## Chapter 14

## Chapter 14

## Third Person

"Okay, so we know she's here. How are we supposed to get to her?" Harper asked as he looked down the corridor.

"As I've said. Be patient," Benny replied.

"How can you be so calm?!" Harper asked exasperatedly.

"When you've been a guard for the Royal Pack for as long as I've had, you learn to be patient. Besides, my patience is how I earned my title."

"What do you mean?"

"The Queen's father, General Delko, was the man who trained me, along with the Beta, Danny, and his Majesty, Stephen. There was a specic training exercise that Danny could never quite get right with the General, and it always ended with him having a broken nose," Benny began to explain as he reminisced about the good old days.

"Ouch."

"Indeed. Before I joined their team, there was another wolf by the name of Drako, a trusted comrade of His Majesty and Danny, who broke their trust. After he was sent to prison for his crimes, the General had auditions to nd a new guard for Her Majesty. Everyone failed the same training exercise Danny did. Everyone except me, that is."

"What was it?"

"Taking out the General. Everyone was too impatient and always rushed their attack and was always beaten with his counter. I was the only one to block the General's counterattack and take him down successfully."

"So, you're telling me rushing could be a bad thing?"

"No. I'm telling you, unless you want to end up with a broken face, the way the Royal Beta did, then have patience." Harper couldn't help but roll his eyes. He sat down and waited.

"What did that guy do to break the King's trust?" Harper asked out of nowhere.

"I beg your pardon?"

"That guy who betrayed the King and the Royal Beta. What did he do?"

"He attempted to take advantage of the Queen."

"What do you mean by take advantage?" Benny looked at Harper and quirked an eyebrow. "Oh." Benny nodded when he saw that Harper understood. Harper said nothing else. About an hour passed when they heard someone going down the corridor toward Kalea. Then, a <u>few minutes later, they heard someone else.</u>

"What do you think is happening?" Harper asked.

"I don't know." Benny was also becoming increasingly worried. He had been ever since those wolves told him the pack's Gamma hurt Kalea. He didn't know the extent of her injuries but would soon learn just how badly she had been injured. The next second, he and Harper could hear someone calling for a hospital room to be cleared. They could see shadows of people running out of the dungeon. Benny could clearly see that someone was carrying another person. "Princess?" Benny whispered to himself.

"What's going on? What's happening?" Harper asked.

"I don't know, but I think her injuries are more extensive than we thought."

"What do we do? How do we help her?"

"We'll have to wait and see what happens," Benny replied.

"Are you serious? Why not just tell them who she is?" Harper asked.

"Because that would put her in unnecessary danger."

"Newsash! She's already in danger!" Harper harped.

"She's being taken to the hospital. If she were in danger right now, then they wouldn't be getting her medical treatment."

"Why are you so hardheaded!?"

"Because I'm old. Now, keep quiet. We can't let anyone know who she is," Benny snapped.

"I should have just stayed at Silver Moon."

"Then you would be dead."

"And how the hell would you know that?"

"Have you already forgotten who Kalea is?" Benny sneered.

"What? No."

"Then ask yourself what's going to happen when the Queen nds out that her only grandchild was bullied her entire life? Rejected and put through the pain of indelity for three years on end!?"

"Wait, what?" Harper stopped Benny from speaking.

"What?" Benny asked.

"Did you just say Kalea felt the pain of indelity for three years?" Harper questioned.

"Yes."

"But Josh rejected her. She accepted it. Why would she ...?" Harper paused as he thought about what could have happened. "Wait, hold on. Josh he rejected her using her adopted name. That means—" he looked to Benny, who all but nodded. "Holy sh\*t. So, wait, are you saying that the rejection didn't actually go through? Josh and Kalea are still mates?"

"Yes."

"So, then all those times that Josh and Cora?" Benny nodded. "Their marks. That's why their marks looked like something out of a horror movie. How did she survive all that pain?"

"Because she is stronger than you think." Harper gaped at Benny. He had no idea that Kelea suffered so much. He felt like the biggest a\*shole. He couldn't even begin to grasp the amount of graveling he would have to do when he saw Kalea again. Benny and Harper were so immersed in their conversation that they didn't realize that someone was listening to them.

