

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 91

ELEIA'S POV

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I watch as Zac walks to the window, holding his hand up to his eyes, covering them with a hooded arch of his hand. “What the hell is he doing?” I mutter under my breath as I reach for the door handle without looking.

I slowly push the door open, my eyes flicking to the door to make sure no one is coming out again. I get out and leave the door open as I bend over, stalking over to the car closest to the stairs to the patio.

“Zac!” I call out to him in a whisper. He slightly turns his head, glancing at me as he steps back from the window. “What are you doing?” He mouths and I glare at him, waving him over. He shakes his head, looking into the other direction before he walks off the other side of the patio.

“What the hell?” I whisper under my breath as I rush to behind the patio, walking through the long grass as I round the patio.

“Zac!” I follow him to the side of the house. He keeps low, stalking around, looking like he’s searching for something.

“Zac!” I run closer to him.

“Shut it.” He hisses at me, his eyes blazing with anger. My lips press into a thin line and I stare at him as he moves along the wall and stops at a locked wooden entrance that leads to under the house.

“Zac!” I hiss as he rips off the chains, both of us freezing because of the noise, but with all of the noise going on inside, they don’t even notice what’s going on outside. The desperation in Zac’s eyes make me sigh, “Hurry up then.” I hiss in a whisper and he rolls his eyes before opening the doors to the cellar. It’s dark in the basement as we go down the creaky steps, “Hush!” Zac snaps at me in a hiss. “You hush.” I snap back at him, glaring at the back of his head.

His head c***s to the side, a crack erupting from him as he stalks down the stairs. I try to find a light, but there is none.

Zac takes out his phone, the little screen light almost lighting up the entire basement. "Cleo." he calls out to his daughter, the desperation in his voice breaks my heart. It's filled with hope and fear and I can imagine how he feels, I do know how he feels and I hate that, but I always knew my son's life was never in danger, but his daughter's life might have been or still is...

She has a beautiful name, a name that means praise. It's special and she is all Zac has left.

"Daddy?" a little girl's voice makes my heart clench and when Zac finally gets his phone's torch on, he shines it to the corner where a little dark haired girl is chained to a ring that's drilled into the wall. "Cleo." Zac immediately dives to his daughter, trying to break the chains but his hands are shaking as he tries to hold her while trying to free her. There's dirt all over her face, a bruise to her cheek, her clothes are also messy and full of mud and it smells like urine down here.

I can't help but wonder if she was even allowed to go to the bathroom or not. "Hurry." I hiss and he growls at me, making his daughter whimper in fear. "I'm sorry baby." he tries to pull harder on the chains, but he's too antsy. "Let me." I stride over to the wall, pulling the ring out of the wall and it makes a loud noise. I bite down on my teeth as all three of us freeze, "Let's go, now." I demand and he picks his daughter up and we dart up the stairs. I almost trip and he pushes me up and out of the basement, "Move it you sloth." he growls and I scoff as I glance over my shoulder at him and I dart towards the car, starting it so long.

Zac gets into the passenger seat with his daughter on his lap, "Drive!" he yells when the front door of the house flies open as light flick on around the house. The hunters look directly at me and I give them a sly grin as I shift the car in reverse and pull out of the driveway, "Hold on." I beam with a smile as the hunters yell at us to stop, but I pull the handbrake up and the tires screech as the car swings into the opposite direction. I shift into first and drive off, quickly changing gears through to five as I speed, using my night vision to miss the holes in the dirt road as I get us out of there.

"Slow down." Zac seethes as he soothes his daughter, holding her to his chest as she cries. She really does stink.

I glance at the rear view mirror, noticing car lights and I glance back, cursing under my breath, "They're following us." I grit out and step on the gas.

“No!” Zac yells and we hit a big hole, the car flies off into the bushes, not stopping as it speeds down the hill, “Hold on!” Zac yells and his daughter and I both scream until the car lands in a ditch and everyone flies forward, but Zac protects his daughter’s head and I hit my head against the windshield.

