

Chapter 18

JAKE.

My Beta knew fucking well how to ruin my day.

I opened the front door and hurried in, leaving it open for Beta Gavin. I went directly to my office, taking several breaths to compose myself before I made my presence known to the person in my office.

"Elder Rose, I hope I didn't keep you waiting." I nodded at her as I proceeded to sit behind my desk.

I saw Beta Gavin come in and close the door behind him. He chose to stand by the door as he always did.

"No, not at all. I just came in as well. How are you, Alpha Jacob?" She let out a wide smile, her eyes flashing with concern.

"I'm good. Thank you for asking. How have you been yourself?"

"I'm good, Alpha." She cleared her throat before proceeding. "I will cut the chase short. I want to discuss the reason why I am here."

"Go ahead, I'm listening," I answered curtly.

"The Blue Moon will happen ten weeks from now, and the next one will take place in two years. I suggest we hold the

mating ceremony on that day. The moon is at its strongest for a union during a blue moon. I hope you understand what it means. " 1

"I don't have a Luna yet, Elder Rose. If that is any concern, you would want to know." I chuckled and let out a sarcastic smirk.

"I know that, Alpha Jacob. That is why I am here. I feel the need to remind you. You need to choose a Luna if you are certain that you will never or have no plans to search for your mate." She snapped at me, frowning. 2

"I don't think I will find my mate, and yes, I have no intention of looking for her."

"I would have scolded you if you were not my Alpha. If your grandmother was here, I'm sure she'd be disappointed with how you turned out to be."

"What's that supposed to mean? Did you forget that my grandparents are not fated mates? And I don't think she will go against my wish to have a chosen instead of my own mate."

"That is where you are mistaken. She might not end up with her mate because she didn't find him, but she did believe he was out there somewhere. Only that she died before she found him."

"Are you saying she might have left my grandfather if she found her mate?" I asked, coiling my hand into a fist.

"No one can tell. We are destined to be with our fated, but we hold the power in our hands to accept it or be cursed by it." Her eyes were throwing daggers at mine.

"My father accepted it and ended up being cursed by it," I spat out, full of hatred for the man in question.

"Was he? Have you gone and asked your father to find out if he regretted his decision? Or if he felt he was cursed?" She raised her eyebrows and offered me a smile.

"Of leaving me to fend for myself? Are you pointing out that he made the right decision to run away with his fated mate and leave his 7-year-old son?" I slammed my palm on my desk, pissed off at the path the conversation had taken.

"He left you to a greater fate, otherwise, you would not be the Alpha of this pack if he took you away with him. He gave up his title for his heart and left this pack to the one worthy of it." She let out a sigh before tearing her eyes off of me, settling them instead on the bookshelves behind me.

"I didn't come here to argue whether your father made the right decision or not, son. But I am happy that you are the Alpha that you are now. But you cannot deny that, as much as you are a great Alpha, you lack something only a Luna can provide."

I composed myself and leaned back on my chair, but remained silent.

"You have ten weeks until the Blue Moon. May it be your

fated or chosen, I can assure you that the Goddess will bless us tenfold if we celebrate your union that day. The pack will thrive more." She let out another sigh before standing up from her seat.

"Alpha Jacob, choosing a mate is not an easy feat. That is why the Goddess goes out of her way to perfectly match us with our other half. But if you don't want that blessing, make sure you choose wisely. Pick a Luna who will stand by you in your triumphs and your weaknesses. I will go now. Thank you for your time, Alpha."

With those words, she left my office and I remained seated as silence consumed me.

Beta Gavin was about to open his mouth to say something when a knock was heard on the door, shutting him down.

"Come in," I advised without looking, knowing it was Gamma Aaron behind it.

"Alpha, Beta." He acknowledged us before proceeding to stand in front of my desk, sliding a piece of paper in front of me.

"I received the go signal from Alpha Caspian. Are we good to go in three days?" He asked.

Alpha Caspian has requested assistance to oversee training for his newest warriors. He had lost many veteran warriors almost a year ago to a rogue attack.

He was just a year old as an Alpha and had asked for

assistance for added security.

I nodded. "We've been waiting for this, and I presume we are ready to go, Gamma?"

"Yes, Alpha. My second in command will come with me. I will start the training on day one, and he will continue for the rest of the training. I will also leave him with three warriors to assist him."

"Sounds good. Make sure you come back as soon as possible. I don't want to leave the pack without a commander for several days." I nodded and slid the paper back to him.

He nodded before adding, "And Alpha, this was not in the original plan, but Alpha Caspian asked if you would also come to his territory. He wanted to revisit the treaty that was made by your grandfather and his father. He said he wants to renew and strengthen it."

"How many days are you planning to stay there?" I lifted my head to look at him.

"Travel will take one whole day, so that will be two days back and forth. I initially thought six days all in all, including traveling. But if you're coming, then we can shorten it to five days," he explained in one breath.

"And why would you say six days when it can be done in five days?" I inquired, my brows furrowing.

He looked at me before shifting his gaze to Gavin, a smile

creeping across his face. "I thought I could spend one day just scouting the area."

Beta Gavin smiled sheepishly. "Scout the girls, you mean."

I shook my head. "Unbelievable!"

"Come on, man! Don't tell me you're growing old and girls are not that interesting anymore. Besides, maybe we can check around and find you a Luna." He smirked proudly, thinking I would buy his idea. 5

"Cut me off from your games. We'll take five days. There are more important things we need to address than girl hunting."

I then shifted my eyes to Gavin. He was looking at me with a knowing look. "Do I have something important to do within those days?"

'Nothing important, unless you consider staring the whole day at some attractive female important.' Beta Gavin sent over a mindlink, which elicited a frown on my face.

"Nope." He then blurted it out loud. "I think you can go with them. Some minor meetings or training within the pack, nothing I can't handle. You're free to go for five days."

I nodded. "It is settled then. We're leaving in three days. Beta Gavin, you will be in charge of the territory. Gamma Aaron, make sure your third in command knows how to react if a breach happens."

They both nodded in acknowledgment.

"And Aaron, make sure to correspond directly only with Alpha Caspian that I am leaving the pack territory to visit him. We must not leak anything to outsiders. I don't want anyone to take advantage if they find out I'm not around."

Gamma Aaron nodded in response.

"And one last thing..." I pursed my lips before adding, "... make sure Clair knows where to go if we are attacked again."

Aaron let out a sigh and threw his hands up in the air in desperate surrender. "I will, and I hope the Goddess will help me. I hope she learned already and will listen this time."

I shifted my eyes to Gavin when I saw him shake his head, a teasing grin written on his face. And just as I expected, he sent another mindlink. 'Guess it's time to tie up your girl around your body...'

I looked back at the papers on my table before letting a smirk form on my lips.

My girl... I liked the sound of it.