

Chapter 101

Silver

I felt sick to my stomach at the thought of it, but I had to keep my sleeping composure, so they didn't know I was awake. His hold on me tightened to a point where it felt like I couldn't breathe.

We continued walking for several more minutes until I heard a rustle of leaves in the distance. My entire body froze as a familiar scent invaded my nose. I might not have a wolf, but I still had some of the abilities a wolf would have such as strong senses. I knew that scent; it was Shirley's scent.

"What are you doing here?" One of the rogues asked as if they knew her.

"You know why I'm here," Shirley barked at them, a growl leaving her throat.

"You told us you wouldn't interfere," the same rogue hissed.

A chill ran down my spine; Shirley knew the rogues were here and spoke to them? She made an agreement that she wouldn't say anything? What the actual hell was happening?

"Yeah, well, the plan's changed," Shirley said, a deadly threat lacing her words.

"What the fuck does that mean?" The rogue snapped. "You said... "

"I know what I said," she growled. "But I changed my mind. I think it would be better if I played the hero instead of the victim."

"What??" The rogue holding me growled, his hold tightening even more and squeezing the life out of me.

Before any of them could say anything more, I felt the shift in the air. A loud growl came from Shirley, and I knew right away that Shirley had shifted into her wolf form. I shuddered when I heard the snapping of canines and others shifting into their wolf forms as well.

I managed to open my eyes, adjusting them to the new lighting and I saw Shirley's auburn wolf lunging at the rogues nearby and surrounding me. There was at least half a dozen of them; way more than I originally thought.

The only rogue who hadn't shifted was the one holding me; he was now running in a different direction Shirley's eyes found his and she lunged towards him. He ran faster; for a rogue in his human form, he was a fast runner.

My eyes locked onto Shirley, and I knew she could see the pleading in my eyes. She ran even faster, and a loud growl escaped her lips just as she lunged through the air and at the rogue. Just as she reached me, another wolf, much darker with deep yellow eyes came into view and he looked furious.

Relief flooded me.

Elliott!

More wolves from his pack, I knew were Beta Leo, Gamma Luca,

Gamma Erik, and other gammas ran through the forest behind Elliot, all looking furious and deadly. But wasn't afraid of them; I was afraid of the rogues that were taking me away.

Shirley managed to get to me first and she latched her canines onto the rogue's leg, making him howl in pain as he fell to the ground, dropping me in the process.

I hit my head on a rock and my vision blurred. The gash on my head reopened and blood spilled across my cheeks as I rolled over onto my back.

I heard Shirley tearing the rogue apart while the gammas and Beta Luka ran to capture the others who were now running in different directions, fearing what the Alpha might do to them. Elliot had shifted into his human form; he was completely naked as he knelt before me, panic in his eyes.

"Silver, stay with me," he said, his voice pleading. "Just stay with me."

Chapter 102

Silver

The soft beeping of the heart monitor is what woke me. As I opened my eyes, I winced at the pain that formed in the temple of my head. My vision was blurry and had trouble adjusting to the lighting change, but I knew I was in the pack hospital. I knew I was taken by rogues, but I wasn't sure what had happened or why they would take me. I also wasn't sure if they were still out there and if they wanted to capture me again.

My heart raced at the thought which made the heart monitor beep like crazy.

"Luna Silver," I heard a familiar voice at my bedside. "It's okay. Calm down."

"Leo?" I asked, blinking my eyes and finally getting them to adjust to the person standing beside me.

Beta Leo looked concerned as he scanned my body.

"Wh...what happened?" I managed to ask, my throat scratchy and it pained me to speak.

"You were taken during a rogue attack, Luna," he explained. "You have a minor concussion from when your head was smashed on that glass table. But otherwise, you are unharmed."

I reached my head up and touched the bandage wrapped around my forehead with a frown. It was strange because I don't remember getting my head smashed on any kind of table, let alone a glass one.

I glanced around the hospital room with a frown; Leo was the only one there.

"Your friend Rebecca went to grab some food in the cafeteria. She's been here all night."

That wasn't the person I was looking for, but I was glad that she came to see me.

"How long have I been here for?" I asked.

"Only for a night, Luna. This all happened last night. It's morning now," Beta Leo told me as he glanced out the big window where the sun was rising to start the new day.

"Where's Elliot?" I finally asked the question I've been wanting to ask since I opened my eyes.

Leo looked a bit uneasy before he answered.

"He's in a different hospital room with Alpha Shirley," he answered, clearing his throat.

My heart fell deep into my stomach.