I could feel my skin split and the blood pooling out as I try to keep my eyes open and alert.

“We have to move.” I grit out as I reach for the door handle, opening the door to let fresh air inside. “Cleo.” Zac shakes his daughter, “Daddy?” she winches, “Good. Come on.” he busts his door open and we both get out.

I stumble, leaning onto the car as I try to focus my eye sight. “Eleia, come on!” Zac hisses and I notice the lights above the hill getting brighter. “Coming.” I round the car and Zac grabs my arm as we dart into the woods, hopefully losing the hunters.

The thing is, they saw me and now know that I am alive. They will hunt me for the rest of our lives and I will never see my kids again.

Footsteps follow us as we softly travel through the woods. We as wolves know how to run, how to avoid making a lot of noise or any at all.

Zac has his daughter on his back when we reach a river that flows heavy, a few rocks poking out but they would be slippery.

“Take her and go, if they come before you cross, I will handle them.” Zac hands his daughter over to me and I take her, staring at him with wide eyes, “Daddy, no.” she tries to reach for him, “Go!” he growls lowly and my heart sinks as I turn and begin to jump onto the first rock. It’s dry because it’s poking higher out than the rest. I turn, my chest aching, “Just come with!” I beg but he gives me a look and turns his back to us. “F**k.” I mutter as I jump to the next, almost falling but I balance Cleo’s weight out with mine, sighing.

“Hurry!” he yells and tears begin to form in my eyes.

I miss Aiden...

We jump across the river and I stare at the distance to the other side as we stand on the last one, I won’t make the jump with her in my arms...I pull Cleo away from me, staring at her, “I need you to be brave and to trust me.” I smile, using the nicest tone I could in this situation. “Can you be brave?” I ask with a

soft smile. She shakes her head, trying to cling to me, “Look.” I point to the other side, “I am going to throw you alright? If I jump, we won’t make it so I need you to be brave if you want to save your dad, alright?” I smile and her eyes flick past me to Zac and she nods, “Come!” I turn and yell back to Zac and he glances back at me and then at the woods. I smile as he turns, readying to jump the first rock and just before I could turn back, the hunters emerge from the shadows of the woods, the moonlight shining down onto them. “Zac!” I yell to warn him, but it’s too late and a deafening sound echoes through the woods as they shoot him. His body falls limp and the water splashes as he dives head first into the river, the stream sweeping his lifeless body away.

I turn to Cleo with tears in my eyes as she screams, “Run when you land.” I swing back and throw her. She screams as she flies through the air, her body hitting the dirt with a thud and she scrambles to her feet as I jump just as another shot goes off.

I could feel the bullet grazing my arm as I jump and I tackle Cleo down to the ground with me, shielding her body with mine.

She shrieks as we hit the floor and I throw my weight to the side, not wanting to crush the little girl’s life I am now responsible for...

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ELEIA’S POV

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Bullet fly beside us and the second it stops, I get up, pulling Cleo to her feet, “Run!” I yell as I pull her into the woods. I inhale deep breaths until I find a familiar scent as we run through the woods. I could hear how breathless she has become so I stop, picking her up into my arms, “Just hold on.” I mutter as I hold her head against my shoulder and she clings to me.

Having her cling to my body makes me miss my sons...I shouldn’t have pushed them away because I was going through a hard time. I should have held them closer, love them more...

I’m a bad mom.

As we dart through the gloomy woods, I run until I find a scent, a scent that sparks my insides, home...

We're still far from it, but I try and open my mind link, I try to find Aiden through the long road ahead of us.

I freeze in my steps when I don't hear anything around me and I notice a small creak. I was here before. I know this place, the bad news is, it's still far from home. About two hours in wolf form, and four in human.

"I want my daddy." Cleo murmurs, breaking my heart with her croaking voice. I run my fingers through her hair, trying to soothe her, "I know baby girl." I mutter and I continue to run.

