

## Chapter 39 The Truth Will Always Come Out

ELIANA.

More than an hour had passed since I last heard from both Denver and Ivan and it's safe to say that my anxiety had piqued the moment when I dialed his number, only to be sent straight to voicemail. The Ball had been going on nonstop, and so did the music and the dancing.

With every second that passed, the people had started to get more and more bored. They'd retired to the bar in sections, the only reason they stayed was because of Jaxon's orders and his supposed announcement.

Jaxon, who we hadn't even seen since the beginning. But while I may have lost sight of him, there was Sienna at the corner of the room, who was gawking at me since we ran into each other. She may not have been able to do something with this many people around but she decided to not take her eyes off me as well.

Through the night, she said. She had kept her words up till now.

It was a good thing, I'd like her to be there when I finally confronted Jaxon. To see the expressions across both their faces would be priceless. But my one fear was for the night to go south.

I pulled out my phone again to dial Denver one more time and I was sent straight to voicemail again. I could feel my heart thump in my chest. It wasn't until the third time that he finally picked up.

"Denver!" I heaved a sigh of relief as I excused myself to the corner of the ballroom. But it is hard to hear him beneath the static echoes over his voice. "Hello" I repeated, covering my other ear.

"Eli...iana" The line broke.

"Denver" I called. "We got him," He exclaimed. "Ivan is okay" I heaved a deep breath from my lips. "So where are you? And where is Jaxon?" I asked. "It...isn't Jaxon"

"What?" I asked.

"Nora is here and I'm trying to get out!" Beneath his voice was not only a growl but a loud thud of things falling apart and then the phone fell too. "Eliana!" I heard him but only from a distance. "Denver!" I whispered, my heart lumping into my throat.

And as soon as the line cut, I clenched my jaw tightly. My first instinct was to aim for the door but Sienna caught me before I could go anywhere. I looked back at her and then at where she held my hands.

"Where do you think you're going?" She gritted. "Out of here!" I broke free from her clasp and there was a glint in her eyes. "There's no way in hell I'm letting you leave especially after how badly you've spoken down on me, Eliana. Have you forgotten I'm your stepmother?" She asked.

A soft chuckle left my lips.

"Good thing we're not related by blood" I said. "My father may have married you but don't make the mistake of thinking you mean something to me" I shook my head before turning to the door.

"He won't let you out!" Her voice forced me to stop in my tracks and I looked up at the door. In front of the entrance was a hefty tall man, masked everywhere but his ferocious eyes. He looked like if I took even a step towards him, he would waste no time in devouring me.

And he was ordered there by Sienna.

I scoffed from my lips, looking back at her.

"Have you also forgotten that because your father married me, it makes me Luna of your Pack?" She whispered. "And may I add, the next of kin which I give to my son" Sienna said and I shook my head.

"This was your whole plan this entire time, wasn't it?" I asked.

"To waltz in here from only God knows where he picked you up from and to betray him in a way that no one can even imagine. To disrespect my people is one thing but to bite the hand that fed you is another" I said.

"There's nothing you can do, Eliana. I hate to break it to you but Jaxon's fate as Alpha of Blood Hound has already been sealed and stamped. By your father especially who doesn't know it yet. So you might as well return to only God knows where you came from" She muttered.

"You know you can steal a lot of things," I inched closer to her. "But one thing you can't steal is the throne. Hell you can even call yourself an Alpha all you want but it doesn't make people instantly respect you. And how worthless is a leader of a Pack who no one respects?" I asked.

"It's ironic if you ask me," And the moment I paused, the doors were forced open. As soon as Jaxon walked in, the music stopped and the dancing crowd gave away. I tore my eyes to me and so did Sienna.

The good thing was that he was alone meaning Denver and Ivan were still in there. Nora would be an easy feat but taking Jaxon alone was not. As he made his way to the center stage, I was already preparing myself to do that. To finally face him.

"What is?" Sienna's voice echoed in my ears and I looked at her with a smile. "That the person who's going to end you is someone who you never respected" I brushed past her shoulders before falling quiet like everyone else and waiting for what Jaxon had to say.

