

Chapter 132

I stared down into the mug of black coffee. Today was the day. We would be leaving for the High Council Castle. Today everyone from our pack as well as the others who flew in would be making our way to the castle. It took us two weeks to gather everyone and everything we need. Originally, I wanted it to be just us but the numbers that were pouring in from our spies near the castle were too much. So far, no monsters that my mom described had been sighted, but that didn't mean that they weren't there.

I'd reached out to a few of the more well known packs, and Zeke actually reconnected with his pack. They sent warriors and his cousin even joined us as well. There were others, from all over. Hector's father's pack in Egypt sent five of their best warriors. I reached out to Alpha Evan but he said Luna Naomi was in her last trimester and couldn't leave himself. But he did send a few of the warriors who I knew from our time over there.

Morgan wasn't going to be there. When he told me, I felt it like a punch in the gut. Mom had already asked him to take her kids. Plus, if we were actually successful in killing Oran, he would need to step up as the new Vampire King. He was still resigned about it, but after they took the kids, Morgan was just as upset and angry as we were. Oran crossed a line and he wanted our attention, so now he had not just our attention but our wrath. Even though Morgan wasn't there, he handed over his army to Pipsqueak who had joined our fight. She was actually in person as well. I'm not sure how Mom managed that, but she was the one leading the vampire mafia army.

I'd tried to convince Zeke not to come but the moment I opened my mouth, I received one of the hardest slaps across my face. I hadn't even said anything. It shook my brain and after the stars finally cleared, Zeke wasn't even in front of me anymore. That was my answer and I didn't bring it up again. Mom was untouchable. She'd settled a bit after killing that guy but it wasn't enough for her to be approachable. However, some interesting characters had been showing up over the past few days, saying that she had called them here. So even she was gathering people.

Uriel took it personal as well. They took his niece and nephew, and killed one of his nieces. The fey was out for blood. He advised that as soon as we found a good staging area, that Mom could call him and he would be the force of the fey with him, leading them himself. Apparently, with all their trips to the fey realm, the kids were apart of fey realm and hurting kids was a cardinal sin.

We had pulled all our information and I had the full map of the area as well as all the locations of the camps. I even added my knowledge of the secret passages around the castle that I had used to get some air when I felt too confined. Now, it was burning into my brain. So much so, I could see the map in the swirls of bubbles in my coffee.

"Alpha King, we are almost ready."

I looked up from my coffee and Simon was standing there. He had a huge scar now that ran from his ear to his head. It was lucky that his skull was so thick, otherwise he would have been another casualty of Oran's attack.

"Yes, of course. Are the seating arrangements set?"

"We have the convoy and Auri is setting up the portal in the middle of the road. We have had the authorities shut down the road for incoming traffic so we won't need to worry about anyone seeing us or running into anyone."

I nodded absently. "Good. Let's make sure everyone is set up. Get into contact with my mom. I want her in place before we head out."

"Yes, Alpha King."

Simon left out the front door and I sighed, leaning my butt against the counter. I felt such a mash of emotions. Most of me was a vengeful, wrath-filled, raging wolf. Oran had my kids. He had my brother and sister. Oran had done unspeakable things to my friends, family, and my mate. But now, I had over a thousand people coming with me. I was responsible for all them. This was my plan, and truthfully, my war. I'd originally posed peace. My kids were the ones we were fighting for. I asked them to come and help. Their lives were on me. That weight held down the pain and anger to leave me vision clear.

"Vale."

I looked up again, Zeke had his hair braided with multiple colors running threaded through the strands. He was wearing jeans and a t-shirt but he also had a backpack slung on his shoulder.

"I thought we packed everything."

He nodded. "Yeah, this...is for the kids. I packed some extra clothes for them and their favorite toys and stuffed animals."

I gave him a sad smile. "Good thinking."

"I'll just keep it with me. I can have it in my lap when we get there."

My eyes fell to my almost empty coffee mug. Zeke came over, the sparks rushing between us as he pulled my chin up to look at him.

"We will get them back. They will be back and safe in our arms. Don't worry."

"I know. I know...I just..." The storm of emotions rolled through me and I started to feel sick to my stomach. "How did my parents do this? How did they decide that this was the right thing? How did Dad lead them? How did he handle the weight of the lives they lost during the battle?"

Zeke sighed. "I can't give a good answer. I've had to think about it but luckily, your mom and the crazy cohorts of the family came and saved my pack from having to fight that battle. I still lost someone dear but it could have been so much worse." He paused. "Why not just ask her? I'm sure she would answer."

I snorted and shook my head. "Have you seen her? She's like a completely different person."

"I don't know. I think she's still Auri, just...maybe not your Mom. I heard a few of the guys she brought in call her Astra. Maybe that's who she is right now. She's not Auri, the Luna Queen. She's not Mom, taking care of everyone while shoveling food down their throats. She's not Estel, teaching them magic and trying to give them as normal of a life as possible. She's Astra, the fighter, the mercenary, and the complete badass that all the stories told."

"What am I?" My voice broke as I said it.

Zeke took my head in his hands. "You are Vale. You are the Alpha King. You are the Alpha of the Golden Moon pack. You are son of the previous Alpha King Logan. Son of the previous Luna Queen Auri. You are you and you don't need to be anyone else. You are my mate, my Alpha, and the love of my life. The father of my children. That's all you need to be for people to follow you."

I dropped my head into his hands and I felt his thumb brush away my tears as they fell down my cheeks. "Thank you, my Alpha. I couldn't do this without you."

"You could, but you would have sucked at it."

I chuckled and shook my head, pulling Zeke into a deep and loving kiss. "I love you, my mate."

"I love you as well. Now come on. We need to get into position. We are the lead car."

Sighing, I poured out the small amount of coffee that had gone cold in the bottle of my mug and set it in the sink. I would be back to wash it so it didn't matter. We were going to get this done and come back. All of us were going to a long ass vacation and I wouldn't need to worry about anything else cropping up except small squabbles between packs. Zeke was about to grab his backpack but I grabbed it for him. He huffed but followed after me. 1

"We are ready, Alpha King." One of the warriors mind-linked with me.

I mind-linked back as I climbed into the Hummer. "Ezekiel and I are getting into the Hummer now. We will lead the charge. Wait for us to pull out of the packhouse."

"Yes sir."

There was no one else coming with us because Hector and Mom were supposed to jump into our vehicle after we transported everyone through. We decided to come out on the other side a bit further down the road so we could grab our bearings and see what we needed to in order to set up. We didn't want to hit them immediately. I didn't want to, and neither did Zeke or my mom but we were going to send a message to request the pups back as well as they surrender the Vampire King and we wouldn't hurt anyone who chose their side.

"Ready?"

I nodded and jammed the keys into the ignition. It roared to life and I pulled down the driveway. As I turned onto the road I mind linked AJ, who had taken the lead of the caravan in the city after I made Felix stay. Lucy was still in too much of a precarious situation with her health. She needed Felix more than I needed him. So I had AJ take up the position so that he was driving the lead car of the caravan with everyone else.

'Headed to you, Vale.' His voice was so hollow since losing his brother and it made my heart tighten.

We were about to get revenge for them though. There would be justice. No matter what happened, Oran was dying.



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