

Eight

(Xavier's POV)

After Xeraphina stormed out of the room, the whole council released the breath they were holding. Xeraphina's aura suffocated others when they were not used to it. I grew accustomed to Xeraphina pushing her aura out that it barely bothered me now. Though it could be because we are twins that it doesn't have as strong an effect on me as others.

A whole solid twenty minutes passed before the meeting resumed. Were they scared she would come back in? After father set up ways to help the other species and our own the meeting was dismissed. The council members left, and I bolted out of there as soon as they did. Before I could proceed to check on Xeraphina, mother and father's hush tones caught my interest. I always liked to eavesdrop and that's why Xeraphina would always tell me what is being said. Though, she is not with me right now. I lean against father's door, listening intently to their conversation.

"That was to close." Mother whispered in despair. I knew how upset she was. It was hard to keep secrets, especially when she was part of the council.

"I know my love. We will have to keep an eye out to make sure they are not suspicious. I think these attacks are keeping their minds elsewhere for now." Father sighed in exhaustion. I wonder if he was exhausted with Xeraphina or the attacks.

'Stop with your thoughts and be quiet. I am trying to listen.' Archer growled in annoyance.

"I need to speak with you about the twin's mate ball I am throwing." Mother said timidly, she seemed to be scared of what she was about to say.

"Do you really think this is the best time for something like that? I mean with all the attacks and all. I do not want to jeopardize others' lives for a party." Father sighed, it seemed he was always tired these days.

I heard a smack and knew mother just got him in his chest. She always did that when he said something she felt was unneeded. "Yes, the oracle said the ball must take place now and we must invite all the kingdoms."

"We were already doing that my love. The vampires, witches and wolves will all be invited." Father said in confirmation. I knew they were inviting all the species because of Xeraphina. Her mate could be anyone. Well, I guess anybody's mate could be.

"No Dimitri, I am inviting all of the Kingdoms. The oracle said to invite everyone. So, I have invited the witches, wolves, vampires, fairies, werecats and dragons. They have all confirmed with a letter. Their available men and women will be there. Anyone unmated." Mother said, her tone seemed to be contemplating if she was in the right or wrong with informing father. Did I just hear her right? Fairies and dragons are extinct. They don't exist anymore. Has mother lost her mind?

"YOU DID WHAT?" Father bellowed. I realized I had to leave now, knowing they were about to go. It was likely one of them would be storming out soon. The ball is five days away and I just found out two species I thought was extinct will be there. I need to see Xeraphina.

I ran to my sister's room, barging in without thinking. Xeraphina was stark naked from getting out of her bath and held me against the wall, her hand gripping around my neck as my oxygen began to cut off. I tapped her hand a few times, trying to make her realize it was me. After a few minutes that honestly felt more like hours, her eyes ached, and she let me go. I fell to my knees, coughing and gasping greedily for more air to fill my lungs. s**t, note to self, never enter without knocking.

'We already knew that idiot.' Archer commented in annoyance. I think he was covering up that his life just ached before his eyes as much as mine did. I should have known better, but I couldn't honestly wait to tell her this news. Now to think about it, I would have already been able to tell her if I had just knocked.

Xeraphina ignores my presence as if she didn't just choke the life out of me and continues applying lotion to her naked self. By the time I catch my breath and get back on my shaky legs, Xeraphina is in her closet putting on nightwear.

I plopped myself down on her bed, leaning against the headboard as I waited for her to emerge from the closet. As she steps out, it is no shocker that she is wearing a black tank top and black baggy sweatpants. She is running her black brush through her hair, and I don't think it is any secret that black is her favorite color. I mean, I am sitting on her black fuzzy comforter set as I stare at her black walls. Everything she owns I feel is black. The contrary to her rainbow eyes.

Xeraphina stared at me with an intensity I hadn't seen in a while. What was going through her mind right now and what has her so down? I stare at her intently, trying to see her mask but I can't. I don't know how she does it all the time.