Zac will forever be lost in that river stream, decomposing in whatever the stream connects to...

The worst part is, if he didn't turn his back, he could have dodged that bullet, he could be alive right now if I didn't tell him to come.

Running for another half an hour, I stumble, almost falling forward but I throw my body weight against a tree, the bark scratching my arm. "F**k." I mutter as I stand breathlessly against the wooden tower that's now helping me just relax.

"I need you to run." I mutter as I pull her back, making her look at me. "Don't leave me." her tiny hands grope my arms, her fingers digging into my skin.

I shake my head as I breathe out, "No, with me. I can't carry you right now." I put her down and take her hand.

My heart is pounding in my ears, my lungs burning for a break, but I can't stop. If I stop, we both do and we might both die.

"Come." I start to walk fast before we gradually start to jog and then sprint.

I keep my focus on the floor and the scents surrounding me.

A strong familiar scent hits me and my eyes widen, "Stefan!" I yell out loud, realizing that it was a bad idea as soon as I did it. The hunters could probably have heard my voice, they can find me now, they can find us.

I keep on running, "Who is Stefan?" Cleo breathes out, struggling to form her words, "Our beta, I smell him." I cough. He must have been here recently, probably looking for me. His scent is strong, but I don't hear anything.

My hope dies out as we run for another ten minutes and we don't find him.

I pull Cleo behind a large tree that covers us and I kneel in front of her, my cheeks red and I'm sweating. "I'm going to shift and you are going to get on my back, alright?" I stare into her eyes and her beautiful orbs widen as she nods.

Just as I'm about to shift, I hear footsteps. I press my finger to her lips, "Shhh." I whisper as I press her against the tree.

"Here little princess." the hunter's voice sounds far, but with my heartbeat ringing in my ears, I can't be sure.

I glance at the floor, staring at a little rock and I pick it up, glancing from left to right, trying to decide which way we could run to, which way is the best. Panic fills me as I try to focus on a scent, but I've lost Stefan's scent five minutes ago, leaving me hopeless.

I don't know which way to run...

I glance at my right and decide to trust my gut. I throw the stone as hard as I can and it nicks a branch, making something snap.

"Over there!" the hunters rush to that side and I slowly move Cleo and I to the opposite side of the tree until they are further away.

"When I shift, you get on." I whisper and she nods.

I shift and lower to my knees. I glance at her through my night vision eyes, her silhouette glowing as she jumps on. Her tiny hands grab my fur as she lays on top of my back and I start to tip toe as slowly and as quietly as I can, moving further away from the murderers that are hunting us.

After about ten minutes, I don't care anymore and I start to jog. Cleo holds onto me tighter as I begin to run faster and I try and stay away from jumping over things as I try and make it home.

I am putting my entire family in danger by going home, but this little girl just lost her dad. He was killed in front of her and I can't run forever, not with her by my side.

I run for another hour with her on my back and once I know where I am, I stop, shifting back to my human form. I lift a tree trunk and grab a shirt that fits me to my knees and we start running again.

'Aiden.' I mind link him and I could feel him open, 'Eleia? Goddess! Where are you?' his worried tone makes me begin to cry, something I didn't want to do ever again, but hearing his voice, his concern makes me feel so relieved.

'I'm close, I need help.' I beg, 'I'm coming, where are you?' he asks again and I know exactly what he means. I glance up at the moon and it's sitting behind me.

'East, the moon is behind me.'

There's no further response as we run and I start to slow down, lowering my guard, "Calm little one, we're being saved." we keep on jogging.

The ringing of a gunshot echoes through the woods and before I could duck myself, I dump Cleo out of the way, shoving her in behind a tree as my shoulder flies forward, pulling my weight down and I hit the ground as a shooting pain rips through my body.

Cleo's scream echoes around, but a loud growl and thundering paws that hit the ground silences her scared yell.

I don't move and a large wolf leaps over my body, deadly screams filling the woods along with gun shots.

