

CHAPTER 92

Kai POV

I head inside, after telling Damien, Johnathon and Langdon that for today, it's all over and dusted with again. There's been no sign of this asshole Thomas and it's frustrating as all fuck. Where was the bastard hiding? Was he even coming for Winter or was this all made up by Damien, to keep his sister afraid? I'm suspicious of the lot of them and I don't like the fact that Winter is out there, putting herself on the line as bait. It's not fair. It's not right to ask her to put herself in danger like that.

Our mate will be fine Kai. She's strong and she has an inner strength that will do her well.

Yeah well, I don't trust Damien and Johnathon. What if they're lying to us?

Why would they lie?

Because Storm, Johnathon wants Winter as his mate. Don't think I haven't seen the way he looks at her, when he thinks I can't see him. He thinks he can get another chance with her.

He's not getting his hands on our mate, but I don't think he's lying. I think that you're jealous.

You telling me you're not Storm? He was her mate first after all. Even if he did reject her.

Oh, I'm jealous but if he steps out of line, I'll rip the bastard to shreds. You're just being too nice. It's unlike you.

That's cause Winter will kill me if I do anything to harm them. I promised her I wouldn't.

True, just give them a chance. After all, if Winter trusts them, then maybe we should as well.

I'll think about it I tell Storm grumpily, cutting him off.

The boys head into the study which becomes dangerously crowded and confined with everyone in there. It's very claustrophobic.

"We should have stayed out there longer" Damien protests to me "isn't he more likely to strike at night time?"

I glower at him. Johnathon fidgets in the chair and Langdon looks completely neutral. Bastard. Where's the loyalty? Stupid mate bond, making him all googly eyed at Damien. I scowl at the both of them.

"I'm not having Winter out there at nighttime" I say dangerously quiet "it's bad enough that she's out there until now. Night time is just asking for trouble" I huff.

"It could be the reason he hasn't attacked though" Langdon speaks up and I scowl at him. Now he wants to talk! He sees the look on my face and falls silent. Smart man. My hands are itching to place themselves around someone, anyone's throat.

"She's not going to be out there at night time" I reiterate and Johnathon just sighs and stares out the window. What the hell is his problem? Would he dare ask his mate to do the same thing? I don't think so.

"I think that's a mistake" Damien protests while Langdon clears his throat, looking at me pointedly. "He's a hybrid now remember? Don't vampires prefer the nighttime?"

I eye him coldly. "For a brother, you seem awfully keen to put your sister into danger" I growl pointedly.

He goes pale. I'm not finished yet. I lean back against my chair and intertwine my fingers, regarding the lot of them with contempt, well except for Langdon. I just stare at him annoyed. "For all I know you've been lying about Thomas coming for Winter" I thunder "and if that's the case, it would be best for you to come clean right now."

Damien explodes. "We wouldn't have travelled all this way to lie about something like this. I get that you're my sister's mate but I'm her brother and I love her. I want her to be safe" he snapped.

"She wasn't exactly safe from you though, was she back then?" I ask and he trembles beneath my glare. He knows precisely what I'm talking about because he avoids my gaze, rubbing the back of his neck and looking remorseful. Part of me enjoyed getting that small dig in.

What in the hell is taking Winter so long to come back? I frown. I know how much she enjoys the sunset but still, she could have at least mind-linked me if she was planning on staying out to watch it. I try to mind-link her and frown. Nothing. I can't get through to her at all. I start to feel slightly panicked and turn to Langdon.

"Can you mind-link Winter at all?" I ask slowly and he blinks at me surprised but tries while I watch. A frown comes onto his face and I begin to panic. Fuck. This isn't good.

"No" he breathes "I'm not getting through to her at all."

Well, she hasn't blocked me then, not that I thought she had.

My eyes meet Damien's who looks panicked. "The snipers" I say and try them, perplexed when I can't mind-link them either. I stand up. Either the snipers are out of commission and can't mind-link or it's something worse. I feel dread in my gut. Don't let it be what I think it is. I race out towards the nearest sniper and halt in my tracks. The smell of blood is potent, drifting in the air and my stomach churns with disgust. I'm forced to step around the tree and there, is one of my pack members, a trusted sniper, lying there. That wasn't the most horrific thing though. It looked like he'd been drained of blood, he was that incredibly pale but Thomas had done far worse than that. The snipers' guts were literally ripped open and left all along the floor, vital organs missing. I feel nauseas and am fighting not to be sick. In all my years as an Alpha, I've never seen anything so horrendous. He showed no mercy or compassion to the poor shifters who were now dead.

"Mother of god" whispers Langdon, kneeling beside the body. The eyes are blankly staring up at the sky. "I bet the other sniper is in the same condition" I say grimly.

Johnathon and Damien are quiet. "We need to find Winter" Damien says to me shakily, his eyes never leaving the body that's lying there, right in the open. Patrol is mind-linking me and I close my eyes, listening.