The guard who was meant to watch over Kalea's cell had overheard their conversation on his way out of the dungeon to stand watch at the door. He was shocked to learn that Kalea had been rejected before, but it was done incorrectly. Thankfully, he hadn't heard the rst part of their conversation. He had to tell Kurt what he had learned, but he couldn't leave the dungeon yet. He was still on duty, and he would be the rest of the night. He made a mental note to tell Kurt what he had overheard once he was off duty.

In the hospital, Kalea was recuperating. Kurt continued to watch over her, knowing that she would eventually wake up and wonder where she was. He was afraid that the injury to her head could have caused permanent damage. Dr. Robbyns had explained that until she regained consciousness, they wouldn't know the extent of the injury.

Throughout the night, Kalea's vitals continued to stabilize, and Dr. Robbyns was hopeful that she would awaken in the morning. Sure enough, she was right. The following day, just after sun-up, Kalea started to stir from her slumber. Her movements caught Kurt's attention. He watched with anticipation as Kalea's eyes nally opened.

"Mmmm ...." she groaned as the pain took over.

"Whoa, hey, easy there," Kurt told her.

"Wha ... Where am I?"

"You're in the pack hospital."

"Hospital?" Kalea squeezed her eyes as she tried to think back to what happened.

"Don't move too much. Let me get the doctor to check on you," Kurt instructed. Kalea nodded softly. Kurt left the room and was surprised to nd the dungeon guard outside the room. "What are you doing here?" Kurt asked.

"Beta, there's something you need to know about the girl," the guard replied.

"Can't it wait? I need to get Dr. Robbyns."

"It's important, sir."

"Fine. Tell me, fast."

"Well, the two other prisoners-"

"What two other prisoners?"

"Sir? You ... You didn't know that ... Oh ..."

"When were two others brought to the dungeon?"

"The day after the girl, sir."

"And why wasn't I told about this!?"

"I was under the impression that you were, sir," the guard started to shake, seeing that Kurt was getting angry.

"We'll talk about this later. Tell me what I need to know about the girl."

"Well, it has to do with those other two prisoners, sir. They were talking about her. It seems that the younger of the two came from the same pack as her. Her former mate apparently rejected her and ran away because of his rejection."

"Holy sh\*t," Kurt grumbled.

"But that's not the important thing I wanted to tell you."

"There's more?"

"Yes. According to what I overheard, the rejection wasn't done properly. The girl was

adopted, and her mate rejected her using her adopted name."

"That shouldn't matter; that would be her identity," Kurt responded.

"Well, that's not what the older one said. He said that because she wasn't rejected using her birth name, the bond is still intact. And the mate who rejected her had chosen another mate."

"Wait, if the bond were still intact, then her mate having chosen another would have caused..."

"Yes, Beta. That's what the prisoner said to his cellmate."

"Oh my God," Kurt heaved a sigh as he placed his hand on his forehead from the overload of information. "Did they say which pack they came from?"

"No, sir."

"Sh\*t. Okay. Thanks for telling me. Keep this to yourself."

"Yes, Beta." The guard turned away while Kurt went to nd Dr. Robbyns. He played the information over and over in his head when something suddenly clicked.

"Hold up. Rejected. Mate took a chosen one. No way." Kurt eventually found Dr. Robbyns and had her come to check on Kalea. By the time they arrived, Kalea had fallen asleep again. "She was awake when I left her," Kurt said.

"It's ne, Beta. Her waking up even for a few minutes is progress. It means that she's healing. Though, she would heal faster if she had a mate."

"What?"

"Oh, nothing."

"No, Doc. What did you say?"

"I said that having a mate would help her heal, even if she didn't have a wolf. The mate bond, as you know, works in mysterious ways. One of them is helping mates heal faster when injured. Regardless of whether she has a wolf counterpart, the bond between mates would help her recuperate faster. Not as fast as having her wolf, but still," the doctor explained.

"Right. Hey, Doc, do you mind having a nurse watch her? I have something I need to take care of," Kurt rapidly said.

"Of course."

"Thank you!" Kurt ran out of the hospital room. Dr. Robbyns shook her head.

"Young men. Always in such a hurry."

