

Rogue Attack

King Braedon POV

I growled, the sound echoing through the forest as I faced my opponent, my tail swishing back and forth, my jaw pulled back, my eyes beady and black. I leaped, high, meeting the other wolf high in the air, landing on their back and deliberately scraping my claws down their back as they let out a howl of pain, their blood trickling down their body and dripping onto the grass. I rolled off of them and then jumped, clawing across their midsection before they could move, cutting their stomach wide open as they let out a strangled scream, their body collapsing onto the floor, their eyes slowly going dimmer as the life left their eyes. I stalked over to them and unceremoniously used my hind leg to smash into their skull, before stalking through the woods in search of any more of them.

Nothing. No smell of rotten meat or putrid eggs drifted my way. Just the smell of pine and dirt, like the forest should smell. I gave a low growl, heading back towards my pack, my castle-like home, my anger visible on my face. I made my way to the grounds and shifted, my bones cracking and adjusting loudly, until I stood there, in human form, glowering at my patrol who looked shamefaced, and my Beta James, who was covered in scrapes from head to toe, but thankfully unharmed.

"How many were injured?" I demanded, my voice chilling and cold.

"None. All of our people are unharmed and accounted for, primarily thanks to you" James said quickly as the patrol bowed their heads and avoided my gaze.

An omega quietly handed me some clothes and I began to dress, my movements jerky and irritable. "How many rogues in total?" I asked in a dangerous voice, as I slowly did the buttons up on my shirt "How many rogues made it onto my territory?"

James's expression was grim "20 rogues. You took care of at least nine while we did the rest," he said tightly.

My eyes ached as I fought back the wolf that was close to shifting and tearing apart my patrol who had failed me tonight. The rogues should never have made it this close to the packhouse. They should have been spotted before they entered the territory. I glowered at them all.

"What happened? I demand an explanation" I roared.

The men inched. Neither of them looked me in the eyes. My voice went dangerously quiet "Do I need to use my alpha tone? If that happens, all of you will be punished and banished" I snarled, thoroughly in the mood to kill them all.

The youngest one, no more than eighteen years old, cleared his throat and looked at me, his body shaking. "It was my fault" he whispered.

I inclined my head, urging him to continue. He gulped. "I was meant to be lookout and I abandoned my post," he said guiltily.

"To do what?" I snapped.

He blushed. "To meet a girl" he mumbled.

"To meet a girl" I repeated quietly "You put this pack at risk, for the sake of getting laid" My voice was loud and aggrieved."

The boy blushed and nodded, looking miserably at the ground.

"What about the other one?" I asked sharply and the boy looked confused.

"Other one?" he stammered.

"There is meant to always be two lookouts, on opposite sides, for this exact, stupid reason," I said between gritted teeth "Why didn't the other one see the rogues coming?"

The other men looked nervously at each other.

James spoke, looking confused. "There was no other lookout King Braedon. You didn't put one on the schedule" he said.

I eyed him incredulously "I always put two lookouts on the schedule. It has been like that for years" I said stony "and if it wasn't it should have been brought to my attention."

"I did think it was odd," James said shamefaced "I should have questioned it."

I glowered at them all. "All of you should be punished for what happened tonight. I've already got another patrol walking the perimeter because of tonight's spectacle" I snapped "As it is, you will all be docked tonight's pay."

They nodded, looking relieved, but I was no way near nished yet. I turned to the young man who had caused this whole mess with his incompetence and by abandoning his post.

"You are to be punished," I said icily "and the girl. She should have known better than to convince you to leave your post for something so reckless. Did she know that you were on patrol tonight?" I growled.

He hesitated. I waited, wondering if he was going to be foolish enough to lie to me. He swallowed and then looked at me, his eyes wide and his expression stricken. "Yes, she knew but honestly, she didn't know that there would be a rogue attack. We just wanted to spend some time alone, without our parents knowing about it" he said trying to plead with me.

"It doesn't matter," I said dismissively "Every girl or woman that's of age, knows the rules and the consequences of encouraging a patrol or warrior member to leave his position when he's on duty. You cannot prevent her from being punished. Now I want her name" I said, folding my arms over my chest and staring directly at him.

James subtly motioned for the other men to leave. The young man looked near tears. I had no sympathy for him. He let out a large exhale. "Rose Winters" he choked out and I nodded at James. "You are to spend a week in the dungeons, with nothing but bread and water to eat and drink." My voice changed and I pushed my Alpha aura out, causing him to sink to his knees "Did you possess any prior knowledge of this rogue attack?"

"No your highness, I didn't" he wheezed.

Satisfied I let my aura fade. "You won't be tortured, but you'll be in chains, you and your girl," I said angrily "and left to think about how dire the consequences of your stupidity could have ended. You also owe each of the warriors that were wounded, even slightly tonight, an apology."

"I understand," he said gravely, lowering his head.

I looked at James. "Get this idiot out of my sight. I want the girl in a separate cell" I hissed "and ensure that a girl omega is there to provide for her. I'm not naive as to what could happen to her and if anybody lays a hand on her, I'll kill them. Make that clear" I told him frostily. There was always the one guard who thought he could get away with something and I was not about to let something happen under my instructions, even if the girl had pissed me off. I wasn't a complete monster.

I did not condone rape of any kind in my pack.

"I will personally take care of it," James said respectfully.

"Good. Make sure there are two lookouts on and change the schedules if it's needed as well" I instructed, feeling tired.

He nodded. I turned around and stomped my way towards the pack house, feeling volatile and aggressive. I really needed to nd my mate and soon, I thought, or take my chosen mate, because at this rate, my wolf was going to take control and I wasn't going to be able to keep ghting him back. It had been a massive effort to shift back to human form tonight, something that I wasn't going to inform James about. The last thing I needed was him getting concerned and forbidding me to shift. After this stupid upcoming party, I was going to nip this trouble in the bud, one way or the other.