For a moment, not even the sound of a pin drop could be heard. And it was Jaxon who broke the silence.

"My apologies for keeping you all waiting," He started. "There was a little hiccup in today's agenda but I can assure you that everything is under control. For what I have to tell you, here it goes" He cleared his throat.

"It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that my father, your Alpha has been declared missing" Jaxon paused as whispers filled the room. My jaw dropped as I threw a look back at Sienna. She dropped her arms with a grimace still across her lips.

Of course she was in on it. It wasn't as if I didn't know the plan before, but seeing it being executed was the realization of just how terrible these people were. But I let him go on.

Even though it was like razor to my ears, I let him lie. I let him go on.

"For some time now, my father's mental health has been questioned. Not only that but his physical strength has drastically deteriorated. We all had faith and were hopeful that he would get better for the good of the Pack. But it's been months now and the doctors say there is no sign of improvement. That in fact, it's only a matter of time before he leaves us" The sight of fake tears in his eyes rubbed me off the wrong way.

"And I wish I would've told you sooner so everyone could've rendered their goodbyes before he decided to run away." The whispers and murmurs nearly overshadowed his voice as worry set into the room on such a night. A night that was once so colorful and filled with joy was now dark and poisoned with grief.

The one thing that could destroy a whole Pack was telling him of the demise of their Alpha but that man wasn't just their Alpha, he was also my father and no, he wasn't missing. He didn't run away! In fact he wasn't even sick. This was their plan all along.

"Let it be known to everyone that we're doing the best we can to find him but in the meantime and even after he may or may not be found, the long-awaited discussion has been held. I've spoken to the Elders of the Pack and have told them of my intention to take up the role my father left behind for me," Jaxon continued. The murmurs reduced.

"Effective immediately, I, Jaxon Jacobs have been elected as Alpha of the Blood Hound Pack" He smiled as the constitution was hefted to the stage. So were the Elders who he had bought out or simply threatened.

"Now, because it must be asked," He scoffed. "Does anyone amongst you contend or wish to declare opposition to this decision?" Jaxon asked as his eyes navigated the room. The whole place fell quiet, shivering with fear. No one would dare stand up to him and this was supposed to be the moment for Denver and I.

But I looked around, the door was still closed. He wasn't here.

"Just me" I murmured beneath my breath. Just me. I'd hate to do this alone but there was no other option. "Good." Jaxon croaked but I arose and in such a silence, even the slightest creak could draw enough attention.

"Actually, I do" I said. There was a crack in my voice but it was loud enough for everyone to turn back. Once they looked at me, I took off my mask and they all chorused a gasp.

"It's her..." "It's the Alpha's daughter" "The slave" "The prodigal child—" Just an earful of the echoes I'd heard. The floor was still parted and when I inched closer to Jaxon, I could see the surprise and resentment in his eyes. "I disagree" I stood a lot firmer the second time.

"What do you think you're doing?" Jaxon asked. I wasn't even sure but I was close enough already. Too close to back down.

"I just want to tell everyone the truth" I whispered, winking at Jaxon before taking a mic from the table. And I cleared my throat. "Where do I even begin?" I scoffed. "Man, do I have a lot to tell you all tonight and the beauty of it all is that you won't be able to stop me now, Jaxon."

"Not in front of everyone. You won't ever silence me again" My eyes fixed on his face which was suddenly clouded with unease. "I was eleven when my stepbrother, this same Jaxon Jacobs first raped me" I muttered and everyone gasped suddenly.

"Yes" I nodded.

"I know many of you remember me, I mean how could you all forget the one person you hated so much but for the people that don't know me which is quite sad to be honest but I'm the Alpha's daughter. The first one to a woman named Susannah, his first wife and true Luna of the Blood Hound Pack but my mother died while giving birth to me sadly..."

"For most of the days of my life, I've blamed myself for taking her life and for the other days, you all have made me remember it. You've shoved it down my throat and said it so many times that even I started to believe it—to believe every single word you called me."

