gently when he was done. “I’m not sure how well I’d be able to heal something like that on my own. Do you wanna tell me what happened now?”

I shook my head as tears came to my eyes, still shaken up from everything that had happened recently. Without a word, Enzo pulled me into his arms, still on his knees in front of me, and rubbed my back as I silently sobbed into his shoulder.

“I knew you would be okay,” he said quietly. “You’re strong. And you saved Lori and Jessica.”

“I just wish Tiffany was here,” I whispered through a choked sob.

Enzo was silent for a moment. “She’s alive through that antidote,” he said finally. “She’s alive through you, your actions today.”

Neither of us spoke for a while after that. Gently and tentatively, I finally bent my head down and kissed Enzo. Without hesitation, he cupped my face with his hands and kissed me more deeply and passionately, sending a chill down my spine.

When we finally pulled away, he stood and held out his hand for me. “Come on,” he said. “Let’s check on the others.” I nodded and took his hand, noticing how rough and calloused his palm was, then followed him out to the living room where the team was sitting around quietly. Matt was standing over by the window, looking out. James was quiet now and only stared down defeatedly at his lap.

“Those rogues will be looking for us for who knows how long,” Matt said, turning to face the group. “If you need to rest, then rest, but just be aware that we might need to move soon.”

The team seemed to be in agreement. While the rest of the team laid down on either the couch or the floor to shut their eyes for a while, Enzo retreated to his room to change into some more appropriate clothes — he was wearing a suit, for some reason, which was tattered and dirty now, but eventually returned a few minutes later in his usual jeans and a flannel. Matt, Enzo, Lori and Jessica, and I then sat down around the table. We still had electricity despite not being able to turn the lights on for fear of being caught, so Enzo dumped some frozen food on a tray and shoved it in the oven. While we waited for it to cook, there was still a lot to be discussed.

“What happened after I left with Luke?” Enzo asked Matt after explaining how Ronan and Lisa had him tied to a chair with a gun to his head.

Matt shook his head and stared down at his hands. “We had them, but they got away,” he said somberly. “Haven’t seen them since. I think they got scared and ran off... Cowards.”

“So... The Crescents don’t have a leader on campus right now?” Jessica asked, to which Matt nodded.

“I actually overheard them at the cabins when I got Tiffany’s medical bag,” I chimed in. “They were talking about Ronan. I think there was some talk of an unofficial ‘leader’ being named, but they didn’t seem to be too concerned about it. It does seem that they also think that Ronan went off to hide, so I guess that means that the loyalty within their group isn’t exactly the strongest.”

There was a long silence as the group digested this information. Surely there would be some way to use it to our advantage, but right now, our brains and our bodies were too tired for too much critical thinking.

Finally, the food finished cooking. We ate in silence, which was only broken occasionally by the sound of soft talking. For the first time in days, I felt as though I finally had an appetite again. As I sat alongside Enzo, I knew that everything would be okay.

But, at the same time, I couldn't stop wondering how he was able to get away from Selena. I sensed that something bad happened, but I couldn't tell exactly what. Either way, the somber expression on Enzo's face worried me to my core

Chapter 164 Night Shift

Nina

After we ate, it seemed that the Crescents weren't too hot on our trail, so we decided to rest. Some of the team was already fast asleep on the couch or the floor, but the others eventually joined them. Enzo and I, however, volunteered to take the first shift keeping watch in case the Crescents showed up.

While everyone got comfortable and settled down to get some rest, Enzo and I set up a couple of kitchen stools by the window and kept watch.

The two of us sat in silence for a long time while we watched out the window for the Crescents. I noticed that he wouldn't stop holding my hand, which filled me with a sense of security — but he also barely looked at me and wouldn't tear his eyes away from the window for even one second, and his grip on my hand was firm.

Finally, after watching him like this for a while, I decided that there had to be something more to his anxiety than just the Crescents. The Enzo I knew would of course be alert for the Crescents and the rogues, but not like this. Something else was clearly going on, and I was determined to find out what it was.

"Enzo," I said finally, breaking the silence but still keeping my voice low so as not to wake anyone else.

"Hm?" he asked, still staring intently out the window. He was hardly even blinking, and it made me even more worried to see his eyes slowly turning red from the strain.

"Um... How did you wind up getting away from Selena?" I asked.

Enzo didn't answer for a long time. I began to think that he wasn't going to answer; just as I opened my mouth to ask him again and prod him to tell me what happened, he finally answered. When he did, his voice was low and almost sounded choked.

"My dad helped me," he finally said. "He opened a portal for me."

My eyes widened. "Your dad?" I asked incredulously. "What changed? I thought he wanted you there."

Enzo shrugged and shook his head. He was still staring out the window, but did throw a glance in my direction. "When he saw Selena, he realized that you're twins," he said.

"You're the lost princess. I guess that means that the Alpha King might be happy to have you back, and maybe..."

My eyes widened even further. I could feel my heart leap out of my chest, racing a mile a minute. Did this mean that Enzo wouldn't have to go through with the arranged marriage if I was the Alpha King's lost daughter? Did Selena and I have the same mate because we were twins?

Before I could ask, however, Enzo spoke again. "But right before I went through the portal, Selena found us," he said, his voice barely above a whisper. "I don't think that she has the capacity to kill someone, but... I'll admit that, even after everything, I'm worried for my dad."

"He is your father," I said gently, squeezing Enzo's hand. "We'll make sure he's okay. I promise."

Finally, Enzo tore his eyes away from the window and leveled his gaze with mine. He looked tired, as though he hadn't slept in days; neither had I, now that I thought about it. All of us probably looked like death. The only things that kept me awake and moving all of this time were hope and adrenaline.

"It's not only that," he said suddenly, the momentary light fading from his eyes. "If Selena does something, like what she did to you, and my dad can't tell the Alpha King about you... Then he'll just think that I broke our engagement and ran off. He'll withdraw support. I worry what will happen to the town if that happens."