I try to sit up when two hands lift me from the ground and I meet eyes with a guard, "The girl.." I turn my head, hissing when my shoulder pains.

"Get the girl!" he demands and another guard tries to reach for Cleo, "No!" she shrieks, "Cleo, he's helping us!" I yell as my eyes try to find her.

I try to look for Aiden, but the guard's chest covers my sight.

The other guard finally snatches Cleo up and they dart back to the castle with us. We're taken to the medical building and as soon as I'm put down on a bed,

I try to get up, “Where’s Aiden?” I ask and a nurse pushes me down, “Please Luna, lay still.” she begs, her voice so soft.

“Let me go!” Cleo’s terrified voice makes me shove her back and I get off the bed, rushing out of the room.

I see Cleo’s back pressed against the wall, her chest heaving and two nurses stand before her, trying to catch her.

“Stop that!” I growl and their heads snap in my direction before they back away.

As soon as Cleo’s eyes spot me, she darts into my direction, throwing her body against my legs, her short arms wrapping around my thighs as she holds onto me.

“Calm down Cleo, we’re safe.” I rub the back of her head, “I want daddy!” she starts to cry and my eyes just fall shut as a hopeless feeling falls over me. I can’t help her with that, no one can...Within a few months, she has lost not only one, but both of her parents...

Because of me.

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ELEIA’S POV

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I had to convince the nurses to let go of Cleo and when I successfully did it, I demanded to see my sons.

The doctor convinced me to get dissolving stitches for my wound first and I agreed.

Cleo is sitting on the chair in my room after she was checked out, she’s not saying much, just staring out of the window, fidgeting with her hands.

It’s hard to see her like this...I don’t know her, all I do know is that she lost her parents and that is hard enough.

As the doctor patches my stitches, I gasp when Rosie enters the room with Felix holding her hand and with Arlen laying in her arms.

An overwhelming feeling of joy brings tears to my eyes as she inches closer with a grateful smile on her face.

“Hi.” She breathes out, staring at me as if she thought she was never going to see me again.

“Hi.” I beam, holding out my arms to Felix and he immediately lets go of Rosie’s hand and runs to me.

“Mommy!” He jumps up into my arms and I lift him onto my lap while sitting on the bed.

His tiny arms wrap around my neck, squeezing me tightly as he starts to sniff when he nuzzles his face into the crook of my neck.

“Oh baby, it’s okay.” I mutter as I run my hand over his hair, soothing him.

Rosie sits down next to me as soon as the doctor leaves and I glance at my baby boy in her arms, sleeping peacefully.

“Oh Arlen.” I rub my fingers over his temple, tears streaming down my face.

“I took care of them while you were...” Rosie stops, frowning.

I could tell that she was confused, “Taken?” I scoff, smiling as I shake my head.

“Yeah.” She breathes out.

Felix sits on my lap with his back faced to me, his head resting back as Rosie and I speak.

“Do you want to, um, take him?” She offers, holding my son out to me. I happily accept and she places him in my one free arm.

I almost feel complete, but I’m still missing Aiden.

“Has Aiden come back yet?” I glance to the door, hoping that he’d walk in here and hug me.

“I don’t know. I was told by Stefan that you were coming here instead of coming to the castle.” She fidgets with her fingers, her thumbs rounding each other.

“And nothing else?” My heart starts to skip a beat before it pounds against my chest, the drumming echoing through my ears.

“No. But I’m sure they’ll be back any second.” Her tone is not convincing me, neither is her face.

“I have to go look for them.” I start to stand up, but Rosie stops me, “No.” she snaps, “You are hurt and you just got back.” Her eyes start to water.

“I can’t lose you.” , “They could be dead.” I grit out, glancing down at Felix when Rosie’s icy orbs flick down to him.

I feel like such a i***t when Felix stares up at me with wide, fear tainted eyes. His brown hues look as if they grow darker, as if his eyes might suck into his head.

