

CHAPTER 150

Jonathan POV

I met him in the darkness, my heart hammering wildly in my chest. I had never expected to receive such a phone call, and for a moment I pause, grateful for once, that my mother hadn't picked up the phone. Otherwise, I would have had to placate her, calm her down when she became a furious tornado of emotion. Instead, I had been the one to pick up the phone, curious to see what it was that Alpha Kai had wanted. The second he'd told me, I'd torn out of there, informing Mason he was in charge and that the rogues we'd accepted into the pack, were to be put in the dungeon, no excuses. I didn't have time to explain why.

My footsteps were heavy as I paused, Kai's eyes grim and his expression tight. He looked tired, his shoulders slumped as he met me halfway.

"Johnathon" he says quietly "I wish we could have met again under different circumstances."

I give a barely indecipherable nod. "Are you certain that it's him?" I ask "that she wasn't lying when she said his name?"

I half hope that he's mistaken. I'd given up long ago caring for such a man, especially one that had abandoned me, all in the name of another woman he found far more important, then being with his family.

"She called him Lexus" Kai confirms as we stand there, looking at the closed in fridge that houses corpses in the morgue. A label merely reads

'Lexus' in front of me and I shudder, anticipating what I might find, once I have the guts to open it.

Kai looks guiltily at me. "I'm sorry" he apologizes as I glance at him in surprise. "If I could have brought him back alive, I would have."

I shake my head. From what Kai had told me; my father had been experimenting with shifter blood or genes. He'd shifted into a dangerous bear for heaven's sake. It was a miracle Kai had lived, it was nothing to me that my father hadn't. He'd made his choice, and he'd paid the consequences for it.

"You did what you had to, Alpha Kai" I murmur "there are no apologies necessary."

I take a deep breath and reach out with slightly trembling fingers, opening the door to the refrigerator up and pulling the body on its tray towards me. I glance down and stiffen. I've seen many photographs of my father, since I was a child, but I still remembered certain things. Like the way his hair was shaggy or the way his eyes gleamed. How strong and tall he'd been, a giant, in comparison to a tiny child's height. I can also smell the blood in the air, the heavy metallic taste of it on my tongue and I gag, slowly pushing the body back in and shutting the door hastily, swearing under my breath. Part of me wishes Kai had just left him in the woods, for the animals to feast on, but I knew my mother would want a burial for him, even after everything he'd done to her, she still harbored feelings of love for him. It explained why she'd been so mad at Elena when she discovered who she was. I consider deceiving my mother, or never telling her, but she deserved some form of closure. Perhaps, once this was over and done with, and father was in the ground, she might at least consider the thought of finding a new mate. One that would love her as much as I did, or rather more. It was a hope I would hold onto for now.

"What do you want to do?" Kai asks.

I take a deep breath and exhale slowly. "Keep him in the fridge for now" I tell him calmly "I believe we have other things more important to take care of first. This child Simon, is mine and Winter's half-brother?" I ask, my voice thick.

I have always wanted a sibling, but not like this. Still, I would not blame Simon for his parents or his upbringing. I was more curious about him than anything else.

"He is, and Damien's and Drake's" Kai says, turning away, while I stepped beside him, both of us starting to slowly walk away and up the stairs leading from the morgue. "He seems like a sweet child. Despite everything he's been through. He resembles Winter a lot more than anyone else" he adds.

Good. It meant I wouldn't be staring at a reminder of father's face when I met him.

"How old is he again?" I check.

He smiles sadly. "Thirteen. They sent him hunting to get him killed" he mutters "and it failed. I would never have killed a child that young, neither would have Winter. Fools" he scoffs.

I have to agree.

I badly want to meet Simon, but there's also the other concern to take care of. "So, if Elena has been a hunter with Lexus all these years" I say slowly "they must have killed dozens of shifters and other supernatural races. Hundreds even. How did we all miss this?"

Kai sighs. "They were careful. They took those passing through. How many shifters have left, looking for their mates and never been heard from again? A lot of the times it was assumed they had met their mate and not sent word back. Other times, shifters were banished and we assumed had

gone rogue, when in actual fact, a lot of them were snatched up by hunters. As for other supernatural races?" He shrugs "it's not like we're all on good terms with one another. Something, that I realize, must change in order to prevent this happening again."

I scowl. He's right. We're especially not on good terms with vampires, but here Kai and Winter were half vampires now. We needed to stop thinking we were superior to other races. We needed to start communicating with each other and possibly start thinking about the possibilities of treaties with one another. It was time to let go of all our prejudices and start welcoming the other ones.

"It's going to be difficult" I warn him, but he looks determined.

