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"We have a problem." My dad grumbles, "And it can't wait." 1

"Someone had better be dying!" Dakota almost yells at him.

"Possibly. We don't know what's happening, but we think Skylar, Gentry and Elena should go together. Which means all eight of us are going to need to move. Now." My dad says.

"Eight?" I question doing the mental math. "What happened that we need to go and our mates need to be present?"

"You act like we would let you go anywhere near something so magically bad that all three of you would be needed without us." Dakota grumbles in my ear.

I roll my eyes and ignore him. "We have done magic so many times together, what's changed?" I try to move, but Dakota won't let me go. I turn awkwardly in his arms, hold his face between my hands and look him in the eyes. "Dakota, I know that you want to protect me, but I need to stand next to you, on my own two feet. I promise, I won't be more than a couple feet from any of you and I will hear you if you tell me your instincts say it isn't safe. I need you to treat me like an equal right now, okay." He leans his forehead into mine, takes a deep breath and then lets me down without any words, but keeps me right in front of him. I'm sure if he opened his mouth a whole string of profanities would come out. But, he's doing his best to treat me like an Alpha, not a weak female mate.

I turn toward my dad. "What happened?"

"Mike is glowing." 2

"I'm sorry, what?!" Cam steps up next to me, lacing our fingers. "What do you mean glowing?"


"I thought his wolf and whatever magic was being controlled." Oliver clarifies.

"That's all I know. Our warriors just let me know he started to glow and radiate a purple light about twenty minutes ago. No one knows what it means, but it's Mike so we naturally assume it's magic. We don't know if it's his magic or his mother's, because his should be suppressed. But we have no idea what Adrielle has done to him or herself at this point. I really don't want any of you anywhere near him, my gut tells me this is a ploy to get to you, but Elena and Gentry have insisted. As a Beta, my instinct is to protect the Alphas but let them do their jobs, as a father I have two kids at risk here, but I also know that none of you are going to stand by and just let things happen. So we are going to go cautiously. Nathaniel has a timeline for us, but there isn't much to go on. He will fill you in on the drive out, he has our eyes active everywhere and we have added patrols.""

We didn't hesitate to head to our vehicles. We could have easily shifted and ran, but we don't know what we are getting into and we need to preserve our wolves' strength just in case this is some kind of set up. Our group traveled to the south eastern border of the pack in several vehicles. Everyone seemed to decide the four of us needed to be on our own, since no one joined us in Cam's truck. The twins and Oliver are fuming over being interrupted again. I actually agree with them this time,

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and regret needing to train right at this moment. Once we get to the bunker where Mike is being held, our team converges and is standing guard outside while Cam, Kota, Oliver, Nickolas, my dad, Elena, Gentry and I head inside. The door opens to a small landing and a set of steps. We follow it down until the air becomes cooler and we see the inside of a metal bunker containing five cells. Mike is sitting in the corner of the center cell glowing purple.

He's barely breathing, but I can feel that he is alive, but the vibe is off somehow too. Elena and Gentry step close behind us and says, "He's been glowing like this for hours, according to the guards and Nathaniel." 

"Has he done anything else? Spoken? Moved? Anything?" Cam asks.

"Not to anyone here, but that is why we are here. His magic and wolf should be suppressed by the foods and liquids we have been giving him. This has to be the work of Adrielle, but we don't know how she's doing it or why." Elena supplies. "We don't feel anything unusual about him right now, is there anything off that you feel, Skylar? Because this is probably a message for you."

"I can't feel anything from here, I need to get closer." I move to take a step forward when a hand grabs each of my wrists.

"The hell you are!" Dakota raises his voice. "You aren't going anywhere near that f*cker."


I want to be mad at his controlling nature, but I would feel the same if it was Kaley locked up here and they wanted to approach her. I take a deep breath to calm my irritation, I don't know what to do.

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"I need to get closer. I know nobody wants me anywhere near him, but this is the deal. They want me, so they want me close, need me close. We need to play by their rules for now so we can keep everyone safe."

No one says anything, which I take as a sign that they can't disagree with me, even though they really, really, want a reason to make me stay back.

I move forward cautiously, leaving everyone behind me. When I am about five feet from the silver bars of his cell, his eyes flare open with the same purple flame in them. He starts to speak, but the voice has a scratch to it, like an old radio. Mike is not speaking for himself right now, but I don't know if it's Adrielle, the Rogue King or some other dipsh*t I have to deal with now.

"I've been waiting for you, my Luna. I'm so glad you have come to me and still innocent. I can feel your raw power and you haven't even shared it with your mates yet. They must not be worthy if you are holding out on them. Pity for them, but so much better for us. WE will have you and your power, make no mistake." 

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"We' my ass." My wolf grumbles in my head and I can feel that my mates think the same, but they are keeping their tempers under control for now.

I just keep my mouth shut. He needs to let us know what he wants and I won't be drawn into a conversation with him, which is probably what he wants. He like the sound of his own voice and I am content just letting him sit here and burn.

He's skinnier than the last time I saw him, cheeks shallow and eyes sunk, but he looks just as smug as ever, like he isn't dying slowly.

"I see that you are admiring my new look. Impressive, wouldn't you say. I'm sure your Alpha stand-ins are envious of the power that I possess and all that I will obtain when you are completely mine."

I hear a huff behind me, but Mike doesn't react so he either doesn't hear it or is so full of himself he's not going to give it his time. He thinks he's in control, but he's the one locked in the cage.

I take in an audible breath and roll my eyes, letting him know I am not impressed and he needs to get to his point. He clearly chose to light up in purple flames now to get our attention, he has is and will try to milk this a bask in it for as long as possible. 1

He stands slowly, his shackles tugging on his arms since he is so much taller than me and they have him in my shackles. His eyes are closed like he is in thought while

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he does this. When he is fully upright his eyes open, looking straight at me and they are blazing the same color purple as the rest of his body. He opens his mouth but when he talks the voice that comes out is definitely not his voice.

"You are destined to be the queen and you will bring about the most powerful offspring for the mate that takes you. You will mate with Micheal and unite with our family to supply the right DNA. We are coming for you. There is no stopping it, your pack will be decimated and we will enslave anyone that is left." He takes a deep breath in and smiles a wicked, cruel smile. "I can sense that she is still unmated, which is perfect. Even deep down she knows that the Moon Goddess was wrong in her choice for mates. She is holding onto her innocence for us." Mike tilts his head to the side, seeming to look behind me. "She is not tainted by your low, basic Alpha blood."

There are growls surrounding me, but no one advances. They can't, they are frozen in place by my wolf and I. No one knows the rage building inside me. It is a flowing current of lava and I'm sure smoke is probably steaming out of my nose and ears. They just threatened my mates, my pack and my bond. No one will take them from me. My muscles are quivering as I try to hold my wolf back, I won't let her shift...yet. We don't know what Adrielle can do and she is clearly possessing Mike right now.

"Skylar." Cam growls behind me.


"You are not taking this douchebag on your own. Do you understand? We are not trying to stop you, but we are not going to let you do this alone." He links my wolf and I.


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"They want me alive. They won't hurt me and even if Adrielle is controlling him. He can't fight for sh*t, there's no way she can improve those skills. I am not letting him anywhere near you three or any of you. You are all obstacles to kill, not capture. I won't let that happen."

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