

The Rejected Werewolf Princess by Didiadeyemi Chapter 26-30

Chapter 26

I was so stunned by the announcement that all I could do was stare at the guard but Ryker wasted no time in pushing to his feet. He assured the guard he would be on his way then he walked over to where I sat and squatted so he was sitting on his haunches and we were at eye level.

“You’re hurt. You were in pain just moments ago,” I managed out, “Should you be out fighting rogues?”

“I’m fine Camilla; I can barely feel a thing.”

“But at training-,”

“I’ll explain that later,” he ran a hand through my curls in a soft stroking motion , “I don’t know how long I’ll be gone but if I’m not back before tomorrow then L auren will come to stay with you.”

“Why wouldn’t you be back before then?”

“Sometimes these things take time,” he glanced out the door and I knew he was itching to help his guards, “There will be at least three people stationed at every entrance. Unless it is absolutely necessary, I don’t want you to leave your room.”

“Will they come here?”

“I don’t know but Eve will be here for anything you need.” He paused for a second and then placed a soft kiss on my forehead, “I will be back as soon as I can.”

Before I could say another word, he was out of the room. As soon as he left, Eve walked over and picked up my half eaten plate of food and led me upstairs to my room. I was in a daze as she guided me through the corridors and it wasn’t until she placed the tray by my bed that I snapped out of it.

“You can take it back,” I told her, “I’m not hungry.”

“I find that I tend to eat a lot when I’m stressed.”

She started to leave but I stopped her, “Where will you be?”

“Downstairs where I always am.” She cocked her head in confusion, “I have a room in the guard’s quarters but I will be in the living room just in case you need me.”

“It’s not safe down there.”

“I will be fine Luna-,”

“Please just call me Camilla,” she looked taken aback by my request but she nodded. “And I would prefer it if you stayed here.”

“I’m not sure that’s appropriate.”

“What if I need you really urgently and you’re too far away. It is in my best interest that you stayed here with me. That way I would not have to leave the safety of my room.”

I was bull shitting and she knew it. I just wanted her to be safe and out of harm’s way. Eve was quickly becoming my only friend here and if anything should happen to her then I would never be able to forgive myself. Also, it would be easier for me with her here. I wouldn’t be able to spend most of my time worrying about Ryker and the rogues.

She hesitated for a second and then she finally nodded, “I just need to get my knitting set. I will die of boredom if I have to sit here and do nothing.”

“Can you teach me to knit?” I asked, “It might help with the,”

I couldn’t finish the sentence but she understood because she nodded and disappeared from the room. A few minutes later she returned with a small knitted bag filled with yarn and knitting pins.

It probably made me a bad mate knowing that my mate was outside battling rogues and I was knitting with my friend but I was enjoying it. It wasn’t as hard as I thought it would be and I actually had fun against my better judgment.

We spent the entire day knitting and I am glad Eve didn’t take the tray down because we snacked on what was left of my breakfast. We didn’t stop until it w

as evening and I had knitted a long scarf. I was trying to make a bag but baby steps I guess.

“I should have started with dinner by now.” Eve cursed as she looked out the window, “I am so sorry.”

“It’s fine Eve, I had fun.”

“I’m glad to hear that Lu- Camilla.” She smiled as she corrected herself, “You can just wait here, I’ll be back within an hour.”

“No way; I would love to help out.”

She wanted to refuse but before she could respond, I stepped out of my room and made my way down to the kitchen. She caught up to me and tried to remind me that Ryker said I should stay in my room but I ignored her and waited in the kitchen for her to show me what to do. She

realized I wasn’t going to back down and she finally let out a deep sigh and relented.

Even though I was terrified that a rogue would break through the back door and get to us while we were cooking, I actually had fun. We ate downstairs when we were done and she announced that she was going back to the guard’s quarters to sleep.

I wanted to ask her to sleep in my room but I knew there was no way that she would agree to sleep in my bed with me and I didn’t want her to have to sleep on the floor so I allowed her leave.

I tossed and turned in my bed all night but I was so worried about Ryker that I couldn’t even close my eyes for a second. After a few minutes of uncomfortable turning, an idea popped into my head and I debated and mulled over it for a while before I finally stood up from my bed.

My corridor was empty save for a few guards I could see at the top of the stairs. I ignored them as I walked down the corridor and towards the door I knew led to Ryker’s room.

It looked the same as I last saw it when he was here. The bed was perfectly made and not a single thing was out of place. Before I could change my mind, I shut the door behind me and crawled underneath his

covers.

Everything smelled like him and it felt like being wrapped up in a

cocoon. I hoped he wouldn't be upset when he returned and I wanted to leave but my body wouldn't move. I made up my mind to leave in five minutes but five minutes turned to ten and ten turned to fifteen and before I knew it, I was fast asleep in his bed.