“I’m sorry baby, that’s not what mommy meant.” I cup his cheek, pulling his head against my chest.

“I love you.” I mumble as I kiss him all over his temple.

“I want daddy.” Felix mumbles and I sigh as I hold him against me. “Me too.”

Just as I get Felix to calm down, Arlen starts to whine before it turns into a full blown crying.

“Hold on.” I tell Felix as I lower him to the ground, cradling Arlen in both my arms.

I stand up, swaying him side to side, Rosie picks up a bag.

“Here, he might need a diaper change.” She suggest and I inhale a deep breath, letting him lay down on the bed and she puts the bag down next to her.

“Eleia.” Cleo’s voice snaps me out of my haze as I finish changing his diaper.

I look up at her as I clasp the clips of Arlen’s onesie. Guilt fills me as I realize that I momentarily forgot that she was here.

“Yeah sweetie?” I force a smile to hide my surprise.

“I need to use the bathroom.” Her legs are tightly squeezed together, her knees bouncing.

“Oh. Right in there sweetie.” I point to the ensuite bathroom door and she scurries to her feet, running into the bathroom.

As my eyes flick back to Arlen, I catch Rosie staring at me with wide eyes.

“What?” I shrug, “Who the hell is that?” She points to the door with her thumb.

I look down at Arlen, wrapping him in his blankie.

“It’s Zac’s daughter.” I shrug and Rosie stands, her eyes wide. “Zac’s daughter? Why the hell do you have that a*****e’s daughter?” She grits out in a whisper. “Because the hunters killed him.” I grit out, glancing at the door as I pray she didn’t hear me.

I know that she saw, but no girl at her age should hear others speak about it, no matter what.

“They did? Is that how you escaped?” She leans in, as if this is hot gossip.

“f*****g hell Rosie, no. He saved me and then we went to save his daughter and...” my throat becomes thick as my eyes sting.

I look down at Arlen, my heart rate becoming slower as I calm down.

“He gave her to me in a tough situation and told us to run. He got shot when he wanted to caught up and I... She already lost her mom weeks ago and now her dad too. I can’t just abandon her. She just started to trust me.” I tuck a strand of hair behind my ear, chewing on my bottom lip.

“She’s just a kid.” I mutter before looking at Rosie. “I understand.” Rosie shrugs and she opens her mouth, but her lips press into a thin line when Cleo comes back out of the bathroom.

Her hands fold in front of her, “Thank you.” She smiles and I nod, “Honey, you don’t have to ask or say thank you.” I return the smile.

“Oh.” Her eyes light up as her little mouth forms an O.

“Are you hungry sweetie?” Rosie asks her and I feel like an i***t for not thinking of that.

She’s a kid, but it doesn’t mean that those vile men fed her. Her clothes are baggy and I couldn’t tell if she was skinny beneath or not.

Cleo looks at me, as if asking for permission to reply and I just nod, her eyes drag back to Rosie, “Yes.”

Rosie stands up, giving me a look before turning to her, holding out her hand, “Let’s get something to eat, how does that sound?”

Once more, she glances at me and I nod, “This is my beta, you can trust her.” I encourage and she slowly takes Rosie’s hand.

“Mind getting her a change of clothes?” I ask and Rosie gives me a wink before disappearing with Cleo and I sigh and continue to focus on my two beautiful boys.

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ELEIA’S POV

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A few minutes after Rosie left with Cleo, I heard loud demands flying, growls and groans of pain. My head flicks to the open door and I gently stand up, careful not to wake up Arlen. “Felix, why don’t you watch something on the tv?” I ask as I put it on for him and he lays back on the hospital bed, staring at the screen with a smile.

I turn to walk towards the door and as I reach the frame, my heart drops at the sight of Aiden being rolled down the hall, blood pouring from his abdomen. “Oh Goddess.” I murmur as my eyes follow him until he’s out of sight, but my eyes follow the trail of blood and Stefan comes stumbling down the hall, his eyes locked on me.

