Chapter 24: Two Alphas

-Mason-

"I hate this!" I screamed in frustration. Another interrogation without answers.

It has been six months since Liam's grandmother was caught. Well since her family turn her in. Six months of internal investigations without useful answers.

Mrs. Johnson is locked at the dungeon and the old hag does not open her f*****g mouth. Liam got some information during the arrest since she was shocked about his mating with Fernando, considering it as her punishment for her failure on killing Clara. My mother was not the target of the rouge attack; however, we could not get from her any other explanation or reason.

My command does not work on her to tell the truth, and we do not understand how that can be possible. I am the damn Alpha of the Pack! She is a freaking member. No matter what, she is supposed to obey me.

FDL are crazy, f*****g dangerous fanatics, forbidden to ever become a pack again due to their crimes against wolves of lower rank and corruption of higher ranks. I wonder, how deep were we corrupted by them? How many are involved in this? Is it because Blood Moon took a lot of his territory in the past? Do they think, this is still their land?

"Just let me torture her!" Liam neither his father wants that. They just look down every time I ask. We know she would not talk even then. Her mind is all messed up just like her wolf. However, it will feel make me feel better at least. She is behind the situation my mother is in.

Fuck! Our own beta female! How much damage did she cause during her time as second in command of this pack? Was our former beta male also a FDL member? So far, Liam and his parents are not members. I wonder how is that possible. How is that they work and what is that they are looking for?

We had to inform the Royal Pack at the highest level and proceeded with extreme secrecy since this situation cannot leak outside, to the public knowledge. The werewolf community would hardly remember or understand the meaning of that tattoo, only high ranks are aware of them, and the crown wants their heads.

Beatrice Johnson knows I cannot hurt her, his son is still my Beta, while his grandson is preparing to take the role. Besides, I cannot take her life because we have to wait for a damn inquisitor of the Royal Pack. f****g privileges for high ranks! I just am getting so close to just rip her head off every time she smirks at me.

I wish I can draw some blood from her as I did with Warren Althaus and those who bullied my mate at school. Although I took my time with him, I still enjoyed seeing the others in pain as well. Jax disagreed with me.

"We should have whipped their backs with a four-pointed silver whip every day for another month..." He hissed. I know, but I cannot overstep some boundaries, so I only did it for one month each during their detention... two months for Warren, the pretty boy who will earn us this year's championship. He should better never even think about my mate again.

"Maybe if your father comes..." I looked at Liam. That is not going to happen. My father does not leave my mother's room.

Besides, other FDL members can try to kill this b***h if I move her and I need the information. But if they make a move then we can catch them as well. I do not care for her life, but the Johnsons do. Damn! The inquisitor might nd fault on us if we are sloppy regarding this matter. A former beta female is a big catch, yet the f****g inquisitor has not arrived.

At the pack house I found f*****g Joshua Duncan waiting for me. "Who allowed him in?" I asked Carter and Liam by mind-link. Of course, I forgot I allowed them to manage visitors a while ago and did not remove this obligation from them. I could only narrow my eyes at him.

"Hi Mason. Long time no see." This fucker wants my mate and has the nerve to smile at me as if nothing. As if I will let him take her from me. "Find her rst!" Jax, pal. We will nd her soon.

We shook hands with each other, both smiling as good, nice cousins that we are. I added some pressure on my hold and the bastard did the same.

The thin b***h got taller than me and let grew some beard on his face to make him look older. "Still a pup!" Growls Jax, and I agree with him. We can sense hostility from Alastair. We are wolves, Alphas after all. "I do not like competing" my ass! It is in our nature, Josh!

"Long time indeed. But how did you get permission to leave the Alpha's academy six months early?" Josh smiles widely at me and I wish I can punch him in the face... it is the face he had when he left my pack, when he left his scent on my mate. He was visiting my mother while wooing my Clara! Everyone told me he was drooling while looking at her.

Among my regrets, allowing him near my mate is one of the biggest I feel. It got me so jealous that he touched her! But instead of kicking him, I took it on her.