"He's with Shirley?" I asked, my voice sounding distant and unfamiliar.

Beta Leo nodded, seemingly unsure if he should continue or not.

"Alpha Shirley was the one who rescued you. She killed the rogue that was holding you. However, she was injured in the process. Alpha Elliot feels obligated to care for her."

I was his wife; I was the one he was supposed to care for. I was the one he was supposed to be with. Don't get me wrong, I'm grateful Shirley rescued me, but something didn't feel right about this. I remembered hearing something when I was being taken by the rogues. I remembered Shirley showing up and it almost seemed as if she knew these rogues; like she planned for this to happen and then changed her mind. She wanted to play the hero or something and get on Elliot's good side.

It wasn't making any sense to me; why did she want him so badly? She was already a powerful Alpha, and she was rich. It's not like she needed Elliot.

I wrapped my arms around my body, feeling uneasy and sick to my stomach at the very thought of it.

"Elliot wanted me to bring you to her room so you could thank her properly once you are awake," he concluded.

My mouth practically fell open as I stared up at Beta Leo.

"He wants me to thank her?" I asked, my voice sounding hoarse.

He nodded his head once.

"Alpha's orders," he told me.

I pressed my lips together and gave him a curt nod before I slid out of the hospital bed. I was a bit unsteady on my legs, feeling as if I might fall over at any moment was dizzy because of this concussion but once I got my footing, was good to go.

Beta Leo led the way out of the room and down the hallway. I was surprised to see that the entire floor of the hospital was vacant and when I asked Leo about it as we walked, he simply told me that Alpha Elliot bought this entire wing for both Shirley and me.

We paused outside the door in time to hear Shirley speaking.

"Oh, Elliot. You really don't need to fuss over me. It's not like I'm a hero or anything," Shirley purred, making me want to roll my eyes, but I refrained from doing so.

"You are a hero, Shirley. If it wasn't for you, she would have..." his voice trailed off, unable to finish the sentence. "I owe more than I can give," he confessed, his tone sounding defeated.

Chapter 103

Beta Leo cleared his throat, interrupting their conversation. They both turned to look at us and I saw Elliot straightening when he saw me.

"You're awake," he stated, studying my face, his eyes landing on the bandage around my head and then darkening.

I nodded.

"Yes," I told him, my walls were up as I stared back at him. "How are you feeling?"

Did he care?

"Like I hit my head off a glass table," I said, jokingly. He didn't seem to find it funny because he snarled.

"This isn't a joke, Silver," he nearly barked. He walked over to me and grabbed my arm; he pulled me with him across the room and over to Shirley's bedside. "You need to thank her for saving your life. If it wasn't for her, you wouldn't be here right now." Regardless of her reasoning for saving me, I knew Elliot was right. She did save my life and I owed her thanks. So, I bowed my head to her, keeping my eyes fixed on the ground.

"Alpha Shirley, please accept my thanks," I told her. "I'm not sure what I can do to repay you."

When she didn't say anything, I lifted my gaze and I saw her staring up at Elliot with a loving look in her eyes. My chest tightened when she reached out and put a hand on his arm affectionately. He didn't push her away or step aside, he just looked back down at her and gave her a smile and a curt head nod. My heart fell deep into my stomach at the sight of their affection. Had he ever looked at me in such a way? Would he?

Was there something going on between them that I needed to know about?

"Elliot darling, would you mind stepping out so I can speak to Miss Silver alone?"

Elliot frowned and then looked at me; his eyes narrowed. I felt my cheeks burning from his scrutiny. He finally conceded and nodded.

"I'll run to grab you something to eat," he told her softly, putting a hand on her shoulder and giving it a gentle squeeze. He didn't even spare me a look as he left the room with Beta Leo trailing after him.

I was left alone with Shirley, and I felt more awkward than ever. Her leg was in a cast so I'm assuming she must have broken it. I knew her wolf would heal her soon enough though; she was an Alpha after all.

"Silver, how about you take a seat? We really do have to talk and you're going to want to be sitting for this," she said softly, motioning for the chair at her bedside.

I stared at it hesitantly, but then I figured the quicker I could get this conversation over with, the quicker I could get out of there. So, I nodded and took a seat in the open chair. She gave me a small smile.

"I will admit, I didn't like you for a while and I wanted you out of the picture," she admitted, surprising me. I wasn't sure what to say, so remained silent. "When I returned after my travels, I was surprised to see that Elliot had gotten married and I reacted poorly. For that, I apologize."

