

Chapter 114 Dealing With The Truth

Aero

'Lady Georgia has it?!' were the words that escaped from my thoughts.

I gripped the gilded armrest to silently express my combined anger and surprise. It was so strong that I created cracks and splinters around it.

I couldn't believe I was clueless this whole time. If she has the mark then this meant Alpha Edmond has it too, but how? And...why? And what does this mean to the kingdom? To me and Serena?

Patience wasn't one of my best assets if I wanted to find the answers stat, so I mind-linked the aforementioned man and asked, 'Alpha Edmond, may I have a word with you? Preferably now.'

'Your Majesty.' His attention, from Alpha Russel, landed to me and bowed low. We exchanged gazes, each clearly looking at the other despite the distance of our seats. 'A pleasant evening to you. General Halcynos told me about your quest. Worry not, I am available to help you.'

'Then tell me why you hid the fact that you and your wife owned the same marks as Serena and I

have?’ I asked on the dot. I could care less whether he found it rude or offensive. I just want the fucking answers.

‘Your Majesty, our apologies for hiding it from you but there’s a reason why we did it,’ was his answer.

‘Then tell me what.’ I gripped the poor armrest again. Beside me, Serena was still engrossed with the program, but I sensed she was listening to our telepathic conversation, snooping almost but not intentionally. She couldn’t help it. We mates were designed that way after all.

‘I really want to answer but I suggest you wait until you come to my pack house tomorrow, Your Majesty. I promise everything will be cleared by then,’ Alpha Edmond requested.

‘You know I hate waiting, alpha.’ My jaw twitched with impatience.

‘I’m aware Your Majesty,’ he answered and for some reason, he was very determined than scared, ‘but...it is necessary you should see the writings yourself.’

What writings? I wanted to ask but decided not to. This must be the scrolls and books General Halcy nos mentioned earlier.

‘Very well,’ I submitted in the end.

He kept his head lowered as a reply to my decision.

‘Thank you for understanding, Your Majesty.’

At the reception hall inside the pack house, conversations were done over the dining table but none were about my quest and/or Serena's pregnancy. We hadn't officially announced to the kingdom yet we were actually expecting. This news was exclusive only to close friends and family for now for safety reasons. Rogues were still rampant all over the kingdom and it was my job as a soon-to-be-father to stay vigilant with possible threats to their lives.

When Serena and I retired to our bed, she made an attempt to ease my impatience and frustration about the impending meeting with Alpha Edmond. She pointed out possible reasons why they kept the truth from me and mostly, these were all along the lines of fear or coercion.

I couldn't agree more. I wasn't new to my father using dirty tactics to gain what he wanted.

Serena and I were the living proof of it, but not that I was complaining.

He kept the whole kingdom in the dark about our mother's real reason for dying and he kept our people from gaining a competent ruler until a revolt almost exploded. I was the one who worked behind the scenes to maintain my family's power over Phanteon. I was the one who saved it from his neglectful ways. I thought I was free from it all after his death but it seemed there was more of

his dirty work I was yet to uncover.

And fucking clean.

Thinking about these things hindered me from getting a night of good sleep. As a result, for the first time ever since I shared my bed with Serena, I left her, changed into my werewolf form and ran all over the borders of my kingdom just to clear my troubled mind.

“Welcome to the Cydan Pack, Alpha King Aero and Queen Serena,” Alpha Edmond greeted the moment we stepped outside the coach.

His pack territory was located twenty kilometers away from Alchidna. We had to pass by the Sotana Pack along the mountains and use the roads near the southeast sea to get to his house. It was a long journey but Serena enjoyed it mainly because it was her first time traveling on these paths.

Speaking of house, as expected of the alpha of the benevolent pack, his abode was nowhere near the same as the other alphas’ mansions.

It was a standard-sized building with white painted walls and vines creeping along the roofs and porch. The garden was full of flower shrubs and this was surrounded by a blue picket fence. Since a drive-through portico wasn’t available, William had to park the coach outside the road. This

wasn't a formal welcome for two visiting royals but Serena absolutely didn't mind.

"You have a really charming house, Alpha Edmond," she exclaimed; her shimmering eyes glued to the entire place in front of us.

"Thank you, Luna," he replied, briefly dipping his head. "This is my wife's vision. She prefers modest houses than mansions and I couldn't agree more."

"I believe we have the same taste, alpha," she admitted. I knew that about her judging from the small apartment she owned back on Earth, but she wasn't complaining too when she started living inside the castle.

"Where is she now?" Serena's neck craned and directed her attention to the opened door of the house.

"She's preparing a feast for both of you in the kitchen, Your Highness," Alpha Edmond informed.

"Oh, can I join her?" she asked without hesitation.

Deep inside, I couldn't stop shaking my head.

Partly I knew she was ecstatic with the thought of homecooked meals and partly I knew this was her subtle way of giving me and Alpha Edmond some privacy.

"Of course, Luna, she would love your company!" he exclaimed, his smile reaching from ear to

ear thus showing the wrinkles on his forehead and eyes.

