

## The Rejected Werewolf Princess by Didiadeyemi Chapter 170-173

Chapter 170

CAMILLA'S P.O.V

I stared at my mate incredulously. "I healed two people before her despite you begging me not to. Healing Riley alone couldn't have caused whatever just happened. If I had listened to you earlier when-

He shook his head. "Don't, Camilla, don't try to take the blame for this. What happened is done and now, all we can do is try to fix it before it gets worse. You cannot use your powers under any circumstances. Am I clear?"

I didn't like the order in his tone but I knew he was only doing it to protect me so I nodded. He leaned forward and placed a lingering kiss against my forehead. He smelled just like himself, but he looked like he had been through hell. When he pulled back, he exhaled deeply as if he had been waiting for a chance to do that. He pushed the tray closer to me as if trying to spur me to eat. I took a bite and nearly moaned. I noticed him watching me intently so I decided to bridge a different topic.

"Is Lyla still here?" I asked and he nodded. "Did she say how long she was staying?"

"I didn't ask. I just made sure she was comfortable and I came back to you. I haven't done much of talking to anyone if I'm being honest."

"What about the girls? Are they okay?"

"Yeah, they don't know what is happening. Audrey thinks you were just taking a long nap because you weren't feeling good. I told her that she could come see you after dinner. She wasn't happy about it but she came to terms with it." I wanted to go and see her immediately but I still felt weak and out of sorts. It was almost like I was a stranger in my body. Something inside of me felt hollow and empty, like it would never be filled again. I thought back to the small hole in my chest that I saw in the mirror and instinctively, my hands went up to my chest and I rubbed softly. It wasn't until I noticed Ryker's eyes on me that I realized I had been doing it. I dragged my hand down and turned away to hide the flush building on my cheeks.

"Is something wrong?" he asked but I shook my head. I hadn't told him about what I saw yet. I hadn't wanted to give him more of a reason to worry. "You know better than to lie to me, Camilla. Does your chest hurt? Do you want me to call the physician?"

"There is nothing that he can do for me," I whispered softly and concern grew on

[11

<

47%

Chapter 170

his face.

“Please, Camilla, you’re making me worry.”

“A part of myself is missing,” I said finally knowing how absurd it sounded. Ryker sat there staring at me in concern and waiting for me to elaborate so I did. By the time I was done, he looked lost in thought. “I’m not sure if that is what it is but that is what I understood by it. it doesn’t matter anyway, it is a tiny piece, I barely noticed it.”

He smiled sadly. “Are you lying for your benefit or mine?”

I hesitated before shrugging. “Probably both,” I chuckled dryly. “I don’t want to be incomplete, Ryker. I don’t want to walk around while permanently missing something. I can’t live my life like that. It will heal, it has to. If I don’t use my powers for a while then it will.

I wasn’t sure if I was trying to convince him or myself but it wasn’t working. We both knew that it was never going to heal. I was stuck this way because I chose to be careless with powers that I didn’t understand. I was stuck this way because I wouldn’t listen and I allowed my stubbornness take control.

Ryker looked like he wanted to speak. He opened his mouth to say something when there was a soft knock on the door. It opened slowly to reveal Audrey running in. Behind her was Aurora who slowly wobbled on her feet. Despite the initial sadness and damper on the room, a smile broke out on my face when Audrey leaped onto the bed and into my lap.

Ryker and I were barely able to move the tray of food aside before she landed. Her hands wrapped around my waist as she buried her face into my robe. I stroked her soft curls marveling at the feel of them under my fingertips and her mere presence in the room.

“I thought your dad said you couldn’t come until dinner?” I asked and her cheeks flushed pink. I raised a brow in her direction and she promptly looked away. “Audrey Valentina Caine, what did you do?”

“Dad didn’t say when I had to have dinner so I had it now. I already had dinner, you see,” she exclaimed trying to make me see the logic in her reasoning, “Are you mad at me? I just wanted to see you. Daddy said you were tired and I got you flowers.”

She gestured behind her and I noticed that Christine held a bunch of multicolored flowers. The stems weren’t cut evenly and I knew without a doubt that she had picked them herself. Regardless, it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen

111

O

<

## Chapter 170

and I took it from her. I made a show of inhaling their scent before placing it on my bedside table.

