

THE REJECTED WEREWOLF PRINCESS

Chapter 198

CAMILLA'S P.O.V

The ride back to the palace was tense and difficult to say the least. I could feel Ryker's eyes on me the entire time and it wasn't just him, it was everyone. I felt like a prized cattle on display and it was exhausting to say the least. Ryker wanted us to get to the palace as soon as possible so there was no room to pause and breathe. With each step our horses took, I felt like the noose around my neck was tightening and I couldn't breathe.

I didn't know the first thing about being Queen or about being a mother and here I was being told that I had two daughters and I had been ruling for the past two years. I couldn't do it and it felt like everyone was counting on me and waiting for me to actually do it. I wasn't queen material.

"Camilla," Marie's voice was soft and almost probing. I turned to her and I realized that she was trying to whisper. I nudged my horse closer to her. "How did you learn how to ride like this? I feel like I am about to fall off."

"I don't know," I admitted. "It almost feels natural to me. It must have been something I knew how to do before my... accident, I guess." She hummed and I knew there was something more that she wanted to say but she was holding herself back. "Just ask, Marie." wanted to say but she was holding h
minute you were in the town

"How do you feel about all of this?" she asked and I shrugged. "One and now you are on your way to being Queen. It seems like a fairytale."

“I don’t really have a choice in the matter, do I?” I joked and she frowned. It was clear that wasn’t -the answer that she was expecting from me. “I don’t know how to answer your question, Marie. I

don’t know how to feel about all of this. I am trying to take this one day at a time or I will explode. I will lose my mind. Try asking me in a few weeks after I have figured out the kids and the mate. Ruling is the last thing on my mind.”

“I’m sorry,” her cheeks heated with embarrassment. “I didn’t

ven ask about that. How are you going to deal with the children? Are you going to pretend to remember them? Are you going to ignore them?”

“I have to pretend. They don’t deserve any of this. They are innocent and they at least deserve their mother, even if I don’t remember who she is.”

Marie gave me a soft smile. “You are a better person than I am. I would have taken off for the hills if all of this was thrust on me.”

I couldn’t stop myself from laughing. I felt Ryker turn towards me but I did everything possible not to look at him. His gaze was always piercing and there was something about him that had the hair at the back of my neck standing on edge. Even if I couldn’t remember him, the mate bond did and I could feel it working overtime trying to pull us closer to each other.

“I want to run, believe me,” I said in response to Marie’s earlier statement.

“What good would it do though? I want to remember my past. I want to know what happened to me and there is only one place I can find that out. It is daunting but I can do it.”

“I’ll be by your side every step of the way if you need my help.”

“Thank you, Marie, that means a lot to me.”

Ryker's stare started to become overbearing and I could feel Christine's alongside his. I gave Marie a small smile and turned to face forward not saying another word.

I knew the exact moment we were almost at the palace. The roads seemed familiar and some part of me knew that I could lead myself there but I stayed silent. I wasn't sure if it was my memory coming back because I couldn't connect any event to the roads, I just knew them. I didn't want to say anything so as not to give anyone false hope. I didn't want Ryker thinking he was getting his mate back and then it turned out to just be a fluke of muscle memory.

"The girls will be in their rooms," Christine explained to me the closer we got to the palace. "I can hide your appearance from them for today but Audrey is sneaky and if she hears that you are here, she will come find you." Belongs to (N)ovel/Drama.Org.

"How old are they?" I asked not wanting to be hit with surprise when I saw the children. "Can you also give me a breakdown of their personalities? I want to know how to relate to them."

"Audrey is four years old. She is the sassiest little girl you will ever meet. She adores you but she loves me more," Ryker seemed in love with her as he spoke. I couldn't stop myself from smiling. He was definitely a great father, that much was certain. "She is very emotional as well and she-"

He trailed off on the last word and I saw a dark look cross his face. He shared a glance with Christine and I couldn't help the pang of jealousy I felt at that which I thought was completely irrational. I didn't even know him, what right did I have to be jealous?

"Aurora on the other hand is one year old. She walks but she loves to be carried. She loves you

and since you disappeared, she has been extremely frolicky. Her first word was mama and you adore them both,” I didn’t miss the fact that he didn’t finish whatever it was that he was saying about Audrey. “They will be excited to see you and Audrey might be a little much at first. I’ll be there to try and keep them calm in case you get overwhelmed.”

“I’ll be fine,” I wasn’t sure if I was telling him or myself. I just knew that the words had to be true. I couldn’t risk breaking down in front of everyone. “What kind of a queen was I?”