My heart sank. Enzo was right: the town needed the Alpha King's help against the Crescents. If the Fullmoons were taking this long to prepare to attack, I could only imagine what would happen if we didn't have any extra support.

But then, suddenly, Matt spoke up from behind. I thought he had been asleep, but I realized now that he was wide awake. And, as I turned around, I realized that the rest of the team was awake as well.

"We don't need any damn help," Matt said, shaking his head. "We've got all the help we need right here. I think that we can save the town, and the campus, ourselves."

Enzo and I fell into a shocked silence. We shot each other a disbelieving glance. Before Enzo or I could respond, however, Jessica suddenly rushed forward and threw her arms around me tightly. "I want to become a werewolf so I can help," she said, pulling away just enough so she could look into my eyes with an earnestness that made my heart fill with joy. "I want to be useful."

I didn't know what to say; I was speechless. When I glanced over Jessica's shoulder at Lori, Lori only nodded in agreement, as though they had already discussed this.

“A-Are you sure?” I asked. “Things will never be the same.”

“Things are already never gonna be the same,” Lori scoffed from behind Jessica. “At least let us be helpful somehow.”

“You can use your power on them,” Matt said. “There’s strength in numbers—”

“But I can’t,” I interrupted, shaking my head and blinking away the tears that began to form in my eyes. “Something happened. I don’t know what exactly, but I don’t have my powers right now.”

A silence fell over the room when I finished speaking. When I glanced over at Enzo, he had a worried look drawn across his face, and I was certain that we were thinking the same thing: would my wolf ever return? Had something happened to my wolf when Selena had me trapped at that strange cabin? My wolf did appear very faintly, or so I thought, when I was sleeping after James shot me; that was why my leg was healed a little more than a normal human. But beyond that, I hadn’t felt her presence at all. It

was almost as though keeping me alive after I got shot sapped the rest of my wolf’s energy, and after that, she disappeared entirely.

Suddenly, the sound of a low, mocking chuckle broke the silence. We all snapped our heads in the direction of the corner to see James staring down at his lap, laughing.

Enzo stood up abruptly and clenched his hands into fists.

“Something funny, asshole?” he snarled. I put my hand on Enzo’s arm to soothe him, but he didn’t even seem to notice.

James chuckled even louder, finally lifting his head to look at Enzo. When he did, I realized now that the James I once knew was gone; whatever happened in between the initial werewolf leak on campus and now had changed him. Maybe the pressure of his father mixed with the horrors enacted upon the town by the Crescents finally pushed him off the deep end.

“I guess silver bullets really do work,” he said, his reddened, hollow eyes shifting over to me. “That sure nipped it in the bud, huh?”

Chapter 165 Retracted

Nina

“I guess silver bullets really do work,” James said. “That sure nipped it in the bud, huh?”

The room fell into a shocked silence as he spoke. I felt my heart sink and a pit form in my stomach. The logical part of me told me that James was lying and only trying to get

under my skin, but there was another part of me that wondered if he really was telling the truth. When he shot me, did the silver in the bullet somehow kill off what was left of my wolf?

Suddenly, the room flew into a frenzy. Before anyone could stop him, Enzo went into a rage and stormed over to James, pulling his arm back and aiming a forceful punch right in the center of James' face, causing his already-broken nose to start gushing blood again.

"Enzo!" I yelled. "Stop!" But Enzo didn't listen. He went to punch James again, but this time, Bryce and Matt got in the way and yanked him away from James, who was now knocked out cold. Enzo struggled against them, shouting obscenities and snarling angrily. My heart practically beating out of my chest, I ran up to Enzo and put myself between him and James, my eyes pleading for him to stop as I grabbed a handful of his shirt.

When he saw me, he relaxed a little and wrenched himself free of Matt and Bryce, storming off to the other side of the room. He whirled around on his heel then and pointed at James with a shaking hand, his eyes red with fury. "What are we even doing protecting him like this?" he snarled. "I say we let the Crescents have him. He's nothing but a filthy little weasel."

I walked over to him and stopped in front of him, just wanting to calm the situation down. "Enzo, it's not worth it," I said gently, taking his hand. "If you keep fighting with him, you'll only give him what he wants."

"He's just trying to get a rise out of you, man," Matt said from the other side of the room. "Let it go. He's pathetic."

Another low growl rumbled in Enzo's throat. Finally, his eyes slid away from James and landed on me, softening as they did. "As soon as this is all over, I'm turning him in," he said quietly. "My father's pack will know what to do with someone like him."

I swallowed and opened my mouth to speak, but before anything could come out, we were all suddenly alerted by the sound of a loud, long howl coming from outside. It was close... The Crescents and the rogues were on our trail.

"Come on," Matt said. "We've gotta move. Help me untie him."

Bryce ran over and helped Matt untie James. Enzo and I watched as Bryce then slung James' limp body over his shoulder.

There was an uncomfortable silence in the room. Lori and Jessica were still staring warily at Enzo, clearly frightened by his outburst. I hadn't taken any time to consider that this whole situation was new to them; not only had they not been aware of James' 'family business' with his father, but they had also been rogues for the past several days

and had no recollection of anything that happened shortly after being bitten during the initial attack.

"It's alright," I said, walking over to my friends and putting my arms around them. "Let's go."

Lori and Jessica nodded. We all headed for the door. The hockey team surrounded us on all sides protectively as Matt and Bryce led the way down the hallway. I glanced over my shoulder to see Enzo trailing along at the back, his red eyes fixed on me in the dark. I could only offer him a single comforting glance; I knew he was worried, not just about James but also about my wolf, but we didn't have any time to lose. The Crescents and the rogues would be here soon.

