

CHAPTER 83

Damien POV

The rogue was nice enough to abandon us near a pack, the boundary line close by. "Goodluck." he muttered and the next thing we knew, he was gone, as though he'd disappeared along with the wind. Damn, he was fast when he wanted to be. Was a damn decent bloke too.

"Lovely." muttered Johnathon, scowling darkly in the direction the rogue had gone.

"He was nice enough to show us the way" I protest "He didn't have to."

"Who's to say he wasn't lying? This could be any random pack. In which case he just wasted our time."

"We won't know until we actually approach the pack" I mutter, walking forward, my hands in my pockets, feeling quite casual while Johnathon continues to swear silently under his breath. Man, how everyone puts up with him as Alpha of his own pack is against me. I'm ready to strangle him with my bare hands, he's been that much of a nuisance and a whiner.

So what if it had taken another two weeks to get here? That was nothing, not if we actually came across Winter. Johnathon needed to lighten up. At least the rogue hadn't killed us and trust me, he'd had plenty of opportunities to attempt it. All he'd asked for in return was food and water, even helping to hunt some food down which we all shared. I'd enjoyed the company, he'd made a nice change from just Johnathon and his constant whining. Not to mention had all sorts of interesting stories to tell. I really

felt sorry for the rogue at the end of it. Maybe he'll find a pack to take him in.

A low growl, stopped us both in our tracks. Several large wolves came out of the woodwork so to speak, their heads lowered, their eyes focused solely on the both of us. We must have been closer to the boundary line than I'd assumed. I held my hands up in surrender, noticing that Johnathon, thankfully, was showing common sense for once and doing the same. One of the wolves shifted, his eyes staring hard at the both of us. I sniff, wondering why I was smelling the most delicious scent of apple and cinnamon coming from him. I'm almost drooling at the man, he looks so fucking god like standing there, naked and completely at ease. What the fuck is going on with me? I'm not into guys. I like chicks. But I'm drawn to this one, like a moth to the flame. My mouth goes dry. The man's eyes are intense, but there's also another expression on his face. It's hard to tell if it's pure anger or something much deeper than that. I can't stop staring at him.

"State your business." the man growls and my wolf purrs in my head.

Oh fuck no, I know what this is. My wolf begins to prance around in my head, almost dancing triumphantly. If I can feel it, shouldn't he be able to feel it as well? If he is, he's doing a damn good job of hiding it from me. Without thinking about it, my mouth pops open and speaks of it's own accord. "Mate" I growl but the man looks away, his jaw clenched tight. My heart sinks.

"You must be mistaken" he mutters lowly but it's enough to anger my wolf.

"Mate" I growl louder, Johnathon looking wildly between me and the man, concern on his face. At least he has the decency to avoid interrupting.

"State your business" the man booms back. I can't believe he's ignoring the mate bond. Bastard.

I scowl at him and then remember the reason that we were here in the first place. "We're here looking for my sister, Winter." I say quietly "She's been missing for a few months now and I'm worried about her."

The man is silent for a moment.

"What are your names?" he asks with a raised eyebrow.

"I'm Damien" I say shyly, my wolf pouting in the background.

"I'm Alpha Johnathon" Johnathon says, sounding very arrogant. God could he just act normal for once? Who cares if he's an alpha. He's on someone else's territory.

The man's eyes are glazing over and I can tell he's most probably mind-linking their Alpha, whoever the hell he is. We're so far from my old pack, that I don't even have a clue on what this pack is called, let alone how far away it is from mine. I couldn't tell you who the Alpha was.

"Come with me." the man orders, the other wolves dispersing. He ducks behind a tree and begins to get dressed, rather to me and my wolf's annoyance. We'd enjoyed staring at him naked.

"Wait!" I say with annoyance and he stops to glance over at me. Sure he's slightly older than me, but that doesn't explain why he's not acknowledging the mate bond. "Why won't you accept that we are mates?"

He groans out loud. "Now's not the time for that." he snaps "I have to get you to the study for Alpha Kai. We can discuss the mate bond thing later." he hisses and I smirk. Well at least he's willing to discuss it later. I'm not sure what to think. I'd never really dreamed that my mate would be a guy. My mind was in turmoil and I was conflicted over the whole damn thing.

"Is Winter here then?" I ask eagerly and he shoots me a wry look.

"I can't confirm or deny it" he says arrogantly "The Alpha wishes to speak with you, so that's what he'll do."

The pack house is glorious, beautiful with lush gardens and the house itself is huge, a monstrosity. A lot larger than the one in my pack, that's for sure. I guess my pack is small potatoes compared to this one. Even Johnathon seems to be in awe. For once the other boy is speechless.

"My name is Langdon." the man says quietly as he opens the door to the pack house and motions us inside. We enter slowly, our eyes taking in all of the details, the elegance and yet it still seemed really homely. Like a pack house should feel.

"Langdon." I repeat, the name rolling off my tongue. It really seemed to suit the man and I actually liked it, a lot. So did my wolf.