Hurried and panicked footsteps woke me from my slumber. It took me a second to remember where I was and when I did, a blush formed on my cheeks. I wasn't supposed to fall asleep here.

The hurried shouts continued and I realized that it was my name being yelled. I forced myself out of the comfortable bed and pulled open the door to the room and was met with a panicked looking Eve.

When she saw me she let out a sigh of relief, "I thought you were gone." She pulled me into a hug and she must have realized what she was doing because she quickly stepped back and cleared her throat, "I apologize, I should never have done that."

"It is fine," I assured her, "I haven't gotten a hug in a very long time."

She smiled softly before she remembered where I was and she frowned,

"You should have told me where you were sleeping. I went to your room this morning to call you for breakfast and when I didn't see you I panicked."

"I would've come down eventually."

"Camilla, it is almost eleven. You never sleep in this late. I thought someone took you."

I didn't believe her when she said the time. I walked back into the room and when I looked at the clock on the wall, I realized she was right.

"I am so sorry." My hands flew over my mouth, "I didn't realize I had slept in. I didn't even plan to sleep here, I just came and I was going to leave but I-,"

“You don’t have to explain yourself. The Alpha is your mate and you missed him. I don’t know why I didn’t think to check here. Of course I should have known you would be here.”

I wanted to tell her that it wasn’t what she thought but then again, she was right. I did miss him and I was worried about him and that was the only reason I came here. I knew it would calm me down and it did. I just didn’t account for the fact that I might have fallen asleep.

“I almost forgot,” she said hurriedly- almost panicked, “Lauren arrived this morning and she is her usual self. That was why I was looking for you, I wanted to warn you.”

Just the mention of her name soured my mood instantly and I fought the urge to roll my eyes. “Where is she?”

Just before Eve could answer, I heard footsteps and I saw Lauren round the corner. She froze as she took in the scene before her; me in my night gown and Eve standing right next to me. Her eyes narrowed into slits and she stormed over to us.

“What the hell are you doing here?” she spat, “Did you come to steal something?”

“I was looking for Camilla.” Eve tried to explain but Lauren silenced her with a hand.

“I wasn’t talking to you, I was talking to her.” She whirled on me, “What the hell are you doing in Ryker’s room? You shouldn’t even be here.” She grabbed my arm and I jerked it out of her grip. She was shocked, hell, so was I. It took her the better part of three seconds to get her shock under control and fix a death glare on her face.

“You shouldn’t be here.” She sneered.

“Neither should you.”

“Excuse me?”

I was tired of her walking all over me and trying to make me feel like shit. When Ryker has told me over again that she means nothing to him. I am his mate and she has no right to make me feel like I shouldn’t be here. “This is my mate

's room and I have more right to be here than any of us." She opened her mouth to speak but I cut her off, "If anything, you shouldn't be here and if you don't leave then I'll tell Ryker that you harassed me. Let's see how he reacts to that."

The tops of her ears turned red and for a second I thought she was going to explode but she turned on her heels and stalked back the way she came. I let out a sigh of relief and I saw Eve staring at me with her mouth wide open.

"I thought she was going to blow a fuse." Eve said and I let out a choking laugh.

"I did too."

Chapter 27

Eve left right after that to heat up my breakfast and I returned to my room to get freshened and get dressed for the day. I was still reeling from the after effects of my conversation with Lauren but above all, I felt good. I never knew how satisfying and filling it would be to talk back to Lauren and I loved how I felt after it.

When I was dressed and ready, I made my way downstairs expecting to see Lauren but the dining room was empty save for a lone tray of food at my usual spot. I sat down and started eating and I didn't know how hungry I was until the first bite hit my tongue.

Eve walked in with a jar of fruit juice and placed it right in front of me. I thanked her for it and she was just about to leave when I stopped her. "Have you seen Lauren?" I asked and she shook her head.

"I came down and heard her muttering something about refusing to be disrespected but then she disappeared and I haven't seen her since."

"I hope she went home." I muttered under my breath but Eve heard it because she laughed.

"I'm sure she wishes she could but she wouldn't dare, the Alpha would kill her if he found out that she left you unprotected."

"Speaking of the Alpha," I cleared my throat so I would sound as uninterested as possible, "Have you heard anything about the rogue attack they went to handle? Or have you heard from him lately?"

She shook her head and I felt the hope in my chest deflate, "But that's a good thing. If he was hurt then everyone would know. If we haven't heard anything yet then it means they are fine and are probably busy with handling the rogue problem. These things can take days sometimes. because they have to clean up and scout the area to make sure that they didn't miss anything."

"You're right," I tried to focus on her words and not the worst possible case

scenarios that my mind was conjuring, "He should be back soon." "He will be, I promise you that."

