

Tattooed 401

Chapter 401

"Gunther and Kara were at the gate. Gunther wants for us to hear him out before we kill him and Kara is begging for his life. Gunther said that he had to chose between the mate bond and Vin so he is unable to go back to Vin." "He would rather die at our hands than Vin's." Jacob chimed in. "Is he expecting to live?" Alec asked. "No. He just wants to be heard. I think he wants to plead his case to I don't kill Kara." "This is a random change of heart. Yesterday he was fully ready to kill us." Jasper said. "I'm wondering if he doesn't have alternative motivations. However, he can't walk free." I said even though I wasn't sure how to handle this situation. "I agree. Was he injured?" Alec asked.

"He was. He is at the hospital right now getting fixed and then taken. to the cells." I confirmed. "What about Kara? What did she say?" Penny asked. We all looked at her before speaking. "She said she got drunk and went to a bar. She found him and mated him without speaking to him. She claims she had no idea who he was before they mated. Now, she is stuck with him." I summarized. "I mean, I can see that. Alot of people get drunk and make st upid decisions when they are hurting or upset." Ice said in Kara's defense. That surprised me as she was never a fan of Kara. "I don't disagree with you but that doesn't excuse her trying to break into my office and steal information to give to Vin." I countered. "True but what if she was doing it to help get Gunther out?" Ice asked. "I'm just saying, there might be more to her story than she has said." "Maybe Gunther put her up to it. We all know how strong the mate bond can be." Penny said. "There is more." I said as I faced Penny more. "Zac met with Kara

before she met up with Gunther. She gave Zac the blueprints that she stole and he altered them. Zac was playing both sides to get what he wanted. He was caught and that was the only reason why we intervened. Otherwise, we would have let that played out." "Is he alive?" Penny asked after a moment of silence. "Yeah, that's how I got f ucking shot. Carrying his f ucking a ss." Alec tried to cross his arms but flinched and let it hang. Penny looked at Alec and back at me. It was hard to read her facial expression and her emotions were just as flat. "Thank you for saving him. I have begun to worry how many of his nine lives were up." "He has at least one more but he is in the cells as well. He will ne to answer to his own treason." I said to Penny. She didn't argue wit me, nor did she pinch her lips together, like I expected. Instead, she just nodded and seemed to be deep in thought. "What happens now?" Ice asked. "Tomorrow, we will question the three of them and decide them. You girls will not be there." I said firmly. "Okay." Ice shrugged. It surprised me how easily she agreed to that. Glancing at Alec, he was even shocked by this. "Best I can offer is a video and audio." I tried to make it a little better. "No need." Penny shook her head. "Some things I don't need to witness." "I'm not going to kill anyone tomorrow. We are going to hear them out and see what they have to say." I promised her. "What do you want to come of it?" Ice asked me. "No idea. I don't know what to think. This is not how I thought tonight was going to go." "Are you really going to sentence Kara to die?" Penny asked with zero emotions.

Chapter 0402

"She is no different than any other pack member at this point.

However, I will hear her out and see from there." I wasn't sure how any of this was going to work. "All I know is that we need to go to bed. Everything else will be dealt with tomorrow."

"Alright. I'll be back first thing in the morning." Alec said and offered me his hand.

"Sounds good." I said and shook his hand. "Thanks, Jasper for everything." I said and offered him my hand. He took it and nodded as

Alec and Jacob shook hands.

"Are we not family enough that you guys don't have to be so professional?" Ice asked as she stood up.

"Showing respect isn't always being professional." I said as I gave her

a kiss on the cheek. "Get some sleep."

"Yeah, okay." Ice rolled her eyes and they left together.

"What did she want us to do? Hug it out?" Jacob shook his head.

"How are things with Sherry?" Penny asked.

"I don't know. Thankfully, you guys have kept me busy so I haven't spoken to her much."

"Has she tried to talk to you about it?" Penny pushed.

"A little but she is still adamant that she is innocent. She didn't want

to reveal that part of her life. She said she buried it and wanted to keep it there. Just wanted to move on and focus on her future."

"I can't say I blame her for that." Penny tried to stand up. Offering her my hand, she got up easily and walked to the kitchen for some water.

"Guess not." Jacob shrugged.

