

CHAPTER 149

Kai POV

Lexus shifts, the second after his so-called mate, Elena the bitch, has gone running, as though Winter won't catch up with her. I shift into my wolf as well, chasing after him as he streaks into the forest. He dodges and weaves, jumps high over fallen branches. His wolf is large, almost larger than my own, but then he too, from memory, is an Alpha, even if the bastard had gone rogue. It's black with white streaks across him. Reminds me of an overblown zebra. But one that's deadly, rather than cute and cuddly.

I thought he would stay and face us, coward growls Storm annoyed. He's feeling extremely indignant.

He's leading us away from his mate. I bet he thinks he can easily take us alone. Something is off about him Storm, we need to be wary of him. His scent is strange.

You're telling me. He smells disgusting, like a wild animal from the woods. Like part of him is something else. Do you think he's a hybrid?

God knows. Wouldn't surprise me if he'd been arrogant enough to experiment on himself.

Well, I'm tired of playing chasey, let's get this showdown started already.

Go for it Storm!

We dart in front of him, halting him in his tracks, Lexus's wolf growling and snapping his jaws together, saliva dripping from his mouth. His eyes are red, like a rogue, and he smells repugnant. My stomach churns even as we stare him down. He tries to tackle us head on and we dart sideways, swiping at him, our claws connecting with his flesh and cutting deep into this side. He howls, as we turn back around, stomping his paws on the floor in a furious rage.

I jump, but he rolls away and then tries to swipe, my reflexes kicking in, as I too roll, in the opposite direction. I get to my feet and turn, ducking just in time to avoid yet another swipe aimed at my face. He lightly grazes my side with his claws as I growl at him. Another jump and this time I meet him halfway, kicking and pawing as we hit the ground, my jaws clamping down on his upper arm and yanking, breaking it as I let go and move backwards. Lexus lets out a whimper. For an Alpha I would have expected more. But to my shock, he seems to almost heal instantly and now his bones are cracking and moving. Surely, he's not trying to turn into a human? But he seems to be getting larger, not smaller, right in front of my very eyes. I stare in disbelief.

He's definitely been experimenting on himself Storm, are you seeing what I'm seeing?

Oh yeah. Kai this changes everything. I thought his wolf was weaker than it should be, something tells me that... is stronger than his wolf.

We can do this Storm. We just have to work together.

Right, let's just try not to get killed.

Such optimism buddy, that's why I love you.

Lexus' s body ripples all over, his fur growing and turning into a dark muddy brown, his paws extending and his claws growing longer and larger. His body becomes fatter, plumper and his head grow bigger, along

with his snout. He stands on two legs, rather than on all fours. His eyes turn a beady black, squinting down at us, our form a lot, lot, smaller than his now. Instead of being in wolf form, he'd grown and turned into a large bear! It was astonishing to watch and I felt sick to my stomach. He let out a ferocious roar as I blinked at him.

I'm forced to back away slightly as he comes towards me, his claws swiping furiously across as he tries to strike me. He looks a little unbalanced, swaying on his feet and I hope, rather fervently, that it could be because he's not used to using this body. He gets on all fours and races towards me. We get out of the way, just in time, the bear turning around and bowling us over, I kick out and send him flying backwards, rolling onto my stomach and getting up, wincing from the pain of his sharp claws, which had pierced and scratched my abdomen. I hiss, glaring at the bear which races towards me yet again. He's not giving up easy. I turn and dart around the trees. I need a new strategy. The bear lumbers behind me, extremely quick for such a large creature. My legs furiously pump as I run, dodging trees and debris.

Jackpot. A tree that looks dangerously close to falling is close by. I have an idea in the back of my mind, one that's dangerous and requires being light-footed and agile. Storm is nervous. Rightfully so. If this doesn't work, we'll have to come up with a new plan. The bear comes into view as I position myself, tensing my whole body, my fur on end, panting heavily from the exertion of running so fast. This has to work, I think to myself grimly, it just has to.

Lexus spots me. A sickening smile comes onto his disgustingly furry face, he gets on all fours and races towards me, his paws making heavy thudding sounds on the dirt floor. I tense even harder, my eyes keeping track of his form, so fast Lexus is like a blur as he darts towards me. At the very last possible second, I move, to the side, getting out of the way as he hits the trunk of the tree. It makes a sickening crack noise as he hits

it, and then as I move, quickly, it falls onto his stunned body, eliciting a large growl from him as his body collapses underneath the weight of it. But is he fatally injured? Or even injured at all?