She gave me a small smile and disappeared back into the kitchen. I looked down at my full tray of food and realized that I had lost my appetite but I forced bite after bite into my stomach because I knew that was what Ryker would have made me do.

When I was done eating, I helped Eve clear out the kitchen and we went back to my room to continue our knitting lessons. I was yet to see Lauren again and I was grateful for it because it meant that I got to live out the rest of the day in peace without her breathing down my neck or criticizing me.

I wasn't sure I would have the strength to stand up to her again if she tried to talk to me. Talking back to her the first time honestly felt like a fluke at this point and I don't know what gave me the courage to do it but whatever it was, I knew I wouldn't be able to do it a second time.

While we knitted, I couldn't help but realize that I didn't know anything about Eve. I didn't know her family or why she was still an omega. All I knew was that she was a rogue up until she was twelve and she chose being an omega over death.

"Are you mated?" I asked and she honestly looked taken aback by the question, "I didn't mean to be rude, I was just curious about you." "I'm not," she answered when she had regained her composure, "And before you ask, it doesn't bother me. I am just a few months shy of twenty one and I have the rest of my life to find my mate."

"Why did you stay here?" I asked and she turned to me puzzled, "You said the old Luna made you an omega but after they died I am sure Ryker would have let you go if you asked. Why did you stay?"

"The only home I knew before this was with a band of rogues who couldn't care less if I was dead or alive. Here, I had people who cared about me and I had friends. Besides, the Luna died a few months after bringing me here. I was barely six and I would never have survived out there."

"I'm sorry,"

"What could you possibly have to be sorry for?"

"The rogues and the Luna dying,"

She smiled softly, "That was not your fault and it doesn't matter anyway. This pack is my home and I can't imagine living anywhere that isn't here."

I had no further questions and we went back to knitting in silence. If she hadn't told me herself I would never have suspected that Eve had such a hard life, she seems so gentle and quiet but then again, I should have known never to judge a book by its cover.

"One more thing" I said and I saw the corner of her lips lift up but she turned to me, "When I first came here, there were a lot of servants. What

happened to them?”

“The Alpha sent them back to the pack house,” my surprise was etched all over my features, “You were terrified of everything and everyone and he wanted to make it as comfortable as possible for you so he restricted the amount of people who could come in and out of here.”

“He sent them away because of me.” I knew it was stupid of me to repeat that knowing fully well that was what she said but for some reason, I needed to be sure.

“I don’t think there is much he wouldn’t do for you.”

I didn’t know how to respond to that and thankfully I didn’t need to because the door to my room flew open and Lauren walked in. I wasn’t expecting it to happen and I jumped slightly but Eve grabbed a hold of my arm to calm me down.

Lauren looked down at me where I was knitting and a mix between a frown and a sneer grew on her face. “Get up, we need to go.”

“Where are we going?”

“I don’t have time to explain, get up now.”

“I’m not moving until you tell me where you’re taking me.” I stood my ground and crossed my arms over my chest, “Where do you want to take me?”

“Fine, stay there for all I care, I’ll tell Ryker that you refused to come with me.”

I rushed to my feet at the sound of his name, “What happened to Ryker? Is he okay?”

“He mind linked me to take you to him.” She sounded exasperated, “Can we go now?”

Eve wasted no time in taking the knitting things from me, “I’ll clear up the room.”

I thanked her and rushed out of the room with Lauren. She didn’t cast me a sparing glance as I followed her down the stairs and to a waiting carriage. It didn’t look like any of the ones I had seen in the house. It was pure black with minimal details and I just assumed that it was brought straight from the pack house.

I got in first and she took a seat right next to me. I didn’t recognize the man who closed the door either but then again, there are so many people in this pack I have never seen before.

“Is he okay?” I asked and she blatantly ignored me, “Please tell me something.”

“You will figure it out when we get there.”

I tried to stay silent after that and instead focused on looking out the window to try to calm myself down.

We drove for what felt like hours after that and I realized that the track we

were taking was unfamiliar. I have only been to the pack house a few times but I barely forget roads and I knew for a fact that I had never travelled this road before.

“Where are we going?” I asked and she turned to me with an annoyed look, “This isn’t the way to the hospital or the pack house.”

“Have you considered that maybe we aren’t going to the hospital or pack house?” she spat, “There are a bunch of other places where he could be so why don’t you stop being so paranoid and allow me do my job.”

I swallowed down whatever retort I had and nodded when all of a sudden the carriage lurched to a stop, “What happened?”

“If you shut up the maybe I can find out.”

Without another word, she stepped out of the carriage and I saw her go to the front. I sat back in my seat and tried to calm myself down and not think of all the things that could have possibly gone wrong.

I realized that she hadn’t returned after a while and I got out of the carriage only to see that there was no one around and fear gripped me. “Lauren,” I called out softly, “Where are you?”