"Kill him!" Said a vexed Jax in my head, and I want to do just that. If another wolf touches your Luna, as Alpha you have the right to take their life. "Because of you, she was not my Luna!" Jax is always bittered about my mistakes... I will make things right soon. Then we can beat the crap out of him.

"Actually, I've had an early graduation early. For six months I have been lazing around so I thought I should come to pay a visit to Blood Moon." How is that the lazy Alpha passed the exam of the King? It makes me hate him even more, that is the only answer. He passed the surprise examination the King takes every year.

Since pups, everyone always praised him for being damn smart.

"Congratulations, cousin!" I emphasized the word cousin, meaning we are related and you better f**k-off from what is mine. And Clara is mine.

"Thank you. I think you are doing well as Alpha of the pack and all." Yes, I am Sole Alpha; and I am doing better than everyone expected. Yet, the absence of Clara is talking its tall on me.

"Yeah, teamwork after all." Carter and Liam would love to hear about it. My bitches like praising. Josh does not seem impressed, instead he asked about my mother's health.

At least his concern for my mother seems genuine. But why did he arrive before without his mother? Does he have another agenda? If he thinks I am going to share any information about where to look for Clara, he is out of his f*****g mind.

I know he is looking for her. I have more contacts to search unocially for my mate. And they told me someone else was asking for her too. Obviously, this punk.

I decided to keep playing my role as he is playing his. We both are civil but the cold war between us in on.

We both despise each other with passion, and our auras are intimidating the wolves in the pack. Liam mind-liked me that he was going to be downstairs if I needed him, quite aware of the intensity of our emotions reecting on our auras, wanting to be far while this battle of auras is on.

Before knocking the door of my mother's room, we heard a ruckus inside and loud growls, my father's screams.

I pushed the door open of her room to nd my father grabbing by the neck Mrs. Williams, our current gamma female. She was against a wall where her feet did not touch the oor. Father was about to break her neck. Fernando is there as well, almost as white as a paper.

"What the hell happened?" I yelled.

"This b***h was poisoning my mate!" My father's eyes were ickering black. Ajax is at the edge. If he gets out, he will tear her apart and I am sure she is FDL member as Beatrice. Who would attempt against their own Luna?

"Who are you working for?!" I asked in full command. Father reacted to my voice, because he reduced the pressure on her neck and he let her stand in her feet, barely.

With another growl father threw her to the other side of the room with force, she screeched in pain. I think a bone might have gotten broken due to the sound.

Fernando approached to her and kneeling ripped the sleeves of her dress. She let him do, while whimpering in pain. I understood then, he was looking the tattoo of FDL, apparently it was not in an obvious place.

"Are you a member of FDL?" Her face was red and wet from sweating. Again, the f*****g smirk on her face. The same sickening smile that Beatrice Johnson had. Fernando closed the door locking it.

Joshua helped me to calm my father, his mate was in the room and her scent helped to keep him serene. We sat him down, while Fernando checked on Iris. No broken bones, fortunately. I would like to break some while asking for answers, let them heal to break them again if she her answer are not satisfactory.

Liam came in with four guards to arrest Mrs. Williams as per my request via mind-link.

"Move her to the Alpha's oce." Said Joshua before I did. I almost forgot his sorry ass was here too. He cannot command here! Jax was growling again giving me a headache.

"You are right... move her there." Said my father trying to breathe again using his nostrils. He was about to shift a moment ago.

"I will help to set things up, before you two come." Why is Josh still ordering around my wolves?

"Give us a moment. I will be there soon." I decided to stay with my parents and use Josh's help despite my hate. They left.

Father stood up from the chair and went to hug my sleeping mother, there were tears on his eyes. As he hugged her inert body, it seemed to me that she was a rag doll. He caressed her hair and breathe in her scent to calm down.

"You will get better love. I am sorry. I did not know... I failed to protect you again..." Father was sobbing there. This time, instead of leaving him alone in his pain as I did in the hospital, I walked over to him and put my hand on his shoulder. He noticed me standing there, I hugged him hoping to comfort him. Once again, we were so close to lose my mother.

