

The Rejected Werewolf Princess by Didiadeyemi Chapter 130-140

Chapter 130

CAMILLA'S POV

As soon as I left the room, I rushed over to find Christine. She had gone to her room and locked the door. I knocked but she was content to ignore it. I didn't quite blame her, she wanted to be alone, I would too after everything that happened. I had just considered giving up and leaving when I saw Riley walk up to the door. Her tears had dried but her eyes were still a little red and swollen. I glanced at her warily but she just walked over to the door and knocked.

"It's Riley, please open it."

There was silence on the other end of the door for a full minute before I heard the lock turn. Christine pulled the door wide open and I got a good glimpse of her. She wasn't crying- at least there was no sign that she was- but she looked exhausted. There looked to be a thousand years worth of weight in her eyes. She glanced at Riley and I before pulling the door open and letting us both in.

"You really need to learn to take a hint, Camilla," she drawled once I had walked into the room. "I don't mean to be rude but I have things that I need to do so if there is a specific reason why you want to be here then-"

"Can we just call a ceasefire and put down our weapons for five minutes?" Riley asked making us both turn to her. "We're women, we should be supporting each other and not fighting. I just want to talk and once I am done, I will be out of your hair. You do not have to worry about that at all."

Christine watched her with wary and narrowed eyes for a second before nodding. She took the seat at the edge of the bed with her hands clasped in front of her. "I'm listening."

"I just wanted to apologize. That outburst was completely uncalled for and I should have never pushed him to making that decision in front of you. It was selfish and a complete disregard of your emotions. I knew what he was going to say and I wanted you to hear it because the truth is that I was jealous. I

thought that maybe if he said it in front of you then maybe it would help. That was wrong and I apologize.”

“There is nothing to apologize for,” Christine said after a beat of silence. “I needed the reality check, I rejected him. All he has to do is accept it. I should have never come between you in the first place. I should have done this since day one.”

There was silence and a look passed between the two women. It felt like I was intruding on a personal moment but I couldn't find it in myself to lift my legs and leave. I wanted to be sure that everything was settled under good terms. A fight between the two of them would be disastrous, not just for them but also for everyone else involved. It could wreck the very foundations of our family.

“I really hope that you two are happy together,” Christine spoke softly and what hurt the most was that I knew she meant it. She was truly going to drop everything and leave them to their devices.

“I'm not sure if I want to be with him anymore,” Riley admitted and I turned so fast that I almost got whiplash. “I just feel like he didn't respect me enough to make a decision on his own. I wasn't enough for him to choose and I understand because look at you,” she gestured at Christine. “I wouldn't want to choose either. I was living off a childhood fantasy and I think it is about time that I moved on from it.”

“So you don't want to mate with him anymore?” I asked to be sure that I knew what she was saying.

“No, I do, but I'm not going to blindly walk into it and pretend like he has no faults which is what I have been doing. I am an adult and I think it is about time that I started acting like it,” she exhaled deeply. “I had the best example of what a male figure should be like in Ryker and he would have never done this so if he doesn't meet the mark then I'll just let it go.”

“I like that for you,” I whispered and she gave me a small watery smile.

“It's going to be really difficult” she whispered with a small laugh but I think I can do it. I'm going to make sure that I do it.”

“I hope it works out for you,” Christine told her honestly, “and if you ever need space from him then the palace is open to you. Your brother is a ruler. I don't think anyone would bat an eye.”

Riley shook her head. "I think I am done running from my problems for a while. That pack is my home and I'm not going

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to let anything chase me out of it." She smiled. "Thank you for listening to me and talking to me. I really hope that at some point, we could be friends."

It took a beat of silence before Christine said, "I hope so too."

Riley left immediately after while I stayed back for a minute to check back on Christine and make sure she was okay. Once I was sure that she wasn't going to burst into a fit of tears, I decided to leave. I pulled the door open when I noticed Alara standing a few feet away and walking down. Normally, it shouldn't have been suspicious but I was already on edge when it came to her due to the amount of times I had seen her lurking in places she shouldn't.

"Do you need something?" I asked and her eyes widened for a second before she shook her head. "You're not supposed to be here, at least, I don't think you are."

"You're right, I was actually just asked to clean a few things," she chuckled awkwardly. "The person who was supposed to do it wasn't available and I just stepped up."

I hummed under my breath as I watched her squirm. "Well, I am sure it would please you to know that the threat with the vampires has been extinguished. It would be safe for you to leave to meet your uncle soon. Perhaps you could come with me so that we can pen a letter to him to inform him of your potential arrival?"

She looked stunned for a second but she quickly nodded with a smile that didn't quite reach her eyes. "Of course, that would be amazing Thank you for hosting me this long. I can't wait to go home. I hope he responds quickly enough."

“Well then, shall we?”

She walked with me to my office where I penned down the letter. I gave it the royal seal and personally handed it over to be delivered. She had been smiling during the entire ordeal but something about her smile didn't quite sit right with me. It was edgy and almost too perfect. Once we were done, she bowed and excused herself before disappearing into the palace. I made a mental note to keep an eye on her but that was quickly forgotten when Ryker walked up to me holding Aurora in his hands.

“This little one was crying and didn't want to be put down,” he mused aloud as he came over to me. The corner of my lips broke out into a smile and I blew a raspberry at her which made her giggle. “I think that after what they have been through they need a second to unwind, don't you?”

“I think that would be an amazing idea. What do you have in mind?”

“Nothing special or dramatic, perhaps we could just spend the weekend together doing nothing. It has been a very long time since we did nothing.”

“I think I would like that,” I blew another raspberry in Aurora's direction before straightening. “What about Damien? What did you say to him?”

“Nothing he didn't already know or suspect,” he shrugged. “I just told him to get his shit together. I hope he actually listens.” “When is he heading back?”

“Soon, probably later today, he took a lot of guards and with Riley here, the pack is undefended. I informed him that Riley wouldn't be going with him though. If she wants, she can leave tomorrow but I don't want them to be stuck on a journey that long with this unresolved issue between them,” I sighed deeply and he reached out for me. “They'll work it out, somehow.”

“I know that,” I assured him. “I am just worried about how long it will take before that happens and what could potentially be lost on the journey there.”

“Fortunately, that is not for us to worry about. We have done our parts and the rest is up to them. All we need to do is be supportive no matter what they choose.”

There was a look in his eye, one that told me he already knew or suspected what the end result would be and he didn't like it one bit.

“What is it?” I asked but he shook his head. “Tell me, please.”

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“I think it is better if we just let things play out,” I opened my mouth to protest but he cut me off. “Come, Camilla, we have the entire weekend to ourselves. I want us to spend it with our children and not talking about the weird love triangle going on in our family.”

I realized he wasn't going to budge at all so I sighed deeply and took his hands. He gave me a small smile to thank me for not pushing and we made our way further into the house together.

“What were you even doing outside?” he asked after a minute of silence. “I went to Christine's room and then your office to look for you but she didn't know where you were.”

“I went with Alara,” his brows raised. “I took her to send a letter to her uncle so that she could leave as soon as possible.”

He was quiet for a second before nodding. “Good, she hasn't done anything yet but I don't trust her as far as I can throw her.”

“Neither do I,” I admitted. “There is something off about her and I would rather not find out.”

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CAMILLA'S P.O.V

Damien didn't really tell anyone when he left and only Ryker and I went to see him off. There was some disappointment on his face at the turnout but he couldn't really have expected anything different considering what was happening at that point. Once he was gone. I tried to rope Riley and Christine into joining us for some quiet time in the private library with the girls but neither of them wanted to. They were more than happy to remain locked in their rooms. I wanted to help him, the problem was that I didn't know how. I

couldn't imagine how they both felt and I figured the best thing to do would have been to leave them alone.

I was fully prepared for her to leave the next morning so imagine my shock when she came to me and begged to stay for another few days. I immediately agreed because I wanted her to be safe and happy. It was the last time I saw her the entire day because while we were speaking, I saw Caius. It was unusual for any of the elders to seek me out so seeing him in the private living room led me to realize that there some something horribly wrong.

I quickly mind linked Ryker and he was able to meet me in front of the council room. We walked in and I was shocked to see the other elders there. They were seated as usual but there was something in the air that made it feel more like an interrogation and not a meeting. I glanced over at Ryker only to see that he was thinking the same thing I was. He reached out for my hand and squeezed it tightly as we made our way inside. The eyes followed us but I tried my best to ignore them. I was the Queen, there was no reason why I should be worried about overgrown men children.

"Is there a reason why you wanted to meet?" I asked as soon as I had taken the seat.

"Some concerns have been raised in the towns," Caius began slowly with a look at the others. "It started as a whisper here and there but the towns folk are running with it and it might prove disastrous if it is allowed to-"

"For fuck sake, Caius, just get to the point," another elder snarled before turning to me. "Did you burn the body of the vampire king?"

I stared at them blankly. "What does that have to do with anything?"

"There are whispers among the people because they think he will come back. You didn't burn the body."

"I don't know how they know that but regardless, I cut his head off, no one can survive that. If that is all then we can officially call this meeting to a close. I cannot believe you would call me out for something as miniscule and trivial as this. Do you not have better things to do?"

I started to rise but Caius stopped me with his words. "There is something else, and it is more important," I stopped and took a seat. "There have also been whispers about the vampire king wanting to recruit you before he died. I

don't know where the information came from but the people have been running with it. Some say that you are now a vampire and ruling in his stead while others say that everything that happened was of your planning. We need to know if this is rea

I couldn't respond to them, I turned to Ryker who seemed to have the same confused expression on his face that I did. There were only a few people in that cave including him and Damien. I knew Damien would not say anything and neith would Christine. All the vampires who were there were dead as well so who could have spilled it? Was there someone els the cave that I missed because of my rage?

