

Chapter 97: Choices

Warren

After making love to my mate for hours and sleeping off the exhaustion of the battle, I wake up feeling fantastic. While I slept, Arric healed what was left of my wounds, my mate is safe, happy, and pregnant with my pups, and all that's left is Dr. Stephens who is currently residing in my cells.

There's one more thing that I need to take care of before I deal with Dr. Stephens, and that's Carson. Yara told me that he wanted to die when he came in. I understand his fear. Not having a place in a pack is a terrible feeling for pack members. While we get ready this morning, Yara and I talk about the options and how we can possibly keep him running patrols. She explains to me about prosthetics and that it will take modifications on our part and his, but once he and his wolf gets used to wearing one, they can continue to remain at warrior status and help defend the pack.

But before that, we need to say goodbye to our allies and send them off.

When we get downstairs, the feeling in the pack is still festive and happy, and for the first time in my life, the pack feels relaxed. I look around, just enjoying the feeling in the pack. I notice that it's contagious and Harold's pack is looking more relaxed and jovial this morning as well. I also notice that Harold and Farrah are sitting close together. He has a very possessive look as he watches her and her look to him is very loving. If I were to guess, I'd say the risk of losing

Harold in the battle yesterday made Farrah face the reality of life without Harold and it looks like she's not willing to live without him.

I get my mate and I some food, then join her at the table with Harold, Farrah, and Henry.

"Good morning," I say, putting a plate of food in front of Yara before sitting beside her.

"It's a very good morning," Harold says and I'm confident now that Farrah has agreed to letting him mark her. I glance at her neck, seeing that it still has her previous marks only. When she catches my look and blushes, I know I'm right. Harold wraps his arm around her, kissing the side of her head. If I were him, I'd want to wait until I was home and could take my time too. Good for him.

"Will this feeling in the pack continue?" Henry says, looking around.

"I hope so. I think that will depend partially on how we run our packs and partially on whether any new enemies present themselves to us. But, I know for me, this is the first time in my life that my pack has felt this good, and I intend to do everything in my power to make sure this feeling continues."

"I would agree. I'm older than you are, Warren, and it's the first time I've felt this feeling in my pack," he says, looking at me. "Thank you for being the catalyst that made these changes in my pack and my life."

"It wasn't me, it was all Yara," I say and she laughs.

"I don't think so," she says, smiling up at me.

"Everything in my life changed the moment you entered it," I say, leaning in to kiss her.

"I think it's the partnership. You both bring something special to this pack, something that is needed. Together, you make a very powerful force and bring the cohesiveness that the pack needs. I've watched you, both of you, and your interactions with the pack. They respond to both of you as their leaders. You have strong ranked members, and that helps, but it's the two of you that are leading your pack into this next phase of life," Farrah says.

"I'm hopeful that our pack will have that as well, very soon," Harold says, grinning at his mate, who blushes again.

After breakfast, Yara, Charlie, Noelle, Haynes, Laney, and I walk Harold and his warriors outside, seeing them off. Before he leaves, I pull Harold aside.

"I hope all goes well with your marking and mating," I tell him.

He looks past me to where Farrah is talking to Yara and Savannah.

"She told me she didn't want to lose another man that she loves in this lifetime. She said life's too short to waste it on hate or regrets and it's about time she started living for love again." His voice gets thick as he talks, and I know he'll be a great mate to her.

"Giving the pack their heart makes all the difference in the world. We, as Alphas, can only do so much. It's why they're our soulmates. They give us everything that we are lacking in ourselves and bring the pack everything that we're not able to give them."

"It's been so long for me, that I'd forgotten, but seeing you and Yara and how the pack responds to both of you, has reminded me of just how important having a Luna, the right Luna, is for a pack."

"Let's talk soon. Maybe we can start having pack gatherings and eventually, I'd like to talk to Quirin, if he'll listen," I tell him.

He nods. "I have my work cut out for me there, but I'm hoping that Henry can help with that. They are only a year apart. Hopefully between the two of us, we can help him let go of his hate." 1

"Let me know what I can do. I'm always willing to speak to him, whenever he's ready."

