

Chapter 699

Caleb swallowed back his wine and poured another glass, replenishing Demetri's at the same time. "I'm going to call him shortly. There hasn't been any time yet. I wanted to speak to you first." His expression when troubled when he met his friend's intent gaze. "I'm between a rock and hard place here, Demetri. My gut reaction is to send you and some others across to Europe to find out what happened but I can't afford to lose any more key personnel when we still don't know what we're dealing with there. If I don't send someone then Annie's going to insist that she goes and I can't let that happen."

"She'll invoke the vampire Queen to overrule you," Demetri growled, displeasure crossing his face at the thought. "You won't be able to argue with her. "

"Agreed," Caleb sighed, weary resignation crossing his face. "Callain will though, so if it comes to that I'm going to have no choice but to let those two fight it out and hope he has enough influence over Anakatrine to make her see sense. I can't lose Annie, Demetri. I will do whatever I must to ensure that doesn't happen."

Demetri rose, finishing his glass of wine and setting it down on the table. "The best thing we can do is have some answers for her when she wakes and we're not going to have that by sitting here talking all night. While you talk to Joshua, I'll see about trying to track down this Michael character. I take it the twins are sticking close to the pack at the moment? Will Nors and Freya be available to assist or does Rafe need them too?"

"I'll talk to Rafe and get him to free up the Erikssons. He has enough muscle with the twins staying close to the pack. Truth be told, I want Freya and Nors trying to track down Michael. They have a particularly vested interest in hunting him down as Liam's mate was the target of his attack. By the time you get home, they should already have been alerted to the fact you'll be calling."

Caleb felt better now he had a plan of action in place. For too long now they had been reacting to whatever was thrown at them from Europe. It felt better to be in control, to at least be doing something. As Demetri headed out he picked up his cell phone and placed a call to Rafe first. He would speak to Joshua afterwards, once Demetri had the tools that he needed to perform his task.

"Freya? Where the hell are you?"

Dayton's sleepy mental contact brought a smile to the tall, beautiful vampire as she wove her way through the houses in the compound on her way towards her brother's house. She had thought she would have had more time before he woke but it appeared her mate was far too sensitive to her absence. She couldn't deny the bubble of satisfaction that welled up inside her. It was good he noticed she was gone, even if it meant he would be unhappy that she was. "Caleb needs Nors and I to try to follow Michael's trail into the city. He has requested Rafe to release us from pack security for now and our Alpha has agreed."

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"What? You didn't think this was important enough to wake me? Wait up, I will come with you."

There was mild reproof in his voice and it made her smile widen. She adored his over protectiveness, even when it was unwarranted. It was a sign that he loved her, not that she needed any signs of that. He'd spent the last twenty five years proving how much he did, and she was a lucky woman to have a mate so loving.

The only sadness she felt at his words was the very faint trace of concern she detected that he tried so hard to mask. Even after all this time there was a lingering shadow in his mind that he might one day lose her as he lost his first mate Faith. She supposed it would always be there, and she could understand why. While it had been a tragic event in Dayton's life, it had shaped him to be the man he was today. Faith deserved to have her place in his heart and his memories. She would never take that from him and she would accept his over protectiveness because he needed to take care of her, whether she required it or not.

"I would prefer one of us to remain with our daughter, Dayton, just in case anyone is foolhardy enough to try a second assault on the pack. Michael is a vampire and therefore it's logical that vampires will have a better chance of tracking him down as we can anticipate better how he thinks. Nors will be with me so no harm will come to me."

For a long moment her words were greeted with silence, and then a resigned sigh echoed through her mind.

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"And this has nothing to do with the fact that Michael hurt Reasa and in doing so, Liam? There isn't a smidgeon of revenge in that beautiful mind of yours, is there, my love?"

Freya laughed softly, the sound causing her brother to turn around from where he was kissing Ashleigh goodbye at their front door. She had reached their house and was walking towards the couple as she answered him. "Of course it does, my mate, as you very well know."

It was her turn to have a small amount of reproof in her mental voice that he would actually question that. "No one touches my family and lives to tell the tale. I offered Reasa sanctuary in our home and I let her, and Liam, down. I will not let either of them down again. Michael must pay for his transgressions, Dayton. It cannot be any other way."

Her mate sighed softly, and then sent a pulse of love down their mate bond. "Fine, I will stay with Elina. Just don't do anything reckless, Freya. We need you home with us, safe and sound."

"As if," was her droll response, sending him her own love and reassurance. "Keep our bed warm for me, lover. I will return soon."

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Freya broke off her conversation, smiling at the blonde wolf who had come to be as dear to her heart as her brother. "Are you giving Nors as difficult a time as Dayton is giving me?"**W~~W~~w.N©ve!W(e)rm.Có~~m~~**

Ashleigh's eyes sparkled with amusement as she shook her head. "I've long since learned that I am wasting my breath when it comes to this mate of mine. Bear with Dayton; he will reach that point eventually."

Freya's expression clearly indicated that she doubted that very much but she smiled at the other woman. "How is Reasa? Has she recovered?"

"I presume so though it's hard to tell since Liam locked them in his room the instant Mallen gave her the all clear."