

On The Run 81

Chapter 81

Alpha On The Hunt Chapter 6

Elena POV

After picking up Sondra's pain medication, I race home to my sons. The women are out working the ranch and tending to the animals or picking fruit and vegetables from the fields, and it's hard to wrap my head around the knowledge that we've created this peaceful little piece of tranquility out here. It was once a rundown ranch, the fields of vegetation dying out, the cattle not being tended to the way they needed, and the main house has since received an uplift and everything is now flourishing out here.

Pulling up, Sondra is waiting on the porch in her rocking chair, my mother staring at her worriedly, which makes my brows furrow in confusion as I climb out of the car. Luke is up the side of the house, chucking wood into a wheelbarrow to take to the women and inside the packhouse.

"Hey, El," Luke calls out, and I give him a brief wave before climbing the few steps to my mother.

"What's wrong?" I ask my mother, nervously glancing at Sondra. She frowns. Worry is etched into her facial features, and I wander over to Sondra. Her eyes are closed, and her face is peacefully relaxed. Just as my hand reaches out to touch her to ensure she is breathing, she speaks, scaring the living daylight out of me.

"I know you weren't about to check if I was breathing. If I am dying, it will be dramatic and preferably with your father's head resting in my lap as I croak my last breath."

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"Geez, Sondra, did you have to play dead right until I touched you?"

"You were the one going to poke the dead if I was. Serves you right to sneak up on an old woman like that!" She smiles, opening her eyes, yet even I can see the pain pooling in their depths. Her eyes don't crinkle the same way. They're also a little glassy, making me wonder if that is why she had them closed, not wanting my mother to see how watery they are.

"You old bat, I have been watching you for the past ten minutes and not one word, not even when I called out to you!" my mother scolds her.

I may look like I have one foot in the grave, but I can assure you, dear, I still have good balance. I won't be tipping over that edge to

mother, who throws her hands up in frustration before stalking back into the house. "Kinda creepy, the way your mother watches me while I am resting

"You scared her."

to fear me. I owe these women for my past failures. I'm the last person they need to fear," she states. My brows furrow, wondering what she means. Sondra

to tell me what you mean?" I

tilts her head to the side, looking at me. "We all make mistakes. Some are just bigger than others, some are redeemable, and some aren't. I just hope I have done enough when the day comes and I finally meet my maker." She states, looking out at

that needs redeem- ing?" I ask

have spoken up. Then maybe there wouldn't be all this mess.

rarely talks likes this,

back to me. "Promise me that when you take down your father. You make sure he hurts. I want him

Sondra, what is

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But I know that monster, just like I know your mate. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree with that one, but I'm glad to see you aren't made from the same roots your father

to ask more when she points to

to destroy. Don't feel guilty for ruining them. I can

to pop them from the foil cover- ing. I hand her two, and she

only allowed two," I tell her, checking the

they're weak as shit," she says, clicking her fingers at

and roll my eyes, popping another out and handing it to her. "No more, you'll be high as a kite,"