“A good one,” it was Christine who responded. “Everyone loves you. You saved them countless times and you have done everything possible to ensure that the people are protected. You are a good Queen, Camilla and I know you will continue to be one.”

I couldn’t say a word mainly because we were standing in front of the palace. It looked large and daunting in person and it took everything in me not to turn the horse around and hightail out of there. I was in over my head when I agreed to come, that much was certain because there was no way that I was going to make it.

There were guards in front of the palace and I saw varying degrees of shock on their faces as we got closer. They looked confused on what to do but as soon as we stopped the horses, they all bowed embarrassingly low. My cheeks heated but I quickly remembered that I was meant to be Queen and queens did not blush at the sight of servants kneeling to them. I lifted my chin and tried to keep my face a carefully neutral mask.

“Your majesty,” one of them finally whispered. “I thought we all feared the worst. I have to tell the elders. They need to stop the ceremony.”

Ryker made his way over to me and held out a hand to help me off the horse. I hesitantly took it trying to ignore the sparks that danced across my skin

where we touched. With one hand in mine, he placed the other around my waist and helped me down. I expected him to let go of me but instead, he pulled me closer and dropped his lips to my ear.

“That is Steven, he is one of your most trusted guards. He watched over you when you first arrived. Your mother put him in charge of you,” I stilled at the mention of my mother. I couldn’t remember her. How could I have a mother that I couldn’t remember? “I will explain everything to you later. For now, everyone is watching.”

He pulled away from me keeping one hand on my waist and I turned to Steven with a smile.

“It feels good to be back,” I lied with a smile on my face. “I have missed you Steven. You have no idea.”

“Do you want me to get the princesses?”

“No,” I said almost too quickly before clearing my throat. “You should inform the elders. I want to make sure that when I see my daughters, I will not be interrupted.”

Steven bowed and I was led away by Ryker.

If I thought the stares outside were terrible, I was in for another treat inside because everyone was looking at me. I felt so self conscious that it proved a challenge for me to keep my head up high, If not for Ryker’s hand around my waist, I would have taken off, that much was certain.

“I will take Peggy and Marie to their rooms,” Christine announced and I nearly panicked. I wasn’t sure how I would deal without them much less when I was alone with Ryker. “Ryker will take you to your room where you can change into your clothes. The elders will want to see you and you would want to be dressed for that. They can be a bit much.”

I swallowed deeply. I wanted to refuse but she walked away without another word. Marie turned to me and I knew if I had asked her to stay, she would have but I could see in her eyes that she wanted to explore. This was a lifetime opportunity for her. I shoved my prejudices aside and gave her a curt nod.

I saw relief fill her features as she mouthed. "I'll come looking for you later."

I watched her disappear with Christine leaving me alone with my mate. Against my better judgment, I turned to face Ryker only to find that he was already staring at me. There were so many emotions in his eyes that I feared I would lose myself trying to figure out them all.

"I take it we shared a room," I began slowly and he nodded.

"Yes, but I can have another room prepared for you if you want."

"It would raise shoulders, would it not?" he nodded again. I exhaled deeply before squaring my shoulders. "Then no, one room is perfect. Lead the way."

Chapter 199

CAMILLA'S P.O.V

The room was beautiful to say the least and the bed was massive but I took note of a large chaise lounge by the corner. It seemed like a good place to sleep. I was sure I could get my hands on some extra blankets if it proved to be uncomfortable. Ryker led me towards a large wardrobe and I stared blankly at the clothes in there.

“I don’t know the last thing about royal fashion,” I began slowly. “Do you think Christine can help me or something?”

“Christine is dealing with the elders right now. I don’t know if your wall is up but they have been mind linking me non–stop,” I cursed. “I can help you if you want. I think I know enough to be able to pick a decent outfit.”

“Will you help me put it on as well?” my cheeks heated as I asked those words. It was clear he had seen me naked before. We had two children but that didn’t mean I wasn’t uncomfortable and apprehensive at the idea.

“I can direct you on what to do. You’ll only need my help for the corset.”

That seemed like a better idea and as much as I hated to admit it, I loved how considerate he was being. He didn’t have to do all of this for me but he chose to and I found that to be such a beautiful thing to do.

It took us almost half an hour to get me dressed but just like he predicted, I needed his help with the corset. My cheeks were flaming as I made my way over to him but he looked completely unfazed. His

eyes never moved lower than where they were meant to and he was careful as he pulled on the ropes of my dress.

“Tell me if it is too tight,” his voice was huskier than usual and it was directly by my ear. I hated the way my body reacted to it and I tried to ignore it but it was almost as if he already knew because he cursed loudly. “Camilla, I-”
” NôveIDrama.Org is the owner.