When we got down to the lobby, Matt peered out through the cracked door and checked to make sure that the coast was clear before opening it and ushering us through.

"Where are we going?" Jessica asked, her voice shaking.

"Your dorm," Matt replied. "Don't worry. It'll be okay."

Lori and Jessica clung to me as we carefully, but quickly, made our way across the quad to our old dorm building. Bryce led the way, still carrying James over his shoulder. The rest of the team, along with Enzo, followed suit.

Another howl carried across the air to us. Jessica let out a small whimper as we picked up our pace, but soon enough we were there. Matt and Enzo went ahead and checked inside quickly while we hid behind some bushes, our hearts pounding out of our chests. Finally, after a few moments that felt like hours, they poked their heads out of the door and waved for us to come in.

The dorm was dark and empty when we all got inside. The windows weren't covered like Enzo's dorm, but there was no time to take such precautions; all we could do was walk in complete darkness without so much as a flashlight as we rushed to our suite, but Lori, Jessica and I all knew the layout so well that it wasn't a problem.

Finally, we came to our suite. We used the key hidden under the mat to get in, and once everyone was inside, we locked the door tightly and shut all of the blinds.

Not even five minutes later, Lori, who was looking out the window through a slit in the blinds, spoke up and waved us over.

"They're out there," she whispered. I ran over to join her along with Jessica, Enzo, and Matt. Just as she said, the quad was filled with Crescents and rogues. The rogues sniffed the air like dogs trained for

hunting animals, and the Crescents were like their masters. I watched in horror as one of the rogues seemed to pick up a scent and skittered over to the door of the building we were in only five minutes earlier; it scratched at the door and whimpered, causing one of the Crescents to walk over and kick open the door.

“How come they can’t smell us here?” Jessica asked, looking up at Enzo.

Enzo continued to stare pensively out the window, watching at the rogues and the Crescents filed into the dorm building. “Sometimes wolves can retract their scent when they’re in danger and need to hide,” he said quietly. “I’m guessing all of our wolves did that... And the campus already reeks of humans, so your scents aren’t going to stand out to them.”

As Enzo spoke, his words gave me a little hope. If wolves could retract their scent... Then maybe that was what my wolf did? She was already weak before, so maybe retracting her scent made her go into hiding entirely. Perhaps she was only hiding to protect all of us, especially if I was the Alpha King’s daughter...

I hoped that that was the case. If not, then I would have to face the possibility that my wolf truly was gone forever. And if my wolf truly was gone, then Enzo and I could never be mates

Chapter 166 Reunion

Nina

We watched for an hour through that window with bated breath, almost unblinking as we waited to see what would happen when the Crescents and the rogues finally came out. No one said a word that entire time, too alert and frightened that the rogues and the Crescents would come out of that building and come to ours next. At one point, I felt Enzo’s arm slide protectively around my shoulders, and I didn’t resist. I leaned into him, letting him support me after the hell we’d been through.

Finally, after what felt like an eternity, the first Crescent came strutting out of Enzo’s dorm building. We watched as she stood on the quad, looking all around while the other Crescents and the rogues slowly filed out. Then, one of the other Crescents came up to her; they spoke for a few moments before seemingly coming to an agreement and, thankfully, led the group in another direction entirely.

We were safe — for now.

“Oh, thank god,” Jessica whimpered as she clung to Lori for dear life. “Can we sleep now?”

Matt nodded. “I think so,” he said. “They’re not gonna come back here again tonight, not with dawn coming soon.”

"I can keep watch," Enzo said, but Matt stopped him and shook his head.

"Get some rest," Matt insisted, then looked over at me. "You, too, Nina. Both of you."

I glanced up at Enzo. His jaw was clenched hard, but his arm remained around my shoulders. Finally, he nodded and let me lead him to my room.

"Um... Do you need to shower?" I asked, to which Enzo surprisingly shook his head. He kept his eyes glued on the window, as though he expected a Crescent to come flying through it at any moment. "Well... I need a shower," I said finally, looking down at my filthy, bloody clothes. "I'll be right back."

I made my way over to the bathroom, where I began to shut the door — but Enzo quickly stopped me. "Leave the door open," he said. "Just in case."

I paused with my hand on the doorknob. He seemed worried, as though he didn't want to let me out of his sight, so I left the door open at his request. Without me asking, he turned his back so that I could undress; not that I would have asked him to. I quietly undressed, then stepped into the shower and let the hot water run over my skin.

As I washed myself, I couldn't stop looking down at my leg. The hole where the bullet had entered was still just a red mound of scarred flesh, and the pain was gone, but I kept wondering if what James had said was true. If that bullet really did kill off my wolf, somehow... I didn't know what I would do after that. Would Selena finally get her way if I was out of the picture as Enzo's fated mate?

When I was finished, I shut off the water and stepped out into the steamy bathroom. I wrapped my towel around myself and wiped my hand across the mirror, taking in my reflection for a few moments. Even just the events of the past few days seemed to have changed my appearance a bit. My eyes looked tired and worn, and my cheeks were gaunt. I hated the way I look.

But then, something came up behind me. Enzo's face appeared in the reflection as he walked up behind me, gazing down at me. I didn't stop him as his hands wrapped around my waist with only the towel between us, and for a long time we just stood in silence and watched each other.

"I want to make love with you," I said after a long time.

Enzo didn't answer. He only nodded and spun me around to face him, his eyes wandering over my body. I released my grip on my towel and let it fall to the floor, allowing him to see everything.

Without a word, he picked me up and carried me over to the bed. He laid me down on the sheets, then stood in front of me as he undressed, revealing his distinct muscles. When he was finished, he laid

down next to me and pulled the covers up over us, his hands trailing up and down my waist as we laid next to each other.