"All you need to know is that I am not a vampire and I was not working with Alastair Why would I work with the man who tried to kill my children more than once? It makes no sense. Why would the people even believe it?"

"It doesn't have to make sense to them, they are terrified," Caius explained softly. "They are looking for someone to blame for their fear and you are the most viable option. Your majesty, you need to be very careful how you proceed after this. Even the slightest scandal can throw this kingdom on its side. We will work to dissuade the people of their beliefs."

I ran my hands through my hair in frustration. "What you need to do is find out where and how the rumors started. The people will realize on their own that their rumors hold no consequence. There is a lot that I might be guilty of but fraternizing with a psychopathic vampire is not one of them. If that is all-"

"About your powers too," he cut me off and I resisted the urge to let out a groan.

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"Is this an interrogation?" Ryker cut in. "Is this truly as a result of the people's questions or is this just to satisfy your own curiosity. How come we have not heard the whispers? How have they not reached the ears of the palace yet?"

"They will soon but when they do, it will be too late and our job is to prevent the scandals from happening, not watch them happen, your majesty," even

though Caius was telling us off, he was doing it in the most respectable tone possible. “Perhaps you should do something for the people with your new powers, maybe it will remind them of who you are on the inside. If they can see that they have nothing to fear in regards to you then it should help quell their rumors.”

“My new powers do not work the way you think they do and I will not go into details explaining them. Thank you for the information elders, but I think it is time that you focused on your part of the job and allowed me focus on mine. My powers are my business and no one else’s and I refuse to be turned into a show animal for the entertainment of others.”

“That wasn’t-”

“I think we can call it a day now.”

It was a clear dismissal and they took it for face value because they all stood to their feet and bowed as one. I watched as they exited in a single file. Once they were gone, I turned to Ryker only to find him already looking at me. There was so much at the tip of my tongue but he held out a hand to stop me.

“Relax,” he ordered. “I know what you’re thinking and no, it cannot be Alastair. He is dead and gone. He didn’t come back from the grave to spread rumors about you and destroy your kingdom.”

“if it isn’t him then that means there is someone else that we didn’t take into account. There was someone else that we missed and we are paying for it.”

“We will catch them,” he assured me as he cupped my cheeks, “when we do, we will make them answer for their crimes. Do not conjure up problems in your head that have not happened yet. Just focus on what you have in front of you and we will make do with that, okay?”

I nodded hesitantly and he gave me a small smile before kissing me. I immediately melted against him as his tongue parted my lips and slipped into my mouth. I let out a moan to which his hands trailed down to my waist and pulled me closer against him. He was warm and hard and I wanted to feel him underneath the many layers of clothes that he had on.

As if he knew exactly what I was thinking about, he pulled back. “As much as it is a dream to take you over this table, I don’t want to give anyone a view.”

“We’re alone,” I pouted, “and no one comes in here anyway,”

He let out a groan and placed a wet kiss on my collarbone. “You make a very compelling argument, Camilla,” he lifted me by the hips and placed me on the table. “Do you want to know where I really want to take you?”

I nodded.

“On your throne,” he whispered as he bunched up my dress around my waist. “I want you to ride me to oblivion on that seat. I want my Queen on my dick, what do you think?”

I let out a strangled moan once his fingers grazed my slit. “It sounds like an amazing idea. Can we make it happen?”

“I’m sure we can think of something,” he claimed my lips with his once again as his fingers pushed into me slowly. He was spearing me with two fingers and I was so lost in the troughs of pleasure that I vaguely heard him undo his slacks.

The head of his cock nudged my opening and I hissed. I wanted to see him but due to the many layers of clothes, it was nearly impossible. He parted my legs even wider for him and trailed his hands down to my ass to give it a squeeze. My legs wrapped around his hips of their own accord and in one move, he gripped my ass and entered me.

My head fell forward and I bit down on his shoulder to smother the moan that threatened to rip from my throat. Ryker was holding me close as he started to move. A moan left my lips and he hissed.

“You have to be quiet, baby, can you do that?” I nodded because words had failed me at that moment. “Good girl, I’m going to fuck you right here then take you back to our room and do it again so that I can feel you against me while I do.”

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His name slipped from my lips.

“I would normally take that as approval but today I need your words,” he gripped my chin in his hands and forced me to look at him. “Say the words.”

“Yes.”

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RYKER'S PO.V

There was something intoxicating about Camilla. Maybe it was because I was hopelessly in love with her or maybe it was because she could do no wrong in my eyes. I loved being able to take my time while exploring her body, I loved being able to hold her close right after and know that there was nothing and no one urgently waiting to get our attention. I loved the pace. Growing up, my father had always told me that a man was defined by what he did during times of war but I disagreed, I believed that a man was defined by what he did when there was peace, how he treated the people around him and how he handled his affairs.

I would never delude myself into believing that I was a good man but I treated my family with the respect that they deserved and for me- that was everything. As I looked down at my mate who was curled up by my side with her head lying gently on my chest, I chose to believe that maybe I had done something right and maybe I wasn't the worst of men.

I kissed her forehead softly and she mumbled a few words before continuing to snore softly. I should have been sleeping as well considering how exhausted I was but sleep eluded me. It felt almost impossible to close my eyes and achieve that peace but I was fine with just watching Camilla. If that was all I did for the rest of my life then I would die a happy man.

I felt a nudge at the back of my mind. It was almost soft and hesitant as if the person was unsure. I instantly pulled down my wall and I recognized the presence as belonging to Riley. I stayed silent not wanting to push her because I knew my sister and I knew that if I pushed her, she would quickly shut down and hide away.

“Are you busy?” she asked softly. “It's fine if you

are

I just wanted to know if you were available so that I could talk to you for a while." I started to speak but she cut me off. "You know what, never mind, I should never have brought this up in the first place. Forget that I even-

"Riley," I interrupted and she went silent. "Do you want me to

O come to your room?"

There was a pause. "Yes please, I just don't know what to do anymore."

"I'll be there in a few minutes."

I broke off the mind link immediately. I looked down at Camilla and while I didn't want to leave her side, I knew that Riley needed me. I had expected her to reach out to me but she was proud- maybe even more so than me and I didn't expect her to do it until she was out of options. I must have either overestimated her pride or underestimated how well she thought of

I gently pulled myself out of bed and I let out a sigh of relief when Camilla didn't stir. I pulled on my clothes in record speed and rushed over to her room. Her door was open and the moment I saw her, my heart cracked. I closed the door behind me but she didn't look up from her spot at the edge of the bed. I took the spot next to her and held out my hand but she didn't take it, instead, she placed her head on my shoulder. It reminded me of when she was younger and terrified of my father. I would spend the night in her room and sit by the edge of the bed.

I suppose that was where my insomnia began because I was terrified that if I closed my eyes, he would come in and hurt her so I would stay awake the entire night. It was taxing and stressful but every time she hugged me and called me the best brother, it made things worth it.

"What do you

think I should do?" she asked after a moment of silence. "I trust you more than I trust anyone in the world and I promise that I will do whatever you say."

"I can't tell you what to do," I could feel her outrage. It wasn't the answer she was looking for but it was the only one I could give to her. "I'm sorry, Riley, but

I can't take your problems away with a wave of my hand. I wish I could, I want to, I don't think you deserve this at all but there is nothing I can do about it."

"You're my brother, you're supposed to give me advice."

"I can give you advice but I cannot tell you what to do. Those aren't the same things," I explained slowly. "I think you are an amazing woman and I know that a man who respects you will never make you feel like an option. I know that you liked Damien from a young age and maybe some part of you feels obligated to go on with it but the thing is, he was your first love, that doesn't mean he has to be your last."

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"What do you mean?"

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A part of you will always love him, there is nothing you can do about it. I am not asking you to leave him, I would never ask you to do that. I believe that you both might have the tendency to be a good match sometime in the future but-

She shot up from beside me. "You think Christine is better for him?"

"No, I think neither of you should give him the time of day," I admitted and she stared at me with wide eyes. "Damien is my best friend but even I can admit that he isn't the most emotionally mature person in the world. I think you all have a lot of growing up to do and perhaps you should do it away from each other. Give it a while, Riley and then revisit it."

"How long is a while?"

"I am afraid that only you can answer that."

She let out a sigh of defeat. I wished I could tell her more but she was never going to grow if I made all her choices for her. She was an adult now and she needed to get to the point in her life where she was able to stand on her own and face life head on. I already knew what decision she was going to take and

the truth was that she knew it too. She just needed a little push in that direction to help her figure it out.

“Do you think anyone will be upset if I travel for a while?” she asked and I shook my head. “I still have a few packs in Europe that I have never seen before. Perhaps you and Camilla can help me reach out to them for passage. You had a lot of reach as an Alpha, imagine what you will have as prince consort.”

I couldn't help but smile. “I'll see what I can do and I'll talk to Camilla once she wakes up.”

Her eyes widened. “Were you asleep? I am so sorry that I woke you up. You should have told me that you were busy. I would have never bothered you.”

“You didn't bother,” I assured her as I stood to my feet. “I am always here for you, no matter what

you need.”

She wrapped her arms around my torso. “Thank you, Ryker. I am so grateful to have you as my brother. I know I don't tell you always but I love you.”

“I love you too,” I placed a kiss in the center of her head.

“Can you do one more thing for me?” she asked and I hummed. “If Damien asks, please don't tell him where I'm going. I don't want him to be able to contact me.”

“You can consider it done. Take as much time as you need. Everything will still be waiting for you when you get back.”

I pulled back from her and gave her a small smile which she returned.

“You should go back before Camilla wakes up.”

We said our final goodbyes and I decided to take a detour to my office so I could put down a note to check the territories that we had ties with for Riley to visit. I was going to make her trip as long as possible because the longer she stayed away, the better for her. She needed the chance to explore the world and see other things and people. She needed the chance to meet new people and make her own mistakes.