He offers a lazy half smile, “You’re okay.” he breathes out in relief while clutching his side and before I could even ask if he was alright, his entire body goes limp and collapses into the floor.

“Stefan !” I bellow as I hold Arlen to my chest and rush over to my best friend’s mate.

I crunch down, shaking him as he lays unconscious, a group of nurses running over to help.

“Your majesty, please stand back.” a nurse helps me to my feet and they lift him off the floor onto the gurney and roll him away.

My heart pounds into my chest when one of the guards come in, looking distraught. His eyes land on me and runs up to me, “Is the alpha okay?” he asks, “What happened?” I ask in return. I can not answer his question, but maybe he can answer mine.

“They shot at him, several times as he tore them apart.” his hands rake into his hair as he steps back, “I tried to help but they were already dead and I helped carry him back here.”

My eyes flick down to shirt naked upper body, blood smeared all over him.

I rest my hand on his arm, “Go clean up, we’ll have updates soon.” I offer him a thankful smile and he nods, turning and he leaves.

‘Rosie.’ I mind link my best friend as my heart races. I walk back into the room and luckily Felix’s eyes are glued to the tv screen.

‘Cleo is fine.’ she drags out and my heart just squeezes, ‘Aiden and Stefan both came back, but Aiden got shot and Stefan collapsed.’ I inform her and the deafening silence between us makes it hard to breathe.

‘I’m coming.’ I could hear her panic before the mind link is cut off.

I pace with Arlen up and down the room to the point where Felix turns the television off, “Mommy,” his squeaky voice makes me freeze and I turn to look at him, “Yes pumpkin?” I smile, “What’s wrong?” his eyes shine as he stares at me worriedly and I realize that I’m more than tense, “Well daddy got hurt my sweet boy. But he’ll be okay.” I smile as I sit down on the foot end of the bed, “Then why are you sad?” he asks and I feel stupid for being so weak, “Oh, I’m not sad.” I shake my head and force a smile onto my face, “I’m just a little bit mad. I’m mad at the people who hurt daddy.” I scoot closer to him, running my fingers through his hair.

I missed him so much, both of them.

“Me too.” his angry little face makes me want to laugh, but I don’t and I only smile.

“Eleia!” Rosie busts into the room with Cleo on her hip, “I haven’t heard anything.” I tell her and she sighs, her eyes rolling to the back of her head as she rocks her body as Cleo lays with her eyes shut on her shoulder.

“Is she asleep?” I ask confused and Rosie smiles, “Yeah, after we bathed her and got her into clothes, we came right over and I carried her, she must have fallen asleep while I walked like a lunatic over here.” Rosie snorts, my heart filling with warmth and love.

That little girl might not be from this pack, but she’ll sure be loved.

Rosie plops down onto the chair next to the bed, settling Cleo gently on her lap and the sight if warming my heart to it’s full content.

The doctor comes in, glancing between Rosie and I before she looks at Rosie, “Stefan is fine, he’s doing great.” the doctor smiles and I begin to feel jealous as relief takes over Rosie’s face.

I stare at the doctor, waiting for an update on Aiden. The doctor’s straight face makes my stomach flip, “Aiden is asking for you. He’s in the room next door.” she smiles and it finally feels like I can breathe.

I thank the Moon Goddess as I stand up, “Can you perhaps have a nurse just look after our sons?” I ask with pleading eyes and she doctor smiles as she takes Arlen from my arms, “I’d be happy to do it.” she smiles and walks past me, sitting down with Felix.

I turn to look at them, “I’ll be right back.” I tell Felix and I could tell that he was upset that I was leaving, but he somehow understood and gave me a nod.

I could hear the doctor explain that Stefan was on his way up as I walk out and into the next room.

Aiden’s wide eyes are locked on the door and as I walk in, relief fills his eyes and he holds out a hand to me.