"Well, I'll see you tomorrow." I said, giving him an out.

"Alright." Jacob put his head down and walked out the front door.

"Ready for bed?" I asked.

"Oh yeah. I'm exhausted." I waited for Penny to walk up the stairs first. and then I followed her.

"I have a long day tomorrow." I said as I undressed and got into bed. Penny just took her pants off and climbed into bed.

"That you do." Penny agreed before we turned the lights out and went fell asleep with her in my arms.

The next morning, my alarm went off but Penny didn't move. She had, curled up on her side of the bed with about three pillows under her stomach, knees and arms. Not to mention the two under her head. Where all these pillows came from, have no idea. However, she was still peacefully sleep so I tried not to wake her as I got up to shower.

Thankfully, I was done and dressed before the sounds of tires came into my driveway. Penny was still completely passed out so I just left them at the door.

"Good Morning." Ice said as she walked in.

"Aren't you chipper this morning." I said, a little shocked. She came in and went right to the kitchen.

"Coffee." Alec shook his head.

"Penny is still sleeping." I warned. "Isn't coffee bad for pregnant people or something?"

"One cup isn't going to give the baby an extra arm or leg." Ice rolled her eyes.

"Don't even try." Alec sighed. "She is even more stubborn than before if that is even possible."

"Didn't think so." I whispered back. "Like I said, Penny is sleeping. Try not to wake her." I told Ice as we left.

"Wouldn't dream of it." Ice frowned at me and closed the door behind

us.

"Where is Jasper?" I asked as we got into Alec's car.

"Should be here in about five minutes. The baby was up last night and so he is running on minimal sleep."

"Gotcha." Alec and I both wore old shorts and tennis shoes that already had blood stains on them. We, also, matched with black t- shirts that would hide any blood that got on them. In total, nothing would be ruined from whatever might happen today.

"I assumed we will start with Gunther or Kara. Save Zac for last." Alec

said.

"Gunther. I am really curious what he has to say."

"Sounds good. I'll be there if you need support but this is your s Alec said as we pulled up to the cells.

"How is the shoulder?" I asked. Getting out, Alec tried to move it b winced a little.

"Sore but okay." Thanks to our alpha healing, he should be good soon. enough.

After nodding at the guards, we headed inside and down to the

interrogation rooms. Gunther was ready to go, chained to the chair and looking rather bored.

"Gunther." I said as we walked in.

Chapter 0403

"About time. I was starting to think you forgot about me." He looked at me and over to Alec. Alec just stood by the door with his arms. crossed in front of him. Grabbing a chair, I moved to sit in front of

Gunther.

"Alright, I'm here. Talk."

"What if I had a change of heart?" Gunther asked.

"Then I will use the knife for awhile before either just killing you. No, actually, I will need to kill you in front of everyone. Make a show of

it."

"There would be many happy people from that." Gunther nodded and tried to shift but was held down tightly.

"How is the side?" I asked.

"Fine. Had worse." Gunther sighed loudly.

"So, are you going to talk or what? You asked for this." I pushed. could very easily move on to Kara and question her."

"You wouldn't dare touch her." Gunther narrowed his eyes at me.

"She committed treason. I can and will do whatever I need to. Don't tell me you actually have feelings for her." I pretended to be shocked.

"She is innocent in all this." Gunther said through gritted teeth.

"Let's start from the beginning. How did you meet her?" I asked, putting one leg over another, I just sat back like we were best friends." At a club. I realised who she was after I looked at her on the dance floor. The bond was too strong and I couldn't help myself. Now she is forced into this life. She is a good person, trying to get me out of this

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“Do you even want out?” I asked. “Domestic life isn’t for everyone.”

“I don’t know.” Gunther said after a moment and put his head down.” However, I want to be with her...”

“Why did you bring her to meet Vin?” That is what confused me. “You knew that was sealing her fate.

“I had no choice. Vin found out I was seeing a girl at my cabin so he told me to bring her with me. If Vin tells you to do something, you do it. Otherwise, there is a target on your back.”

“What is Vin’s plan?” I asked directly

“Find a way to get Penny and sell her. He is trying to rebuild the business that Darin had on the side. Selling girls to the highest

bidder.”

“He doesn’t want the alpha title?” I asked.