Neither of us spoke or did anything for a long time. We just laid there, looking into each other's eyes as his hands continued to explore my body. There was a newfound sadness in his eyes, but there was also a deep, profound love there. I brought my hand up to touch his cheek and he nuzzled gently into my palm. He wrapped his arm around my waist and pulled me closer then, his lips brushing across my jaw, down my neck and to my collar bone, causing my skin to raise in goosebumps all over.

Finally, I let my own hand travel down his body. The last time we had slept together, he had cut things off with me in the morning... But I knew now that he wouldn't leave me again. As my hand made its way down his chest, over his abs and down to his groin, I felt him with my hand and noticed that his cock was already hard. It throbbed beneath my touch.

An involuntary, low growl escaped his lips as I touched him. It made me grin, and I pushed myself up onto my elbow and began to stroke him faster so I could hear more of his groans.

"Give me your mouth..." Enzo groaned, his eyes flickering open to fix his gaze on mine. There was almost a sense of sternness behind his gaze, as though he was demanding that I go down on him, and it made me instantly wet to have him take charge over me like that.

My smile widened. "Yes, sir," I whispered, my words causing him to groan again. As I crawled down between his legs, he suddenly grabbed my hair and pushed me down onto his cock, making me take all of him in my mouth at once. It made me gag, but the gag only made him moan even more, and it made me want to keep going. I began to move my head up and down, stroking his balls and his thighs as I moved and pushing myself deeper each time until there was no cock left. When I came back up for air finally, my eyes were red and tears were streaked down my face, but there was a smile spread across my swollen lips.

"How's that?" I asked, my voice strained.

Enzo only grinned. He then flipped me over to my back and climbed on top of me. I wrapped my arms around his neck as he pushed into me, a quiet gasp bursting out of my mouth the moment I felt the filling sensation of him being inside of me.

There was something different about this time. Somehow, our shared pain brought our hearts closer than ever, and our eyes never pulled apart from one another as Enzo slowly began to move inside of me. Our breaths mixed in the darkness of my bedroom, neither of us making a sound other than our quiet, muffled moans. I wanted to be like this forever, just here in this room with Enzo; even with the Crescents and the rogues roaming our campus, I was perfectly content like this.

While he made love to me, Enzo reached down and held my thighs back, pushing them further and further back, his fingers digging into the soft flesh and making my skin tingle. As he did this, the position became tighter and the filling sensation became almost unbearable. I felt as though I was being stretched, allowing him to go deeper and deeper inside of me with each thrust.

His other hand moved down to rub my clit, and I suddenly felt an overwhelming urge to come.

“Don’t do it,” he said, his eyes narrowed as he continued to thrust and rub me at the same time. “Not until I say so.”

“But—”

Enzo suddenly thrust even deeper, harder. “Not until I say so.”

I bit my lip, staring up at him as he worked himself inside of me and glared down at me, watching me to make sure I didn’t come. I felt as though I would fail at any moment, but somehow his stern and powerful gaze made me want to be good for him, so I held it in.

“Good girl,” he whispered, a smile twitching at the corners of his lips. “Go ahead.”

Finally, he let me finish. My back arched with the explosive sensation inside of me and I could feel my eyes rolling back in ecstasy, and as I throbbed around him, I felt him throbbing, too. He finished inside of me, finally collapsing on top of me as he panted and sighed contentedly.

As we fell asleep in each other’s arms that night, I felt safer than ever. The Crescents could have burst into my room right then and there, but I wasn’t worried with Enzo by my side. Somehow, I knew that he would always protect me and keep me safe, and that was all that mattered.

Maybe, even if my wolf never did return, we could still be together until the end

Chapter 167 A New Age

Enzo

I woke up a few hours later to the feeling of Nina’s warm body in my arms. As the memory of our passionate — and somewhat kinky — sex slowly flooded back into my mind, I couldn’t help but feel a sense of peace.

Not knowing what happened to my father, however, and whether the Alpha King would know about Nina or not by now quickly created a lump in my throat — but I had to stay strong for Nina. I watched as she nuzzled down happily into my chest, still sleeping soundly. If I could, I would have let her sleep all day, but I knew that today would have

to be the day that we would come up with a plan to save the campus. If we didn't act quickly, there was no knowing whether the Crescents would wreak more havoc or not — especially if they knew that the son of the Fullmoon Alpha was not only here, but also the Alpha King's missing daughter.

There was a knock on the door that woke Nina up. I lifted my head to see the door crack open and Lori's head poke in.

"Breakfast is ready," she said. "Sorry to wake you guys."

"It's okay," Nina replied, rubbing her eyes. "Thank you."

Lori nodded and left us again, and Nina sat up in bed. She was wearing my shirt and it looked adorably large on her, making me want to see her like that every morning for the rest of my life. Finally, she turned to face me. Her cheeks were rosy and she had a bit of a smile on her face.

"Good morning," I said, sitting up to meet her. "Did you sleep okay?"

Nina nodded. "I did, with you here. Did you?"

I nodded as well. Honestly, it was the best I had slept in weeks. I cupped my hand under her chin and planted a kiss on her warm lips before crawling out of bed and picking my pants up off of the floor. Nina followed suit, reluctantly giving my shirt back before she retrieved some clean clothes from her closet. The clothes I had found her in yesterday were far too bloody and tattered to be salvaged, and instead stared at us from the trash can in her corner.

Once we were dressed, we headed out to the kitchen where everyone else was gathered. They stood around the counter while Jessica flipped pancakes on the stove and passed plates around, hardly cooking fast enough before my teammates would come back asking for more.

Jessica handed me a plate, which I took gratefully, then handed one to Nina. I was about to take a bite when I looked over to see Nina looking down at her plate thoughtfully, then glancing over at James. He was still tied up in the corner, staring down at his lap.

"Did he eat yet?" Nina asked, nodding toward James with her head.

Lori shook her head and frowned. "Nope. He won't eat."