'Tell her what we found out.' Archer demanded; he was excited to see how she reacted to the news.

"I am sure you don't want me in here any longer seeing as it seems you are going to bed. I have some news I thought you would want to hear. After the meeting with the elders was dismissed. I booked it out of there." I began, I saw the annoyance ash across Xeraphina's features. Either from how long I was taking to get to the point or because I mentioned the elders. "Before I made it down the hall to your room, I heard mother and father whispering to each other. Well, you know how much I love to eavesdrop and because you weren't with me, I had to go back against the door. As I leaned against the door, I found out mother and father were talking about the ball she is planning for our birthday and helping us and our mate."

'If you got to the point faster, I could see a better expression than the one we are receiving right now. Plus, she is probably not going to let you continue talking anymore.' Archer growled, his annoyance radiating in my body.

Xeraphina raised up her hand, stopping me from continuing. She didn't want to hear anything about the ball or mates, I understood but she will want to hear this. I gave her my best puppy eyes and she finally relaxed her hand, allowing me to continue speaking. I could tell she was over it but one thing she always allowed was me to rant.

"As I was saying. Father tried to cancel the ball because of the rogue attacks and mother said they couldn't because she already invited all of the Kingdoms and the oracle said it needed to occur now. Did you hear what I said? ALL OF THE KINGDOMS. The vampire kingdom, wolf's kingdom, witch kingdom, werecat kingdom, fairy kingdom and the..." I took a dramatic pause, causing her eyes to blaze with fury. "Dragon kingdom. They had all already sent letters back confirming they would be there. I always thought dragons and fairies were extinct, but they aren't. Amazing right? You will be able to meet a dragon in person."

I saw a spark of excitement and interest ash through Xeraphina's eyes before it was covered with her blank cold stare. Her anger and attempted murder were worth that reaction.

"I will let you sleep now." I said quickly before getting off her bed and running out of her room. I felt good about meeting the new species I have never interacted with, and I am sure it will be the best birthday present Xeraphina ever had. No one else knew about her obsession with dragons but I did. I saw the way she drifted to dragon books before anything else. The way she would ignore everything until dragons were brought up, the way her world seemed to revolve around the obsession she had with that species. We always thought they were extinct, and I have no idea how mother knew they weren't or how she even found their kingdom. At least I knew that Xeraphina would for sure attend the ball now. She would never pass up on meeting a dragon in real life and not just her books.

'Did you see the emotions she gave us? I didn't even need to hear her voice to know we made her night better than it was.' Archer purred, proud of himself for lifting our sister's spirits, even in the slightest.

I walked into my room, getting ready for bed. Archer and I always thought our mate would be a wolf knowing we were full werewolf. I have traveled to every pack and around the whole kingdom with my sister, not once catching the scent of our mate. I didn't understand. Archer said that we needed to be patient, it wasn't the right time. Mother said I will know it when I find her, and waiting is the best part. It makes you cherish your other half more than anyone can understand. Father said he waited for a long time for our mother and when he lost hope, mother fell into his lap, or rogue battle.

What scared me the most was going through the same pain my mother had to. To be rejected sounded like too much heartbreak. I don't think I could handle it the way my mother did. Father says royals don't get a second chance and a rejection would be my demise. Would I die from it? They always reassured me I wouldn't have to experience that, but they couldn't force my mate to love me or even stay with me if she didn't want to.

I don't think my sister would die from a rejection; I don't even think she would be affected. She honestly may be the one to reject someone. My eyes widen at that thought. I am not even sure she could love someone the way a mate would want her to. I would defend her no matter what she decides but I only wish she would find happiness under that cold mask she has. I mean her feelings can't really be that numb, could they?

My thoughts ate at me, worried about my mate and Xeraphina's mate, until I drifted off into a restless sleep. I wish I could have meditated before deciding to lay down.