

Chapter 31

"He had set it up that Jenna was supposed to kill you. When she did then the people he's gotten to inside your pack were going to attack the rest of the pack and his people would come out of hiding and then he was supposed to take over. Obviously it didn't work." Aislinn looked upset. She didn't like thinking about all of it. At the mention of people in his pack Cullen tensed and had to remind himself to let her finish.

"He also mentioned that he had given me the 'gift of the change.' Whatever that means. And that he would finish it when he got me back. I guess I did notice some things about myself that had changed after I left him. I was stronger and faster. I could smell things better and my vision and hearing got better. I never understood it but I didn't have time to think about it, what with all the running. I don't really know what it means or what the change is for certain. But I think I can guess that at this point. I don't think anything would surprise me after everything I've seen and been through. My visions got stronger as well. And sometimes when I saw myself in them I would be something on all fours. I never really thought that it was anything more than a dream form of some kind. I mean I've dreamt that I'm other people I know or that I'm a shadow or that I could fly. So why not dream that I was an animal? I never considered that the animal thing might be part of the premonition until I started to figure you out. And even then I never really took that idea seriously. In my visions I'm on four legs but I've never seen what I am. And Rafe's statement didn't include a description of what he'd changed me into. I never actually saw all those animals change into people or vice versa but I don't think that it would be a big jump to guess that they could." Cullen nodded.

Aislinn stopped and looked contemplative. She was trying to think if there was anything else she knew that Cullen might find helpful to know. Not to mention if she told him everything right now then she'd be able to say honestly that she didn't have any more information. "Um, I've heard him use the word druid. Between that and him calling the compound the Circle and the research I did when I had that luxury I was able to draw conclusions and make connections about that. But it's not like the original druids in Europe from 500BC kept records or books so that I could figure out what he was thinking he was. But I could pretty much guess he wasn't the Winston Churchill kind of druid. I also know that Rafe has some weird vision of cultivating a 'perfect Circle.' I don't know what exactly that meant but I heard the phrase more than once. He has a crazy vision of something and he's been planning to get it for years.

"I know from the vision in the restaurant and from the ceremony that he wants the standing stones for some reason. But you should have figured that out by now. I'm guessing from the whole druid connection and the Stonehenge associations that he either wants them for sentimental reasons or he thinks there's power there. I don't know for sure on that one either. Really I don't know anything. I just have a lot of partial information. Just enough to make Rafe keep coming and not enough to do me any good."

She took a deep breath and moved to stretch. Cullen watched her quietly, realizing that he had almost forgotten she was naked during all of the seriousness. It was all he could do to keep from going after her breasts as he watched her change positions and get comfortable again. "Anyway, that's how I met him and why I don't know if I'm human and how I knew about the stuff with you and the ceremony. Did I leave anything out? Oh yeah," she added sarcastically. "My full name is Aislinn Brianne Stevens."

Cullen noted the sarcasm in that last and knew that her self defense mechanism had kicked in and that he better be careful or he'd be sleeping alone after the meeting. And he definitely didn't want that. So he ignored the tone and focused on the information he still needed that she hadn't already answered. "Do you know where this compound is? Can you find it again?"

www.Noσ(ε)ℓwσ(ι)m.com

"Yeah, I think I could if I had to," she said uncomfortably. "But I don't really recommend it. I mean, not that I don't think you guys aren't pretty tough or anything, but as far as the animal kingdom hierarchy goes I think lions, tigers, and bears would probably beat a wolf on the brute force and damage scales."www.πσ(ν)ℒ(ι)wó℞(m).Com

Cullen smiled at her. She certainly was a thinker. And he had to admit that she was right. Well as far as most of the pack was concerned. An alpha, by nature, put him above the rest and he had more than a decent chance of being capable of dealing with the kinds of things she was talking about. However, the average lycan probably would have a tough time dealing with the average were tiger. "I may be a bit tougher than you think," he said. "But you're right in general. Especially if he has the numbers you seem to be implying. Cullen was becoming increasingly more concerned. It felt good to know what he was up against at the same time there was a sinking feeling coming from it all. And Aislinn's answers were creating more questions.

Then there was the one question that he didn't really want to know. "Do you know who in my pack is aiding this asshole?" Aislinn shook her head no.www.NoσveⓀwσrM.Com

Cullen looked over at the clock. He wondered where Sarah was with those clothes he'd sent for. He had promised an hour and he intended to make good on that. He smiled trying to stop his brain for what brief time he had left before dealing with the council. He could tell that as far as Aislinn knew she had told him everything. It came across in her tone and the expectant way she kept looking at him. As if she was waiting for him to kick her out and be done with her now.

Cullen decided that at the very least he needed to make sure she was okay before they headed downstairs and she had to deal with everyone. He pushed all the frustrating information she had just given him out of his mind. He reached out and ran a hand over her shoulder and down her back smiling wickedly as he did. "We could both use a shower."

Aislinn smiled back. The relief she was feeling at the fact that he was still interested was almost overwhelming. "Trying to wash my scent off of you?" she teased.