

Chapter 4

I step out of his grasp, changing the subject back to Alpha Cane, wanting to know more about the new Alphas and what I'm up against. Axton tugs me back to him. "Promise me, you'll stay away from Osiris, forget everything else Elena. He is bad news. If you promise me anything, promise me this."

"I don't owe you any promises, Axton." He grits his teeth and looks away from me. "But I promise I will stay away from Osiris," I tell him, he lets out a breath and nods once.

"What did he do?" I ask. I can see his genuine concern regarding that Alpha, yet he has given no explanations.

"I think he killed his father. But there is more, I just have no way to prove it." His eyes flicker to Khan briefly with his mood shift. Lexa tugs at me, the mate bond enticing me to move closer to our mate the moment Khan breaches Axton's surface. Her brain doesn't seem to be as badly affected by his presence as it is for me, maybe because I am in this form and not hers. But either way, lately I have been at constant war with what the bond keeps demanding now he has marked me and what rationality knows.

"We need to go, Elena." She reminds me.

"So, Alpha Cane, how do you know so much about him?" Axton shrugs, letting me go, but grabbing my hand, he presses the button on the lights for the crossing, and we wait for the lights to change.

"I am capable of crossing a road by myself." I tell him, trying to jerk my hand from his grasp. His grip tightens, and he leans down a little.

"You're about to run from me again, it won't kill you to hold my hand. Besides, right now, I know Osiris will be watching on the cameras. It is best to look like a united front, despite the shit storm you created for me in the council chambers." he tells me. My eyes move to the club roof to see the little dome surveillance camera attached to the cladding.

I sigh and pull my hand away. Axton growls at me, but I ignore him, stepping closer to him and wrapping my arm around his waist.

Axton drapes his arm across my shoulders, tugging me closer and pressing his lips to my temple. He chuckles, “Wow, I would have settled with you holding my hand,” he whispers next to my ear, then laughs.

“United front, remember? I can act the part.” I tell him. He better not be lying, but something tells me Osiris really is watching.

“What if I don’t want you to act the part?”

“No, you want to make me your bitch and steal my packs?”

“Joined packs are an added bonus, but that is not what I want from you, Elena.”

I say nothing to his words, knowing often what he says and what he means are two separate things. His actions speak volumes. Axton may be semi-decent now, but I haven’t forgotten his threat back at the council or when he found us.

The light changes and we cross the road. “You never answered about Alpha Cane?” I remind him, changing the subject away from his constant mixed signals, it makes me wonder which side of him I am dealing with now. The man’s personality changes faster than I can shift.

“You’d think with his multiple personalities, we would have found one we actually like by now!” Lexa huffs.

“Let me know if you find one that is tolerable. His personality shifts are giving me whiplash.” I tell her.

“Be like trying to find a rainbow pig with wings or a unicorn that farts confetti. Impossible!” she retorts.

“He’s being okay-ish now.”

“He is probably waiting for us to get close enough to his car, so he can stuff us in his trunk, and whisk us off to this basement that he is so fond of locking us in.”

“That won’t happen. I won’t allow it.”

“Yeah, because I will bite if he does!” she growls, wandering off when Axton speaks, finally answering the question I have repeated a couple of times now.

“Cane’s father was an abusive alcoholic; we went to the same high school. His brother was a dick, just like his father. For a while, we were friends, still are. We just lost contact over the years, and he moved to live alongside humans not long after his father and brother moved to this city.”

“So that’s how you know him? Cane is from your old city?” Axton nods.

“Yes, but that’s not how I know him, I know him from the pits. His father used to run underground fights through one of my father’s clubs. If he lost, his father would beat the shit out of him. Lyle was one of my father’s friends. Eli and I cleaned him up a few times before my grandfather reported the club’s underground facilities, which in turn had my grandfather banished from the pack for a while. But he got it shut down, temporarily at least.”

“Your grandfather reported his son’s club?”

“Yep, Cane wasn’t the only one that used to be forced into the pits. My father said I was too soft, that my mother pampered me too much.”

“So, when did your grandfather come back?”

“After dad went bankrupt, he wanted my grandfather’s money to bail him out, but he left it all to me and my mother. Mom demanded he be allowed to return.” Axton tells me while leading me through the parking lot.

“And he listened to her?”

“He had no choice. Eventually, she signed everything in my name. Mom refused to give her half to my father, knowing he would have control. The moment she signed everything to me; he killed her for it.” Axton tells me as we stop next to my car. Axton lets me go and takes a step away from me while I rummage through my bag for my keys.

“Hold this.” I thrust the folders I have toward him, and he takes them while I dig for the damn keys. Axton, however, decides to flick through the pages.

“Are you really going to get your father to submit to you?”

“That’s the plan.”

“He won’t like that. His pack is loyal to him.”

“Yes, but he won’t have a choice soon.” I tell him.

“What do you mean?”

“He’ll submit.” Is all I tell him, not wanting to give away all my plans, especially to a rival Alpha. Axton certainly didn’t need any more ammo to use against me.

He closes it and sighs. “You know I can help you, right?”

“And what would the price be for your help, Axton? I don’t need it or want it.”

“Well, you know where I am if you do want it!” I glance at him, finally finding my keys, and he hands me back my folders.