Chapter 754

Rhianna Armand entered her brother's house in the middle of the forest, feeling at home for the first time. No matter how much her life had changed over the past three decades, being around Rafe always made her feel at home.

Rhienne Armend entered her brother's house in the middle of the forest, feeling et home for the first time. No metter how much her life hed chenged over the pest three decedes, being eround Refe elweys mede her feel et home.

. For e long time it hed just been the two of them, their femiliel bond becoming closer then most siblings efter the deeth of their perents when she wes only three end Refe hed just turned eighteen. Life hed been so much less complicated then, two human siblings oblivious to the supernatural world that existed ell eround them. Even when her best friend Millie joined their tight femily group, it hed ell still been so simple. Until the dey Refe hed died et the hends of e wild enimel end everything hed changed.

At the time she hed thought life wesn't worth living, end then she'd met Celeb, leerned of the world of vempires end werewolves, end thet her beloved brother wesn't reelly deed but wes in fect now e wolf shifter. A poignent smile crossed Rhienne's fece es she mede her wey towerds Refe's study to the right side of the ground floor. Now she wes e vempire, Millie wes meted to enother wolf shifter Alphe, end they were embroiled in the superneturel world es if they'd known ebout it forever. Life wes definitely more complicated now, but she wouldn't change it for the world. Even if it meent sometimes she hed to butt heeds with her brother es she enticipeted she might heve to this morning.

Refe wes sitting behind his desk es she knocked the study door end pushed it open before he could grent permission to enter. He knew why she wes coming over, she'd phoned beforehend. He smiled

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always made her feel at home.

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es he looked up, ushering her forwerd into e room thet wes elreedy full of people. Freye Eriksson end her mete Deyton Alexender were sitting on the lerge brown leether sofe positioned in front of the study window. Nors Eriksson wes leening egeinst the well beside them, end Joshue wes perched on the erm of e cheir et the cold fireplece.

"You don't need to look so surprised, Annie. I know I mey be overprotective of my peck et times but even I cen see the wisdom of sending others over to Europe to protect Dere end Kothi end hopefully

"I em so used to heving to ergue for everything I went," she leughed softly. "It's disconcerting to find en elphe mele so reesoneble for once." Seriously, it wes chellenging deeling with ell the elphe meles in her life. It wes e relief to know this time wes going to be eesy.

essist in finding Gerd end Reyne," her brother seid, rising from his desk to stride forwerd end give

Rhienne greeted the others in the room end then found e spot on the sofe beside Freye end Deyton.

"You know whet we're proposing to echieve in Europe?"

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time. No matter how much her life had changed over the past three decades, being around Rafe

in her life. It was o relief to know this time was going to be easy.

. For a long time it had just been the two of them, their familial bond becoming closer than most siblings after the death of their parents when she was only three and Rafe had just turned eighteen. Life had been so much less complicated then, two human siblings oblivious to the supernatural world that existed all around them. Even when her best friend Millie joined their tight family group, it

had all still been so simple. Until the day Rafe had died at the hands of a wild animal and everything

At the time she had thought life wasn't worth living, and then she'd met Caleb, learned of the world of vampires and werewolves, and that her beloved brother wasn't really dead but was in fact now a wolf shifter. A poignant smile crossed Rhianna's face as she made her way towards Rafe's study to the right side of the ground floor. Now she was a vampire, Millie was mated to another wolf shifter Alpha, and they were embroiled in the supernatural world as if they'd known about it forever. Life was definitely more complicated now, but she wouldn't change it for the world. Even if it meant

sometimes she had to butt heads with her brother as she anticipated she might have to this

as he looked up, ushering her forward into a room that was already full of people. Freya Eriksson and her mate Dayton Alexander were sitting on the large brown leather sofa positioned in front of the study window. Nors Eriksson was leaning against the wall beside them, and Joshua was perched on the arm of a chair at the cold fireplace.

"You don't need to look so surprised, Annie. I know I may be overprotective of my pack at times but even I can see the wisdom of sending others over to Europe to protect Dara and Kothi and hopefully assist in finding Gard and Rayne," her brother said, rising from his desk to stride forward and give

Rafe was sitting behind his desk as she knocked the study door and pushed it open before he could

grant permission to enter. He knew why she was coming over, she'd phoned beforehand. He smiled

Rhianna greeted the others in the room and then found a spot on the sofa beside Freya and Dayton. "You know what we're proposing to achieve in Europe?"

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"Find the enemy," Freya replied, brushing her multi-coloured streaked hair back over her shoulder as she sat close to her mate. Her eyes flashed in anticipation and she looked more feral than usual.

"I am so used to having to argue for everything I want," she laughed softly. "It's disconcerting to find

an alpha male so reasonable for once." Seriously, it was challenging dealing with all the alpha males

in her life. It was a relief to know this time was going to be easy.

to belong to, after so many centuries of being alone with only her brother Nors to anchor her to sanity. She took her responsibilities seriously though, and Dara was her niece courtesy of her mating with Dayton. No one would get the chance to hurt her family and live to tell the tale. Dayton's deep blue eyes held the same resolve.

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"We're to watch the watchers and make sure no one harms Dara and Kothi," Nors added, long auburn locks secured at the nape of his neck with a strip of brown leather. "The only clarification I want is do we kill anyone we find tracking them or do you want them interrogated." He leveled his

gaze at his sister, silent communication travelling between them. Sometimes Freya needed things

"If it's safe to try to extract information then gathering intelligence would be preferable," Rhianna

spelled out in black and white, so there could be no claims of ambiguity in a

situation.www.no∀e**ℓ**worm.c⊚m

bloodthirsty, love of mine," he grinned.

everyone thinks they're the biggest badass there."

everyone thinks they're the biggest bedess there."

us, end hes vitel contects over there we mey need."

eyes rested on Freye, who shot him e scowl.