After I had made the note, I decided to stop by the kitchen for some fruit slices. I had a feeling that Camilla was going to be hungry when she woke up and I wanted to make sure that she had something waiting for her when she did. I arranged an entire bowl for her and a small apple for myself when I heard a crash from outside the kitchen. I immediately rushed out to check what had happened but the hall was empty.

I knew something was up because the sound had to have come from somewhere. I couldn't smell anyone around so it meant that either my ears were playing tricks on me or I genuinely heard something and the person had disappeared. After checking for a while and realizing that no one was there, I decided to return to the kitchen. Thankfully, everything was where I left it and I took a bite out of my apple.

"Your majesty," I turned sharply to the source of the voice and saw Alara standing there, "I didn't expect to see you here. Is there something you need?"

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"No, why are you here?"

"I was

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working down the hall when I heard some footsteps. I even accidentally knocked down of the shields from the suits of armor," she chuckled awkwardly and I guess it was a good explanation for the crash. "I can help you if you need something."

"No thanks, I think I can handle myself." I took a step forward when I felt the room spin. "Are you alright, your majesty?"

"Yes I just need to-"

The spinning got worse and I felt her hands on me. "Let me help you."

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Chapter 133

CAMILLA'S P.O.V

I woke up to an empty bed and no Ryker. I assumed he had gone to speak to Riley so I just ignored it and went along with my day. It wasn't until when night fell and I didn't see him that I realized that perhaps there was more to it than I could have imagined. I didn't want to bother Christine or Riley so I went looking for him. I checked his office first and saw his notes but not him. By that time, I was already worrying but I managed to shove it down long enough to approach one of the guards.

"Have you see the prince?" I asked and they looked at each other awkwardly. "I asked you a question and I expect an answer."

"He was in the kitchen at first but then he left with one of the maids," I didn't miss the insinuation in his voice but I ignored it. The Ryker I knew would never do anything like that with anyone.

I walked past them and checked the kitchen but there was no sign that he had been there. The maids were running around trying to clear up the dishes that we used for dinner. Once they saw me, they froze and bowed simultaneously but I couldn't be bothered to give them a proper response. I just waved them off.

"Did any of you happen to see the prince today?" I asked and just like with the guards, they glanced at each other awkwardly and would not meet my eyes. "I am five seconds away from losing my patience so will someone stop staring so dumbly and give me an answer."

"I can take you to him," a maid stepped out. Everyone stared at her with wide eyes almost as if she was making a mistake but she ignored them. "I saw him a few minutes ago when I took dinner to him."

I let out a sigh of relief. "Finally, lead the way."

She led me down the halls towards the servants quarters. I had never really been there and I was shocked to see how simple and organized it was. There were whispers as we walked past and I heard the word 'prince' thrown around

a few times. It felt like the palace was ablaze with a secret and I had no idea what it was. The maid stopped in front of a door and bowed.

“You should find him here,” before I could thank him, she gathered her skirts and practically ran off.

Her behavior was strange but I paid no heed to it. Instead, I pushed open the door only to find Ryker lying shirtless on the bed. He looked to be fast asleep and there was a tray of food next to him. I couldn't for the life of me figure out why he passed out in the servant's quarters instead of coming back to the room to be with me. I gently shut the door and rushed up to his side to wake him up but he wasn't rousing at all. I shook his shoulders harder than I normally would but there was still

no response.

“Since when do you sleep like the dead?” I grunted as I tried to shake him awake again.

I was contemplating splashing some water in his face when I heard some noise from one of the doors in the room. I instantly grabbed the knife on the tray and poised it as a weapon when the door opened and Alara walked out. Her red hair was wet and hung down her shoulders with water droplets falling to the ground in a precise manner. She was wearing a simple white nightdress that left almost nothing to the imagination.

“Are you awake your-” she trailed off when she saw me and I stood there with my brows raised. She immediately cast her eyes to the ground and made to cover herself. “I didn't know it was you, your majesty. I was just,” she glanced at Ryker with guilt. “I apologize.”

I looked from her to Ryker and dropped the knife back on the tray in favor of picking up the glass. “If this is your way of trying to make me believe that you are having an affair with my mate then you are sorely mistaken.”

I splashed the water on him and he jerked up instantly. He spluttered as he tried to get the droplets out of his face. He saw me first and he let out a sigh of relief but then he took in the room and his panic returned. He shot to a standing position and met Alara's gaze.

“What the fuck is happening here?” he asked as he ran his hands through his soaking wet hair. “Why am I half naked? Why is she half naked? What the fuck is going on?”

“Relax,” I told him before turning to Alara. “I don’t know what game you’re playing here but I am done. I want you out of the

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palace before noon tomorrow or you will pay with your life, am I clear?"

Her

eyes again.”

widened and she fell to her knees. “Your majesty, please, it was just one time and it was never going to happen

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“I don’t care for your half assed explanations, Alara. I am done dealing with you. If you are still here by noon then you will answer for your treason,” I turned to Ryker and found his shirt lying on a nearby chair. I grabbed it and threw it onto his chest. “Put this on please so we can get out of here.”

He didn’t protest, he did exactly as I had asked and within a few seconds, we were out of there. The halls were still ablaze with maids who were watching the scene with wide and hungry eyes. I ignored them and kept my head high but Ryker looked confused. He looked more disorganized than I had ever seen him in my life.

As soon as we got to the room, he started speaking. “Camilla, I have no idea how I got there and I know how it looks but I didn’t-”

“I know you didn’t so you can stop explaining but what I don’t know is how you actually got there because this does not look good and the last thing we need right now is a scandal so you better come up with a good story.”

“I was with Riley, she told me that she wanted to travel. After I left her, I went to my office and took a detour to the kitchen but I don’t remember getting there or anything else after that,” I knew he was being honest but I also knew that honesty was going to get us nowhere.

“That’s not a good enough story,” I told him and he frowned. “When I went looking for you, it was almost as if everyone already knew where you were. She couldn’t have dragged you there, you are much bigger than her and she doesn’t have the strength to do that. People are going to say that you walked in there by yourself. It doesn’t align with your story.”

“My story is the truth.”

“No one would care about that!” I yelled and he fell silent. I ran my hands through my hair and let out an exasperated breath. “I know you are saying the truth and so do you but do you think anyone else will care? I can vouch for

you all I want but all people will see is a woman afraid to confront the fact that her mate was cheating.”

He seemed to realize what I was saying because he bowed his head in defeat. “I’m sorry, fuck, I don’t know how this happened but I am sorry that I put you in this position.”

“It’s fine,” I assured him with a warm smile. “We can get to the bottom of this. Alara is leaving tomorrow so it means we have one less thing to worry about. The people will talk but talk can always be dispelled. I just want to go to bed and think about it

tomorrow.”

“I truly am sorry,” he repeated again and I gave him a small smile in return.

Neither of us were able to sleep and for the first time in a long time, we slept on opposite ends of the bed. Despite the fact that he took a shower and changed his clothes, I couldn’t bring myself to lie next to him. It wasn’t that I was upset, it just didn’t feel right.

By the next morning, I was exhausted but I knew there was a lot to do. I had barely gotten out of my room when Christine rushed up to me. She looked like she had rolled out of bed without bothering to care for her hair which was very unlike her.

“There is a rumor ablaze,” she began and I nodded. She gasped when she realized that I already knew. “What is going on, Camilla?”

“We cannot talk about this here. The walls have ears and I don’t want it to carry.”

She nodded in understanding and managed to keep her curiosity at bay while we walked towards my office. Ryker had left earlier in the morning and I assumed that he was in his. As soon the door to my office closed shut. She turned to me.

“They are saying that he walked into the room of his own accord. It does not look good. The people think the monarchy is falling”

“Everything is fine, I can handle it.”

“This is more than just saying you can handle it. It would have been better if it was just an unfounded rumor but there are multiple eye witnesses.”

“It is Alara, she did this. I don’t know how and I don’t know why, I explained everything to her and she listened carefully. By the time I was done, her eyes were wide. “Don’t worry about it though, I already asked her to leave. I can fix it.”

“I really hope so because the elders have called for a meeting with you and Ryker. I think they mean to discuss it.”

I barely remembered the walk to the council room. I was so lost in thought that everything else felt inconsequential. My mind was a maze and I didn’t know where the exit was. I found Ryker pacing outside the door and as soon as he saw me, relief poured through his features. He reached out for me and I gave him a small smile in return.

“We can handle them,” I assured him.

I wasn’t used to being the strong one. That had always been Ryker’s role. He was the steadfast and secure one that you could always count on. He never faltered and he never second guessed himself but right now as he stood in front of me, there was no trace of that man. The man in front of me was confused and unsure, he was worried and running on a lack of sleep. He was nothing like my mate and it worried me. I had never seen him like this and I didn’t know what to expect. I didn’t know if he would be able to face the elders.

“I know we can,” he gave me hand a squeeze. “I’m worried about you after this is over. I’m worried about how this might reflect badly on you.”

“Don’t worry about me, I can handle myself,” he opened his mouth to speak but I cut him off. “All of this doesn’t matter right now. Let us go in and face them like we always do- together.”

He nodded and pushed open the doors. The elders were already seated and were in deep discussion with themselves. It didn’t skip my attention that Alara was also in the room. I raised a brow but none of them would meet my eye. They held their breaths waiting for what we would say or do but I chose to ignore it as we made our way to our seat.

“This better be important,” I drawled. I wasn’t going to be bullied into anything. I was their Queen. I was their ruler, they answered to me and not the other way around.

“You know of the whispers already, your majesty, do not make us repeat them,” one of the elders began. “You were both seen and the people are already on edge, this could tip them off. They already have doubts in your relationship as a result of the earlier rumors.”