“That is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.” I kissed her hair before turning to Aurora who was squirming in Ryker’s hold and trying to get to me. I reached out for her and she wasted no time in coming to me. “Did you help with the flowers too?”

“She’s a baby, mummy, she can’t understand you,” Audrey exclaimed as if she were talking to a child and I bit down on my bottom lip to smother my child. “Besides, she can’t touch the flowers, they have thorns and thorns are very sharp. She just sat down while I did all the work.”

I wasn’t sure if she was impressed with herself or pissed off at Aurora for not helping. If I was being honest, it seemed like a little bit of both. I wasn’t sure how to handle that so I just hummed and nodded slowly. Aurora reached for my hair and I had to pull it out of her grip before she could put it in her mouth. Audrey laughed and as I sat there with my children, I realized that it didn’t matter if some part of me was missing, I had everything I needed right there in front of me. I had a loving mate, I had wonderful children and I had the kind of life most people were dreaming about. I was fulfilled and complete where it mattered and that was the most important thing.

The girls fell asleep in the room and Ryker and I took them back to theirs. Ryker didn’t want me to come with but I wanted to walk around and exercise my legs because I hadn’t moved in over twenty four hours. As we walked back to our room, we took a leisurely stroll. The palace was quiet and you could hear the crickets chirping from outside, the moon was in the sky and the breeze blew through the deserted halls.

“Why don’t we go out?” I asked and Ryker turned to me with confusion etched on his features. “Instead of returning to a stuffy room, why don’t we take a walk? We can just sit on the bench and enjoy the moonlight.”

He frowned. “Camilla, I’m not sure if that is a good idea. You need to rest.”

“I have done nothing but rest all day. I just want a second where nobody is treating me like I am damaged goods. If you want me to believe that everything is fine then act like it.”

He pursed his lips for a second before nodding. I let out a sigh of relief because I truly hadn’t expected him to agree. We walked out together marveling at the brightness of the moon. It was peculiarly high and brighter than usual. Ryker led

|||

<

## Chapter 170

us towards the bench by the fountain and on instinct I reached out to move the water.

It was almost like second nature, I had done it for so long that I barely even realized I was moving the water until Ryker's hand clamped around my wrist. The small wave I was making crashed and I turned to him with a frown.

"That was a big one," I argued but he didn't even seem fazed.

"You need to be resting, Camilla. Using your powers does not equal rest. It is your powers that got you into this position."

"Quite the contrary actually, using my healing abilities got me into this mess. My water powers were given to me when I turned twenty one as they should have. There is no issue with me using them."

He didn't look amused by my explanation and I knew he wasn't going to budge anytime soon. I let out a sigh and turned to him. I placed my hands in his and for a second there, I just stared at the size difference between our hands. Mine were soft and dainty with minimal scars and his were a polar opposite.

"I am fine," I told him and he opened his mouth to speak but I held up a finger to cut him off. "I am here, I am alive and you don't have to worry right now. You don't have to coddle me, you don't have to monitor me."

"You could have died," he whispered finally and I knew he was getting it off his chest. "I didn't know what happened to you, I didn't check. If Lyla hadn't arrived when she did, I wouldn't have gone to check for you. You could have been lying dead there and I wouldn't have known."

"You would have," I was sure of it. "What matters is that you found me. It doesn't matter where or when, it just matters that you

"No, I failed you, again. That is the only truth." did."

SEND GIFT

Chapter 171

RYKER'S POV

Camilla claimed to be better the next morning and in all honesty, I wanted to keep her locked up in the room where I was sure she could be protected but even I knew that was impossible. She was the Queen and it didn't matter what was happening in her personal life, she had to show up. I hated it and I wouldn't have minded da mning the consequences but she wanted to prove something, she wanted to show that she was good, she told me point blank that she didn't need my permission and was returning to work whether I liked it or not. There wasn't much I could do in regards to that so I let it slide.

It didn't mean I didn't keep a close eye on her though. I had Kevin keeping watch over her and reporting back to me. He did it discreetly because I knew that if she was aware, she would be nothing short of pissed. If I had my way, I would have trailed her myself but I had something else I wanted to do that she didn't need to find out about.

"I was expecting to see your mate here and not you," Lyla began when I walked into her room. "What can I help you with, your majesty?"

"You have seen the future, yes?" I asked and she nodded. "I know that you cannot tell me what the future entails but can you tell me how to ensure that it ends in a good way for everyone involved."