“The title lies with Penny. If he gets Penny, he can get the title easily enough and start fresh.” Gunther shrugged.

I wanted to asked how he would get it but I didn’t really want to k that answer. “What plans did he have?” I asked.

“Going to try to put more girls under cover in Penny’s newest projects. Maybe even just walk in and grab her himself.”

“This is all very vague and stuff we already knew.” I said looking

rather disappointed.

“Did you know that Vin already has another attack in place?” Gunther looked at me like he had an Ace.

“Act like I have no idea what you are talking about.” I shrugged, trying to look like it wasn’t bothering me.

“At her luna ceremony. If he can’t get her, he will just kill her.”

That was just a in a few short days. “Details.”

“Don’t have any. Just know that he will try something that day.” Gunther looked up at the ceiling.

“So, you burnt your bridge with him?” I asked.

“Probably. Not fully sure but I believe so.”

“Does Vin have people watching and following his men?” I asked.

“Not following but he has cameras all around that he watched or has a warrior watch.” Gunther looked confused at my question.

Suddenly, I had a plan form in my head. In order for this to work, we would really have to trust and hope nothing bad happens. Now, if Zac, Gunther or Kara die in the process, it is what it is at this point.

“How bad do you want to live with Kara, outside of working with Vin?” Lasked.

Gunther narrowed his eyes at me as he studied me. “Why?”

have a plan.”

“What is it?” Gunther asked.

Standing up, I needed to speak with Zac first. “I’ll be right back.”

“Tell me what you meant!” Gunther yelled as I walked out.

Gong up to Zac’s cell, he was sitting up in bed. “Come here.” I said to him. Za listened but was weary about approaching.

“What?” He asked.

“I have a plan. told him in his ear to see if it was doable or not.

Chapter 0404

“You can’t be serious.” Alec looked at me like I was losing my mind..

“Do you have another plan?” I asked. We were walking out of the

cells. Before we walked to the outside world, I turned and looked at him.

“I don’t but this is mad. So many things could go wrong.”

“That is a risk I am willing to take.”

“This is your call but as your allie...as your friend... as your brother, I am telling you I don’t agree with this.” Alec stated clearly.

“Are you going to stand beside me?” I asked.

“Of course.” Alec didn’t even hesitate.

“Anything else you want to get off your chest? Once we leave here, we have to be a unit.” I asked.

“F uck man.... no.” Alec shook his head and took a few steps away from me before turning around.

“Good.” I said as I turned and walked out. “Make the announcement.”

Closing his eyes, both Alec and I made the same announcement to our packs. “Attention everyone! Report immediately to Blue Fang Pack for a public conviction and execution.” In a separate link, we addressed the warriors. “Warriors, fill your guns with the blue ammo.”

“Well, no turning back now.” Alec said as he looked up at the clouds. It was going to be a gloomy day.

“What the f uck is going on?” Penny yelled at me in the mind-link.

“Please, just trust me.” I begged.

“Do I even want to know?”

“Just have Jasper bring you girls to the jury plot.” I said. We watched as the guards brought up Gunther, Kara and Zac in chains. All of them had their heads down as they walked past us.

“Kristen is going to kill you.” Alec muttered as we followed.

“Take a number behind Penny.” I sighed.

As we approached, we saw pack members running around to get everything set up. The execution would be by whatever method I felt like it required. For this, I would just inject them with a poison.

To say I wasn't nervous would be lying. However, on the outside, I kept it calm and collected. This was the right call. As more people showed up, the more I kept racking my brains for different options but in the end, this is what I felt like was the right choice. Was it dangerous, incredibly but if this worked out, everything will work out. The only person I felt bad that was in this situation was Kara. Still, she made her bed and now she can lie in it.

“COLT!” I heard Penny yell from behind me.

“This is your rodeo.” Alec muttered before we turned.

“Thanks, bro.” I said sarcastically back.

“Can we talk about this?” Penny looked pissed off.

Taking her arm, I pulled her to the back so we could whisper and not be overheard. “Please. Trust me and we will talk about this after.”

“Tell me now!” She stomped her foot. The action caught me off guard that I had to fight the urge to laugh.

“Penny. Please.” I looked her in the eyes and begged her. “Baby, I

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point. Whatever she was going to say, she stopped herself. Still, she wasn’t happy and walked away from me before sitting down in the chair with her arms crossed.

