

The Alpha King

King Braedon POV

I placed the invitation down on my desk, looking thoughtfully at my Beta and longtime friend James who was seated opposite me, looking completely at ease, one leg folded over the other, his blue eyes twinkling with good humor, while my own green eyes were narrowed in annoyance.

"Another pointless invitation" I growled, ready to throw it into the re and watch it burn.

What use did I have, to attend a girl's eighteenth birthday party? It was insulting at best

James grabbed the invitation from my hand and perused it, a cheerful grin on his face. I rolled my eyes. "Let me guess," I said drily "you wish to attend."

He chuckled and ran a hand through his reddish brown hair, "Am I that predictable" he said with a laugh.

"Yes," I said tersely "I know how badly you wish to nd your mate" I added pointedly as James gave a nonchalant shrug.

"I'm not the only one who should be out seeking his mate" he pointed out wisely "you're what twenty-ve now? You have a duty as the Alpha King to provide an heir for the future leader of all the packs," he said with a serious expression on his face.

"Why do you think I've been dating Cordelia" I snapped "I'm well aware of my responsibilities."

James gave a long-suffering sigh. "You know as well as I do, that Lucian, your wolf, barely tolerates her. You don't exactly look like a man in love when you're with her. How can you force yourself to take a mate instead of one that's fated?"

I scowled "As you just pointed out, times not exactly on my side. Don't you think if I had a mate, I would have found one by now? Every year that passes, Lucian gets more aggressive and harder to handle. If I don't take a mate soon, he'll go feral and then where will we be?"

My tone was serious, knowing. My wolf was stronger than ordinary Alpha's but it also came at a cost. Without my mate, or without marking a chosen one, my wolf would slowly go feral, until I lost all ability to reason with it. Then I would stay in wolf form permanently. It was not a fate I relished. James's lips tightened. He knew that if that happened, there was nobody in line to rule as the next Alpha King. I was it. I had a duty to my people to ensure nothing happened until another heir was in place.

"I just wish that you could nd your other half" he muttered, "instead of her."

It was no secret that he had no love for Cordelia. The feeling was mutual. Neither of them got along with each other.

"Never mind," I said grimly and made a motion to grab the invitation again, but he held it teasingly out of reach.

"Just this once," he said, narrowing his eyes "just this once, go to this stupid party and have fun. It could be the last time you get to loosen up and enjoy life as a single man."

I eyed him consideringly. I didn't often go to functions, considering them a waste of my time, but this seemed to be important to him. I sighed and held out my hand for the invitation. "If I agree to go, will you give it a rest about Cordelia? She's not that bad you know" I said sternly.

"I'll attempt it" he quipped and reluctantly handed the invitation over. I rolled my eyes at his response and looked at the writing more carefully.

"Brynn Ryker of the Dark Rising Pack" I read, wrinkling my nose and looking at James "what do you know about the Dark Rising Pack?" I asked with a small degree of interest. It was one, I had not visited before.

"Well, as far as packs go, it's a relatively small one, in comparison to ours" James said calmly.

No surprises there, the Alpha King's pack or rather Kingdom of Leonas was the largest pack in the world.

"As for the Alpha and the Luna, they appear to be competent from all reports but not particularly ambitious or strategic when it comes to making their pack stronger or more ruthless. You've never had to go down there to discipline them or enforce any laws" James said helpfully.

"What about the girl? Brynn Ryker? Clearly, she's the Alpha's daughter" I said impatiently "but do you know anything personal about her?"

He gave a short laugh. "Actually, from all accounts, she's a spoiled princess, not well-liked in the pack," he said a little apologetically "there's been reports that she's a little abusive towards omegas but nothing has ever been proven."

I raised an eyebrow towards him. "You're only telling me this now?" I growled.

He looked a little ashamed. "I investigated but nothing came of it" he said with a huff "as for the spoiled princess thing, well it's not anything new. All Alpha's tend to spoil their daughters," he said grumpily.

"Yet you want me to go," I said incredulously.

He ushered. "At least go for my sake. It's been ages since I've left this pack house and enjoyed myself. I might even nd my mate" he pleaded, giving me the big, puppy dog eyes.

"Isn't that beneath you?" I said, coolly.

He shook his head. "Nope, not even a little. I'm desperate, even if it only results in female companionship for one night. There is no girl here, that attracts me to them."

"What you really mean is that you've slept with the ones that you were attracted to and burned your bridges with them all" I said blatantly.

"That too," he said unabashedly.

"You're incorrigible. As my Beta, I expect better from you" I admonished "you are meant to be setting an example."

"I'll be on my best behavior" he said batting his eyes.

Yeah right, and pigs would y.

I glared at the offending invitation. "Fine. I'll use it as an opportunity to assess the pack and it's needs while I'm there. It will save me a trip in the future. I'll also determine just what use the Alpha is to the pack and whether he needs to be replaced" I added.

"Always business rst" James grumbled.

I shot him a look "Be grateful I'm going" I snapped "As it is, I still need to draw up the legislation for my next law which is sure to put some noses out of joint" I exhaled and leaned back in my chair.

"Yes, that is bound to piss off a lot of Alpha's," James said agreeably "and I applaud your bravery in demolishing, what I think should have been abolished ages ago."

I gave a grim smile "Yes well, wait and see what the response is before you give me congratulations. I fear we might be in for a lot of anger and rage once the legislation is introduced."

James smirked "that's what makes it fun. You can't really call yourself King if nobody hates you" he joked, getting up and stretching.

I glanced down at the legislation in question, still on my desk, partially written and groaned. James sidled towards the door, a mischievous grin on his face.

"I'll leave you to your work," he said with satisfaction, having got what he was after. I barely noticed him leaving.

I looked at the title of my new law to be introduced and grimaced. It was going to rue more than a few feathers. But women were being forced into the program against their will and consent, akin to nothing more than slaves and I wasn't having it. I didn't care if it had been in place for a hundred years, or that it was a tradition. It was barbaric and it was degrading towards the female species. I would no longer let these women suffer in silence. Those in positions of power, would no longer have the authority to abuse women in positions lower than them. We were better than this. At least, that's what I hoped.

"The Abolishment and Disbandment of the Breeding Program Immediately and From this Day forward will no longer continue to be enforced in any pack and refusal to follow this instruction will result in the immediate consequences..."

All I had to do was complete it and have it legally witnessed before I distributed it to the packs. I resolved to nish it before the party I was attending. I settled down and began to type, hoping that Cordelia wouldn't choose today, of all days, to distract me.