"You know as well as I do that isn't possible," her voice was soft and soothing. I wondered how many years it took her to learn to speak to people like that. She must have found that people didn't take to hearing their future and developed the calm persona as a wall to hide behind. "I am not allowed to interfere in the affairs of humans. I have already risked so much by coming here and I know that I will be punished for it later."

it De

because you are

"Then why did you?" I shot back and she went silent. "if you are risking your life and potential punishment, why did you do it? Surely

fond of us. Was there something you saw that made you come?" She looked away and that was enough of an admission of guilt for me. I pushed off the door that I was leaning against and walked over to her. She tried to avoid my gaze but she was squirming, I had her exactly where I wanted her and she didn't even know. I sat in the spare chair next to her making sure she felt the entire weight of my presence. Lyla was powerful but she was still a person, she had been

was

isolated for so long and I knew without a doubt that I was making her uncomfortable but it was a necessary evil.

III

O

<

Chapter 171

"Tell me, Lyla." I probed. "What was so important?"

"The goddess asked me to," she blurted out before slapping her hands over her mouth and muttering to herself about speaking too much. She looked frustrated but I couldn't focus on her, I was more intrigued by her words.

"What do you mean the goddess asked you to? How did she do that? Did she appear to you?"

"Please, your majesty, I have already said too much."

"This doesn't concern our future, it concerns the past which has already happened," it was a loophole and she knew it. There was nothing prohibiting her from talking to me about it now. "You should suffer no punishment if you tell us considering it has already come and gone."

She sighed when she realized I had her hands bound behind her back. "She appeared to me in a vision. She said that the queen would be in danger soon and I needed to leave immediately if I was to save her. I left two days before I arrived."

"She told you about it before it happened," I deduced and she nodded. "Why would she do that? Wouldn't she have stood to gain more if she had just let her go?"

The words burned my throat like acid but I needed to know. I needed to understand what I was dealing with if I was going to stand any chance of getting out of it alive. Lyla shrugged in response to my question. She seemed uneasy and if I were a better person, I would have let her go and stopped with my questions but I was willing to make her as uncomfortable as possible as long as it meant that my family would be safe. Nothing else mattered to me besides them as terrible as that sounded.

"I don't know," she said finally. "I don't ask questions. I am simply a servant, I am a tool. If the goddess says to go then I leave, if she asks to jump then I ask how high, please do not ask questions I do not have the answer to, you will only make this hard for me."

It took me a second to realize that she wasn't frustrated or uncomfortable, she was scared. Her entire body shook as fear coursed through it and I could practically taste the tanginess of it in the air. She couldn't meet my eye and she kept looking around as if she expected something to fly out and hurt her. I couldn't help but wonder who or what terrified her so much. I placed a hand on her shoulder and she let out a loud shriek and jumped further solidifying my thoughts. She cleared her throat and attempted to straighten her dress but I had already seen enough.

=

Compter 373

"Who hurt you?" I asked but she stayed silent. "Was it the goddess?"

"She is my sovereign ruler and leader, everything she does, she does it for my well being and the betterment of the wolves. She leads with love and loyalty and warmth in her heart."

It sounded like she was repeating a phrase she had heard over and over again. I noticed that she was also picking at her nails. I wanted to reach out to comfort her but somehow I knew that I was only going to make things worse, the only thing I could do for her was to give her space which was what I did. I cleared my throat and stood to my feet, she took a step back as if wary of me

touching her.

“Thank you for all your help,” I said in a softer tone than I normally would have used. “Please enjoy the rest of your day.”

I could feel her eyes on me as I walked out of the room. Even after shutting the door, I could feel the weight of her gaze on my shoulder. There was more to the story, more that she wasn't saying. There was something or someone that had her turning into a terrified child and I wanted to know who it was, I wanted to know how big of a threat this person was.

A part of me thought it was the goddess but there was no way for me to prove it, there was no way for me to know and these were not the kinds of accusations one went around throwing without proof. The goddess was known to be the symbol of kindness and love but legend also told of her exceptional cruelty when wronged. I forced all thoughts of it out of my mind, it wasn't my problem. I had more important things to worry about.

I checked on Camilla first and once I was sure that she was happily working away. I made my way back to my office to attend to that I had put aside because of what happened to Camilla and Riley. I didn't realize how much work it was until I started sorting through all the files and the people I had to meet with.