I heard a twig snap behind me and I jumped but when I turned, there was no one there. My mind was screaming at me to get back into the carriage but I also knew that it would be easier to overpower me in a confined space. I am not a strong fighter and my only advantage is my speed. I heard another twig and the scent of rotten flesh filled my nose. I tried not to panic as I saw a pair of blood red eyes through the trees. I took a shaky step back as a lone figure emerged and it took all my willpower to not allow my fear show and the tears to start falling.

“I don’t want any trouble,” I took a slow step back, “I’ll just leave now and I can be out of your hair.”

The wolf in front of me was obviously a rogue. He had messy brown hair

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torn and dirty and it

looked like he was stuck in a half shifted form. He had long claws and hair sprouted from his upper arms and legs

“What’s a pretty girl like you doing out here all alone!” his voice smelled like decay and rotten food, “Why don’t you come closer so I can see your

He reached out to touch me and I waited for a split second before i turned on my heels and ran. I heard him chuckle from behind me

“Me and my friends love a good chase”

The idea of him chasing me was scary but that wasn’t what got my attention. It was something else that he had said- friends. What friends was he talking about?

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Chapter 28

I tried not to focus on his words and ran as fast as I could through the thick trees. I heard the sound of heavy footsteps behind me but I ignored. it and focused on getting out of the woods alive. I knew those rogues. wouldn't hesitate before trying to hurt me and I didn't want to die alone. in this forest. I maneuvered through the trees until I came to a large clearing. I looked around hoping to find some indication of where to go or some proof that I was going the right way but all I could see were trees for as far as the eye could see.

I heard a twig snap behind me and I jumped and turned to see three rogues emerging from the woods. The one in the middle was the one I saw earlier and I took a slow step back.

"Chasing you is fun," he licked his lips, "But you have to know that you can't run from us."

"I wonder if she tastes as good as she smells." The one to his right said. and he mimicked the snapping of jaws.

I didn't wait to respond to them, I turned and ran in the opposite direction but before I could go far, I felt a hard body collide into mine and I was slammed into the earthy floor at full force.

I tried to push him off but he pinned me down with one hand and the other wrapped around my throat so tightly that I thought I was going to pass out. At the last moment, he released me and I coughed as I gasped. for air and tried to fill my lungs as much as possible.

"Even a chase gets boring after some time." The rogue on top of me breathed before leaning down to sniff my neck, "We are going to have so much fun with you."

He pulled me to my feet and the first thing I did was rear my knee back. and hit him as hard as I could in his groin. He doubled over in pain and I ran momentarily forgetting that he had two other partners until I felt a searing pain in my side.

I fell to the floor and looked down at my shirt that now had three long gashes. Blood pooled out from the wound and I tried to breathe through my nose to stop myself from screaming in pain.

"You fucking bitch." Before I could even figure out where the voice came from I felt a searing pain in my nose and black dots danced around my vision.

I knew my nose was bleeding from where he punched it and I was now lost on where to focus my energy- my bleeding side or my bleeding nose.

"Maybe we can have some fun with her first." One of them said in a sultry tone

and I felt them tear my legs apart.

I tried to push them away but they were too strong and two of them held me down while the other one settled between my legs.

I managed to kick his stomach and in retaliation, he raked his claws down my stomach. I let out a blood curling scream and fell limp. I was sure I would bleed out before they were even done with me.

I closed my eyes, ready to embrace the darkness that would come when I heard a roar from a few feet to my left. I would have thought I imagined. It if not for the rogues above me who ceased their movements.

I could barely keep my eyes open but my ears registered signs of a struggle and the ripping of flesh. I could feel myself fading in an out of consciousness when I felt warm hands wrap around my upper body and limbs.

I leaned into the warm touch and I heard garbled noises. I tried to make it out and then I realized what was being said- my name.

“Camilla please stay with me.” I tried to remember where I had heard that voice before but my mind was coming up blank, “Baby please keep your eyes open.”

I honestly tried to do as the voice had asked but I felt too weak and before I could hear another word, the darkness overtook me.

RYKER'S P.O.V

I tried to keep a calm head but it was impossible as all I could see was my mate drifting in and out of consciousness while bleeding out in my arms. I tried my best to hold off the bleeding but it felt like the more I did, the more she bled.

I could barely keep my head on straight as I ran to the hospital. I knew the carriage would be too slow and time was of the essence. I had mind linked Lucy to get everything ready and when she saw Camilla in my arms, her mouth fell open.

My wolf protested as Lucy took her from me and placed her on a hospital bed. I wanted to be close to her and I didn't want her out of my sight.

“Alpha, I need you to keep your head right now,” Lucy said in an attempt to distract me from going after the doctors who were wheeling her into an operating room, “She has a lot of blood and she doesn't have a wolf to help her heal. She might need a transfusion.”

