

Chapter 199 Another Imposter

"Commander Landon, I want you over on the left side, and General Vandough, you'll take the right." Ethan pointed to the map to indicate each wing's accurate location. "And the center—"

I stood up and interrupted him, "—I'll lead the center!"

Ethan didn't immediately reject my proposal, but I could see the disapproval in his eyes. We hadn't talked since last night, but right then, both of us knew we had more important responsibilities to attend to.

Normally, Ethan would certainly be leading the attack. The problem was that he hadn't fully recovered yet.

While the Moonlight Lily woke him from his coma, for some reason, Ethan seemed to have lost control of his own physical strength. Sometimes he would break a tree as easy as snapping fingers, but sometimes he couldn't even maintain his wolf.

Cerina and the elders were looking into the cause of it, but so far they hadn't found anything.

I reasoned with him, "I'll lead the center. For a few reasons. First, I'm the White Queen, and me being there could raise morale. Second, Talon and Georgia will be with me, and you shouldn't have any concerns about my safety. Third, it's easier to communicate with the left and right wings if I'm there to use mindlink with Commander Landon and General Vandough."

I watched him press his lips together, wanting to say something. When he spoke again, though, he didn't object to my proposal. Instead, he continued with the plan, making sure we had all of our troops spread out in the most effective manner possible, and then we went out to position the warriors.

Rather than waiting for the enemies to come to us, we moved out to meet them. This was the first battle after we decided to go on the offensive.

I stayed in my human form alongside Georgia at first, wanting to make sure every warrior on our side of the field could see me and hear me.

As the wolves howled, the two sides charged toward each other and wolves collided. This wasn't the first time the two armies fought, but it was my first time leading a fully bloomed battle.

Blood, fur, dirt, howls, and whimpers... everything started to mix together, all I could see was hundreds and thousands of unnecessary demise. However, it wasn't time for me to get sentimental.

When I saw a large female wolf attacking one of my already wounded warriors, I shifted and rushed over to help, hitting her in the side and knocking her away from the male wolf that was struggling to his feet.

The she-wolf turned back toward me, baring her teeth as she snarled. I wasn't as big as she was, but I knew I was stronger. When she came toward me, I stepped to the side and dodged her, spinning around to grab her by the back leg. I bit down and yanked as hard as I could, ripping her muscle and tasting her blood in my mouth. She yelped and twirled her head around, trying to get her teeth into me.

Using my front legs, I knocked her down and then leaped on top of her. With her squirming beneath me, trying to get free, I held her in place with my paws and used my snout to force her to turn her head so that I could pierce my teeth into her neck.

It wasn't easy, but I managed to make her tip her head out of the way, and then, as I was about to clamp down on her neck, she whimpered.

In that split second, as she almost broke free, a knife cut through her throat and blood coated my white fur.

"Focus, Rosalie!" Georgia shouted at me. "It's not the time to let down your guard."

I nodded my wolf head to her and ran to high ground to survey the field.

We were winning, that was for certain. I could see that we were driving the enemy back. It was quite clear to me that King Kal's forces were much weaker now than they had been before the major attack when Ethan had tricked them into falling into that oily pit.

I did not see Behar or Madalynn; it appeared as if they weren't anywhere on the battlefield.

I didn't see King Kal either, but that wasn't unusual. He usually stayed in the very back of the forces and directed them.

Then our plan to converge and come together on the other side of the woods should work, and hopefully would trap King Kal's men in between, making it difficult for them to get away.

I let Commander Landon and General Vandough continue to lead their sides in battle and stayed back, observing. If I saw anything that concerned me, I would let them know via mindlink, but it was clear that the battle had proceeded as planned, so I was content to let them do what they did best—command the troops in the field.

A few hours into the battle, I found a chance to shift back to human as I saw Georgia running from out of the woods behind me and went over to meet her. "What are you doing here?" she asked me.

"I am just watching to make sure the battle is going as planned," I said. "We are definitely winning. I just sent in some more forces on the right. Where have you been?"

"I headed back to check in with Ethan on something in the rear, back near the camp. But... that's not what I meant."

I saw a large male wolf who was wreaking havoc on our lines. Using the mindlink, I told Jace, 'Get a few people to take that large gray wolf out. He's causing too much trouble.'

'Yes, my Queen,' he replied. 'I saw him and will make sure he is stopped.'

I saw Jace moving into place and returned my attention to Georgia. "What do you mean?" I asked her, seeing that she was still confused.

"I mean... I swear, when I was running back from talking to Ethan, I saw you walking toward the camp. I saw you off in the distance, heading toward Ethan." She looked bewildered.

"It must've just been someone who resembled me," I said, mulling that over.

She shook her head. "Really, Rosalie, how many women our age have white hair? And she was wearing the same style of clothes that you usually do."

I had a bad feeling. "Were there other enemy forces near the spot where you saw her?" I asked.

Georgia nodded. "Yeah, a few, but not a lot. Ethan was aware that they were heading that way. They were coming in from the west."

I stared at her for a moment. This wasn't the first time someone looked just like me from a distance.

"What if..." I mumbled.

"Let me try mindlink," Georgia said, tapping her chin with her finger. "And what if—what?"

