

CHAPTER 94

Damien POV

I'm fuming when we get in the car. Kai's so-called plan for keeping my sister safe, was an absolute joke. Look where it's gotten us! Winter's been kidnapped by Thomas, despite us warning her. He sucks as a mate for my sister. I never should have trusted him with her, no matter how much Winter tried to convince me to. As it is, my hands are clenched into fists when we begin to pull out. If I could have gotten my hands on Alpha Kai, I would have hit him for failing her and us. This was all his fault. Part of me though, recognizes it's my fault as well and that I should share the blame in this.

Langdon reaches over to take my hand and I reluctantly let him, feeling the usual sparks tingling in my body when we touch. Straight away I calm down and I know it's because of him. He looks grim, focused on the driving, shooting me sidelong glances every so often, as though to make sure I'm alright. I'm not. All I can think about is the fact that I've failed to protect her once again. I should have fought harder for a different plan instead of going along with it. I should have come up with something that would have been better than this failure. My god, I'm a useless excuse of a brother.

The car swerves, sending me flying into the window, Langdon easily doing way over the speed limit and looking unconcerned about it. "Hey" he says as I straighten myself back up again "It's going to be alright. We're going to find your sister" he adds vehemently. I just blink at him. He

doesn't understand, does he. How much does he know about Thomas and what he attempted to do to her the last time? How much has Winter actually divulged to him? Something tells me she held some stuff back.

"What if we're not in time?" I ask dully "what if we're too late to save her."

He falls silent and I stare out the window, glaring at the stupid scenery.

"You and Winter are close, aren't you?" he asks slowly.

I have to think about the answer. To be truthful we're not as close as I'd like but I like to think that we're at least good friends.

"We're sort of close" I answer Langdon who gives a small nod and pulls into the next lane.

"I know about your father" he says softly and I'm stunned.

Had Winter divulged her past to Langdon, or had Kai spilled her secrets?

"Your sister told me." he says casually.

My heart sinks. Does that mean she told him all about me and what I'd done? My spirits deflate like a lead balloon. He notices my distress.

"She told me all about you Damien" he says quietly, reaching over and gripping my hand tightly "I know what you did, how you bullied her at school and at home. But I also know that you had a drunken alcoholic son of a bitch father, that encouraged you to do those things, and who I know you were afraid of. I'm not judging you here. You did what you had to do to survive. Anyone would have done the same in your shoes."

"That doesn't excuse any of it" I say harshly, yanking my hand back. watching as the scenery passes by in a blur. "I could have stood up to him and told him no. I could have stopped bullying her at school and let her at least be in peace there. Instead, I made her life a living hell." My voice trembles.

He gives me a sympathetic look, but I'm not looking for sympathy. I deserve everything that happens to me and more.

"She also told me about how you changed, not long before she ran away. How you became the big brother she'd always wanted and needed. She talked about you all the time Damien. You were always in her thoughts. I can only imagine how guilty she felt when she didn't communicate with you once she reached the pack. She loves you Damien" he tells me firmly "I believe she always has, despite everything."

I'm silent. How Winter can love me, forgive the past, continues to astonish me. It's that kind of nature that caused her to be bullied so relentlessly. Because back then she never stood up for herself. My eyes meet Langdon's. "I don't know what I'm going to do, if we get there too late" I choke out "I can't bear to think of her being hurt," I trail off "or worse." I don't even want to think of the worse. I want to get my hands on Thomas, choke him, make sure he never harms poor Winter ever again.

Langdon sighs. "We can't predict the future Damien, all we can do is focus on the present. But what I will say, and point out, is that Alpha Kai is beating himself up right now over Winter being kidnapped. Just like you are" he points out with a sigh.

I don't want to hear it. I blame Kai for all of this. "The plan was his idea" I point out angrily "I said it was a stupid one."

Langdon sighs. "Winter agreed to it, Damien, she even added to the plan. Do you think Winter is stupid" he points out, and I scowl at him blackly. How dare he imply that. I don't like the way he turned my question around. Stupid logical Langdon.

Suddenly he pulls over. "What are you doing?" I ask nervously.

He holds up a hand and gestures for me to be quiet. It must be the ear piece. I frown. I hadn't been given one, only Kai and Langdon. I would

kill to know what was going on right now. It must be important for Langdon to have pulled over when we were only just behind Kai as it was. Langdon is listening intently. There's a bewildered look on his face and he looks pissed. He's cocking his head and shaking it. I wonder what the person on the other end of the earpiece is saying.