His words were cut off by the door slamming open and a little girl rushed in. It was like looking at a younger version of myself- excluding the eyes, she had Ryker’s eyes. Before I could process what was happening, she rushed over to me and threw her arms around my legs. I stilled for a split second not knowing what to do until I heard her sniffing.

I felt my wolf stir and it was like something in me was awoken. I lifted her into my arms and it proved to be the right thing to do because she wrapped herself around me like a small monkey. I felt wetness on my shoulder as she sobbed into me.

“Where did you go?” she asked but I couldn’t form the words necessary to give her a response. “I asked you to come back every day and you didn’t.”

“I’m sorry,” I whispered. I assumed this was Audrey and as much as I didn’t remember her, my heart still broke for her. There was no denying that she was mine and just knowing that I

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find my way

back.”

She sniffled and pulled back as if to gauge my expression and whatever she found there must have been good enough because she smiled. She turned to face Ryker. “You brought her back, daddy.”

I felt Ryker smile at her. “I did, but you need to give your mum some time to rest, okay? She was hurt and she needs to get better.” Audrey pouted but she listened to her father and untangled herself from me. I watched her exit the same way she came and once she was gone, Ryker spoke. “I am sorry about that. I expected her to come find you but not this soon.”

I cleared my throat trying to get rid of the emotion lodged deep inside. “It’s fine, can you just finish with my dress.”

His hands moved quickly as he tied it up neatly. It felt snug but not tight and as much as I wanted it to feel right, it didn’t. It felt uncomfortable and different from what I was used to. It would take some getting used to.

“I know I have to see everyone,” I began slowly. “But I cannot risk looking stupid. I reckon we have a little time before everyone comes looking for us. I would appreciate it if you told me everything I needed to know.”

“That’s six years worth of knowledge,” he reminded me and I nodded.

“We have less than half an hour to cover it all. I don’t want to dump too much information on you. It might overwhelm you.”

“I would rather be overwhelmed with information than go out there and risk looking like a fool.”

“Why don’t you just tell everyone that you don’t remember?” he asked and I scoffed.

“I might remember much but I know enough to know that no one wants a ruler who doesn’t even know who she is. No one can know about this. That is my decision.” I noticed that the corner of his lips was tilted up in some sort of smile so I crossed my arms over my chest. “What is it? Did I say something wrong?”

“No, you just spoke like a Queen,” he said simply. “You might not remember, Camilla, but your mind does. Your memories will return in no time but if you want me to tell you everything, then so be it.”

We spent the next half hour discussing everything and by the time he was done explaining everything, I just sat there stunned. I couldn’t believe that I had a life that was that exciting. He glossed over most of the details and I had

the sinking feeling that he was hiding something from me but it all seemed unbelievable.

“I did all those things?” I asked and he nodded. “How?”

He smiled sardonically. “I can see that your self depreciating hasn’t stopped even with the

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memory loss,”

“It just- I’m just surprised is all.”

“You are an amazing queen and you are powerful, Camilla. You were able to do those things simply because you had the power to.”

I opened my mouth to speak but was cut off by a knock on the door. It creaked open to reveal Christine and when she looked between Ryker and I, I leaped to my feet. I wasn’t sure why I did that especially when I knew we weren’t doing anything untowardly but it still felt like being caught by a parent or a disapproving older sister.

“The elders want to see you,” she said with her eyes fixed on me. “I can try to dissuade them but they are persistent.”

“It’s alright, I’ll see them.”

She didn’t look convinced and she looked to Ryker for confirmation. I tried to pretend that it didn’t affect me.

“If she wants to see them then she will. It is her choice,” I was shocked at those words and turned to Ryker but for once, his eyes were not on me, they were on Christine. “Don’t coddle her. I know you want to protect her but I believe that she has proven time again that she can protect herself.”

“Fine,” Christine wasn’t happy about it at all but there was nothing that she could do. “They’re in the council room.”

Despite my earlier bravado, I was terrified to see the elders. From what Ryker had told me about them, they were not the nicest people. The only one who seemed decent was Caius but that only happened in private.

“Are you ready?” Ryker asked as I stood in front of the council door and I nodded. I feared that if I were to say any words, they would die on my throat.

He gave me one last lingering look before pushing the door open and I was greeted with arguing. The elders went silent as soon as they saw us and all their mouths fell open. I looked at their faces trying to figure out who Caius was when Ryker leaned down to whisper.

“He is at the far left,” I saw him immediately and whispered a thank you back to him. He straightened and turned to the elders. “Are you done arguing or can we come in?”