“Everyone will have doubts, you cannot satisfy the public and as for the whispers, it is an out of context rumor. Nothing untowardly happened and especially not with her. If that is all-”

“That is not what she is saying,” another elder cut in and I turned to him. He looked away from me and placed a hand on Alara’s shoulder. “Remember what we told you, you can speak freely here. No one will harm you.”

“Do not make promises you cannot keep, elder. I do recall telling her that if she wasn’t out by noon then her head would be on a spike and that has not changed, neither has this meeting prompted me to shift up the deadline.”

I could see that they were all shocked. I wasn’t the one who dished out threats. Usually, I couldn’t even be bothered to speak but they would be sorely mistaken if I was going to allow her spread false rumors. Ryker couldn’t be trusted to speak because he couldn’t remember anything.

“Your majesty,” Caius began in a soft tone. “Let the girl speak, please. If you already know the truth then there is no harm in hearing her out. As it stands, she could go to the public and claim that you didn’t hear her out and cause them to turn on you.”

I leaned back in my chair. “You’re just giving her a flurry of ideas but whatever. Go on, Alara.”

She glanced over at the elders who nodded before swallowing. She opened and closed her mouth before reaching out for a handkerchief that lay in her lap and dabbing the corners of her eyes with it.

“I just want you to know that it was never my intention to cause this much drama. I swear it,” she sniffled. “I was cleaning yesterday when I heard footsteps. I was so scared that I accidentally knocked down a vase, you can check to be sure I am telling the truth. I went to investigate after and I saw his

majesty there. He looked out of it, he was slurring over his words and he wasn't very stable I offered to get some guards for him but he refused and asked me to help him."

She paused and glanced at Ryker then quickly looked away before continuing.

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Chapter 134

"I was helping him but he wasn't making it easy. As soon as I reached out for him, he kissed me. He told me that he wanted me and I tried to refuse because I owe the Queen my life. I have so much respect for her. He wouldn't take no for an answer and as much as I don't want to admit it, I loved the feeling of doing something forbidden so I agreed. I took him back to my room and that was where it happened."

"That was where what happened?" I cut in harshly and she flinched. The elders began to protest but I held out my hand to stop them. "Let me explain something about the mate bond, Alara. If he has sex with anyone else, I will feel it and vice versa. As you can see, I'm fine, I felt nothing. Your story has plot holes."

She immediately shook her head. "We didn't have sex. I knew that and so did he. We just got each other off. It was more of dry humping if I am being honest."

I turned to Ryker because I didn't know what else to say. I didn't believe her story one bit but I wasn't the one who needed convincing- it was the elders. There was nothing I could say that wouldn't have looked like I was trying to discredit her. He pinched the bridge of his nose between his fingers and stared directly at Alara. She squirmed under his gaze but didn't look away.

“Are you really going to sit here and say that I did that?” he asked and she nodded slowly. “Does it even matter if I say anything? You already fashioned this entire fucking story.”

“There is no need to get upset, your majesty,” Caius began in a patronizing tone. “Just tell us what happened.”

Ryker remained silent.

“If you do then maybe we can figure out the missing gaps and-”

“I don’t remember what happened. I remember going to the kitchen but everything else is a blur.”

The room went pin drop silent. He had just given the admission that they needed to pin him to it.

“Is it possible that you were on something? It could be possible that you did it and don’t remember.”

“I didn’t do anything. Besides, we should be focused on why I can’t remember. At least there is one constant in our stories, I wasn’t myself. She must have drugged me.”

“I was with someone, your majesty, I never left my work station until I went to investigate,” Alara cut in. “I can call her in to confirm if you-”

“Don’t! You have done enough. I think it is time that you packed your bags and left.”

She swallowed but nodded. Just as she stood to her feet, one of the elders grabbed her arm.

“Perhaps you should wait in your room for further instructions. Don’t be in such a hurry to leave.”

Alara looked confused but she nodded and walked out. I waited until the door had shut before I spoke.

“I asked her to leave. That was a direct order from the Queen. You have no right to ask her to stay.”

“Maybe, but if she leaves now, everyone will assume that you are trying to cover it up,” he explained. “I am not going to say that his majesty is lying or that she is lying but we don’t know what happened. There are only two people who do and one of them does not have a story. If they did have sex-”

“They didn’t,” I cut in and he inhaled sharply before continuing.

“If they had anything close to sex, she could be pregnant. The last thing you want is another bastard like Frederick coming to stake a claim to the throne. We have to proceed with extreme caution.”

I knew he was right but I didn’t want to admit it. Even Ryker did because he ran his hands through his hair. We were stuck between a rock and a hard place and our next actions could possibly make or break us.

“Do whatever you think is right,” I said finally as I stood to my feet. “But my order stands, get her the fuck out of this palace. I don’t care where she lives until you are certain that she isn’t pregnant but I do not want to see her. If I even catch a glimpse

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09:57 Wed, Feb 14.

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of her, I will kill her, the people be damned.”

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Without another word, I turned on my heels and stormed out. I heard Ryker following behind me and calling out for me but I couldn’t stop. I kept moving until I was in the palace gardens and I let out a scream. The leaves shook as the entire fountain erupted around us. I was soaked from head to toe but I didn’t care.

“Camilla,” I heard Ryker’s voice pleading behind me. “Please, calm down.”

He came up to me and I saw that he wasn’t spared from the water onslaught.

“I am just so upset that one person can cause this much of a problem. What does she stand to gain from all of this? What does she want?”

"I don't know," his voice was soft. "It is clear that this is about me and I am so sorry. You should not have to deal with this. If I could-"

"It isn't your fault," I cut him off. "It is hers and we will deal with her the same way we deal with everyone else who has stood up against us, okay?"

"You have to realize that we might not win this. People might believe her."

"I know you, and people don't have to believe you, they just have to forget. Give it a month, it will be a distant memory in their minds." Chapter 15

CAMILLA'S P.O.V

A week passed and I was beginning to doubt whether it was possible for it to die down. No one had said or done anything outright or untoward to us but the story had only circulated further and gotten worse. There were now so many absurd versions of what actually happened that I began to wonder if many people lacked the mental capacity needed to think because some of the stories were wild.

I heard one where I had caught him with his penis inside of her and had nearly gone crazy and almost beat her up. I thought it was stupid because if I ever caught him with his dick inside of someone I was going to kill him and not her but that wasn't even the problem. The problem was that I just wanted people to shut up.

Riley was supposed to leave today and she had already asked twice if we needed her to stay back. I assured her she was fine but clearly that wasn't enough because she kept shooting me wary looks as we loaded her things into the carriage that was supposed to take her to the port. Ryker was standing by my side looking more solemn than he had in a very long time. Once we were done, Riley turned to us and wrapped her arms around her brother's torso.

"Are you sure that you don't need me to stay?" she asked and Ryker narrowed his eyes at her. He opened his mouth to speak but she quickly held up her hands in mock surrender. "Relax, I already know that you don't need my help. I just wanted to ask."

She pulled away from him and made her way to me. She melted into my embrace and I sighed as I wrapped my arms around her. She didn't say a single word but I could feel every ounce of worry and fear in her and I hoped for both our sakes that she couldn't feel mine.

"You'll be fine," I assured her. "We already sent missives by witches ahead of you. They should arrive within a few days and the letters will be sent directly to you so you know which places are safe enough for you to visit."

She swallowed and took a deep breath before responding. "It isn't me that I am worried about. I don't know how this scandal is going to end."

I looked up at Ryker who was watching us with soft eyes then lowered my head so I could whisper. It was one thing for him to know we were worried – which he did – it was another entirely for him to hear us worried. I knew it could be emasculating and while Ryker never struck me as the type to be worried about things like that, this week had made me see a different side of him.

“Your brother will be fine,” I whispered to Riley. “He is strong and we all know that Alara is lying. We will get to the bottom of this soon, I promise you. The moment we do, I

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15 Feb

will find a way to get the news to you.”

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“Okay,” she nodded as she pulled away from me slowly. “Just take care of him please. He has spent so long taking care of other people and I am worried that he doesn’t take care of himself.”

“You never have to worry about that, I promise you.”

She smiled with a teary nod and gave her brother one last hug. She stared at a spot behind me and I turned to see Christine standing beside a pillar. She had Aurora in her arms while Audrey ran over to give Riley a hug which she graciously accepted. After she promised to send back gifts from every country she traveled, she rose to her feet and waved at Christine who hesitated before waving back.

Riley was led to her carriage and we watched as it disappeared into the night. Once she was gone, Audrey was by my side weaving her hands into mine.

“I want to travel like her when I’m older,” she said in a dreamy sigh. “Do you think I can do that, mummy? I’ll be on the big ship or the train and I will never stop. I will go everywhere in the whole wide world.”

I chuckled and used my free hand to smooth her hair back. “You can definitely travel. I think it will be fun but what happens when you miss home?”

I didn’t want to outrightly tell her that traveling the world forever wasn’t in her cards. She was the heir to the throne and unless she abdicated and gave it over to Aurora, her entire life was here. Regardless, if she wanted to travel then I was going to make sure that she traveled as much as she could before she was shackled to the life of a royal.

I looked down at her to see her pondering over my last words. It took her a minute before she responded. “I’ll just take you with me,” she turned to Ryker. “You’ll come with me, right daddy?”

Ryker looked down at her with a small smile but didn't say anything. That seemed to be enough response for her because she shrugged and steered us both back towards the palace where Christine was still standing. Ryker took our daughter from her hands and I noticed that careful look in her eyes as she watched him. It was the very same way I had been looking at him for the past week but it was also the same look that he absolutely despised. After day two, he had told me not to look at him like that because it meant I thought that he was guilty. I tried to explain that I was just worried but he was having none of it.

