

## Chapter 35

Chapter 34 of the scarred Luna-

"He's back." Erin's eyes shot open, she turned her head so quick one would fear it would snap.

"H-he is?" She stuttered, sleep clearing from her eyes in an instant. She sits up well, already preparing to stand up only to have Amelia disapprove.

"I think you still need to rest, you can see him later." Amelia says sternly, her voice almost leaving no room for argun. At but Erin didn't want that. She didn't like it.

"B-but, It wouldn't be appropriate if I don't see him after his return. He's been gone for more than three days." She counters and Amelia rolls her eyes.

"Yes but you have been I'll for those three days and the doctor gave strict orders that you stay in bed. That's what you're going to do."

"I want to see him."

Amelia sighed wistfully, "I know but you can't, not right now. I think you can do that later, alright." Erin looks at her for some seconds, hoping Amelia would give up from her nurse duties and allow her go see him even if it's for some seconds. But instead, Amelia doesn't even budge.

"Fine, if he is angry then I'll be sure to blame you for it." She pouts, resting her back on the bed.

Amelia only chuckle and nod before walking out of the room, leaving her to her thoughts.

Amelia sighed, already feeling an headache coming up. She's been so worried about Erin that she didn't have the time for any other thing and now. Amelia shook her head, she raised her head as ran her hands over her hair, now walking away.

She paused, eyes brows furrowed on seeing something unusual.

Vanessa walking out of Alexander's room? Now, that might not seem anyhow if not for the way she keeps looking around as though wary of whatever is happening.

"Vanessa?" Amelia called out, eyebrows furrowed. Vanessa looks over to where she stood and mustered a thing Amelia would call a forced smile. She rubbed her palms together and walked over to where Amelia stood.

Amelia is unable to understand why she looked so scared? She opened her mouth to speak but gets cut off by the creaking of the door. She raises her eyes and sees Alexander stepping out of his room. Now she's confused.

Vanessa on the other hand looks bothered and it's very unusual to have Vanessa bothered.

"What's going on? Why were you in Alexander's room? Is everything alright?" She rushed out, placing her hand over Vanessa's cold hands. That seemed to break Vanessa out of whatever she was in as she smiled rather widely but Amelia could see it strained.

"I'm fine, I just had to ask him some things and that's it." Amelia nods, opening her mouth to speak but Vanessa beats her to it.

"What's wrong? You look pale. Are you okay?" She rushed out. Amelia smiled, already forgetting about Vanessa and Alexander.

"Yeah, who knew it is a tussle to take care of a sick person." Vanessa cocks an eyebrow up.

"Sick?"

"Oh, yeah, Erin is a little bit under the weather but she's good." She rushed out.

"The pup?" Vanessa whispered like it was an abomination.

"Yeah but that's it."

"Has Alpha discussed what happened with you? I still have to tend to the young ones he brought along."



"No and shouldn't aunt Agatha be doing that? I'm sure Derrick put her in charge of things like that."

"Yeah but you know how she is. Anyways, I should get going so I can help them settled for the night. Tomorrow should be a better day." Vanessa says and smiled at Amelia brightly, bringing her hand up to gently caress her cheeks.

"Goodnight, Amelia." She says and Amelia returns the greeting. She watched Vanessa's retreating figure for some seconds and then willed her legs to move. She takes a step forward and stops abruptly, the sound of a bell going off in her head. She looks at the stairs case where Vanessa had just passed and like that she's reminded of the thing that had been missing all the while she was speaking to Vanessa.

Her scent.

She wasn't able to pinpoint what exactly changed in her scent but now, it all clicked. Vanessa's usual cilantro and honey scent was mixed with something else. Something deep and sharp. Her scent was mixed with petrichor and pines.

Amelia's eyes widen as she connected the dots. Petrichor and pines was Alexander's scent and having it mix so well with Vanessa's could only mean one thing....

~

Derrick groaned, finally laying down on his bed to sleep. He runs a hand through his face, feeling better now that he is in his bed after days of being in the Crystal pack. They got here quite late but they got here at least. Honestly, he was expecting to see Erin at least but then again, her absence was just a reminder of what had happened and the rejection.

He willed himself to forget about the whole issue and just shut his eyes close, finally drifting off to sleep.

~

The next morning found Derrick on the training grounds, Dylan and Alexander beside him. The men were currently training hard.

"I don't think they can fit. They have nothing in them and walk like they were just brought out of their mama's womb yesterday. They're going to be more of a liability."

Derrick shuts his eyes, feeling the anger brewing in him. How is it possible that Alex would never have anything good to say about anything.