I raised my brows at her; was she really apologizing to me? I wasn't expecting this whatsoever.

"I'm not sure what to say," I admitted. "Thank you for apologizing."

She nodded and reached over to grab hold of my hand; she gave it a gentle squeeze.

"Elliot didn't want me to tell you this because he wanted to keep it a secret a little longer. But seeming we, both almost died, I feel I have a right to tell you the truth. I can't keep this hidden from you anymore, Silver."

My heart fell into my stomach, unsure of where she was going with this.

"Okay?" I urged.

"Elliot doesn't love you," she said simply. "He only married you as a favor and he will leave you soon."

And the Shirley I knew was back.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and tried to speak.

"Shirley, I-"

"Please, let me finish," she said, holding up her hand and

successfully silencing me. "It's not because you are unlovable. In fact, you are quite likable despite the fact that you don't have a wolf. But it has nothing to do with that."

"Then what does it have to do with?" I found myself asking, my voice sounding unfamiliar.

She gave me a sympathetic smile.

"Elliot and I are true mates, Silver. I'm the one he's meant to be with."

Chapter 104

Silver

I felt cold upon hearing Shirley's words. I stared at her with my mouth hanging open. Could it be true? Could she really be Elliot's true mate? Why hadn't this come up before? Why didn't Elliot tell me? Why hadn't Shirley?

"I know this is a lot for you to take in. I'm sorry, Silver. I didn't want you to find out this way. But you needed to know," she told me, releasing her hold on my hand. My body had gone completely numb and I didn't even realize she was holding my hand. "But after your two divorces, Elliot will be marking and marrying me. Our packs will be joined, and we'll overall be better for it. Isn't that what you want? For everyone to be happy and stronger?"

I found myself nodding along with her words, but not fully understanding what it was she was saying. I felt so unbelievably numb, I just wanted to curl up in a ball and cry my eyes out. But I remained frozen in my seat, staring at her like she just slapped me across the face. "I really hope there aren't any hard feelings," she said, batting her long lashes at me.

I mistook her condescending attitude for sweetness. That was my mistake. I thought she was truly apologizing to me for her actions; that was another mistake. I should have never believed her, but now I sat in a chair at her bedside with my heart bleeding in the palm of my hand.

What was wrong with me?

How could I be so naive and think that Elliot was actually falling for me? I thought he could have been falling in love... I was falling in love.

But now I see that I was only kidding myself. I was pathetic and there was nothing more I could do to mend this disaster of marriage. "Silver?" Shirley asked with fake concern evident in her voice. "Are you okay?"

I cleared my throat and nodded, blinking a few times to keep the tears from spilling out of my eyes. I wasn't going to give Shirley the satisfaction of watching me break. She doesn't get to see my tears. These tears were for me and me alone. I forced a smile as I stood to my feet.

"Thank you for telling me, Shirley," I told her sweetly. "You are kind to tell me the truth."

She nodded thoughtfully, watching me almost warily.

"If there's anything I can do, please let me know," she said, that plastered smile never leaving her lips.

I nodded again and turned away from her. Just as I started toward the door, it opened and Beta Leo along with Elliot walked back into the room. I immediately slammed the walls up around me and put a metaphorical mask around my face so he couldn't see my pain. Like Shirley, he didn't deserve to see me break.

"Are you all set?" He asked, his eyes pouring into me.

I nodded.

"I'm very tired though; I think I'm going to head home now," I told him.

He looked uncertain for a moment.

"I can drive you," he offered.

I was about to deny him, but I didn't get the chance because Shirley was whimpering and crying out for him from behind me. When I turned to look at her, I saw tears streaming down her face and she was holding onto her leg, which should have been healed by now.

"It hurts! I think something's wrong, Elliot!" She whaled.

"Shit," he cursed under his breath as he ran around to tend to his mate. I heard him yelling for Beta Leo to fetch the doctor and he was wondering why her leg hadn't healed already. I gave a mocking laugh, but it was low enough that he didn't hear me.

There was no use in staying; he was preoccupied now. I would just have to call a cab once I left here. I turned away and walked through the doors. I went straight to the nurse's station in the waiting room and told them that I was leaving.

"The doctor wanted me to give you this medication before you left," the nurse said, handing me a bottle of pain medication. "Typically, we wouldn't have let you leave without someone coming to discharge you and pick you up. But seeing your husband is here; I'm assuming he's arranged a ride for you?"

I bit my lower lip, not wanting to lie to her, but also not wanting to stay any longer. I nodded.

"Yes, I have a ride waiting." I told her.