I was going through it when I heard a soft knock on my door and it opened to reveal Riley. She was much better now, her skin was completely clear although she still had the occasional dizzy spell and she couldn't do as much as she used to. She spent most of her time inside because the sun was too harsh on her skin.

“Am I interrupting?” she asked but I immediately shook my head and ushered her inside. “I know we haven't spoken about this yet but did you tell Damien that I was back? Does he know that I was sick?”

“I didn't tell him anything,” I answered slowly wondering where she was going with

O

11:17 Mon, 23 Mar.

Chiper 171

it. I couldn't imagine her wanting him to know especially after what happened since she left and I figured if he wanted to know, he would have sent a messenger to ask me.

“I was just wondering why he hadn't sent me any more letters.”

“Any more?” I asked and her cheeks heated. “Riley, what did you do?”

“He started sending me letters a few weeks after I left. He somehow knew where I was and although I never responded, I never stopped. I responded



two weeks ago and told him to stop because I was leaving and going somewhere else. I guess I wanted to see if he would find me.”

I let out an exasperated sigh. “What are you doing, Riley? I thought you wanted space from him? You don’t get space by keeping and responding to his letters. You are either all in or all out, if you keep doing this then you’re going to get hurt.”

“I know,” she crossed her arms over her chest in defiance. “I didn’t come here for a lecture from you, I just came to ask a question but forget I even said anything.”

She stormed off and I tried to call her back but she had enough of me. She pulled the door open only to reveal a guard standing there. He looked confused especially when she groaned very loud and stomped off. He shot me an inquisitive look, silently asking if he should go after her but I shook my head. Riley always threw tantrums, it was only a matter of time before she realized that I was only helping her.

“What do you need?” I asked the guard and he cleared his throat.

“There is mail for you, your majesty,” he said and my brows rose. How ironic it was that we were just talking about messages and I got mail. I took it from him and thanked him, immediately going through the stack.

Most were the usual, mails from nearby packs, announcements from the heads of the towns but there was one that stood out and caught my eye. There was an unfamiliar seal on it, I had never seen it before. I wasted no time in tearing open the envelope.

Once I read the contents, I cursed and rushed to my feet after the guard. I found him turning the hallway and I grabbed him by the collar of his shirt.

“Tell me where you got this.”

|||  
≡  
O

NNNGGGGG

72% 11:35

Chapter 172

RYKER’S PO.V

I had never felt as panicked as I did in that moment. For a split second, I had deluded myself into thinking that everything was going to be fine, that it would pass over us and be like a fever dream that was long forgotten. I wasn’t sure how the letter came to be but I was da mned well going to find out. The guard looked terrified, like he was a second away from pissing his pants. The pungent scent of fear floated through the halls, wrapping around us and



choking the goodness out of the world. His eyes were wide with panic as his mouth opened and closed a few times to no avail.

"I asked you a f u c k i n g question," I growled and he made a sound that was a cross between a squeak and a sob.

"I don't know," he managed out. "All the letters are brought by the mail man. I don't know where they came from. I swear I don't even know what that is. I just brought it the way it was handed to me. Please, don't kill me."

He squeezed his eyes shut and it hit me just how unreasonable I was being. The poor boy was terrified, he didn't know what was happening. It was my anger and my paranoia that was making me see things where there weren't any and making it hard for me to completely reason what was going on. I released the guard and took a step back and within a second, he had sprinted down the hall for dear life. I ran my hands through my hair in frustration before letting out a harsh curse and slamming my fist into the wall.

I unfurled the letter that I had scrunched up in my rage induced haze and read the words over again wondering if they were going to change and disappear but it was the same as the last time. It said: I have only one demand. Bring me Camilla and all of this will end easily. Refuse and watch me ruin everything you hold dear and take her anyway.

That was a clear and concise threat. There was no bullshitting or joking around, whoever wrote this knew what they wanted and they were not straying from it. I knew refusing would have disastrous results but I didn't care, I was not giving up my mate to some deranged witch. I turned over the envelope in my hand to stare at the seal that was used on it. I had never seen it before but I figured it was a good start into finding out who was behind this. If they put the seal then it was clearly because they wanted us to know- but why? If I were in a better state of mind, I would have thought about that. I would have thought about why they were not operating in secret anymore but I was much too worried about Camilla. I made my way back to my office before mind linking Kevin. He was very efficient, he arrived at my office within ten minutes.