Alpha Kai, there's signs of a struggle in the forest where Winter was last seen.

Stay there, I'm coming. Any sign of Winter?

None, we're all searching now for her. We didn't hear any screams or signs she was in danger, I'm sorry that we've failed you, Alpha Kai.

Never mind, get the best trackers we have out here. I want every available one out there searching for her.

Already done it sir.

Right, give me a minute and we'll meet you there. Don't move.

I will be right here waiting.

I cut the mind link off. "Come with me" I growl at everyone and we head towards the forest where Winter was last seen, where she'd been pacing back and forth for Thomas to come get her. I feel disgusted in myself. How many times am I going to fail my mate? How many times am I going to curse myself for my stupidity? She could be going through hell right now and it was because I let my guard down.

Seth, the warrior who mind-linked me, met me at the edge of the forest. She must have been coming back in, then, when she was attacked. He brandishes something at me, that he's clutching in his hand.

"What is it?" I growl and he hands it to me.

It's a small tranquilizer dart. I give it a sniff and raise my eyebrows. "Wolfsbane" I mutter "no wonder I can't mind-link her."

"We're wasting time" Johnathon shouts as I stare at him "Winter is out there, with a madman and we're wasting time when we should be out there looking for her. Are you insane" he almost screams at me.

I'm being patient. The little pup is distraught after all, but if he continues, I'm going to fling his ass into the dungeon.

"Calm down pup" I mutter and turn to Seth. "Was she wearing the bracelet, that I gave her?"

He gives a smirk and a nod. "Yes Alpha Kai, she was."

"Excellent, fetch Morgan" I demand and he nods, disappearing slightly.

"Who the hell is Morgan?" asks Damien.

"Wait and see."

Sure enough, Morgan comes trailing towards me. He pushes his large spectacles up his nose and greets me with a grim expression on his face. "Sorry about Winter, Alpha Kai" he says remorsefully.

"Never mind that" I cut in impatiently "can you bring up Winter's location?"

"Sure" he says easily, opening up his laptop.

"Kai" Langdon says, apparently cottoning on "did you put a gps tracker on Winter's bracelet?"

"It's embedded in it. Winter doesn't even know that it's tracking her movements."

"Genuis" whistles Langdon and even Damien is looking far less hysterical now.

Johnathon is continuing to scowl in the background. I shrug. Can't help everyone. But if he doesn't stop soon, I'm going to wipe his anger off his face with a well-aimed fist.

It takes a minute for Morgan to locate the gps signal but when he does, he shows it to me on screen, his eyes wide in disbelief. "It's moving incredibly fast" he breathes "faster than a shifter can move. It makes tracking it difficult because it keeps jumping off the screen" he adds annoyed. Shit.

"Can you keep tracking it?"

"I can" he says slowly "but your best bet is to go in the same direction and hope that he eventually stops. Otherwise, you're never going to catch up to him" he murmurs, peering at his laptop screen. Damn. Fucking hybrid bastard.

"Right" I say decisively, turning to the small group "I'm leaving to go after Winter. Morgan, do you have ear pieces we can use to communicate with you."

"Of course," he says putting the laptop down and retrieving another case I hadn't even noticed until now. "But they're not going to work in your wolf forms. You'll have to go by car" he says.

"That's fine. It will be slower but as you said, he has to stop at some stage" I murmur "we'll just have to rely on that."

"I'm coming too" Damien growls.

"Me too" Johnathon snaps.

I roll my eyes and look over at Langdon who is fidgeting nervously. "Let me guess" I say wryly "you want to come as well."

"I would" Langdon says formally "but if you require me to stay back at the pack, then I'll follow your instructions, Alpha Kai."

"No, you can come. That way you can stop her brother here" I point to a stunned Damien "from doing anything stupid" I finish. Even though I suspect that Johnathon is the one that I have to keep an eye on.

Morgan hands over the ear pieces. "It's a pleasure to help you sir" he says shyly and I have to remind myself that he's only sixteen years old as I place the piece in my ear. "You should be able to hear me now" he adds and I nod impressed. This gadget is cool.

"Right, Johnathon, you're coming in the car with me" I growl, while mind-linking several warriors to follow us as well, "Damien and Langdon, you can both go together in Langdon's car."

They nod. Good. I'm not wasting time with arguments. I thank Morgan and run towards the garage, getting into the driver's seat and waiting

impatiently for Johnathon to get in the passenger seat. I don't say a word, turning the key in the ignition and pulling out with a squeal of my tires.

"Head south east" Morgan's voice comes into my head. I already have a gps tracker installed in my car as does every other pack member, so he can easily locate us. I follow his instructions, Langdon and Johnathon right behind me.

Hold on Winter, I think to myself grimly, trying not to think about what she's going through. Just hold on a little longer baby, we're coming to save you. Be brave sweetheart, be brave. I'm going to kill that fucker for daring to lay a hand on you.