"Are we needed anywhere?" I asked Christine who shook her head.

"No, I just thought the girls would want to say goodbye to their aunt. Your schedules are completely clear for the day."

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"Thank you," I smiled at her before turning back to my family. "Why don't we take a detour before we go back in? Maybe we can take a walk around the palace grounds or we can go to one of the streams."

Audrey frowned. "Can't we leave the palace, mummy?"

"Not right now, no," we had tried so hard to stay out of the public's eye so it wouldn't fuel more rumors but that wasn't something I could explain to a child. She pouted but didn't say anything else much to my relief.

"We can go another time," Ryker cut in and that seemed to uplift Riley's spirits because she beamed wide and nodded. "We should go to the private gardens. There is so much that we can do there."

"Okay, I'll race you," Audrey announced and then she was gone before either of us could say a word.

I noticed her guards rushing to catch up to her and that gave me enough courage to just take a small walk instead. Ryker walked in step with me and I couldn't stop myself from reaching out to place a hand on his bicep. He froze for a split second before relaxing into my hold. There was so much tension in his body, I wish I could take it away with a snap of my fingers but I couldn't.

"Can you try to relax?" I asked but he remained silent. "Just forget about all of this for once and spend time with us. Your mind has been anywhere but here for a while now."

He let out an exhausted sigh. "I'm trying, Camilla, f uck, you know I am. I don't know how to deal with this. This isn't like a pack, this is more political and I am not cut out for this sh it. You know that, everyone knows that. I have been thinking of a way to get all of this sorted out but nothing comes to mind."

"I know, and that is why I suggested this. Just spend time with your daughters,

spend time with me. Maybe you just need to remember what exactly matters here and that is us. If we believe you then I don't care what the rest of the town or palace thinks. They will forget about it soon. Sure, it might come up every other year but it will fizzle out like it always does."

He smiled softly but I could see the disbelief in his eyes. He just placed a kiss to my temple and that was it. I knew there was nothing more I could do except to hope and pray. When we got to the fountain, Audrey was sitting next to it with a shit eating grin on her face. For the first time in a week, a genuine grin grew on Ryker's face.

"I guess you beat us," he announced and she nodded. "You'll have to teach me how to run that fast too."

"I will."

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As I watched their exchange, I chose to believe that everything would be okay.

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We stayed in the garden for the better part of two hours before we were interrupted. I sighted the guard first and I knew that it was over the moment Ryker saw him as well. He came up to us and bowed.

"The elders have requested your presence in the council room," he said and my mind immediately began to conjure up the worst case scenarios.

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Had something happened? Were we going to get in trouble? Those thoughts filled my head as we took our girls to Christine and as we made our way into the council room. The elders were deep in conversation with themselves and from the whispers, I knew it was serious.

"We have a problem, your majesties," it was Caius who began.

"What is it?" I asked but no one spoke. "If you are going to call us here then you might as well be ready to speak. What the hell is the problem?"

"The girl- Alara, her name is- she reached out to us today," he cleared his throat before continuing. "She insists that her cycle is late and that she might be pregnant with his majesty's child."Chapter 13 6

RYKER'S P.O.V

"That's bulls hit," were the first words out of my mouth. I didn't even realize I had said it until it was too late and everyone had turned to me. "There is no way that she is pregnant. I didn't even fuck her. Can't the physician check to be sure."

“It is a bit early since it has only been a week. We need a month at least to be able to confirm her story.”

“A month!” Camilla exclaimed with wide eyes. “I don’t want her in this vicinity for another day and you want me to keep her for a month, you have got to be crazy.”

“I think we are past the stage of wants and needs right now, your majesty,” Caius cut in solemnly. “If she goes out with this information, you will both be ruined. She will wreck this monarchy from the roots. She has to come back in. We have to keep a steady eye on her until we can ascertain for a fact whether she is pregnant or not.”

“How long do you presume that will be?” Camilla asked with her hands crossed over her chest. “What if she gets pregnant for someone else and pins it on Ryker? There are so many variables to this. Can’t you see that? There has to be an endgame to all of this.”

“I know-”

“No, you don’t,” she cut him off.

The entire room was silent. She was breathing harshly and I had to place a hand on her lower back to calm her down. She turned to me and I could see just how shattered she was in her eyes. She looked broken and I wanted nothing more than to pull her to safety and cover her. I wanted to protect her from the shit that was bound to happen any moment from now. Her eyes welled up with tears but she blinked them away.

She turned back to the elders and I took my time watching them. Caius and another elder looked exhausted. They looked like they wanted nothing to do with the situation and would have preferred to end it there and then. The others had varying degrees of eagerness and curiosity on their faces. I could tell that they were more interested in the drama than they were in finding a solution to the problem.

“What do you suggest?” Camilla asked after a second and a deep breath. “I don’t want her in the palace.”

“She has to be here your majesty, if not for our safety then to keep an eye on her. Like you said, she could easily sleep with someone else to pin the blame on his majesty. She could be in cohorts with someone outside of the palace or she could be telling the truth. Either way, we want her where we can see her, where we can watch her every

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Chapter 1 36

move and make sure that she cannot get away with anything. The moment her cycle starts, we will know. If she is pregnant, we will know.”

I knew he was right, so did Camilla because she let out an exasperated sigh and put her head in her hands. My hands were still on her but even I could tell that wasn't enough. If only I could remember exactly what happened. If only my memory would come back, maybe I would be able to set these things to rest. I had been trying to remember since the day after but it was almost like the event was wiped out from my brain. I hated it. I hated the not knowing and I hated the confusion.

"Do what you have to do," I spoke up because I knew Camilla wouldn't. "Just keep her under constant lock and key. I don't want her walking around the palace and I don't want her seeing anyone. I don't want her within our line of sight either."

Caius sighed. "Of course, your majesty, but if I might suggest something?" from his tone, I could tell I wouldn't like what he had to say but I nodded regardless. "Perhaps you could go to her? It seems she has an interest in you since you are the subject of this whole – conflict – perhaps if you spoke to her then maybe you would be able to get something out of it."

I risked a glance at Camilla who had an unreadable expression on her face. I wanted to know what she was thinking, I wanted to see into her mind but she was hiding from me. She never did that and it had me worrying.

"What do you think, Camilla?" I asked but she shrugged. "I want your advice." "I don't even know anymore," she admitted. "He has a point but what if she tries something again? If anyone sees you going into her room then this will make the rumors worse. We are looking to squash them and not blow air into a fire."

"I'm afraid it is our only choice," Caius said slowly. "She will not speak to anyone who is his majesty. If we have any plans to get answers out of her then it has to be like this."

The elders left shortly after that leaving Camilla and I alone in the council room. She hadn't looked at me since they left. She kept her face turned away from me and her spine straight. I could practically see the wheels turning in her mind and for the first time in a long time, her wall was carefully in place. I reached out for her and she stilled the moment I touched her skin but still didn't turn to me.

"I'm sorry," I whispered not knowing what else to say but she said nothing. "If I could go back in time, I would. I was the one who offered her a place in this palace. If I could go back then and-"

"You can't," she cut me off. "Unfortunately, my powers do not transcend into time traveling. Maybe one of our daughters will get the skill but then we would have to wait at least seventeen years so it will be of no use by then."

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Chapter 1 36

"You're upset," I deduced and she just shrugged. "Camilla, I know I am not the right person to tell you how to feel but I would much rather prefer your anger to your silence. If you need to scream at me then do it. If you need to hit me, do it. I would take the brunt of that rather than this unfeeling shell you have become."

She finally turned to me and I could see the utter sorrow in her eyes. It knocked me back a bit and my breath caught in my throat. She smiled sadly at me and reached out for my hand.

"I am not angry with you, Ryker. I am disappointed and upset that we didn't notice this sooner. How did we not see that this was going to happen? How did we not see that she had a thing for you? How long had she been planning this?"

"You believe she set it up?" I asked and she shot me an incredulous look.

"Would you prefer that I believed you got her pregnant?" I went silent. "I think you should see her. They were right about one thing, she wants you and if you can get some answers out of her then do it. I don't care what you have to do, just make sure that this ends quickly. The last thing either of us needs is to be explaining to our daughters why some random woman claims to have a child for you."

"Are you sure?" I asked and she nodded.

"If that is the only way we can end this then so be it."

That was how I ended up in the private living room waiting for Alara. I knew the exact moment she arrived at the palace and the moment she was led to her new room. She wasn't to stay with the other servants but she wasn't staying with us either. Her room was on an isolated corridor and she was to have guards watching and monitoring her every move. I only gave her an hour to rest before I sent for her.

She walked into the room with wide eyes. She took in the entire place and I could see the awe in her expression. It was weird to see her out of her maid uniform but I couldn't focus on her. The first thing I did was try to get a whiff of her scent, it was still predominantly hers- there was no sign of a baby yet.

"It is too early," she said suddenly and I furrowed my brows in confusion. "You are trying to get a whiff of my scent, it won't be obvious for another week or two."

"Take a seat," I ordered and she did as I asked without protest.

"I know you're upset with me," she began not bothering to look at me. "I just want you to know that it was never my intention to cause problems."

"Wasn't it?" I shot back and she went silent. "I should have known since the

day you walked into my office after it was destroyed. I should have known that there was something about you but I chose to ignore it thinking that I was just reading into things.

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Chapter 1 36

How long have you planned this?"

"I don't know what you're talking about."

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"But you do," I leaned forward on my elbows. "You waited until I was alone and drugged. You waited until I was in a position where I would not be able to refuse and you decided to act out. Was it you who had me drugged?"

Her eyes welled with tears. "I would never do something like that. You came onto me. I didn't refuse because of who you are."

"How long did you spend practicing that line? How long have you been preparing to tell that story to whoever will listen?"