Whoosh. The tree trunk gets thrown off of Lexus and he gets on his feet, stumbling around. There's the sound of sickening cracks, his fur beginning to descend if that's the way to describe it, until he's now a wolf, but a badly injured one. He flops to the ground. I'm not about to fall for any tricks though, and I keep my body tensed, prepared to jump or run with a second's notice. I can smell the blood on his fur, the metallic taste putrid. I half expect to see the body healing itself, like before, but that doesn't happen. Instead, he makes the most despairing howl I've ever heard come from a wolf, and then his body begins to break, his bones shifting and readjusting, until he lies there, in his human form, head slumped down, blood pooling around his body.

I shift, coming close. He looks up and coughs, spitting out blood.

"Why haven't you healed? Or started healing?" I ask grimly. Even his shifter side wasn't healing him.

He grins, looking like a maniac, his hair disheveled and drenched in blood, his eyes still glowing that hateful red color that all rogues possess. "If I get hurt in my bear form, I stay hurt" he laughs "isn't that ironic. I wanted strength and got it, but as a result I'm also weaker in other aspects."

I say nothing, just study the man for a moment. It's sickening what he's done, from leaving Johnathon's mother, to trying to kill his own son, let alone the experiments that he'd no doubt partaken in when he'd hunted down his own species, not to mention others. This man did not deserve to live. I couldn't let him live.

"What are you waiting for" he sneers, lips curling as he regards me "don't be so pathetic. If it was you, I would have killed you already."

I have no doubts of that. None at all. I merely raise an eyebrow. "What about your mate? Or your son? Do you have any feelings at all towards them?"

He laughs, weakly, coughing towards the end. "I have regrets that little bastard still isn't dead. I can smell his scent and you evidently know he's, my son. As for Elena" he pauses and a wistful look comes on his face "I love that woman, with all my heart. She's the only one who's ever really understood me. She's a gem, she is" he adds.

I step on his arm, making him swear at me. I grin and look down, pressing down hard as he writhes in agony. "Where is the warehouse or whatever it is that you take your prey to?"

He blinks and then smiles slowly. "That's what you want?" he turns and spits, "I'll go to hell before I tell you."

I bend down and grab his arm, bending it backwards and breaking it. He screams wildly, then fall silent again. "Are you going to tell me?" I ask before pointedly looking down at his legs. "Because you have plenty of limbs for me to break" I taunt.

"Go to hell" he coughs "you and that bitch mate of yours."

I stomp on his leg, crushing it as he yells out in frustration. This is strangely satisfying. I stomp again, enjoying his yells and shouts.

"Feel like talking?"

He just shakes his head.

I really don't think this is going to go anywhere. He's never going to talk. Our best option lies with Elena, of the two, she's the weaker. More likely to tell.

It doesn't hurt to try though Storm. Because we both know what happens if he doesn't speak. Winter will have to drag her mother back to the pack and get the information out of her. I want to spare her that.

Stop thinking Winter can't handle things Kai, she's strong, fearless and one hell of a warrior. You do her a disservice when you think she needs to be spared or saved from certain things.

You know what Storm? You are a hundred percent right; I need to stop thinking of her as the weaker one. She's stronger than me, I just don't want to admit it.

Still think you need to put a ring on it.

Are you seriously pushing that on me right now?

Yep.

Damn mutt. Any chance he gets, he mentions the word marriage or ring to me. One thing at a time. I stomp on Lexus's foot crushing and breaking several toes.

"Fuck you" he manages to breathe out. His pallor is pale, his lips are turning blue and the blood continues to pool around his body. It doesn't take a genius to work out that he's dead in a minute or two, no matter what I do to him.

I decide to show him some form of mercy. I yank his head up, holding his hair and then, with gritted teeth, use my hands to turn his head and break his neck. I drop his body to the floor and sigh. So much for getting what I needed. A quick mind-link with Winter, however, confirms she's waiting for me.

I race back towards the truck, my vampire speed making me feel exhilarated. Within minutes, I'm back on the track, staring at a very cool and bemused Winter, alongside a very nervous Simon.

"You took your time" she purrs.

I shrug. "I was trying to get the information we needed" I say evenly, my wounds healing themselves as we speak. I feel invigorated, rejuvenated.

She just huffs and moves. I see Elena on the floor of the back of the truck, unconscious. "Well, we have mother to deal with" she says sarcastically "she wasn't so forthcoming either. What did you do with Lexus?" she adds.

"Left him back there dead" I say and then it hits me. Fuck. I could at least have the decency to bring him back as well. Johnathon deserved the right to bury his father properly. Damn it.

"I'll go back and get him" I grumble as Winter snickers.

"You have a good heart" she tells me, pecking me on the cheek "I love you. But hurry up, apparently there's more hunters on the way and I want to get on the road before they get here."

"Fine" I mutter "give me two minutes."

It took five before we were pretty much throwing the body in with Elena. Simon had disengaged the tracking device on the truck and clamored into the back, looking a little green as he shut the door. I got into the passenger side while Winter got into the driver's seat. We both look at each other.

"Let's go" we say in unison and Winter starts the truck.