

Chapter 30

“I thought he was her father, but the rest I didn’t know; I only met him once when I was really young and caught glimpses of him a few other times. But my mother was always careful, and we were never home when my father dealt with him, or she kept me away from him the few times he came to the house. She never openly admitted he was her father. But I overheard Marco refers to my mother as his niece once and reference Floyd. Mom got all weird, so I never asked. I can’t believe they’re the same person. Although it makes sense why my mother hated Floyd.”

“But she said nothing else?” Axton asks, and I shake my head when I feel Noleen open up the mind link, only it cuts out a second later. I try to open it again. “Elena!” She says quickly, only for it to cut out.

“Everything ok?” Axton asks.

“Hang on. One of my Pack members tried to open the link.”

“Tried?”

“Yeah, she cut out. Wait, a second. I’ll find out what she wants.” I stand up, glancing toward the window, when pain suddenly ripples through my chest, dropping me to my knees.

“Elena?” Axton worries when I drop the phone. My chest burns when the pain worsens, stealing my breath before it vanishes completely. Gasping for air, I reach for the window ledge, pulling myself up, but I instantly know what the feeling is. I just lost a pack member, Noleen. I instantly try to reach Michelle. The link is there, but it won’t open.

Opening the window, I stick my head out and sniff the air, noticing the scent of his pack in the air. “Mom?” I call out to her as she peers out at the fields when she drops the box of deserts at her feet. The cupcakes roll across the grass, and her eyes go to Luke, who is at the trash cans, throwing the last couple of bags away.

“Luke, get inside!” She screams, running over to him. She grabs him, shoving him toward the house, and I see the other women turn to look at her when they all drop what they’re doing and start rushing the kids toward their homes.

“Elena!” Axton panics as I peer out into the darkness, trying to catch my breath. I grip the windowsill and lean out. Only when I do, do I see eyes glowing back at me in the distance.

“Axton?” I panic and my eyes go to the crib where our boys are sleeping. My heart palpitates in my chest.

“Elena? What’s going on?” I stumble for an answer because I’m not completely sure. But why is he here? And how did he find us? Turning my gaze away, I look to the driveway; I can just make out a car racing toward us with its headlights off.

The women downstairs look out into the fields, and the others try to hide the children, screaming, tossing themselves in front of the kids, and backing up toward my mother when she looks up at me. Wolves step out from between the barn and the mobile homes, and I gasp, realizing we are under attack.

Snatching the phone off the ground, I rush out of my room when Sondra comes out of hers.

“Elena?” she calls, and I grab her arms. “Lock yourself in the room with my boys. I will send Luke to you. Go!”

“Elena, what’s going on?” Axton demands at the same time Sondra does.

“My father’s pack is here,” I tell him, and Sondra gasps rushing into her room. “Go, I’ll get the boys!” She yells as I race for the stairs, still breathless from Noleen’s tether breaking.

I run for the stairs, skipping a few in my haste when pain ripples through the pack link, and I stagger on the stairs clutching the banister. “Lacy,” I curse, feeling her tether snap as I open the pack link, telling the women on patrol at the back end we are under attack and to head home.

“I’m on my way!” Axton says, but I can’t answer him when my head is filled with my pack’s voices.

Dropping the phone, I feel Lexa lurch forward, waiting for me to finish with the pack-link, when I hear my mother scream. My feet thud on the stairs as I race down them,

hearing all the women screaming and the sounds of fighting. My mother is screaming for Luke, and he is for her when I burst out the door to find the car is the same one that followed me, and my father is trying to rip Luke into the backseat.

My mother grabs my father's arm when he grabs her hair, also trying to drag her to the backseat while my mother pleads for him to let Luke go.

It is utter chaos. Within seconds, my father's pack has us entirely surrounded, and the women are backed into a corner, trying to shield their kids.

"Let them go!" I snarl at my father, and I feel Lexa press forward, my claws lengthening, and my father looks up. He sneers at me, and I walk down the steps, tossing the phone onto a chair nearby. I can hear Axton demanding to know what is going on, but I can't speak to him and deal with the problem at hand.

"You dare sabotage my name, think you can kidnap my son and mate! Then have the audacity to claim my pack!" My father roars as his pack warriors close in around me.

"My pack, now let him go!"

"She moves; kill her!" My father orders his pack. I glance at my father's warriors, who seem unsure as they glance between us.

"Derrick, please, I will come back. Just leave Luke here. You're scaring him." My mother pleads while gripping his forearm.

He looks at her, and he cups her cheek with his hand. My mother leans into his touch, but I know better; I know she is playing along, for Luke's sake. Luke peers out at me, tears rolling down his face, which is blotchy when my father's hand on my mother's face turns from affection to cruelty as he grips her hair and her ear, jerking her closer.

"You rejected me, love. Now you'll learn what betrayal earns you." He sneers, and my mother's features harden like a rock as her canines slip out.

"You were always a fucking coward!" She snarls before shifting and attacking him.