"Nina, don't worry about it," I said, feeling my blood boil just thinking about him. "Just worry about yourself."

Before I could stop her, however, Nina shook her head and walked over to James with her plate. I watched her in astonishment along with the rest of the team as she walked up to him and held the plate out.

“Eat,” she said.

James slowly raised his head to look up at her. His nose, along with the skin around it, was a dark shade of purple now and his eyes were dark and sunken.

“Here.” She set the plate down on his lap, then walked around to the back of the chair and untied his hands.

“Nina!” I jumped up from my chair, storming over to her. “What are you doing?”

“Everyone deserves to eat,” she said calmly. She released James’ hands and he rubbed his wrists, all while staring down at the plate without lifting his head. “See?” Nina said, standing and walking back around. “It’s not fair to keep him tied up like that. At least let him eat.”

For a moment, I was once again astonished by Nina’s overwhelming kindness — but it didn’t last long. James paused for a moment, still staring down at the plate. Then, without hesitation, he grabbed the plate and threw it across the room like a frisbee. It hit the wall and shattered with a loud crash, sending bits of ceramic and hot pancake scattering across the floor.

“You little—” I rushed him, fully prepared to beat the hell out of him again, but was stopped when Nina suddenly put herself between us. My vision went red as Matt and Bryce ran over; Matt pulled me away while Bryce tied James up again. The little weasel was even smiling at me through his eyebrows, like he knew he could get away with anything and that they would still protect him.

“Just one more day,” Matt said, pulling me back over to the kitchen. “Just get through today. We’ll take care of him afterwards, but right now, saving the campus is our priority.”

“I could kill him,” I muttered as Bryce moved James into the other room and left him in there to keep him in solitude, a low growl rumbling in my throat as I envisioned the bullet leaving his gun and embedding itself in Nina’s thigh. “I’ll kill him with my bare hands.”

Suddenly, I felt Nina’s cool hands on mine. I blinked away the fury in my eyes as best I could as I looked down at her to see her pleading expression. “You’re not a killer,” she whispered. “I know you’re not.”

“He is, though,” I snarled. “The world would be better off without him in it.”

“Then you’re no better than he is,” Matt chimed in. “C’mon. We’ve got a town to save.”

...

Once I was finally calmed down enough to talk, we began to go over what we knew so far.

"I went to the infirmary yesterday," Nina said as we sat around the kitchen island. "There were Crescents all over, but I have a feeling that there's more of the antidote in there. We have a little left in Tiffany's medical bag, but it's not enough."

"And the rogues are using the tunnels as their den," Matt added. "So with the entrance in the infirmary, it'll be even more dangerous. We'll have to go during the day, when they're sleeping."

"What then, though?" Lori asked. "If Jessica and I could only turn like you guys, we could be useful somehow..."

"You guys don't need to be werewolves to be useful," I suddenly spoke up, standing. "Even if you're still humans, I think we can all agree that you're part of our pack."

Everyone's eyes widened at the mention of a pack. "A... Pack?" Matt asked. "Like... A real one?"

I nodded. I'd been thinking about it since Lori and Jessica first asked Nina to Claim them. They were useful enough as humans, and besides: their friendship only proved all along that humans and werewolves could coexist peacefully. They were the ones, after all, to advocate for me when it was first leaked. "Why don't we form our own pack?" I asked. "One that consists of not only werewolves, but humans, too. Matt, you said yourself that there's strength in numbers. Well, why not become unified?"

There was a long, shocked silence. I was certain that they would back down, that it was too much of a huge commitment.

But then, Matt suddenly stood from his stool, strode up to me and clapped his hand on my shoulder. "If we're a pack, then I vote for you to be our Alpha," he said.

I could feel my eyes widening. I shook his head and opened my mouth to speak, to tell them that I didn't know if I could take on a role like that, but before I could, Lori spoke up next. "I second that," she said, standing.

"Me too." Jessica stood as well, holding Lori's hand.

The rest of the team murmured and nodded in agreement; now only Nina was left. I looked over at her, still in shock that even a single one of them would agree to make me their Alpha, but she only smiled up at me.

"I also vote for Enzo to be our Alpha," she said quietly, taking my hand in hers.

"It's settled, then," Matt said. "Let it be known from here on out that Enzo Rivers is the Alpha of our new pack. Enzo... Bring us into a new age in which humans and werewolves can be allies against evil."

Chapter 168 The Plan

Nina

"It's settled, then," Matt said. "Let it be known from here on out that Enzo Rivers is the Alpha of our new pack. Enzo... Bring us into a new age in which humans and werewolves can be allies against evil."

There was a long silence after Matt spoke. I could feel my heart pounding excitedly in my chest at this new prospect of being one unified team; not just a team, but a pack, regardless of who was a werewolf or who was a human. Somehow, this gave me hope that we really could save the town on our own, without the Fullmoons or the Alpha King's help. But Enzo still needed to agree to be our Alpha.

"Well, Enzo?" Matt said. "What do you think?"

Enzo paused for a long time, mulling over this opportunity. I almost felt as though I could hear the gears turning in his head. Finally, much to the group's relief, he finally nodded.

"Alright," he said finally. "I'll do it."

I couldn't help but smile. Without a moment of hesitation, I felt myself jump up out of my chair and throw my arms around Enzo. I heard laughter, followed by the feeling of the rest of the pack crowding around us and joining in on the hug. Even Enzo let out a chuckle, and when I looked up at him I could see that there was a bit of a smile spread across his serious face.

Finally, everyone sat back down at Enzo's request.

"We need to come up with a plan," he said. "Nina, you said that there might be more of the antidote in the infirmary; are you sure about that?"

I nodded. "Tiffany mentioned that there was still some left. She only grabbed some of it, just in case. If we can get into the infirmary somehow without the Crescents seeing us, we can take whatever's left."