There was some murmuring but no one said a word. I walked on shaky legs towards the chair at the head of the table and slowly sat down. I had barely sat when questions started being thrown at me. I hadn’t been with them for an hour and I was already sporting a headache.

“Can you ask your questions one at a time?” I asked louder than intended as I pressed my fingers to my temple. “You are giving me a headache.”

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Everyone blinked and no one spoke until Caius cleared his throat. “We were all just

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wondering where you were all these months and why you didn’t return.”

“You brought me here to ask a stupid question?” I couldn’t stop myself from asking. I was pissed to say the least. I had enough on my plate without grown men making it worse. “I was hurt and healing, not that it concerned any of you. You didn’t even bother to ask how I survived a fall like that.”

“Your majesty-” one of the elders began but I cut him off with a hand.

Inside I was shaking but I couldn’t deny that a part of me loved the power that I wielded. It felt amazing to know that they were all at my beck and call.

“I don’t have time for this, honestly. I am here now and that is what matters. You should be focused on putting an end to the funeral ritual you were holding for me because as you can see, I am not dead,” I stood to my feet before anyone else could say a word. “Is that all?”

No one dared to speak so I turned on my heels and walked out of the room. I could feel Ryker’s pride as he walked out in tow with me and as soon as we were out of the door, I let out the breath that I had been holding.

“How did I do?” I wasn’t sure why I asked but a part of me sought his approval.

“Honestly, that was amazing. I told you that you could handle yourself as Queen.”

“I hope you’re right about that. I thought I was going to throw up in there.”

He laughed. “Welcome back, Camilla.”

Chapter 200

RYKER’S PO.V

For that one split moment, I thought I had my mate back. It was amusing to say the least how I could have her and not have her at the same time. She still laughed the same way, she spoke the same way, hell, she even walked the

same way but I knew deep down that this was someone completely different. She was still the woman I had fallen in love with but she also wasn't. The part of her I knew was buried deep down somewhere and I didn't know how to get her out.

I had hoped that bringing her to the palace, bringing her around Audrey would spark something in her but the only thing that came to light was how awkward and uncomfortable she looked holding our daughter, the same daughter that she loved fiercely and would have died protecting- she couldn't remember her.

"When do I have to meet the rest of the palace?" she asked snapping me out of my thoughts. It was a testament to how different she now was that she could not remember a thing. "I presume I will have to give an announcement sooner or later to explain why I haven't been around."

"Yes, but that can be arranged for a few days from now. You might want some time to-"

"No," she cut me off. "I want to do this once and for all. I don't want to spend any more time thinking about it or I will psych myself out. We can do it tomorrow."

I raised a brow in shock but said nothing. If there was one good thing that was going to come out of this it was that Camilla wasn't afraid to say her mind anymore. Before she would have cowered or agreed simply to make things easier for everyone else but now she was putting herself first. It was undeniably sexy to say the least.

"Whatever you want," I agreed finally. "It is your choice but the pack aside, you have to see the girls. You don't have to but it would be the right thing to do. I know Audrey is excited to see you."

Just like that, her face fell and tension returned to her shoulders. I knew it was a lot to put on her shoulders but something told me that the longer she spent

with the girls, the more likely she was to have her memory back. She just needed a little push, she needed something that was going to spark a memory.

I thought she was going to disagree. She looked obviously uncomfortable and out of place but after a moment of deliberation, she nodded. "I can't avoid it for so long, can I?"

We started to leave when the door to the council room opened and Caius walked out. Before he shut the door behind him, I didn't miss the sight of the other elders arguing. Caius looked between Camilla and I before finally settling his eyes on me.

"Can I borrow you for a moment, your majesty?" he asked and I looked to Camilla for confirmation. She just waved me off and walked over to stand awkwardly in a corner. I turned to Caius who was looking at me with a mixture of sadness and pity. "She doesn't remember anything, does she?"

"What do you mean?"

"I might be old, your majesty, but I am not blind. She looks confused and out of place. She is sticking out like a sore thumb. It might not be obvious to the naked eye but it is in every move she makes. Your

secret is safe with me but you need to keep an eye on her. This isn't something that you would want to get out."

I gave Caius the best confused look I could give. "I appreciate your concern Caius, but once again, I have no idea what you are talking about."

An understanding look flashed across his eyes and he gave me a nod. "Of course, your majesty. I must have been confused when I spoke. Please, pardon me."

He walked away before I could say another word and I immediately went to Camilla. She had questions in her eyes but I had no intentions of telling her what had just happened. There was no need to make her panic more. She was already having a hard time adjusting, I didn't need her watching her back every other second.