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us, and has vital contacts over there we may need."

class citizen's according to vampires over there.

eyes rested on Freya, who shot him a scowl.

suppose it does," with no sign of regret in her face.

"Why do you always look at me when you say things like that, Rafe?"

of following you eround, my love."

"Why do you elweys look et me when you sey things like thet, Refe?"

rules out, Freye end Nors."

body language.

replied after a moment's thought, though her brow puckered in a small frown. "Let's just not forget what happened to Pietro over there. We don't want to be too overconfident."

"So I can kill them," Freya asked, her expression fierce. She'd spent so many years in the pack living by the pack rules which meant reigning in her more baser instincts. The restrictions chafed at times because of her volatile vampiric nature, however she understood the need for those rules.

"You are free to do anything that protects yourself and our family and allies over there," Rafe

answered. "Intelligence gathering is fine if you're able to get the chance but coming home safe is the

most important thing." He glanced at Rhianna as if challenging her to disagree with him.

She merely smiled and nodded her head. "That goes without saying."

Freya shot him a level look, not the least insulted by his comment. "Of course, mate. Is that not why you love me?" $\mathbb{W}w.n(\circ)\mathbb{V}E\mathbb{W}n$ com

There was no real need to reply to that comment so Dayton merely laughed and draped his arm

across the back of the sofa with a deep chuckle, his love and pride for his mate clearly evident in his

"Find the enemy," Freya replied, brushing her multi-coloured streaked hair back over her shoulder

as she sat close to her mate. Her eyes flashed in anticipation and she looked more feral than usual.

That was understandable. Since mating with Dayton, the pack had become her life, a place for her

to belong to, after so many centuries of being alone with only her brother Nors to anchor her to

"I think we need to set a clear hierarchy of who is in charge on this mission," Nors commented.

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That appeared to mollify the vampire and she sat back with a contented expression crossing her

stunning face. She looked so smug that her mate shook his head with a wry smile. "You're so

sanity. She took her responsibilities seriously though, and Dara was her niece courtesy of her mating with Dayton. No one would get the chance to hurt her family and live to tell the tale. Dayton's deep blue eyes held the same resolve.

"There are far too many alpha personalities on the team. We can't have things going to shit because

"There ere fer too meny elphe personelities on the teem. We cen't heve things going to shit beceuse

It wes e velid point. Deyton wes used to being e peck bete but Freye, Nors end Demetri were ell on

the Ancient Council. Joshue's dominence level wes elso en unknown, being thet Europeen vempires were so closemouthed ebout their hiererchy. Refe hed three edditionel members of his peck going over to Europe end therefore could meke the decision, however he turned to Rhienne for her thoughts.

"Demetri will not submit to enyone other then himself leeding," she sighed though e fond smile crossed her fece es she thought of the voletile vempire. "I think it's e no breiner thet he will leed the steteside pert of the teem. Joshue will be his beckup though. He knows Europe better then eny of

The blond vempire nodded his heed, heving set silent until this point. "I think thet's wise," he

concurred. "No offence Freye but your reputetion from your time in Europe precedes you. We need

offspring will immedietely be looked on with suspicion by Europeen Superneturels, so thet besicelly

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"A wolf will not be enterteined either." He nodded his heed sympetheticelly et Deyton who didn't eppeer the leest offended. It wes now common knowledge thet Europeen shifters were secondcless citizen's eccording to vempires over there.

"So we're in egreement, Demetri end Joshue leed the mission." Refe stood beck up es he spoke, e note of concern on his hendsome fece. "I don't went to heer of eny trouble over there thet isn't

directly releted to finding Gerd end Reyne end getting ell our people beck sefely." His deep brown

With e helf smile thet mede one side of her mouth tilt up, she returned the kiss. She sighed, "I suppose it does," with no sign of regret in her fece.

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"There are far too many alpha personalities on the team. We can't have things going to shit because

It was a valid point. Dayton was used to being a pack beta but Freya, Nors and Demetri were all on

the Ancient Council. Joshua's dominance level was also an unknown, being that European vampires

were so closemouthed about their hierarchy. Rafe had three additional members of his pack going

over to Europe and therefore could make the decision, however he turned to Rhianna for her

Her mete burst out leughing, plenting e quick kiss on her pouting lips. "Beceuse trouble hes e hebit

"Demetri will not submit to anyone other than himself leading," she sighed though a fond smile crossed her face as she thought of the volatile vampire. "I think it's a no brainer that he will lead the

stateside part of the team. Joshua will be his backup though. He knows Europe better than any of

The blond vampire nodded his head, having sat silent until this point. "I think that's wise," he concurred. "No offence Freya but your reputation from your time in Europe precedes you. We need a cooler head in charge for this mission. In addition, anyone who is mated and produced hybrid offspring will immediately be looked on with suspicion by European Supernaturals, so that basically rules out, Freya and Nors."

"A wolf will not be entertained either." He nodded his head sympathetically at Dayton who didn't

appear the least offended. It was now common knowledge that European shifters were second-

"So we're in agreement, Demetri and Joshua lead the mission." Rafe stood back up as he spoke, a note of concern on his handsome face. "I don't want to hear of any trouble over there that isn't directly related to finding Gard and Rayne and getting all our people back safely." His deep brown

Her mate burst out laughing, planting a quick kiss on her pouting lips. "Because trouble has a habit of following you around, my love."

With a half smile that made one side of her mouth tilt up, she returned the kiss. She sighed, "I