Walking back over to the group, Ice looked at me with nothing but. anger. “A sshole.” She whispered.

“Okay. Go sit down.” I said. If the pregnant women were going to be mad at me, they can do it from a chair. Ice huffed and sat down.

beside Penny.

“I’ve never seen them so mad before.” Jacob nodded his head as he watched them glare at me.

“Thanks for the support.” I muttered as I watched a crying Cassie come up and sit down on the other side of Penny. Penny was obviously not exactly happy but she wasn’t upset either.

Eventually, everyone was surrounding us and no one was speaking. Some people were glaring at Zac and Gunther but looked confused at Kara. I knew what I was about to do and I did feel s hitting but they were going to find out eventually.

Chapter 0405

Walking up to the front, I cleared my throat and started speaking. “I appreciate everyone dropping what they were doing to rush over here. Since the Black Moon pack is like an extension of the Blue Fang Pack, I felt it was required for everyone to witness this. Now, what your might not know is there is a new threat to our packs.” There was a loud gasp at this.

“What?” Someone called out.

“Who?” Another person yelled before I held up my hand.

“While we were focused on Rip and Darin, Vin and Gunther here managed to escape. Vin has decided to pick up on a side business. that Darin had started. However, he lost his buyers and now wants Luna Penny as proof that he has what it takes to run the business.” There was a collective gasp around the crowd.

“However, we have been collecting evidence and different things which brings me to today.”

Walking over to the three, I started with Zac. “This is Zac. As you all aware of, he is Luna Penny’s biological father. He is being charged with playing both sides. Not only has he killed but he has lied to me and caused more harm for your Luna than good. He is formally being charged with treason and I find him guilty. He will be sentenced to death by lethal injection.”

Cassie was really crying at this and Penny was glaring at me hard. “KILL HIM!” I heard someone yell out.

Ignoring them, I pushed Zac back and grabbed Gunther. “This is Gunther. We managed to capture him. He is being charged with crimes against Luna Penny and Luna Kristen. He played a part in Luna Kristen’s abductions and is responsible for multiple killings. You

back.

“Finally, as you are all aware of. This is Kara.” Grabbing her arm, I pulled her forward. She was facing downward at the ground. Grabbing her hair, I forced her to look at everyone. “Kara is the true mate of

Gunther and has been helping him by breaking into my office and stealing important documentation. She is charged with treason and is sentence to death by lethal injection.” Kara’s body was sobbing and shaking as I pushed her back. Gunther’s body twitched like he wanted

to hold her but decided not to.

“Alpha.” The doctor came up to me and presented me with three
syringes.

“Purple correct?” I asked under my breath.

“Yes, Alpha. I checked it myself.” He said before walking back.

“Any last words before I inject you with extreme prejudice?” I asked.

Zac and Gunther held their head high and shook their heads no. Kara was barely standing from her shaking legs. However, she didn’t. verbally respond so I just ignored her. Looking Zac in the eyes, I we had an understanding. So when I pushed the needle into his shoulder, I didn’t feel bad at all. His eyes instantly rolled back and fell forward... dead.

Setting that syringe down, I picked up the next one and looked at

Gunther. He, too, nodded at me so I stuck him in the arm. A second

later, his eyes rolled back and he fell to the ground... dead.

“Please! NO!” Kara cried but the guards held her in place. “I am so sorry.” S not was rolling down her face as she pleaded. Grabbing the syringe, I felt like the biggest piece of s hit in the world but I still stuck her in the arm. She was fighting so much that a guard had to hold her still. Just like the other two, she fell face first in the ground... dead.

Cassie had been hysterically crying but was started to calm down as she looked at Zac and back at me. "Thank you all again for coming. Please return to your daily lives. We are still addressing the issues. with Vin. Safety measures should be taken but no alarm should be sounded. Right now, live your lives but carefully."

Chapter 0406

Everyone started walking away without too much commotion. "B-but he isn'-"

"Don't f ucking say a word." I got in Cassie's face and used my command as quietly as possible.

Her eyes got wide as she looked at me and took a step back. "Colt?" Penny looked at me confused.