We were betrayed from the inside. Mr. Williams was being arrested in that moment by Mr. Johnson to be taken to the dungeon along with Sky. Carter is supposed to be interrogated as well, as part of the internal investigation we must run. I just cannot believe this s**t. I hope Carter is not involved, neither his parents.

Iris Williams, gamma female, the current third in command of our Luna, was drugging her to keep her asleep and the substance over time would end up killing her after creating permanent damage on her organs. We would have believed it was her previous condition, the vampire poison that nally got to her, not our own friend. She was injecting her intravenous bag of nutrients with that poison when father left to the bathroom.

If it were not for Fernando taking care of my mother, monitoring her condition, no one would have noticed how my mother's condition improved during his shift, and worsen after Iris. He is the famous mate who forgave Liam taking him back. I will be forever grateful to this omega.

We had to ask him and Liam to stay with my mother. Yet, four warriors guarded the door for us to leave her there, despite of being a few doors away, father was anxious.

At my oce, Iris was strongly wrapped to a chair with handcuffs and shackles of silver, while Josh stood there staring directly at her eyes without moving a muscle. It seemed like a staring contest between those two.

"Time to talk Iris." Said my father. He was calmed, collected. Very few times I saw him in this cold anger. He dragged a chair making a dry noise before setting it to sit in front of her.

"The tattoo is in one of her inner thighs." Josh cleared his voice and told us while crossing his arms over his chest. I do not want to know how he found out.

I was f*****g right. She was a member of FDL. Another damn fanatic under our noses at a high rank, but why is Clara their target?

Iris did not even inch at my father's strong aura. The same smirk from earlier came back to her damn face. She was sweating but tried to remain composed. How is that they do that? How can they resist our auras?

"Do you really think you are strong enough?" Asked my father again.

"You better respond before I get nasty Iris, you know me... I have no restrictions when inicting pain... Am I not known as the beast?" My father voice was still his voice but mixed with Ajax. That dude is creepy even for me.

"Iris, you hurt my mate... You are not going to live much longer. I am not negotiating your life, neither the way you will die..." Her eyes wide open and she gasped.

"You would not do it! There are rules.... My daughter is innocent!" I doubt Sky is innocent, I wanted to throw that b***h to the dungeon long ago.

"Horrible things happen in the world Iris... my mate is innocent, yet you were killing her slowly." Ajax surfaced, his voice and his back eyes tell it to her.

"Innocent! That w***e?" She spat out the words insulting my mother. I wanted to slap the b***h for disrespecting her. But Josh contained me. Why is he even here?

Father grabbed her face with one hand and squeeze her face making her scream in pain.

"Is your mate involved? He saw the tattoo, right? if he knew and still did not speak, he is dead as well." She lowered her head and shook it to answer negatively. That is impossible, mates see each other.

"Both of them are dead if you do not start talking." I said when I felt Josh increasing his aura to add pressure on her, Jax helped me as well. We need to break her will. We need answers.

"No!" She hesitated. "You will not dare... the King will punish you all! There are rules! You have to inform the Royal Pack, it has been months since your reported Beatrice yet, no one came..." She was going crazy. Inquisitor or not, she attempted against my mother's life. Her death is in our hands, my hands since I am the Alpha.

"Wrong... I am here, and I authorize the Alpha to inict the punishment he considers appropriate." Josh? I looked at him in disbelieve while my father had his eyes focused on Iris. My cousin showed his arm with the tattoo of the freaking inquisitors of the King! What else is he hiding under his sleeve?

"Your mother is a traitor to our ranks, our linage. She hided mixed blood here! She made us impure! I was doing my duty." Is she talking about Clara?

"What is she talking about?" Asked Josh.

"She is talking about Moonlight descendants. FDL considers that Moonlight's wolves were impure or mixed blood. They accepted mating between ranks and even other species." Said my father.

"Why was Clara the target?" I asked. Josh looked at us me surprised by the news; he was only aware about a FDL member in my pack due to his role as inquisitor.