She nodded thoughtfully and signed my release forms.

"Try to take it easy," she warned before I walked out of the door.

I grabbed my cellphone which was thankfully in my pocket and glanced at the screen. It was going to die soon. I sighed and was about to call for

a cab company when I heard my name in the distance. "Luna Silver. Are you heading home?"

I was relieved to see Gamma Erik standing by his usual black sedan with a grin on his lips. I enjoyed spending time with Erik; he had started to become a very good friend to me despite the fact that he was hired to be my bodyguard. I knew he was there when I was kidnapped and he fought like hell to get me back, but Shirley was quicker and rescued me first.

Chapter 105

Silver

At the time of my kidnapping, Erik was patrolling outside. I'm sure she probably saw that somebody had broken into the palace and was most likely the one who called Elliot and took me to the hospital.

"I've told you to just call me, Silver," I told him, walking towards him.

He smirked.

"And your husband would have my balls in a handbasket if I did that," he teased, opening the back seat of the car. "Let me take you home."

"I can call a cab," I told him as I held up my phone. Just then, my phone died.

I frowned at the screen and then sighed in defeat.

Chuckling, Erik motioned for me to get in.

"Come on; it's my job to protect you, remember?" He asked.

I nodded and gave him a sheepish smile as I slid into the back seat of the car.

"I'm surprised the Alpha isn't joining you," Erik said as he pulled away from the hospital.

I shrugged my shoulder, trying to be nonchalant.

"He's too busy tending to Shirley," I muttered; even I could hear the bitterness in my own voice.

Erik raised an eyebrow as he glanced at me in the mirror.

"Shirley was incredible when she rescued you," he admitted. "The Alpha was grateful to her."

I nodded, not sure what else to say.

"Are you okay?" He finally asked after a long silence.

"Yeah," I said, forcing a smile. "Just tired."

Even though Erik had become a friend to me, I still didn't trust him. He was under the influence, not to mention the employment, of Elliot.

The rest of the car ride was silent. When we reached the front entrance of the palace, I thanked Erik and got out of the car. He walked with me inside and did a quick patrol of the inside of the house, ordering the gammas outside to do another sweep of the outside. I noticed that there were a lot more gammas on the perimeter than there had been yesterday, and I wondered if that was because of me.

I went straight into the parlor and put my phone on the charger against the wall. Then, I walked into the kitchen. Immediately, I was pulled into a tight hug from Mariah. She had tears in her eyes and her body trembled as she held me close.

"I was so worried about you," she breathed. "I saw the blood on the ground, and I couldn't believe something like that happened to you."

"Blood on the ground?" I asked, frowning.

She nodded.

"You hit your head on the glass coffee table. The maids replaced it and cleaned the mess, but not before saw it all as I passed through," she said, her eyes wide and alert. "How are you feeling?"

"Small concussion, but I'm okay," I told her. "Mariah, can I ask you something?"

"Of course," she said, releasing me. "Come sit down. I made your favorite soup for lunch. We can talk and eat at the same time."

I went over to the island counter and she sat on the barstool. She poured me a bowl of baked potato soup; my mouth watered at the incredible scents that formed in my nose also poured me a mug of tea and placed sweetener and milk on the counter beside me.

I took a big bite of the soup and immediately moaned at the delicious flavors.

"It's so good," I murmured.

She smiled; pleased with herself.

She started to pour bowls for herself and other staff members around the palace. Mariah always prepared the meals for the staff members in the palace, and I was beyond grateful to her for that. She always said, "Even though they are low-ranking wolves, they are still pack members and they deserve hot meals."

I couldn't agree with her more.

"So, what did you want to ask me?" She asked after a little while.

I swallowed the soup in my throat.

"I wanted to ask about Shirley," I confessed, staring at my bowl of soup. "Does she come around here often? Like, does she hang out with Elliot a lot?"

I already knew the answer to this, but I needed to hear it from someone else. She looked uncertain for a moment before her brows pinched together.

"I believe her visits are usually business related. But yes, she comes here often. I don't know what she talks to the Alpha about though. She stays locked in his office."

A knot formed in my stomach, tighter than the one before.

"And he's usually in there with her," I asked, my voice strained.

She was hesitant but she gave me a nod.

I stood to my feet and gave her a small smile.

"Thank you, that's all I needed to know," I told her.

She furrowed her brows together just as I turned away from her.

"Silver, are you okay?" She asked, calling after me.

I paused for a moment before I left the kitchen and I said over my shoulder, "Honestly, I don't know."