"Take Cassie to our office. You guys stay there and Alec and I will be right back. Jasper and Jacob.. you are in charge." I said and looked around. "Warriors!" Install, I was surrounded by men, ready to go.

"Alpha!" They said in unison.

"Don't ask questions but follow my lead. Don't shoot until instructed." I commanded.

"Yes, Alpha!" I heard from around.

"Get their bodies and gently place in the back of a truck and prepare to ride." Thankfully, no one questioned me as this is not what we do normally with dead bodies.

Within minutes, we were piled in a vehicle and driving down the road. No one spoke and I didn't want to say anything in front of my warriors. This needed to go off according to my plan. The dangerous part was still to come but I didn't know what else to do.

“STOP!” I yelled. Pulling out three separate syringes, I got out and walked up to the bodies. This was a tracker. Inserting this into their bodies should help me locate them but I had to inject it into a place. that wasn’t noticeable. Like, inside their mouth and under their tongue. Unless they palpated it, no one would ever know.

“Okay, let’s go.” I said as I got back in. Only Alec and I knew about the trackers and I intended on keeping it that way.

After another thirty minutes of driving, Alec told the warrior to slow down. “This is the place.” He whispered.

“You sure?” Looking around, I tried to find the little cabin Gunther told us about.

“Right there.” Alec pointed ahead, between the trees.

“Okay.” I said as the truck got put into part. “Warriors, stay here but keep an eye out.”

“But Alpha... wha-”

“What did I just say?” I looked at him with black anger filled eyes.

“Yes, Alpha.” He bowed and took a few steps back as Alec and I grabbed the three bodies. Dead weight was so much heavier than live bodies and I was feeling all of Zac and Kara.

Slowly, we walked up to the house. Even though we half expected some traps set up, we kept walking like we had a purpose. As so I saw the camera turn towards us, I knew we were being wat

“Vin, I brought you a present. I don’t deal with traders and since seem to be on your side, I brought you a present.” We both toss down their bodies. The camera followed their lifeless bodies and

came back up to us. “Next body I carry will be yours.” I promised as

we turned and walked back to the truck.

“Any signs of life?” Alec asked quietly.

“No Alpha.”

“Good, let’s roll!” I yelled as we piled in and drove back to the

packhouse. The drive was just as silent as the drive there. “Warriors, I am commanding each one of you to keep your f ucking mouth shut

understood?”

“Yes, Alpha.” They all said before walking off.

“Now the hard part.” Alec groaned as we walked up the steps and into the pack house. As soon as I opened the office door, I was pounded with questions.

“Why is Cassie telling me that her mate bond with Zac is still present? Did you not kill him?” Penny still had so much anger in her face that I was starting to second guess myself.

“Can I sit down first?” I asked as I walked past her. Kristen, Penny and Cassie were all looking at me, glaring as I walked over to my desk. Alec walked silently behind me. Loading up my computer, I was able to get the app that will track their movements.

“Colt!” Penny stomped her foot at me.

“Penny, have I not asked you multiple times to trust me and be patient? I need to finish this and then I will explain.” It was starting to get upset with how little patience she was showing me with this. Did she really have that little faith in me that she couldn’t wait and see?

Turning back to the computer, I clicked the three separate trackers and flipped them on. Instantly, their vitals showed up as well as their locations. Not only did I have a spot on the map of their locations but I got the map coordinates of their positioning so if the map goes out,

I still know where they are.

“They’ve waken up.” Alec muttered as he pointed to the heart bea

“I thought that would take longer. We barely had enough time.” I was a little surprised by this.

“Maybe the dose didn’t count for their body weights?” Alec guessed.

“Kara is awake.” Pointing out her tracker. The only reason I knew it was her was because her blood pressure wasn’t near as high as the

men’s.

“They are on the move.” Alec said after a moment. Right on cue, all three of them were walking in a different direction. More south but they walked together.

“Someone needs to be monitoring this at all times.”

“For what, exactly?” Alec asked as he put his hands on his hips.

“Their vitals. That way, if something spikes, we can get into position.” I didn’t want to leave them completely unprotected.

“We can’t intervene. That ruins the entire plan.” Alec shook his head.

“I know but that is a lot of trust out there.” I kept second guessing myself.