"You Mason! You are the reason she was our target... we could not let her to live. Your trial told us about her. She never submitted despite her rank, she was the daughter of Silvia Gray, she did not follow other rank commands and she was your mate." I guess the trial in fact proved what I wanted to deny, and my stupid mouth release information to others about Clara. Even I was not aware of some of them.

"So, you think she is descendant of Moonlight?" Why not the Simmons, why only Clara? Why would they use rouges to take her?

"Promise me that my daughter will be spared. She did not know..." Of course, Sky knew. I am sure she knew everything her mother was doing. She wanted to become Luna.

"She tried to bewitch me!"

"She just got infatuated with you. She never told us she lost her virginity with yoy. The mess my daughter was in, was your fault! You were not her target. It was supposed to be Carter!" That is quite disgusting. Did they want her to mate with her own cousin? No wonder why she chased after me, and now this b***h is trying to blame me.

"That is disgusting! Why would you do that?" I could not hold it in.

Josh looked at me, of course he would. He never made any f*****g mistake. He knows now about Sky too. f**k!

"We have to keep our linage pure. Even if means inbreeding. That is the way, they only way to preserve the magic granted by Moon Goddess and the purity of our species, and our ranks. Gamma with Gamma, Beta with Beta! Everything in its rightful place... Sky was supposed to be the gamma female of the pack." It would have made sense; Carter was very fondant of Sky since pups.

"Your daughter will live; I can promise that... but answer the question: why Clara? She... rejected me, I was going to mark Marissa" I will not promise where or in what conditions Sky is going to live. I need answers to protect my mate.

"We could not risk you to change your mind... in almost all rejections, the wolves ght their human to take their mates back... like you nally did, although just recently... but you cave in as we thought." Josh looked at me in anger. This b***h is disclosing me not herself.

Alastair released a stronger aura enraged. Like I would care dude. I just smirked at him. I am going to get my mate back, suck my d**k!

"I wanted her dead, while Beatrice wanted to capture her, to examine her closely."

"Why?" Josh and I asked at the same time, we glared at each other.

"Please, do not kill my mate. He did not know..." My father rolled her eyes at her. She is trying to bargain her family's life.

"Did you have mercy on my mate?" Father asked, furious, standing from his chair.

"Kill me now then, he will not die anyways..." She dares to cry, like that would move anyone to thin she is telling the truth.

"I can try to save his life, but I cannot promise it. Answer everything, and I will see if it is possible to help him." I hate that he is commanding here, but his rank allows him to do so. He is speaking on behalf of the King.

"We think that Clara is the last descendant of the Moonlight's Alpha... maybe, Luna." This f*****g b***h does not make sense. Clara is an omega female. How can she do that? Alone?

"The Simmons are also descendants of Moonlight..." I asked.

"We did not know! Michelle hided them here as well. That is why she is a traitor to her rank... But now we know, they had a child... They will die, the child will live... for a while at least. There are in the list now."

"Why?" I asked

"We cannot risk for Moonlight to grow in numbers... we cannot let Clara to raise her pack again... She needs to die!" She hissed the last part.

I want to kick myself; I threw my mate literally to the wolves. Jax howled inside of me adding another block of concrete on my chest. She is out there in danger, I exposed her.

"Clara was meant to me safe with me, protected by my pack. She was supposed to be my Luna." Jax says to me desperate, we both want to run and nd her to keep her safe.

"How is that Clara could do that? She does not have an Alpha that can make her Luna." Asked Josh looking desperate, stealing my lines. The smirk came back to Iris's face. It does not matter if it possible or not, as long they think it is true, they will hunt her.

"For Moonlight, Luna was just a title... they disregarded ranks, the Alpha's daughter could be Luna and lead, regardless her rank! It did not matter the rank of their mates. Everything was a mess, they even accepted interspecies' mating! They were disgusting! Imagine, a pack lead by Luna Clara! Not because she was your mate, but because they believed in her." She then looked at me with a wider smile.

"What a joke this is on you Mason? Don't you think? You wanted an Alpha's daughter, while your mate was born as Luna! Yet, you humiliate her in public! Such a great show, big Alpha!" She laughed loudly this time. f**k, I want to strangle her! Josh glares are digging wholes in me and his breathing is rough. I am mad too, at her, FDL, him but specially at myself.