I didn't even want to say out loud what I was thinking, but I had to tell her so that she could convince me I was being ridiculous.

"What if... it's a trap?" I rushed through what I wanted to say. "Georgia, don't you remember how Madalynn fooled everyone into thinking I was dead? She had a woman dress up like me and then made her fall over that cliff, right?"

I was hoping she was going to laugh and tell me I was stupid, but she didn't. Instead, her eyes widened, and she said, "Have you seen Madalynn on the field today?"

"No, I haven't." My heart leaped up into my throat. "Have you gotten in touch with Ethan yet?"

She looked up at me, and her eyes filled with shock and horror. "No, he's not answering the mindlink."

Taking a deep breath, I said, "We need to get back there—now! Before it's too late!"

"Don't worry, Rosalie," Georgia told me as we rushed back toward the camp. "My brother isn't stupid enough to fall for Madalynn's tricks. He'll know that it's not you."

I wanted to be as positive as Georgia, but I couldn't because Ethan didn't answer the mindlink. That meant he was either unconscious or too far away. But we were in the middle of the battle, under normal circumstances, so neither should happen.

'Commander Landon, please work with General Vandough to wrap up the battle. I have an emergency!' I mindlinked Commander Landon, and then said to Georgia, "Georgia, let Talon know where we're going. I'll shift so I can smell better."

Georgia picked up my clothes and jumped on my back, letting our noses carry us to a place deep in the woods.

Ethan was no longer in the tent he was supposed to be in, and I heard Georgia curse under her breath.

We ran into the woods deeper. Thank the Goddess that it didn't take long for us to locate where he was.

The place was a bit off into the woods from our camp, and I could see Ethan was chained up, and several of his wolves were wounded and surrounded by a small group of Kal's soldiers, along with Madalynn in her human form.

It looked like we were presently outnumbered. I used the mindlink to call back to camp for backup, for we would need it soon.

In front of her was a cage, the door hanging open, and a woman with white hair who looked so much like me was standing next to her.

"Ethan, for your precious breeder Rosalie, you really are willing to take any risk, huh? What did she do to you? F*cking you so well that you lost your godd*mn mind?" Madalynn sneered.

Ethan was also in his human form, wearing a small pair of shorts he'd obviously carried with him to shift so he could unlock the cage for the woman he thought might be me with his hands.

"I'll make sure you regret it if your dirty mouth dares say her name one more time!" Ethan said coldly.

Madalynn spit on the ground, and provoked him by saying, "You're chained up, you b*stard! What can you do, huh?"

However, she didn't say my name again. She leaped into the air, shifting as she came back down, clearly on her way to attack Ethan.

Ethan's strength was still wavering ever since he had woken up, and it seemed that Ethan couldn't shift at the moment. It was obvious that Madalynn had also realized it and she struck Ethan with her claws, leaving his bare chest with horrendous bloody wounds.

Madalynn pinned Ethan on the ground and her wolf mouth was about to bite into his shoulder when he punched her wolf in the face. However, that also left more wounds on his body as Madalynn used her fangs and claws to fight back.

Fury filled me and I was heartbroken.

How dare Madalynn hurt him like that!

Georgia and I exchanged a look and moved forward. Kal's warriors didn't see us until it was too late. Georgia crashed into the back of a large male wolf using a knife, and I skirted between them.

His yelp drew Madalynn's attention. She was distracted for a second, and Ethan managed to get on his feet.

"Rosalie, don't come over! Dangerous!" he yelled as he ran toward me, trying to protect me from Madalynn's attack.

Madalynn saw him move and she shot up into the air, attempting to hit Ethan in the side. I felt rage rush through my body. Who did she think she was?!

My paws left the ground and I went flying, knocking Madalynn away. She rolled across the ground, hitting so hard that I heard her bones crack.

Ethan stood there for a few seconds, then he looked at me and murmured, "I forgot you were so strong..."

I turned to look at him and then went after Madalynn again, hoping to get to her before she could get up off of the ground. But by the time I got there, she wasn't a wolf anymore.

She was a human now, a naked one, and she was sitting on the ground, her head bleeding, her body bruised and battered.

"You f*cking w***e! It's all your fault!"

I looked at her defenseless naked body and realized that I couldn't bring myself to kill her, no matter how much she disgusted me. "I would've been the next Luna Queen, but you ruined it! I finally found my mate, and you guys almost kill him..." She was so upset that her eyes were filled with tears and she started to weep.

"Why is it always you?! You stupid, flithy, f*cking w***e!" she screamed and the battle quieted down around us as the other wolves listened in. Some continued to fight, but I stopped in my tracks.

Ethan walked up next to me. His handsome face glared down and he ordered, "Shut up or you will die!"

Madalynn's laugh rang throughout the area around us. "You b*stard!" she shouted at him, "You'll pay!" She climbed to her feet, and shaking a fist at him, she yelled viciously, "One day, you'll regret everything and you'll pay!"

Then she shifted back into her wolf form, turned around, and ran back into the woods.

I followed her but then heard Ethan shout behind me, "No! Wait, Rosalie!"

A moment later, I heard the howls and knew what was happening. Between the trees, rows of wolves appeared.