“Well, time to fill everyone in here in.” Alec said as he reached down and pressed the lock button. The entire room went into shutdown mode Windows were covered with a bullet proof metal shielding and the door had metal blocks shot out, making it so you can’t open the door or shoot through it.

“It is that serious?” Ice asked.

“For this plan to work, yes.” I said as I looked at them all. The three girls were standing in front of me and Jasper and Jacob were off to either side, looking somewhat bored.

“I’ll give Colt all the credit for this plan.” Alec said and sat down in a random chair behind me.

“Thanks.” I said as I rolled my eyes.

“I know Zac is still alive.” Cassie said, quietly.

“Correct. They are all still alive. I faked their death in order to put them back on Vin’s radar. Hopefully with some luck, they will be able to either fly under the radar or worm their way into his circle again.”

“I don’t understand...” Penny looked confused.

“As much as I hate Zac and his methods, he hasn’t actually done anything to hurt us. Now, it didn’t exactly work out in our favor, nor was it what I wanted to happen but his methods are his own. He hasn’t crossed a line that can’t be forgiven. Still, he is not a man that

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the streets. It is what he knows and it is what he is good at.”

“You gave him another chance.” Cassie said as she looked at me.

“Correct. I saved him from getting killed by Vin. I gave them a poison that makes the heart beat so slow that it appears they died. After some time, their heart goes back to normal. Taking their bodies, I dropped them off at a known hideout for Vin. According to Gunther anyway. I dumped their bodies in hopes that Vin would see I killed them but when they lived, they are suppose to convince Vin that I made an error and didn’t poison them correctly.”

“They knew about this?” Penny asked.

“100%. It was my idea but Zac and Gunther jumped on it. Kara... well she made her bed and now she can lie in it. Besides, I can’t kill the guys and not hold her accountable for her actions as well. I needed to

sell it.”

“They were never in danger of dying.” Penny concluded.

“Actually, they are more at risk for dying. I am leaving it up to them to decide how they want to proceed.

They can stay in the shadows or walk up to him. The deal was, bribe me Vin, dead or alive. If they can give me some information on him or hand deliver his head, all their actions in the past will be forgiven. I'll allow Gunther to live and make him part of our pack. With stipulations of course but he will get to live. Zac, again, will get to live and know his daughter is safe. Kara will be forgiven.”

“She only did what she did because of the mate bond.” Ice said.

“Yeah. I assume she was thinking of ways to save him and she made poor decisions but she did try to warn us with that note. Either way, she still committed treason so if she is successful, she can come back to the pack.” I said firmly.

Chapter 0408

“Did she want to do this?” Penny asked.

“Not really but she didn't have much of a choice. She wanted to clear her name so this was her task.” I had very little emotion in my voice. when talking about her. She was just another pack member.

“What if they get killed?” Penny asked.

“Gunther was going to get killed by my hand or Vin's. At least this way he will have a chance at a life. Kara, well she was looking at a life of either banishment or jail. Regardless of her reasons, she still decided to help Vin. What would have happened if we didn't leave fake information for her to give him? She would have possibly taken something very serious and costed many lives. That isn't something you just slap on the wrist. As much as I sympathize with her situation, she could have walked up to me and told me it all. Instead,

she went behind my back.”

“And Zac?” Cassie asked.

“Zac was pissed he was caught. I know you both are mated but domestic life isn’t for him. He was eager to get back out there and what he could do to save Penny. Again, I absolutely hate his method. but as long as it keeps Penny safe, I am going to turn a blind eye... or until he crosses a line.” I was talking more to Cassie than anyone else.

“Why were you so against it?” Ice asked Alec.

“We let Gunther walk. He could go back to his ways extremely easily. We literally let him go. After all his crimes, he could easily say, fuck you and betray his word. His word doesn’t even mean shit to begin with. I wanted to kill Gunther, banish Kara and let Zac go back out there.”

“Is there not a way to forgive Kara?” Penny asked. “Surely she could go through some punishment and then be forgiven.”

“Penny, she literally only asked you for a job so she could get close to you. She wanted a job in the buildings you built to use as an entry point for Vin. Everything she has done in the last month or so has been calculated by Gunther. She had a choice. Come talk to me and work with me to fix the issue or go behind our backs and commit treason. If she wasn’t caught, she could have been one of the girls that were sent to kill you at the Luna ceremony. Did you think of that? She would have killed you if it meant saving Gunther. If Vin held a knife to Gunther’s throat, I would bet anything she would have spilled your blood to save his.”

