

CHAPTER 58

Winter POV

There's a commotion of sorts outside and I'm watching, seeing warriors forming a group in the distance. I can only think of one thing that would cause that sort of reaction in the pack, and that's a rogue attack. I feel dread inside of me, even though I don't know why. Kai is an Alpha, one of the strongest werewolves in the country, and more than capable of defending himself. But my concern is great and I hold out hope and a longing that he does not get hurt. Even now, I still can't bring myself to hate him, not when he's finally showing me, even if it's only a little bit, that he does care for me.

If he gets hurt, we can play nurse. How cute would that be? A little nurse's outfit, tending him back to health...things start to happen when he gets better, hint, hint.

Sabriel, I'm not buying lingerie to play nurse because you have a fantasy in your head.

We don't have to be an actual nurse, besides, Kai would appreciate the effort we go to, to make him feel better.

I bet he would, but I'm not doing it and I doubt that you would have the same impact, dressed in a wolf nurse outfit.

You never know where his kinks lie.

You are twisted, Gabriel.

But fun. Winter, lots of fun.

I shake my head at my wolf's antics, still watching outside, but the wolves are so far in the distance I can't make anything out and I flop on the bed with a sigh. *I still can't believe Kai wants to try being mates, after everything. My heart goes out to poor Candice who he'd broken up with, even if Kai claimed she just wanted to be Luna. Surely, their relationship had to have meant something to her. Nobody's that cold or calculating. Are they?*

You always want to believe in the best of people Winter. It's adorable. But it means you'll always be hurt by people, even those you trust.

It's better than believing the worst Sabriel.

True, but it's unrealistic. Evil exists in this world. It's best to accept it and learn.

I want to believe it is good as well, Sabriel, rather than always seeing the bad aspects of life.

Hold onto that, it's a rare quality in a person.

I can hear shouts now and I feel a dark, achy, pain in my chest and midsection, that seems to come out of nowhere. I wasn't injured, so at first, I'm confused. Realization strikes and my eyes widen. Could this pain be coming from Kai? Was the mate bond allowing me to feel his injuries? Was he dead? Oh god no, please don't let him be dead. Not now.

I felt grief for a moment. There was a loud pounding on the door. Langdon bursts in, looking frazzled, and completely naked, and I immediately avert my eyes.

"Winter" he pants, looking pleased to see me and distraught at the same time. Something's happened.

I looked over his shoulder to see that two men were carrying Kai between them. What has happened to him? I look at Langdon, who looks sheepish as he directs them to place Kai on the bed. My heart skips a beat as I take in the injuries he sustained in the fight. There was dried blood all over him. I can smell it and my stomach churns with nausea.

'He was hurt', Langdon tells me unnecessarily, as I can see that for myself. "A rogue managed to get a few good hits in. We need your help" he tells me, and my eyes widen in disbelief. How can I possibly help him? I don't have any powers to speak of.

"He'll heal much faster, with his mate by his side," Langdon says, shooing the other men out of the room. They leave after casting me curious glances. I guess they don't know who I am. Well, now that they do, it's bound to get all over the pack by nightfall. Gossip can be a real nuisance in a pack. I ignore the looks and focus on Kai.

I walked over to Kai who was breathing steadily, even if he is unconscious. I touched his scars, feeling how jagged and rough they are on his face. I feel tingles through my fingers and Langdon gives a small smile as he watches.

"You know," he says quietly, "I don't believe I ever saw Candice touch his scars ever. You're not afraid of them, are you?"

That makes me look at him. Why would I be afraid of his scars? To me, it was a sign of how brave he was and courageous. I would never be disgusted by his scars. You would have to be pretty shallow to be, vain, or both. I'm none of them.

"If you could maybe, lie next to him or keep touching him" Langdon suggests gently, "then I'm sure he'll heal in no time."

I nod and trailed my fingers down Kai's bare arm, feeling the sparks that are always there.

Langdon backs towards the door. "I'll arrange for some tea to be brought to the room later," he says, and I nod, giving a half-hearted wave as he leaves us, the door closing softly behind him. I felt awkward and a little anxious as I hesitantly curled up beside Kai, snuggling hard against him and resting my arm over his chest. It seems to do the trick because he mutters something and slightly shifts closer to me as I hold his hand. Right now, he looks so vulnerable, a stark contrast to the confident and overbearing man that I've seen the few times I've been with him.

His wounds begin to knit together as the hours pass by in a blur. I'm enjoying actually touching my mate, but feeling bad it's while he's unconscious and there's no way I would touch him below the waist, even if Sabriel's urging me to at least look at his cock which makes me blush. God, I'm tired, I think, as the sun begins to set. My stomach gives a loud growl of hunger and Sabriel giggles in my mind.

I can think of something to put our mouths on, but it won't really satisfy our hunger.

Sabriel! Now is not the time to be such a horn bag!

There's always time to be a horn bag Winter, I'm not ashamed.

Fine, but he's injured. We should at least show some concern towards him.

I am concerned, who knows whether his downstairs has been affected? What if he's hurt down there?

Really Sabriel?

You should check.

Right, that's it, I'm blocking you.

I slowly climbed out of bed, doing my best not to disturb Kai, who was now resting peacefully. But I'm also hesitant to leave his side for a minute,

let alone long enough to grab something to eat. Didn't Langdon promise to send food? I'm starving.

There's a gentle knock on the door and I open it curiously, grateful to see an omega on the other side, holding up a dinner tray with all sorts of goodies on it, including a teapot and freshly made tea. My mouth waters.

"May I put this down" the girl chirps cheerfully and I nodded, motioning for her to place the tray down on the dresser. She does so and goes to leave, but I grab her arm and mouth the words 'thank you' to her. She beams, before leaving, shutting the door quietly behind her.

I examine the tray but my eyes dart to the tea. My throat is parched and I'm incredibly thirsty. It would also help slightly with my hunger. I pour some into a cup and sit on the edge of the bed. I sniffed the tea, puzzled. I have no clue what kind of tea it is, just that it's an herbal one. It smells slightly bitter but that would be normal for such a tea. I sip it. It tastes like peppermint with a hint of something else I can't quite put my finger on. But it's not horrible, in fact, it's refreshing and I sip away at it, content as Kai begins to fidget and move around in his sleep. At this rate he'll be awake soon, I think, to myself pleased. That means he's healing incredibly fast, but for an Alpha, that's not really that surprising. They heal faster than normal shifters. Lucky bastards.

I finish the tea and place down the cup with regret. My stomach is beginning to feel slightly uncomfortable now and I wonder if it's hunger or the tea. Then the room begins to spin around me as I sit there, my limbs feeling like they are paralyzed. My throat begins to close up and my body topples to the floor, my eyes fixed on the ceiling as I feel like I'm choking. It's like the air is being sucked out of me and I lie there, unable to do anything, unable to grab anything to alert anybody to my predicament. Just as I fall unconscious, a thought enters my brain. THE TEA WAS POISONED!