"Yeah, but then what?" Matt chimed in. "The antidote needs to be injected to work, right? We don't have the time or the manpower to go around injecting all of the rogues. The Crescents could just create more in that time."

I furrowed my brow. There was the possibility of going into the tunnels and doing it as fast as we could, but... No, that was too risky. We still wouldn't be able to get to all of them before they would wake up and start alerting each other to our presence.

Suddenly, Jessica spoke up. "Who says it has to be injected?" she asked.

Enzo frowned, shaking his head. "Tiffany injected it into that one student," he said. "And Nina injected you guys, right? I feel like Tiffany would have mentioned it if it could be administered some other way."

Jessica pursed her lips. "It's an antidote, not a vaccine. She might have injected it to make it work faster, but it can probably be ingested. It might take a little longer, but I could see it as a possibility."

"Okay, so... We still haven't answered the question of how we'll administer it to all of the rogues in time," Matt interrupted. "What are we gonna do? Run around giving them shot glasses full of the stuff and tell them 'Hey, drink up'?"

Jessica rolled her eyes then. "I wasn't saying that," she insisted, but then her shoulders drooped a little bit. "But... I guess I don't really have a plan, anyway."

There was a long silence. No one spoke for a while as we all puzzled over how to administer the antidote to the rogues all at once. I started to feel my heart sink as I slowly realized that there really was no realistic way to do it.

"The sprinkler system."

We all looked up and at Lori, who was standing there with her hands on her hips and a righteous look on her face. "We can use the sprinkler system. I saw that the tunnels had a whole system on the ceilings. If we infuse the water tank that feeds the sprinkler system, then pull the fire alarm, it'll go off and soak all of the rogues."

"Babe..." Jessica said, sitting upright with wide eyes. "You're a genius."

"I know," Lori replied, flicking her black hair over her shoulder with a smirk. I glanced over at Enzo, who was only nodding to himself with his hand on his chin. He caught me looking and met my gaze, and as he did, a smile spread across his face.

"I think that's an excellent idea," he said. "If we go during the day, all of the rogues will be in the tunnels. We can trap them in there. Of course, it might not work, but... It's better than nothing."

"So it's settled, then," Matt replied. "But if we're going to do this, we need to get it done today. I have a feeling that those Crescents that were looking for us last night are preparing to do something. They might even know we're here and went to get more backup, for all we know."

Enzo nodded, then looked back at me. "Nina, how many Crescents do you think you saw in the infirmary yesterday?"

"Five, maybe six?" I replied.

"Okay," Enzo continued, then turned to Matt. "Matt, can you and the rest of the hockey team lure the Crescents away? Just get them to start chasing you, then run and don't stop running. I trust that you guys can handle them if you need to."

"Sure thing," Matt replied. "Those guys aren't the smartest. We've already dealt with them a couple of times."

Enzo nodded approvingly before turning back to look at me. "I'll go with you to the infirmary. We'll close up the tunnel doors, assuming they're still on their hinges, then infuse the water tank like Lori suggested. I know there's one in the alleyway between the infirmary and the hockey rink, and I'm sure it supplies all of the sprinklers in those buildings."

Suddenly, Jessica spoke up. Her voice shook a little as she glanced nervously over at her bedroom door, where Bryce had locked James up earlier. "What about... him?" she asked, lowering her voice.

I frowned, following her gaze, as did the others. It seemed that we almost completely forgot about James, and it probably wouldn't be a good idea to leave him alone here. Finally, swallowing, I turned back to look at Jessica and Lori.

"Can you guys stay here and watch him and the apartment?" I asked. I didn't want them to think that I was excluding them, but someone needed to watch James and I knew that Lori and Jessica would never separate. All of the hockey players needed to be focused on luring the Crescents away, and I needed to go to the infirmary just in case the sprinkler system plan didn't work and I would potentially have to inject some rogues.

Thankfully, both of them nodded. "We'll stay," Lori said. "It's probably the most help we can offer, seeing as how we're not werewolves or anything."

I nodded, feeling relieved. Everyone looked up at Enzo then, who was staring down at the counter with a thoughtful expression on his face. I reached out and touched his hand to break him out of his deep thought, and when he snapped back to reality, I saw that he seemed to have a bit of light in his eyes for the first time in a long time.

Being an Alpha of his own pack seemed to suit him

Chapter 169 Plan in Action

Nina

Once we had the plan set in place, it was time to implement it. We had to do it while the sun was up, and we would have to do it that day before the Crescents came back to look for us again.

Lori and Jessica stayed behind to keep an eye on James, who was still locked up in Jessica's room.

"Please be safe," Jessica said quietly, pulling me in for a tight hug.

"I will," I replied into her shoulder. I tried not to cry, but it was getting harder and harder. Lori didn't say a word as I hugged her next, but just held me tight.

Once we said our goodbyes, Enzo and I left, led by Matt and the hockey team.

The air outside was cold and windy when we stepped out of the dorm building. A bit of snow was even beginning to fall; if it wasn't for our unfortunate circumstances, it would have been an almost beautiful day. But all I could do was shudder and hold Enzo's hand tightly.

Matt and the team shifted once we crossed the quad, then ran ahead toward the infirmary to get the Crescents' attention. Meanwhile, Enzo and I stuck to the sides of buildings, meticulously making our way toward the arena.

"What if this doesn't work?" I asked quietly as we darted from building to building, my voice shaking with nerves.

"Hey." Enzo stopped suddenly, taking my hand and pulling me closer. From this close, I could smell the scent of sweat and leather mingling with his skin, and it instantly comforted me. He cupped a hand under my chin and tilted my face up so I was looking at him. His eyes were soft and caring, but also stern at the same time. "It'll work," he said gently. "I promise."