"I don't appreciate the way this conversation is going. I didn't do anything."

"Okay then, I must have made a mistake. Only someone smart would have been able to do this."

I stood up to leave but just as I got to the door, she spoke.

"Smart? Sit down, Ryker and let me show you smart."

The Rejected Werewolf Princess by Didiadeyemi Chapter 137

Chapter 137

RYKER'S P.O.V

I knew that I had her right where I wanted her. It didn't take long for me to realize that she was a narcissist and chalking up her 'achievements' to luck would have been enough to piss her off. There was nothing she would hate more than being told she wasn't smart enough to come up with a plan or smart enough to execute it properly.

"I suppose I could just tell you everything that happened but I don't see the fun in that," she mused aloud as I took the seat in front of her. "All I will say is that you are one difficult man to catch unaware. I suppose it should be a thing of joy that you have eyes for only your mate. There are a lot of men who I cannot say the same for."

"Why did you do this?" I asked and she shrugged. "There has to be a reason. You wouldn't just get up and try to ruin lives. It isn't just my life that you're playing with here."

“Did you ever consider that maybe I was just bored?” she shot back and my brows furrowed. “You are a very handsome man, your majesty, you don’t even realize the number of maids who wish for a moment with you. Apparently it is a rite of passage for kings and princes to have many mistresses but you have religiously stayed by your mate. It is as endearing as it is annoying. You were a challenge that I wanted to conquer and conquer I did.”

She smirked and I saw the evil glint in her eyes. I knew she wasn’t telling the complete truth but there was some iota of honesty in her words. She truly did see me as a challenge but whether or not she conquered me was yet to be seen.

“We didn’t have sex,” I stated simply and she pursed her lips.

“Even inebriated you wouldn’t go against your mate. You called out to her a few times and when you realized I wasn’t her, you wouldn’t touch me but do you want to know the beautiful thing about the body?” she asked and I hesitated before nodding. “Our bodies are just a bunch of nerves and it doesn’t matter if you want it or not, certain things can happen. It wasn’t exactly hard to get you in the mood.”

“That’s a lie,” I cut her off. “You have a tell when you lie and you are lying right out of your teeth. Why don’t you tell me what really happened and how you got me to be so out of it?”

She looked pissed at the fact that I had called out her bluff. She crossed her arms over her chest and refused to look at me again. The thing was, I was done playing her game.

I was done doing things her way. If she wanted to come into my home and mess things up, I was going to make sure that she answered to me.

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“I think I’ve given you too much credit so let me make this clear,” I sat up straight as I spoke. “You can either give me truthful and honest answers or you can rot in the dungeons for the next two weeks after which it will be proven that you are not pregnant and a liar. When that is sure, I will make sure that your execution is a public affair and best believe I will get off on that.”

Her eyes burned with rage but she knew I wasn’t bluffing. I didn’t give a shit what the elders wanted or what the people would think. I would have done it in a heartbeat and she knew it because she let out an exasperated sigh.

“Fine,” she mumbled. “Herbs are very easy to acquire in this part of the world and if you mix the right set of herbs, they can do wonders. Getting you into the

room was the hard part because I had a very small window before you became unconscious. I had to feed you some bulls hit lie about taking you to the Queen before you agreed to go with me. The rest they say is history.”

“What happened? I don’t need a summarized version. I need to know exactly what you did.”

She rolled her eyes. “Don’t play the victim card, it doesn’t exactly look good on you. You will find out exactly what happened in two weeks when I turn up pregnant with your child.”

“If you are pregnant, it will not be mine.”

“But that’s the thing,” the corner of her lips turned up. “No one except you and me will know that.” She stood to her feet and brushed off invisible lint from her dress. “I suggest that you start telling your daughters about their new brother or sister coming along. Is that smart enough for you, your majesty?”

“Get out,” I ordered and she made a show of bowing mockingly before walking out of the room.

I ran my hands down my forehead in frustration. I was left with more questions than answers but I knew one thing for certain, we didn’t have sex. If we did, she would have been gloating about it. That meant there was something else that spurred her to come back here. She had another goal in sight and she planned to use the next two weeks to achieve it. I wasn’t sure what it was but we needed to keep an eye out for her.

I mind linked the guards to stay close to her at all times and make sure she didn’t leave their sight. I wasn’t willing to give her the chance to f uck another man and pin it on me. I got guards I could trust with my life- Steven and Kevin. Once I was sure that they were with her, I mind linked Christine and Camilla. They wasted no time before arriving in the room and I gave them a quick breakdown of everything that happened.

When I was done speaking, Christine cleared her throat. “What do we know about her so far? She said she had an uncle in another pack, right? Perhaps if we got a hold of him

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then we would be able to find out some more about her. That might help us get some insight on her and what she might be planning.”

“I sent a letter to him a few weeks ago. I didn’t get a response. Is it possible that she gave us a wrong address or name?” Camilla asked and although I didn’t want to admit it, I nodded. “Well, we can’t count on her to give us the right one. Why don’t I go to the pack? I could ask around by myself. Maybe I can get a good answer.”

I loved the idea but I didn’t want her out of the palace. That seemed like

exactly the kind of thing that Alara would take pleasure in. It would also look bad in the eyes of the people so I shook my head.

"I could go," Christine offered. "No one would even notice my presence. I can take a horse instead of a carriage and be in and out in three days tops. It is a better option than sending the Queen. We don't want to appear like we are panicking and that is exactly what it will look like if you leave."

Camilla thought about it for a second before nodding. "Fine, I'll get you a copy of the address from my office. Even though it might not be a real one, it will be a good place to start." Once Christine agreed, she turned to me. "Now, for the most important question, why you?"

"I have been asking myself the same thing for a long time. I don't know her and she doesn't know me. It seems farfetched that she would just develop a crazy attachment to me out of boredom."

"Are you sure that you have never seen her before?" Christine asked and I nodded

"I am absolutely positive. I never forget a face. I don't know her. Whatever this is, it has nothing to do with knowing me in the/past. We need to keep a close eye on her. She is planning something big and until we know what it is, we cannot be caught with our pants down."

"I'll talk to some of the maids as well and see if they know anything," Christine suggested and I thanked her. "We will find out what it is, sooner or later."

Once we had smoothed away the parts of the plan that needed smoothing over, Christine left leaving Camilla and I alone. I searched my mate's eyes for any signs that she was upset with me but there was none. She had told me that herself a few times but I still couldn't stop myself from looking out for it.

"You can stop analyzing me, Ryker," she spoke without looking up. "If I was pissed about this, you would know. In fact, you would have been the first to realize it and I would have probably been on her side."

"You would?" I asked and she finally looked up at me.

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"If I thought for even a second that you had sex with her and she could be pregnant, I wouldn't send her away. I wouldn't want to rob her child of the opportunity to grow up with its father but as the case is, I know you didn't so it doesn't matter now. The more time we spend talking about this, the more she wins. That is what she wants. She wants to tear us apart and you are letting her."

"I feel like I failed you," I admitted. "I let her into our lives somehow. Maybe if I

were more careful then she wouldn't have been able to drug me.”

“We already had one enemy in front of us and we had Damien acting like a hormonal teenage boy. We didn't know to look for another within our walls. That is not your fault.”

She stood up from her chair and made her way over to me. I expected her to take the seat next to me but instead, she sat directly on my lap. My hands wasted no time before banding around her waist and she stroked the back of her hand against my cheek.

“Never forget who the real enemy is,” she whispered. “You can hate yourself after she is six feet underground where she deserves to be. Until then, I need your head in the game. I can't do this without you.”

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CAMILLA'S P.O.V

Christine left very early the next morning and if anyone had any questions about where she was going, they kept it to themselves. She assured us that she would be back as soon as possible and it wasn't until after she was gone that I realized just how much she helped us with Aurora. Audrey was in school but Christine spent most of her time with Aurora and I didn't even realize it, carrying around an infant while trying to work was another special kind of dedication.

“Do you want me to take her for a while?” Ryker asked but I shook my head. I was just getting the hang of things and he had a lot more on his plate at the moment.

“I can take her, don't worry,” I assured him as I looked down at her. “She isn't as frolicky as I thought she would be. I'll just put her in a bassinet while I work.”

“Camilla,” there was something in the way that he said my name, something raw and exposed that had me looking up at him.

He didn't say a single word, he just looked at me and I didn't realize when I handed her over. He needed her comfort and presence a lot more than I did and I didn't even notice. His eyes thanked me when his mouth couldn't and he placed a kiss on my forehead. It was at times like this that I wished I could help Ryker, times like this that I wished he would let me into his head and allow me comfort him the way he does with me but Ryker is nothing if not proud and he loved to do things by himself. He loved having a firm grip on everything including his emotions and it didn't matter how much I tried and probed, he would only reveal his cards when we were ready.

I didn't know when my hand touched his bicep in encouragement but I gave him a small smile and turned on my heels. I could feel his eyes on me as I walked away and all I could do was hope that he would be fine. I had to speak to some of the maids and

guards to find out what I could about Alara. Christine suggested that it might help. When I got to my office, the head maid was waiting for me. I didn't know her name and if she had told me then I had forgotten it. She was an older woman with dark brown hair that was tied low at the base of her skull in a bun. Her eyes were kind but sharp and she reminded me of that kind aunt who would give you cookies but also smack your hand if you were playing too/rough.

"Your majesty," she bowed the moment she noticed me walk in. "I was surprised to receive your summon. What can I do for you?"

"Please sit," I waved my hand in the direction of the chair and I saw her hesitate. Surely, she had figured out that if it was something little, I would have just asked about

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it but the fact that I asked her to sit meant that it was of importance- at least to me. She sat down and kept her hands clasped in front of her. She wouldn't look me in the eye but I knew that she was definitely paying attention.