He lays with his abdomen wrapped in gauze and a blanket thrown over his legs. I don't hesitate to rush over to him, crashing into his chest and snuggling my face into his neck as I start to sob.

His hand holds the back of my head, his other holding my arm as he pulls me closer to him.

I finally stop crying and when I pull back, his eyes are glassy and a few tears slipped from his eyes.

I wipe them, smiling, "I thought I'd never see you again." I cup his cheek as I stare into his loving eyes.

"What happened?" he asks breathlessly, the way his voice cracking making my heart ache.

"It's a long story and I swear I'll tell you everything, but can I just hold you for a while?" I ask and he sighs, smiling as he nods and he hisses as he scoots his body up, making space for me to climb onto the single bed and hold him.

I lay with my arm draped over his ribs, listening to his heartbeat drumming against his chest.

"Zac's dead." I mutter, "Thank the Goddess." Aiden grits out and I could feel his anger.

"I have his daughter." I mutter and he pushes me off him, "Are you pregnant with his daughter? That's impossible!" he yells and I c**k my head at him, "What? No, you i***t!" I bellow as I get off the bed, "We went to save his daughter and he got killed." I deadpan, "I took her and ran and she has no one else so...we'll have to take care of her." I shrug and his eyes narrow on me, "I think the f**k not, he kidnapped you." Aiden seethes, "To save his daughter!" I yell, "We would have done the same to save our kids." I seethe and he rolls his eyes, "I guess...", "You guess?" I c**k my head at him and he lets out a loud breathy sigh, "Fine." he grits out and I smile at the thought of us finally having a girl.

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 95

AIDEN'S POV

When Eleia went missing, my heart shattered, I couldn't feel her, but I knew she was alive at least because if something bad did happen, I would have felt that.

But the relief when her mind link came through gave me enough hope to breathe, it made me think straight for once in a few days, but the relief that I felt when I saw her face coming running towards me went straight out of the window when I heard the gun shot go off and I saw her falling forward, throwing a kid behind a tree before she hit the ground.

It was like every fibre of my body turned into flames, like I blacked out from the anger blazing inside and I just jumped to kill the human who dared to shoot at the love of my life. He was dead within seconds, but the other guy shot me, but the anger bubbling inside of my chest pumped adrenaline through me and only after Stefan and I tore him to shreds, that's when I realised that I was shot... Stefan tried to pick me up, but he was injected with something and couldn't carry me far before he collapsed too.

But getting shot is not my biggest concern, my concern now is that Eleia, being a mom of our two sons, now has a little girl she wants to take in.

I don't mind the little girl, but how will Eleia give attention to all of them equally?

Will she give more attention to the girl who lost her real parents?

Will the little girl feel left out?

I mean, she isn't that young and she knows that we are not her real parents...

Did Eleia even talk to the girl?

All these questions keep on circling my brain as I sit on the bed, waiting to be discharged- and by that, I mean I'm waiting for Eleia to come. I don't need her to come, I can leave any second, but she insisted that I wait for her.

When she came to get me, she came alone with a big smile and wide eyes. "What took you so long?" I grin as she struts toward me, her hips swaying side to side, her jeans hugging her waist perfectly before she wraps her arms around my body, resting her head against my chest. Once I hold her, I inhale her daisy scent and it reminds me of the first day I ever smelled her.

I hold her against my chest, my heart beating steadily, slowly speeding up. "I'm so relieved you're safe." I mumble and I could feel her cheeks rise against my chest.

"Me too, I just wanted to come home." she mumbles, her voice cracking and I push her back, looking down into her emerald orbs that are a bit glassy, "Don't cry, you're fine. You're here." I smile down at her, cupping her cheek and I drag my thumb over her cheek.

"Let's go home, there's someone I want you to meet." She smiles and I know that she's talking about Cleo. She has not stopped talking about her, but she also didn't want her to meet me in the hospital because she thought it would be too scary for the little girl.