"I think you're going off track here, Alex. Every of our warriors were just like these boys and besides give them a little chance. They are still kids. No need to push them this way." Dylan shot back, wrapping his arms over his build.

"Why is uncle Maxwell also training?" Derrick's voice had the both silenced. They traced Derrick's gaze and truly, Maxwell stood in the midst of the warriors, training. Sweat trickling down his arms.

"I don't know." Dylan mutters just at the same time Alexander spoke

"He wanted to join. Said he needed to feel his strength back and this way the only way to do so." Alexander says.

Derrick watched his uncle train hard, he was paired with three other wolves. He watched with keen eyes and interest how they rounded themselves, forming a circle. Maxwell lifts his eyes for a second and their eyes meets.

Derrick smiles and Maxwell bows politely at him before continuing his training session.

"He looks like he's enjoying beating those wolves." Alexander says, an obvious hint of pride lacing his voice.

"Let Noah and Aaron train under your command, Dylan. I think they would do better there." Derrick says, looking at the two boys who were quiet clueless as to what to do on the field.

"I'll do just that, Alpha." Dylan bows and walks into the field.

"That's enough everyone!" He yells and the wolves stop, everyone halting at the sound of his voice.

"Do you really think these boys can do anything? Their arms are like



noodles dipped in water. They look frightened and more like they would be shittinh their pants soon." Alexander says.

"Are you questioning my decision, Alex?" Derrick asked, eyes still on the boys who were now with Dylan.

Alexander tensed up beside Derrick "No, of course not but as your friend I think I am able to tell you-"

"-nothing. You're able to tell me nothing but follow what I lay and rule out, Alexander. If I say these boys would be good then that's what I say. I don't need you analyzing my words or taking anything I've said out of context. I know what I'm doing so don't try to question me again." He turns to look at Alex whose entire demeanor had changed after being scolded.

"I'm sorry, Alpha. I'll be sure to learn my limits." He bows but one could see the ick of annoyance in his eyes.

"Where is Amelia?" Derrick asked instead.

"In the women's training grounds. I saw her and Vanessa heading towards there earlier." Alex replied and Derrick hummed in response.

He walked to the women's training grounds. It was just opposite the men's training station and it's only separated by block, so they won't see each other while training.

"Good morning, Alpha." Different voices could be heard greeting him as he walked into the training grounds. The women were also training hard and that's just how he liked it. Everyone on their toes and training with their might.

He sights Amelia taking to another wolf while Vanessa was busy training some. Amelia lifts her eyes to see him and a smile made it's way to her lips instinctively. She dismisses whoever it was she was speaking to walks over to him. She flings herself on him, gripping him tightly.

Derrick couldn't help but chuckle, he's sure some of the wolves would be surprised to see Amelia being openly affectionate.

"Did you miss me that much?" He teased

when she leans back.

"I couldn't come see you yesterday. I hope your trip was fruitful?" She asked and he nods, turning to look at the women who were training.

"How are you? I haven't been-" the word die down in his throat when he sees who was approaching them. She looked paler than usual, her eyes was stuck on him. A light shade of pink dusting her cheeks.

"Alpha." She bows

"I trust you have been well." He replied curtly, averting his gaze from her.

"I should go now, I just wanted to see you." No, he wanted to speak to Amelia but would rather leave and get back to more pressing matters than having Erin here.

"I- I was hoping to speak to you." Erin says meekly. Derrick looks at her, taken aback. What does she want to say to him again?

"C-can we talk?" She asked, her hands folded, voice wavering just a bit. Amelia had walked away already, giving them a moment to speak.

"No. I'm afraid I have other things to do. Please excuse me." He attempts to walk away but she holds him back. A knot roses up his throat but he swallows it down, eyes dropping to the hand holding him back.

"Please.. I just want to.. I want to talk about that night so please let me." She rushed out, her neck flushed red. She opened her mouth to speak but he cuts her off

"You're right." Erin looks at him, shocked, baffled and very much confused.

"You were right. I was confused about my feelings for you and I shouldn't have come up to you like that. I know for certain now that it was merely a delusion on my part and I'm thankful you did what you did." Erin's hand falls, her heart beating faster than ever. Faster than even when she was accused of trying to kill Melissa. Standing in front of Derrick now, she is sure her heart has never beat faster. Her palms felt clammy with sweat.



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She swallows the lump in her throat, "Y-You don't like me anymore?" She asked, unable to help the wavering in her voice.

Derrick looks away for a second and then looks at her "I never liked you. I was just confused." He forced himself to say, unaware of the turmoil happening within Erin.

"Oh."

"I- Excuse me." Erin watched as he walked away, leaving her with even more of a broke heart.

Does it ever get easy?