

CHAPTER 75

CHAPTER 75 What Have You Discovered?
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In the dimly lit hallways of his castle, Ethan's heavy steps echoed menacingly as

he made his way to the war council room. He experienced a whirlwind of

feelings, his rage over Adrian's betrayal simmering just below the surface. He

was both perplexed and furious at the brazenness of the assault on Lily. Garrett

was fortunate to arrive when he did, but it still enraged him. He wasn't as

impenetrable as he thought.

One of his most dependable and devoted warriors, Adrian had frequently stood

by his side and guarded him and his family. Ethan was deeply confused as well

as outraged to witness him turn against his own, especially to target Lily.

The warriors he had called were already gathered in the council room as he

entered, their faces a picture of worry and disbelief. Despite being skilled

fighters who had faced danger numerous times, they felt helpless and lost in the

current situation.

It was impossible to miss the intensity on Ethan's face as he took his usual seat at

the head of the long oak table. His voice broke through the deafening silence

with firmness and resolve. "Sit. Some of you are unaware of what has transpired,

so I'll be brief. There was an attack that occurred the previous night."

He started to describe what had happened and some of the warriors

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muttering as they were also in disbelief. Ethan spoke with a mixture of

annoyance, rage, and an underlying sense of betrayal. "This is not the Adrian we

know. Something has changed him, and I need to understand why he threw away

years with our pack for a chance at power."

Selene, a warrior known for her wisdom and insight, raised her hand, her voice

steady with concern. "My Alpha, a few days prior to the attack, I observed

Adrian's strange behavior. He was muttering to himself, and it appeared as

though he was speaking to someone who wasn't there."

Ethan nodded in appreciation of her willingness to share her observations and

acknowledged her. He scanned the room and asked, "Did any of you see similar

behavior? Did anyone see him talking to someone he wouldn't normally talk to?"

Marcus, a warrior known for his astute instincts, spoke up as several others

exchanged wary looks. "Yes, my Alpha, I also noticed it. He presented a

distracted and hazy mental state. I didn't give it much thought since he appeared

to return to normal after I called out to him."

Ethan started to pace as his annoyance mounted along with his boots softly

echoed on the wood floor. "My rule has always been to report anything that

seems out of the ordinary. Isn't that correct?"

His warriors answered, "Yes, Alpha."

"So why wasn't this reported?" Ethan demanded.

"You also taught us how to have discerning eyes. Adrian continued to perform

his duties without putting anyone in danger. We didn't anticipate any

wrongdoing," Selene said, drawing a glare from Ethan. He could see why she

was feeling that way. Like the others, she was defending her comrade. They had

no idea if he was ill, and it was dishonorable for a warrior to be demoted, even if

it was out of his control.

"Because of our delay in seeing this immediate threat, we need to figure out

what happened immediately," Ethan stated.

"My Alpha, could it be a curse?" Another warrior asked, "I've heard there

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spells that can cloud one's mind, causing them to commit acts they would never

consider under normal circumstances."

With his brow furrowed in thought, Ethan gave this possibility some thought. "It

is a plausible theory, but witches have never had problems with the community

of were," Ethan admitted. "However, we would smell magic on him if that was

the case. We would know immediately. No, I think this may be a poison of some

sort."

"Summon my private doctor immediately. Adrian should receive a thorough

examination, including a blood test." Ethan ordered, "We need to figure out if

there's a medical explanation for his behavior or if something more sinister is at

play. I want everyone to carry on as though nothing happened. Outside of the

people in this room, don't discuss this with anyone. I'm still not sure if we

currently have a traitor among us." As soon as their Alpha gave the order, the

warriors quickly departed.

Ethan and his Beta sat in anxious anticipation as the minutes turned into hours,

each of which seemed to last a never-ending amount of time. His Beta

questioned, "Do you really think there's a traitor?"

Ethan answered, "No. But it would be stupid of me not to rule this out as a

possibility. Some did not support my becoming the Lycan King, and I do believe

the timing of this is not a coincidence, given the revelation that we have a she-

wolf with royal blood under our protection."

Finally, there was a knock on the door. The doctor was escorted inside the room

by two warriors. The doctor had a grim expression which made Ethan even more

uneasy.

"Leave us," Ethan commanded his warriors. They bowed and left the room,

leaving only Ethan, his Beta, and the doctor. "What have you discovered?"

"The blood sample has revealed the presence of a herb—a rare and potent one

not native to North and South America," the doctor explained.

"What kind of herb are we dealing with? And how could it have found its way

into Adrian's system?"

The doctor hesitated for a moment before speaking. "Although it is difficult to

say with certainty, my Alpha, this herb appears likely to have been consumed

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inhaled. It has very unsettling side effects, including hallucinations, paranoia,

and erratic behavior."

"Could this have been an intentional act?"

The doctor gave a somber nod. "This herb is used in some narcotics. This

wouldn't be something the kitchen would have on a shelf. With how much is in

his system, it would have been administered by syringe, or he must have

consumed it."

"Find out exactly what Adrian consumed over the previous week, including

where he ate it and who brought it to him." Ethan commanded, "I want to know

his every move for the past month."