

Chapter 113

"I was on a mission on my own for the first time and I hunted down the target. I tracked him to an abandoned building. What I found was not a bloodthirsty beast that had been murdering women, it was a woman and her child," Lana explained.

"No, you're lying," Kasia countered.

"If I'm lying, I'm flying," Lana said. "The orders were clear. That's when I realized the hunters were lying to us. A mother and her child were no threat to us. They were rogues, malnourished, on the brink of death."

Kasia shook her head, the pain in her heart too great to bear. "Nadia wouldn't have lied to us."

"And why wouldn't she, Kasia? We were grunts. We didn't need to think. We just needed to do what we were told," Lana said bitterly.

"She wouldn't have done that. You must have gotten it wrong, tracked the wrong one," Kasia argued. She refused to believe that Nadia would do something like that.

Nadia was the one to find Kasia and Lana struggling to survive. Nadia slowly morphed into a mentor figure to Kasia and Lana, teaching them the skills they need to survive in their dangerous world.

"No, I'm sorry Kasia, I know this is hard to believe because what she means to us. But she came into my room and gave me the orders herself," Lana answered. "It was a test. She wanted me to prove myself, prove that I was loyal. Didn't you do the same?"

"Stop,"

"I know you went through with it. I know that must weigh heavy on your heart but you can't delude yourself just to wash away the guilt,"

"I don't want to hear anymore of your lies, Lana. It's clear where your loyalties lie."

"Lies?" Lana's voice trembled with frustration. "You're not even giving me

a chance to explain myself!"

"Explain?" Kasia scoffed, her brown eyes ablaze with hurt and anger.

"What is there to explain? You've chosen their side - the side of the monsters who took everything from us!"

"Kasia, why do you always shut down? Why don't you trust me? Why can't you see that I have always been on your side? Even when you tossed me away because I wasn't a good little hunter like you, I was still there for you!" Lana vented, her hands balling into fists at her sides.

"You're not even giving me a chance. I'm still on your side; I'm still your sister!"

But Kasia couldn't bring herself to believe it. She felt the weight of betrayal press down upon her shoulders, suffocating her with its cruel presence. How could she trust Lana now, when she'd been harboring such a dark secret?

"Trust," Kasia said bitterly, "it's a two-way street. You didn't reveal to me when you were undercover. You didn't trust me with this newfound truth. So, who really doesn't trust who?"

"Come on, let's be for real. I know for a fact that you would have ratted me out as soon as you could because of how far up Nadia's ass you were. So, cut the bulls***," Lana snapped. "You don't know half the things that I do and if for once, you would shut the hell up maybe I could enlighten you."

"Just because I don't agree with your twisted beliefs doesn't mean you can treat me like some ignorant child!" Kasia retorted.

"Kasia, I never meant-" Lana began, but Kasia cut her off with a dismissive wave of her hand.

"Save it, Lana!" she snarled, her body trembling with anger. "You think I don't understand? You think I can't see past the lies and deceit?"

"Kasia, just stop it and just listen" Lana pleaded. She could see Kasia building her mental wall. If the conversation continued the way it was, Kasia was going to double down and trying to get through would be pointless. "It's been three years. I don't want to argue with you." Lana reached out a hand, trying to bridge the gap between them, but Kasia

recoiled as if it were a snake about to strike.

"Yes, it has been three years. Three damn years of me trying to find you, wondering if you were dead, only to find out that you're shackled up with monsters. Is that how you repay for what I've done for you?"

"Kasia, you can't keep throwing that up in my face. I know what you have gone through to keep me safe,"

"You have NO IDEA what I've been through, Lana! What I've seen, what I had to do to keep us safe before the hunters found us!" Kasia screamed, her voice cracking under the weight of her anguish. She clenched her fists so tightly that her nails dug into her palms, drawing blood. "I shielded you from the horror of this world, the darkness of it. I shielded you from our parents' deaths. I made sure you didn't have to see their mangled bodies, torn apart."

As she spoke those words, the memory of that fateful night came flooding back - the blood-soaked ground, the gut-wrenching gurgling echoing in her ears as she desperately tried to stop the bleeding, and above all, the overwhelming sense of loss that threatened to consume her. Kasia couldn't help but shudder at the vivid recollection, feeling as if she were reliving that nightmare all over again.

"Kasia..." Lana whispered, her voice choked with emotion. "I know you did, and I'm grateful, but-"

"Grateful?" Kasia spat, cutting her off once more. "You're siding with the very creatures that took them from us, and you have the audacity to say you're grateful?"

"Kasia, it's not that simple," Lana insisted, her voice wavering. "I have evidence. I can show you. I..."

"Enough!" Kasia roared, unable to bear any more of Lana's words. Her heart felt as if it were being ripped in two, torn between her love for her sister and her burning hatred for the creatures responsible for their parents' deaths.

"Leave me alone, Lana," Kasia whispered, her voice hoarse with the strain of holding back her tears. "Just... leave me alone."


Chapter 114

Brian watched from the doorway as Lana rushed out of the room.

"Are you?" Brian started.

"I'm fine," Lana interrupted. "Just leave me alone, okay?"

Brian watched as Lana stormed away, wiping the tears from her face. He hesitated for a moment, knowing the tension in the room and the extent of Kasia's anger. Nevertheless, he couldn't delay this. Kasia was awake now. So much for trying to do it while she was unconscious.

