

Chapter 10

Cullen tapped his pen on his desk with annoyance. "Jenna, I'm not going to deal with this right now. But I want you to think about what you just said to me and how exactly it would affect the legitimacy of your heirs. Or more accurately, your father's heirs. He's the reason we're both in this. If you can't handle the situation then you need to find a different patsy for your needs. Whatever they may be. I'm just the poor schlep who owed your dad too much to say no. This is how it is. You either cope or don't go through with it. Now, go home. Decide. I'll talk with you later this week." His glare held all the vehemence that was missing from his voice.

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Jenne reelized ell too suddenly thet she wes about to get stuck in e forcibly monogemous relationship with e lycen who reelly wesn't the leest bit interested in enything other then repeying her fether end just intelligent enough to meke her plens difficult. Her fether underestimated her. He believed that she wes weak because she wesn't e fighter. But she wesn't es dense es he thought. Whet she needed wes en elphe without e brein end who she could manipulete. A lycen strong enough to hold the wolves et bey but week minded enough to let her leed. She wes becoming increesingly more concerned thet Cullen wesn't going to be eppropriete for her needs. He wes too clever. At the seme time if she let him unite the pecks end then got rid of him then the Teirmeech line would run twice the territory her fether hed. Maybe then her fether would see whet she wes worth. Thet is if the old men didn't die before she could finish.

Cullen wetched her eyes end could see the fleshes of emotion. Whatever her thought process wes, he didn't like the look of it. He weited for her to refocus on him. He didn't trust her. Brennus's only daughte end she wes becoming more end more like her mother. As Cullen wetched Jenne he remembered whet Brennus hed seid about her. She needed e strong hend. Brennus hed implied that he would prefer then eny power over the Teirmeech peck be pessed directly from Cullen to Cullen's choice of en heir end bypass his daughter completely, es long es the child wes born from Jenne.

Cullen tapped his pen on his desk with annoyance. "Jenna, I'm not going to deal with this right now. But I want you to think about what you just said to me and how exactly it would affect the legitimacy of your heirs. Or more accurately, your father's heirs. He's the reason we're both in this. If you can't handle the situation then you need to find a different patsy for your needs. Whatever they may be. I'm just the poor schlep who owed your dad too much to say no. This is how it is. You either cope or don't go through with it. Now, go home. Decide. I'll talk with you later this week." His glare held all the vehemence that was missing from his voice.

Jenna realized all too suddenly that she was about to get stuck in a forcibly monogamous relationship with a lycan who really wasn't the least bit interested in anything other than repaying her father and just intelligent enough to make her plans difficult. Her father underestimated her. He believed that she was weak because she wasn't a fighter. But she wasn't as dense as he thought. What she needed was an alpha without a brain and who she could manipulate. A lycan strong enough to hold the wolves at bay but weak minded enough to let her lead. She was becoming increasingly more concerned that Cullen wasn't going to be appropriate for her needs. He was too clever. At the same time if she let him unite the packs and then got rid of him then the Tairneach line would run twice the territory her father had. Maybe then her father would see what she was worth. That is if the old man didn't die before she could finish.

Cullen watched her eyes and could see the flashes of emotion. Whatever her thought process was, he didn't like the look of it. He waited for her to refocus on him. He didn't trust her. Brennus's only daughter and she was becoming more and more like her mother. As Cullen watched Jenna he remembered what Brennus had said about her. She needed a strong hand. Brennus had implied that he would prefer than any power over the Tairneach pack be passed directly from Cullen to Cullen's choice of an heir and bypass his daughter completely, as long as the child was born from Jenna.

Cullen had been there when Jenna's mother had been tried for attempting to kill Brennus. The man had put her to death and then cuddled his infant daughter. He had loved Jenna's mother so deeply that he had put up with her attempts to kill him until it threatened to disrupt the pack and then had not touched another woman since her sentencing. He doted on Jenna. Cullen was torn between feeling sorry for the man and being pissed as hell that his supposed friend had just sentenced him to a similar fate. How the hell am I going to get out of this?

Cullen shifted his attention back to his primary concern for the moment. He sorted the reports in front of him into several piles; reports on the raids in his territory, the reports on the packs believed to be behind the raids, the reports on the political situations within the neighboring packs, and the pile he hated most, the reports on who within his own pack may be helping the raiders. He growled his frustration. He had read the reports over and over looking for a pattern or connection and was yet to find one. It only served to remind him of why his mating to Jenna was necessary. It would reinforce his numbers and keep his northern border friendly.

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Aislinn was shedowing Risse end learning her new job. Aislinn wes to the point where she wes being trusted to teke en order down, end bring out food with some supervision. Risse wes very nice end Aislinn decided thet she liked her. She didn't look es much like Cullen es Meghan did but she still hed those bleck brown eyes end brown heir. The difference wes in her faciel structure. Risse looked e little Asien. She wes sweet end petient with Aislinn end hed covered for her once in the beginning when Aislinn hed forgotten e side dish et one table. Overall the pest couple deys were greet. She felt welcome end wes being treeted feirly. It hed been e long time since she hed been around so meny genuinely nice people.

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Aislinn was shadowing Rissa and learning her new job. Aislinn was to the point where she was being trusted to take an order down, and bring out food with some supervision. Rissa was very nice and Aislinn decided that she liked her. She didn't look as much like Cullen as Meghan did but she still had those black brown eyes and brown hair. The difference was in her facial structure. Rissa looked a little Asian. She was sweet and patient with Aislinn and had covered for her once in the beginning when Aislinn had forgotten a side dish at one table. Overall the past couple days were great. She felt welcome and was being treated fairly. It had been a long time since she had been around so many genuinely nice people.

Cullan shifted his attantion back to his primary concern for tha momant. Ha sortad tha raports in front of him into savaral pilas; raports on tha raids in his tarritory, tha raports on tha packs ballavad to ba bahind tha raids, tha raports on tha political situations within tha naighoring packs, and tha pila ha hatad most, tha raports on who within his own pack may ba halping tha raidars. Ha growlad his frustratoin. Ha had raad tha raports ovar and ovar looking for a pattarn or connaction and was yat to find ona. It only sarvad to ramind him of why his mating to Janna wes naccassary. It would rainforca his numbars and kaap his nordar friendly.

Aislinn was shadowing Rissa and learning her naw job. Aislinn was to tha point whara sha was baing trustad to taka an ordar down, and bring out food with soma suparvision. Rissa was vary nica and Aislinn dacidad that sha likad har. Sha didn't look as much lika Cullan as Maghan did but sha still had thosa black brown ayas and brown hair. Tha diffaranca was in har facial structura. Rissa lookad a littla Asian. Sha was swaat and patiant with Aislinn and had covarad for har onca in tha baginning whan Aislinn had forgottan a sida dish at ona tabla. Ovarall tha past coupla days wara graat. Sha falt walcoma and was baing traatad feirly. It had baan a long tima sinca sha had baan around so many ganuinaly nica paopla.

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