

Chapter 129

Zeke was standing between my legs, his hands combing through my hair. I was sitting on the edge of the bed, my head resting against him. We had been sitting like this since I woke up. Someone must have carried me back. Mom got a little too into her fight and knocked me the hell out, forcing Lucy to come over. She had to rearrange my face back to normal and Zeke was apparently hovering the whole time. Now, he was just holding me.

"You know, you could have just had her fix my crooked nose and stuff."

He hummed. "I think it's part of you. Plus, you got it when you ran away from me when we first met. It's a symbol of what you shouldn't do. Otherwise, you get your face rearranged."

I laughed and shook my head. "I just got my face rearranged, Z. I didn't even run away this time."

"I heard back from Morgan this morning."

My head lifted from his chest and I leaned back. Zeke wasn't look at me but out of the balcony. There was a frown on his face as his chest rose and fell.

"What did he say?"

"He was sent bags of ash, the rings of his second, third, and fourth in it."

I sighed. "Is he sure? I mean, it could be..."

"He's sure, Vale. Oran has started to make his move. We are seeing kidnappings rise and more of our people

showing up dead. Their insides being harvested. We need to do something. We can't let this keep going."

I nodded, my shoulders falling. "I thought we would have more time. I think my mom did too."

"Everyone did. Everyone thought he was cold and calculating." Zeke looked down at me. "But we don't really know why he's doing this, so that doesn't help anything. Whatever he's planning, doesn't involve time being a factor. Or it does and we've just sped up his timeline."

"Alright. Well. We have a few eyes on the camps. Let's see if we can't get a full battle map set up and we will start moving pieces in place."

Zeke smiled and ran his hands through my hair. "You know, Lucy had to rearrange my face when I fought against Auri when we first met her."

"I heard it was a glorious fight."

He snorted. "More like three seconds. I blinked and it was all over."

I laughed and shook my head. "Well, let's put the call in for the information and we can do one final group trip to the city. Then, we can start readying ourselves for what's about to happen." Naresh stepped forward and took Zeke's hand, nipping the meat of his palm. "We won't start it, but we sure as well will finish it."

"I know, Naresh. I know. I'm just not happy about fighting in general. You know that."

"I know, mate. It just seems like this is the only way to end this." Naresh kissed his palm before stepping back and letting me stand up. "Alright, let me get dressed and we

can go."

"I'm going to dress and make sure everyone is downstairs."

I went into the bathroom, dunking my head under the sink to wash my face of the blood and give my hair a quick rinse. "Who all is coming with us?"

"AJ, Jax, Lucy, Felix, and Simon for the adults."

I laughed and shook my head. "The kids?"

"Reagan, and Rowan, of course. Then we are taking Osiris, Bast, Sammy, and Wendy. They all wanted to come as well. The rest of the kids will be with Bryan for a movie. Auri and Hector said they needed to head off territory for something but I think I heard them talking about heading into the Fey forest."

Humming, I nodded. "Well, at least we won't be outnumbered."

"That's what I was thinking. I've also got Kevin, Drake, and Luke in town, just as extra coverage."

I pulled on my shirt and combed through my hair before coming out of the bathroom. Zeke was looking amazing in a dark blue button up and black jeans. I pulled him close, kissing him as I twirled his braid around my hand.

"Why so much?"

Zeke narrowed his eyes for a moment but it wasn't because he was mad, just thinking. I pressed the wrinkle between his eyebrows and he chuckled.

"I don't know. I just felt better doing that. Sometimes I still get the weird feeling that I feel when I got out alone. Like

"I'm going to get captured again and I don't like it."

I pressed my hand to his chest and gave him a kiss, tasting the pine and smelling the old books. "I'll be there with you. I'm not letting anything happen to you, Z. Not now, not ever. I will protect you. I've been training with my mom for just that reason."

He pushed me back and smirked. "Yet, I bet I could still kick your ass. I've been training a lot more and with Hector. I'm not as weak as I was before. I'll hold my own."

I smiled and slammed my hand down on his ass, full power. He yelled and jumped, rubbing the back of his jeans. "Sure you could, little Alpha."