"You were the one who gave Alara a place to work with the maids, right?" I asked and she nodded.

"I was told that it was at the behest of his majesty. If I had known that he didn't order that then I would have."

"He did," I cut her off. "We asked for her to join so she wouldn't be idle but that isn't why I am here right now. I want you to tell me about her. There is no one in the entire palace who would know her as well as you do."

"We weren't friends, I barely spent time with her outside of work," she tried to explain. "I would only know her in a professional setting."

"Not quite, you see, you spend the most time with her because you govern what she does at work and I know that you have been trained to notice tells in people. That is how you know the right people for the right jobs because you have watched them for so long. What can you tell me about Alara?"

She sighed before speaking. "I haven't known her for very long but she has always been weird. She would always disappear at the oddest hours and I remembered seeing her leave or return from the castle very late at night sometimes."

"When was this?" I asked and she wracked her brain for a while.

"This was while the discord with the vampires was ongoing. I always thought it was insane and she had a death wish but she always came back unharmed. I assumed she just took a walk around the palace or lingered by the edge of the woods so she wouldn't get caught."

I marinated on her words for a minute. What could Alara possibly have wanted outside

the palace in the dead of night? It had to be important if she was risking getting killed. by vampires for it?

"You don't have any idea what she was doing?" I asked and she shook her head.

"I was always curious but not/curious enough to risk dying that is for sure. All I know is that she was also very secretive. She was always passing notes and writing them using lime juice so they couldn't be read. She is crazy smart and manipulative as well, she would get the other girls to do her chores and never do theirs in return. She had her ways of just convincing everyone that she was good and to an extent, I could argue that she is but that manipulative streak keeps me on edge."

"Why didn't you mention any of this before?" I asked and she shrugged. "Wouldn't it

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have been easier if you didn't have to worry about her?"

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"Your majesty, half of my girls are nightmares. I have dealt with people worse than her. I knew I could handle her."

"But not before she drugged my mate," I drawled and she bowed her head. "Has she ever shown any interest in him in the past?" The woman hesitated as if she wasn't sure if her next words would offend me. "Speak, there is nothing you could say that would shock or throw me off guard right now."

She opened her mouth to speak then closed it and leaned across the table. When she spoke, she made sure that her voice was as light as a feather so that no stragglers would overhear.

"A lot of the maids have eyes for his majesty, it is nothing new," she began slowly. "Most of the time it is idle talk because everyone knows that he will not look away from you but Alara had always said that she felt something between them. I just thought that she was being delusional she wouldn't be the first one. So many of my girls have tried to flirt with his majesty but he barely even notices and they give up after the first or second try."

"She didn't," I deduced and she nodded. "You have been of great help, thank you."

She stood to her feet and bowed. She walked away until she was at the door but paused with her hand on the knob. She turned back to me with a sad smile on her face.

"I know that my opinion might not mean much but I would like you to know that I don't believe he touched her. Most of us do not, we all know her and we know him."

I didn't know what to say. I was grateful for the vote of confidence and I didn't

completely feel like an idiot.

"Thank you."

She walked out leaving me to process everything that she had just said. Alara was smart and manipulative meaning that we had to beat her at her own game. Also, if she wrote secret notes then there was a possibility we could find them. However, we only had one chance to do it right. If we messed up and she got wind that we were onto her, she would destroy all of them and thereby destroy any evidence we could possibly have on her.

I was about to leave to tell Ryker what I had figured out when I heard some ruckus outside my office. I decided to investigate only to see Alara screaming at Steven who was trying to pull her away. As soon as they saw me, they all froze. They bowed although Alara's was more mocking than anything.

"Finally, they wouldn't let me in to see you," she pouted and I raised a brow.

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"For good reason too, you can take her away. I don't want to see her."

I turned to go back into my office but she wasn't willing to go down easily. She fought against their hold and it was her next words that had me freezing.

"I thought you would like to bond since we are going to be in each other's lives forever."

"Excuse me?" I asked and she smiled once she realized she had gotten my attention.

"I am just saying, our kids will be siblings and that means we will always be around," she was grinning from ear to ear. "It would be better for everyone involved if we could be friends. I don't have anything against you but it is obvious that you have a bone to pick over what happened. It just happened, you know, passion got in the way and--"

She trailed off when she noticed me coming closer to her. I grabbed her by her chin and forced her to look at me. She had a smug look in her eye that pissed me off.

"You seem to have forgotten something so let me make it clear. I am still your Queen and although I might not want to kill you until this dilemma is solved, that doesn't mean I will not take your tongue if you speak to me like that again."

I saw fear flash in her eyes. "You wouldn't, you are too kind hearted."

"I think you give me far too much credit," I pushed her off. "Try that again and I will be taking a souvenir."Chapter 139

RYKER'S P.O.V

For the next three days, things were quiet and it had me feeling uneasy because I knew that silence was only a covering for something more sinister at play. Camilla tried to get me to focus on the good, on the fact that nothing was happening but I knew better. She spent most of her time with the girls so she couldn't feel the tension the same way that I did, she couldn't feel the unease in the air. To an extent, I was glad that she couldn't

because I didn't want her to worry more than she already was.

She told me that she had an encounter with Alara but wouldn't tell me what it entailed. She just explained that it didn't end well and since then, Alara had all but disappeared into her room and refused to come out. That was what had me worrying because I knew that she wasn't someone who would take a perceived insult lying down. She was planning something and not knowing was the hardest part.

On the bright side, Christine was supposed to return any day from now. She hadn't written us a single letter so there was no way for us to know how the trip was going and if the search was fruitful. I tried not to worry about it but it was hard. It was almost as if everything was turning upside down and I didn't know what to focus on first.

A knock on my door snapped me out of my thoughts and Camilla walked in. She looked exhausted but she was still nothing less than beautiful. Her hair was flowing down her back but the sides were pinned away from her face allowing me to see the faint bags under her eyes and her dress was more on the simple side with barely any embellishments.

"Aurora is asleep," she exclaimed as she made her way over to me. "I got one of the maids to watch her."

"You look exhausted," I pointed out and she rolled her eyes playfully.

"Haven't you been told never to comment on how a woman looks? You just called me ugly."

"I said you were exhausted, you couldn't be ugly if you tried," I corrected and I saw the corner of her lips tilt up. I reached out to her and she wasted no time in intertwining her fingers with mine. She sat on the edge of the table in front of me and just looked down at me with a small smile.

I didn't know what it was about her smiles but they always managed to make everything feel right. For a split second, I didn't care about Alara or Christine or the fact that my life was about to be pulled up from the root. I simply existed in that moment with her and chose to focus on that alone.

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"Why are you looking at me like that?" she whispered and I shrugged. "Is there something on my face?" She reached up to touch her face but I stopped her by grabbing her hand. "Tell me, is it bad?"

"There's nothing," I assured her and she narrowed her eyes at me for a split second but chose to believe me. "I was just thinking about how incredibly lucky I am to have you. If it were someone else, they would have left me by now and honestly, I wouldn't blame them. This whole thing is a cluster f uck. Thank you."

"Don't thank me yet. Thank me after we get rid of her," she crinkled her nose in disgust.

"Have you noticed that she has been awfully quiet over the past two days? Is it because I

finally stood up to her?"

I shrugged. "Maybe, but-"

I was cut off by a knock on the door. Camilla was the one who answered and I frowned at her because I was more than content with leaving the person knocking until they got the hint that I didn't want any interruptions. I was shocked when my door opened and Caius made his way into the office.

I immediately stood to my feet. "What is going on?"

"It is the town's people," he explained. "I think you need to see it for yourself."

That was how Camilla and I ended up rushing to the front gate of the palace. I was shocked at the sheer number of people who were being held back by guards. The people kept watchful eyes on us as we made our way towards them. I recognized some of the people from the town where we met Alara the first time. I knew that whatever was happening had to be tied directly with her. As we got closer, the people began to whisper until one woman stepped out to meet us.

"What is going on?" I heard Camilla ask but I couldn't respond. I didn't know what was happening and I made sure to keep her behind me in case anything was to happen.

"Your majesty," she bowed although I could still see the anger in her eyes. I gave her a curt nod and waited to hear what she would say. "We want you to free Alara. She shouldn't be kept as a prisoner because of your actions."

I raised a brow.

"My actions? Please tell me what exactly my actions were." I didn't yell or raise my voice but the deathly calmness was enough to have her second guessing her next words. "I am waiting for a response, you cannot go around throwing accusations against the crown and not have proof to back it up. That sounds an awful lot like treason."

Her mouth fell open. was a rumor that-"

"I was

was just repeating what we heard from the other towns. There

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"You took a stance against the crown based off a rumor?" I asked in shock and she fell quiet. "That is either incredibly stupid or incredibly brave."

"It has to be true. If it wasn't then you would have come out to deny it."

"Did you ever consider the fact that I felt it too stupid to even talk about?" I shot back and she flushed. "Also, what is this business about her being a prisoner? Did you see her in a cell?"

"No,"

"Did you see her in chains? Perhaps you saw her being tortured or unfed like the other prisoners."

"No, but-"

"If neither of those happened then where did you get the absurd idea that I was keeping her as a prisoner? Did you imagine it or was it an act of boredom that led you down a line of insane thoughts."

The woman's cheeks were flushed red in embarrassment and I could see the others beginning to doubt whether they were taking the right stand by going up against us. I should have felt bad about embarrassing her in front of everyone but she decided to make a stupid choice. She signed her warrant, not me. I was going to put an end to this rubbish and I didn't care if she was a casualty.

"I will say this once and make it clear, unless you have heard it directly from the mouths of the crown, do not make stupid assumptions. It will only look bad on you."

I turned to leave when I heard her speak. "I got a letter."