“I’m actually going to back Colt up on this. Kara’s focus was Gunther, not how it affected the pack. It still is on Gunther. Call it the mate bond and it probably is, but you still have free will.” Alec chimed in.

“Anyone would do anything to save their mate.” Penny said

stubbornly.

“Would you die and let our babies die if it mean allowing Gunther to live?” I asked her. She looked at me and blinked a few times. “We lay down our lives for our pack willingly. However, at the end of the day, we do what is in the best interest of the pack. The pack comes first and you are carrying the heirs to the pack. What happens if we die? Your life is much greater than Gunther’s. Why do you think Vin is desperately trying to get you?” I said it in a calm voice but there was still an edge to it.

Penny put her hand over her belly and sat down. “I know it sucks but he is right. The whole situation sucks and I know you feel guilty but this might be a blessing in disguise. Even if Colt allowed Kara to stay in the pack, no one would be friends with her. No one would talk to her. She would probably get bullied and treated like c rap. Their loyalty

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laid a hand on Penny’s shoulder.

“We could have found her another pack...”

“How? Call someone up and be like, can you take this pack member of mine that I am banishing for treason?” Ice said sarcastically.” Would you accept someone into your pack if their Alpha called you up and said that to you?”

“Well, no...” Penny sighed and looked at me. “This whole situation sucks.”

agree but there wasn’t much option. My choices were limited so I took a risk. It may come back and bite me in the as s or it may be the best decision that I ever made.”

“So, we can’t tell anyone outside this room.” Jacob spoke up for the

first time.

“Correct. Less people who know about this the better.”

“Do they know they are being tracked?” Penny asked.

“No. I didn’t tell him I was going to do that. They think they are walking around without my knowledge of their location.”

“Da mn, that’s crazy.” Jasper said as he started pacing.

“I don’t want to leave them completely unprotected. I do have someone helping me out but we will be doing our own recon to make sure things are working in our favor.” I said.

“So, you will help them live?” Penny asked me.

Chapter 0409

“I’ll do anything within reason to make sure they live. I gave them a choice. Everyone, including Kara agreed to it. I didn’t force them. They chose this in their own free will. I won’t lie and say this didn’t work out in my favor but there isn’t much negative outcome for me.”

“If Zac does, I die.” Cassie clarified.

“Zac isn’t in anymore danger than he was yesterday. I just allowed him to keep doing things his way. Not that I agree with his way but regardless.”

“You can hate this but this is our reality. Our options weren’t great. You girls can keep arguing but that isn’t going to change it. If you look at it objectively, this was the best option.” Alec put his hands on the desk. He was done listening to the arguing.

“Since we were not part of the decision making, I believe I have every right to be included. I am an Alpha after all.” Penny said.

“Then act like it.” Alec narrowed his eyes at Penny.

“Okay. I think it’s time for us to go.” Ice said and stepped between us. “Fighting each other isn’t a good idea. Emotions are high and I think we need to take a break.” Ice walked over and took Alec by the arm. Unlocking the office, Alec, Ice and Jasper all headed to their car.

“Cassie, please give us some privacy.” I said and looked at her.

“Yes, Alpha.” She put her hand on Penny and walked out. Jacob closed the door behind him.

“I should have been included. You had no right to decide that without me.”

“You haven’t wanted to act like an Alpha! Did you not ask me to keep

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and this wasn’t directly about you.” I could feel myself getting angry.

“I came back and said I wanted to know!” Penny put her hands on her hips.

“You can’t do this. You either need to be fully involved or you need to trust that I can make decisions that will benefit the pack. Just because you disagree with this decision doesn’t mean you get to start questioning my ability to do this job.” My hands slammed on my desk as I stood up.

“Okay...” Jacob stepped in. “Colt, let’s go for a walk.”

Jacob was right. We needed some space. Walking right past Penny, out the office door and into the world around me.

“F uck!” I growled as my feet stomped down the steps of the porch.

“Over here.” Jacob pulled me to the gazebo in the middle of the garden.

“Why?”