"I'll let you know."

We say our goodbyes, and I pull Yara in for a hug. "Ready to go speak to Carson?"

"Let's do it."

We head over to the pack hospital and Yara leads me to Carson's room. He's awake, but the toll of losing his leg is evident on his face. Eva is here and looks like she hasn't slept in much too long.

"Warrior Carson," I say, as Yara goes to his medical file and looks over his status before beginning to look over his injuries.

"Hello, Alpha," he says.

I turn to Eva. "Warrior Eva, you look exhausted. You're carrying a pup and as a father-to-be, I can tell you that I don't like seeing those dark

circles under your eyes," I say to her.

Yara looks up from Carson's leg to look at Eva. "When's the last time you slept?"

She shrugs. "I've slept some."

"When's the last time you ate?" Yara continues.

Eva looks around. "What time is it."

"Go get some food, Warrior," I say to her.

She shakes her head. "I want to hear what you have to say," she says.

"Go get some food, Eva," Carson says gently.

"No! If you're getting kicked out of this pack, then I'm going with you," she says adamantly.

"Why would he be getting kicked out of the pack?" I ask them.

Carson gestures to his leg as if it's obvious.

"Carson, we talked about this before I operated on you. I know you were in a lot of pain, but I told you there are options," Yara says.

"What kind of options?" Eva asks.

Yara goes on to discuss prosthetics, one for Carson and one for his wolf.

"It will take getting used to, by both of you," Yara says, addressing Carson and Kane, his wolf. She goes on to explain that once he's

completely healed, he'll have to be fitted in both forms, and then he'll have to practice in both forms, but that she expects that he'll still be able to run patrols and fight. 1

"It will be different. It won't feel like it does now and you'll have to get used to the change in how your bodies move, but there's no reason you can't continue to be a warrior for this pack," Yara tells him.

Carson looks from her to me. I raise an eyebrow at him.

"You don't actually think I'm going to argue with my mate, do you? I've said many times that she's in charge of this hospital. If she says it can be done, it can be done. The hardest part, it sounds like, is you accepting that things will be different and being willing to put in the time and effort to adjust to those changes."

He looks from me to Eva's hopeful face and back to Yara. "You really think I can maintain my warrior status?"

"That will be up to you. But you're a fighter, a good one from everything I've heard about you. If you work to make this adjustment, you and Kane, then yes, I have no doubt that you can maintain your warrior status."

I watch him fight the tears that well in his eyes. His pregnant mate has no such restraint and she begins to cry. "Please say you'll try this, Carson. Please."

He looks at her and his eyes soften. "Of course I will. I never want to disappoint you, and no one wants to disappoint our Luna. If she says I can do it, then I'm damn sure going to do it."

"That's the spirit. I certainly don't like being disappointed," Yara says. She says it casually, but I know that her words will ensure that Carson recovers and figures out how to live his life a bit differently.

"Now Eva, time for you to eat and get some sleep," Yara says to her. "Carson, you need to stay another night and I'll check you tomorrow. Kane's not strong enough yet to have really started healing you. But if Eva spends some time here..."

"I'm not leaving," Eva insists.

"Then eat, and sleep so I don't have to kick you out of my hospital," Yara says firmly.

"Yes, Luna," Eva says.

"Can she sleep in bed with me?" Carson asks.

"If you can find a comfortable way to sleep, I have no issues with it. Just eat first or you'll start getting nauseous, Eva."

Carson gives Eva a look and I'm guessing that she's already either vomited or been feeling nauseous.

"Alright, when you're better, we'll set up a schedule for you to practice sparring one-on-one with me, Charlie, Haynes, or Laney until you get used to your new leg and how it works," I tell him.

"Thank you, Alpha. And thank you, Luna. You really are special. This pack is lucky to have you," he says and Eva agrees.

When we walk out of the room, I pull my mate to me.



"Carson's right. You're the most special woman in the world, and you're all mine."



Cooper



Author

"We're coming to the end..."



115



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