He stepped into the dimly lit room. Kasia watched him without saying a word. The way her eyes followed him reminded him of an herbivore waiting for the predator's next move. Her expression was blank, but he could smell the fear and anger rolling off her in waves. Brian's heart went out to her, but he had a job to do. 

"Kasia," Brian began, trying to keep his voice as calm and reassuring as possible. "I'm here to help you. I have no intention of hurting you, but I need to draw some blood for testing."

Kasia's eyes narrowed as she looked at him, distrust emanating from her every pore. "You expect me to believe that? You have me chained to the bed like a prisoner."

"That is for your safety. It would not be safe for you right now if you tried to escape," Brian explained. "Without your pills, you're just a regular human. I don't think I need to explain to you what would happen to you if you were found by one of our warriors."

"Eat me like the monsters that y'all are," Kasia spat.

Brian frowned. "I'd prefer if you didn't call us that. And we don't eat humans."

"You've brainwashed my sister into believing that, but you won't brainwash me. I've seen what your kind does to humans," Kasia retorted.

Brian understood her skepticism but remained patient. "I understand you're scared and angry, and I don't blame you. I would be too, but this is the only way we can keep you safe and learn more about what they did to you."

"What are you talking about?"

"The Hunters have been giving you a drug that I don't believe they know what the side effects are. We need to know what is happening to you to make sure you are okay," Brian explained.

Kasia's lip curled, and she began to shout, "They did nothing to me. Leave me alone! Stay away from me!"

Her screams filled the room, and Brian could feel the unease building up. He was well aware that Ethan was on his way to intervene.

"Please calm down. There's no reason to scream," Brian said. The situation was deteriorating, and he needed to act quickly.

As Kasia's screams grew louder, the door swung open, and Ethan entered the room. He approached the bed with authority, his eyes locked on Kasia. His Alpha aura was oppressive, causing Brian to tense up as Ethan began the Alpha call.

"Calm yourself," Ethan growled at Kasia. Surprisingly, Kasia stopped screaming immediately. It was as if someone had closed her mouth by force. Kasia stared at Ethan in horror and confusion. How did he make her stop? Brian observed the situation in complete awe, as humans shouldn't respond to the Alpha call.

Defiantly, Kasia managed to open her mouth to say, "I don't know what you're doing, but I won't let you control me!"

Ethan's patience was wearing thin. He hated to admit that her defiance was oddly attractive. Ethan resisted the urge to kiss her as he took a step closer to the bed. Her scent, even though laced with fear and anger, was intoxicating.

"You will do what Brian asks of you. I command it," Ethan growled low in his throat.

Kasia gritted her teeth as she felt compelled to listen to Ethan. What the

hell was this? She didn't want to listen to him, but she felt ill for not obeying. Kasia swung at Ethan with her free hand, but he caught her wrist. It felt like electricity shot through her body, causing her eyes to widen. "What are you doing to me?" Kasia whispered.

"I am trying to help you. I understand you're upset, but this needs to get done. Brian will not hurt you. I will not hurt you. We are here to help," Ethan responded.

Kasia's retorted, her voice laced with venom, "Help me? You crashed our car!"

Ethan's expression darkened, but he managed to keep his emotions in check. "Because you were reckless. You are also to blame for your injuries and Lana's."

"I'll never be a traitor like her. You can't make me!"

His alpha call intensified, causing Kasia to gasp. Ethan leaned in closer, his voice low and filled with frustration. "You're making this difficult for everyone when it does not have to be this way. The hunters disowned you. You are a rogue. You are alone. Accept our help, accept my help," Ethan growled.

Kasia felt immense pressure on her body. None of this made any sense, but she couldn't deal with it much longer. The fear in her gaze began to outweigh the anger. She reluctantly nodded, her voice trembling. "Fine, do what you want."

Ethan relaxed, pulling back the Alpha call, and Brian and Kasia sighed in relief. "Thank you, Kasia. I promise we'll be as gentle as possible," Brian said.

With caution, Brian began the process of drawing Kasia's blood. The room fell into an uneasy silence, the tension still hanging in the air. Ethan kept his grip on her wrist, ensuring that she didn't try to hit Brian. He felt her trembling and subconsciously rubbed his thumb over the palm of her hand in an attempt to calm her.

As the vials filled with her blood, Kasia's eyes teared up, and her vulnerability became increasingly evident. The anger that had fueled her resistance was now mingled with fear, creating a complex web of

emotions. 'Don't you cry. Don't you dare cry in front of them,' Kasia told herself.

Once Brian had collected the necessary samples, he stepped back, and Ethan reluctantly released Kasia's wrist. Kasia turned her head away from Brian and Ethan, trying her best to not cry in front of them. Ethan frowned, as he didn't like seeing her like this.

"I meant what I said earlier, Kasia. We have no intention of hurting you. If you do not believe me, believe your sister, as no harm has ever come to her while under my care," Ethan said. He unhandcuffed Kasia from the bed. She rubbed her wrist but still did not look at him.

Ethan and Brian left the room, with Ethan locking Kasia inside. He could hear her sobbing from behind the door. Ethan wanted to go in and comfort her, but he couldn't do that yet. He needed to know if she was friend or foe first. Wanting his mate came second to being the Alpha King. Ethan could not allow a pretty face to keep him from protecting his people.

Chapter Comments