“We need to talk.” Jacob said, firmly

“I don’t want to talk about Penny.” I said stubbornly as I watched

Jacob sit on the bench.

“I don’t either.” He shrugged and nodded towards the bench in front of him.

“Then what?” I asked but didn’t move to the bench.

“Sherry.”

“What about her?” Sighing, I sat down on the bench and leaned back. My arms were draped over the back, waiting to hear his decision.

“I think I’m ready to move on.”

“Okay.” I said and shrugged. I knew he would, just a matter of time.

“Only because I don’t really have another option. I can’t believe she was

mates to him but I knew she had a past and it was hard. I really want to know what has become to Tanya.”

“Nothing. She is still in the cells at Alec’s pack.”

“Sherry wants to confront her. The final straw to out the past behind her.” Jacob more told than asked.

“You think that’s a good idea?”

“I don’t see how it could get worse. Nothing is good about this but. maybe it will allow Sherry to heal. Seeing her really brought up negative emotions and she is back to not wanting to be touched.”

“What are you wanting from me?” I asked, unsure of what he was really asking. “we both know you didn’t need to ask this.”

“I... I don’t feel Sherry should be in position of power here.” Jacob jumped up and started pacing. “There, I said it.” He tossed his arms up in frustration.

“Oh.” I wasn’t sure what to say. I guess there isn’t a rule that said she can’t not be Beta female. I’m sure Penny could find someone to do it. Finding the right person is difficult.

“I’m sorry but with the conversations we have had, she has too much trauma that she needs to work through. Maybe one day she will be trusted with that position but right now, she needs to focus on getting

better.”

“Okay.” I said simply.

“Okay?” Jacob looked at me like he expected something more.

“Jacob, making a decision for the benefit of the pack isn’t easy. Especially when it comes to your mate. Your acting like a true beta. If Sherry needs help then move mountains and get her help. We will get by till she is available.”

“Thanks. I thought you would be upset.”

“Why? She needs help. I can’t imagine the terror she lived throu The first step of healing is accepting what was. Now, she knows y are on her side, she will have your support as she makes it.”

“Okay. Can she leave the room?”

“We need to talk to her again first.” I said. Jacob nodded but didn’t say anything else.

Saya

“Can we do that now?” Jacob finally asked.

“Sure.” I had calmed down enough that I could do it. Standing up, we walked back to the pack house.

“I’ll get her and meet you in your office.” Jacob said.

“Okay.” I went to my office as he walked off to his room. Going inside, I saw Penny sitting at her desk. “Jacob is bringing Sherry in to talk.

She is going to get therapy and get better before returning to her duties.” Sitting behind my desk, I loaded up my computer.

“Do you want me to leave?” Penny asked.

“You are free to do whatever you want to do.” Looking at the trackers,

I saw they had split up. On my phone, there was a message.

Unknown: Gunther is back with Vin.

There was also a missed call from him that I needed to return. However, Jacob would be here soon so I didn’t have time to make

that call.

“I’ll stay.” Penny walked over and took a seat in the chair in front of me. Neither one of us spoke. The silent got almost too loud when a knock on the door made us both sigh in relief.

“A-alpha.” Sherry bowed as she came in.

“Sherry, come in and have a seat.” I said.

She was pretty timid as she made her way in and had a seat. you for seeing me.”

“Of course. What can I do for you?”

“I wanted to apologize for not telling you the full truth. I was afraid of how everyone would react.”

“Do you have anything else you want to tell me?” I asked.

“I just don’t know. I would like to confess everything to Jacob privately. He obviously will be able to tell you anything that needs relayed. If it’s okay with you, I’d like to keep between him and I. I think I’ll find it easier to face my past if I do it this way.”

“I’ll respect that as long as you understand that Jacob has a responsibility to tell me anything that will affect the security of this pack and of the Luna. I don’t want that to keep you from opening up to Jacob. I’m glad you are seeking help and I’m proud of you for it. However, in the mean time, I think you need to take a break from beta female duties. Take time and heal yourself and we can look into you doing more at a later date.”

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“I understand that. I’m sorry it has come to this. I knew I should have. said something sooner.”

“Understand that I am granting you this freedom because Jacob is your mate. Don’t make me regret this but I want you to get better.” “I understand. Thank you.” Sherry stood up. “One more thing....”