

## Chapter 14

JAKE

I snapped my head towards my Gamma when I felt him freeze in his spot. I launched into a big jump before attacking the wolf about to take his neck with my knife, completely cutting its throat when it landed on my feet.

"What the fuck, Aaron! Focus or you'll be butchered soon! Shift if you can't fight in this form!" I spat at him, brows furrowing as I continued to keep my guard up, preparing for another attack.

"Sorry, Alpha. It won't happen again." He looked at me, his eyes flitting with a fear that I had never seen in him before. This was not the first time our pack was attacked, and as the commander of my warriors, Aaron was fearless. So this was something new. Something was wrong.

"What's wrong? Don't lie!" I rolled off an Alpha command right away, not giving him time to lie. I just didn't have time for it right now.

I waited for his response as we continued to move forward on our feet. I heard wolves fighting, but they were far from where we were.

"Clair. She's heading this way. She said she wanted to help." He said, his voice sounding desperate while he looked pale.

I growled in anger and shot him a warning look. "Send her back to the bunker!"

"I did! She never listens!" I heard his voice breaking, worry written all over his expression.

I let out a growl once more in anger before I ordered him. "Focus, Gamma! And shift right now! We can smell her better if we shift. We need to intercept her before she throws herself to the wolves."

I shifted as soon as I was done ordering him, and Aaron followed suit.

The fuck with this female! My emotions were all over the place. I needed to find her. That was all I was thinking at the moment. Just the thought of her getting injured or worse, dead, was enough for rage to rule over me.

Aaron and I sped off to the southern border, where we could sense more wolves fighting and the most possible direction she took. As soon as we reached the clearing, I saw her - her gray wolf was leaping as she tried to scratch and slam her body on the big brown wolf holding Jenny's wolf by his teeth.


I let out a loud growl that I was sure shook the forest ground before I sped across the area to her side, snapping the necks of wolves that tried to attack me along the way without tearing my eyes off her and the rogue that held Jenny's wolf.

It took a while before the rogue let go of Jenny and turned to face Rain, Clair's wolf.

Rain sprang backward before she got hold of herself and sprung forward as if she knew what she was doing, all the


while letting out snarls and growls. I felt proud of the way she handled herself, but I was still seeing red and danger. I needed her out of here!

And then it happened. The brown rogue wolf took a big leap, jumping toward her. At the same time, Rain let out a fearful shriek. I launched myself forward, taking the biggest leap I've ever done in my whole life, and sank my teeth exactly into the rogue's neck.

My eyes darted to Clair's wolf as she shifted back to her human form and shielded her head with her arms. 

My anger just blew up! My wolf was driven mad by the thought of this rogue hurting her.

A deep rumble began in my chest as I shook the rogue viciously, my fangs sinking deeper into his neck, snapping the life out of him. I didn't stop even when the wolf ceased to move and instead continued to dismantle its head.

I only let go when his head finally rolled away from his body. 

I scouted around and saw all my warriors fighting the few rogues remaining. Jenny's wolf started to heal and fight alongside Aaron. We were winning in this area.

I turned my attention back to Clair, her eyes still wide in shock, and looking at my wolf while her whole body shook in fear, unaware that she was naked.

'Shift back to your wolf, Clair! And don't shift back to human form until we are all clear!' Anger arose from my tone as I shouted at her through our mindlink.

My message seemed to wake her up from her shock as she shifted all at once. I expected her to run off as she usually does, but she didn't leave my side. She shadowed my every move, taking a shield from my wolf.

'Do not shift to human form when a wolf attacks you. You can die easily if they dismember you. Rain can heal faster unless the attack is fatal.' I told her, my eyes fixed on my warriors fighting off the remaining rogues while making sure that Rain was fully secured behind me.

I listened and waited for her response. My eyes continued to scan the area, making sure no harm came our way.

Her silence so frustrated me that I growled at her before sending another mindlink. 'Is that clear, Clair?'

'Yes, Alpha.' She finally answered with a shaky voice.

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#### CLAIR

Everything happened so fast. One moment I was making a big leap while trying to help Sapphire, and the next thing I remembered, I was cowering behind Echo, taking a shield from him.

After the Alpha came and saved me, the attack toned down, and one by one, the rogues around us were eliminated. And then it was over. Aaron didn't talk with me the whole time, even when we were all heading back to the main quadrangle where the Alpha wanted to gather his warriors. I guess Aaron had better things to do as a commander than scold

me for being stupid.

I knew I acted on impulse. But I just wanted to help. 4

After the attack and an all-clear were set, the Alpha stood in front of his warriors and most of the pack members in the big quadrangle. It was a big relief that we didn't have any casualties.

Some of the warriors were injured but have started to heal already. Only a few needed medical attention and they were already sent to the infirmary.

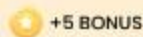
Beta Gavin was also able to take one rogue wolf alive, and he was thrown into the dungeon, which until now, I had no idea that such a place existed in the territory.

The Alpha was currently sending his gratitude to the warriors and to everyone who kept our pack intact. I tried to concentrate on his speech, but the events of the attack day kept running through my mind, and I completely blanked out.

My knees started to buckle out of fear, and I knew then that it was time to go home unless I wanted to fall and draw everyone's attention to me. After what I did earlier and the danger I put myself in, attention was the last thing I wanted right now.

I slipped from the crowd of warriors discreetly to head home. I tried to move carefully as fast as I could, hoping that nobody would notice my absence. Unfortunately, I have a brother, and despite him ignoring me, I knew I could never get away from his radar.

'We're not done, Clair. Wait for me at home.' Aaron sent me



a mindlink and knew right away I was doomed.

I released a deep sigh before turning my head back to the center of the crowd to see if Aaron was looking at me, only to catch Jake's eyes on me. He didn't look pleased, but who would be?


Despite the distance, I saw his pupils dilating into total blackness, which automatically installed fear in me. I tore my eyes from him and made my way toward home, refusing to meet anyone's eyes along the way.

As soon as I arrived home, I did my chores and ate dinner alone. Dad was not. He was probably with Aaron, which was a good thing. I didn't want anyone around me at the moment.

I was done with the dishes and ready to go into my room when Aaron and Dad came home. Aaron wasted no time scolding me while Dad kept quiet the whole time and just let Aaron do all the talking. I guessed after the last fight we had, Dad got scared that I would run away again, so he was letting Aaron handle this one.

I would say that I got a good whipping from Aaron. I just took everything while staying silent the whole time. I was usually sassy and would stand my ground, but just the mere thought of my near-death experience made me decide that it was best to keep my mouth shut. I made a bad judgment today, so I earned this.


But Aaron, like the good and loving brother that he was, and as much as he despised my actions, we all knew he loved me. After what felt like hours of pointing out what I did

 +5 BONUS

wrong over and over again, he pulled me in for a tight hug and told me what I was supposed to do next time, before placing a soft kiss on my temple.


"I am not losing you, Clair. Don't you dare do that again, okay?" I heard the disappointment and worry in his voice, and it crushed my heart more.

"I'm sorry, Aaron, Dad. I promise it won't happen again," I answered him as I wrapped my arms around him and hugged him back.

He just nodded and mentioned that he needed to freshen up and head back to the dungeon and might stay there or at the pack house for the rest of the night. After that, he left and went to his room. I didn't say anything more and just hugged Dad and told him I wanted to rest now. 

I knew after everything that happened today, sleep would be hard to come by, but I hope I was wrong. I wanted nothing but to shut my eyes and forget the stupid thing I did today.

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