Kurt had to make two stops, and his rst stop would be the dungeons. He had no idea that there were two others. He was going to kill whoever brought them, but rst, he needed to nd out who the prisoners were.

"Beta, what can I do for you?" The morning guard asked.

"Where are the other two prisoners?"

"In the south wing of the dungeon."

"Have they been mistreated?"

"No, Beta. They've been given food and water."

"Who brought them in?"

"I'm not sure. I wasn't here when they were brought in."

"Find out who arrested them and why."

"Yes, Beta."

"Open the door." The guard nodded and did as he was told. Kurt went down to the south wing of the dungeon and found the two other prisoners. Before he could even get a word out, he was greeted by Benny.

"Well, that took a lot longer than I had hoped. But better late than never, I suppose."

"Are you British?"

"I am. My name is Benjamin Scout, but I go by Benny."

"And who are you?" Kurt asked Harper.

"Harper Calhoun."

"I'm going to ask you two a series of questions, and I expect honest answers."

"It would be respectful if you introduced yourself to us as well," Benny stated.

"I'm Kurt, Beta of this pack. Now, why are you two here?"

"We were brought here by your pack members who considered us rogues," Benny answered.

"Are you not rogues?"

"I am, unfortunately. He's a lone wolf," Harper answered.

"Why are you a rogue, and he's not?"

"I denounced my pack."

"Why?"

"Because my Alpha was an idiot."

"Let me guess, you're from Silver Moon?"

"How did you know?"

"Lucky guess."

"She's not a rogue if that is what you are wondering. I told her to run to save herself from the attack," Benny explained.

"Benny was our history teacher in school. Kalea and I have known him since we were little."

"Kalea? Is that her name?" Harper and Benny nodded.

"How is she? I saw that you took her to the hospital," Benny asked.

"She had to have emergency surgery last night. Our i\*\*\*t Gamma gave her a serious head injury, and it became infected due to her being denied medical care."

"What?" Benny growled. "YOU DENIED HER MEDICAL CARE!?" He roared, shaking the cell. Kurt jumped back in surprise.

"I-I-I didn't. O-o-our Gamma did."

"That is unlawful! Even if she were a rogue!"

"I know. That's why he's been severely punished. He's currently on probation while our Alpha speaks to the Elders about his actions."

"Why do you need to speak with your Elders? Your Alpha should have more than enough authority to banish him," Harper questioned.

"Because the Elders appointed him while our Alpha was away at training."

"That sucks." Kurt nodded.

"What else do you know about the girl? Kalea, right?"

"She's innocent. Whatever harm your Gamma has inicted on her will not go unpunished," Benny said.

"I already told you, he's—"

"Do you honestly believe that probation and the stripping of his title are sucient? You and your Alpha might think so, but I can tell you that there is someone much more powerful who will say otherwise. And when she nds out what has happened to Kalea, there will be hell to pay."

"And who might that be?"

"You will soon nd out. Now, I would like to be taken to her."

"I can't just-"

"You can, and you will, Beta Kurt."

"What makes you think you can just demand—"

"Because of this," Benny stated as he shoved something in Kurt's face. When Kurt saw what it was, he was shocked to his core. Harper had no idea what was going on, but he could tell that whatever Benny showed Kurt had him nearly defecating himself.

"Wh... How... Who ..." Kurt stammered.

"Open this damn cell, and take us to Kalea." Kurt nodded and went to retrieve the key from the guard. He was shaking. There was no way what he saw was real.

"Beta, is everything all right?"

"Uh, give me the keys."

"Sir?"

"Give me the damn keys!" The guard quickly did as he was told. Kurt went back and opened the cell. He led Benny and Harper to the pack hospital and straight to Kalea's room. When Benny saw her head wrapped up and her body hooked up to multiple monitors, his insides were raging.

"Harper, you stay here and watch over her. No one is allowed to come near her without my authorization." Harper nodded. Benny shoved Kurt out of his way, and Kurt let him, knowing that nothing could be done. The hospital staff was shocked to see Kurt blatantly disrespected, but he did nothing about it. Benny walked up to the nurse's station and asked to use the phone. The nurse nodded. Kurt could only tremble, fearing the worst when he saw Benny making a call.