"You sent for me, your majesty," if he was curious, there was no trace of it on his face. He was the epitome of professionalism and according to what I learned from Leanor before she died, he was in charge of protecting Camilla and she trusted him with her life which meant I could trust him too.

1/4

L

S & MMM BBB

600 000M B B B B B

Chapter 172

72% 11:35

O

“I need you to do something but I expect it to be treated with the topmost concern,” I saw a brief emotion flash across his face. He understood exactly what I was saying and that brought some concern to his eyes but he nodded slowly. “You are not to leave Camilla’s side for any reason. Keep a distance from her so that she does not know but I need you and a pair of trusted men to have eyes on her at all times. You will report to me hourly, is that clear?” He nodded but I could still see the worry in his eyes. “Is she in danger? Is that why you want us to be discreet about it?”

“The reasons behind my requests do not matter. All I need is to ensure that she is safe and protected at all times. Can you do that?”

He straightened and nodded. “Of course your majesty, as you wish. I could begin today.”

“Good, you may leave.”

He bowed and walked away. I watched him leave and once he was gone, I let out an exasperated breath. I knew Camilla would be nothing short of pissed if she found out that I did this behind her back but I was past caring. The only thing that mattered was her safety and well being. I could take her anger, I couldn’t take her getting any more hurt than she already was.

The door to my office gently creaked open making my head snap up and I looked up to see Camilla. “I just saw Kevin leaving, is everything okay?”

I nodded and when she glanced over her shoulder, I discreetly pulled the letter into my drawer so that she wouldn’t notice it. When she turned back to me, she had a small smile on her face. She crossed the length of the room and came to sit on the table in front of me. She seemed more at ease than she did this morning but I could still see the emptiness behind her eyes. It was small, something you wouldn’t have noticed unless you were actively searching for it.

It was clear that she was missing something- some form of joy maybe. I couldn’t stop the feeling of guilt that tugged at my heart. She was oblivious to it however because her eyes were on the stack of papers in front of me. She was combing through them and I couldn’t help but feel relieved that I had taken the letter away while I still could.

"I went to see Riley," she said finally and I hummed. "She was upset with you to say the least. Is there a reason for that?"

"She will come around, don't worry?" I barely looked away from her as I spoke, my eyes analyzing her every move.

She sighed after a second and met my eyes. "You don't have to look at me like I am going to break, Ryker. I feel fine."

She knew I didn't believe her because she didn't bother trying to convince me anymore. She just turned away from me and wiped her hands on her thighs.

The letter was at the back of my mind. and a part of me urged me to tell her, to be truthful with her. I had promised her no lies a long

2/4

A

Chapter 172

BBB B

72% 11:35

time ago and that was exactly what I was doing to her, however each time I tried to convince myself to speak, I couldn't form the words.

"Why did you come here, Camilla?" I asked finally and she stilled.

"Couldn't I have just come to see you?"

"You could, but you didn't?" she knew I was right because she exhaled deeply but she still didn't turn. I wasn't sure if it was fear that was keeping her from looking at me or worry. "What is wrong?"

"Don't you consider it weird that nothing has happened yet?" she asked but I stayed silent. "First it was the crops, then the two men and then Riley. I would expect that she would do something even more drastic. She has been quiet for a few days now, I'm worried that she is planning something."

"I can't say I haven't thought about it. It is unusual."

"Did she perhaps do something and you didn't tell me?" her voice was soft almost as if she were trying to sound unassuming but we both knew better.

The knowledge of the letter burned in my mind but I refused to think about it.

"If you did, I don't blame you for it, I probably would have done the same but I think I should know so I won't be too surprised later."

"She hasn't done anything," I lied. The words tasted like ash on my tongue and the feeling of guilt got worse when she let out a sigh of relief. She trusted me so blindly and yet I had lied to her face. I tried to convince myself that I did it for a good cause but even that wasn't enough to assuage my guilt.

"That's a relief," she laughed almost awkwardly. "I probably should be running off, you look like you have a sh it ton of work." She stood to her feet and

kissed my cheek softly. "We will be waiting for you at dinner."