When entering the castle, Felix and the little girl are playing snakes and ladders on a blanket while the nanny sits with Arlen while he chews on a teething toy.

I laugh at the sight and Felix runs to me, "Daddy! Mommy is back, did you see?" he beams excitedly. "I see." I smile, ruffling his hair. "Cleo." Eleia calls over the blonde little girl and she shyly hides behind my mate, glancing up at me with her piercing sky blue eyes.

I slowly bend down to my knee, smiling at her and I hold out my hand, "Hi, I'm Aiden." I introduce myself and her little hand holds onto Eleia's leg while she stares at me with wide eyes.

"What's your name?" I ask, "Cleo." she mutters, her thin lips barely moving.

"It's nice to meet you." I smile at her and she returns a soft little smile, her cheeks raising. "Do you want ice cream?" I offer, "Oh, I do, I do!" Felix jumps up and down and she glances at him, smiling before she looks back at me, nodding.

"What do we say?" Eleia looks down at her, her hand resting on the back of Cleo's head. "Thank you." Cleo genuinely smiles at me, with teeth and everything and my heart just cracks open, bursting with love for this little girl I barely know.

Perhaps it's the fact that Eleia wants her, to be her mom, or just because she looks so small and cute, but this little girl needs a family and we are that.

“Then let’s get some ice cream.” I stand, clapping my hands and Cleo takes Eleia’s hand and Felix takes mine as we walk to the kitchen.

Entering, the chef stops us at the door, “My King and Queen, what can I get you?”, “Ice cream and six bowls.” I grin and Eleia looks at me weirdly, “It would be rude to leave the babysitter out.” I shrug and she smiles, nodding.

As we all sit on the floor, eating ice cream, my eyes widen when Cleo stands up and comes plopping down next to me with a big smile, the chocolate ice cream sitting around her mouth.

Just as she rests her head against my arm, a clearing of a throat makes my head whip into the direction of the door where Stefan stands with a serious look on his face, his lips pressed into a thin line and his hands behind his back. “What is it?” I ask calmly, not wanting to upset the children with a hostile tone even though the look on my best friend’s face makes me want to murder someone for interrupting this moment I am having.

Stefan’s eyes flicks to Cleo and I watch as his face sinks while his throat bobs, the uncomfortable look on his face making me sigh and I look down at the sweet angel resting her head against my shoulder, eating her ice cream unbothered. “It’s about the girl.” He finally manages to say and Eleia gets to her feet faster than I can look at my best friend with concern.

“What about her?” she asks defensively and I could see it in her eyes, she loves her already. She’s in protective momma bear mode and if this wasn’t a situation, I would be turned on by it.

“Sorry.” I mutter to Cleo before standing up, putting my bowl down on the nearest table. “Outside.” I demand and walk out, Eleia following suite. I know there’s no way I could tell her she has to stay, she wouldn’t listen anyway.

We walk down the steps and a few feet away from the entrance of the castle, “Speak.” I grit out.

I just know this is bad news, I can feel it in my bones.

“A man showed up at the border five minutes ago, demanding the child return home.” his throat bobs as he glances at Eleia.

“No, she’s ours.” she seethes, her eyes blazing with anger. “Eleia.” I try to calm her as I reach for her hand, “No, Zac left her with me. If he wanted her to

go home, he would have said that.” she bellows and I am pretty sure that the kids can hear us.

“Alpha Reece demands it.” Stefan looks at me and I know exactly who he’s talking about. Alpha Reece is not a bad man, he cares and just wants what is good for his pack, that includes Cleo.

“I will contact him...”, “No, what? You can’t!” she bellows, “To ask him if we can adopt her.” I finish my sentence in a loud voice that over powers hers and she falls silent, staring at me with wide eyes.

“Really?” she bats her eyes at me, “Really.” I nod and she jumps towards me, wrapping her arms around my neck.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you.” she whispers, her voice filled with relief.

“She’s ours, no one is taking her.” I hug her back.