Turning from me, Zeke grumbled as he rubbed his ass and I laughed, following him out of the room. Everyone was downstairs and we joined them, trying to work out the car situation. We decided on splitting into two of the black SUV's with everyone split down the middle, save for Simon who just squeezed into the SUV with us. Everyone was talking excitedly about going to the market.

It was the night market that they held every so often. Apparently, Mom's kids were able to earn money by helping her and Hector do things around the castle. At least, according to Sammy. She said that it ranged from mopping the floors, sweeping up leaves, or using magic to help grow the vegetables. Everyone had their strengths and Mom helped them grow them by offering compensation. Sammy and Wendy were the only ones who had saved up and wanted to get something really cool. The rest of the kids used it on snacks or stuff in the territory.

"What about Osiris and Bast? Did they earn a bunch too?"

Zeke asked, turning in his seat as I drove.

Sammy hummed. "I think they have. There was an incident last year and the whole house went up in flames..."

"What?" I looked back in the rearview mirror.

"Yeah. Herr and Felicity were fighting. Everyone kind of took sides. Uncle Uriel was watching us but he was helping Gale in the backyard with something. It got... heated." She laughed at her own pun. "Whole place went up in flames, like a bomb went off."

"What happened? Did you guys have to move?"

She shook her head. "Uncle Uriel was pissed. I haven't seen him that mad since he and Mom got into a fight." Laughing, Sammy leaned up to us. "Don't tell, but Mom used her magic and locked him in a tree for an entire day. Uncle Uriel calmed down after that, but Mom wasn't happy with him for weeks after that."

My eyebrows rose and I looked at Zeke. He also was shocked. Was Uriel, King of the Fey, not a match for my mom either? I figured that since he was putting runes on her, that he had to be stronger than her but was that just because she let him? Were runes not linked to his power? So many questions popped up in my mind but Sammy continued to chatter.

"Anyways. Uncle Uriel made us all put the house back together. A few of our things were destroyed and one of them apparently was special to Mom. She said it wasn't an issue, but she cried over it. Gale, the twins, Felicity and I were eavesdropping. It was something from the night market I think. Or at least from here. I think the twins were

working on trying to replace it." 1

My brow furrowed and I tried to think of something that my mom would have from here. Especially something she would cry over. I couldn't think of anything but I could always ask my little brother and sister when we got the market. Shaking my head, I sighed. It was so weird but after having it pointed out, both Naresh and I were very aware they were our blood. Just...half of us. I never thought I wouldn't be the youngest. Them being around the same age as Zeke and I's kids made it that much weirder.

"We will have to ask them. Make sure we can help find what they are looking for." Zeke smiled at me.

I nodded and focused back at the road. My eyes narrowed as I saw a truck coming our way. It seemed like it was weaving between the two lanes. I slowed down a bit but I realized that the truck was out of control. It was going too fast and the two trailers behind it were just barely hanging on.

"Everyone! Hold on!" I yelled at them, turning to swerve out of the way.

I watched Zeke grab his seatbelt but I couldn't reach out to him. My quick maneuver had moved us out of harms way but the back first trailer caught the side of the SUV and the second one slammed into us, throwing the whole car on it's side and into the mountain. The entire ceiling was crushed against the rock and the glass was blown out. My head hit steering wheel and I felt my nose break again for the second time today.

'Vale! Vale you have to move! Vale!' Naresh was yelling at me but he sounded so far away.

I tried to summon him forward, let him take control, but it was like he was out of reach. Spots started to fill my vision and I let my eyes move so I could see Zeke in my peripheral. He was bleeding from his head and was out cold. My heart hammered in my chest.

"Extract them! Leave the rest!"

I heard voices but they were muffled and there was a constant ringing in my ears. Trying to move my head, it hurt and I gasped, tasting blood in my mouth. The car shook and a door opened, light flooding into the car. Another light shined into my window and I heard a scoff.

"What I would expect of a fucking werewolf. He's still conscious."

"Knock him out. We don't want him calling for help yet."

Suddenly, pain exploded from the side of my head and for the second time as well, I was knocked unconscious. This time though, I could hear Naresh howling in the far reaches of my mind.

SURPRISE GIFT: 100 BONUS FREE FOR
YOU

GET IT