"Kill her!" Jax howled asking for her blood.

"You hurt my daughter Sole Alpha, but the joke is on you! You got rejected twice!"

"Take her to the dungeon." I said, this interrogation is over. My father can think on ways to torture her more, although right now I can sense he just wants to go to my mother.

We plan to continue with the interrogations to the others later as well, later. I am drained right now, and probably they do too. FDL member have a strong will, not unbreakable but hard as steel. Who did they sworn allegiance to be able to resist our command?

At my room, I began to call my contacts to be more discrete about the search of Clara. It might be too late, but I also asked them to nd out who else is looking for her. I need as much details as possible. I cannot let them get to her, and they will not if I get them rst. But I know I cannot do this alone.

"Can we talk?" a message of Josh in my phone made stand up. I think we both thought the same. So, I agreed. We would meet at my oce again.

"I know you want my mate." I did not even wait for him to sit down to tell him. He sat down regardless of my words.

"Clara is no longer your mate. She rejected you, remember?" His calmed voice irks something inside me. Jax growls but the fact is that we need to work together.

"I did not accept the rejection... She will take me back, after all we were made for each other." Josh smiled at me while crossing his arms over his chest, laying back on the chair, looking even more relaxed. I hate everything he f*****g does.

"You really did not know her... Honestly, I spent less than two weeks with her and I am sure, as today is bright, that she is not going to accept you... ask her friends, if you know any of them. If Clara Black would want, you as her mate after everything you did to her." Fucker, I have no idea who is her closest friend besides of Angel. I spent too much time ignoring her to realize.

"So, you think she is going to take you instead? That is what you are saying, pup?" I am two years older. And it is lifetime of difference between us. Besides, I know I can win her back, she loved me since she was a pup. Her wolf loves mine; Ianthe knows Jax is innocent, I am the guilty one, she can punish me as much as she wants but I will convince Clara to give me a chance. I will not make the same mistake twice.

"I do not know if she will choose me, but I know... It does not matter, this conict between us... it is not important. Clara is out there in danger, FDL is looking for her and the Simmons. I thought the other one looking for her was you..."

"I knew you were looking for her as well!" I was f*****g right! "She is mine!" Yelled Jax standing up from the chair.

"Listen to me, you i***t! She is in danger; we have to work together to protect her!" He stood up almost throwing himself over my desk to grab the collar of my shirt. I pushed him away from me. I wanted to punch him for calling me an i***t but hold it in for later. Clara is more important now. I can use his help.

"My contacts in other packs will tell me about who is looking for her..." The following words will taste like vinegar in my mouth. "We can cross information and catch as many as we can before they reach her." I keep chanting in my head, I need to keep her safe and if this is the best way to do it, I will do it.

"Secure your contacts rst. Make sure none of them are FDL members, it is hard. But if you let me, I can help with it... We need to catch as many FDL members as we can, especially in high ranks."

"If we nd her, she can live in my pack..."

"Or my pack..." Said Josh narrowing his eyes. His is the good guy who always nishes last. Clara will choose her true mate over him, I am sure... he still has his fated mate out there. He might nd her instead of Clara and let my case.

"Regardless, FDL will try to harm her... we need to nd the f*****g leader behind them, or this will never end." My pack was attacked more than once, and I need her to be safe. If he is willing to help, I will do whatever is necessary, even sign a truce with him until this is over.

"You have to promise that you will let her choose Mason. It is her decision, either of us or none. We both will respect her wishes." I am not a monster; I would not drag Clara to my pack against her will. I know my mistakes, and I have learned from them.

"I promise... If we work together, we will be able to protect Clara." He offered me his hand to shake. "I promise too. We will not ght neither compete each other, and will respect her wishes." Said Josh mixing his voice with Alaistar, ickering his eyes black... probably same as mine.

If things were different, two Alphas after the same female we mean a declaration of war for her. Instead, she brought us together.

"Truce" I said.