I wanted to believe him. Even though there were doubts swimming around in my mind — whether we would have enough of the antidote to cure everyone, whether the antidote would work without being injected, even if the water tank that we talked around would actually feed those sprinklers — I knew I had to just swallow them and keep moving. The only thing I had to focus on was trying; if I didn't try, then I would never know.

I nodded hesitantly, swallowing the lump in my throat. Enzo offered a weak smile to ease my nerves and bent down to my height, planting a soft, tender kiss on my lips before standing again and leading us further toward the arena.

Finally, we made it to the arena. We could see Matt and the others up ahead, slowly stalking toward the infirmary as they waited for our signal. Once we were in position

behind the arena, ready to run in and through the front door of the infirmary as soon as the Crescents ran off after the hockey team, Enzo gave the signal.

Without a moment of hesitation, Matt and the others charged forward. Enzo kept his arms wrapped firmly around me as we waited with bated breath for the Crescents to come out.

There was a chorus of sound. We could hear clanging coming from the infirmary as the hockey team ran up to the door, taunting the Crescents out. Barking and snarling could be heard, and then...

The Crescents filed out of the infirmary, already in their wolf forms; I suspected that the clanging came from them shifting in the infirmary. There were six of them, and as we watched them chase Matt and the others off into the distance, everything fell quiet in the infirmary. Now was our chance.

"Come on." Enzo and I sprinted as fast as we could to the front door of the infirmary, staying close to the building. When we arrived, we saw that it was destroyed, but empty; Enzo kept watch while I frantically began rifling through drawers and cabinets, furiously searching for the vials of bright blue liquid.

Finally, I found it. It was like a holy grail: at least a dozen vials of the antidote sat on a shelf, hidden behind paper towels. I almost wouldn't have seen them if it weren't for a sliver of one vial peeking out from behind the paper towels. A gasp escaped my throat, and I grabbed all of them in one fell swoop, holding my shirt out to carry them in.

Enzo turned around, a grin spreading across his face as he saw the vials. He took one last glance out the door before running over to me and grabbing my shoulder, guiding me out of the infirmary and into the narrow alleyway between the infirmary and the hockey arena. It was too small for him to fit, so he kept watch once more as I squeezed through with the antidote and shimmied my way toward the water tank up ahead, taking care not to drop any of the vials.

There was a small hatch on the water tank. I kneeled next to it and pried the hatch open, then began dumping the contents of each vial in. Just in case it didn't work, I saved several vials and stuffed them into my backpack before closing the hatch back up and making my way back out.

Enzo and I didn't need to speak. With a single nod, we ran back to the infirmary, shooting each other a worried glance before yanking open the door to the supply closet where the entrance to the tunnels was.

Just as we suspected, the heavy iron doors had been smashed in by the rogues and now lay in a crumpled mess in the doorway. Thankfully, the door to the supply closet was still intact, so at least we had some barrier just in case.

“Do you think they’re still down there?” I whispered, peering into the dark tunnels.

Enzo leaned forward, sniffing the air, then stifled a gag and nodded as he covered his mouth with his hand. “Yup. They’re in there for sure.”

“Okay.” I carefully shut the doors to the supply closet, then gestured to the heavy lab table that sat behind Tiffany’s desk. “Help me move that.”

Enzo nodded and helped me move the table in front of the door as a barricade. Then, our eyes met as we realized what would come next: the fire alarm.

“It’s gonna wake them up before the sprinklers even start,” he said. “If the sprinklers even go off at all... And if they don’t, we’re running.”

I nodded in agreement, too scared to speak. Earlier, we had planned on running back to the dorm to get Lori and Jessica if things went awry. Lori’s car was still parked in the parking lot, and she had the keys in our dorm, so the plan was to get in her car and drive, and not look back. As for James... We didn’t have the space for someone who was actively trying to kill all of us, no matter how much it would break my heart to leave him behind — but I had faith that this would work.

Enzo and I walked over to the fire alarm.

“Together,” I whispered.

We both reached out, taking a deep breath. Then, at the same time, we pulled down on the alarm.

In an instant, the building became filled with the sound of grating fire alarms, making our ears ring. I covered my ears with my hands, shutting my eyes tightly — but even though my hands, even through the alarms, a far more frightening sound began.

Howling.

It was coming closer. Not just the howling, but barking and snarling and the sound of claws scraping against tile and metal as the rogues began to charge toward the infirmary. The sprinklers hadn’t begun yet, and I was already beginning to think that they weren’t going to.

I suddenly felt Enzo’s lips on mine. He wrapped his arms around me and pulled me close, kissing me deeply as the sounds of the rogues came closer. He pulled away for a second, only to say one thing.

“I love you, Nina.”

My eyes widened. The rogues came closer. But then... The sprinklers started.

We quickly got soaked, but this didn't mean salvation. The rogues were too close now, and I could hear them just yards away from the supply closet door.

"I love you too, Enzo."

The howling and snarling came closer. My ears became filled with the sound of the rogues and the fire alarms, but I didn't care; at this moment, I was only with Enzo, and nothing else mattered. I was prepared to die here if this didn't work, so long as I could be in his arms.

The first rogue hit the supply closet door, causing the door frame to shudder and the large lab table to scrape forward an inch. A frightened whimper escaped my throat, but Enzo only pulled me in more tightly as we watched the door, waiting for the rogues...

But they never came. Everything fell silent behind the door for a painstaking moment, aside from the blaring sound of the fire alarms.

The vicious howls and snarls of the rogues turned into the sound of the confused voices of our fellow students

Chapter 170 A New Beginning

Nina

Enzo and I pulled away from each other, looking into one another's wide eyes with disbelief. Somehow, our plan had worked; all of the rogues had been turned back into our classmates! I couldn't help but let out an incredulous laugh and throw my arms around Enzo's neck, grinning as he picked me up off my feet and spun me around. When he sat me back down, I saw that he was grinning and laughing, too.