“Take as much as you need from me.” She nodded and gestured for me to come with her.

The last thing I wanted to do was go in the opposite direction as Camilla but I knew I would be more useful this way and I forced my legs to follow Lucy.

I was barely paying attention when she poked the needle into my skin and

was barely paying attention to the blood that flowed out of me. All I could think about was my mate currently being operated on.

I tried to remind myself that I could feel our bond alive. It was weak but it was there and that meant that she was still breathing and as long as she was breathing, then I could focus.

Lucy took only two pints despite me asking her to take more. She assured me that two would be enough and left the room.

After she had gone, my mind started to travel again to how I found Camilla in the woods.

We had just finished with the rogue camp and were looking for any stragglers when I heard her scream. I instantly knew it was her but I didn't want to believe it at first because Camilla was supposed to be home safe and protected by Lauren.

Lauren, where is she?

I tried to mind link her but I was coming up empty so I mind linked my Beta-Creed. He answered immediately.

"Is she okay?" he asked

"She's still in surgery." He started to apologize but I cut him off, "Find Lauren and bring her to me, now."

"There's no need, she just walked into the hospital."

I wasted no time in rushing out and sure enough, Lauren was walking through the hospital corridors caked in mud with a few scratches on her arms. She saw me and kept her head low but walked over until she was standing directly in front of me.

"Where were you?" my voice was barely above a whisper and I saw Lauren flinch slightly.

"Ryker, we were ambushed and I tried to get her to safety."

"Why were you there in the first place?"

"I was-," she trailed off, "She wanted to see you and one of the guards told me that you had killed off the rogues. I didn't think it would end up like this."

"Where were you when she was getting hurt. It was your job to keep her safe."

"I saw some rogues and I tried to chase them and-,"

"That was not your job." The entire hospital went silent probably in shock.

I rarely raise my voice at people; I don't see a need to do it. My father did it at every opportunity he got and it made him a terrible leader, not a good one.

People will listen whether or not you raise your voice but this time, I couldn't help it. This is the second time she is putting Camilla in harm's way.

"I am sorry," she bowed her head, "it will not happen again."

"You're right it won't," she raised her eyes to me and I saw the hope in them but I ignored it, "From today you are no longer general."

She gasped, "Please, no. I have worked my entire life for this."

“And you threw it all away the moment your Luna got hurt under your watch.” I ignored the pleading look she sent my way, “A good general knows when to retreat and it seems like you haven’t learnt that yet.”

“Ryker please-,”

“It will be Alpha from now on,” she took a step back as if she was slapped,

“Report to Creed and he will inform you who the new general is.”

She looked up at me almost as if she was hoping I was joking but the time for jokes are over.

“I warned you that if you made another mistake then I wouldn’t be so forgiving.”

“I promise it will never happen again.” Tears filled her eyes as she spoke, “It was just a big misunderstanding.”

“A misunderstanding that could have cost me the life of my mate.” I was done entertaining the conversation and she knew it, “Report to Creed, Lauren. This conversation is over.”

The first tear dropped but she nodded and took a step back. She bowed low and made her way out of the hospital.

I pinched the bridge of my nose with my thumb and pointer finger as felt the tell tale sign of a migraine coming on. Wolves don’t get sick usually but I guess when you’ve had a day as hectic as mine, you lose that privilege.

“You should rest Alpha.” I heard Lucy say from behind me.

I turned to her and she had a proud glint in her eyes letting me know she overheard the conversation. I wouldn’t be surprised if the guards outside heard it, I wasn’t exactly subtle or quiet as I spoke.

“You will be of no use to her right now.”

“I am not leaving until she is awake.”

Lucy pursed her lips but nodded, “Perhaps I should lead you to the waiting room then, she should be out of surgery soon.”

Comment

Chapter 29

CAMILLA’S P.O.V

The first thing I noticed when I came to was the smell of antiseptic and cleaning supplies. I wrinkled my nose trying to get rid of it but for some reason, it didn’t seem to leave- it actually felt like it was getting worse. Then I noticed the brightness of the room. My eyes were closed but I could feel the intensity of the light against it and it honestly made me not want to open my eyes so I stayed like that. I stayed with my eyes closed, enduring the smell of antiseptic trying to remember the last thing that happened.

I remembered being home with Eve and Lauren coming in and- rogues. The

memory hit me like a freight train and I sat up with a gasp. Searing pain went through my entire body and my vision blackened for a split second because of the sheer intensity. I had to gently lay myself in bed again while breathing through my nose so I wouldn't pass out from it. I remembered the rogues over me and I remembered someone coming to my rescue. I remembered the warmth of arms that lifted me but I couldn't place a face to it. I was so far gone when the person arrived.