She walked away and I sat there staring at the door for what felt like hours after she had gone. Once I managed to gather my bearings, I took the envelope that contained the letter and walked out of the office with it. The first person I went to find was Caius, he was deep in conversation with the other elders and they looked to be playing some kind of game but I didn't care. He immediately followed me and I led him towards Lyla's room.

She opened the door with furrowed brows. "Is something wrong, your majesty?"

She wasn't so eager to let me into her room after our last conversation but I didn't care. I brushed past her and walked into the room with Caius in tow. I waited until she had shut the door behind her before I spoke.

"I got a letter today and it came with a seal. You," I began pointing at Caius, "are one of the oldest people I know, and you, Lyla, are a witch. I need one of you to identify the seal."

"I don't know much about coven seals but I can try my best," Lyla began anxiously.

I pulled the envelope out of my pocket and showed it to them. "Does either of you recognize it?" Their brows furrowed in deep concentration but they ended up shaking their heads. "Well then, find out where it is from."

"Why?" Caius asked making me turn to him. "Is there a problem?"

"No, just find it or we are all dead."

Chapter 173

CAMILLA'S P.O.V

\*2077%

1011:09

Over the past two days, Ryker had been acting weird. I knew there was something up but no matter how many times I asked, he would just calmly and quietly shut me down or change the subject. I tried so hard to snoop or eavesdrop on him but I never got anything concrete. It was driving me mad because at every second, he looked to be lost in thought which wasn't normal for him. He would zone out during meals and sometimes while with the girls. Everyone else had noticed it and not just me.

He had just walked out of lunch after murmuring a few words under his breath when Riley turned to me. "Is there something wrong with him? Is something going on that I don't know?"

"I've been asking myself the very same thing," I mumbled. "Something is definitely bothering him but he will not tell me what it is no matter how much I

try to ask.”

She hummed and crossed her arms over her chest. She was in a much better place than she was when she first arrived. She looked healthier and happier but she still refused for us to inform Damien. It wasn't my place to ask why so I chose to respect her space although I couldn't help but notice that she tended to avoid Juan and Christine. If they were in a room, she would make up an excuse and leave or turn the other way. I had been meaning to ask her about it but the right time never came up.

When Christine and Juan walked in, I realized it was perfect. They were whispering between themselves and I saw Riley stiffen. She tried to look anywhere but at them and she was failing badly because her eyes would ultimately end up settling on them.

“I should go,” she muttered under her breath finally standing to her feet. “I can try talking to Ryker. I might be able to glean something.”

Before I could respond, she had walked out of the room. Christine turned to me with raised brows in confusion and I just shrugged. I was as confused as she was but I was determined to find out so I followed her. I watched her run her hands through her hair as she made her way towards the side entrance to the palace. She either didn't notice me or didn't care as she walked into the garden.

“I just need a second, Camilla,” she mumbled when I made my way over to her: “I'm still recovering from whatever that witch did to me and sometimes I need some fresh air.”

“You will have to come up with something better if you are going to get rid of me,” I drawled and she exhaled

1/4

OX

Emergency calls only

Chapter 173

deeply. “Is there a reason you are avoiding Christine? Did someone say something to you?”

“No, and I am not avoiding her. I just needed some space.”

\*3077% 11:09

“When she walked in,” I finished but she wouldn't speak. She took a seat on the bench and I slowly walked over and took the seat next to her. “Tell me what the problem is, Riley.”

“I don't know,” she said and I could sense the sincerity in her tone. “I just feel so stupid when I look at her, you know? I was so angry with her because of Damien but now she has someone else and she is happy. It almost feels like bad karma, like I villainize her so much and now she has everything and I have

nothing. She probably hates me.”

I snorted. “No she doesn’t. Christine doesn’t have a mean bone in her body despite what she might tell you. She feels nothing for you but mutual respect at sharing family members. She doesn’t feel that way, I swear.”

“Are you sure?” Riley asked and I nodded. “I would deserve her hatred. I took her mate away from her. I made him choose between us. I embarrassed her time and time again.”

“If she was to hate anyone, it would be Damien but I don’t think she hates him either. If Damien hadn’t chosen

you, she never would have found Juan. The way I see it, it was a win-win situation. The only person who feels

any sort of way about this is you. You need closure from this, Riley?”

Her voice was soft as she responded. “How do I do that?”

“You see Damien, you talk to him and you figure out if you are going to try again or move on. You cannot hide out here forever.”

