

Chapter 14

Peter

I should have brought Calvin here first. I should have realized how uncomfortable he'd be around packs that flaunt their wealth. The Pine Forest Pack is the third wealthiest in the kingdom, but they don't show it off like others will.

It's also good to be among friends. Adrian and Grace are wretched. He's the type of Alpha who rejected his mate for someone of higher status. John and Daisy grew up together and were completely in love. Thank the Goddess they were mates because I'm not sure they could have handled the heartbreak if they hadn't been.

We met the Beta, his mate, and their two sons this morning. The Gamma has a daughter, but he wasn't there because we were late and he had to be at training.

"I'd love to take you guys down there," Daisy says. "We're one of the few packs that doesn't allow women to be warriors, so it's just a bunch of hot, shirtless men."

"Why don't you allow women to be warriors?" Calvin asks.

I realize now that I should have warned him, but I

hadn't thought about it. While it does seem sexist, their reasoning was sound. It's never been anything that I felt the crown needed to be involved in.

"We had an attack many years ago and lost a great many members," she begins to explain as we follow her. "We couldn't have the women work as warriors because we needed to repopulate the pack. The training regimen has since become very... intense. It's not that a woman CAN'T keep up, but few have wanted to try."

Calvin simply nods, but I can see he is thinking through what she's said. Generally, male wolves are larger and stronger. There are a great many warriors who are women, but here, I'm truly unsure if there's a shewolf who could keep up.

Calvin looks surprised as we reach the training area. THIS is where they have spent their money, though they keep it hidden so it is hard to find. Most of the packs don't know it exists.

"How large is your pack?" he asks.

"It's not huge, but remember, we don't have much staff," she tells him as I open the door. "You have more warriors if you don't need a kitchen staff. If each family does their own laundry, you have more warriors. What staff we do need, we use the women."

Chapter 14

+10 Points

"Smart," he says with a nod.

We walk down the hallway to where the open area gym is. I've met the Gamma here quite a few times. As far as trainers go, he's probably the best in the kingdom, and I have a hunch that Calvin will get along with him.

Ad

Ads-free >

We step into the room to find the men working on close hand-to-hand combat in human form.

"Reynolds!" Jeffrey yells from the side. "What the f**k do you think you're doing? Do you want to die in a fight? Because that'll do it."

The man, who I assume is Reynolds, looks

Chapter 14

+10 Points

horrified when he sees us and bows his head quickly.

"s**t, sorry, Daisy," Jeffrey says, coming over to us. "Did I tell you that you could stop training?" he calls out over his shoulder, effectively pushing them all back to work.

"No worries," she tells him with a smile. "I know you've met Peter before. This is Calvin, Queen Molly's brother."

"Nice to meet you," he says, tilting his head. "Want to jump in on some training?"

"Yes," Calvin says too quickly, pulling his shirt off, and I swear Daisy stops breathing for a moment. He goes off with Jeffrey, partners with him, and, to everyone's shock, quickly flips the man onto his back.

"Oh, my," Daisy says. "Where did he come from?"

I laugh a little. "Well, after I killed his brothers and mother, the head of my guard hid him out in the Rogue land."

"Damn," she says as she watches them. "And he's traveling with you?"

"A forced situation, mostly," I try to clarify. "Gus trained him well."

She nods. "Very well. What's his plan after he finds his mate?"

Chapter 14

+10 Points

"He doesn't have one. He wants to see what she wants to do."

"We haven't stepped down because we don't have anyone to take over the training. If he wants a job, it's his."

We watch for a while, and Calvin looks truly at peace. It makes sense, and I should have realized when Robert sent him for a run. The only thing he ever really did was train. Well, that and garden. This is normal for him, and he's thriving in it. This is the strongest pack, and he's fitting right in, putting most of them to shame.

We return to the packhouse and Calvin showers. Jeffrey promised to bring his daughter to lunch to meet Calvin, and Daisy will walk us around the pack afterward. I pull out the computer to do some work, surprised when he enters the room.

"Do you have a picture of Ada?" he asks nervously.

"Want to make sure she's cute?" I joke, but he doesn't laugh.

He pulls a chair next to me. "Last night, I was worried about what was happening to her, and then I was worried she could feel or even see that, so I tried to send what I will do to anyone who touched her."

I gulp. I don't want to think about what he'll do when we find her.

Chapter 14

+10 Points

"I thought that maybe I could send something nicer than ripping someone's fingernails out. I don't know if she can even see it..." he trails off as I turn the computer for him to see her on the screen.

"It's from about two years ago, but this is her," I tell him.

He stares at the screen for a long time, taking in her appearance. She doesn't look too much different from her sister, though her hair is curlier, and she has freckles across her nose.

"I've seen her before," he says softly, still staring. "I don't know where, though. It doesn't make sense. I never left the bubble."

I pat his arm gently. "Probably in a dream. Maybe she can contact you."

He nods once, still staring.

"Calvin, are you alright?" I ask.

"She's so beautiful," he says softly. "She's too beautiful for me."

If I had any doubt that she was his mate, it's long gone from how he's staring at a simple photo of her. It's like he knows she is. Like he knows he should be able to feel the bond but he can't. I'm not sure the man will be able to handle the pull of the bond when he finally sees her.

Chapter 14

+10 Points

"When we find her, you'll have to be gentle with her," I try to tell him without hurting him. "She's, well, if we're right, then it means she's been through a lot."

He nods, eyes not leaving the screen. "I'll never do anything to hurt her. I swear it."

"I know. Come on, let's get ready for lunch. You've got to keep up appearances."

He leaves, and I do one last thing before getting ready. It's a bit risky, but I think it's necessary, and I'd trust Alpha John with my life.

"Jeffrey was just telling us about you, Calvin," John says as we sit at the large table. "If you want a job, it's yours."

"Thank you," he tells him politely. "I'd like to find my mate before I make any decisions, though."

"Typically, a shewolf would move to your pack," he says, trying to convince him.

Calvin shrugs. "I don't have a pack. If she wants to stay at hers, I will do that."

"You're very sweet," Daisy tells him quietly. "If she doesn't want to stay there, you call me. We'd be happy to have you here, even if you don't want the job."

A tall brunette walks in and takes the seat across from Jeffrey. Calvin sniffs and shakes his head at

Chapter 14

+10 Points

me. It's as I expected, but everyone else frowns.

"That's alright," Daisy says, patting his arm. "We've got a whole pack for you to check."

"Can I check in your dungeon?" he asks, and everyone freezes.

I don't think they're hiding anything, but it's an odd request without them knowing the context. "We just want to be sure we thoroughly check every pack since we are traveling so much," I say, trying to soothe their concerns.

"Of course," John tells him.

We stand to leave, and I grab Calvin, holding him back alone. "Here," I tell him, handing him the paper that John slid across the table to me—the paper that I asked him to print.

"Ada," he says softly as he looks at it.

"I thought it might help you," I explain. "John won't say a word."

Calvin gently runs his finger over the photo, lingering on the freckles, before he folds it up and places it in his pocket. "Thank you."



1

Comments



578

Vote