What the hell is going on? I almost want to grab him by the shoulders and shake him back and forth, screaming in his face for answers, and it's taking all my self-control not to do that and to wait patiently for him to finish. When he finally turns to me, there's a nervous look in his eyes. Something tells me, I'm about to lose it, especially since Langdon's making no move to touch me or calm me down in any way shape or form.

"I need you to remain calm" Langdon says evenly.

Big mistake. He probably should have led with something else, because my temper, which is close to the surface anyway, ignites.

"Spit it out" I snarl "tell me what's going on Langdon. Why did we stop?"

He bites his lip and looks away for a minute. I think he's trying to gather his thoughts and is thinking about what to say. I fold my arms across my chest impatiently.

"Okay, well the thing is" he starts after exhaling heavily "that Winter's location has disappeared. It looks like Thomas has either gotten rid of Winter's bracelet, or managed to break the tracking device."

I swear, long and loud, wanting to do nothing more than thump the steering wheel or break a window. Fuck. Now what are we going to do? We were relying on that tracking device for heaven's sake. How are we going to find her now?

"But" Langdon says tentatively "we do have her last location. It's our best shot" he answers looking grim. "We'll have to find her once we reach there."

I glare at him. "What good is knowing her last location, if they decide to start moving again" I explode "what you really mean is that we've lost her and we've lost her for good."

"Not true" denies Langdon "according to Morgan, they've been in the same location for more than an hour. It's possible they've stopped to rest and we can catch up with them" he says calmly. He's too damn calm for my liking.

He steps back inside the car. "What are we waiting for then" I growl as he starts the car back up, glances in the rearview mirror and then peels out.

"Morgan lost our location, which is why I had to stop the car" he answers "otherwise he couldn't give us directions and we'd be going nowhere."

Oh. Now I understand. I feel a little sheepish but not so much that I'm about to apologize, even if I feel bad. Langdon doesn't deserve me taking all my anger out on him.

"How far out are we?" I ask nervously.

Langdon glances at me. "We're about two hours away, depending on traffic conditions and if we speed or not. I'm currently speeding so who knows."

"Two hours" I say dismayed "they'll have moved by then for sure."

Langdon shakes his head. "We just have to hope they don't. Winter is a smart girl, smarter than you give her credit for. You need to realize she's also stronger than you believe her to be as well. Don't think it's all hopeless, because it's not. There is always hope."

His eyes glaze over and I realize he's mind-linking someone. Probably that asshole Alpha Kai. I wonder how Johnathon's doing, being in the same car as that fucker. He's probably pissed off but someone had to go in the car with him and it sure as hell wasn't going to be me. Johnathon could deal with the big angry asshole Alpha.

"Kai is going ahead. He's several minutes ahead of us. He'll meet us there; he's not going to wait on us."

Of course he wouldn't. He's a big bad alpha. He's not going to wait for backup, even if it makes sense to. He has to show off his prowess and how strong he is to his pack and to us. He's going to be a show off, I just know it. HE better not do anything reckless and get Winter hurt, or else I'm going to kill him.

"Fine" I tell Langdon dismissively "but I don't want to be too far behind him. I don't trust him not to make another mistake" I add bitterly.

His jaw clenches and I know he's upset with the way I talk about his Alpha, but I'm beyond caring as he puts his foot to the gas pedal and goes even faster. After this is all over and done with, Langdon and I are going to have to discuss our relationship and where we want to go from here. Once Winter is safe that is. I don't even know what I want yet. All I know is that when Langdon touches me, I get goosebumps all over. I want to be by his side all the time. I like waking up next to him in the bed, even though all we do is just cuddle each other. But is that enough for me to stay with my mate forever? I don't even know what Langdon's thinking. Where he sees this relationship going. Right now's not the time to question him either.

We're so close, I think to myself a little desperately. Winter, we're so close and we're coming. I don't care what it takes, what you have to do, you need to stay in that place until we can get there. You need to fight, if you have to, because all of us are coming for you, and when we get there,

Thomas is a dead hybrid who will never hurt you again. Please be safe, sweet sister of mine, please be alive, I think frantically and glance down at my clock. I hr. and 45 minutes to go until we got there. I was going to be counting down the minutes until we reached her location. Please stay there, I think desperately, we're coming.