

Chapter 5 Enzo's motivation

Enzo's POV

12 year earlier

"Enzo.?" My mother woke me up during the night, tears filling her big brown eyes, and dripping delicately off her long and dark lashes.

I groggily woke, to find her standing over me.

"Mom?" I asked, peering at her through the dark of the night. It was cold; we didn't have much heat in our small home. We didn't have much money to afford heat, but my mother never made it seem like we were poor. "What's wrong?" I whispered to her, not wanting to wake the others that resided in the house.

"Your father is dead..." she said softly, her voice quivering.

She was frightened. But of what?

"He's gone, sweetheart," she said again.

From what I had heard of my father, he wasn't a good man. He left my mother pregnant, rejecting her, and forcing her to live in another pack. She would often refer to him as a monster.

"You are the only living relative left..." She continued. "His Beta is coming to collect you. You must go with him..."

"What?" I asked, sitting up quickly in bed; she shushed me, wrapping her arms around me. "I know this is sudden. But you must be the Alpha of Calypso. I never wanted this for you so soon, my baby."

I had no idea what it meant to run a pack and be an Alpha. I was at a loss for words, and I had to admit, I was terrified. It was only yesterday that I was running around with my friends and being a kid. Now this time tomorrow, I would be in a whole different pack and acting as a leader.

None of this was making sense to me.

"You'll be coming with me, won't you?" I asked, my words trembling.

She cried harder and shook her head, holding me tighter.

"I'm afraid I can't," she told me hoarsely. "My place is here. And yours is there. You are going to be an incredible Alpha, Enzo. Way better than your father ever was. You are going to do amazing things with your life.."

"I can't just leave you," I whispered, tears filling my own eyes. I didn't often cry, even at a young age. But the thought of leaving my mother behind in this hell hole tied my stomach into a large knot.

"I need you to listen to me," she whispered, taking my face into her hands. "Your father had done a lot of wrong in his life. He hurt a lot of people. You'll probably hear a lot about him once you get to Calypso. He's the reason wolves like us live like this... because he wanted so much that he took everything from everyone. But you, my darling Enzo, can restore things and make things better for all of us..."

"But how? I'm only 9." I said, I couldn't keep the worry out of my tone. "What can I do to help?Why can't you come with me?"

"Your father has made it too dangerous. There are those who still wish to do us harm. His followers are now scrambled, still lurking in the shadows. But you can make things better. You can bring them to light. You can work hard and become more powerful than your father ever was. You can protect those who live like us...You can use your powers for good."

"I promise," I whispered, hugging my mother tightly. "I won't let you down. When I get to the top, and I will get to the top, I will come back for you. I will punish those who did us wrong and I won't stop until this kingdom is safe again. I will undo what father did."

"Alpha Enzo? Did you hear me?" The voice of Bastien interrupted my train of thought. I glanced around at the conference table that the other Alphas on the committee were gathered around.

They were discussing the Shifting and Combat course at the Higala Shifting Academy and how the original professor had died during a rogue attack. Bastien, the head of the committee, was about to appoint a new professor.

I already knew he was going to appoint me; he would have been stupid not to. I was one of the strongest and best Alphas for the job. Besides Bastien, I was the toughest and fiercest Alpha to walk our lands. But I still had a long way to go before I outranked my estranged father who died when I was 9.

"You need me to take over as the professor," I said, leaning back in my seat. It wasn't a question, nor was it an offer.

Bastien looked at the others who had fallen silent long ago.

"Yes," Bastien answered. "Would you be willing to do that?"

I didn't have a choice; I was the youngest Alpha on the committee. And the newest. I was still technically on the probationary period, and I couldn't refuse them if I

wanted to climb my way to the top.

However, the thought of teaching annoyed me. It was impossible to teach students to do what I do. Surely, their amateur combat will get to me.

But just the same, I nodded my head.

"Yes, sir," I finally said after a long pause.

"The student council will want to speak with you. I'll let them know to expect you."

The meeting concluded and I could already hear the others speaking about going to the local pub later that evening.

"Alpha Enzo, you going to join us for once?" One of the Alphas asked, hitting me on the back of my shoulder. "Or are you going to come up with some lame excuse?"

"Yeah, Enzo. Come on! It's Friday. Let's have some fun. You are still young. Live while you can!"

The last thing I wanted to do was go to the pub with a bunch of drunk Alphas. What I really wanted to do was return home and read a book and rest for the evening. I was exhausted from training and meetings all day. I don't usually have time for myself and when I do, I don't like spending it with those I spend all day with.

"I'll pass," I say to them as I finish packing my stuff in my briefcase. "Maybe next time."

I always say, "maybe next time" knowing I don't mean those words. They don't argue though; they look at one another with a frown before leaving the conference room.

"Hey Enzo, wake up," I hear Bastien behind me, following me out of the door. I slow my pace so he can catch up. "I really appreciate you taking one for the team. I know teaching isn't your thing, but I think this might be good for you."

"I appreciate the opportunity," I say to him, and in a way, I meant that. I could prove myself to him and to others. I could practice my skills and better myself. "Honestly, maybe it won't be that bad." I smirked.

Bastien laughed, clapping me on the back.

"You might even have fun," he told me with a grin. "I couldn't think of a better Alpha for the job. I can already tell; you're going to do great things. I'm glad to finally have you on the committee. Enjoy your weekend. The student council will be expecting you at the academy on Monday, bright and early!"

I took Bastien's words to heart; he believed that I could do great things in my future. Just as my mother believed. I didn't want to let either of them down. But still, there was a part of me that worried if I was going to do any better than my father.

My mother was right; as soon as I became the Alpha of the Calypso Pack, I started hearing rumors about my father. Things I never heard before; things I don't even think my mother knew.

Like the fact that my father died because of his love for a Volana wolf. I never even heard of a Volana wolf before and there was a part of me that didn't believe they existed. As far as I knew, it was only a myth. But I've heard the story from different sources.

My father had fallen in love with a Volana and because of that, he lost his life. It was love that made the most powerful shifter in the universe weak. I wasn't sure if it was because Volanas were the most powerful type of wolves in the world, or because of love itself. But either way, I sWOre to never allow what happened to my father to happen to me.

Which meant I vowed to never fall in love.

It complicated things when I stepped into the house of Alpha Bastien, on the night of his daughter, Lila's, 18(th) birthday, and my wolf was in awe of her beauty.

His husky whisper made my entire body freeze and my skin crawl.

"I can feel her... our mate..."

Shit.

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