

## Chapter 130

Jolting up, I took gasping breaths before a hand touched my chest. It pushed me back down but I thrashed against it.

"Woah. Hold on, Vale. You're okay. Calm down."

I took a couple deep breaths and my vision cleared. Hector was leaning over a hospital bed, his hand on my chest and he was watching me. A hospital bed that I was currently laying in. Slowly, I laid back against the bed and tried to rub my head but my arm had an IV in it.

"Hector...what...?"

My head felt like a fog. I couldn't even feel Naresh. He was there but out of reach.

"Do you remember what happened?"

I shook my head, squeezing my eyes shut. I could feel the blooming pain in my head but it wasn't terrible. I'd come back from a sparring session with Mom in more pain than this. My eyes opened wide as I looked at him.

"I...Mom and I sparred. She kicked my ass too hard. I passed out..."

"Keep going." Hector urged me, he sat back down in the chair.

What happened? I was knocked out and I woke up and Zeke was telling me something about...Morgan. About the the next steps we needed to take. Then...then we were going to the night market.

"The night market. We were driving to the night market and Sammy was telling us about Bast and Osiris wanting to buy something for Mom." It was trying to slink through mud to grasp at the memories.

I figured I was on the right tack though with the dark look that crossed Hector's face. Suddenly, I noticed that his eyes were bloodshot and red, like he had been crying. There were dark circles under his eyes. While normally he looked his weird younger self, now, he looked so much older. He was hunched over in the chair, watching me struggle.

"She...we told her we would help and then...and then..." It was like my own pulling teeth. "There was a truck. There was a truck and it was swerving all over the road. Shit! Shit! Hector, I swerved! I swerved to not hit it but the trailer hit us. It slammed into our SUV, we hit the rock wall."

Hector rubbed his eyes. "Was there anything else? Were you knocked out with the hit?"

"I..." I tried to think. "No...I...I felt my nose was broken but I was okay. Zeke was next to me, he was bleeding from the head...wait...where is Zeke?" I started to sit up again.

Hector put his hand on my chest. "He's okay, Vale. He's okay. He was knocked out in the impact. He has some bruising from the airbag and cuts from the glass but he's okay. I need you to focus. You weren't knocked out with the hit. You have to remember something. Anything." The desperation in his voice told me there was something very wrong.

"Hector...I don't...wait..." I squeezed my eyes shut. "There

were voices and light. They spoke...and there were lights. It's all so fuzzy."

"Voices? Were they Italian?"

I shook my head. "No...they...they were speaking English. They knocked me out. I remember...pain in the side of my head. They were...fuck...extract? Honestly...I can't..."

Hector leaned back in the chair and rubbed his face. "It's okay, Vale. That's more than we had. Thank you. I'm sorry to push you."

"What happened? Is everyone okay?"

Looking up at the ceiling, I could see a tear fall from the corner of his eye. "You managed to miss the truck but Jax didn't have enough warning. The truck slammed into their SUV full force."

I sat up and Hector didn't stop me. "What? No...but...Hector ..."

"It was a hit, Vale. An attack. They were waiting for you. They somehow knew you were headed out this evening."

"No...no..."

Hector looked at me, tears streaming down his face, utterly broken. "Jax and Wendy are dead."

My soul left my body and I started to shake my head. "Hector...no..."

"Jax was able to swerve enough that the drivers side took the majority of the damage. But, he died instantly. Lucy was behind him but Felix managed to pull her to him right at the last minute. She...lost the baby though; as well as most of her lower half. It sheered the SUV almost in two.



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Wendy was sitting behind her. She died as well, instantly."

I choked out a sob and tried not to wail. My hand covered my mouth as I shook. My bother...my sister. Fuck, even my little sister.

"There is more."

I screamed at him. "How is there more? How can it be any worse?"

Hector was trying to hold back his own sobs. "They took Bast, Osiris, Reagan, and Rowan. Whoever hit you, got what they wanted. They extracted the kids."

Leaning over, I threw up. My kids were missing. My family dead. Hector stood up and rubbed my back but I slapped his arm away.

"I was supposed to protect them. I was supposed to make sure they were safe!"

"There was nothing you could have done, Vale. It's not your fault. You saved everyone in your car. Your quick dodge saved the ones in your car. There was nothing else that you could have possibly done."

I yelled at him, tears blurring my vision. "My kids are missing and my family is dead! How could you say that!"

"Because if I don't, I'll kill you right here."

My eyes widened and the tears that had been blurring my eyes fell, allowing me to look at Hector. His shoulders were shaking and I could see the pain and anger swirling in his eyes.

"I'll tell your mate that you're awake. He's been up and moving around for a couple hours. Don't move until the

doctor gives you the okay to do so. You broke a few ribs, your nose, ankle and you fractured your legs in a couple places. Lucy is still in surgery, they are trying to save her, so you're stuck with regular healing."

He turned and started to head out but I called after him. "Mom?"

Hector stopped and looked back at me. "Don't seek her out. Not now."

"But..."

"She almost killed me, Vale. She will kill you. Don't. Just... don't."

Hector disappeared into the hallway and the door closed gently behind him. My hands gripped the thin sheets tightly and I just started down at my hands. I knew they had been covered in cuts after I had held onto the steering wheel but they had already healed. Goddess, this was all wrong.

"Vale!"

I looked up to see Zeke, tears streaming down his face. Holding my arms out, he threw himself into me and I held him tight. He buried his face in my neck and I squeezed him as tight as I could.

"The kids...Vale..."

"I know. Hector told me."

Zeke sobbed silently into my shoulder and I held him, letting my own pain fall as well. Our emotions were completely open and each of our own pain were just mixing together. Naresh finally felt push past the fog but

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his pain, his whimpering and howling only made me bury my head in Zeke's hair, holding onto him tighter.

"I'm so sorry."

"It's not your fault, Vale. You couldn't have known."

I shook my head. "I was awake. I was awake but I was so disoriented. I let them...I let them take our kids. They knocked me out when they realized I was awake."

Zeke took a deep breath and leaned back, brushing some of the hair that had falling in my face, away. "Then we know there are people we need to destroy. We know there are people who we will kill to get our kids back."

I nodded, cupping his cheek. "I couldn't save them though ...Jax...Wendy...Lucy..."

"Lucy is still in surgery."

"But her baby...she was so happy...Bryan was so happy..."

Zeke closed his eyes. "We will get through this, Vale. We will get through this and we will make whoever did this, pay. We will kill them all." The growl at the end of his sentence was Faris and I nodded.

"Yes, we will. We will get our kids back and my brother and sister. Did Hector say anything more? Who he thinks it might be?"

Zeke opened his eyes, that same red ring and bloodshot eyes as Hector had, looking at me with that fire. "I think we all know who did this."

My brow furrowed. "What...?"

"Oran, Vale. We weren't moving fast enough for him with


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the other kidnappings and attacks going on. He started the war already but now, he's made it personal by taking our kids. Who else takes kids? This was his inciting incident. This is how he's bringing us to him. He's made the first move."

I growled, trying to hold back from shifting. "Then he got his war. This will be the last thing Oran will ever do. We will destroy them, all of them if they try to stand between us and our family."

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