I looked around the room and I instantly recognized it as the room Ryker was in when he was hurt. I wonder if it was done deliberately or if it was just the only available room.

There was a cart to the left filled with sterilized hospital supplies and my ripped up dress was nowhere to be seen. I was in a pale green hospital gown and my left arm was hooked up to an IV that was pumping blood into my veins. I reached down to pull it out when I heard a voice from the door.

"I wouldn't do that," I looked up to see Lucy wearing her white doctor's coat and with a file in her hands, "That is the only thing that is keeping you awake and alive."

She made her way over to me and placed the file on the table by the head of the bed. She took a mini torch and flashed them into my eyes then checked the bandages on my side to make sure they weren't bleeding again.

"If you want, I can give you something for the pain but it will knock you out as soon as you take it," she explained, "Or I could wait until the Alpha gets back and you have eaten before giving it to you. He would hate to know that you woke up and he wasn't here."

"Where is he?" my voice sounded scratchy and she wasted no time in pouring me a glass of water which I gulped down greedily.

"I managed to convince him that you would need food when you woke up. He hadn't left your side since you came in here."

I was confused by her choice of words, "What do you mean by since I came in here?"

"Sweetheart you've been out for two days." My mouth fell open in equal parts shock and horror, "I don't blame you thought, you were in a nasty condition when you came in. If not for the Alpha's blood then you wouldn't even be awake right now."

"His blood," I trailed off and my eyes darted over to the IV currently connected to my arm, "He gave me his blood, why?"

"He's your mate sweetheart, that's what they do." She gave me a soft smile and took a step back, "If I'm correct- which I usually am- he should be arriving

anytime soon. If you need anything, ring the bell by your bed.” She nodded curtly to me and was already by the door when I stopped her.

“Did you find Lauren?” I asked and a dark look took over her features. “I think that’s a conversation you should have with the Alpha.”

She gave me a short bow and walked out of the room before I could ask what she meant by that.

I was alone for barely two minutes before the door opened again and Ryker walked in. He didn’t notice me at first because he was holding a bouquet of fresh flowers and a covered tray that I knew was filled with food.

He shut the door behind him and turned around and I knew the exact moment he noticed me. The tray wobbled in his hands, as if it was going to fall but he quickly steadied it. His eyes softened and I saw his lips form a small but sad smile.

“Hey,” I managed out and I saw the heavy exhale that left him.

He slowly made his way over to me and placed the tray on the table and the flowers into a vase that I didn’t even realize was there. When he was done, he stood up straight and stared at me, almost as if he wasn’t sure whether or not he was imagining everything.

His fingers brushed my cheek gently and I didn’t feel the urge to pull away, I just smiled softly at him.

“When did you wake up?” he asked finally. “Were you alone?”

“A few minutes ago, and no, Lucy was here but she left right about when you were coming in.”

His fingers brushed my cheeks again, almost softer this time, “I brought you breakfast.” He lifted the cover on the tray to reveal fruits and oatmeal, “She said that you should eat something lighter first before you move on to heavy meals. Can you sit up?”

I tried to but the blinding pain wracked through my body and I let out a small groan. I shook my head at Ryker and I saw him clench his jaw in pain and anger.

“I’m going to help you but it is going to hurt.” He warned and he waited for me to nod in understanding before he moved towards me.

He placed one hand behind my back and the other under my knees and in one swift move, he had me half sitting up. The pain was intense but he did it quickly and it only lasted the fraction of a second but my body still vibrated from the after effects.

While I struggled to reunite myself with reality, I saw Ryker take the bowl of oatmeal and I expected him to hand it to me but instead he sprinkled the fruits

over it and picked the spoon in his hands. I knew what he was about to do before he even started.

“Are you going to feed me?” the words left me in a barely there whisper, “I can do it myself.”

“You can barely move Camilla,” he spoke softly, as if he was speaking to a child, “Allow me do this for you.”

I knew he was right so I stayed silent and let him feed me quietly. The action felt more intimate than it should have, especially whenever he dabbed at my chin with a wash cloth. I tried my best to focus on what was happening and not the crude thoughts that were currently flying through my head.

He finished but didn't move away and we stood there staring at each other for a full minute after until I broke the spell by looking away. I heard him clear his throat as he stood up and placed the dirty dishes back into the tray.

“Is there anything else you need?” he asked without looking at me, “I could get Lucy for you.”

“Did you find Lauren?” he froze at my question and I felt anger roll off him in waves. I wondered if I had done something wrong by asking and was about to retract the question when he turned around and took the seat in front of me.

“What do you mean by did I find Lauren?”

“She kind of disappeared out there.”

He stared at me in confusion and I know that he was expecting an explanation so I told him about how the carriage stopped and Lauren went out to fix it but the next minute she wasn't there and the rogues. appeared.

