

Silver Linings Pack

It took one night and one day to reach the Silver Linings Pack, close to Samuels but further than he'd initially thought. Julian however was desperate to get their in record time and discuss with the Alpha and Luna the kidnapping of one of their children, needing to get to the bottom of this. He was also extremely angry that nobody had thought it was of any consequence to inform him. As King of the Werewolves something like this should have been reported straight away and it frustrated him no end that they hadn't. Had he become that unapproachable or had they all become a bit too complacent and lax with informing him of anything to do with the packs issues?

He skidded to a halt in front of what had to be Silver Lining's patrol, his men's paws halting as well as they shifted simultaneously, unconcerned about their nakedness in their urgency to speak to the Alpha and Luna.

"State your business" a warrior scowled, surrounded by wolves on every side prepared to pounce.

"I'm here to speak to your Luna and Alpha" Julian growled right back, coming directly into the light where he could be seen. The warriors jaw dropped as he recognised him and he bared his neck in respect.

"My apologies King Julian I meant no disrespect" he stuttered and Julian waved away the apology, thrusting on the clothes being ung towards him and his men.

"Luna Clarissa and Alpha Henry are advising you to come straight to the pack house and into the study where they are awaiting you. If you do not mind your men are to go to the kitchen and eat, beds are being prepared for all of you in the meantime. " The warrior was brief but to the point, King Julian striding behind him as he led the way, his warriors heading towards the smell of food indicating where the kitchen was, keen to ll their bellies which were growling in hunger.

The warrior halted and directed him to the study, rushing off to help with preparations as Julian sailed in without knocking, meeting the concerned eyes of Luna Clarissa and Alpha Henry who sat waiting for the purpose of his sudden arrival. Julian didn't waste time.

"Tell me" he growled as they shrank back in shock "why I wasn't informed of a child being kidnapped from your territory. "

Luna Clarissa had the good sense to look ashamed, her blue eyes clouded as she glanced over at her worried husband who sighed and gestured for Julian to sit, his eyes glaring at them as he made himself comfortable and waited for their explanation.

"We thought it was an issue we could resolve ourselves. A foolish concept perhaps" Alpha Henry said sheepishly, stroking his silver goatee "I sent our best trackers out and even joined them myself. We spent two weeks combing through the woods and trying to scent Sandy, the child, or the rogues who took him but there was no sign of it, nothing, like they vanished into thin air. By that stage we felt it would do no good to inform you. It's not until the other day that we even learned it was happening to other packs. We apologise, you should have been informed as soon as it happened and not after the fact."

"Didn't think it would do any good" Julian exploded "this is the second child I'm aware of that's been taken for who knows what reason and you didn't think it relevant to inform me" he said in disbelief as they hung their heads in shame. When this was all over their would be a very serious discussion with every single pack and their responsibilities as leader he thought grimly.

"Were the parents murdered" he asked instead and they both nodded.

"The boy is eight years old and with both of them at the time of attack. None of our warriors got there in time, only hearing the screams and shouts from the other side of the grounds and getting there far too late."

Well at least they had noticed thought Julian, this pack at least had been doing their jobs as patrol even if it still resulted in tragedy.

"Did anyone see the rogues taking him" he asked suddenly and they went quiet before reluctantly shaking their heads.

"No" Luna Clarissa said uneasily "there had been sightings of several before hand so naturally we assumed it had to be them."

So in other words it was an assumption and not clear cut evidence it had been rogues thought Julian thoughtfully. But then why would another pack hurt a child and it's parents. It was like declaring war and it wouldn't have involved three or more packs if that was the case would it. More things to consider thought Julian annoyed. But surely an Alpha wouldn't be involved with something like this? What would they have to gain taking children from different packs? He could think of nothing that would explain a reason or motive for it, besides going to war was the last thing an Alpha should want for his pack. It had to be the rogues or something else was at play, they just didn't know it yet.

"What other packs are you aware of that have this problem at the moment" he said instead and they shot each other a sidelong glance.

They named Samuel's pack which Julian already knew about having come from there, and then gave him the name of the Midnight Moon pack which was next on his list anyway. "Are those the only places you know about at the moment?" he checked and they nodded tearfully.

"We are sorry we didn't tell you, I guess we were hoping we would nd the child and lost sight of what was our responsibility as Alpha and Luna. The King of Werewolves should know exactly what is going on when it comes to our packs. This is on us King Julian, punish us as you see t."

He sighed. Julian felt the urge to behead them, throttle them by the necks and crack them but held back. Right now it wouldn't do any good, they weren't the only pack who had failed to tell him and right now it was a waste of his time and energy. He'd worry about their failure later.

"My men and I will stay to eat and rest and set out tomorrow" he said instead "I need to get to Midnight Moon pack as early as possible but I can't keep pushing my men when they need sleep and to recover. "

"We are more than happy to accommodate you and your men. Anything you need at all just say the word and we'll take care of it. "

Julian was thoughtful "if you can arrange clothes for us and some food easily carried in a backpack for the journey it would be appreciated. Anything else would be too cumbersome and slow us down" he said sighing.

"King Julian" Luna Clarissa said suddenly, eyes so troubled that he couldn't look away "why are children being taken do you think?" She was in tears now remembering the little boy Sandy who had been grabbed, heartbroken that they'd failed to protect him or keep him safe.

"I don't know" admitted King Julian, adding with determination "but I intend to nd out and when I do, heaven help those responsible because there will be no mercy shown by me."