"Hello?" a frightened voice called out from the supply closet, followed by a knocking sound on the door and the lab table scraping on the floor slightly as the students tried pushing the door open. "Is anyone there?"

Enzo and I quickly ran over to the door, moving the table out of the way. Almost as soon as we did, the door swung open and out poured a steady stream of confused, groggy-looking students who clearly had no recollection of anything that happened. As they filed out of the supply closet and filled the infirmary, they all looked around with the same baffled expression on their faces while Enzo and I could only stand by in a state of utter shock that our plan had somehow worked.

As the students slowly began to realize that not only the infirmary, but the entire campus was completely destroyed, the realization seemed to come to them.

"What happened?" one girl said.

Another boy who looked like a freshman rubbed his head and frowned, furrowing his brow. "I remember... There was an attack..."

"We'll explain everything," I said as I ushered more frightened students out of the tunnels. "Everyone, just stay calm. Sit down if you need to."

Finally, as I frantically searched the growing crowd for familiar faces, I spotted both Justin and dean Cynthia at the back of the group. Justin looked completely confused, but Cynthia seemed to have her wits about her. They both rushed forward as they saw me.

"What happened?" Cynthia asked, looking around in shock as she quickly pulled me to the side, keeping her voice low so the students wouldn't overhear and become even more panicked.

"Tiffany's antidote," I said, unable to contain my grin. "It worked."

Cynthia's eyes widened and she began to look around. "That's amazing. Where is she?"

It was then that my face fell, as did Enzo's. The dean looked back and forth between the two of us, her eyes slowly widening as she started to read our sad faces and understand what happened.

"No," she said, shaking her head vehemently as tears began to form in her eyes. "She's dead?"

I slowly nodded. Without a word, Cynthia stifled a sob. I quickly pulled her in for a tight hug, ignoring the confused looks that nearby students were giving us as they wondered why their dean was beginning to break down.

When she finally pulled away, she wiped her eyes and took a deep breath. I could tell that she was trying to put on a brave face despite the fact that one of her closest friends and comrades from college was gone. "Where is her body?" she asked quietly.

I shook my head, blinking away the tears in my own eyes. My throat became too choked to speak, and I couldn't get a word out. The dean, seeing this, looked up at Enzo. His face was grim.

"We'll find it," he whispered. "I promise."

She nodded, wiping away more tears. "Alright..." She cleared her throat then and stepped around me to address the frightened students. "Everyone, please go to the hockey arena and wait there until we

tell you that it's safe to go home. It could be a long time that you'll be in there, but I promise we'll send food and water as soon as possible."

The students, too groggy and confused to resist, simply muttered amongst themselves and slowly flooded into the arena.

Once Enzo, Cynthia and I were alone, Enzo and I began to explain what exactly happened. As we explained that the entire town had been overrun, there were still no Fullmoons anywhere, and that we eventually took matters into our own hands, Cynthia's eyes slowly widened.

"I... I don't know how to even begin to thank you," Cynthia said when we were finished. "If it wasn't for you kids, our campus would be gone forever."

Before Enzo or I could answer, there was suddenly a knock on the door. We all looked up to see Matt and the rest of the hockey team standing there, along with some men who I didn't immediately recognize; judging from their matching black uniforms with a full moon logo on the chests, I could tell that they were Fullmoons.

"We drove off those Crescents," Matt said, coming in and looking around. "I take it that it worked?"

Enzo and I nodded, and the dean spoke up. "Yes," she said with a smile. "You guys... I'm so proud of you." Her eyes slid over to the Fullmoons who were standing there then, and her smile faded. "What took you so long?"

One of the Fullmoons stepped out from the group. I didn't notice it at first, but I quickly realized that it was Lewis, Enzo's father's Beta. I had met him that time that I went to Enzo's house, the night we caught Ronan for the first time.

"I'm really sorry, Cynthia," Lewis said, looking a little ashamed but not nearly as much as I felt he should be. "We were waiting for backup, but it didn't come in time."

It was then that I glanced up at Enzo. At the mention of the backup, his jaw became clenched hard; I couldn't help but wonder if the Alpha King decided not to send aid after all, since he ran away. Then, I began to wonder if something happened to his father so he couldn't even tell the Alpha King about me, and it made a lump form in my throat.

"Well," the dean said, passing a hand over her tired face, "thank goodness these kids were here. And thank goodness for Tiffany's antidote. I wish I could thank her..." A pall of silence fell over the room. Even the Fullmoons must have known Tiffany, because even they fell silent. No one spoke for a few minutes, and it seemed that we had all made an unspoken agreement to pay our respects to our illustrious school doctor at that moment.

Finally, the dean spoke again, taking in a sharp breath before she did. "I've got students to take care of," she said. "We need to bring food and water to everyone before we think about anything else. Lewis, I'd like you and your men patrolling the campus while we get everyone settled."

“Sure thing,” Lewis replied with a nod.

“Tomorrow, I’d like to call a meeting with all of the Fullmoons to discuss our next plans. Where is Richard?”

Lewis shook his head. “He’s with the Alpha King, I believe,” he replied. “I’ll go to the meeting as his Beta.”

“Oh.” The dean turned to look at Enzo. “You’re a Fullmoon as well. I’d like you there.”

But, much to my surprise, Enzo said something unexpected. “I’m no longer a Fullmoon,” he replied, then gestured to me and the rest of the hockey team. “We’ve decided to break off and start our own pack.”

Lewis’ jaw dropped. The dean furrowed her brow, and the other Fullmoons shifted uncomfortably in their spots.

“Well... What do you call yourselves, then?” the Dean asked.

Enzo looked at me, clearly not having thought about it — but I had. From the beginning, I knew what we were.

“We’re the New Peacekeepers,” I said, taking Enzo’s hand