"The girls are with Christine and Juan in Aurora's room."

"Wait," her voice was soft but it was enough to have me halting in my tracks. "I cannot be in an isolated area with all of you. It is going to overwhelm me. Can I have Marie there at least?" I frowned. That was not the response I was expecting from her at all. I wanted to refute but she cut me off. "Look, I have done every other thing you have asked of me. I am here against my better judgment and I am trying. I cannot do this alone. I need my family."

"We are your family."

"I don't remember you. I don't know a thing about you save for the fact that you are meant to be my mate. This is a lot to put on someone. One second, I was running from Tyson and the next you are telling me stories about witches and vampires and a family that I cannot remember. I want to do this but it will only happen on my terms."

I let out an exasperated sigh before waving her off. I watched her take off before finally realizing that she had no idea where to go. She slunk back over to me and silence hung in the air as I called for a guard and sent him to retrieve Marie. It felt childish and stupid to be jealous of a girl that I didn't even know but she had somehow won Camilla's trust in a way that I knew I was going to work for. Camilla sought her approval and loved her, she considered her family. I wasn't sure what she did to gain that or what I would have to do to gain it too.

Once Marie arrived, it seemed like a weight had been taken off Camilla's shoulders. She looked relieved and more at ease and even my jealousy couldn't deny that she made her feel more secure.

"As I said earlier," I said wanting to change the subject fast. "The girls are with Juan. Remember, they have no idea what is going on and the moment you start to feel overwhelmed, I can step in."

"Who is Juan?"

"Christine's mate," I explained before walking ahead of her. I could feel her curiosity down the bond and I knew it was selfish of me not to wait and answer her questions. Regardless, I walked over to Aurora's room and pushed the door open.

All eyes turned to us and I could see Audrey trying to keep still. Christine must have told her something because she kept glancing at her every other second. I kept my gaze on Camilla, trying to figure out what she was going to process everything before finally taking a step forward. She stood there for a full minute, as if

a step forward.

I watched with baited breath as she crossed the length of the room and made her way towards Aurora who was being held back by Christine. Once Christine saw where she was headed, she let go of our daughter and I watched as she wobbled over to Camilla.

"Mama!" she exclaimed and I could have sworn I saw a flash of recognition in Camilla's eyes but it was gone before I could decipher what it was. Camilla picked her up with ease and smoothed her hair back.

“Hey, you’ve grown so big, I think,” she sounded a bit awkward. “You look just like me.” Camilla tore her eyes away from her and to Audrey. “What are you still doing there? Don’t you want to give me a hug?”

That was all it took for Audrey to leap off the ground and into her mother’s waiting arms.

For someone who seemed tense, Camilla seemed to be handling herself well. She made sure to stand next to Marie the entire time and she barely spoke. The kids didn’t seem to notice, they just wanted their mother. Nothing else mattered.

The others in the room had their eyes on me- especially Juan- and I hated it. I could almost feel his pity and I didn’t want any part of it. I knew the exact moment he stood to his feet and I knew he was headed for me. I wanted to get up and leave but it would have meant taking Camilla out of my line of sight

“She will remember,” Juan whispered but I ignored him. “She seems to be handling her own with the girls. It is only a matter of-”

“Please,” I cut him off. I didn’t need any of his positivity at the moment. I just wanted to

watch my family and pretend like it wasn’t going up into flames.

“Mummy,” Audrey’s voice cut through my conversation with Juan. “Why didn’t you come back? Did the bad woman hurt you?”

“She did, but I’m fine now,” Camilla beamed wide. “Can you see? I don’t have any injuries at all.”

Audrey wrapped her arms around Camilla’s legs. “I love you.”

Camilla stilled. “I-” I could tell she wanted to say the words but she couldn’t bring herself to. Instead, she looked up at me and I saw pure panic in her eyes.

I leaped up immediately steering Audrey away from her and handing Aurora over to Christine. "Mummy has to do something right now."

"She didn't say she loves me back," Audrey pouted and I pressed a kiss to her head.

"You know she loves you," I whispered turning over my shoulder to look at Camilla but she was already high tailing it out of the room. I rushed after her and managed to grab her by the arm. "What happened?" Text © owned by NôvelDrama.Org.

"I can't," she managed out trying to even out her breathing. "That little girl wants her mother and I am not her mother. I cannot lie to her, I'm sorry. I can't do this."

"You don't have to say that you love her," I began but Camilla shook her head.

"I'm sorry, Ryker, I really am. I can do the whole Queen thing but I cannot lie to that girl."