He motioned towards the stone path beyond the picket fence and Serena marched to it after giving me a parting kiss on the cheek.

‘Aero, I know you want answers but don’t frighten the man alright?’ I remembered her words before we arrived in Cydan and this became my support when I faced the alpha.

“Your Majesty.” He slightly bent his head and gave me a reverent look.

“I won’t dally any longer, Alpha Edmond. You know why I’m here,” I stated without preamble.

He simply nodded and spread his arm towards a different path outside the fence.

“Come with me please,” he said and started walking. With brows tight, I followed him to what looked like a secret passage some meters away from the backyard. The door was rusted and covered with thick flowering vines. He produced a key from his coat pocket and used it to unlock the hidden door.

A dry creaking sound filled our ears when he opened it. I had to duck low just to escape the vines dangling on the doorway.

Once we were both inside a damp, dimly lit vestibule, Alpha Edmond pressed something on the

wall and the whole place got illuminated with warm yellow light.

A long hallway appeared up ahead and he pointed to it.

“This place is a bit rundown, Your Majesty, but it has served me well,” he said.

I followed him as he walked to another door made with plain wood. Huh. No one would ever think the kingdom’s most guarded secrets were inside it.

He opened it using another key and gestured for me to come in once he flicked the lights on.

I wasted no time wondering what I’d find because the moment I entered the room, I saw piles of books and scrolls on round tables. There were also shelves that displayed more books but I doubt they were the ones I was looking for.

“Please direct your attention to that safe over there, Your Majesty,” he informed, pointing to the object placed under the table on the right side of the room.

After nearing it, he squatted, pulled the safe out of the floor, and placed it on the table.

“Since that night when your father ordered all historical texts to be burned, nobody has ever entered this special area except me, Your Majesty. I saved as many scrolls as I could without King

Gideon's knowledge. I know I would go to treason if he were to find out so I kept this a secret ever since."

He began pulling out rolled scrolls tied using a black ribbon and handed one to me.

I took it and unrolled the parchment. My first thought after reading the damn content was: holy fuck.

It was written in Phanteon language; used indelible ink from Sattus, and it was imbued with fairylike dust from the first full moon of the kingdom. This meant all the words on the parchment were absolute and irreversible.

Signed by my father during the creation of Phanteon, it told about all werewolves and lycans bound by an unseen force of the Universe. Through the moon, this force manifests in the form of a crescent mark on the wrists of two destined people.

It told how these marks represent their unity and love. It told about the binding of their souls as one and no force or person—living, dead, or otherwise—could ever break or rewrite it.

"After ordering a witch to burn all the scrolls, King Gideon changed this truth, Your Majesty,"

Alpha Edmond revealed, taking my attention away from the paper.

“He changed it and used the story of a moon goddess, Selene, to make the mating process believable. Nobody knew why he did this but he told the whole kingdom to accept this new belief, keep the old a secret, or else we face death. Of course, despite our reluctance, we agreed. Those few that didn’t accept this either were killed or became the rogue packs we face now.”

Sudden anger surged through me upon hearing this. All this time, I thought rogue packs were only localized problems in certain territories. If I knew then this wasn’t the case, I would have fixed this problem myself.

“Months after this happened, King Gideon married your mother. Queen Olivia was his childhood sweetheart. They claimed to be true mates and we didn’t question it because they looked truly in love with each other.”

“That is after I was born and she started her promiscuity,” I filled in, sensing just where he was going with the conversation.

“Yes, Your Majesty.” He diverted his eyes away from me, probably embarrassed by the situation.

“We always believed true mates could never do that to her or his partner. It gives both souls pain and suffering.”

“Seems like my father was too blind with his desire for her and just ignored the pain.” My anger

increased a hundredfold. My wolf and lycan sides clawed inside me, wanting to destroy my father's full-sized sculpture in the Cirelles' town square. He didn't deserve that kind of honor if he deliberately fooled his people. I knew I did the same to them, faking marriage with Serena at first, but that wasn't the point.

This here was a bigger issue. This went against all the four pillars of Phanteon.

"What's Sedsah's role with all of this?" I asked, remembering the piece of shit living inside my castle.

Alpha Edmond looked sorry. "I'm afraid I can't answer that, Your Majesty. They have been secretive with their meetings. I may be King Gideon's Royal Adviser but I am honestly in the shadows when it came to their actions."

This time, my anger seeped through and I punched a hole through the wall nearby.

"He'll pay for this if I prove he is tolerating my father's whims!"

Inhaling deep, I closed my eyes and murmured, "And as for the priest who did the marriage ritual to Serena and me, he'll be charged with treason."

'Aero, I don't think that's wise,' Serena on cue mind-linked me. 'Please give the priest a chance to explain. His happiness at that time seeing the marks was genuine. I believe he just doesn't know.'

He could be a victim of your father's manipulation too."

Despite not wanting to, I relented. She was my voice of reason after all.

"Serena, you are too lenient, but I'll take your advice and give these bastards a chance to explain," was my answer.

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