"Down this way." Langdon ordered, leading the way down a corridor that stemmed off the main entranceway. It seemed rather long, but the room he directed us to, was none other than the study.

"Sit." he orders, gesturing at the two armchairs in front of the rather large, impressive desk.

We hastily sit and he stands behind us, his arms folded in front of his chest, scowling. I fidget nervously in my chair.

"They must have Winter, otherwise why go to all this trouble? Besides don't you think they would have shoved us in the dungeon?" Johnathon whispers, leaning back in the chair and looking like he didn't have a care in the world.

"Maybe, or maybe the Alpha wants to tear us a new one for being near his land before taking us prisoner." I say back to him, frustrated beyond belief.

I could tell my mate was listening but not saying anything, which pissed me off even further.

"He wouldn't dare put another Alpha in the dungeon." Johnathon said with certainty.

I wasn't so sure. I figure after meeting Johnathon, the Alpha might be all too willing to throw him in the dungeon, after finding out how annoying the boy was. I really hope he keeps his mouth shut during the meeting.

"How much longer?" I ask, turning around and facing Langdon.

He stares at me. "As long as it takes for Alpha Kai to come down and see you." he spits out "Show some respect and wait patiently. He's a very busy man." he adds. Of course he is. Still he was the one who wanted us to wait in the study so you'd think he would hurry the hell up.

Sigh. Johnathon's busy taking the office in, looking out the window and looking at the greenery. "Man your pack is awesome." he tells a very unimpressed looking Langdon "You've got a sweet operation here."

Thanks Johnathon. I'm sure that impressed Langdon, not. God I hope this Alpha gets here soon, because my hands are itching to wrap themselves around his neck and squeeze until Johnathon's massive head falls off.

I can't help it anymore, the words burst out of my mouth before I can take them back. "Are you going to reject me?" My voice is wavering and I'm near tears. The thought of being rejected was slowly killing me inside. No wonder Winter had run away after Johnathon did what he did. I felt so embarrassed at divulging my feelings like this.

"Reject you?" Langdon mutters, sounding surprised. Then his eyes narrowed. "We will discuss this later." he sighs but he doesn't sound as annoyed or angry as before. Instead he sounds remorseful. "I have no intentions of just rejecting you off the bat, if that helps." he says lightly. That does help. My wolf is a lot happier hearing that.

I see Johnathon stiffen in his chair and just know that he's thinking about Winter and how he'd done exactly that. Rejected my poor sister without getting to know her first. I wonder how she's being treated in this pack, whether she's made a home here and if she's being treated kindly. I hope so. I hope she's found what she's been looking for and wanting all these years. Now I feel uncertain. What if Winter didn't message me because she doesn't want me to be in her life anymore? I could have made this trip for nothing.

No, not for nothing, I quickly correct myself. Johnathon and I had made this trip to warn her about Thomas, who we, thankfully, didn't come across. One could only hope he'd gone in the complete opposite and wrong direction. If Winter didn't want me to be in her life, then I would respect her wishes, although that might prove hard, considering my mate was from this pack. If it means keeping my sister happy, then I may have to reject Langdon, or let him reject me. God, that stings, just the thought of it is making tears form in the corner of my eyes.

"Screw this." I hear Johnathon mutter and turn to see him stand up from his chair. "I'm not going to sit around and wait for this bloody Alpha to show up." he snarls "I don't wait for nobody, do you understand."

Fucking great. Of course Johnathon had to get impatient. Are all Alpha's hotheads like this? It's a miracle they survive if they are. I go to put a warning arm on Johnathon's shoulder but he shrugs it off, glaring at Langdon who merely raises an eyebrow and looks nonchalant.

"You will wait as long as it takes" Langdon repeats, rolling his eyes.

"Johnathon for god's sake, we've come all this way. Don't ruin it now, when we're so close to getting answers" I plead with him. "I have to know if Winter's here, can't you just sit for a few more minutes?"

He looks like he wants to protest, but I shoot him a beseeching look and he sighs, plonking back down on the chair and folding his arms across his chest, a pouty look on his face.

"Fine." he sulks.

I swear Langdon is fighting back a grin. Johnathon looks like a sulking schoolboy instead of a big bad Alpha. It's not really something one wants to see. Langdon's eyes glaze over. I guess he's mind-linking someone, because he ushers us to our feet. "Alpha Kai will be in, in a moment. Stand and be respectful." he advises and I give a nod.

Johnathon just shrugs and I almost lose my cool at him. God, at this rate I hope Alpha Kai throws him through a window. Wouldn't that be a sight to see? I can hear footsteps now and frown. It sounds more like two people coming, instead of just one but Langdon just stays silent. They get louder. My heart is thumping in anticipation. Johnathon looks completely unfazed. But I know him better than that. He's just trying to pretend he's cool.

The door bursts open, Langdon shifting out of the way. A pair of feet scurry across and someone throws themselves into my arms. They are light as a feather and I stare down at the face of the girl, I've been hoping to find all this time, as she beams up at me and hugs me tight.

"Winter." I breathe, embracing her tight "Thank god, I finally found you." I mutter fervently. Finally, the search was over.