

Planning

Axton POV:

"NO" I snarl as I stare at Novas tear streaked face. "It can't be.."

"What is the Deep Forest Pack insignia Mila, it's a tree yes?" Jax asks as he goes to stand beside Nova, pulling her close to his side as he envelops her shaking hands in his own.

"It's a tree with a standing wolf howling upwards" Mila answers as she comes to stand with me, wrapping her arms comfortably around my torso, as I comprehend what's happening.

"Luca show me the cameras" I order before he rushes to pick up my phone and comes to stand by the table. Setting it down I quickly get up the living room feed again hoping the man is still stood in front of the hidden camera. Seeing he hasn't moved I pinch my fingers on the screen and zoom in. "Where would it be on their clothes Mila?"

Furrowing her brows as she thinks back she bites her lip before answering. "Have a look on their top left side near the shoulder, but they rarely wore a uniform such as this" she tells me. Moving the camera just as the man moves we are all able to clearly see their pack insignia standing out in a bright white thread on their black clothes.

"He's really done it" I snarl as I step back, feeling the anger rolling off of me in waves Mila moves with me, keeping a hand on me at all times so the mate sparks can help calm me.

"I'm so sorry Axton" Mila whispers as I see tears in her eyes, her lip quivering as she holds back her emotion.

"It's not your fault Mila" I say, "don't even go there please. He's had a problem with me for a long time, this is just his excuse. How did he even know about us?!" I exclaim looking at Luca.

"My guess would be from the Luna Ceremony, but I just can't think of anyone there that would know him well enough to tell him about Mila" Luca says as he runs a hand through his hair with stress.

"Gamma Zak" Nova suddenly says making Axton and Lucas heads whip back to her. "Bruno said just then, it's amazing what money can buy you. Zak also organised a mothers and pups trip to the lake, that's awfully coincidental isn't it? When was he so thoughtful to arrange one in the past, and why didn't he tell you on your daily debrief?"

"That motherfucker" I growl. "What I need to know is how the hell they got it so no one has managed to contact us."

"Zak has access to the main CCTV, I bet you anything it'll be down. He also had the packs support and trust, a trip to the lakes wouldn't be a red flag normally would it...people would you assume you asked him to. Also at training, do you still have it where everyone leaves their phones?" Nova asks efficiently.

"We do" Luca says. "But what about the main lines?"

"Could quite easily be blocked" Mila mentions, "my brothers have shown me plenty to do with technology over the years and I know for certain that it is possible."

"So, if Zak arranged for everyone to be in large groups at the time of The Deep Forest Pack moving in it wouldn't be too difficult to overwhelm them if Bruno took them with large numbers. How many pack members were left Alpha Axton?" Jax asks me.

"237, 68 of which were warriors" I reply immediately. "I haven't felt a single pack link break."

"So they've done it with no deaths.." Luca muses furrowing his brows.

"If he had purposefully invaded and killed innocent lives he knows he would have us, the council elders, deal with him. He also knows he would create many enemies in the north. Your pack has taken in quite a few other pack members over the years and have an extensive list of allies in your own right, don't you Alpha Axton" Elder Martin suddenly interjects. "He's thought this through."

"He's doing this for a power play". Mila exclaims as her large sympathetic eyes find mine.

"He's already dominant in the southern territories, his pack has grown an overwhelming amount in the last couple of years."

"Luca, access the pack finances, follow emergency procedure of the transferral of pack funds, immediately" I order before he nods his head and moves to a chair in the corner to do as I asked.

"How long has Zak been your Gamma?" Jax asks.

"A little over 2.5 years, he is now 23. He took over from his father. Originally I wanted to appoint my own Gamma as I thought he wasn't quite right, but it was his birth right and no one else within the pack was as trained as him" I explain.

"Your pack is the first when you reach the Northern Territory isn't it, then there is Moonbeam Pack which has already fallen..." Jax suddenly says as he begins to look at a map in front of him. "I'm linking Alex and Laurence immediately we need to figure out his game plan."

"I'm going to look through the cameras, see if anyone seems in danger of being hurt or worse. Luca when you've finished that I need you to organise 5 warriors to accompany me on a visit to the pack territory for a meeting with Bruno" I growl.

"Yes Alpha" I hear him reply.

"I suspect they had more help than just Zak" I hear Nova say to Jax as she too looks over the map in front of them. "It's not an easy pack to infiltrate or take over."

"They also knew to attack when the alpha and beta weren't there along with the warriors that came to our aid" Jax mutters.

Looking through the CCTV I don't see any pack members until I reach the final camera in the conference room. "Zak.." I growl furrowing my brows.

"You can see him?" Luca checks rushing over. When he reaches to me he does a double take as he looks at what I'm watching, "what the..it doesn't make sense."

"What's wrong?" Mila asks as she moves to be beside me. Gasping at the sight before her she looks at me before speaking, "is that Zak?!"

"Yeah" I mutter.

Feeling Nova and Jax's questioning gaze on me I explain, "he's tied up and badly beaten. He looks unconscious but...there's a lot of blood. A lot."

"They got what they wanted, now there is no use for him" Luca mutters.

The door swings open and I see a furious Alpha King stride in, his aura bristling as his piercing eyes focus on me. "Is what I'm hearing true, Bruno has got your pack?"

"I fear so" I say standing up. "I've felt no pack links break indicating no deaths. I've looked through CCTV and his pack members are in every camera shot, their pack insignia is clear to see. Never mind the fact that we actually spoke to Bruno on the phone..he called from my personal phone number."

With a snarl I feel Rex pushing to shift when I say that piece of information, but I force him back knowing I need to handle this situation. "I've got 5 warriors at the ready to travel with me. I need to speak to him as peacefully as possible, I wish for no harm to come to my pack members."

"Jax get 5 men also, Nova and you will travel" Alex orders as Jax bows his head and his eyes glaze over as he mindlinks. "I also want 50 warriors to hang back when we go, stay 10 miles out ready to move in if things escalate. Luca organise it please."

Alex's eyes never leave mine as I hold his gaze. As a snarl erupts from him he spins and slams his fist down on the table, cracking it, much to the displeasure of Jax who throws him an angry glare.

With that Alex stands and his eyes flash with that of his wolf, "I'm coming with you, that fool won't know what's hit him."