

Chapter 490

"It doesn't feel right, Kal," Lily sighed, rising from her bed and pacing across to the window. "Kothi and Dara shouldn't be out there alone in a hostile environment. We should be with them, helping to find Gard and Rayne." Her tone was laced with an irritation she didn't even try to hide in front of her brother. It was pointless, as he knew her far too well.

"It doesn't feel right, Kel," Lily sighed, rising from her bed and peeing across to the window. "Kothi and Dere shouldn't be out there alone in a hostile environment. We should be with them, helping to find Gerd and Reyne." Her tone was laced with an irritation she didn't even try to hide in front of her brother. It was pointless, as he knew her far too well.

They were in her bedroom at the Preetorien compound. Mec had decided that the recent upheaval of the effect against the pack and Kotheri's disappearance was too much stress for Lily to cope with in her current condition, and he insisted that she take some rest. He was being annoying with his overprotectiveness but she understood his reasons, so she had acquiesced with a minimum of fuss, but she couldn't hide her frustration from Kellum.

Her words brought a wry chuckle from her brother and she turned to look back at him, a half smile teasing at her lips.

"Good luck with telling Meckenzie that one," he said when he stopped laughing, uncoiling his large body from the chair he was sitting in, and crossing to stand behind her. "You're pregnant, Lily. You know there is no way in hell any of us are going to allow you to go haring off to Europe, so put any thoughts of that out of your head."

"I know it's not practicable but that doesn't mean I don't wish I could help, Kel." She ran her hand over the growing bump on her abdomen, stroking the child nestled just below her heart with a gentle touch. She would never do anything to endanger the burgeoning life she nurtured within. Mec had been through far too much with the loss of his first family. There was no way in hell she would ever bring such suffering and sorrow into his world once more. @w@.N@v.LW@rm.c@M

"There is one thing we could be doing that would be helpful and not dangerous enough to incite Mec's displeasure," Kellum mused, understanding his sister's restlessness and knowing it was better to give her something worthwhile to do to counteract it. "Cessie is concerned about something one of the European wolves said to her, so much so that she mentioned it to me as everyone appears to be less interested with the other things happening right now."

Lily's interest was immediately piqued. "Cessie is one of the most level-headed of the Vârcolec...and newly mated. If she's leaving Pietro's side to come look for you then whatever it is must have had worried her, especially with Dere being alone in Europe too."

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Kal nodded. "My thoughts too," he agreed. "This Fox character said she should be concerned about the wolves she couldn't see, rather than just the ones she could. I know the Henlon pack is being extra vigilant in the city and we're maintaining a strong presence on our boundaries after the attack, but I would prefer to do a little digging around myself. Can't do any harm, can it?"

Kel nodded. "My thoughts too," he agreed. "This Fox character said she should be concerned about the wolves she couldn't see, rather than just the ones she could. I know the Henlon pack is being extra vigilant in the city and we're maintaining a strong presence on our boundaries after the attack, but I would prefer to do a little digging around myself. Can't do any harm, can it?"

Lily moved back to the bed and grabbed her boots. As she pulled them on, she watched her brother staring out the window she'd so recently been standing in front of. "What do you have in mind, Kel?"

"Mec's not going to let you head into the city, not even with me, and he's still focused here with the recovering Preetorians, and now petrolling the packs. I think I can convince both Mec and Refe that it would be good to get Brendon out and about for a bit. He's bounced back really well from the trouble he went through, judging from him being his usual cocky self. I think he's almost as restless as you are, waiting for things to go back to normal and hoping to wait while the others fully recover."

She agreed completely with him about Brendon. Her best friend was already displaying signs of being edgy. It didn't help that once a day Liam or Reese asked to dreamwalk in his mind just to ensure he was healing properly. That didn't sit well with him, even though he was eternally grateful to the couple for finding his shattered psyche and helping to heal him. Being an invalid just wasn't something Brendon was cut out to do. "That would be great, Kel. Brend's trying to be patient but his restlessness is escalating almost on an hourly basis. Thank you for not only noticing it, but thinking of a way to alleviate the problem."

He gave her a lopsided grin. "Apparently, it's what I do, notice when people are about to go stir crazy, which brings me on to you. I think Mec would have a hard time prohibiting a visit to the Henlon pack, not if you take say Eline and maybe Kern with you? While Brendon and I are snooping around the city, you and Eline can have a quiet word with Jared and maybe poke around their boundaries to see if there have been any unexpected incursions?"

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Lily's shoulders slumped a little. "Mac will never allow that, Kal. Even with Eline, Kern and an entire pack around me, he will still judge that to be too much of a risk." For a brief moment she had hoped she could do something worthwhile that wouldn't be considered a risk, but she knew her mate too well. He would never agree to it.

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His sister's disappointment was more than he could stand, and Kellum crossed to sit beside her on the bed, placing an arm around her shoulders. "Mec doesn't need to know the complete story. Eline can say she wants to visit with her grandparents and you can go along with her to get you out of the compound for a little while. It won't really be a lie...Eline does like visiting her family, and it will give her something to do as well. With Cessie being newly mated and agreeing to work with the vampire Council to set up an inoculation protocol for the Amort vaccine, Elle is pretty much left to her own devices at the pack."

"Kern will report back to Meckenzie. You know he will. He's almost as overprotective as my damned mate is." Though there was a modicum of frustration in her voice, there was also affection. She adored the Preetorien's second in command, even if he could be a pain in the ass at times.

"Eline will deal with Kern," Kellum laughed, devilment in his twinkling eyes. "I've already spoken to her and she's on board. Now we can do a little reconnoitring to see if there is any merit to the European wolf's warning. If we find anything out, we can let the Alphas and Mec know. If it's nothing, then no harm, no foul."

Lily burst out laughing, shaking her head, and wiggling a finger at her brother. "I thought I was supposed to be the sneaky one here."

He gave her a squeeze before standing up and pulling her to her feet. "Overprotectiveness is a very hard thing to let go of. Everyone is doing their very best, and things are improving, but it will take a little more time before they truly let go. There's no harm in hastening that along a little, without them realising that's what we're doing. Come on, let's go convince Mec that his mate will be fine at the Henlon pack."

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