As I spoke, he got angrier. I could see the veins on his hands bulging and the one on his temple looked like it was one second away from exploding. I trailed off with my story wondering if I was the one upsetting him.

“Keep going,” his voice was gruff and it was obvious that he was suppressing a lot of anger, “I want to know what happened.”

I told him about how I tried to outrun and fight the rogues but they overpowered me. From the way he winced, I knew he was the one who found me. He wouldn't have that kind of reaction unless he saw firsthand what happened to me.

When I finished, I sighed deeply, “did you find Lauren?”

“She found us,” he said simply, “She came into the hospital covered in mud saying that there were rogues and she left your side because she wanted to hunt them down.”

I wasn't sure whether I believed her story but I also knew it didn't matter what I thought. “Where is she now?”

“Probably looking for another job,”

Shock filled my every pore and I stared at him with my mouth agape, “Did you fire her from being general?” he nodded, “Why?”

“She neglected your safety. A good general would have never done that.”

I didn’t know what to say about that or how to react. I would never have actually expected him to fire her and I hated that I actually felt giddy about the entire idea. I knew I shouldn’t be happy that she was out of a job but for some reason, it made me happy because I knew it meant that she would no longer be guarding me and I would never have to see her again.

“I don’t know what to say.” I said finally and he shrugged then stood to his feet.

“You don’t have to say anything,” he ran his hand through my hair; “Lucy will be here any second now to give you something for the pain.”

As if on cue, Lucy burst in through the doors holding a syringe. She gave me a small smile as she injected whatever the liquid was into my free arm. As soon as she was done, she left Ryker and I alone in the room.

It only took a few minutes for me to start feeling the effects and I started to feel drowsy.

“Don’t fight it,” Ryker said to me, “Just rest, I will be here when you wake up.”

I allowed his voice lead me like a lullaby and it was only a few seconds. before the darkness overcame me and I was out like a light.

Send gift

Chapter 30

By the time I woke up, it was dark outside and if not for the soft light from the lamp on the table next to the window, I probably wouldn’t have been able to see anything in front of me.

The IV with the blood was gone from my arm and now I was hooked up to a proper IV with a clear liquid composition. For some weird reason, I felt stronger and well rested but I could still feel the pressure of the dull throbbing pain in my side.

It didn’t take me long to find Ryker, he was standing by the window looking lost in thought. I decided not to bother him and instead chose to watch him and take a good look at him. He had finally changed out of his rumpled clothes and was wearing a pair of dark slacks and a simple shirt. His hair was messy, almost as if he ran his hands through it a number of times and he was softly stroking the petal of a flower.

I don’t think he realized that he was doing it; it was most likely a sort of absent minded or subconscious action.

He must have felt my eyes on him because he turned and our eyes met. He

smiled softly as he made his way over to me and sat in the uncomfortable metal chair by the side of my bed. His eyes glossed over for a second and I knew he was mind linking someone so I waited. patiently for him to be done. "Eve will be here very soon." He said once he had finished, "I figured you would be more comfortable with a home cooked meal than with the hospital food."

"I really don't mind if I'm being honest." I shrugged- or at least tried to, "I wouldn't want to inconvenience anyone."

"It's not an inconvenience Camilla. You are going to be their Luna, everyone lives to serve you."

I didn't know how to respond to that so I diverted the conversation to safer grounds, "This was the room you stayed in when you were hurt. Is a coincidence or was I specifically put here?"

"This room is set aside for members of the Alpha's family. Should there be an incident or an emergency, they will be rushed here."

"What happens if the hospital is full and someone else comes in hurt?" I asked, "Would they be put here or is it out of bounds?"

"I don't know," he admitted, "We have never had a situation like that before. I'm sure when the time comes we will be able to figure something out."

I was saved from having to respond when the door opened and Eve walked in. She was in a pretty blue dress and she had a covered tray in her hands. When she saw me, she heaved a sigh of relief and all but rushed over.

"I am so glad that you're okay," she breathed, "When I heard what happened, I was so worried. You look terrible," she must have realized we weren't the only two in the room because she slapped her hand over her mouth, "I meant you look beautiful and well rested."

"It's fine, Eve." I assured her, "I probably look a lot worse than I feel so you don't have to worry about it."

"Well, I still have your oversized scarf in my things so maybe when you're better we can kick off where we last stopped."

"I would like that very much." She offered me a soft smile then bowed to Ryker and disappeared from the room.

Ryker stared at me for a full minute after she had gone and I had actually started to worry that I had done something wrong. In that one minute, I played back the entire conversation in my head and tried to pin point. whatever it was that I could have done wrong.

Ryker broke off his staring and took off the lid from the tray to reveal a bowl of broth with garlic bread and some tea.

Just like earlier, Ryker fed me and after the initial awkward tension was gone, it was actually a pretty soft and intimate moment. I would never admit it out loud but I genuinely liked it and I didn't want it to end.