"Maybe, but it's not worth always being on our own against one another" he says as we make our way down the hospital hallways "we should be helping each other, not fighting amongst each other."

I heartily agree. "I take it Winter feels the same?" I ask, already anticipating the answer.

"She does:" he answers "as does Drake and Damien. Langdon is neutral, but I feel that's because he's never met another race, besides Winter and myself" he chuckles.

"Where is this so-called warehouse where they've been taking the prisoners that they've hunted?" I ask eagerly. My men were waiting for my instructions and I had been told that King Axel was also amassing a small army to help rescue anyone that may still be alive.

Kai looks frustrated. "Lexus wouldn't divulge the information before he died" he said with a sidelong glance at me "and trust me I tried to get it out of him. I didn't want Winter to have to get it out of Elena."

I felt that was more than reasonable. I narrow my eyes as we step outside, shivering slightly in the cool air "so what exactly is Winter up to at the moment."

His hair billows around him in the wind. His lips curl back in disgust. "Right now," he says quietly "she's busy trying to get the information out of her dear old mother. That bitch has a lot to answer for" he sneers "and something tells me Winter's not exactly going to hold back this time." He looks slightly upset when he says that, and I know he's feeling sorry for his mate and what she's having to go through, but at the same time, I feel like he should be proud of how far Winter has come.

Winter is a far cry from the girl I met in school and rejected. Her inner strength shines through. Her kindness, her loyalty, her unwavering love for Kai. Everything about her is strong. She might have gone through hell since I rejected her, but she'd risen up and overcome all her obstacles, all the shit that had been thrown at her and she'd come out stronger than ever. Part of me will always regret the fact I rejected her, but another part of me hopes that by doing so, I led her on a path that made her discover who she was, and what she was capable of. It might sound like I'm being smug, but the truth is, I will always love Winter and I will always have a soft spot in my heart for her. Not to mention, it doesn't look like we're destined to be apart from one another, not when we now share a half sibling. We will always be good friends, but never anything more. Her heart is reserved for Kai and I'm envious that he has someone like her that loves him like crazy. I pray one day, I'll have a mate that looks at me, the way Winter constantly looks at her beloved Kai.

"Where are Damien and Drake?" I ask, our footsteps crunching softly on the grass and fallen leaves.

He sighs. "In the dungeon with Winter. Langdon is home, Damien and Drake insisted he get some rest before we have to move out."

A family affair then, in torturing Elena. I shiver. I would not like to be in her shoes right now, with three pissed off children of hers, determined to get the information they need.

"Kai" I say steadily, making him look at me "I'm here to help you and Winter, that's all. But the thing is, we now also share a sibling, a half-brother and there is every possibility I may want to take him back with me, and that would be my right" I say firmly, folding my arms across my chest and narrowing my eyes at him.

He stiffens for a moment, glaring at me, before his eyes soften and he glances around, staring up at the sky, his jaw ticking for a moment.

"You are just as in the right as Winter and her brothers are to keep him here" he says steadily "I won't force Simon to do anything he doesn't want to do and I won't make Winter make the decision" he adds. "Simon is old enough to decide where he wants to go but I do ask you" he pauses, as though trying to pick his words delicately "what it is you would want from him? Would you punish him for being half Elena's?"

I'm incredulous that he would even ask that! Like I'm such a bastard that I would punish Simon for being part Elena's. No way. I shake my head profusely.

"You misunderstand me" I tell Kai thickly, a lump in my throat "there is a reason I would want Simon to come back to my pack, besides wanting to get to know him. I would like him to become the second in line to be Alpha in case anything ever happens to me."

"Isn't that what your Beta is for?" Kai growls and I sigh.

"Usually, but you know that's because I had no siblings. Now I do. You would do the same if you had a brother" I point out and his eyes flash. Bingo.

"Fine" he mutters "Simon makes his own choices, but now I know that you do want him. Shall we go find Winter now" he says, making his pace even quicker as I rush to catch up. I grin. Looks like I won the small argument, now I would have to hope I could convince Simon, when I did get to meet him, to let me take him home with me. The only thing that concerns me, as we make our way down to the dungeon, is how mother will react to him and whether she would fully be able to accept him, knowing that he's born from Elena and Lexus. I would find out, I vowed to myself, because Simon was my brother and I wasn't going to keep away, in order to spare her feelings. As much as I loved my mother, she was going to have to come to terms with it, or risk losing me in the process.

The sounds of screams fill my ears and I cringe as Kai opens the door to the dungeon, his eyes scanning the darkness. "Watch your step" he mutters "and whatever you do, keep your mouth shut or you'll make her lose her concentration."