I turned back to her instantly. "What letter and who was it from?"

"It was sent from the palace and although it had no signature, I knew it was from her," she hesitated before saying her next words and I knew that they were definitely not good.

I gestured for her to come closer and she obliged. When she was close enough, she dropped her voice into a whisper. "It said to burn immediately after reading so I did but in the letter, it claimed that you had forced yourself on her and gotten her pregnant. It said that you were keeping her locked in the dungeons and if we didn't come to protest would kill her."

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"You trusted an unmarked piece of paper and decided it was enough evidence to go against your Queen?" I asked and shame filled her features as she realized the extent of what she had done.

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"Please don't kill me," she pleaded. "I have a grandson, he is five and I am the only family he has left. It was a stupid mistake and I understand that now."

I glanced over at Camilla who hadn't said a single word yet. The wheels in her head were turning and I could tell that she was trying to process everything to the best of her ability.

"We won't kill you," she said finally. "But you will fix the seeds of doubt that you planted. You will tell the people that you were bored and jealous and so you decided to make up an absurd story,"

Her eyes widened. "They will hate me, I will be an outcast. Nobody will ever trust me

again.”

“You should have thought of that before you came here.”

I stared at Camilla with a mixture of pride and disbelief. She may not know it yet but she was turning into a fierce queen. The girl who stumbled onto my pack terrified and frightful was not the same girl I was looking at right now. The girl in front of me was a full bred royal and she was not afraid to make hard decisions.

The woman nodded and bowed. I watched as she went back to the people and gave them the news. I didn’t stick around to see the results, I grabbed Camilla by the hand and led her back towards the palace. That was a close call but we needed a permanent solution to Alara before she wrecked everything we had struggled to build.

“What are we going to do about Alara?” Camilla asked once we were at the doors to the palace and I shrugged because I didn’t know what to say. “She is only going to cause more problems for us. I say that we just let her go.”

Before I could respond, the sound of loud hooves filled the air. I turned just in time to see Christine on horseback rushing as if she were being chased. She barely managed to skid to a halt before she hopped off. There was a flush to her cheeks and she looked vastly different from the usual put together version I saw in the palace. Her hair was in a curly mess around her shoulders and she was in breeches.

“I found something. You will not believe everything I managed to unearth,” she exclaimed as soon as she got to us. “I know how we can get rid of her.”

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The Rejected Werewolf Princess by Didiadeyemi Chapter 140

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CAMILLA’S P.O.V

We led Christine into the council room so that we could talk privately. I locked the door behind us and took in Christine. There was something different about her that I couldn’t quite put my finger on. When she noticed me staring at her, she flushed pink and looked away. I took a step closer to her and that was when I got a whiff of her scent. It was hers but mixed with someone else’s.

“You met a guy, didn’t you?” I asked and although she didn’t respond, her cheeks heated. “Will you tell me about him?”

“It wasn’t anything serious. He was the only person who knew of Alara personally so I stayed with him. It isn’t what you’re thinking. We just talked.”

“Talked,” I repeated and she nodded. “Is that why your cheeks are red and your mind is racing?” she smacked my shoulder playfully. “I am just saying, if he seems like a fun guy then you should pursue something with him.”

"I think I am done with men for the time being," she waved me off. "Now onto the issue at hand, Alara was from that pack but she doesn't have an uncle there. She was an omega slave. She worked with a rich family and from what I heard, she had a nasty streak."

"What do you mean?" Ryker asked and Christine smiled.

She gestured for us to take a seat and once we did, she continued speaking.

"She slept with two of her masters and their sons," my brows disappeared into my hairline. "She was thrown out of work and had nowhere to go when another man gracefully took her in. It was never confirmed but it was said that she was sleeping with him. No one really cared until one day, the man was found dead and all his property had been transferred into her name."

"She killed him," I deduced and Christine shook her head.

"Not quite, there wasn't any poison in his system and there were no obvious injuries so everyone let it slide. They forget about it within a year and she found another victim. The same thing happened to him and that was when the physician realized that the men were being drained of their blood," my mouth fell open and Christine nodded. "Somehow, Alara had managed to get a hold of the vampires and she made a deal with them."

"Wait a minute," I waved her to a pause. "How do we know that she made an alliance with the vampires? If we are going to accuse her of something this big, then we need proof."

Christine nodded in understanding then reached into the satchel by her side. She took out what looked like stacks of empty parchment and I raised a brow at her. She sensed my confusion but didn't say anything and walked over to the light. She held the paper up so that sunlight streamed directly onto it and I saw words appear on it. I gasped in shocked as I tried to quickly read the words before they disappeared.

He will be alone by eleven. I will keep the doors unlocked. Make it quick and make sure it isn't messy.

"How did they manage to preserve this?" I asked not wanting to touch the paper for risk of contaminating it.

"This one was written a little under three months ago. Her last victim died just a week before the attacks started here. They suspect that she moved immediately she was done there and she knew the people wanted her dead. She found a much larger target," she jerked her head towards Ryker. "Is this enough proof?"

"More than enough," it was Ryker who responded. He squeezed her shoulder affectionately. "Thank you, Christine. You have been an amazing help. Words can't even describe how thankful I am right now."

"I'm just glad I could help."

“Can you rally the elders here?” I asked Christine and she nodded. “Get all of them here while Ryker and I bring Alara. If it comes down to it, will you be able to get him here?”

She hesitated. “I don’t know if he would want that. You have to find proof in her room. This is the best I can do.”

I nodded in understanding. I wouldn’t want to drag another person into it anyway. We split from there and while she went looking for the elders, we went to Alara. She was lying on the bed with a bowl of fruits in her arms and a sly smile on her face. When she saw us, her smile grew even wider and she sat up slowly.

“To what do I owe the pleasure?” she asked in a seductive tone. “I heard about the disturbance at the gates. It must be so terrible to have your subjects at war with you. I could never imagine being in your shoes.”

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Ryker ignored her and called out for Steven and Kevin who wasted no time in dragging her up by her arms. She let out a screech that could have given a banshee a run for its money and glared at them,

“What is this?” she spat. “How dare you manhandle a pregnant woman this way? I am carrying the prince’s child. I deserve some form of respect.”

“The only thing you deserve is an execution,” I deadpanned before turning to the guards. “Take her to the council chambers and make sure that she is bound. Christine

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will tell you what to do. Until then, we need an hour.”

They didn’t ask any questions, just nodded and walked off. Once they were gone, I turned to Ryker. “Do you think we can find something within an hour?”

“For both our sakes, I hope so.”

We turned the entire room upside down searching for anything that remotely looked like a piece of parchment but there was nothing. It was almost as if she had anticipated our arrival and either hid or gotten rid of them. Forty minutes had passed and we still had nothing to show for it. Neither of us said a word but I knew that we were losing hope. I ransacked the bed that she was lying on but it was empty and I let out a groan of frustration.

“The sly witch hid it,” I exclaimed and Ryker nodded. “What do we do?”

“We go to the elders and hope that what we have is enough,” Ryker said simply and I prayed to the goddess for a miracle because that was exactly what we needed.

As we got to the council chambers, we saw the elders already seated.

Christine was explaining everything she found out during the trip and even

showed them the note they had found but from the looks on their faces, I could tell that they weren't being convinced very well.

"Your majesties," one of them exclaimed as soon as he saw us. "I was beginning to think you were not going to show up. Please tell me that you did not drag us out of bed for this."

"This is proof that she is a liar," I pointed at Alara who discreetly rolled her eyes. "She was responsible for the deaths of two different men at the hands of the vampires and she swindled them out of all their worth."

"That might be true but it has nothing to do with the matter at hand. There is no reason to believe that she is doing the same to you and it doesn't prove that she isn't pregnant with the prince's child."

I stared in shock. "You have got to be joking, right? Are you trying to downplay everything that is happening?"

"I am just telling you how this looks, your majesty. She might be guilty of that but it didn't happen under our watch. If that is all then I am sorry to say but there is no case."

I stared in shock. They had a point but that didn't mean I had to like it. Alara was smirking as if she had just won the lottery and I wanted nothing more than to bash her face in. Her hands were tied in front of her and she sat there looking high and mighty. I didn't know what else to say so I just nodded to Kevin to lead her to her feet,

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As they walked past me, she spoke. "This is why you don't show your cards too early, always keep your cards close to your chest."

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She started to walk away but something about her words stuck out to me.

"Wait! I need everyone to just sit still for five minutes."

I walked up to Alara and took a deep breath before I started to pay her down. Her eyes widened in alarm.

"What are you doing?" she exclaimed but I ignored her. She tried to swat my hands away but I kept at it until I felt something embedded into her inner skirt. She knew the exact moment I found it because her face paled.

"I found evidence," I announced. "Do you want me to take you into a private room to get it out or should I do it here."

She swallowed but didn't respond. I reached into Ryker's waistband where a knife lay and I split her dress open. Right there tucked into her waistband were stacks of paper. It was big enough to be noticeable now but small enough that she hid it without a problem. I pulled it out and held it up to the

light just as Christine did with the others.

One by one, the notes began to appear. Some were dating as far back as the first attack. The more recent ones started after we brought her in. It didn't take long before we realized that she had burned her house down on purpose. It was a plan between her and Alastair to get her into the palace so that she could feed him information.

The last one was a letter from someone I didn't know. He was talking about a mixture he had given her and he apologized for her bad experience stating that it wasn't supposed to induce arousal and her inability to have sex with the person in question was not his fault. I felt the relief in the air as soon as I read those words. It was clear that she didn't have sex with Ryker.

"Do you have anything to say for yourself?" I asked but she kept her mouth clamped shut. "You really shouldn't talk so much."

"I am carrying his child. You cannot kill me while I am-"

"Save it," I cut her off. "You will have enough time to speak when you are getting executed."