"A monster. A murderer, a cold-blooded killer. When my only crime was being a little girl and that was the furthest from how I was treated. But I'm not here to rehash the past neither am I here for revenge or anything because if it were that, then Jaxon would be my revenge." I said.

"But I do believe in second chances, unfortunately" I lifted my eyes to the door, hoping that Denver would walk in at that moment. But he didn't. A hard lump slipped down my throat as I held firmer to my gown.

I've got this.

"My stepbrother besides what you all know him as, is a monster. He's a rapist and he's the cold-blooded killer you all made me out to be. He's also a liar because my father isn't missing tonight. He isn't even sick..."

"Why he was like that, why he was kept away from all of you was because Jaxon and his whole family have been feeding him poison slowly each day." I felt the sting in my throat as tears welled up in my eyes.

"That's ridiculous. I won't stand here and allow you to make those false accusations against me" Jaxon thrust himself forward but I remained unflinching, looking back at him. "I wouldn't do anything stupid if I were you" I said. "I've been quiet for much longer than I should have" I added.

The whole hall was sent into chaos with murmuring left and right. But as soon as I cleared my throat, it all died down.

"I wish I was here to even speak my truth but that's why I came forward tonight. You see, Jaxon is all of those things. Hell, he's a million more terrible things but the one thing he's not is an Alpha. And I won't sit here, I would never sit here and let you cheat your way to the throne."

"The Elders might have and the people may not have the voice but I won't, Jaxon" I turned to him. He was red with fury and bloodlust in his eyes but he knew better than to act out.

"You have no idea what you're talking about!" A shrill voice echoed suddenly from the crowds as Sienna stepped forward. Just in time. "Your father is the one who handed the throne over to your brother and I won't let jealousy keep him away from it either" She gritted through her teeth.

"You see now that you mention it, you are my father's next of kin unfortunately, not Jaxon—" "It doesn't mean anything if I give it to him"

"Actually it does" I stroked my chin. "It's not some torch or a mantle. You can't just give it away without my father's authority which I doubt you even have because you've made an enemy of the man. Poisoning your own husband?" I tilted my head, using exactly what she'd just told me against her. Sienna fell quiet, realizing the truth in my words.

"You're going to get yourself killed" She muttered and I inched closer to her, beneath the eyes of a hundred witnesses. "At least they'll know who to hold responsible if anything happens to me" I said.

"What is your plan here?" Jaxon asked and I looked now at both mother and son. "You can't become Alpha too, because you're female" He scowled. "I'm already Alpha by birthright, being the love child of the Alpha and the first and true Luna..."

"Nowhere in the constitution does it say that" Jaxon hissed and a light scoff escaped my lips. "You may be right, that alone doesn't make a contender but it does say that with a mate, I can become Alpha, either of us..." Jaxon chuckled. "And?" He gritted.

"We both know you're not mated to anyone. You have never even seen your wolf which is an omega by the way. In what world could you ever become Alpha?" Jaxon mocked and I shook my head.

"To be loud is one thing but to be wrong as well is truly pathetic."

"Not only have I seen my wolf but I've also been mated" I pulled the collar of the dress and seeing the bite in the neck, the whole pack gasped. The smile across his face also vanished. Sienna as well.

"What now?" I asked.

"And where is he? You can't just bite yourself and think you can walk up here with all the power, do you?" Jaxon grunted. At that moment, I couldn't even lie that I wasn't nervous because I was. This was the part where Denver and I needed to be together.

I turned to the door. But he was nowhere to be found.

"Where is he...your supposed mate?" Jaxon laughed and there were even some chuckles in the crowd. My heart quickened a frantic drumbeat that reverberated in my chest as I hoped for a miracle.

That he should just walk in through those doors.

I clenched my fist as the air tensed in my lungs. But just as I was about to lose all hope, there was a thud against the door. I lifted my eyes with my heart skipping a beat. "God please, let that be him."

"Let that be Denver."