

Chapter 408 Reschedule The Negotiation

Aldrich's POV:

When I video called with Skylar, she looked fine to me. Her cheeks were ruddy and she was full of energy; she didn't look weak at all. I figured she had almost recovered completely by now and could bring her back to vampires' territory. She could recuperate further here if need be. Our medical technology was comparable to that of the werewolves. Besides, I couldn't wait to see my dear daughter.

To be honest, I couldn't quite understand the attitude of the lycan king. Wasn't he eager to get Austin back? If I were in his shows, I would've wanted to exchange Skylar for the former lycan king as soon as possible.

"Aldrich, could you please give us a few more days?" Anthony asked.

"Anthony, why are you so intent on delaying our meeting? Are you worried about something? I've already told you that we vampires are a race of our word. As long as you give my daughter back to me in one piece, I won't make things difficult for you." I went straight to the point. I didn't want to beat around the bushes any longer with this negotiation. I just wanted my daughter back.

"Aldrich, it's not that. I'm just thinking about Skylar. She loves her mate and doesn't want to leave him so soon. As the king, I want to respect her choice," Anthony explained patiently.

Now, even Anthony brought up the subject of Skylar's werewolf mate. I frowned unhappily. "I know that Skylar has a good relationship with her mate, but I'm her father. I miss my daughter very much. So please, Anthony, I'd appreciate it if you arranged a face-to-face meeting for us as soon as possible. I haven't seen my daughter in years. I think she's also excited to be reunited with her father."

"To be completely honest, Skylar's mate is my wife's brother, and she and my wife are best friends. We all know each other very well and have witnessed the love between Skylar and Jerome blossom. They love each other deeply and have done a lot for each other. I really would hate to separate them. Aldrich, as Skylar's father, I hope you can try to understand where Skylar's coming from," Anthony said with sincerity.

I fell silent and didn't say anything for a long time. I didn't expect that even the lycan king would be moved by Skylar's love with her mate. He was a king after all and shouldn't have been so emotional.

"Alas!" I sighed, finally breaking the silence. "Anthony, I'm in a dilemma too. I understand where you're coming from, but it's not safe to keep Austin here much longer. I must be honest with you too; some vampires disagree with my decision and want to kill Austin to avenge our compatriots, but they don't dare to do so for now. Still, we can't delay the matter any longer."

After I explained what was at stake, Anthony suddenly got agitated. "Aldrich, please protect Austin!"

"I'm doing my best. But the fact is that the longer Austin stays in vampires' territory, the more danger he will be in. I hope you consider your options carefully and set a meeting time as soon as possible," I said flatly.

After a moment's silence, Anthony made up his mind. "You're right. We can't delay this any longer. Austin's safety is also important. You can set a time for the meeting. I will make the necessary preparations right away."

Thinking about Skylar, my heart beat excitedly. My dear daughter was finally coming home to me!

"Three days," I said after a moment's thought. "Let's meet in three days at the place we agreed on last time—that is, the border of the Red Sun Pack."

Anthony agreed readily. "Okay, thank you. We'll see you then."

So the meeting was scheduled.

After getting off the phone with the lycan king, I couldn't help but mull over the relationship between my daughter and her mate. Finally, I decided to consult the elders and gathered them for a meeting.

The opinions of the elders were still very important. It wasn't that I was afraid of them, but their families were held power over the vampire kingdom. If I pissed them off, I was worried that they would go behind my back and attack Austin or even Skylar.

"There's something I wanted to discuss with all of you. I just talked to the lycan king and we decided to meet in three days. By then, I'll be bringing my daughter, Skylar, back home." I looked at the elders unhurriedly.

"Congratulations!" Some elders smiled and gave me their blessing.

But there were also a few elders who didn't look too happy. I knew they had always been bothered by Skylar's mixed bloodline, but their opinion was outnumbered. I had successfully convinced most of the elders to accept Skylar as my daughter.

"But I wanted to hear your opinions on something..." After a slight pause, I explained the matter regarding Skylar's mate and their child. "My daughter has found a werewolf mate. She just gave birth to their firstborn. Now, they're inseparable. I was thinking of bringing her mate and child back with her. What do you think?"

I hadn't even finished speaking before the elders all violently reacted.

"No way! Sir, are you out of your mind?" An elder was agitated and stood bolt upright. "We never know what the werewolves are up to. Maybe the princess's werewolf mate is actually an assassin!"

"Exactly. I'm sorry, but we could never agree on this. If you really don't want to separate them, then just let the princess and her werewolf mate stay in werewolves' territory!" another elder echoed sharply.

It was clear that all the elders disagreed with my proposal.

I had already expected this. There was nothing I could do but shake my head and sigh helplessly.

"Please calm down, everyone. I respect your opinion on this matter and completely understand where you're all coming from. Don't worry. I'll explain the situation to Skylar." As I spoke, I looked around the room and everyone gradually calmed down.

Pleased with what I said, the elders weren't so riled up anymore. After the meeting, I retired to my room and called Skylar.

"Hi, Dad!" Skylar called me Dad, which made me feel even guiltier.

"Skylar... I'm sorry. I failed you. I asked the elders if we could take in your mate and child, but they violently disagreed. It'll be dangerous to bring your mate here. If they find out, you may become a target." I sighed with remorse.

"Well, I can't say I'm surprised, Dad." Skylar's reaction was calmer than I had expected. "But still, thanks, Dad. I know you tried your best."

My heart sank. Skylar was so sensible that I felt even worse. What a good girl my daughter had grown up to be!

"Oh, and I've talked to the lycan king regarding our meeting. It will be in three days. You should get ready to leave." As I spoke, I pressed my fingers against my temples, sighing helplessly.

As for the matter regarding Skylar and her mate, we could come up with some solution. I didn't want my daughter to live in regret for the rest of her life, as I had.