“What oversized scarf was she talking about?” he asked and it took me a second to realize that he was talking about my earlier conversation with Eve. “She was teaching me knitting,” I admitted sheepishly, “It started the day you left. I was bored and she offered to teach me.”

“Do you enjoy it?”

I shrugged, “it is fun but I think I enjoy the company more.”

He hummed to himself and placed the now empty bowl of broth back on the tray. Giving me the tea was a bit trickier but he managed it and soon, that tra

He ran his hand down my curls softly and pressed a kiss to my forehead. He was about to leave when I grabbed his arm to hold him in place. He stared at me waiting for me to respond and I hesitated for a second not knowing what to say or how to stay it.

“Do you want me stay?” he asked and I nodded eagerly.

I was grateful that he managed to figure out what I wanted without me having to say it. I doubt I would have been able to say it myself if he hadn’t asked me. He sat on the chair and when I tried to pull my hand away from his, he gripped it tightly in his palm. We spoke about literally everything and anything and after a while, I noticed that he was rubbing small circles on the back of my palm.

I wasn’t sure if he realized he was even doing it and I wasn’t going to point it out to him because regardless of everything, I kind of enjoyed it.

**

By day three, I was already fed up of being in the hospital. I was barely allowed to move by myself or even stand up from the bed without supervision.

I think Ryker’s blood sped up the healing process because I was to have my stitches taken out today and if all went as planned, I might be allowed to leave the hospital. I was so excited by the time Lucy came into the hospital room that she laughed and told me to calm down.

Taking out the stitches hurt badly and I was thankful I wasn’t awake when I was being stitched up because I couldn’t imagine how painful it must have been at that time.

As soon as she was done, she stood to her feet and offered me a smile,

“Would you like to look at it?”

I shook my head, “No thanks, I don’t really want to see it.”

“That’s fine,” she pulled down my hospital gown and helped me to my feet. My side still hurt on various occasions but it wasn’t as bad as when I had come in. I was suddenly jealous of all the werewolves who had the luxury of quick healing. If I could heal this quickly then my life would have been so much easier to handle. I would have never had to worry about working while sick or

working with a busted ankle.

“When can I go back home?” I asked and when she shot me a wary glance I was quick to add, “I promise that I won’t do any strenuous work. I promise to have as much bed rest as possible and I also will not train until you give me the go ahead.”

“I don’t know,” she began, “You aren’t a full werewolf and although the blood should heal you quickly, I don’t want to risk anything that will put you in harm’s way.”

“Please,” I clasped my hands together, “I swear I won’t do anything to jeopardize my recovery.”

She stared at me for a second before sighing, “Fine, but you aren’t allowed to wear corsets or any tight fitting material on your torso until further notice.”

“Thank you.” I didn’t quite mind her rule, I wasn’t a huge fan of the constricting material and I would take any excuse to not have to wear it. She left probably to inform Ryker and while I was rejoicing, Eve walked in with some clothes. I knew it should have taken at least fifteen minutes for her to arrive and while she helped me into my outfit I realized that Lucy probably already had plans to release me today.

Eve helped me into my outfit because I couldn’t do it myself and we had just finished with it when Ryker knocked on the door. I knew it was him because he has a certain pattern in which he knocks. Eve pulled it open and he gave me a soft smile.

“If you’re ready then we can leave,” he said and I nodded almost too eagerly which made him laugh.

He grasped my elbow with his hand and led me outside and towards the carriage. I saw the usual coachman standing next to it and when he saw he bowed low. All I could offer in return was a small smile and that was when I noticed the intricate steps by the carriage.

me,

“To make it easier for you,” Ryker whispered and suddenly I was touched. He didn’t have to do it but he did it to help me and I had to fight back the tears that welled up in my eyes as I took the steps one at a time. By the time I was settled inside the carriage, Ryker sat next to me, all the while not letting go of my hand.

The ride to the house was quiet and it wasn’t as bumpy as usual. I wouldn’t have put it past Ryker to tell the coachmen to take a less bumpy road and drive slower than usual for my benefit.

It took us almost twice the usual time to arrive at the house and when we did, I felt a wave of relief rush over my body. Somewhere along the lines

I had started to look at this house as my home and being away from it had me feeling anxious and eager to be back.

Ryker helped me out of the carriage and I stood there staring at the large building for far longer than I should have. It was Ryker's hand at the small of my back that snapped me back to reality.

I looked up at him and saw him sporting a worrying look, "Is everything okay?" he asked and I nodded, "You were staring with a weird look in your eyes. Are you sure?"

"I am,"

"If you're in pain or something, I could have Lucy here in a few minutes. tops."

"I'm fine Ryker," I assured him, "I'm just glad to be home."