She opened her mouth to respond but before she could, a guard rushed over to us. He was panting as if he had been running for a long time. He took a second to catch his breath and I considered dousing him in water because he was sweating profusely.

“Your majesty,” he bowed once he managed to catch his breath. “The town needs you, there have been some- I can’t explain it, you just have to see.”

I gave Riley a small smile ignoring her look of confusion and followed the guard. I was about to ask about Ryker when I saw him at the front of the palace. The horses were already prepped and I tried to catch Ryker’s eye to ask what the hell was going on but I noticed that he was avoiding me. My brows furrowed in confusion and I couldn’t stop that sickly creeping feeling from crawling up my spine. Did he know something about this?

2/4

1 X

Emergency calls only

Chapter 173

11:10

\*2077%

+5

I wasn’t able to ask him any questions until we got to the town but all thoughts died out when I took in the environment. The first thing I realized was that it was empty. There were no people on the roads or in the fields, it looked almost completely deserted. I was so stunned that I couldn’t move. It wasn’t until I felt a warm hand on my thigh that I realized I was the only person still

mounted on my horse. Ryker gently helped me off not once letting go of my hand.

“What the hell happened here?” I asked aloud but even he could not respond. The guard that had called me led us towards what looked like a massive town house.

“You have to prepare yourself, your majesty,” he mumbled before reaching into his satchel and producing two face masks. I was left confused wondering what was happening but put it on any way. He pushed the door open and I was stunned to see not one but at least ten different people who looked deathly ill.

The scent of death stuck to the walls and the air, it clawed at my insides and I felt my powers rise to the surface as if begging and beckoning me to heal them. I stumbled at the entrance not knowing if I would be able to control myself if I were to walk in. Ryker turned to me in confusion but I simply shook my head- I was fine.

We were led in and that was when I noticed the physician and his son standing in the center of the room. I turned to the guard. “When did they get here?”

“They have been here since yesterday afternoon when the first case broke out. We think it is contagious because how else do we explain that it is rapidly spreading. The rest of the town is locked in their homes terrified that they will contract the strange illness.”

We were walking past the people when a hand reached out and grabbed me. The guards sprung to action but I held up my hand to stop them. It was and it took all my will power to not all woman, no older than twenty five probably. She looked terrible

and it took all my will power to not allow my power flow into her.

“Why?” she groaned out, her voice barely over a whisper. I leaned down wondering what she meant by that. “You should have given yourself up like she asked. This wouldn’t have happened.”

“That’s enough,” Ryker muttered before pulling me away. I noticed there was an unnatural stiffness to him and he was avoiding my gaze. He steered me away from the woman but her words echoed in my ears.

I waited until we had walked out of the house before I turned to him. “What was she talking about and don’t lie to me?” he stayed silent. “Ryker, so help me if you don’t respond.”

“I got a letter two days ago from who I assume is the witch. She asked me to give you up and it was that I wasn’t going to agree to that.”

no

brainer



3/4

X

4/4

Emergency calls only

Chapter 173

\*D77%

11:10

+5

“Didn’t you think to tell me?” I asked but he crossed his arms over his chest.

“Those people in there are dying and it is my fault.”

“No, it is the witch’s fault. I already have Lyla and Caius trying to find out who she is. I didn’t think it was necessary to bother you.”

I let out a groan of frustration and stormed off towards my horse. I could feel eyes on me but I didn’t care, I was pissed. He had no right to hide that from me. He tried to follow me but before he made his way over, I was already gone and heading towards the palace. I arrived before him and immediately went into the comfort of our room.

It took him about half an hour before he walked in too. “Camilla, you’re being unreasonable.” I raised a brow in his direction but said nothing. “The letter came to me and it was my choice to decide whether or not I wanted to tell you.”

“Okay,” I said simply. “You can leave now.”

“Are you truly doing this right now?” he asked but I didn’t respond. He muttered a curse under his breath before walking out.

He didn’t return that night which was good for me because sometime around eleven, I got myself dressed in riding gear and a large dark coat. I snuck into the stables and took one of the horses then quietly rode out into the town. I waited until I saw the last light go off signaling that everyone was asleep before I dismounted and made my way out of the bushes where I was hiding. I snuck in through the back door and gently knelt beside one of the sick people- a young teenager. I clasped his palm and with a deep breath, I tunneled my powers into him.

SEND GIFT

o

COMMENT